

Unregistered Park & Garden: Osberton Hall & Scofton Hall

NCC/BDC Ref:
0041

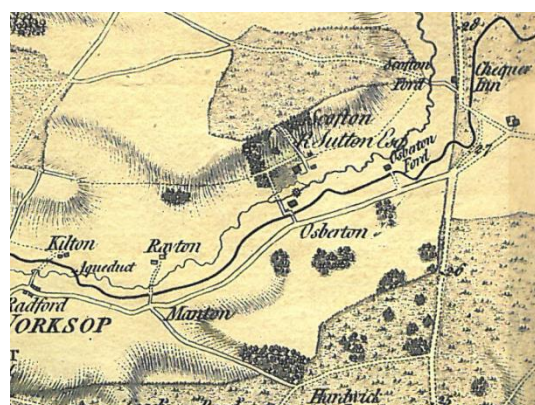
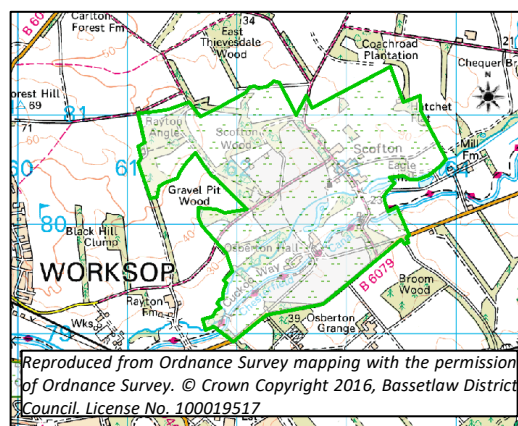
Date(s):
C18, C19, C20.

Description & historic information:

Osberton Hall and Scofton Hall, two formerly separate estates brought under the same ownership in c1800, with Scofton Hall demolished soon after and the grounds becoming part of an expanded park all associated with Osberton Hall (grade II*listed).

Scofton Hall – Pre-1800

In the medieval period, Scofton was part of the royal manor of Mansfield. It was historically separate from Osberton, divided by the course of the River Ryton. In the late-16th century, the Jessop family (of Broomhall, Sheffield) were owners of Scofton Hall. Scofton then passed to the Banks family (also of Sheffield) in the late-17th/early-18th century – Sir Joseph Banks is recorded as residing at Scofton in 1702.



1774 Chapman's Map of Nottinghamshire, showing the distinctive settlements separated by the river.

Scofton was sold to Brigadier General Richard Sutton in 1727. Brigadier General Sutton was responsible for planting a vast number of trees across the Scofton estate and in particular, several large clumps of Scotch fir trees (Black Hill Clump and the remaining parts of Scofton Wood are likely to have been planted at this time). He was also responsible for the distinctive rectangular wood at the west end of the site with its cross-pattern walkways, in addition to the planting of rows of trees alongside the main coach road ('Grotto Screed' and 'Birch Holt' being the best remaining examples). Arguably the most notable feature dating to this period that survives is the large tree-lined linear area of lawn with bell-shaped termini and curved driveway to the north west of the hall.



1798 Map of the Manors of Osberton, Scofton & Rayton owned by F.F. Foljambe Esq (source: private archive) – Scofton Hall is shown at the southern terminus of lawn "11".

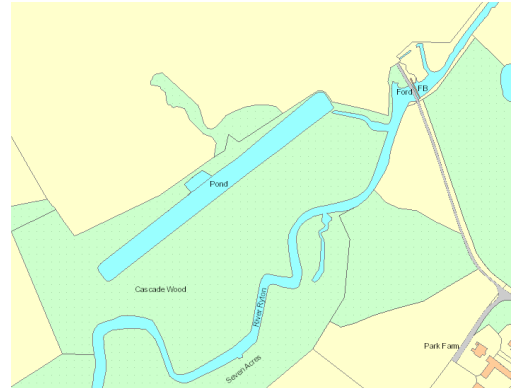


View from public bridleway, looking north west towards bell-shaped terminus of early-18th century park feature.

A large linear canal, known as 'Cascades Pond', also appears to have been added in the early-18th century, located at the western end of the park immediately north of the river. This is very similar in design to canals located at Serlby Hall and Shireoaks Hall, also of similar date.



1798 Map of the Manors of Osberton, Scofton & Rayton owned by F.F. Foljambe Esq (source: private archive) – The linear canal is shown centre left, just over the river from Osberton.



2016 Ordnance Survey map, showing linear canal today (Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2015, Bassetlaw District Council. License No. 100019517)

Brigadier General Sutton died in 1737, with the estate passing through the male line of the family. His great grandson, Robert William Evelyn Sutton (referred to on the 1774 map) was the last of the Sutton family to own Scofton. It is likely he was responsible for the construction of the walled kitchen garden to the east of Scofton Hall in the late-18th century. The wall is one of the largest of its type in the district and unusual in being faced with stone on the main roadway, but with brick elsewhere.



Main stone front of kitchen garden wall alongside Scofton access road.



Archway through kitchen garden wall – this was partially infilled in the 20th century.



Pedestrian arch through west end of kitchen garden.



Buttresses on north west side of wall.

Robert William Evelyn Sutton sold the estate to Francis Ferrand Foljambe Esq. (of neighbouring Osberton Hall) in 1800 and then moved to West Retford House (see West Retford House UP&G significance statement for information on that property).

Osberton can also be traced to the medieval period and unlike Scofton, is specifically mentioned in the Domesday Book, at that time containing two manors and a church (White's 1875 work contains a description of the different owners during the medieval period). Up to the 18th century, Osberton extended much further south than the present park (to the current A57) and east towards the A1.

By marriage, the estate eventually passed to William Leek of Halam (near Southwell), in the 1660s. Leek exchanged Osberton with John Thornagh (of Fenton, near Sturton le Steeple) in 1682 and Osberton became his winter residenceⁱⁱ. The 1780 and 1798 maps of Osberton indicate that the land to the south of Retford Road once contained a large grand arrangement of tree-lined avenues across the landscape. These do not appear on later maps and are not visible on the ground, but they appear to be 17th or early-18th century in design, so were probably part of a landscaping scheme for the Thornagh family (as there is no trace of this scheme, the land south of Retford Road is not included in the unregistered park & garden boundary). Osberton stayed with the Thornaghs into the 18th century, with Andrew Thornagh the owner until his death in 1742.



The estate passed to Andrew Thornagh's son, John, who two years later, in 1744, married Arabella Savile (daughter of Sir George Savile, 7th Bt. of Rufford Abbey) – the name 'Savile' was subsequently given to male heirs throughout the next two centuries. John succeeded to the estates of his godfather, Sir Thomas Hewett (of Shireoaks Hall) in 1756, and took on his family name of Hewett. Osberton Hall appears to have undergone reconstruction around this period, the main block dating to the mid-18th century. A key feature of this phase was the full-height colonnaded entrance (this was demolished and replaced with a smaller porch cochere in the 19th century). Throughout the 18th century, the landscaping around Osberton Hall consisted on dense areas of woodland within much

of the river valley (helping to separate Osberton from Scofton), with views focusing southwards over the area known as Osberton Forest (now Osberton Grange). Several small clumps and rows of trees (e.g. 'Dam Bottom'), used to break up views, were planted in this period. To the south west of the house was a building range, probably stables and farm buildings (these were demolished in c1806).



1870s photo of Osberton Hall, showing original colonnaded front pediment.



1780 Map of the Manor of Osberton in the County of Nottingham belonging to John Hewett Esq (source: private archive).

The large brewhouse was constructed in the mid/late-18th century (with an increase in height made in the early-19th century). It is also likely that the 'ha-ha' to the east of the hall was also created in this period.



View of Brewhouse from canal to south.



View of Brewhouse from north.



View of 'ha-ha' to east of Osberton Hall.

In the mid-1770s, construction began on the Chesterfield Canal, which followed the course of the River Ryton through the Osberton estate. The canal opened in 1777, with the main access over the canal first afforded by a bridge immediately adjacent to Osberton Hall (replaced with a footbridge in the 20th century).



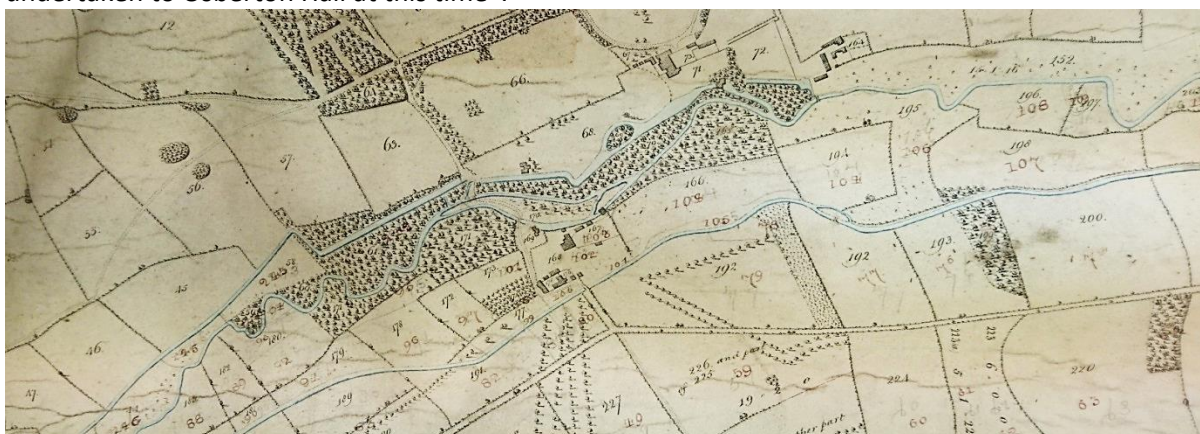
Canal sluice to east of Osberton Lock.



20th century replacement bridge to south of Osberton Hall.

John Hewett's daughter, Mary Arabella Hewett, married Francis Ferrand Foljambe (of Aldwick, North Yorkshire) in 1774. John Hewitt is recorded as owner on the 1780 map. He died in 1787 and was succeeded by his son-in-law and daughter. In c1800, Francis Ferrand Foljambe purchased Scofton Hall and its grounds from Robert Sutton. The 1798 map (which indicates the sale of Scofton estate

had begun in 1798), shows the two extant sites during this period. Extensive alterations were also undertaken to Osberton Hall at this timeⁱⁱⁱ.



1798 Map of the Manors of Osberton, Scofton & Rayton owned by F.F. Foljambe Esq – Osberton Hall is in the centre.

Osberton Hall & Scofton Village after 1800

Soon after Scofton was purchased, Francis Ferrand Foljambe had Scofton Hall demolished and much of the woodland immediately to the north of Osberton Hall (alongside the river) was cleared to afford views into the former Scofton Hall grounds (compare 1798 and 1835 maps). The small lake to the south of Scofton Hall was extended westwards towards Osberton Hall, helping form impressive views across the newly expanded park. Within the lake was left a small island, on which was constructed a gothic folly with the appearance of a medieval chapel, reputedly designed by William Wilkins for Lady Mary Foljambe.



View northwards from Osberton Hall.



Gothic folly at east end of island.

Throughout the first decade of the 19th century, major alterations were made also to Osberton Hall itself, with the house remodelled in 1806 to designs by William Wilkins (most of this scheme is not visible, being encapsulated in later-19th century render, altered window surrounds, quoins and the front port cochere – the 1870 photo shows more of the Wilkins design). The general plan form of the main block however remains from the 1806 scheme.



South west façade of 1806 house (albeit with a later rendered face, altered window openings and replaced port cochere).



1806 two storey range to side of main house – please note, this section of the house was reduced in height in the 20th century.

The stable range was also rebuilt closer to the house (again dated 1806) to designs by William Lindley. This is of a similar construction to the 1806 house, of stone with a slate roof. Key features include the central pedimented carriage access with clock tower, the raised corner structures and stone block paving.



Inner (north east) face of stable range.



Corner structure and stone block paving.

Francis Ferrand Foljambe died in 1814. After which, his grandson George Savile Foljambe (born 1800) inherited the estate. In 1822, the Worksop to Retford turnpike road was constructed to the south, which by-passed Osberton^{iv}. Shortly after (between 1826-1835 according to historic mapping), lodges were constructed at both the western and eastern ends of the former course of the road (see 1835 map), which then became a private road into the estate.



1826 Greenwood's Map of Nottinghamshire (source: Cambridge University Library).



1835 Sanderson's Map (source: Nottinghamshire County Council, 2003).

Both lodges are grade II listed and are of stone construction. Although extended in the mid-20th century, the original East Lodge has remained relatively unaltered. Key features from this structure include the gothic style hood moulds, tall square chimney stacks, a corner doorway, gothic metal-framed windows on the front and timber Yorkshire sashes on the rear.



East Lodge, viewed from south west.



East Lodge, viewed from south east.

West Lodge, however, is of a slightly different construction, having a brick element to the rear (with bricks distinctive of the early-19th century period) and a small area of coursed rubble plinth (also early-19th century), and with the same chimney stacks as East Lodge. West Lodge underwent significant alteration in c1868 when the building was remodelled, with the window openings being

altered to match those windows on the newly-built lodge opposite (South Lodge). Whilst most of the visible façade indicates a date of c1868 to match South Lodge, the earlier brickwork, rougher stone blocks and chimney stacks show the true age of the building.



Rear of East Lodge, with early-19th century windows.



Gothic windows and hood moulds at East Lodge.



West Lodge, viewed from south.



West Lodge, viewed from east.



Distinctive early-19th century brickwork at West Lodge.



Coursed rubble plinth, also early-19th century in date.



1868 window opening at West Lodge.

The turnpike road and lodges were part of a wider landscaping scheme which saw the newly enclosed land formed into a landscaped lawn, with trees planted alongside the roadways and on the boundary of the new road. It was during these works that a pot of 4th century Roman coins was found adjacent to the road (this is one of a number of Roman features known of in the Osberton area). This land between the new and old roads was further enclosed by the planting of more trees by George Savile Foljambe just before his death in 1869.

Following the death of his grandfather, George Savile Foljambe had constructed a building to the [south] side of Osberton Hall (precise date unknown, but probably 1820s/30s as it first appears on the 1835 map and the stonework resembles other buildings on the estate of this period). The building, originally the estate laundry, is also of stone and slate, with a later (1960s) concrete portico

on the front. This functioned as the estate offices for many years. Although it has recently been referred to as the 'Dower House', it was never built or used for this purpose.



Former laundry building to side of Osberton Hall, used as offices since the mid-20th century.

Also between 1829-1835, a new bridge was constructed over the canal, immediately to the west of the original bridge. This is called 'Green Bridge' (now grade II listed) and was set further away from the house, allowing for a more picturesque approach from Retford Road. Osberton Lock House was also constructed in this period.



Left: View of Green Bridge from south; Top right: 1826 Greenwood map of Nottinghamshire, showing original bridge over canal (source: Cambridge University Library); bottom right: 1835 Sanderson's Map, showing new bridge to west of original bridge (source: Nottinghamshire County Council, 2003).



View of Osberton Lock House from east.



View of Osberton Lock House from west.

This period saw significant changes to Scofton, with an estate village established, including workers cottages, a keepers cottage, a school and a large stable range (which replaced an earlier stable range on the same site). The estate village was accessed from Retford Road by a former roadway through to Scofton Hall. Parts of the stable range were demolished in the mid-20th century, although a large portion survives.



Keeper's Cottage, early-19th century.



Early-19th century estate worker's cottage.



Early-19th century stable range, viewed from north west.



Stable range, viewed from south west.

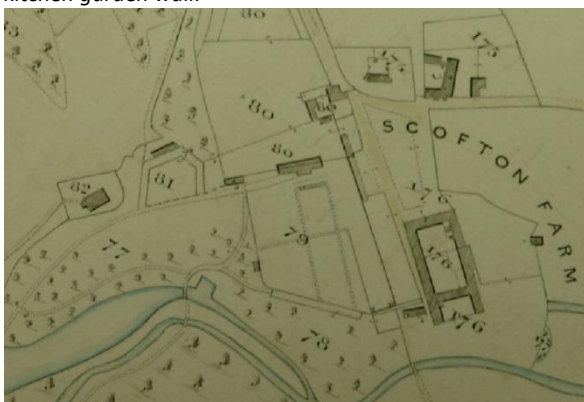
The kitchen garden (the main wall of which was constructed for Scofton Hall in the late-1700s) was also improved in the early/mid-19th century, with glasshouses constructed and bothies and cart sheds added around the outside edge of the wall – the glasshouses were demolished in the 20th century.



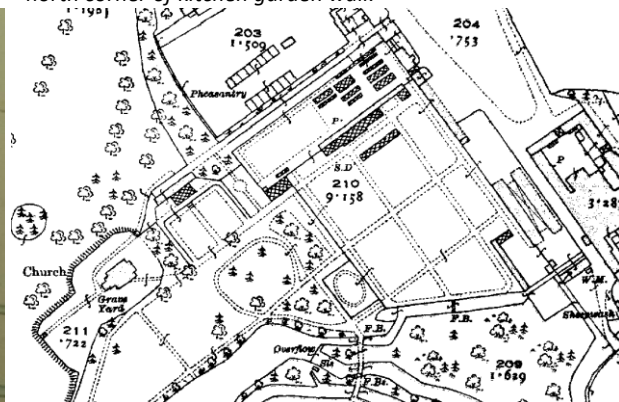
Early-19th century cart sheds on north east outer face of kitchen garden wall.



Mid-19th century Bothie Cottage attached to outside of north corner of kitchen garden wall.



1847 Osberton & Scofton Tithe Map (source: Nottinghamshire Archives). Note the layout of the kitchen garden, the glasshouse and the network of paths.



1920 Ordnance Survey map, showing layout of kitchen garden and glasshouses surviving well into the 20th century.

George Savile Foljambe married Harriet Emily Mary Milner in 1828 and they had a son (Francis John Savile Foljambe) in 1830. In December of that year, Harriet Emily Mary died. In 1833, George Savile had a private family chapel constructed in honour of his wife, built on the site of the former Scofton Hall, designed by Ambrose Poynter. The chapel (grade II listed) is designed in the Norman Gothic Revival style and features a large tower with 4 pinnacles with spire caps and wind vanes. The church is on elevated ground and the site is enclosed by a stone 'ha-ha', with the site accessed from Scofton by a gravel walkway enclosed by iron railings. The church is one of the most prominent buildings in the area, visible for a considerable distance in several directions. Views from Osberton Hall towards the chapel were opened up at this time (i.e. trees were removed). In addition, the main walkway between the hall, the lake island (containing the folly) and the church was created.



View of St John's Church from south east.



Railings and gates to east of church.

Numerous alterations were carried out to the estate in the mid-19th century for George Savile Foljambe. In 1848, additions were made to the house (on the service wing) to designs by noted architect Ambrose Poynter. At Scofton, a school was formed to the north east face of the kitchen garden (a conversion of an earlier barn).

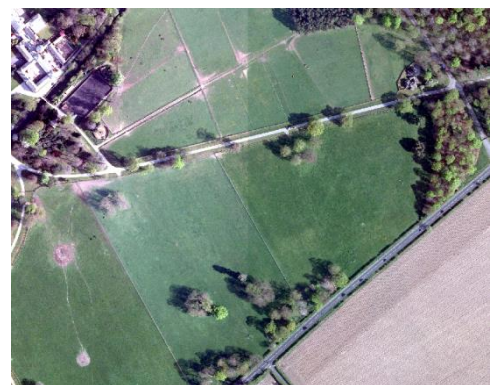


Front elevation of former school, now a residence.

In the 1840s, a cricket ground was laid out on land south east of Osberton Hall. The first recorded match here was in August 1849^o. This survived until the 1970s and was then turned back into parkland and used for grazing.



1885 Ordnance Survey map, showing location of cricket ground.



2007 Aerial photograph (source: Bassetlaw District Council).

In 1848, an upper floor was added to the service wing to the south of Osberton Hall, designed by Ambrose Poynter (who had designed the chapel built 15 years earlier). However, this was demolished in the 1960s.

George Savile Foljambe and his second wife, Selina Charlotte, the Viscountess Milton (married in 1845), were responsible for a number of the distinctive building on the estate, including several brick and slate estate cottages such Holly Cottage (built 1856), Lock Cottage (built 1869) and the group of smaller cottages to the north of the stables (exact date unknown). Many of the estate buildings of this period feature a datestone with distinctive carved symbol of the initials of the George Savile Foljambe and Selina Charlotte, Viscountess Milton.



Holly Cottage, dated 1856.



Main façade of Holly Cottage.



Lock Cottage, dated 1869.



Estate cottages to north of stables.



Datestones on the 1850s/60s period with distinctive initials for George Savile Foljambe and Selina Charlotte, Viscountess Milton.

One of the more notable garden features of the 1850/60s period is the pair of gates to the south east of the house (these were moved a few metres further east in c2014). These are wrought iron and are set between brick gate piers and feature a leg detail as a finial (this relates to the Foljambe coat of arms, a heraldic symbol relating to jousting, with the opposing colours of 'sable' and 'or', i.e. black and gold). This coat of arms is also expressed in the Foljambe family motto of 'Soies ferme', i.e. 'stand firm'). The gates also bear the same symbol as the datestones on those buildings constructed in this period, with the initials of George Savile Foljambe and Selina Charlotte, Viscountess Milton.



Views of gates to south east of Osberton Hall.

In 1866, a new terrace was constructed to the north and west of the main house, to take advantage of the impressive views across the former Scofton Hall parkland and also to enhance the landscaping immediately adjacent to Osberton Hall (which also sits on a promontory of higher ground). This terrace was altered in the late-19th century and the west front was straightened in the 20th century.



Section of terrace to north of Osberton Hall.



Section of terrace to west of Osberton Hall.

In 1868, a new lodge was constructed on the turnpike road, located immediately opposite the 1820s/30s West Lodge. This new lodge, called South Lodge, was of a similar design and scale to the earlier lodges although featured simpler squared window surrounds containing timber glazing bar casements. The roof also has flat dormer windows, again with glazing bar basements. Other differences to the earlier lodges include the use of much smoother ashlar blocks, the inclusion of the Foljambe/Milton datestone and the presence of a larger opening on the side (possibly for a carriage). It was also around this time that West Lodge was substantially remodelled giving it an appearance which more closely resembled the new lodge opposite.



South Lodge, alongside the former turnpike road.



Main façade of South Lodge.



Datestone on South Lodge.

A second lodge was also built in 1868, at the east end of the estate, on the south side of the turnpike road opposite the eastern drive entrance. This building, Green Drive Lodge, was constructed at the entrance to a new driveway which connected Osberton with the current A57 (originally a coach road connecting Welbeck/Clumber to the Blyth/Nottingham Road).



Green Drive Lodge.



1840 OS Map.



*1899 County Series Map
(source: Nottingham City Council).*

George Savile Foljambe died in 1869 and his son Francis John Savile Foljambe inherited Osberton. Francis John Savile Foljambe carried out further alterations to Osberton Hall between 1872-1880, including the kitchen wing to the south east of the house (designed by noted Scottish architect William Burn) and large additions on the north side of the house (canted bays, etc) added in 1877 to designs by John Macvicar Anderson (who was also the nephew of William Burn).



Kitchen wing, added by William Burn.



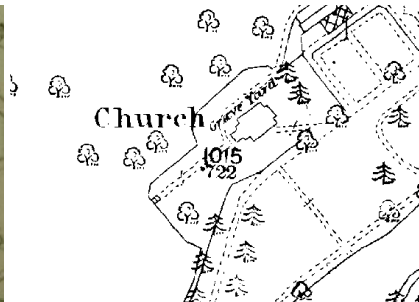
Canted bays and wider remodelling, by John Macvicar Anderson.

The 1877 scheme also included a widespread remodelling of the house. The most notable aspect of these alterations was the removal of the 1806 full height colonnaded pediment and its replacement with the present porch cohere.



Much remodelled façade of house, including port cochere, by John Macvicar Anderson.

Away from the main house, in 1876, a new ecclesiastical parish was formed and the private chapel at Scofton was turned into the parish church, dedicated to St John. A new vicarage was also constructed on the south side of the turnpike road (outside of the UP&G boundary, now called Crow Wood Lodge). A year later, in 1877, the churchyard was enlarged to the south west^{vi}, the new section mostly enclosed by a combination of stone walls and metal estate fencing.



*1847 Osberton & Scofton Tithe Map 1885 Ordnance Survey map.
(source: Nottinghamshire Archives).*

2007 Aerial photograph (source: Bassetlaw District Council).

The later 19th century period also saw the construction of the timber boat house constructed on the south side of the lake and the grade II listed iron gates and piers to the south west of the hall (these were originally located immediately west of the house, but were moved in the 20th century).



Timber boat house to north east of Osberton Hall on southern bank of the lake.



Grade II listed iron gates and piers to south west of Osberton Hall.

Francis John Savile Foljambe had a keen interest in farming and the estate was noted throughout the later part of the 19th century for its Osberton Shorthorns (cows), with much of the farmland around

the immediate park used for grazing. He was also a keen sportsman and took great interest in hunting and cricket, running the cricket team and establishing the annual Osberton Cricket Week, a prominent local event attracting teams from around the region^{vii}. The late-19th century period saw other changes to the estate, including the construction of further estate workers' cottages in Scofton and a new bridge over the River Ryton.



Late-19th century cottages at Scofton.



Mid/late-19th century bridge over River Ryton.

In 1896, a replacement school was constructed at Scofton, on former paddocks between Holly Cottage and Keepers Cottage. The building ceased to be used as a school in 1949 and has since been used as the village hall.



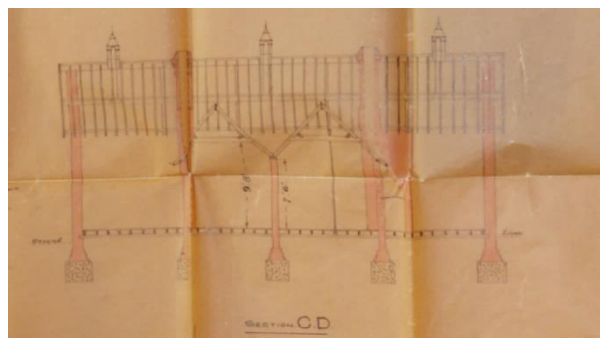
Former school, now village hall.



Front elevation of former school.



Former school, viewed from north.



Cross-section on 1896 drawing (source: Bassetlaw Museum).

Few changes were made to Osberton and Scofton in the early-20th century. Francis John Savile Foljambe died in 1917 and the estate passed to his eldest son, Colonel George Savile Foljambe, who was part of the Red Cross efforts in France during the First World War. Colonel Foljambe died in 1921 and his estate eventually passed to Captain Edmond Walter Savile Foljambe (died 1960), direct ancestor of the present owners.

In July 1942, authority was given for the Government to requisition much of the estate for use by the Royal Air Force. The new airfield, RAF Worksop, to be used as a satellite of RAF Finningley (in conjunction with a similar site around 11km to the north, RAF Bircotes), was constructed on the northern edge of the park and came into use on 11th November 1943, built by George Wimpey & Co. under supervision by the Royal Engineers. Its function was primarily for training, particularly of night flying. Roads around the airstrips were diverted and landscape features (including some 18th century

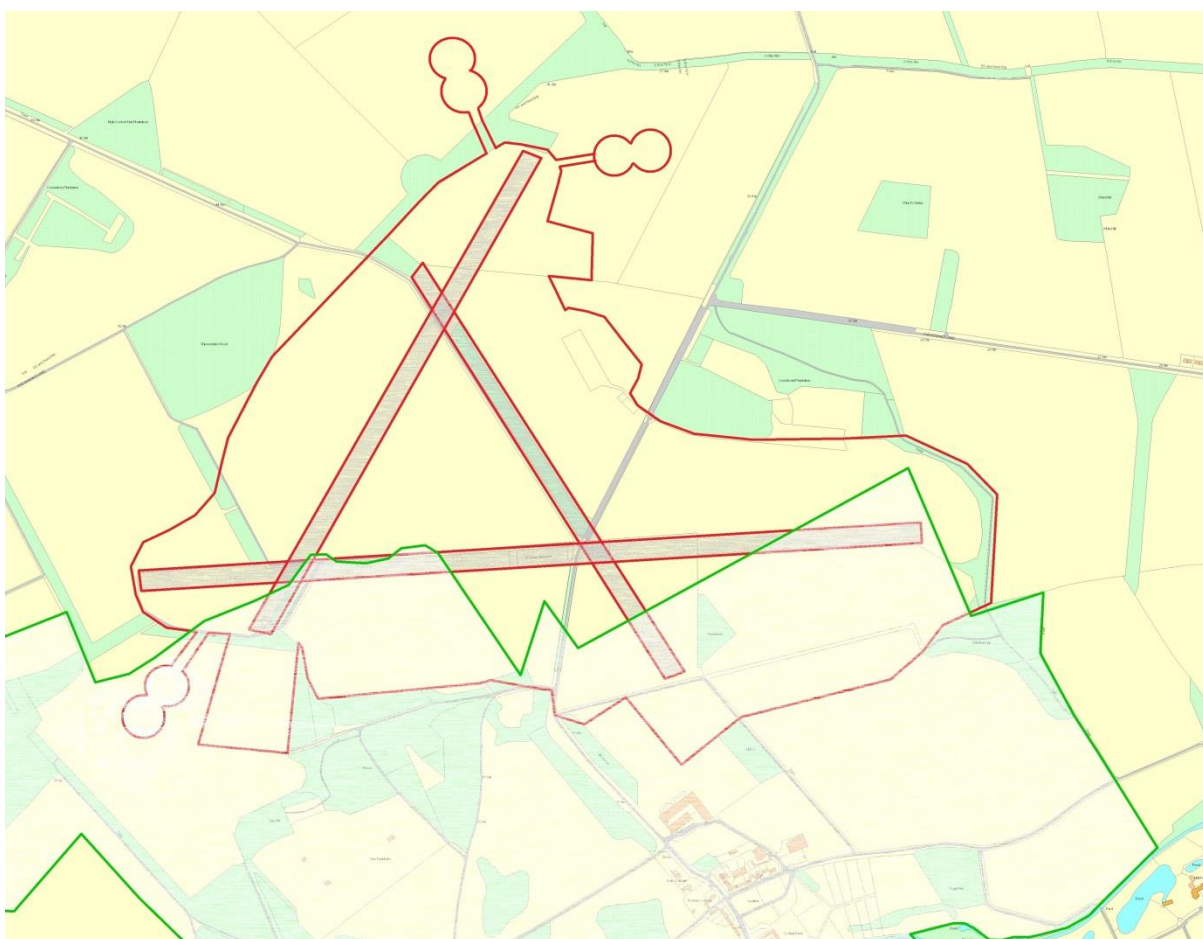
wooded plantations) were removed. Roads around the estate were upgraded, with some sections of this concrete still being visible today. The use as an RAF training airfield continued until 1958, when it ceased. The site was officially de-requisitioned on the 8th December 1960, with most of the airfield infrastructure removed (save for some small sections of the main runways)¹.



Aerial photo of RAF Worksop in 1960 (source: www.rafworksop.btck.co.uk).



Aerial photo of RAF Worksop (looking westwards) in 1990 (source: www.forgottenairfields.com).



Ordnance survey map, showing outline of former airfield and runways (in red) and unregistered park & garden boundary (green); Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2016, Bassetlaw District Council. License No. 100019517.

¹ See <http://www.forgottenairfields.com/united-kingdom/england/nottinghamshire/worksop-s1348.html> for a detailed history of RAF Worksop.

Parts of the service wing to Osberton Hall were demolished in 1970, including the upper storey. Osberton Hall and the immediate grounds were sold by the Foljambe family in 1987, although the wider estate, including Scofton village, still forms part of the Foljambe family estate.

Features of significance:

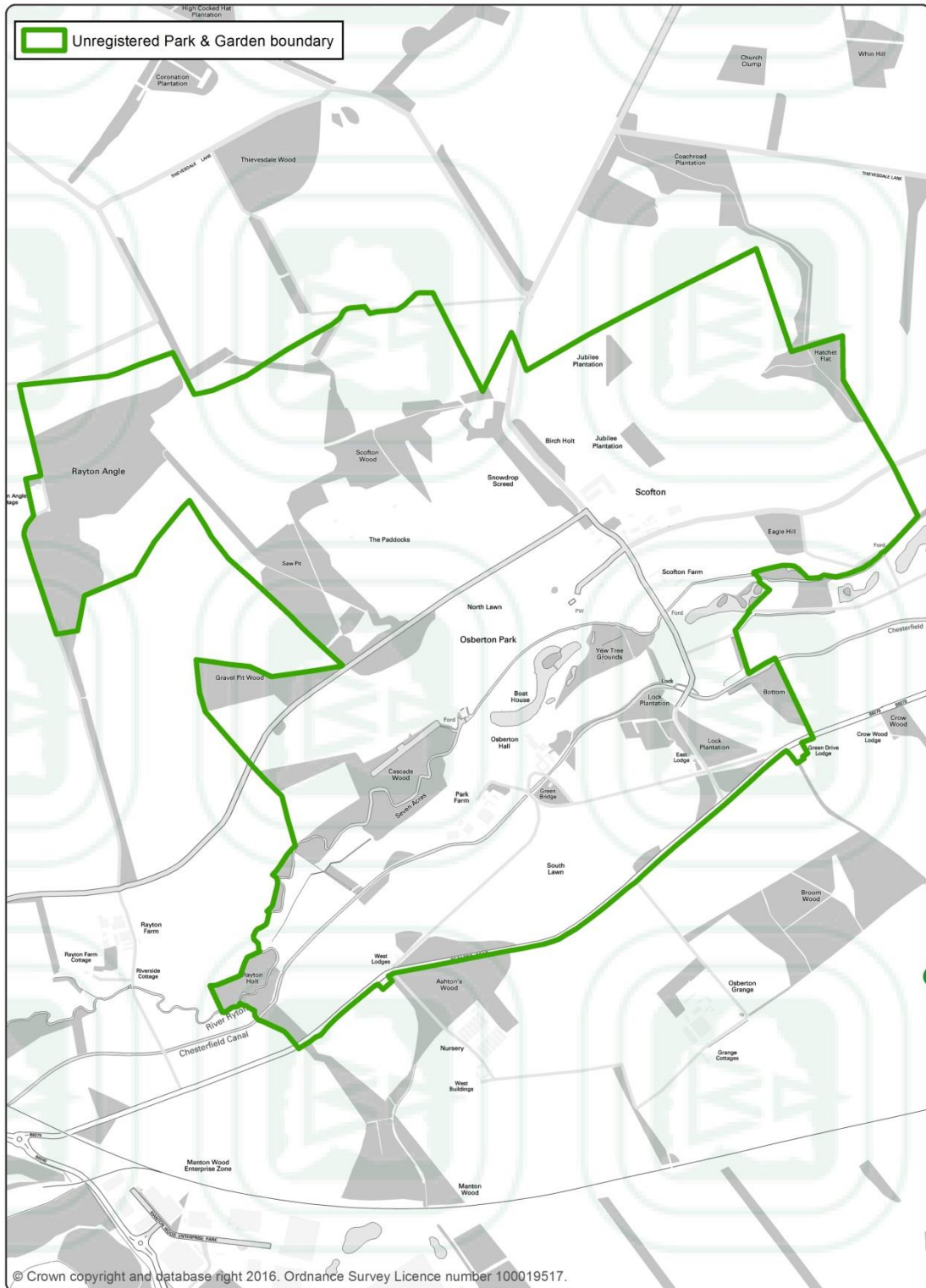
Osberton Hall & Scofton Hall comprises two formerly separate landscaped parks, amalgamated in 1800. The site features numerous significant buildings and structures, many of which are listed, associated with the original (pre-1800) Osberton and Scofton estates and the later (post-1800) enlarged Osberton estate. Also includes a large area of formally landscaped parkland, laid out in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, including wooded plantations, tree belts, individual specimen trees, a linear canal, a large lake, sluices, an island and planned views (particularly from Osberton Hall towards features in the landscape and other significant buildings). The northern half of the site includes part of a World War Two airfield.



Aerial photograph of Osberton & Scofton, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Listed Buildings:	Osberton Hall (grade II*); Kitchen Wing (grade II); Brewery & Water Tower (grade II); Stables (grade II); Estate Office, formerly the laundry (grade II); Summer House/Folly (Grade II); Garden Gates (grade II); Gate piers and gates (grade II); Terrace, wall and gates (grade II); Green Bridge (grade II); East Lodge (grade II); West Lodge (grade II); South Lodge (grade II); St John's Church, Scofton (grade II); Ha-ha and gates at St John's Church (grade II); a range of outbuildings and structures (e.g. the ha-ha to the east of Osberton Hall) also regarded as curtilage listed.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	n/a
Local Interest Buildings:	Park Farm, Osberton; Green Drive Lodge; Lock Cottage; Osberton Lock House; Footbridge over Chesterfield Canal east of Rayton Holt; Bridge over River Ryton at Scofton; Scofton Farm, Cottage and Stables; Cottages at 1-7 Scofton Farm Access; Holly Cottage; Village Hall (former school); Keepers Cottage; Pheasantry; Bothie Cottage; Kitchen Garden Walls & Cart Sheds; Former School House; Brood Mare Boxes. Former airfield is also regarded as a non-designated heritage asset.

Osberton Hall & Scofton Hall



References:

ⁱ R. White; *Worksop, The Dukery and Sherwood Forest*; 1875.

ⁱⁱ Lord Hawkesbury; *Notes on Osberton, Scofton, Rayton, Bilby, Hodsock, Fleecethorpe etc. Transactions of the Thoroton Society, Volume 5*; 1901.

ⁱⁱⁱ Lord Hawkesbury; *Notes on Osberton, Scofton, Rayton, Bilby, Hodsock, Fleecethorpe etc. Transactions of the Thoroton Society, Volume 5*; 1901.

^{iv} R. Cossons; *Coaching Days – The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire*; 1994; p40.

^v *Sheffield Independent*; 18th August 1849.

^{vi} *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*; 13th October 1877.

^{vii} *Sheffield Independent*; 19th August 1890.