

Alice Pyper

From: Louise.Mees@gov.wales
Sent: 12 February 2020 16:24
To: anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Cc: Alice Pyper
Subject: Cadw - PE257 - West Ford Camp - Proposed tree planting - Cadw comments
Attachments: Cadw - PE257 - West Ford Camp - 2017-07-11 - Map of the Scheduled Area.pdf

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Dear Ant,

I have attached to this email a map showing the location and extent of the scheduled area. West Ford Camp comprises the remains of an earthwork/stone-built enclosure located on a spur at a height of 90m O.D. above the Nant-y-Coy. The date or precise nature of the enclosure is unknown, but it is likely to be later prehistoric or medieval. The small circular camp is defended by a bank and ditch, and in places by a second bank. The entrance is located on the eastern side of the monument.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail.

The proposed tree planting, in a strip c. 20m wide (E-W) x 330m long (N-S), the southernmost tip of which is located c. 200m WNW of the scheduled monument. This planting will not have a direct impact on the physical remains of the monument.

The proposed planting has potential to impact on the setting of the monument. When constructed the camp is likely to have been situated to take defensive advantage of views in an arc ranging from NW – E - SW. The proposed planting will be visible from the camp and potentially impact upon the NW edge of these views. However, the planting will be set against a pre-existing hedgerow and views of the planting will be partially obstructed by pre-existing hedgerows and topography. Negative impact on interpretation and understanding of the setting of the monument is likely to be minimal. This impact will be offset by the local authority's creation of a publicly accessible space, including intentions to improve positive management of the scheduled monument, enable public access to it, and provide interpretation.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust should be consulted on potential impacts on undesignated historic assets.

Ant – below is a copy of the most recent Cadw Field Monument Warden monitoring visit to the monument. Please can you confirm that there is no longer a tenant for the holding? We look forward to liaising with you in future to improve management of the scheduled monument.

Cadw Routine Condition Monitoring Visit 28 September 2017:

Since the enclosure was last visited the amount of gorse on the banks which had already been remarked upon as a problem has increased; also one or two bushes are now established within the interior. Under tall gorse on the bank there are intermittent areas of bare ground though by and large these have not cut down into sub-soil. The site is crossed by a public footpath on the south

west, here a wooden way-marker has been erected just outside the bank and within the scheduled area and regular foot traffic through the bank has at some point resulted in a break, the east side of which has the only bad scrape on the site, about c 0.3m deep. The field is used to graze cattle and sheep; generally there are no signs of overgrazing and less wear than is common when cattle have access to this type of earthwork.

Since the last visit the tenancy has changed, the site was viewed and discussed with the new tenants. It seems they had been under the impression they should leave the site untouched; however they are clearly willing to cut the gorse back as a first step to improving the condition of the site and promised to do so at the first practical opportunity. An early re-visit or aerial monitoring should be undertaken to ensure this is followed through.

Condition Trend: worsened – superficial. Some increase in excess vegetation since the last visit, minor problems of wear that for the most part may be dealt with by vegetation control.
Vulnerability: medium. Vulnerable to livestock wear, particularly because of excessive vegetation.
Condition Current: Unfavourable. No management for some time, though there is now a commitment to undertake vegetation control.
Monument at Risk level: Medium

Best wishes,
Louise

Louise Mees

Arolygydd Rhanbarthol Henebion ac Archaeoleg (De-orllewin Cymru) / Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology (South West Wales)

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From: Rogers, Anthony <anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 January 2020 10:50

To: Mees, Louise (ESNR-Tourism, Heritage & Sport-Cadw) <Louise.Mees@gov.wales>

Subject: West Ford Camp PE257

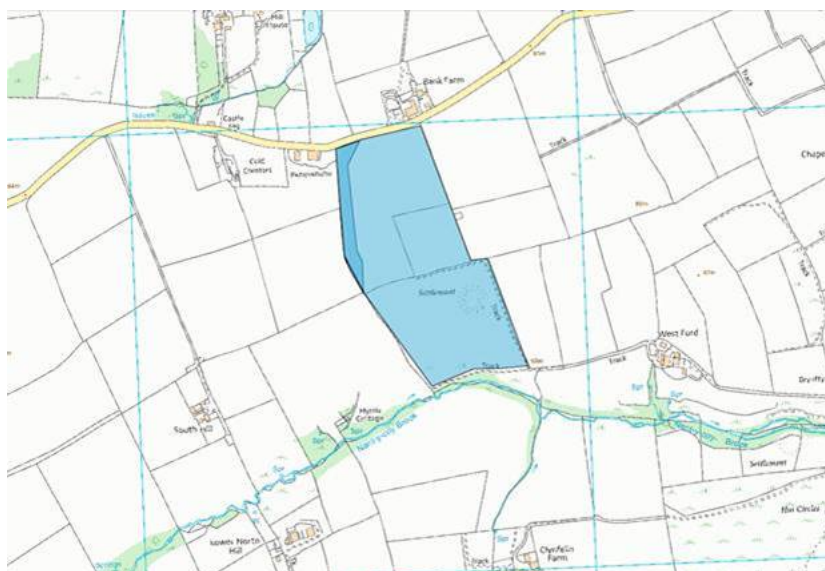
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Dear Louise,

My colleague, Matt Pyart, suggested I speak to you about a tree planting project I'm developing near Wolfscastle. The land we have access to is highlighted in light blue on the map below and includes the SAM West Ford Camp (PE257). We have no desire to plant trees on or near the monument and would value your input to develop our plans. The scheme will take the fields out of agricultural production in favour of creating a publically accessible space including woodland and meadow. My idea would be that the monument would be managed as meadow with light grazing or an annual cut. My urgent need is to begin the tree planting aspect in the next month or so. The plan is to plant the part highlighted in dark blue at the north western edge to take advantage of some funding which is available whilst avoiding the monument, then develop a more considered plan for the rest of the area over the coming years.

My question to you therefore is twofold:

- Is there any reason from your perspective not to plant the initial tranche of trees in a strip to the north west of the monument imminently?
- Can we liaise to establish exactly the extent of any areas you would like to see managed in any particular way as the project moves forward? This bit will develop over the coming few years.



Happy to chat through this if you like, but the initial tree planting strip is urgent to catch the tree planting season and take advantage of funding in this financial year.

Regards,

Ant Rogers

Biodiversity Implementation Officer	Swyddog Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth
Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership	Partneriaeth Natur Sir Benfro
Conservation Team	Tim Cadwraeth
Development Planning	Cynllunio Datblygiad
County Hall	Neuadd Y Sir
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Cyngor Sir Penfro
Rhif ffôn 01437 764551
E-bost ymholiadau@sir-benfro.gov.uk

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