

Unregistered Park & Garden:

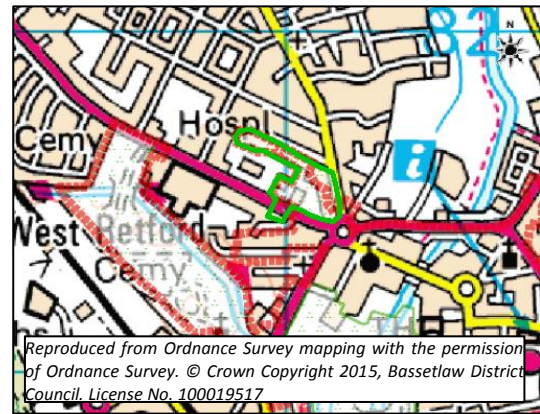
West Retford House (now Hotel)

NCC/BDC Ref:

UPG53

Date(s):

c1762; late-C18; 1820s/30s; Late-C19; Early-C20



Description & historic information:

Late-18th century landscaped park associated with West Retford House (now hotel), grade II listed. The house was built c1762 for Alexander Emerson Esqⁱ, shortly after the Great North Road was diverted through the town (immediately past the house). The detached stables (also grade II listed) is contemporary with the house. The landscaped park to the north/north-west is visible on a sketch by T. Malton from 1780. This part of the park comprises mostly a large wooded plantation with walks. It is said that this view of the garden (and north west front of the house) was praised by the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) in the early-1800s on his passing through Retford from the northⁱⁱ. To the east and south east of the house is a lawned area, with various mature trees (particularly around the perimeter) and a sunken garden, originally a lake. The grounds contain several specimen cedars, beech, chestnut, elm and a large liriodendron (tulip tree).



West Retford House (North Road), T Malton – 1780 (Source: British Library).



View of West Retford House and garden, 1938 (Source: Bassetlaw Museum).

In c1800, the house was bought by Robert Sutton (previously of Scofton Hall). In the 1820s/30s, a kitchen garden (with glasshouses and fish pond) was constructed on the opposite side of North Road for the owner at the time, James Lee Esqⁱⁱⁱ. This area was developed for housing in the mid-20th century, although the large curtain walls remain.

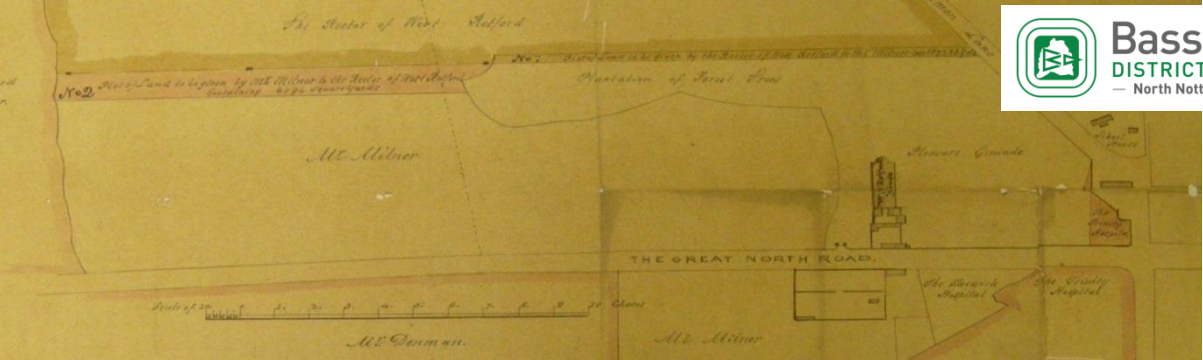


1884 Ordnance Survey Town Plan, showing West Retford House and kitchen garden opposite.



Section of former kitchen garden wall on south west side of North Road.

After the death of James Lee in 1858, the site eventually passed to Henry William Beilby Milner Esq (partner in a local bank) around 1863 (see 1863 map).



1863 'Plan of an Estate Purchased by H.W.B. Milner Esq. in the Parish of West Retford' (source: Bassetlaw Museum).

William Overend Q.C. J.P. owned the site in 1876 and the last private owner of the house was Dr J.C. Teasdale who purchased in 1926^{iv}. The building was converted to a hotel in the mid-20th century. Part of the eastern end of the site was developed for housing and a nursing home in the 1960s/70s, although most of the mature trees remain.



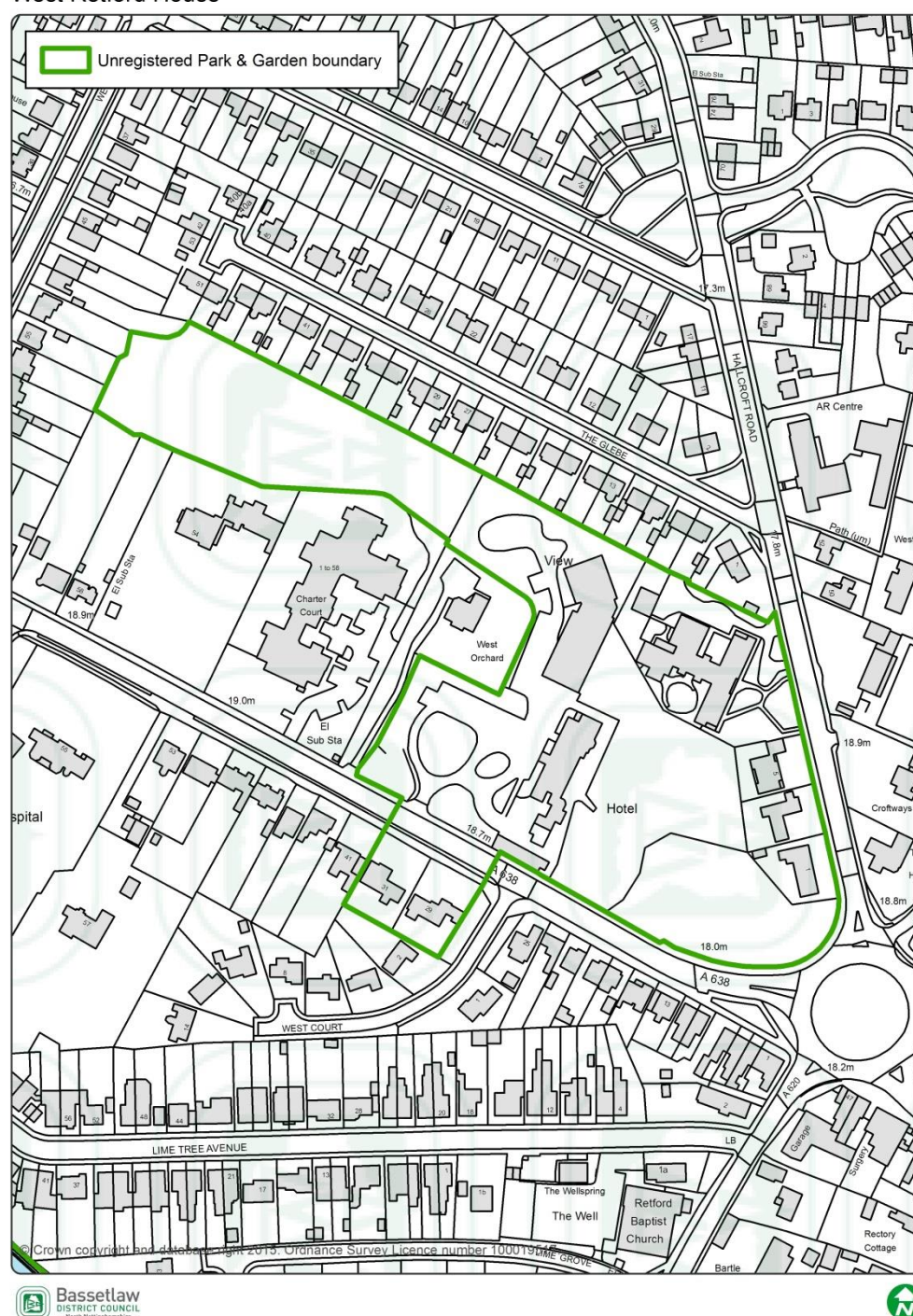
Aerial photograph of West Retford House (hotel), taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council).

Features of significance:

West Retford House (grade II); Former stables (grade II); brick boundary walls; woodland with walks; sunken garden; kitchen garden walls on opposite side of North Road.

Listed Buildings:	West Retford House (grade II); Former Stables at West Retford Hall (grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	Retford Conservation Area (last designated 6 th July 2011)
Local Interest Buildings:	Kitchen garden walls south west of North Road

West Retford House



References:

- ⁱ Harrison & Co.; *Picturesque Views of the Principal Seats of the Nobility and Gentry*; 1790.
- ⁱⁱ J. S. Piercy; *The History of Retford in the County of Nottinghamshire*; 1828.
- ⁱⁱⁱ J. Pigot. & Co.; *Pigot & Co.'s National Commercial Directory*; 1828-9.
- ^{iv} West Retford Hotel website: <https://www.westretfordhotel.co.uk/about-us/history/>.