

WEST ENGLAND FOREST DISTRICT

Scheduled Monument

Management Plan for

Ironmine Tumuli SM

Plan Period 2018-2028

SM Management Plan

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1. Agreement and Consent

District	West England Forest District
Name of SM	Three bowl barrows 590m south west of Bedwindle forming part of a round barrow cemetery.
OS Grid reference	SX 1270 6272
Period of Plan	2018-2028

Forestry Commission England
Date



28th June 2018



15/7/18

Historic England
Date

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2. Introduction

Ironmine Plantation contains two of the three tumuli, which are Bronze Age bowl barrows. The third is situated outside of the FC Landholding. It is thought that an additional two barrows are also located within the Plantation but cannot be located due to dense vegetation and possible cultivation at the time of afforestation (1930s).

3. Management Objectives

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

1. Mechanically cut woody weeds as required using clearing saws/chainsaws.
2. Judiciously thin or remove trees and shrubs on the scheduled areas where they present a threat to the future stability of the monuments and their underlying archaeology.
3. Protect the sites from vehicle clipping the barrow earthworks on the verge of the tracks and during forest operations with a marked exclusion zone. All restocking will be kept a minimum of 20m from the archaeological sites.
4. Monitor all sites by formal annual inspection by Forest Enterprise (FE) staff and informal visits by both FE and other interested parties throughout the year.

4. Description and List Entry

Three bowl barrows 590m south west of Bedwindle forming part of a round barrow cemetery.

LIST NUMBER: 1004438 (UID: CO 447)

DATE FIRST SCHEDULED: 30th January 1957

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. They occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries and often acted as a focus for burials in later periods. Often superficially similar, although differing widely in size, they exhibit regional variations in form and a diversity of burial practices. Often occupying prominent locations, they are a major historic element in the modern landscape and their considerable variation of form and longevity as a monument type provide important information on the diversity of beliefs and social organisations amongst early prehistoric communities. They are particularly representative of their period. Despite partial early excavation and disturbance by mining activity, the three bowl barrows 590m south west of Bedwindle, forming part of a round barrow cemetery, survive comparatively well and will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to their construction, relative chronologies, longevity, territorial significance, social organisation, funerary and ritual practices and overall landscape context.

DESCRIPTION:

The monument, which falls into three areas of protection, includes three bowl barrows, situated on the summit of a prominent branching ridge forming the watershed between the Rivers Fowey and Lerryn. The barrows are arranged in a north west to south east alignment. The bowl barrows survive as circular mounds with surrounding quarry ditches, from which the mound construction material was derived. The ditches survive as buried features. The northern mound measures 28m in diameter and 2.8m high with a central excavation hollow. The central barrow mound measures 32m in diameter and 2.7m high, with central excavation hollows. It has been partially cut to the north by a track and to the south and east by mine workings. The southern mound is 24m in diameter and 0.4m high.

These barrows form part of a large and dispersed round barrow cemetery occupying the prominent branching ridge in this area. Other barrows within the cemetery are the subject of separate schedulings.

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5. Management Prescriptions

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Inspection of all trees on monument with removal of any tree with stability problems		◆				◆				
Site monitored for threats	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Vegetation cut if exceeding parameters	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

The schedule areas are at present covered with laurel, bramble, gorse, heather, grasses and a small amount of rhododendron. A few coppice stools of mixed broadleaves exist which may or may not regenerate in the future. Existing vegetation is to a height of 300mm. The adjacent area has been planted with Sitka spruce in 1992 and the scheduled area of the western barrow has been marked out with white plastic markers to clearly identify and protect the site.

A 3 metre margin from the barrow base has been maintained and is free of conifer intrusion. To avoid vehicle clipping the barrow earthworks on the verge, tracks will not be allowed to encroach with traffic. Provision for this conifer free buffer should be increased to 20m when the Forest Plan is revised in 2019. An established hedgebank exists within the scheduled area on the east flank of Tumulus A.

During thinning operations of the adjacent crop the opportunity will be taken to gradually remove the trees back 20m beyond the outermost recognised feature of the site

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7. Photographic record

Photo 1 (Summer 2006) – Ironmine Tumulus A looking west



Photo 2 (Autumn 2017) – Ironmine Tumulus A looking west



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Photo 3 (Autumn 2017) – Ironmine Tumulus A looking east



Photo 4 (Autumn 2017) – Ironmine Tumulus B looking east

