

Report to BTC 11th October 2021

Peter Matthews Trustee, Berkhamsted Castle Trust

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Newt Survey 20th April

- 115 individuals recorded
- Regionally and nationally exceptional GCN population
- Considering cutting the Glyceria magma beds to prevent further development of the moat as a reed bed.
- Investigate SSSI status.

Nature reserve

- The Castle meets the requirements for a local nature reserve according to Natural England
- BTC had been requested to investigate an application however there seems little need at the moment.
- The castle has statutory protection as an scheduled monument and as long as we have a good site management plan there is no need to go any further on a local nature reserve.

Visits

- Our Historic Monuments inspector visited in July
- The Dutchy of Cornwall's land agent visited in September
- Nothing major to report although they shared the trustees concern about the cost cutting by EH of recent months
- Asked for updates on conservation work on the walls
- Also asked EH for progress on a development plan for the Castle.

Herts CC Countryside Management

- Will provide initial free advice on management of the 3 acres at the side of New Road
- Possible participants in developing a land management plan.

Heritage Open Days

- Ken Wallis gave several well attended guided tours of the castle. There are plans to train up at least 3 volunteers to deliver tours.
- Tastes of History spent 2 days demonstrating Medieval cookery, this attracted a regular population of people who either visited for the demonstration or were visiting the castle and then observed the demonstration.