

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Bowl barrow at Swale Hall

PARISH: GRINTON

DISTRICT: RICHMONDSHIRE

COUNTY: NORTH YORKSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 24557

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SE03999852

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The bowl barrow is situated within meadowland on the lower valley slopes above the River Swale. It includes a large grass covered oval mound measuring 30m north to south by 26m and 3m high. It is slightly disturbed at its base on the north east and south west sides by later cultivation terracing.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. They occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries and often acted as a focus for burials in later periods. Often superficially similar, although differing widely in size, they exhibit regional variations in form and a diversity of burial practices. There are over 10,000 surviving bowl barrows recorded nationally (many more have already been destroyed), occurring across most of lowland Britain. Often occupying prominent locations, they are a major historic element in the modern landscape and their considerable variation of form and longevity as a monument type provide important information on the diversity of beliefs and social organisations amongst early prehistoric communities. They are particularly representative of their period and a substantial proportion of surviving examples are considered worthy of protection.

Although very slightly disturbed around the base this is still a well preserved monument containing further archaeological remains.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 30th June 1995