

SCHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: Motte south-west of Morley House Farm

PARISH: MORLEY

DISTRICT: EREWASH

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 23301

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK39184099

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

This monument, known locally as The Mound, is a medieval motte and includes a flat-topped conical mound surrounded by a 6-9m wide waterfilled ditch which is crossed by a causeway on the south-east side. The motte is 15m wide at its base and c.4m high and very steep-sided. A timber tower or keep would originally have stood on the motte whose top is c.5m wide. Formerly there may also have been an attached bailey or outer enclosure which would have contained ancillary buildings and pens for cattle and horses. There is no visible trace of such a feature in the ploughed fields surrounding the monument and so this area has not been included in the scheduling. The surface of the adjacent farm track is excluded from the scheduling, although the ground underneath is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Motte castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and as centres of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality

(Continued..)

-----  
SIGNED BY: Iain Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Continued from previous page ..

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 23301

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE (Continued)

and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. Some 100-150 examples do not have baileys and are classified as motte castles. As one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

Although the motte south-west of Morley House Farm has been disturbed by scrub, the monument survives well and is sufficiently intact for archaeological remains relating to the structure of the motte and the associated keep to be preserved. In addition, well preserved organic and environmental remains will survive in the waterfilled ditch.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red. It includes a 2 metre boundary around the archaeological features, considered to be essential for the monument's support and preservation.

---

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 25th August 1938 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Derbyshire 78

NAME: Morley Moated Mound

---

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 23301

NAME: Motte south-west of Morley House Farm

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 17th January 1994

SIGNED BY: Iain Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

---

SIGNED BY: Iain Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for National Heritage.