

Heritage statement

Rectory Park, Thornhill

After the Norman Conquest, Thornhill formed part of the lands held by Ilbert de Laci, the Lord of Pontefract. By the 12th century, the main landowner is named in contemporary charters as Essolf, who then passed his lands on to his sons, who by this time had adopted the name 'Thornhill'. The focus of the medieval settlement was along the street known as 'The Town', which ran in a north-south direction, parallel to Church Lane,

The settlement appears to have been relatively prosperous, with many of its occupants employed in craft production, including weavers and shoemakers. In 1317, a Royal Charter giving the right to hold a weekly market and fair was granted (Kirklees Metropolitan District Council 1978).

By the late 14th century, the Thornhill estate was held by Henry Savile after he married Elizabeth Thornhill. The now ruined home of the Savile family is located within an area designated as a Scheduled Monument (National Monument No. 13289; Fig. 2). Excavations within the scheduled site have identified elements of a 13th-century timber-framed hall with clay-bonded foundation walls, which was later replaced by a stone-built structure (Webster and Cherry 1975). The Manor House formed the principal seat of the Savile family from the 14th century, being the main administrative centre of the family estate. The surrounding moat, which is still extant, was established in the mid-15th century and it is clearly seen to truncate traces of ridge-and-furrow associated with an earlier field system.

The township of Thornhill continued to grow in size throughout the 17th century, with the majority of the population employed in either agricultural work or domestic textile production. A number of extant buildings in the area date to this period, including the original Rectory, (now Fieldhead Court), constructed between the Thornhill Hall Manor House and St Michael and All Angels Church by 1602, as evidenced by Saxton's map of this date

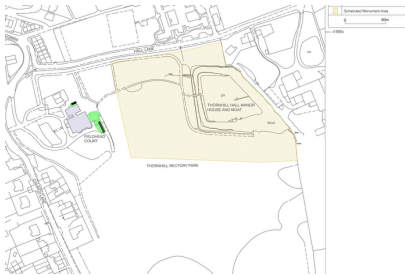
During the Civil War, the Manor House was used as a Royalist garrison. In 1648 it came under attack from the opposing Parliamentary forces, led by Colonel Charles Fairfax, who had seized both the Rectory and the Church. The Royalists eventually surrendered, although, as they were preparing the leave, a fire started which all but destroyed the Manor House and surrounding buildings within the moat. The surviving parts of the Manor House are Grade II listed (DoE 1985 6/29; IoE No. 340714).

The later 18th century saw a decline in domestic-based textile working, as much of the production was taking place within the mills. The main industry in the area, however, was coal mining and by the late 19th century, a significant proportion of the population were employed in the mines

Thornhill Hall moated site is an island occupying the north-east corner of Thornhill Rectory Park. The island and moat was scheduled on 09/02/1981 (English Heritage's List Entry No. 1009930), however the ruined structural remains of the of Thornhill Hall were already separately listed at Grade II on 30/06/1949 (English Heritage's List Entry No. 1134729). The site represents a large manorial complex. It consists of the remains of a stone manor house with surrounding waterfilled moat and some adjacent earthwork

Heritage impact assessment

The proposed mining memorial wheel location is 13 meters from the junction of Frank Lane, Church Lane and Hostingley lane. This area has a pathway and is easily assessable for all to see and reflect on the Wheel and its purpose.



Plan which shows the scheduled monument area

Justification of the proposals

The location of the memorial wheel will have no foreseeable impact on the remains of THORNHILL Hall as the location is outside the boundary of the scheduled monument.

The proposed memorial wheel would add to the conservation area and attract more visitors to rectory park.

Visitors can visit Thornhill and will have a place to remember and reflect on lives lost due to mining accidents in Thornhill.

The historical importance of the local mining industry can be remembered as a heritage asset to the local community.