Unregistered Park & Garden: Woodhouse Hall

NCC/BDC Ref: UPG55

Date(s): Medieval, C17, C18, C19, C20

Description & historic information:

Woodhouse Hall, a grade II listed 17th century house with early-19th century alterations, set within a Medieval-period moated enclosure, with late-18th/early-19th century grade II listed outbuildings including stables, cart sheds and other associated barns.

The house is located within a former moated enclosure, probably dating to the 1250-1350 periodⁱ. Although various historical accounts (including Thoroton) suggest this was the site of a castle associated with Cuckney, it is far more likely that this was instead a 'fortified' residence, the moat being more a feature of status rather than of practical defence. Much of the former moat can still be traced, visible as the linear pond along the northern boundary and the wide strip of lawn along the eastern boundary. Little is known about the site in that period, but Thoroton records that Robert, the first Earl of Kingston, resided here until his death in 1643ⁱⁱ. The site was tenanted by John Ludlow, a farmer, in 1832ⁱⁱⁱ, and the area was drained by the Duke of Portland in 1844.

The present house was constructed in the late-17th century, replacing an earlier house on the same site. The exterior is constructed of coursed rubble, finished with roughcast render (added 20th century), with a plain clay tile roof. Features of interest include the stone-coped gables with kneelers, stone window surrounds, ashlar chimney stacks and casement windows with lozenge-shape panes.



The earliest known map of the site, dated 1774, shows Woodhouse Hall surrounded by a moat. Since then, much of the moat was filled in, possibly in 1865 when the turnpike road to the east of the site was constructed (itself a diversion of an earlier turnpike road that ran closer to Welbeck Abbey). The 1835 and 1886 maps show the site before and after the construction of the road.



To the south and west of the former moated site is a series of outbuildings comprising stables, cart sheds and other barns, dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. The older barns are primarily of coursed Magnesium Limestone rubble with pantile roofs, with later structures constructed in brick.







Features of significance:

Woodhouse Hall (grade II listed), Outbuildings to south and south west (grade II listed), remains of moat, various mature trees and large lawns.



Aerial photograph of Woodhouse Hall, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Listed Buildings:	Woodhouse Hall (grade II); Woodhouse Hall Farm Buildings (grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	Holbeck Conservation Area (designated 16 th June 2010)
Local Interest Buildings:	n/a



References:

ⁱ Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record report on *Woodhouse Hall*, reference: M/11070 (unpublished).

ⁱⁱ Robert Thoroton; Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Volume 3; Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby; ed. John Throsby; (Nottingham, 1796); p376.

ⁱⁱⁱ White's Directory of Nottinghamshire; 1832; p454.