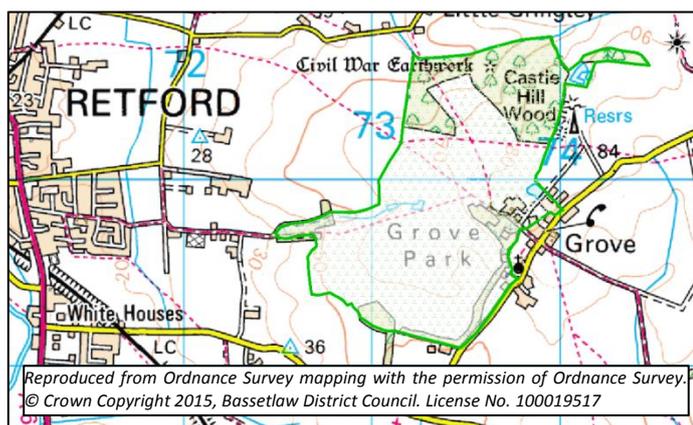


**Unregistered Park & Garden:
Grove Hall**

**NCC/BDC Ref:
UPG16**

Date(s):
Possibly Pre-historic and Roman, with
Medieval, C16, C17, C18, C19, C20



Description & historic information:

Primarily late-18th century landscaped park associated with Grove Hall (demolished in 1951/2), although with earlier features in the landscape. The earliest features are at the north end in Castle Hill Wood, possibly including pre-historic features. Antiquarians also suggested the site was once a Roman encampmentⁱ. Although no archaeological evidence could be found to corroborate the Roman theory, the site certainly has Medieval (a moated site or motte & bailey) and Civil War (defensive) featuresⁱⁱ. The site is located on a ridge of higher ground overlooking Retford (and the River Idle Valley) to the west and the River Trent valley to the east.

The park was owned by Robert de Morteyn in 1299ⁱⁱⁱ. In the post-medieval period, the earliest recorded house was built for Sir John Hercy in the Mid-16th century^{iv}. The English Civil War took place in the mid-17th century, with fortifications (ditches, etc) added at that time. After the Civic War, further alterations to the grounds were carried out, in the late-17th century, by Sir Creswell Levinz - he was succeeded by his son William in 1701, who's son was also called William and who became owner in 1747^v.



1774 Chapman's Map of Nottinghamshire

In 1762, the estate was purchased by Anthony Eyre and he employed architect John Carr to remodel the house^{vi}. The estate passed to his son Anthony Hardolph Eyre (founder of the Sherwood Rangers regiment) in 1788 and the grounds were landscaped by Humphry Repton in 1790 – this may have included extending the formal park northwards (compare 1774 & 1820 maps) and also included new belts of trees, tree-lined walkways and the framing of views. The kitchen gardens were completed in 1798^{vii}, with its distinctive large curtain wall (this originally contained 5 glass houses) - the stables/coach houses probably date to this period as well.



1820 Map of Nottinghamshire, by Henry Stevens

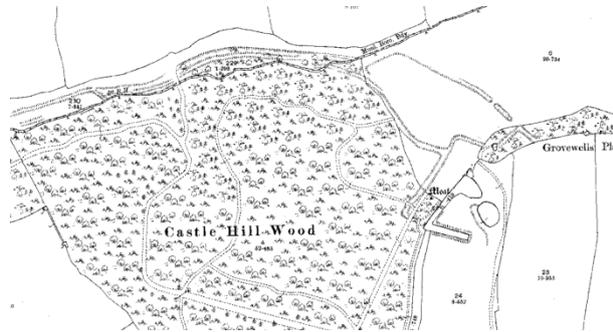


Grove Hall, as shown in c1900, with 17th century house to right and later 18th century additions to left (Source: Bassetlaw Museum)

The estate passed to Eyre's second daughter Frances Julia, who married Granville Harcourt Vernon – the estate then remained in the Vernon family until 1946 when it was sold to Canon R.F. Wilkinson, then quickly sold again, to be used for the Ministry of Health for a short period, then demolished in 1951/2. The site of the hall itself now contains a range of steel and concrete agricultural buildings (a poultry farm) of little architectural or historic significance.



View of former stable range, now partially converted to residential



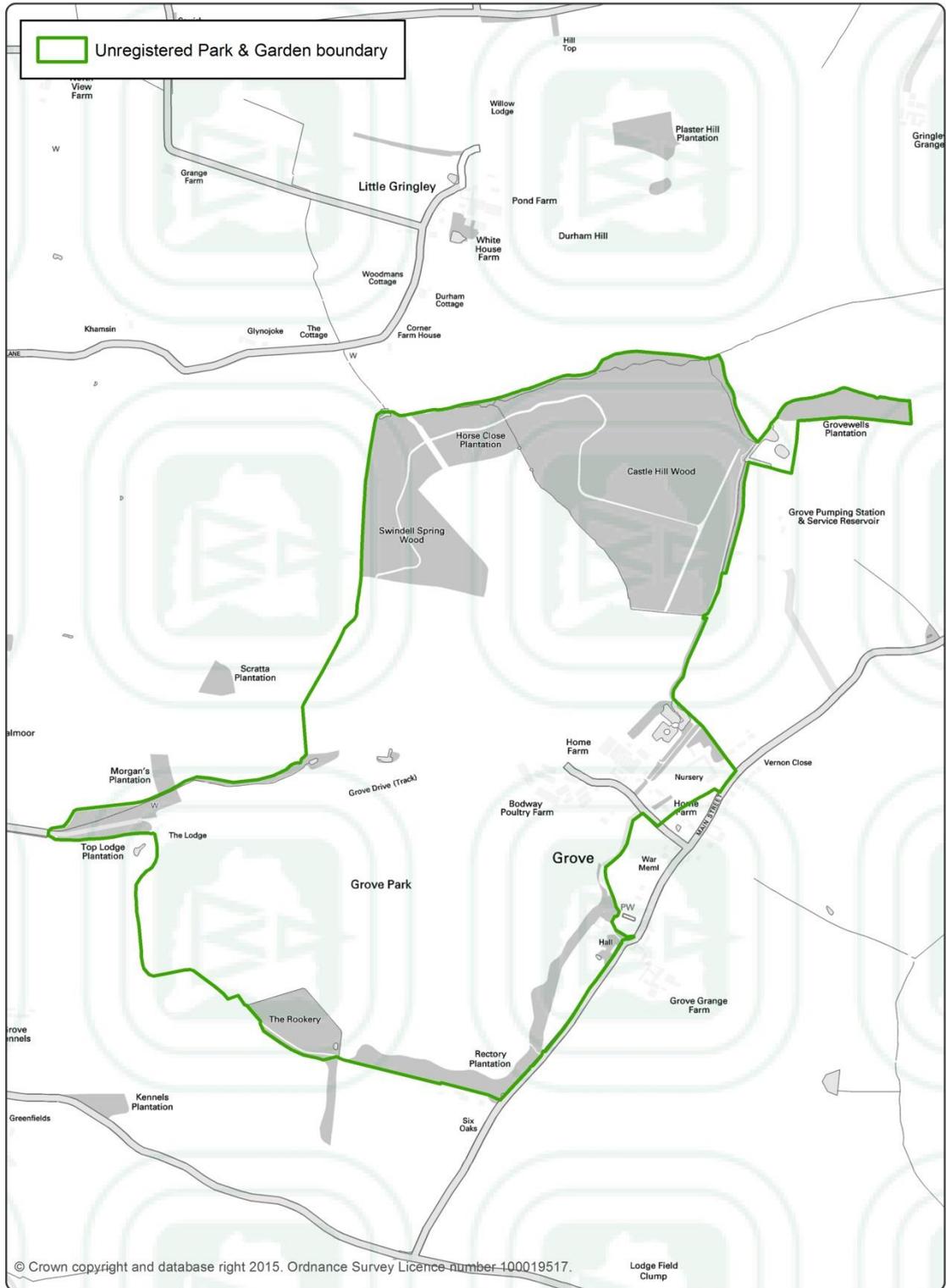
1898 Ordnance Survey, with series of earthworks shown in Castle Hill Wood

Features of significance:

The Old Rectory (grade II listed); Almshouses (grade II listed); range of earthworks of unknown date, but may include pre-historic and/or Roman, with strong evidence for medieval (a moated site or possible a motte & bailey) together with Civil War defences. Perimeter belt of trees with walk around much of park's perimeter. Range of outbuildings including stables and coach houses, Home Farm and formal rectangular kitchen garden with remains of glasshouses (later re-used as garden centre). Large wooded plantations and specimen trees (including a large Araucaria [monkey-puzzle] tree); Yew avenue; deer leap/park pale; various fish ponds; footpaths/driveways.

Listed Buildings:	The Old Rectory (grade II); Almshouses (grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	n/a
Local Interest Buildings:	Kitchen Garden wall with remains of glasshouses; Grove Hall Stables; Home Farm

Grove Hall



References:

- ⁱ C Moss; *The Homeland Handbooks – No. 69. East Retford and The Dukeries. A handbook for visitors and residents*; 1908.
- ⁱⁱ Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record – Item M5165.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Department of Education – Loughborough University; *The Medieval Parks of England: A Gazetteer*; 1983.
- ^{iv} Robert Thoroton; *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Volume 3*; Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby; ed. John Throsby; Nottingham, 1796; p260-264.
- ^v University of Nottingham website:
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/eyre/eyreofgrove.aspx>
- ^{vi} University of Nottingham website:
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/eyre/eyreofgrove.aspx>
- ^{vii} L. Jacks; *The Great Houses of Nottinghamshire and the County Families*; 1881