

Friends of Castle Pulverbatch

The Knapp - Motte and Double Bailey, Castle Pulverbatch

Scheduled Ancient Monument and Local Wildlife Site MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Aims:

- To protect the valuable archaeology
- To encourage wildlife
- To encourage public enjoyment

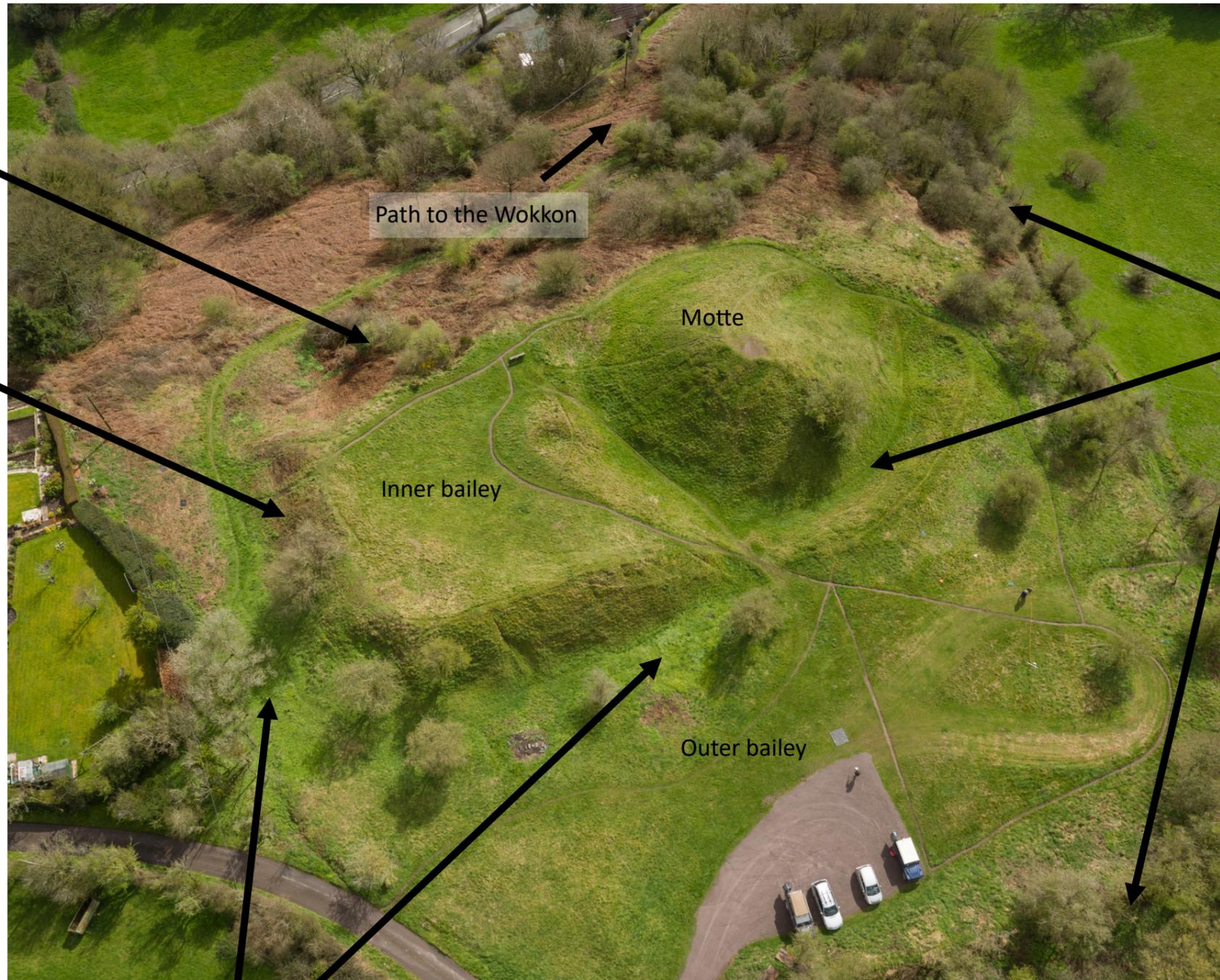
Cutting back the vegetation each year is the best way to protect the monument. If left alone, bracken and scrub and trees would take over, and their deep roots disturb archaeological remains under the soil. Cutting helps to establish a stable grass layer which protects the monument and allows the earthworks to be easily seen.

Bank being restored to grass by regular cutting and spreading of hay

Areas of bracken and willowherb cut several times a year

Cutting in late summer is also good for wildlife, similar to the management of traditional hay meadows. Plants can flower and set seed before mowing takes place. Insects and small mammals like the long grass, in turn supporting birds. The cuttings must be raked up and removed or they will smother next year's growth.

Some areas with dense growth of aggressive weeds (willowherb, bracken, nettles) are cut more often to try to hold them back and encourage grass. Some shrubs and small trees have been cut down, but not all of them will be removed.



Areas of ground elder cut regularly and/or sprayed occasionally

Paths mowed/stripped through summer to ease access.

People encouraged to walk freely over the site to minimise damage to the ground.

There is no digging allowed on the monument.

Brighter green areas are those cut annually in late summer on the main features of the monument. Flatter areas cut with the BCS machine, steeper banks with scythe or strimmer.

The rougher, uncut areas around the fringes of the site add to diversity of habitat.