

WEST ENGLAND FOREST DISTRICT

Scheduled Monument

Management Plan for

Eggesford SM

Plan Period 2017 - 2027

SM Management Plan

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SM Management Plan

1. Agreement and Consent

District	West England Forest District
Name of SM	Heywood Castle
OS Grid reference	SS67931248
Period of Plan	2017-2027

Forestry Commission England




Peter Lobell

Date

05/05/2017

Historic England



A Cross
ANDREW CROSS

Date

11/05/2017

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2. Introduction

This scheduled monument comprises a Motte & Bailey and is situated in the North West of Heywood plantation which makes up part of the former Eggesford Forest.

Probably Saxon in origin, it was strategically placed to control a fording point on the river Taw.

Following consultation with Historic England, the Forestry Commission removed the crop of mature Douglas fir and mixed broad leaves in 1995 and has subsequently maintained the site as open space by regular control of the ground vegetation to promote a grassy/herbaceous sward. In addition to this work, a set of wooden steps and bridge were erected on the southern side and a further set to the same design installed to the north east. A stone path was then created to link the two sets of steps. This has worked very well to date as a means to control erosion and provide safe public access

3. Management Objectives

The prime objective is to prevent deterioration of the site. We will:

1. Control ground vegetation within the scheduled area. This will be achieved by:
 - a. Herbicide application for the control of weeds using Glyphosate at the rate of 5L of product per hectare (ha) through a hand-held applicator.
 - b. Mechanical cutting of woody weeds as required using clearing saws/chainsaws.
2. Judiciously thin or remove trees and shrubs on the scheduled area where they present a threat to the future stability of the monument and its underlying archaeology.
3. Protect the site during forest operations. All restocking will be kept a minimum of 15m from the archaeological site.
4. Monitor the site by formal annual inspection with FE staff and informal visits by FE and other interested parties throughout the year.

4. Description and List Entry

Heywood Castle

List entry number: 1020959

Date first scheduled: 26-Nov-1928

This monument includes a motte and bailey castle known as Heywood Castle which is situated in a commanding location overlooking the valley of the River Taw. The monument survives as a circular motte, rock-cut ditch and crescent shaped bailey with an outer bank. The motte has a diameter of 48.7m and is 7.9m high. On top of the motte is a ring bank which attains a height of up to 4m in places and is up to 2m wide. The central enclosed area has a small linear bank running from north to south within it, which measures 3.5m wide and up to 1.7m high and runs across the top of the mound. The rock-cut ditch which surrounds the foot of the motte is 4m wide and 2m deep.

The crescent shaped bailey lies to the north east of the motte, is 60m long by 40m wide and bounded on all sides by a bank which measures up to 1.5m wide and 2m high on average except on the eastern side where it attains a height of some 4m. On the eastern side there is an entrance which measures 2.8m wide.

From the entrance and across the ditch there is a causeway which extends to the outer bank. On the northern side of the bailey a more modern entrance has formed which measures 3.5m to 4m wide. From the bailey to the motte on the north eastern side there is the possibility of a bridgeway. An outer bank surrounds the motte and bailey; this measures up to 4m wide and 1.6m high. The monument lies relatively near another contemporary castle which lies a short distance to the south and is the subject of a separate scheduling. The castle is thought to date to the 1130s and 1140s and the fact that two are so close together may reflect civil war antagonism or replacement of one by the other.

Excluded from the scheduling are the timber steps and walkways, but the ground beneath is included.

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Motte and bailey castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and/in many cases, as aristocratic residences and as centres of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte and bailey castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles or motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

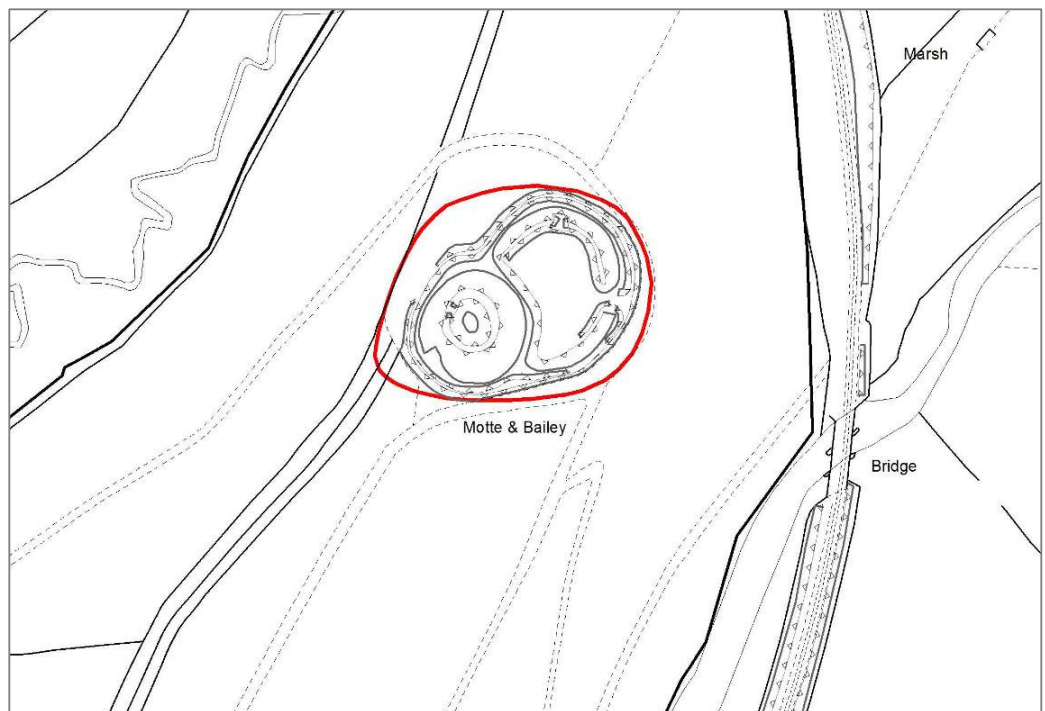
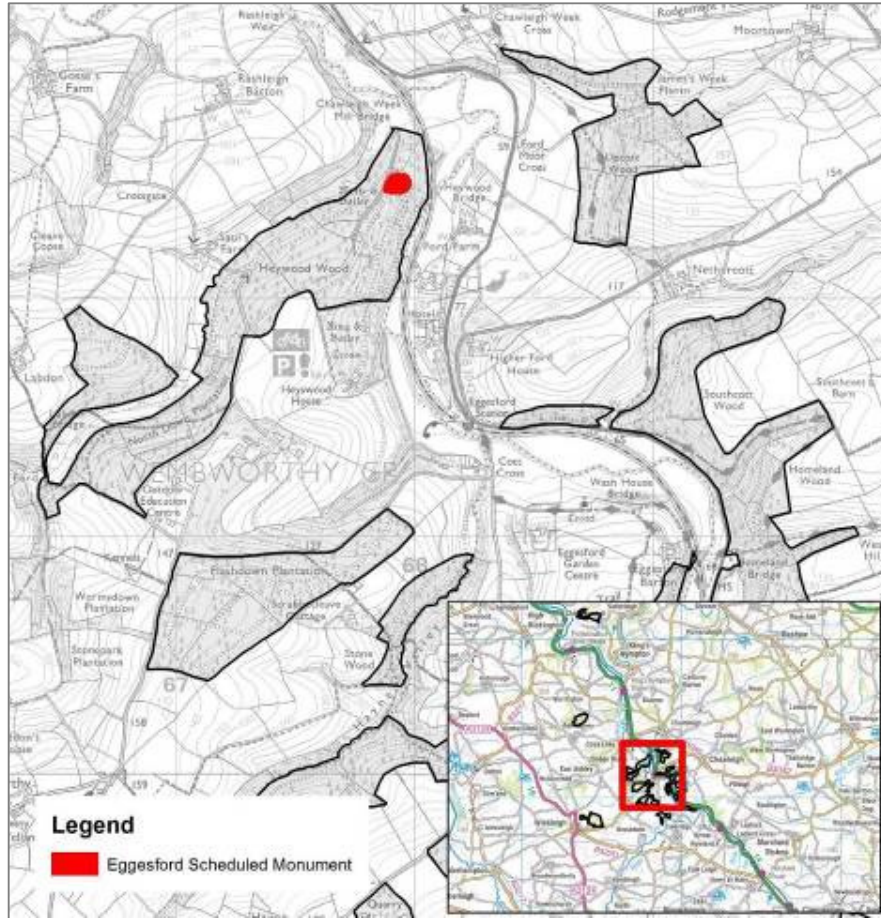
Heywood Castle survives well, contains important archaeological information relating to Norman military activity in this part of Devon and is a popular destination for educational groups and visitors to the area. This is one of two castles to survive in the area.

5. Management Prescriptions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Inspection of all trees on monument with removal of any tree with stability problems		◆				◆				
Site monitored for threats	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Vegetation cut if exceeding parameters	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

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6. Location Map



7. Photographic record



From the south looking north, 2005



From the south looking north, 2017



On the path around monument, 2005



On the path around monument, 2017