

Appendix 4 Conservation Plan Executive Summary

Headstone Manor Conservation Plan

Revision D July 2014

Executive Summary

Headstone Manor is recognised as one of the most complex and interesting historic houses in Greater London. The Grade I listed medieval Manor House (the earliest surviving timber-framed building in Middlesex) and its associated water-filled moat are the focal structures of the site, which located within the ancient manorial lands of Harrow. The immense archaeological value and national importance of the site is reflected in its statutory designation as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1005558), the protection of which covers the moat, island platform and the full extent of the farm complex as recorded on the historic ordnance survey maps.

Understanding of the site has been developed through numerous site visits to observe the historic fabric, consultation and collaboration with experts including Oxford Archaeology, and research of the archive collections held at Harrow Museum and the Harrow Local History Library & Archive.

Following the development of the understanding of the site and its heritage assets, a Statement of Significance has been prepared which details the heritage values embodied within the Headstone Manor Estate and define its unique character.

Within the boundary of the scheduled monument are the early sixteenth-century Grade II* listed Great Barn, and the Grade II listed Small Barn with timber frame dating from c.1550, both belonging to the farmstead of Headstone Manor House. Also present on the site is a Grade II listed eighteenth century Granary, which was relocated from nearby Pinner Park Farm in 1991-92.

The Headstone Manor Estate is not widely known locally or regionally as a nationally important and highly significant historic site.

Survival of early medieval timber framed structures is very rare, and the survival of several medieval timber framed structures is the primary significance of the buildings at the Headstone Manor Estate, and merits their national statutory designations. Through associations with important historical figureheads, including the highly influential Archbishops of Canterbury, and various notable families, the Manor House has high social significance, also at a national level.

This Plan seeks to document the historical development of the site and its story in order to reveal its Significance and disseminate its importance to a wider audience, by informing interpretation and information about the site that has thus far been incomplete.

The plan will also identify a framework of conservation policies specific to the site so that informed and appropriate decisions can be made about the site, both in the short-term and long-term future, to ensure that its Significance is both conserved and enhanced.

The conservation policies are a direct outcome of the understanding of the place developed through this document. These policies address current needs and also consider how the site might need to adapt to cope with changes in climate, to balance conservation needs with the need for economic viability, and to appropriately provide access for the public in the future.

The primary aim is to achieve a holistic and fully integrated conservation framework for the whole site, as it had been identified that the assets had suffered as a result of their being considered in isolation from each other in the past.

A secondary aim is the general on-going maintenance of the Manor House as a public building within the ownership of the local authority through promoting the status of the buildings as part of an important historic place, and securing future funding.

The policies form a comprehensive framework to advise on the development of detailed proposals for repair and conservation, for the design and location of any associated alterations to the immediate setting, and for the continued management and maintenance of the site. The specific policy aims are to:

- Manage the site as a unified historic place as opposed to a set of individual heritage assets
- Care for the buildings and their setting to the same high standards as the museum and local history collections
- Ensure all buildings have a viable use, without diluting the significance of the place
- Interpret the buildings to allow visitors to appreciate their significance

A summary and index of the proposed conservation policy categories is included at page 185 of the full document, this is available for review on request from Jo Saunders, Heritage & Museum Manager, jo.saunders@harrow.gov.uk