

Unregistered Park & Garden: Workshop Manor

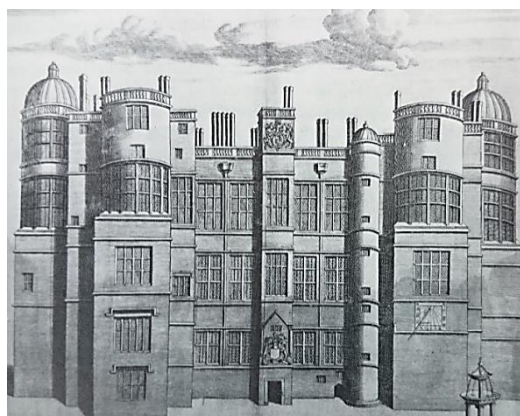
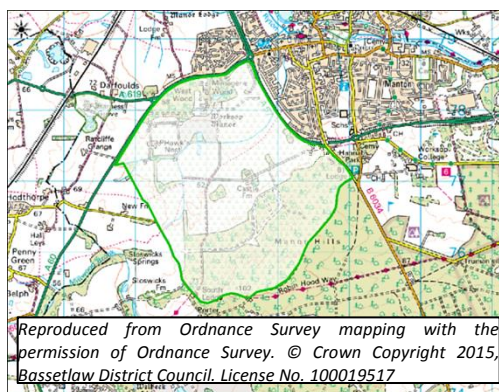
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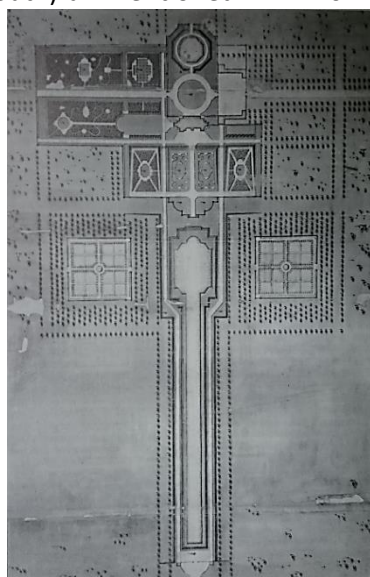
Description & historic information:

A park to the west of Workshop has existed since at least c1161, when it was included in a deed of the Lord of Workshop Manor at the time, Richard de Lovetotⁱ. This park would have comprised a combination of open parkland with areas of woodland, likely to have been surrounded by a pale and located immediately west of the medieval town. The first building on the site of the present Workshop Manor was probably constructed around 1538 as a hunting lodge by the 4th Earl (died 1538)ⁱⁱ, sited on a shallow prominence overlooking an area of lower ground to the south with a wooded ridge in the distance. In c1580-1586, the first Workshop Manor was completed by George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsburyⁱⁱⁱ (and husband of Bess of Hardwick), probably adapting the earlier building. The 1580s building was designed by Robert Smythson^{iv} and was remarked upon by Robert Cecil in 1590 as having “*ye fairest gallery in England*”^v. No plans exist of the grounds around the manor in the 16th and 17th centuries, although later drawings and plans of the park show some elements of earlier landscaping (especially a circular boundary). The number of royal visitors in this period would also indicate the grandeur of the wider park.

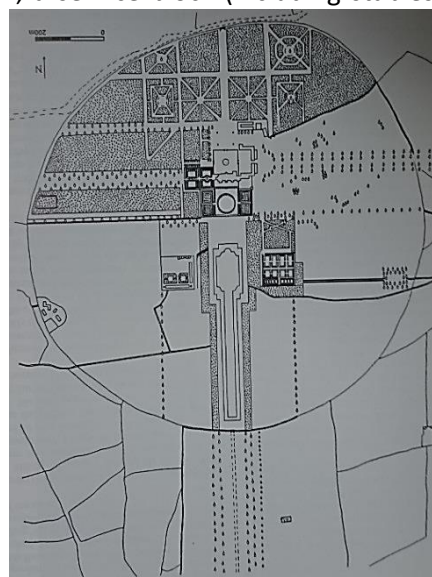
Harrison’s Survey of 1636 makes reference to a large park, with areas of woodland, up to 800 deer and the watercourse (to the south) all mentioned^{vi}. In 1701-4^{vii}, a service block (including stables) was constructed to the east of the house – much of this survives. In 1713, two canals had been constructed^{viii}. In c1720, Charles Bridgeman produced a plan of a formal garden at Workshop Manor for the 8th Duke of Norfolk. Of this plan, it appears that only the central canal and walled garden were completed. In 1737, William Dickinson produced a plan of the grounds as they existed – this confirms parts of the Bridgeman plan which were finished. It also shows a circular boundary, probably late-17th century in date^{ix}.



Sketch of Workshop Manor (south façade), by Robert Hall (in Thoroton’s ‘The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire’, 1677)



Plan by Charles Bridgeman, c1720 (source: *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Workshop Manor*, Thoroton Society, 1996)



Plan by William Dickinson, 1737 (source: *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Workshop Manor*, Thoroton Society, 1996)

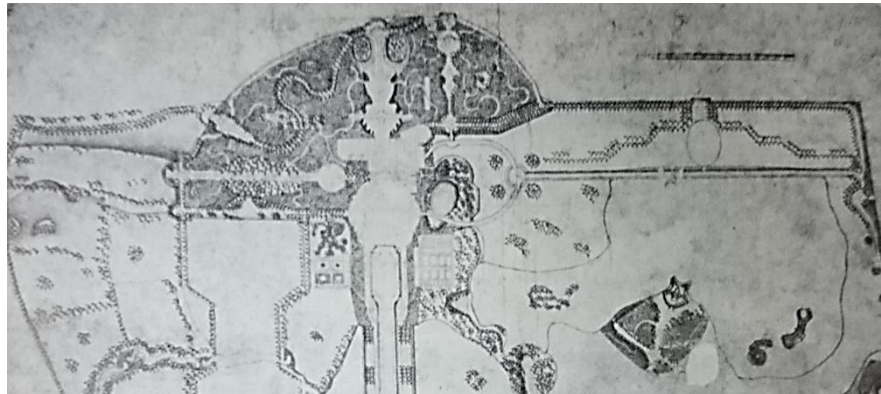


Service wing of 1701-4 to east of house, looking from north



Aerial photograph of 1999 showing service wing to rear of present house (source: North Nottinghamshire From The Air, RDHAS, 2000)

The Dickinson plan was produced as part of a remodelling scheme designed by Lord Petre, for the 9th Duke of Norfolk, in 1738^x. The Petre scheme was shown (with some alterations) on a plan by Francis Richardson in the 1740s. Both plans also show the route of the Worksop to Chesterfield Turnpike Road of 1738/9^{xi} that ran around the north edge of the park (following the likely-17th century circular park enclosure visible on the 1737 plan). The eastern extent of the park at that time (reaching the present-day Sparken Hill) is also shown. The 1745 sketches of Worksop Manor (especially the view of the south façade) by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck illustrate the Petre/Richardson scheme shortly after its completion. Some of the Petre/Richardson plan, such as the large lake to the south east of the house or a west screen, do not appear to have been completed. Of the Petre/Richardson scheme, the most visible part is the front/Mansfield Road entrance.



Plan by Francis Richardson, 1740s (source: *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Worksop Manor, Thoroton Society, 1996*)



1745 – Sketch of Worksop Manor (by Samuel & Nathaniel Buck), south façade, showing the canal, circular lawn and various plantations which appear on the earlier plans (source: www.royalcollection.org.uk).



The eastern portion of the original front entrance gateway, with early-18th century side walls and piers and later stone infilling.

In c1758, Castle Farm (grade II listed) was built, located to the south east of the Manor, designed by the 9th Duke of Norfolk's wife, Mary Blount^{xii} (possibly with assistance from James Paine). Castle Farm is designed in the gothic style and the roof is finished with battlements, forming an impressive feature in the landscape when viewed from Worksop Manor. The Duchess also designed a menagerie^{xiii}, the remains of which sit to the west of the current main entrance driveway. Also in the 1750s, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown is recorded as having planted trees at Worksop Manor for the Duchess of Norfolk, notably around Manor Hills^{xiv}.



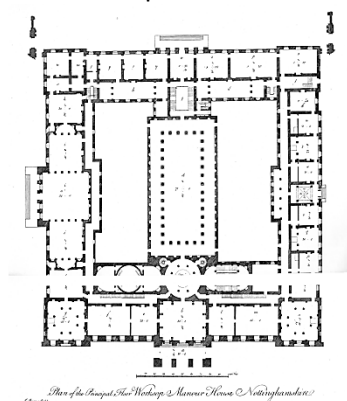
Castle Farm, north façade, taken late-1970s.

On the 20th October 1761, just as major renovations to the house were taking place, a fire destroyed much of the building^{xv} (this house is still indicated on the 1763 Kelk plan). The 1763 Kelk plan also shows that most of the 1738 Petre/Richardson plan had been carried out, with the earlier circular boundary (preserved by the turnpike road) also still visible across the north part of the site. Two large fish ponds were added around this time (post-dating the Petre plan).



1763 – William Kelk's Map of Worksop Manor (source: Nottinghamshire Archives) – The intricate planting layout of Manor Hills (centre, bottom right) is clearly shown, as is the new entrance (right) and pair of fish ponds (left).

In 1763, work began on a replacement house, on a vast scale, designed by James Paine^{xvi}. The new plan was of a quadrangular building, although only the north wing was ever completed (around 1764/5). The Paine scheme also included a colonnaded screen (designed to hide the stable court behind) leading northwards from the north east corner of the house. The service wing of 1701-4 was retained as part of the Paine works.



Original drawings of Worksop Manor by James Paine, showing the north wing at the top (source: on the left. Sheffield Hallam University)



View of colonnade to north of house, taken in 1960s (source: www.picturethepast.org.uk)



Remains of ground floor of 1763 Paine house, now a garden wall – compare with 1780 Malton sketch on previous page.



East elevation of c1704 range, east block, southern section.



East elevation of c1704 range, carriage access and bell cupola.



East elevation of c1704 range, east block, north section, with adjacent former entrance into The Menagerie.



West elevation of c1704 range, east block, north section (courtyard face) – note the first floor crucifix vents.



East elevation of colonnade, west side of courtyard.



Courtyard face of bell cupola.



Colonnade at south east corner of c1704 range.



Gateway through colonnade at west end of courtyard.



One of 3 statues to north west of c1704 range.

Also dating to 1763 is Westwood Lodge^{xvii} (grade II listed and also probably designed by Paine), which was originally sited at the eastern entrance to the park (off Park Street/Sparken Hill, see bottom of 1775 Kelk map), but was moved in 1934^{xviii} to the opposite side of the park, immediately adjacent to Mansfield Road. It was also in the 1760s when the present entrance to Worksop Manor was formed, located to the east of the grand 17th/early-18th century entrance.



Westwood Lodge, Mansfield Road

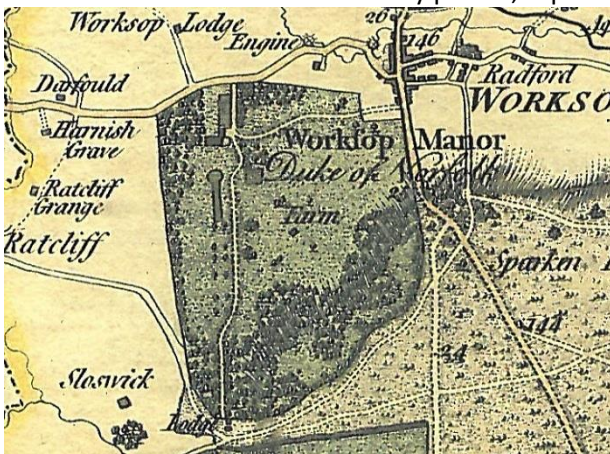


1775 – Kelk's Map of Worksop (source: Worksop Library)



Section of remaining c1763 wall on Park Street, Worksop

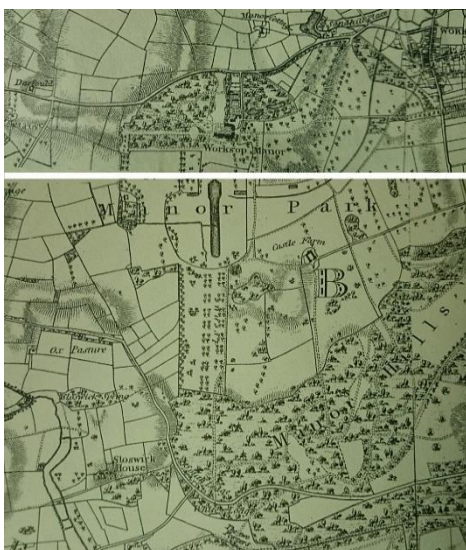
By 1826^{xix}, a small deer enclosure had been created to the south of the house, with the formal canal in its centre (seen on the 1825 map and later maps). The deer park had gone out of use by the late-19th century (possibly removed when the estate was sold in 1838). The current South Lodge was constructed in the mid-19th century period, replacing an earlier lodge.



1774 – Chapman's Map of Nottinghamshire (Source: Nottinghamshire County Council)



1825 – Ellis' Map of Nottinghamshire (source: Nottinghamshire Archives)



1835 – Sanderson's Map (source: Nottinghamshire County Council)



1840 – Ordnance Survey (Cassini) Map

In 1838 Worksop Manor was purchased by the Duke of Newcastle^{xx} and in June 1841, most of the interior fittings were sold at auction^{xxi}. In 1843, most of the house had been demolished (in part using explosives^{xxii}), save for the east court (formerly the service wing) which was retained and part was adapted to form a house (now grade I listed). Other small parts of the Paine scheme remain, including the former north wall of the house (up to ground level only and with the roof urns/finials placed on top), a large pediment (designed by the Duchess of Norfolk and carved by William Collins in 1765^{xxiii}, now sited on the ground and grade II listed), three statues to the north of the house (also grade II listed) and the walled access road linking the Manor with Mansfield Road (the walls and gate piers being grade II listed).



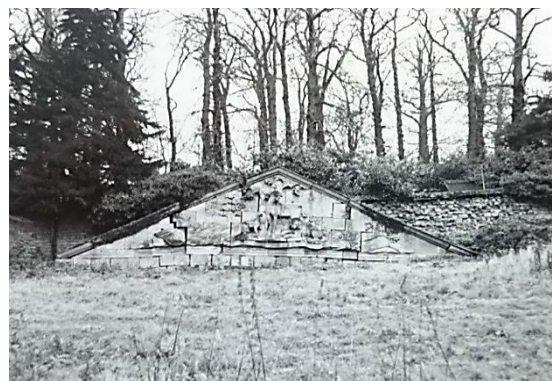
1842 – Sketch of Worksop Manor, showing various timbers being removed from the Paine house (source: Emma's Sketchbook – Scenes of Nottinghamshire Life in the 1840s, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2013).



1844 – Sketch of Worksop Manor, showing the Paine house after it had been demolished, together with the wider park (source: Emma's Sketchbook – Scenes of Nottinghamshire Life in the 1840s, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2013).



1846 – Sketch of Worksop Manor, showing the remains of the Paine house – the use of explosives resulted in the leaning wall (source: Emma's Sketchbook – Scenes of Nottinghamshire Life in the 1840s, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2013).



View of pediment in the late-1970s, now sited to the north east of the former service wing.



View of south face of Worksop Manor, c1910 (source: Worksop Library)



View of Worksop Manor, mid-1990s (source: North Nottinghamshire From The Air, RDHAS, 2000)

A vast number of trees were cut down in this period, with around 100,000 trees (mostly larch and oak) sold to railway companies^{xxiv}. Also around c1840-2, the course of the road between the Manor

and Workstop was straightened (now Newcastle Avenue) and the tributary of the River Ryton (which runs through the park and previously flowed around the edge of the Workstop Castle site) was straightened and moved westwards^{xxv}. In 1865, a new section of the Workstop to Mansfield Turnpike Road was constructed, along the western edge of the park^{xxvi}. This was a diversion of the original turnpike of 1822 which skirted the east and south boundaries of the park (beginning at the southern end of Sparken Hill, heading due south, then south west towards the Great Lake at Welbeck and eventually through the villages of Norton and Cuckney). The 1865 route preserved the integrity of Workstop Manor's (likely 17th century) circular park boundary.

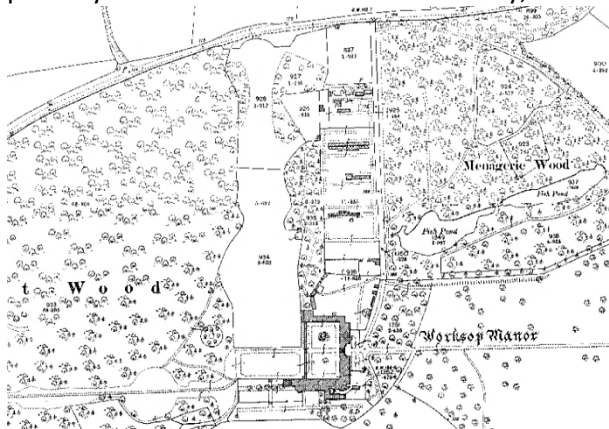
The Duke of Newcastle never intended to live at Workstop Manor (he resided at Clumber) and instead leased the building to tenants and the grounds to farmers. The house was leased to Lord Thomas Henry Foley (first mentioned in an 1862 trade directory^{xxvii}) who lived there 13 years, and then to William Isaac Cookson J.P. Esquire in 1874^{xxviii}, a Northumbria industrialist^{xxix} who lived there around 1874-1888. In 1890, the Workstop Manor Estate was sold at auction (this included large areas of land outside of the park, such as Steetley, Shireoaks, Darfoulds, Ratcliffe Grange and Harness Grove). Workstop Manor was purchased by Sir John Robinson, a philanthropic businessman from Nottingham (in the early-20th century he paid for the construction of St. Anne's Church, a row of almshouses on Newcastle Avenue and parts of the Victoria Hospital). Sir John Robinson was also a racehorse owner and he established the Workstop Manor Stud for breeding thoroughbred horses.



Stable ranges (left and right) and a fenced paddock (centre and right) to the south of West Wood (right).

By the 1880s, most of Manor Hills had been sold to the Duke of Portland (Welbeck Estate). An open area at the eastern end of Manor called 'Plain Piece' was set up as a rifle range (this was planted with trees in the mid-20th century). North east of 'Plain Piece', on a site adjacent to Sparken Hill, a lodge and gateway (known locally as Lion Gates, grade II listed) and a drive were constructed in the 1890s (eventually leading through Manor Hills and on towards Welbeck).

In the late-19th century, the grand avenue from Mansfield Road (early-18th century in date) was partially fenced off. In the mid-20th century, the north part of this area was planted with trees.



1899 – Ordnance Survey map, showing early-18th century grand entrance as an open space.



Aerial photograph of Workstop Manor, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Between the 1890-1925, the eastern end of the park (adjacent to Sparken Hill) began to be developed, with large villas set within large grounds and retaining earlier park trees. In 1929, Sir John

Robinson died and was succeeded by his great nephew, Captain John Farr. In the 1950s, several metal and sheet stables were constructed for the Farr family's Worksop Manor Stud operation. In the 1960s, a large housing estate was constructed to the west of these villas, known as the Water Meadows estate. In 1986, a by-pass was opened which enclosed the Water Meadows estate, physically separating it from the rest of the historic park of Worksop Manor – the unregistered park & garden boundary does not include land to the east of the by-pass as few features of significance remain.

Features of significance:

The Worksop Manor Unregistered Park & Garden contains a range of listed buildings, including Worksop Manor (grade I), Castle Farm (grade II*), Westwood Lodge & Gateway (grade II), Pediment (grade II), Remains of 3 statues (grade II), Drive walls and gate piers (grade II), Estate house (grade II), Boundary wall, railing & gate piers (grade II), Pigeoncote at Hawks Nest Farm (grade II), South Lodge (grade II), Manor Hills House (grade II) and East Lodge, gateway & walls (grade II). Of its unlisted buildings and structures, the most significant are Rock Cottage, Sparken Hill Cottages, Kennels Cottage, 1-4 Castle Farm Cottages, Manor Park House, Menagerie Cottage, 20th century stable ranges, Hawksnest House and Hawksnest Cottage.



Various views of landscaping around Worksop Manor, including the open parkland around the house (top), groups of trees such as Oak Wood and Round Spinney (centre left), 20th century gallops through Manor Hills (centre right) and Manor Hills as seen from the west.

The surviving landscape contains an array of significant features, including open parkland, specimen trees, groups/clumps of trees, two informal ponds, two formal lakes (originally the early-18th century

basin and canal), large woodlands (including Manor Hills), planned driveways and a number of important views to/from the house and around the grounds.

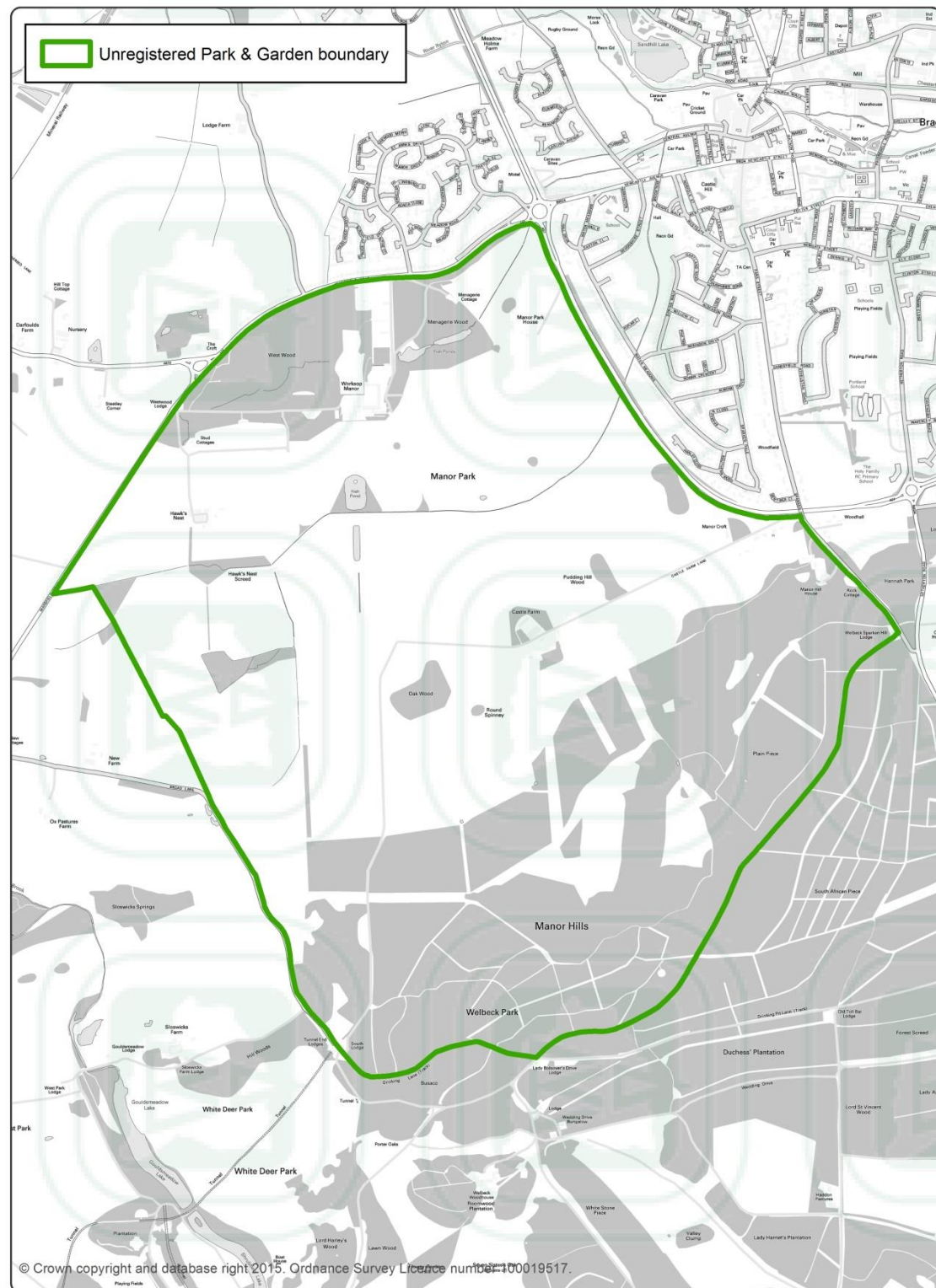
The site also contains a wide variety of archaeological features, including the remains of earlier landscaping schemes.



Aerial photograph of Worksop Manor, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Listed Buildings:	Worksop Manor (grade I); Castle Farm (grade II*); Westwood Lodge & Gateway (grade II); Pediment (grade II); Remains of 3 statues (grade II); Drive walls and gate piers (grade II); Estate house (grade II); Boundary wall, railing & gate piers (grade II), Pigeoncote at Hawks Nest Farm (grade II); South Lodge (grade II); Manor Hills House (grade II) and East Lodge, gateway & walls (grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	n/a
Local Interest Buildings:	Rock Cottage, Sparken Hill Cottages, Kennels Cottage, 1-4 Castle Farm Cottages, Manor Park House, Menagerie Cottage, 20th century stable ranges, Hawksnest House and Hawksnest Cottage

Worksop Manor



References:

- ⁱ Robert Thoroton (ed. By John Throsby); *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Vol.3* (Republished With large additions By John Throsby); 1796; p386-7.
- ⁱⁱ K. Sather; *Worksop Manor Lodge, Worksop – Conservation Statement*; October 2004.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Mark Girouard; *Robert Smythson and the Elizabethan Country House Hardcover*; 1983.
- ^{iv} Mark Girouard; *Robert Smythson and the Elizabethan Country House Hardcover*; 1983.
- ^v F.N. Hoskins; *Manor Lodge – A Brief History and Guide*; 1998 and Virginia Baddeley; *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Worksop Manor, Nottinghamshire* (in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society: Vol.100*); 1996; p123.
- ^{vi} J. Harrison; *Survey of Worksop*; 1636.
- ^{vii} Retford & District Historical & Archaeological Society (ed. by Malcolm Dolby); *North Nottinghamshire From The Air*; 2000; p88.
- ^{viii} Virginia Baddeley; *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Worksop Manor, Nottinghamshire* (in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society: Vol.100*); 1996; p125.
- ^{ix} Virginia Baddeley; *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Worksop Manor, Nottinghamshire* (in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society: Vol.100*); 1996; p125-129.
- ^x Virginia Baddeley; *The Early Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens of Worksop Manor, Nottinghamshire* (in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society: Vol.100*); 1996; p127.
- ^{xi} A. Cossons; *Coaching Days – The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire*; 1994; p39.
- ^{xii} Historic England (List Description): <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1045026>.
- ^{xiii} Robert Thoroton (ed. By John Throsby); *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Vol.3* (Republished With large additions By John Throsby); 1796; p398.
- ^{xiv} J. Phibbs; *A list of landscapes that have been attributed to 'Capability' Brown* (Online article: <http://johnphibbs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Landscapes-attributed-to-Brown-3rd-ed..pdf>); November 2015.
- ^{xv} E. Eddison; *History of Worksop – With Historical, Descriptive and Discursive Sketches of Sherwood Forest and the Neighbourhood*; 1854, p84.
- ^{xvi} James Paine; *Plans, Elevations and Sections of Noblemen and Gentlemen's Houses*; 1767.
- ^{xvii} Historic England (List Description): <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1370405>.
- ^{xviii} *Worksop Guardian*; 6th April 1934.
- ^{xix} J. Holland; *The History, Antiquities and Description of the Town and Parish of Worksop in the County of Nottingham*; 1826
- ^{xx} *Wexford Conservative*; 18th April 1838.
- ^{xxi} *Hull Advertiser & Exchange Gazette*; 21st May 1841.
- ^{xxii} K. Sather; *Worksop Manor Lodge, Worksop – Conservation Statement*; October 2004; p13.

^{xxiii} K. Sather; *Worksop Manor Lodge, Worksop – Conservation Statement*; October 2004; p12.

^{xxiv} Worksop Heritage trail website:
http://www.worksopheritagetrail.org.uk/resources/worksop_manor_history.pdf.

^{xxv} Bassetlaw District Council; *Worksop Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan*; April 2011.

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

^{xxvii} *Directory & Topography of Sheffield*; 1862.

^{xxviii} L. Jacks; *The Great Houses of Nottinghamshire and the County Families*; 1881.

^{xxix} L. Jacks; *The Great Houses of Nottinghamshire and the County Families*; 1881.