

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Kinsley moat and fishpond

PARISH: HEMSWORTH

DISTRICT: WAKEFIELD

COUNTY: WEST YORKSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 13287

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SE40891436
SE40951443

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

Kinsley moat is situated south of Carr Farm in the former Kinsley Park. The monument includes a single rectangular island, measuring c.60m by 25m, surrounded by a water-filled moat varying between 7 and 10m wide and fed from an underground spring.

Although there are no visible remains of the medieval manor house that formerly occupied the island, its foundations and related archaeological deposits survive below ground. Until recently, a marshy area immediately north of the moat indicated the former existence of a fishpond, but this has now been destroyed by the creation of an ornamental lake and is not included in the scheduling. However, a second fishpond can still be seen to the north-east and is included within a separate constraint area. Part of a channel which once fed from the moat to the first fishpond can also still be seen as a shallow, marshy depression leading from the north-east corner of the moat and is included in the scheduling.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

Kinsley moat has suffered little disturbance in the past and building foundations and other archaeological material will survive extensively on the island. Organic and environmental material will be preserved in the waterlogged deposits of the fishpond and wet moat.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 10th March 1992