

CONSERVATION WORK AT THE KNAPP, CASTLE PULVERBATCH 2015/2016

Following recommendations by Historic England, the Friends of Castle Pulverbatch and Pulverbatch Parish Council have agreed to measures to protect the archaeological features at Pulverbatch Motte and Bailey Castle. This forms part of a Management Agreement under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The Friends of Castle Pulverbatch, a group of volunteers from the village, have been looking after the site for nearly 20 years.

Measures include:

Ground reinforcement of the bailey

The outer bailey suffers from visitor erosion, becoming rutted in wet weather due to cars driving onto the site and/or car parking. Reinforcement of the ground is intended to provide long-term durability without disturbance to any below-ground archaeological deposits. The work will be funded by Historic England, under the Management Agreement.

Controlling invasive species

Bracken is encroaching again on several parts of the monument, whilst Ground Elder has infested the ditch between ramparts. Bracken has been controlled in previous years by hand-pulling and/or cutting and such work has re-commenced again. Ground Elder is to be sprayed, likely in 2016. Any spraying will be carried out in compliance with current regulations, and with due regard for the wildlife on the site.

Vegetation management

Scrubby vegetation is encroaching on parts of the monument. This will be cut back to reduce the cover of scrub, trees, saplings, brambles and broom. The objective is to promote a better grass cover and to discourage rabbits from burrowing.

Clearance of scrub will also minimise deterioration of the castle defences, open up the site for visitors and better define the monument.

A grass cutting regime is to continue (one has been in place on and off for nearly 20 years) but will return to a twice yearly regime to return the site to its condition as it was in the mid 2000's. This will be carried out through use of light weight machinery and scything, as previously. The Friends of Castle Pulverbatch are currently funding the 2015 cut, but the cutting/raking has been supported by The Stiperstones and Corndon Project and yourselves at the mediaeval working party.

The above work will be carried out by the Friends of Castle Pulverbatch and supported by the Heritage Lottery Funded, *Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme*, which is funded until 2018.

'Helping Hillfort and Earthwork Castles'

Helping Hillforts and Earthwork Castles is one of 15 projects under the Landscape Partnership Scheme. The project encourages local volunteers to 'adopt a monument' and take action to safeguard them for future generations.

A number of task dates are scheduled at The Knapp over the coming months on:
27th October, 24th November, 19th January, from 10am-3pm.

For further information and to get involved, please email:
info@stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk or call (01938) 561741