

However, consent is necessary for deeper excavations (300mm or more) such as might be required for swimming pools, tree planting and the extension or creation of gardens in new areas. Metal detecting equipment must not be used on a scheduled monument.

Also, many areas of back gardens which overlap the deer ditches are licensed out and the license was written with specific clauses designed to protect the visual appearance of the boundary by forbidding the siting of sheds or other damage to the wooded areas.

It is recommended that prior to commencing any works as identified above, that owners check with the Ancient Monuments Inspector, English Heritage to establish if consent will be necessary. It would also be wise to check the terms of any lease or license relating to the land. It is a criminal offence to damage a scheduled ancient monument by carrying out unauthorised works. Conviction for these offences can lead to fines.

Conclusion

In conclusion, these measures aim to protect what is a nationally important piece of medieval landscape. The Council aims to formulate a plan for the area to ensure that its future is properly and carefully managed. It is extremely fortunate that this vulnerable area has been preserved thus far, and it will now be kept for future generations to understand and enjoy.

Useful Contact Details

Ancient Monuments Inspector

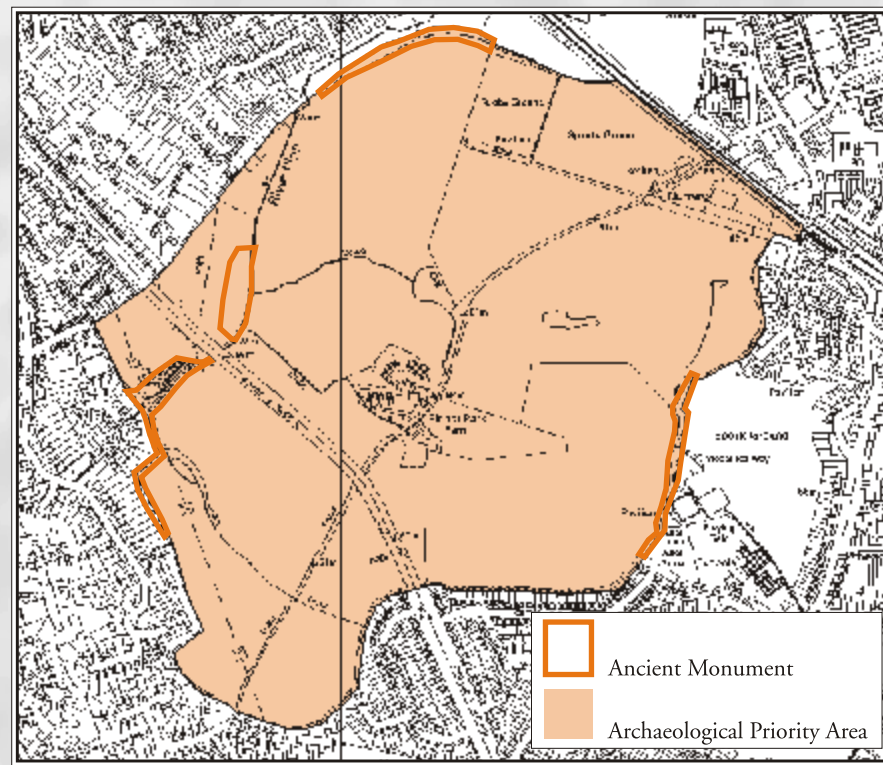
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Old Pinner Deer Park

Scheduled Ancient Monument



Three sections of the earth ditch and bank on the boundary of the park and a system of artificial ponds and water features within it have recently been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979). The scheduling means that those sites recognised as having national importance will be protected and conserved for the future. The remainder of the Park, though not designated as a Scheduled Monument is covered by an Archaeological Priority Area. The map above shows the extent of both areas.

Pinner Park Farm land is clearly important as an area of open space and is designated as Green Belt. However, the ancient monument scheduling recognises its importance as rare, well preserved evidence of this type of medieval landscape.

Why has Pinner Deer Park been scheduled?

In the 13th century, this part of Pinner was in the Manor of Harrow, owned by the Archbishops of Canterbury. The Norman aristocracy enjoyed hunting and as a result, parks enclosed by ditches were set up to contain their deer. These parks were established in almost every county in England but many have been lost or substantially altered over the years.

The earliest documentary reference to the Pinner Deer Park dates from 1273-74 and describes some 250 acres surrounded by a bank and double ditch. The boundary of this Deer Park has been perpetuated in the boundary of the farmland that exists today. Many records exist of the Park from the time when it was in ecclesiastical ownership, including writs against persons causing damage to it during the Peasant's Revolt of 1381. The Park is particularly unusual since it had a double ditch, which suggested that it was as important to keep unwanted intruders out, as to keep the stock in! In 1490 there were about 137 deer in the park, managed by game keepers.

Within the park there are 2 artificial ponds which are now dry. The larger would have been a fish pond and there was a sluice gate within a clay dam upstream. Remains of a ditch suggest that the river could have been diverted away from the fishpond during periods of dredging or repair. Another pond was created upstream as a watering place for the deer. This pond would have been visible from the original farmhouse, (thought to be on the site of the current farmyard) which would mean that visitors could witness the wealth of their host's lands and stock, the deer could be monitored and it would have been an attractive viewpoint from the house.

During the 15th century the park was converted to agricultural land and the ditch and fences were replaced with hedgerows. A survey carried out in 1986 revealed that some of the hedges date back to the late medieval period. The Deer Park was transferred to Henry VIII in 1546 and was then owned and tenanted out by various families. In 1930 it was purchased as open space to safeguard it from the threat of

any future development.

The Park therefore represents a rare survival of ancient landscape showing how the nobility used their land during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

How will scheduling Affect you?

Once a site is scheduled, consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for any works which might affect it. English Heritage act as advisors to the Secretary of State. Consent is necessary for any works which change the site either above or below ground, specifically:

- demolishing
- destroying
- damaging
- removing
- repairing
- altering
- adding to
- flooding
- tipping material onto the monument

For example, levelling the banks and filling in the ditch would require scheduled ancient monument consent. It is very important that unintentional damage is avoided.

The Archaeological Priority Area aims to ensure that the rest of the site is properly conserved and managed. If development was proposed on the site, then additional restrictions would come into force. Normal agricultural or domestic gardening works would not be regarded as development and therefore would not be affected by this designation.

What works do not need Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent?

The Secretary of State has granted consent automatically for some works including most domestic gardening activities such as planting, the construction of bases and foundations of sheds and paths etc.