



English Heritage

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Chief Planning Officer
Bassetlaw District Council
Planning Department
Queens Buildings
Potter Street
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S80 2AH

Ref. : MPP23/ AA 30561/01

Date : 14th December 1992

MONUMENT NAME : Bothamsall motte and bailey castle and hollow way
DISTRICT : BASSETLAW
COUNTY : NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
MONUMENT NUMBER : 13398

Dear Sir/Madam

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979, AS AMENDED

The above-named monument is already included in the Schedule compiled and maintained by the Secretary of State under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended. I am requested to inform you that the scheduled area of the monument has now been revised to that shown outlined in black and highlighted in red on the enclosed map extract. The monument, as revised, has been included in the Schedule. Please ensure that papers that refer to the former scheduled area of this monument are destroyed.

Please amend your records accordingly.

Yours faithfully

O. Franks

Scheduling Section
English Heritage

Encs: map extract, Schedule entry (where required)

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
RECEIVED
17 DEC 1992
To drawing office for amendment to plotting sheet

*DS to see
then file on EC 6*

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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17 DEC 1992

FILE REFERENCE: AA 30561/01

SCHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: Bothamsall motte and bailey castle and hollow way

PARISH: BOTHAMSALL

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 13398

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK67157325
SK67147320

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes the motte and bailey of Bothamsall Castle and the hollow way leading into the bailey. The monument is included within two areas which are separated by the road from Bothamsall to Warsop. To the north of the road is a semi-circular section of the bailey measuring c.150m from east to west by c.50m from north to south. Ploughing has gradually levelled the features within this part of the monument so that the only remaining visible feature is a very slight bank round the perimeter of the bailey, situated above the natural slope. The buried remains of ancillary features such as buildings and enclosures will survive, however, below the depth reached by the plough. The larger part of the monument lies to the south of the road and includes the motte, or castle mound, the rest of the bailey and the remains of a sunken track or hollow way leading from the south. This part of the bailey is a semi-circular area measuring c.170m east to west by c.80m north to south and is enclosed by a series of defensive earthworks. They can be seen to comprise a single rampart to the west and east and a double rampart to the south divided by a berm or terrace. Approximately 15m south of the foot of the double rampart is the edge of a steep slope down into the valley of the River Meden. This slope may have been deliberately scarped when the castle was built in order to increase the gradient and to form an extra line of defence. This, however, has not been confirmed and so the scarp is not included in the scheduling. However, a sunken track leading from the edge of this scarp towards the western end of the double rampart, then proceeding through the ramparts into the bailey is included in the scheduling. Where it lies outside the ramparts, this track is flanked by low earthworks which indicate that it was a covered way protected by walls or palisades. Within the bailey, at its western end, is the motte. This is a steep sided conical mound measuring c.5m high and surrounded by a 5m wide ditch which is currently c.2m deep. The top of the mound is roughly circular and enclosed by a bank or parapet measuring c.1m high by 1m wide. It encloses an area with a diameter of approximately 22m and will have been the site of a wall or palisade. This bank and the east side of the motte have been slightly disturbed by World War II Home Guard trenches, created to overlook the road. The castle itself was built to command the surrounding land and the marshy river valley to the south and may have been an adulterine castle; that is, one built without the king's permission. This probably occurred in the mid-twelfth century, during the period of civil strife between the factions of King Stephen and his rival for the throne, the

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SIGNED BY: C.Edwards

On behalf of The Secretary of State for National Heritage.

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17 DEC 1992

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DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT (Continued)

Empress Matilda or Maud. Excluded from the scheduling are the boundary fences and gates flanking both constraint areas along the roadside, although the ground underneath these features is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

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.

Bothamsall motte and bailey castle is a reasonably well-preserved example of an adulterine fort built to command a river valley. Although the bailey and its defensive earthworks have been partially disturbed by ploughing and gravel extraction, sufficient remains intact for the structure of the earthworks to be preserved and also for the remains of ancillary features such as garrison buildings and corrals for stock and horses to be retained. The motte has survived largely intact and will retain archaeological evidence of the structure that formerly stood on the top.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red. It includes a 2 metre boundary around the archaeological features, considered to be essential for the monument's support and preservation.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 9th April 1951 as:
COUNTY/NUMBER: Nottinghamshire 29
NAME: Bothamsall Castle

The reference of this monument is now:
NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 13398
NAME: Bothamsall motte and bailey castle and hollow way

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 09th December 1992

SIGNED BY: C. Edwards

On behalf of The Secretary of State for National Heritage