

History in Birmingham Northfield



Hawkesley Moated Site



The mediaeval moated site at Moat House, Northfield, is one of the most important archaeological sites in Birmingham

During the Civil War, Hawkesley House was besieged and burnt down by Royalist troops

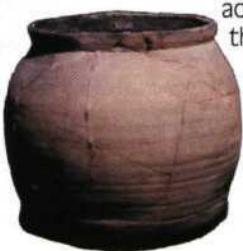
History of Hawkesley Manor Farm

Mediaeval times

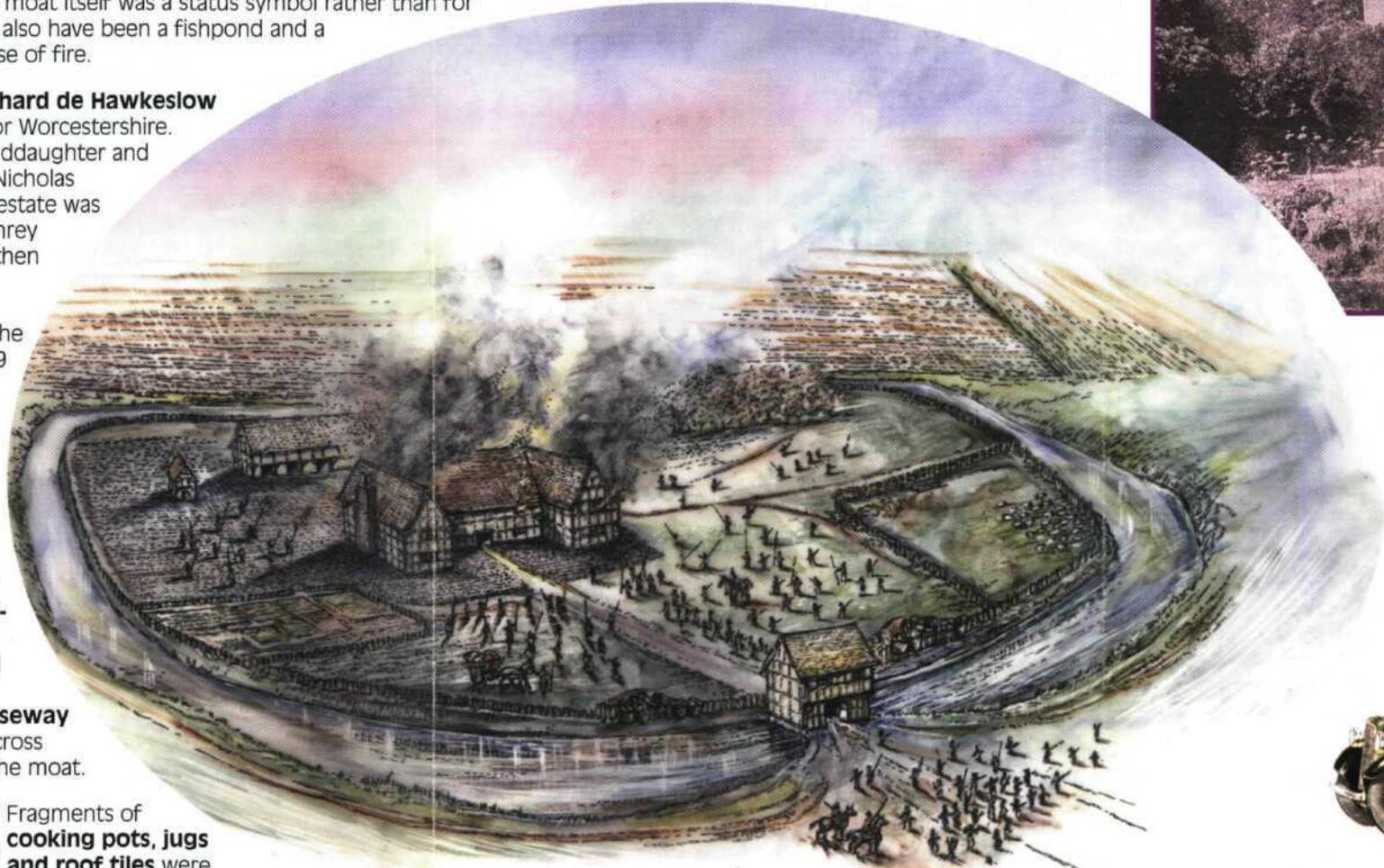
The manor at Hawkesley was first occupied in the 13th century. The **moat** surrounded the Hawkesley homestead which would have included a long **hall house** with a **courtyard** and ancillary buildings consisting of a **bakehouse, chapel, barns, stables and dovecotes**. The moat itself was a status symbol rather than for defence, but it could also have been a fishpond and a source of water in case of fire.

From 1326 –1344 **Richard de Hawkeslow** was Sheriff and MP for Worcestershire. Around 1424 his granddaughter and sole heiress married Nicholas Middlemore and the estate was transferred to Humphrey Stafford. The manor then changed hands (and name) several times but was restored to the **Middlemores** in 1549 in whose ownership it remained until the early 20C.

Archaeological excavations in the 1950s revealed remains of 14th and 15th century **timber buildings** and a **coal-fired oven**. The site was probably entered through a **timber gatehouse** on a **causeway** across the moat.



Fragments of **cooking pots, jugs and roof tiles** were found in the excavations



Hawkesley in the Civil War – illustration by Steve Rigby



King Charles I

The Civil War Period, 1642-1646

The Middlemore family was ousted from Hawkesley by **Parliamentarian troops** who took it over as a fortified garrison. It was besieged by **Royalist troops** in May 1645 enforcing a surrender when **King Charles** arrived, but the buildings were nonetheless razed to the ground by Prince Rupert's men.



Photograph of the 18C Hawkesley Farm (courtesy of John O'Keefe) which was demolished in 1957

Sir Herbert Austin's sister, Albretha, lived here with their mother, Clara Jane, in the 1920s. (The **Austin Car Works** at Longbridge were nearby).



The Austin 7 Ruby (1935)

“ Here is an outstanding example of history on our own doorstep... the potential for using the site for a local studies project is enormous. ”

Anthony Quinn, Head of History, Turves Green Boys' School Technology College, Northfield, Birmingham

Hawkesley Moated Site Today



At the end of 1999, the Moat House Residents' Association was granted a Millennium Award from Birmingham City Council Housing Department to raise awareness of the ancient moated site where they live.

Supported by an environmental education consultant, the local community, councillors and local government officers, the residents have carried out extensive research and are developing a vision plan to conserve both the **archaeological and ecological features** of the Moat.



A **resource pack for teachers** will be available in 2001.



Moat House flats on the site of Hawkesley Farm, showing part of the ancient moat, in the year 2000

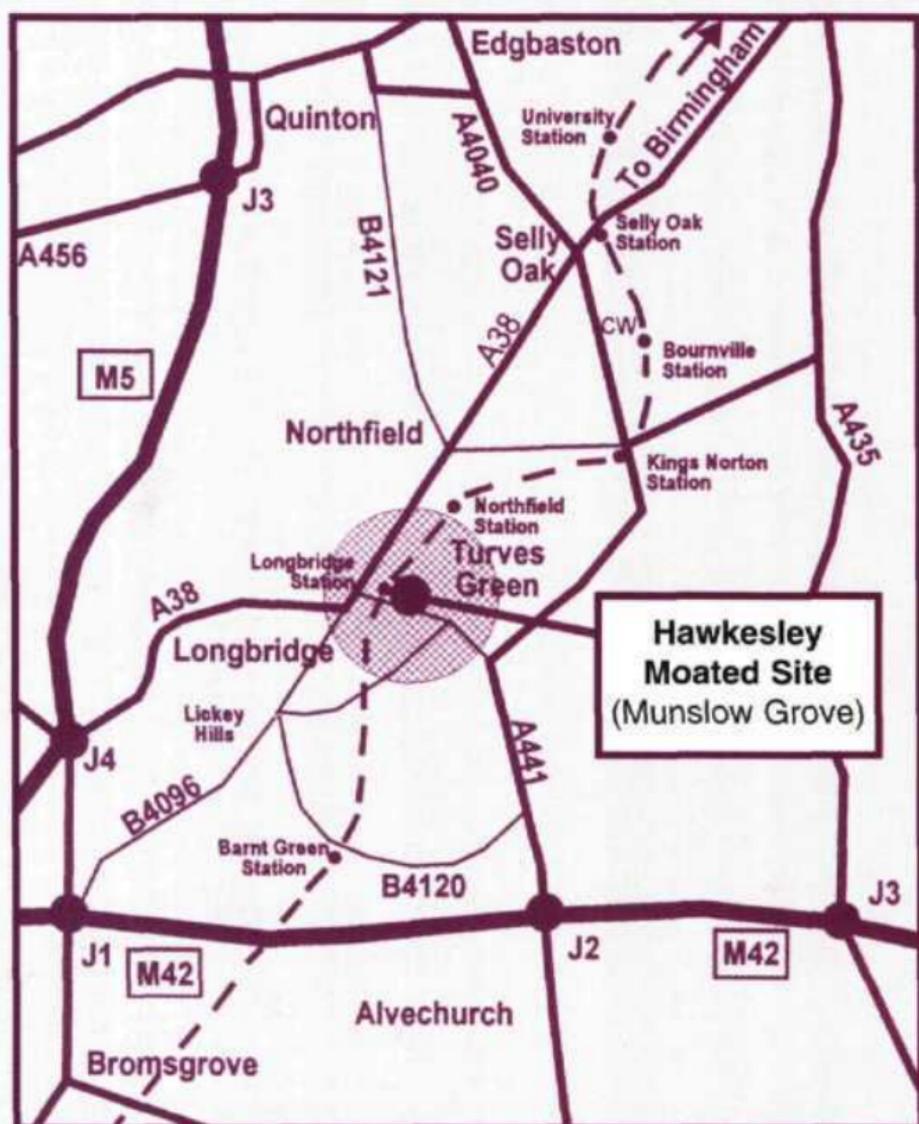


How to find Hawkesley Moated Site

The moated site is located at **Munslow Grove, Turves Green, Northfield, Birmingham**. Longbridge Station is 15 minutes walk: bus nos 44, 47 and 86 stop nearby.

Visitors please contact The Warden of the Moat House Residents' Association: telephone 0121-475 1801.

General Enquiries: Local Housing Team:
telephone 0121-303 8250.



S U P P O R T E D B Y
Birmingham City Council
Housing Department



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The contact details within this leaflet have been updated since its publication. Please use the contact details below.

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