

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Moated site, fishponds and associated earthworks 150m south-east of Haversham Manor

PARISH: HAVERSHAM-CUM-LITTLE LINFORD

DISTRICT: MILTON KEYNES

COUNTY: MILTON KEYNES

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 19081

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SP82834259

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes the remains of a moated site, fishponds and associated earthworks situated on a gentle east facing slope. The moated enclosure is rectangular in shape with overall dimensions of 90m north to south by 84m west to east. The moat ditch is best preserved around the west, south and south-east sides where it averages 10m wide and is up to 1.7m deep. The north-eastern quadrant of the moat is shallow and considerably less well defined and has possibly been silted at some time in the past. The central platform of the moat measures some 60m north to south by 44m west to east and is raised slightly above the surrounding land surface. The interior surface of the platform is disturbed and uneven particularly in the northern half indicating the survival of sub-surface building remains. There is also some loose stone on the surface in this area but no visible evidence of worked stone or masonry. In the south-western corner of the platform, separated from the edge of the moat by a narrow bank, is a rectangular hollow 28m west to east by 8m north to south and 1.6m deep. The sides of the hollow are steep and the base surface is level and even. Its close proximity to the edge of the moat suggests that it is likely to be the remains of a small fishpond. A shallow hollow 15m square and 0.6m deep, possibly the site of a building, lies immediately to the north of this feature.

To the east of the moated enclosure a recently constructed lake approaches to within 50m of the moat edge; in the area between are the truncated remains of fragmentary banks and hollows which are thought to represent the remains of village crofts or garden plots. A roughly rectangular hollow some 30m by 20m and 0.5m deep which lies adjacent to the north-eastern corner of the moat may represent the remains of a second early fishpond.

To the east of the moat some 60m upslope is a large fishpond which appears later in date. It measures 100m north to south by 30m east to west and has a central island. The pond is contained along its eastern downslope side by a substantial embankment some 8m wide at base and up to 2m high. A second smaller pond of similar age lies to the north; this is 38m north to south by 8m west to east.

The Grade II Listed 17th century dovecote, all field boundaries and modern structures are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath all these features 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.

The moated site south-east of Haversham Manor, despite having suffered some disturbance in the past, survives largely intact and is a good example of its class. The central platform contains archaeological evidence relating to the occupation of the island, including the survival of buried structural foundations relating to the buildings that originally stood upon it. Environmental evidence relating to the landscape in which the monument was constructed will survive in the deeper ditch deposits and in the fishponds. The site viewed in relation to the nearby parish church and the later Haversham Manor house allows an understanding of the development of the settlement of this area from the medieval period onwards.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 20th October 1971 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Buckinghamshire 108

NAME: Moated site at Manor Farm

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 19081

NAME: Moated site, fishponds and associated earthworks 150m south-east of Haversham Manor

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 01st December 1993