

SEEING MEDIEVAL BIRMINGHAM

The following is a selection of medieval sites throughout Birmingham which have visible remains. Some site types are explained overleaf.

City Centre

Bullring: The results of excavations as part of the Bullring redevelopment are described on display panels in High Street, Edgbaston Street, and Moor Street.

Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square: Medieval pottery, floor tiles and metalwork from Birmingham Moat, Weoley Castle and Kent's Moat.

Old Crown Inn, High Street Deritend: Timber-framed building constructed about 1500 on site of 13th-century pottery kiln, probably as a guild meeting place and a school.

St Martin's church, Bullring: Medieval masonry visible inside lower part of tower; 14th- and 15th-century effigies of de Birmingham family and a priest at east end.

East Birmingham

Kents Moat, The Hays/Fleetwood Grove off Sheldon Heath Road: Moat, now dry, surrounds modern buildings; excavation revealed that it originally surrounded large timber-framed buildings.

Marion Way: Ridge and furrow between road and railway.

Sheldon, St Giles's church, off Church Road: Medieval church, 14th century, with 15th-century tower.

Yardley Fields Recreation Ground: Hollow way, the former Yardley Green Road.

Yardley, St Edburgha's church, Church Lane: 13th century and later church, 15th-century timber-framed school; moat (in woods behind tennis court); ridge and furrow on recreation ground.

North Birmingham

Aston, St Peter and St Paul church, Aston Hall Road/ Witton Lane: 15th-century tower and spire; group of 15th-century monuments inside.

Handsworth Old Town Hall, Slack Lane/College Road: Cruck frame in gable, visible from road.

Peddimore Hall, off Peddimore Lane: Double moat, now surrounding 17th century house, visible from public footpath; ridge and furrow in paddock in front of it.

Perry Hall Park, off Perry Avenue: Moat in Perry Hall Park, formerly surrounding Perry Hall; ridge and furrow visible around it.

Sutton Park: The ditch and bank forming the outer boundary of the deer park run along the present west and north sides of the park and have markers at points off Chester Road North and off Thornhill Road as part of an archaeological interpretation scheme. The subdividing banks and ditches of the deer park can be seen near Keepers Pool where there is a marker on one of them. Keepers, Wyndley and Bracebridge Pools are all medieval fishponds. Both the dam and quarry are particularly visible at Keepers Pool, where there is a marker.

South Birmingham

Bromwich Wood, Scotland Lane: Bank and ditch wood boundary.

Gannow Green Moat, Devon Road: A well-preserved moat near the River Rea. There is an information panel on the site. There is also a fishpond dam nearby, in Mull Close.

Hawkesley Farm Moat, Munslow Grove, Turves Green: Part of the moat, which now surrounds a tower block and bungalows, is now a pond and part is visible as a large dry ditch. There are information panels on the site.

Kings Norton Green: Medieval church, 15th-century timber-framed Saracen's Head and Old Grammar School.

Northfield, St Laurence's church, Church Hill: 12th-century north doorway with animal decoration.

Cruck: *Timber frame consisting of pairs of curving timbers supporting the roof and walls of a building*

Hollow way: *Road worn down by use over a long period of time*

Moated site: *A wet ditch surrounding mainly timber buildings, which was constructed as a status symbol rather than for defence*

Ridge and furrow: *The result of medieval ploughing in which the ground was ridged up, sometimes but not always in an open field system*

Further information:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/archaeology

M Hodder, *Birmingham: the hidden history* (Tempus Publishing, 2004)