

Application to Historic England for consent to investigate and improve drainage from the moat

Initial responses to draft document

Trustee	Comments	Questions
John Tromans	<p>Over the years a number of attempts to regulate the moat drainage have been made, primarily to stop the moat draining too quickly into the roadside ditch. This often lowered the water level to the point where regularly only mud was visible in several parts of the moat. These attempts included making a deep excavation between the corner of the moat and the ditch to see what kind of "drain" if any existed. This , as I remember, was inconclusive no drain hardware as such being found. The water simply appeared to drain naturally through the subsoil.</p> <p>Following this attempts were made to stop the water draining from the moat by clay puddling in the corner and strengthening the bank with stone. My recollection is that this was done twice with, as we all now know, some considerable success as the water level has remained fairly consistently high, or at least higher than it used to be, for some years. The moat dredging helped. I believe it has also been helped by increased drainage into the moat in the diagonally opposite corner caused by natural (or perhaps unnatural since the development of Barley Meadows) fluctuations in land drainage plus drainage work we have done ourselves.</p> <p>As to the moat "draining" into the pond, my recollection is that this has been looked at in the past and considered impractical because of the relative levels around the moat. Looked at with the naked eye the moat level would have to be extremely high to flow into the pond. I know that in extremely wet conditions it has been known for a "stream" to be formed between the north-east corner of the moat and the pond but I'm not sure which way the flow, if any, was taking place.</p>	<p>The proposed work could be expensive if it is to be effective. Have we any measure of actually what would be involved and what the cost would be?</p>

<p>Jenny Powis</p>	<p>Supports the application</p>	
<p>Wendy Johnson</p>	<p>I agree that if we can get funding, or even use some of the grants Tim has got recently, we should get HE permission to get the leak from the moat stopped.</p> <p>However Tim's wording seems to imply blocking the drain nearer the outlet (or tracing the drain all the way back to the moat?) Since the drain is almost certainly porous in some way (said to be a French drain) it would mean water continually seeping out into the surrounding soil making the area between the moat and the hedge very wet, particularly as the water table would rise along with the level of the moat. Water could even come to the surface towards the stream where the land might be lower than the water level in the moat. So I think the only satisfactory way to stop the leak is at the moat end. The problem with the previous repair was that it wasn't in the right place!</p> <p>I suggest that the wording should be less specific just saying that we want to stop the leak between X and Y and include permission to dig down at an accessible point between X and Y to investigate the type of drain if necessary. (digging at Y would be full of hedge roots!). I believe that there was some sort of digging down to investigate nearer the moat end soon after the trustees took over the site. Does John T know anything about this? I spoke to David W but he only knows that something was done. Anthony Hopkins might know more.</p> <p>Should the application also include getting advice from and using suitable contractors to carry out the work?</p>	<p>Does John T know more about any digging down to investigate the moat end which might have taken place soon after the trustees took over the site?</p> <p>Should the application also include getting advice from and using suitable contractors to carry out the work?</p>

<p>Dinah Griffin</p>	<p>I have spoken to Anthony Hopkins and he tells me that there is a pipe from the corner of the moat (X) to the stream, but that it was damaged during the investigation to find it!</p> <p>I have seen water flowing from the moat to the pond, but it doesn't seem to happen now even when the water level is high. Has the channel become silted up?</p> <p>It would be good to fill the pond, but we would still need a high level overflow system to stop the moat and pond flooding.</p> <p>I agree with Wendy that the leak needs to be stopped at the moat corner (X) not at Y as otherwise there could be a very wet patch in the copse.</p> <p>It seems to me that this problem is not as simple as it first appears and that we do need to consult an expert in pond/water systems management (National Trust must do this sort of thing a lot).</p> <p>I certainly agree that it is well worthwhile getting permission to investigate.</p>	<p>Has the channel between the moat and the pond become silted up?</p> <p>Can we consult an expert? Do organisations such as the National Trust provide consultant expertise in water systems management?</p>
<p>Mark Robbins</p>	<p>From an ecological perspective, there are good reasons for keeping the water level of the moat at a reasonable level.</p>	