

= Manor Farm , Ruislip =

Manor Farm is a 22 @-@ acre (8 @.@ 9 ha) historic site in Ruislip , Greater London . It incorporates a medieval farm complex , with a main old barn dating from the 13th century and a farm house from the 16th . Nearby are the remains of a motte @-@ and @-@ bailey castle believed to date from shortly after the Norman conquest of England . Original groundwork on the site has been dated to the 9th century .

Ownership of the site passed to the King 's College , Cambridge in the 15th century , with whom it remained until 1931 . At this point Manor Farm was included in the sale of Park Wood as a gift to the people of Ruislip . The Great Barn and Little Barn were recognised by a member of the Royal Society of Arts in 1930 as in need of conservation . The site continued as a working farm until 1933 .

Throughout 2007 and 2008 , the site was restored with National Lottery funding , and has become a heritage area for the London Borough of Hillingdon . Manor Farm is within the Ruislip Village Conservation Area . Events are regularly held within the 13th @-@ century Great Barn and around the rest of the site .

= = History = =

= = = Origins = = =

What remains of the motte @-@ and @-@ bailey castle can be seen today in part of the moat and bank on the site . Today , the moat on the site is a scheduled monument , believed to have been extended to create an oval area upon which a wooden castle covering 350 foot (110 m) by 200 foot (61 m) was built , presumably for the landowner , Ernulf de Hesdin . He was given control of the manor of Ruislip shortly after the Norman conquest , in recognition of his loyalty to William the Conqueror . The castle is believed to have been built between 1066 and 1087 , but does not appear in the 1086 Domesday Book and so could have been demolished or changed significantly . It may never have been finished .

Ruislip parish was owned by the Benedictine Bec Abbey of Normandy between 1096 and 1404 during which time the prior built a home for himself on the site , surrounded by a moat . During the 16th century , the remains of the motte @-@ and @-@ bailey site were used as the gardens of the Manor Farm House when it was built . In 1888 the moat extension was filled in by Henry James Ewer , who farmed on the site . The moat 's shape and the presence of traces of a fortified building have allowed this part of the site to be dated to the 11th century . However , the castle is believed to have been built around 1066 then either demolished or changed significantly as it does not appear as a castle in Domesday Book .

The farm buildings date back to the 13th century with the Great Barn the most prominent . The barn is the second largest such structure in Middlesex after another in Harmondsworth . The Great Barn is constructed of English oak from the nearby Ruislip Woods . It was built to a design known as an aisled barn , whereby smaller out @-@ shoots run alongside the main supports underneath one main roof .

= = = Ownership = = =

Studies by English Heritage have found that the site originally functioned not only as the manorial court hall for Ruislip , but also as a working farm . The main building was built over two existing structures , possibly to accommodate the new lessee of the manor , Robert Drury , a former Speaker of the House of Commons . The study concluded this was most likely achieved by a team of masons and carpenters . Manor Farm was also known as Ruislip Court until the 19th century .

In 1451 , ownership of the farm passed with the rest of Ruislip to King 's College , Cambridge who remain titular Lords of the Manor . King 's completed two surveys of the manor during their

ownership , in 1565 and 1750 .

The Farm House was built from locally produced bricks , tiles and timber in the 16th century , and served as the manorial court until 1925 when the last court was held . Work in the 18th and 19th centuries saw the windows and doorways replaced , while an extended kitchen was installed . The kitchen extension was replaced in 1958 as part of a general refurbishment of the house .

Manor Farm and Park Wood were nearly demolished in the early 1900s to make way for a new development planned in partnership with King 's College and the Ruislip @-@ Northwood Urban District Council . A town planning competition was won by A & J Soutar from Wandsworth , who suggested a symmetrical design across the parish which would have seen a total of 7 @,@ 642 new homes built . St. Martin 's church would have been the only example of historical architecture left in Ruislip . An outline map of the new development proposal was made public on 30 November 1910 with few objections . A Local Board inquiry followed on 17 February 1911 which required negotiations with landowners to allow for a full planning scheme to be compiled . This was presented in February 1913 with an adaptation of the original Soutars plan and received approval from the Local Government Board in September 1914 . Three roads with residential housing , Manor Way , Windmill Way and Park Way were completed before the outbreak of the First World War when all construction work was halted . It was not resumed until 1919 , though the plan was substantially scaled back as work slowed throughout the next decade .

The protection of Manor Farm and the local woods from redevelopment was eventually confirmed in January 1930 , after a visit by a member of the Royal Society of Arts to choose buildings that should be conserved . The Great Barn and Little Barn were selected , along with the old Post Office , the Old Bell public house and the Priest 's House of the local church . The woods , part of the centre of the manor of Ruislip along with Ruislip village square , were included when King 's College sold the land to the district in February 1931 . Park Wood was sold for £ 28 @,@ 100 with Manor Farm and the old Post Office included as a gift to the people of Ruislip . King 's had wished to also present the wood as a gift but was required by the University and College 's Act to receive payment as it was the trustee of the land . Middlesex County Council contributed 75 % of the cost as the urban district council argued that many of those who would make use of the land would be recreational day trippers from outside the district . Under a 999 @-@ year lease , the council agreed to maintain the wood and ensure no new buildings were constructed without the permission of the county council . An area of the wood to the south was not included in the lease agreement and three residential roads were later constructed on it .

In 1932 , the two cart sheds on either side of the lane leading into the farm were removed . That year , Councillor T. R. Parker purchased a plot of land on the site from King 's College . Manor Farm continued as a working farm until the following year , when the local council began to sell off much of the land surrounding the buildings for housing developments . Councillor Parker presented his land to the Ruislip Village Trust as the site of a future public hall , and the Trust passed it to the urban district council in 1964 stipulating that that would be the sole use . The council obliged and the Winston Churchill Hall was built in 1965 .

A smaller barn built in the 16th century , the Little Barn , was converted to a library and opened on 2 November 1937 . The original cowbyre was destroyed by fire in 1979 and was rebuilt as an exhibition centre . An archaeological excavation was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service in 1997 around the Farm House . This discovered the remains of the old priory were beneath the house , as this had been the bailey , surrounded by the motte .

= = = Restoration = = =

The site was refurbished with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund in April 2007 with the work completed in June the following year . This included the renovation of the Grade II listed Manor Farm library as part of a borough @-@ wide programme by the London Borough of Hillingdon . The Duck Pond Market began in the Great Barn in December 2008 , following the refurbishment , and runs once a month . Winston Churchill Hall , not included in the original restoration work , received a £ 370 @,@ 000 grant from Hillingdon Council in March 2011 to enable its refurbishment .

= = = Comparable structures = = =

Other moated medieval farm complexes survive in the nearby area at Headstone Manor and (without a surviving moat) at Pinner Park . Traces of a moat survived at Harmondsworth Great Barn until 1968 .