

## EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Medieval moated site and adjoining fishpond, Moat Farm

PARISH: IDEN

DISTRICT: ROTHER

COUNTY: EAST SUSSEX

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 12737

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TQ89962392

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The moated site at Iden includes a central island with still surviving remains of stone-built buildings, a wide wet moat with a causeway on the north-west side, two extensions to the moat on the west side which form a partial outer circuit and a rectangular fishpond on the south side. Moated sites are usually seen as the prestigious residences of the Lords of the manor. The moat marked the high status of the occupier, but also served to deter casual raiders and wild animals. Most moats were constructed between 1250 and 1350, and historical documents suggest that Sir Edmund de Passeley received permission to provide a moat for the manor of La Mote around 1318. The outer moat on the western side, where the entrance to the manor was located, indicates that this site was particularly grand, and that at least some of the buildings were of stone supports this suggestion.

The fishpond on the south side is also suitably large and would have provided another source of prestige in the form of fresh fish for the table. Part of the reason for the wealth of the manor may have been its trading links -- what may be a wharf for landing cargoes lies alongside the modern approach road to the site, outside the scheduled area.

All standing structures within the scheduled area, except those on the moat island, are excluded from the scheduling, along with the road surfaces, all fences and gates and the sluice gate at the north-east corner of the moat. The ground beneath all of these structures, where they lie within the scheduled area, remains covered by 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.

The moated site at Moat Farm survives to a large extent in an state of preservation and displays a diversity of component parts. The monument is of high archaeological potential, both the island because the uneven topography indicates that foundations survive and the moat because it remains waterlogged, providing good conditions for preservation. The fishpond also survives well and forms an integral part of the moated site.

#### SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on: 26th July 1967

COUNTY/NUMBER: East Sussex 353

NAME: "The Moat", Iden

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 12737

NAME: Medieval moated site and adjoining fishpond, Moat Farm

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 25th July 1990