Unregistered Park & Garden: HOdSOCK Priory

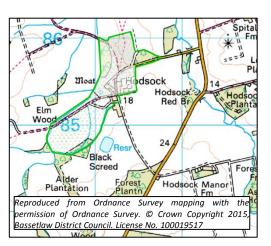
NCC/BDC Ref: UPG26

Date(s):

Medieval, C13, C16, C18, 1829-33, 1873-6

Description & historic information:

Hodsock Priory is the site of a moated house dating to the medieval period. The manor of Hodsock is



mentioned in Domesday, with a house probably being constructed in the immediate period following the Conquest. The de Cressy family owned the manor from c1200 onwards. Henry III is reported to have paid for the creation of a deer park in 1250-3ⁱ, with alterations/additions also made to the pre-existing house. Large sections of the moat still exist, although the house itself (grade II listed) is primarily the result of reconstruction in 1829-1833 (designed by Ambrose Poynter) and in 1873-6 (designed by George Devey). On the west side of the house is a large gatehouse and bridge (grade I listed), the gatehouse dating to the early-16th century. Outside of the moated enclosure are various lawns, tree clumps/belts/plantations, individual specimen trees, planned driveways, a kitchen garden, water meadows, channelled watercourses, a mill pond, an ice house, farm buildings, stables and a further historic house.





1776 – Map of the Parish of Blyth (source: Trinity College Cambridge)

1782 – Map of Part of the Parish of Blyth (Source: [Map Sp7] Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham)

Being situated close to the main route between York and Nottingham, Hodsock was visited regularly by royalty, including by Edward I in 1280 and 1293ⁱⁱ. The manor house is described in 1324 as

"surrounded on all sides by a moat, within which there are one hall, three chambers, a pantry, a buttery, a kitchen, a Bakehouse, a granary, two barns, a chapel, two stables and a chamber over the bridge with portcullis and a drawbridgeⁱⁱⁱ". The estate passed to the Clifton family in 1408-9. John Leland visited the site in 1538, noting: "a park caullid Hodsak wher Master Clifton hath a fair house^{iv}".



View of moat to south east of house

The Gatehouse was constructed in the early-16th century. Henry VIII is recorded as visiting here in



1541. One notable owner of the 17th century was Sir Gervase Clifton, 1st Baronet, who also built a hunting lodge at Carlton (to the west, later called Carlton Hall). Sir Gervase supported the Royalist

cause in the English Civil War (1642-1651) and after the Parliamentarians won, a heavy fine was imposed on the Clifton family^v. The house at Hodsock afterwards steadily declined to the status of a farmhouse (it is called 'The Homestead' on the 1782 map).

Hodsock was purchased by the Mellish family on 25th March 1765^{vi} – they also purchased the Carlton Hall estate around this time and had already purchased



South west façade of Gatehouse

the Blyth estate some years earlier. The house is shown on the 1776 map, complete with moat, and given the name 'Great Hodsack'. In 1829-33, Anne Chambers (sister of Colonel Henry Francis Mellish) arranged for the reconstruction of the house, designed by Ambrose Poynter^{vii}. It was at this time that the house, previously known as Hodsock Hall, became known as Hodsock Priory^{viii} (a reflection



South west façade of Hodsock Priory

of the Gothic revival style of the new building). The stables and formal gardens to the east of the house were also added during this period.

In 1873-6, Margaret Mellish had further alterations made to the house and wider estate, including Jacobean-style additions and façades to the house (designed by George Devey^{ix}), relandscaping of the garden to the south west of the house and a walled kitchen garden added to the south of the moat. Changes were also made

to the layout and design of the wider park, including opening up the lawns, creating new vistas and altering the road layout to the north east of the house.





1835 – Sanderson's Map (Nottinghamshire County Council, 2003)

1886 Ordnance Survey

The gardens were maintained in the early-20th century by head gardener Arthur Ford^x. Much of the estate was then given over to food production during the Second World War.

Features of significance:

Hodsock Priory (grade II listed), Gatehouse and bridge (grade I listed), Priory Farm, stables, icehouse, walled kitchen garden, Hodsock Courtyard, remains of moat, landscaped gardens, lawns and vistas,

wooded plantations, tree belts/clumps, specimen trees, channelled watercourses, mill pond, foot bridges and formal driveways.





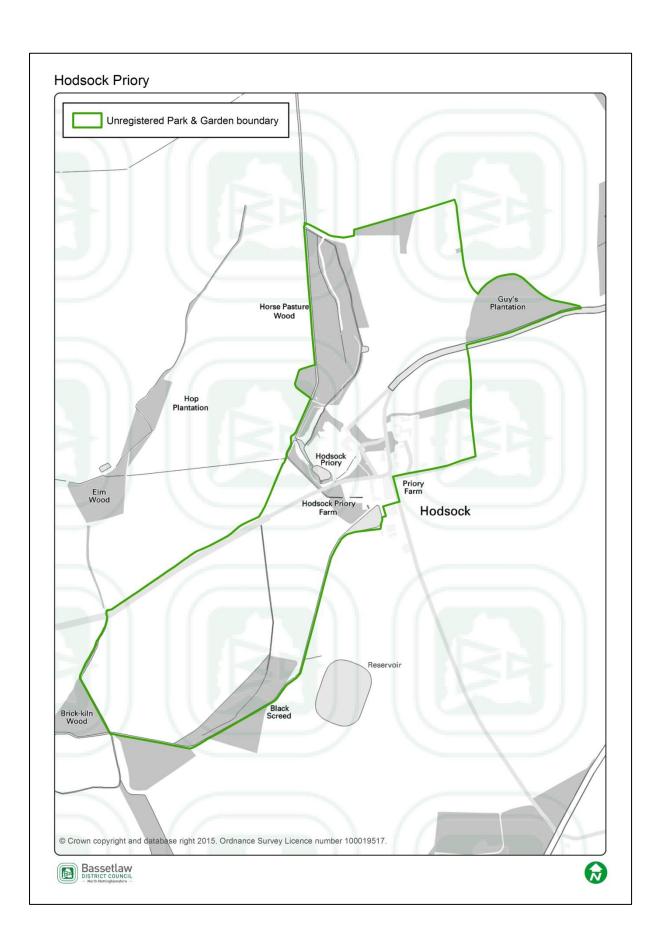
Landscaped vista to north of house

1870s Kitchen garden to south of house



Aerial photograph of Hodsock Priory, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Listed Buildings:	Hodsock Priory (grade II); Gatehouse and bridge (grade I)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	n/a
Local Interest Buildings:	Kitchen Garden Wall; Home Farm House; Priory Farm; 1 & 4 Priory Farm Cottages, The Stables



Additional information on this site may be found on the <u>Historic Environment Record</u> held and maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council.

References:

ⁱ Robert Thoroton; *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire*: Volume 3; Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby; ed. John Throsby; Nottingham, 1796; p414-418.

ⁱⁱ Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England – *Historic Building Report: Hodsock Priory Gatehouse & Bridge*; National Monuments Record Centre; July 1996.

^{III} HM. Colvin (ed.); *History of the King's Works*; 1963-1982; Volume 2; p962.

^{iv} Lucy Toulmin Smith (ed.); *The Itinerary of John Leland*; 1964; Volume 1; p89.

^v University of Nottingham website:

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/clifton/biographi es/biographyofsirgervaseclifton,1stbaronet(1587-1666).aspx

^{vi} Notts History website (Article on Hodsock): <u>http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/hodsockpriory.htm</u>

vii Howard Colvin; A Bibliographical Dictionary of British Architects – 1600-1840; 2nd ed.; 1978; p656-657

^{viii} White's History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County of Nottingham; 1884; p611.

^{ix} Jill Allibone; *George Devey*; 1991; p167.

^{*} Parks & Gardens UK website: <u>http://www.parksandgardens.org/places-and-people/site/6372?preview=1</u>