

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Moated site and annexe south of Gale Bay

PARISH: BARTON

DISTRICT: EDEN

COUNTY: CUMBRIA

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 22508

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): NY46402331

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument is a moated site and an associated annexe south of Gale Bay. It includes Hodgson Hill, a natural feature, measuring approximately 90m by 50m and up to 8m high, that has been altered by some levelling of the summit to create a building platform and the digging of a now infilled moat up to 10m wide around its base on all sides except the west where Ullswater affords protection. Immediately to the south of the moat is a flat platform or annexe, also formed by a modification of the natural hillslope, measuring c.50m by 25m.

According to local tradition the monument is known as Tristermont, home of Sir Tristram, one of the knights of King Arthur's Round Table. The site is mentioned in a 14th century document by Sir W Strickland and his son, Thomas. Past ploughing has revealed sandstone on the summit of the hill, indicative of structural foundations.

All modern field boundaries are excluded from the scheduling, but the ground beneath is included.

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.

Despite erosion on the monument's western side that has obscured the surrounding moat, and infilling of the remainder of the moat, the monument's earthworks survive reasonably well. Documentary evidence indicates the site was occupied during the 14th century and past ploughing on the summit of the

hill has revealed sandstone confirming that structural foundations survive.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 24th November 1964 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Westmorland 131

NAME: Moated site S of Gale Bay, Barton

Scheduling amended on 1st April 1974 to:

COUNTY/NUMBER : Cumbria 375

NAME: Moated site S of Gale Bay, Barton

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 22508

NAME: Moated site and annexe south of Gale Bay

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 17th September 1993