

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

MONUMENT: Moated site east of Newton Reigny

PARISH: CATTERLEN

DISTRICT: EDEN

COUNTY: CUMBRIA

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 23778

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): NY48143158

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes a medieval moated site located in fields a short distance to the east of Newton Reigny. It includes an island or enclosure surrounded by a shallow moat which is now largely dry apart from one side where a small stream forms its eastern arm. The island is trapezoidal in shape and measures between 150m-170m north-south by 74m-90m east-west. On the southern and much of its eastern edge there is an inner bank measuring up to 6m wide and 1m high. The surrounding moat varies in size, measuring between 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep on the south and much of the west sides to 7m wide and 0.3m deep on the north side. Access onto the island is through an entrance on the western side where there are faint traces of a causeway across the moat. Limited excavation by Anderson during the 1960's located a flagged floor and a cobble-lined posthole which the excavator interpreted as evidence of the 'hall' which would have occupied the island.

All gateposts, walls and fences are excluded from the scheduling but the ground beneath them 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 infilling of part of the moat's northern arm, the moated site east of Newton Reigny survives reasonably well and remains largely unencumbered by modern development. Limited excavation by Anderson during the 1960's located structural remains, and the monument will retain further evidence for the

building which originally occupied the island.

#### SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 30th December 1952 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Cumberland 21

NAME: Earthwork E of Newton Reigny

Scheduling amended on 1st April 1974 to:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Cumbria 415

NAME: Earthwork E of Newton Reigny

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 23778

NAME: Moated site east of Newton Reigny

SCHEDULING AFFIRMED ON 22nd June 1995