

Key 6-11-92



AM4025

STEBBING

English Heritage

Fortress House 23 Savile Row London W1X 1AB Telephone 071-973 3000 Fax 071-973 3001

RECEIVED

5 NOV 1992

UTTLESFORD D.C.

Registrar of Local Land Charges
Uttlesford District Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
High Street
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 1AN

Ref. : MPP55/ AA 40303/1

Date : 3rd November 1992

MONUMENT NAME : The Mount: a motte castle in Stebbing Park
DISTRICT : UTTLESFORD
COUNTY : ESSEX
MONUMENT NUMBER : 20658

Dear Sir/Madam

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979, AS AMENDED

The above-named monument is 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.

We are currently reviewing all known sites and monuments in England, including those already scheduled, so that those which are of national importance can be considered for statutory protection. Existing scheduled monuments will receive a new national number and, where appropriate, may be renamed.

This monument has been reviewed and I am requested by the Secretary of State to inform you that, as a result, the scheduling of the monument has been affirmed. This means that the scheduled area is unchanged and the monument remains protected under the Act although its name may be different.

I enclose a copy of the entry in the Schedule relating to the monument and a map extract depicting the scheduled area outlined in black and highlighted in red. These documents are the official record of the above-named scheduled monument.


I also enclose a formal application in duplicate for the entry recording the inclusion of the monument in the Schedule to be registered as a local land charge in Part 4 of the appropriate local Land Charge Register. In due course, would you please complete and sign the duplicate copy of the application in the space provided at its foot and return it to me. A pre-paid envelope is enclosed for your use.

The application contains a description of the charge and the necessary particulars to enable your Council to register the charge in accordance with the Local Land Charges Rules 1977. The offices of English Heritage at the above address may be referred to in the Register as the place from which copies of the relevant documents may be obtained but it would be appreciated if you could arrange for the copy of the entry in the Schedule which is enclosed with this letter to be made available at your Council's offices for inspection upon request.

In addition, I would be grateful if you could ensure that any papers relating to the former registration of this monument could be removed from the record and so ensure that only the current scheduled monument, with its national number and current name, is recorded in the Register.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully


Scheduling Section
English Heritage

Encs: Schedule entry, 'Scheduled Monument' map extract, Land Charge
Registration document (2 copies), pre-paid envelope

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A LOCAL LAND CHARGE
The Land Charges Act 1975
The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended
The Local Land Charges Rules 1977

LOCATION(S)

PARISH: STEBBING

COUNTY: ESSEX

DISTRICT: UTTLESFORD

MONUMENT NAME : The Mount: a motte castle in Stebbing Park

Monument number : 20658

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TL65792438

I enclose a copy of the Schedule Entry which records the inclusion of the above-named monument in the Schedule compiled and maintained under Section 1(9) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) by the Secretary of State.

By virtue of the joint operation of the Acts and Rules named above, and at the request of the Secretary of State, English Heritage hereby applies for the registration of this affirmed scheduled monument in Part 4 of the appropriate local Land Charges Register.

The site of the scheduled monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red.

Copies of the relevant documents may be obtained from the offices of English Heritage, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

DATE : 3rd November 1992

For and on behalf of English Heritage . [REDACTED]

The above local land charge has been registered this 6th day 1992

SIGNED .. [REDACTED]
Chief Executive

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: The Mount: a motte castle in Stebbing Park

PARISH: STEBBING

COUNTY: ESSEX

DISTRICT: UTTLESFORD

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 20658

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TL65792438

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument comprises a motte castle situated on a prominent west-facing spur in Stebbing Park, 750m north-west of the church. It includes a circular earthen mound which measures 69m in diameter at its base, 15.5m in diameter at its summit and is c.13m in height. Surrounding the motte is a waterfilled moat which has a maximum width of 15m and is c.1.5m in depth. Originally a narrow causeway on the west side of the moat gave access to the motte but sometime in the last ten years this has been excavated to form a continuous moat and access is now via a small wooden bridge.

The manor at Stebbing was held by Henry de Ferrers. During the latter part of Stephen's reign, the then owner, Ralf, the Earl of Chester, fled leaving his estates in the King's hands.

There are references to an excavation of the motte by R Armitage, though no date is recorded and no details known.

Excluded from the scheduling are the concrete water tank, the concrete and brick remains of an air raid shelter and the wooden footbridge but the ground beneath these features is, however, included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Motte 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 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 such, and 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.

(Continued ..)

SIGNED BY: C Edwards

On behalf of The Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Continued from previous page ..

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE (Continued)

Despite limited excavation, Stebbing Mount motte is well preserved and will retain information relating to the building of the mound and the medieval structures that occupied it. Additionally, environmental evidence is thought to survive, particularly in the lower silts of the waterfilled moat. Such evidence provides some indication of the environment within which the motte was built and the economy of its inhabitants.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Records show that the monument was originally scheduled on 10th August 1923 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Essex 27

NAME: Stebbing Mount

Monument's inclusion in the Schedule was confirmed on 9th October 1981.

Monument included as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Essex 27

NAME: The Mount

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 20658

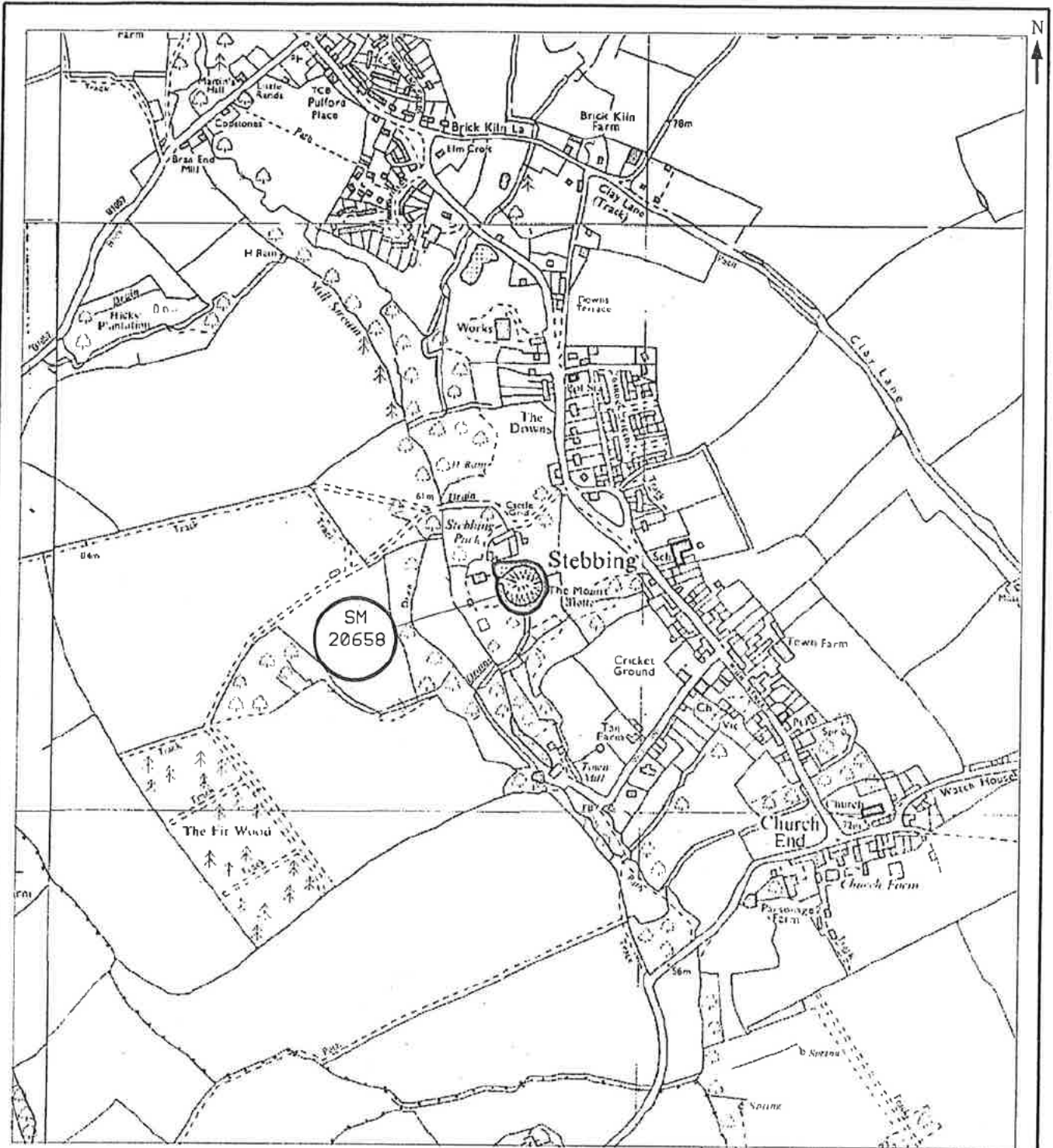
NAME: The Mount: a motte castle in Stebbing Park

SCHEDULING AFFIRMED ON 22nd September 1992

SIGNED BY: C Edwards

On behalf of The Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Scheduled Monument



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For identification purposes only

Site Name: The Mount: a motte castle in Stebbing Park

County: Essex

District: Uttlesford

Parish: Stebbing

Notes:

Key: Monument No. Location/extent of site



Scale: 1:10000

Derived from: 1:10000

Centred on NGR: TL65792438

Extract from OS sheet: TL62SE

Date: 13.3.92

Monument No: SM20658

English Heritage

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