

Norton Park review 2019

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Norton Hall in 1793 pers. collection IDR

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Preamble

Graves Park is Sheffield's biggest Public Open Space and the city's most visited park. The land was saved for the public of Sheffield by the great philanthropist, Alderman J.G. Graves. The place we see today is the site of the older 'Norton Park' which was a famous location as a so-called 'picturesque' landscape in the 1700s and 1800s. With its unrivalled views west to the Peak District, the park was famed for its glorious sunsets and was a place to visit for the enlightened society of the time. Together with the Friends of Graves Park group, we have been investigating to re-discover this 'lost' parkland.

The present phase of work supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund has now closed. Work so far with the ***Friends of Graves Park, South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group***, and ***Sheffield Hallam University*** has unearthed a rich diversity of evidence and materials relating to the history of the park and its threatened heritage. With a huge effort from local residents as volunteers we now have clear evidence that the heart of Graves Park today is really the medieval Norton Park, a deer park dating back to the 1200s. Furthermore, the landscape holds clues to possible prehistoric activity in the area, and this time-depth is reflected too, in the ecology of the park with lots of so-called 'botanical indicator plants'. These include familiar woodland flowers such as bluebell and wood anemone.

Executive Summary

This report establishes the importance of Norton Park / Graves Park as a heritage site with an associated historic timeline. The latter is traced and evidenced in archival and published sources, and through associated landscape heritage and ecology. Research leading to this report has identified important landscape features potentially from prehistoric times, through the medieval, and to the modern day. Furthermore, these heritage features demonstrate the emergence of both a park landscape and a rural farming landscape over this time and particularly since the documented origins of the first park in the 1200s. Since that time there has been a wealth of map-based evidence and documentation to shed light on the evolving landscape of the parks and the surrounding areas. These sources carry through to the twentieth-century to provide remarkable insight into the development of modern-day Graves Park from a series of early medieval deer parks, a grand landscape park, and finally a municipal park with gardenesque features.

The research connects the landscape history and continuity to the present-day ecological richness of ancient woods and meadows, and to the various phases of tree-planting and imparkation. The park landscape also connects to early industrial usage such as for charcoal making, and to nearby industrial sites concerned with for example, lead smelting. Within the park and in areas close-by there is landscape evidence supported by maps to show the evolving agricultural use of the countryside from pre-Domesday to the 1900s.

The history of the Park in the twentieth century was supported by evidence from newspaper archives and also by oral histories.

Finally, a major reason for undertaking the research and producing the report was to establish the interest and importance of the site as a landscape worthy of protection. This has a significant level of urgency since current management does not reflect the heritage or ecological interest and numerous important features are in imminent threat of loss or irreparable damage. This is highlighted within the report.

The work was undertaken by teams of dedicated volunteers supported by a multi-disciplinary research team of expert advisors. The project was generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Context

In June 2017, we corresponded with the *Historic England Listing Group* with regard to the status of Graves Park née Norton Park in Sheffield. The conclusion of the correspondence was that a submission for registration would be welcome but needed to be supported by appropriate documentation and research. With generous support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, which funded the Friends of Graves Park's *Finding Lost Norton Park* project, we are now in a position to submit the case and the supporting evidence.

This report is produced with reference to the Historic England Guidance 'Rural Landscapes Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide' 3rd Edition 2017. The work to assess the site was undertaken with support from Andy Gaunt (Mercian Archaeological Services CiC) and Ken Smith (formerly Cultural Heritage Manager, Peak District National Park Authority, now a Secretary of State-appointed Member at PDNPA and Lead Member for Landscape and Heritage). Site survey and additional support was given by a broad team of consultants (including Dr Paul Ardron, Chris Percy, and Christine Handley) and carried out with volunteers. The research was coordinated by Professor Ian Rotherham.

The present phase of work is now complete and a rich diversity of evidence and materials relating to the history of the park and its threatened heritage has been gathered. Priorities for future work have also been agreed.



Early engraving of Norton Church with Norton Hall beyond showing different phases of buildings, late 1700s

Work so far confirms the amazing, perhaps unique, heritage of Graves Park née Norton Park:

- 1) The park landscape is ancient and includes features from a series of medieval parks, an important picturesque landscape, through to a municipal recreational park of the 1920s and subsequent to that time.
- 2) The woods are in part 'ancient woodlands' and were former 'working woods' – with charcoal burners and other traditional woodland industries.
- 3) This antiquity of the woods and the park is reflected in the rich flora of woodland and grassland flowers.
- 4) The landscape holds considerable evidence of a landscape farmed through the medieval period, as well as Victorian and twentieth century features.

- 5) The landscape has ancient features including possible mounds/barrows (later roundels in designed park?), and linear bank-and-ditch features, which may be prehistoric, but may well have been the subject to multiple usage over many centuries.
- 6) The park's boundaries are still part intact and probably are a mix of dates from 1600s to 1800s.
- 7) The built structures are diverse, from the farm and outbuildings at Bolehill associated with initial agricultural enclosure through to their subsequent improvements; to park lodges from the early 1800s and later; the nineteenth and twentieth century kitchen garden and plant nursery walls and structures to the municipal park buildings dating from the 1930s onwards. At its heart, there is also Norton Hall itself, and its stable block together with Norton Parish Church adjacent.
- 8) Bolehill itself is an early industrial site most probably associated with a history of lead-smelting which was located just outside the Park.
- 9) Some built structures are critically 'at risk' e.g. the Bolehill barn which is badly neglected with exposed roof-timbers and broken walls.
- 10) The enigmatic remains of lost buildings such as the Summerhouse survive in the landscape – and we now have oral history memories and images of some of these.
- 11) There is rich map-based evidence dating from the eighteenth century (pre-Ordnance Survey).
- 12) A rich archival resource has been identified and collated – with more details still to be discovered.
- 13) Local memories and memorabilia have been collected but there is still more to do.

This work marks the closing of **Phase 1** of the research.



Print of a Norton Hall fête in late nineteenth-century, pers. collection IDR

Summary Conclusions from Phase 1

The research has confirmed the depth of history in the countryside fabric of the park and its immediate surroundings, plus the importance of the designed landscape as evidenced by the site. Some of the features which make-up the park have been identified and confirmed with a strong degree of reliability; the precise interpretation of others remains to be confirmed. However, whilst the potential prehistoric archaeology requires further investigation, the dating of the medieval park (first phase) to the 1200s is vindicated. There is a later (perhaps Tudor) deer park, a romantic landscape park (of the late 1700s / early 1800s), and finally, a twentieth-century municipal park with 'gardenesque' features. A key feature of the site is the continuity of landscape from prehistoric to modern times with both evidence on-site, and since the 1200s, in documentation. Furthermore, there is clear indication from the evidence of the re-use of features and their re-incorporation into later functions. This is seen for example in the major earthwork running south to north across the 1800s park to the west of Norton Hall, in the possible Bronze Age burial mound or early pillow mound later incorporated as a roundel into the designed landscape, and the medieval fishponds which become fishing and boating lakes in the designed eighteenth- and nineteenth-century grounds, and later in the twentieth-century municipal park. Bunting Nook which today is a metalled road is a deep, massive sunken lane with a major park wall and marks the eastern boundary of the Tudor park.

There is extensive place-name evidence for the park area which indicates both antiquity and former land-use. This includes 'the Old Parks', 'Hob Hill', 'Hollin Hill', 'Spring Park', 'The Wood', 'Bolehill', and 'The Paddocks'.

The status of the park requires urgent review as it is indeed a landscape with a long timeline, a rich palimpsest of landscape character and associated features, and has a depth of documentary and cartographic evidence in support of this. Most of this history and associated physical heritage is presently un-recognised by the park's owners (Sheffield City Council), and current management makes no allowance for site heritage, ecology, or vulnerability. Additionally, the hall itself requires a 'status review' as, we believe, the current heritage listing is inaccurate.

Graves Park née Norton Park demonstrates features which relate to two of the criteria listed in Historic England's guidance 'Rural Landscapes Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide' first published 2013 with second edition 2017. These two criteria are specifically '6.1 Date & Rarity' and '6.2 Further Considerations – b & c' (see Appendix A). Specifically, there is evidence to show that the landscape was 'formed before 1750, where a significant proportion of the principal features of the original layout is still in evidence', and 'those laid out between 1750 and 1840 with enough of the layout surviving to reflect the original design.' Furthermore, Norton Hall and Park are strongly associated with nineteenth-century antiquarian and scientific study. For example, as a young man the later eminent scientist Henry Clifton Sorby (pioneering microscopist and geologist), went on local geological expeditions with James Yates (Fellow of the Geological Society, Linnaean Society and Royal Society), who was a tenant of Norton Hall. Furthermore, both James Montgomery (poet & hymn writer, newspaper editor and radical thinker) and Joseph Hunter (Unitarian Minister and antiquarian) attended meetings at the Hall hosted by Yates. Hunter wrote about the Hall and Manor in his local histories. It is also associated with literary outputs such as that from Ebenezer Rhodes and Harold Armitage, and with the iconic birthplace of Sir Francis Chantrey, the leading portrait sculptor of his time. The site is the centrepiece of a remarkable collection of imparkations

during the 1500s to the 1900s. The designed landscape from the late 1700s to the 1900s was undoubtedly influenced by Capability Brown and Joseph Paxton who worked at nearby Chatsworth, by Robert Marnock (Paxton's student) who worked elsewhere in Sheffield and later William Goldring's 'naturalistic and gardenesque' style also seen in many of the grounds of Sheffield's other industrial magnates and their families.

Within the Park today some built features are at a critical point of collapse.

Some of the ecological diversity is under threat because of poor (or no) management over many decades, exacerbated by invasion by aggressive non-native species.

There are major possibilities for educational outputs and archival materials plus digital reconstructions and so on.

There exist tremendous opportunities to enhance the site, manage it in a sustainable way and realise its potential for education and enlightenment, for understanding and enjoyment by the public, as well as contributing to health and well-being and community cohesion, integration and engagement. Recognition of its national importance by entry onto the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England would be a significant contribution to realising these opportunities.

Research & Project Phases 2 & 3

Plans are underway for a further and extended project in possibly two major phases. These will address ecology, archaeology, archival research, local memories, and links into limited site conservation management such as control of invasive Himalayan balsam. (See Appendix B)

Location & Site Details

Site location

Centre point = SK 35296 82319 (Lat. 53.336610 Long. -1.471403)

NW corner: SK 34608 82698 (Lat. 53.340057 Long. -1.481691)

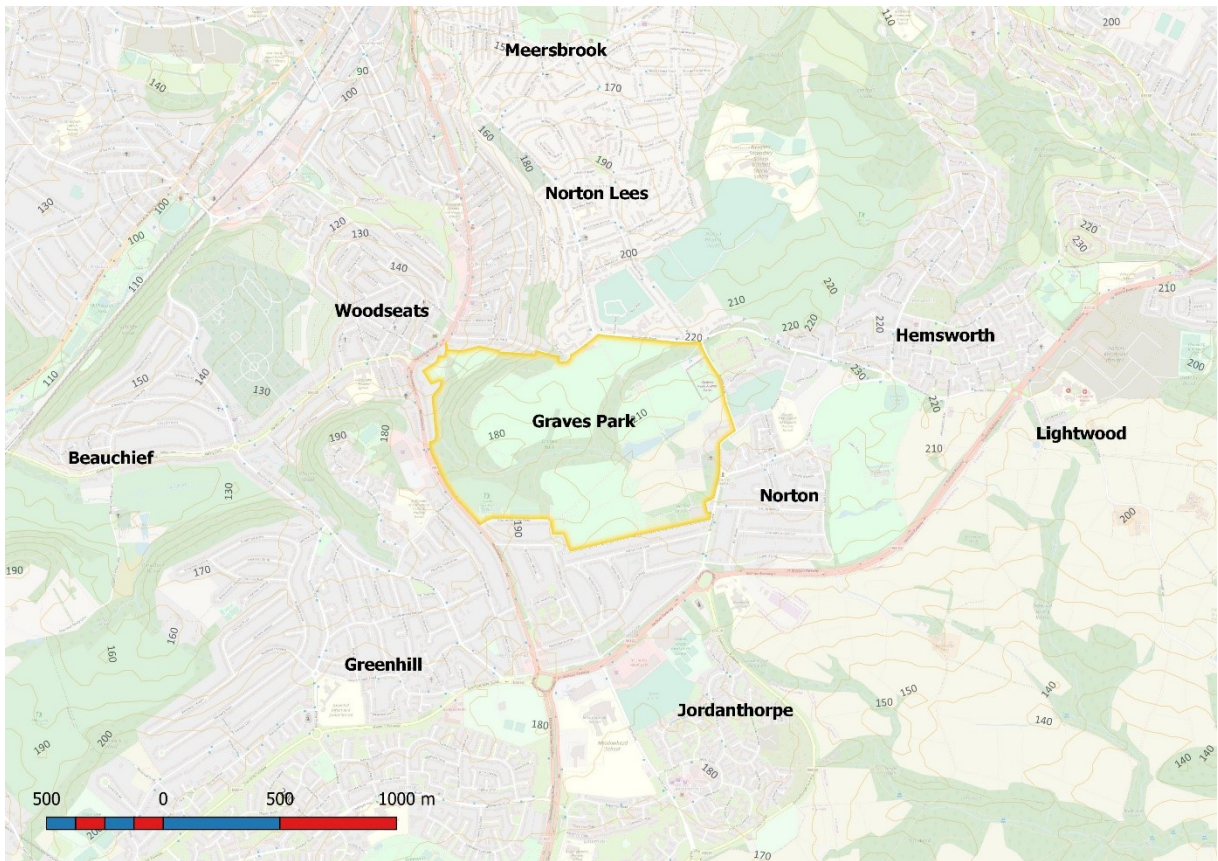
NE corner: SK 35977 82655 (Lat. 53.339576 Long. -1.461138)

SE corner: SK 35993 81843 (Lat. 53.332280 Long. -1.460995)

SW corner: SK 34646 81843 (Lat. 53.332367 Long. -1.481214)



National and Regional location map



Location map for Graves Park showing surrounding suburbs referred to in the report.

The following aerial photographs showing some of the key historical features and structures at the Graves Park site that are referred to in this report.





Site ownership

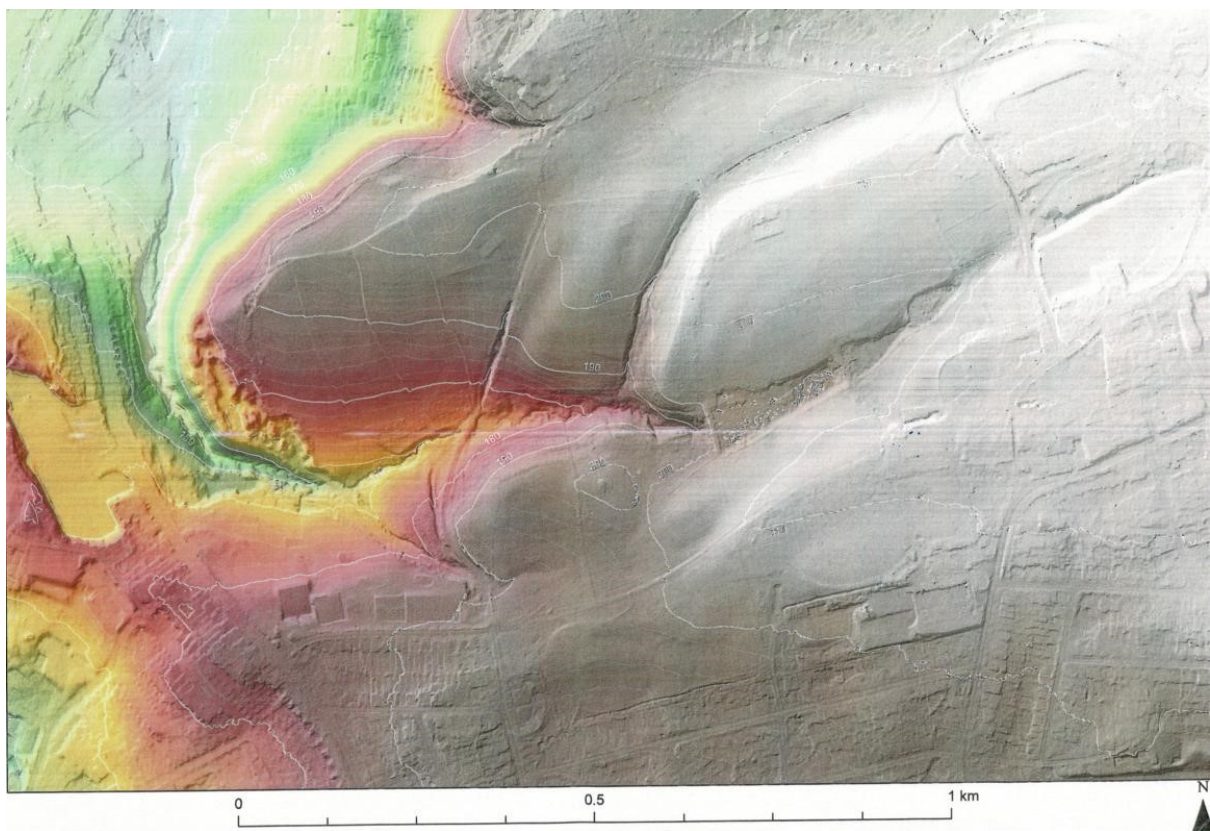
Sheffield City Council, PLACE, Culture & Environment as a part of the J.G. Graves charitable bequest
Address: Sheffield City Council, Parks and Countryside Service, Level 3, West Wing, Moorfoot Building, Sheffield S1 4PL

Physical Landscape

The Geology:

The sequence of strata found within the boundaries of Graves Park comprises typical sedimentary rocks including mudstones, ironstones, shales, siltstones and sandstones. All these sediments are referred to as “Coal Measures” and are dated to the Upper Carboniferous period. Two major sandstones, the **Greenmoor Rock** and the **Grenoside Sandstone**, dominate the landscape of the Park creating the distinctive features of escarpment ridges and gently sloping dip-slopes which dictate the distribution of the soils and the cover of vegetation across the Park. The *Greenmoor Rock* has bands of fine- to medium-grained sand separated by layers of siltstone and mudstone. Outside of the Park, within the Sheffield area, the sandstone has been identified with thicknesses between 15 to 46 metres. It has been worked for building stone and for grindstones. Part of the outcrop has been quarried, along the south-western margin of the park, where about two metres of the upper part of the sequence is very thinly bedded creating both ‘Flagstones’ (for paving) and as ‘Tilestones’ (for Roofing). Waste from the quarrying has been dumped over the edge thereby increasing the angle of slope. The *Grenoside Sandstone* tends to be more micaceous and has more clay minerals present. One key feature is that it tends to split readily along the bedding direction enabling large flat slabs of stone to be recovered for use as flagstones and tilestones. Some evidence is found for the use of these materials within the Park and along some of the old boundary walls but there is limited evidence of actual quarrying of the stone inside the park.

The Landforms:



LiDAR image of the Graves Park site provided by Dr Rebecca Sharpe of Sheffield Hallam University

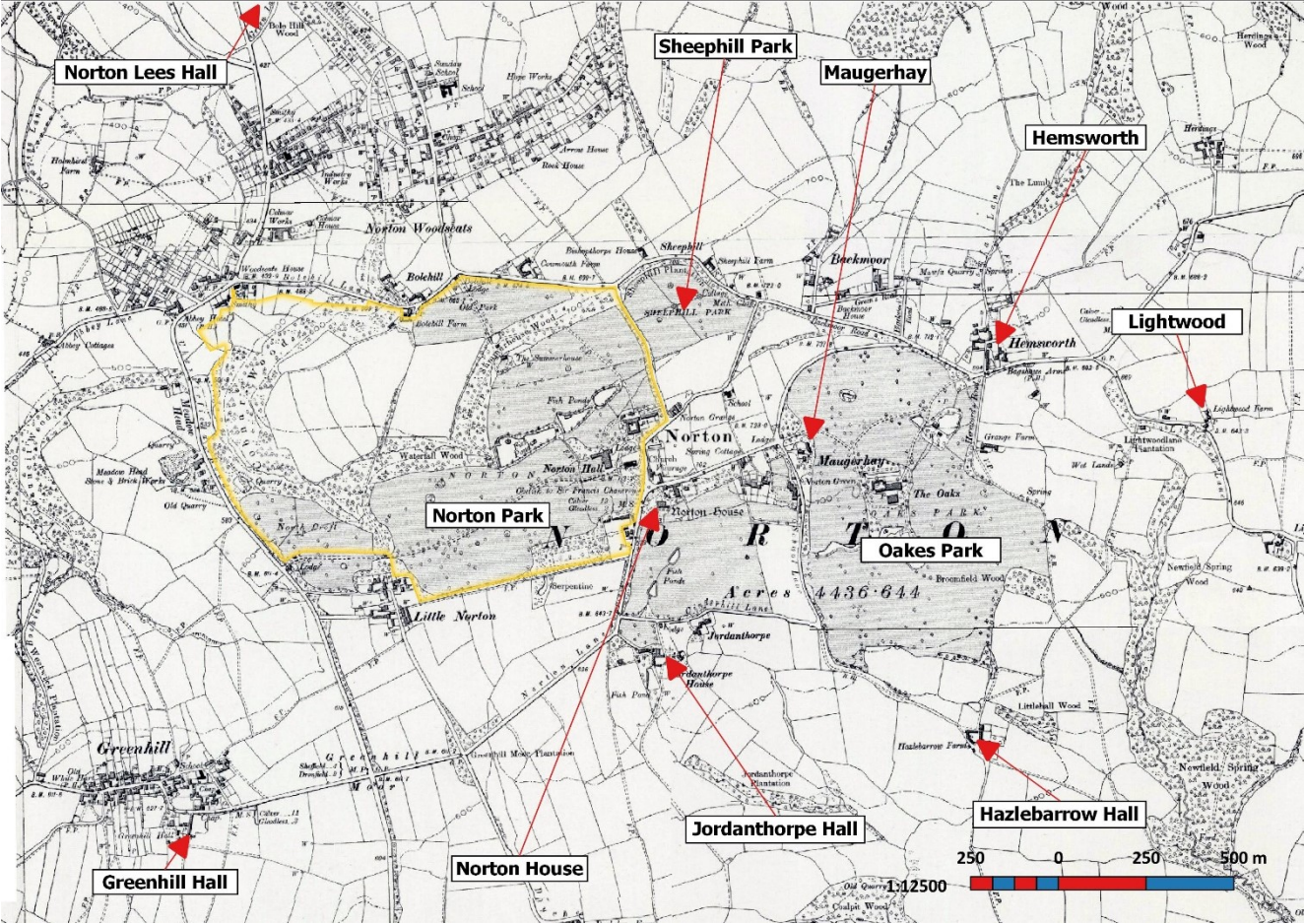
The landforms present today in Graves Park have a very long history because they are the product of two major events, namely the folding and uplifting of the bedrocks and then the extremely long period of weathering and erosion of that land area. From the end of the Carboniferous period these fold-mountains were never covered by any younger deposits thus they have been at the mercy of the weathering and eroding agents for a very long time. The relative hardness of the sandstones allowed them to resist rapid erosion while the surrounding softer mudrocks eroded rapidly and allowed large river valleys to be created. In the case of Graves Park it was the development of the Sheaf valley which cut down through the sediments to reveal the sandstones on both sides.

The area of Graves Park is located in the south of the City of Sheffield. It is bounded to the west by the escarpment sloping down from Bolehill Farm to Woodseats Road, a drop from 198m (a.o.l.) down to 130m (a.o.l.). This escarpment is created by the outcrop of the Greenmoor Rock. It dominates the landform along the eastern side of Woodseats Road before turning north across the Sheaf valley towards Brincliffe Edge. At the top of the escarpment, beyond Bolehill Farm the Park has a gentle slope towards the south-east with an average elevation of around 204m (a.o.l.). From the east-north-east a ridge over 213m high extends into the Park for about 470 metres. This feature is created by the outcrop of the younger Grenoside Sandstone. From the ridge, the land slopes down into the small valley, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, that carries a small stream, the principal drainage channel through the centre of the Park. This stream has been dammed up at three locations to form small ponds, ideal for aquatic fauna. Along the southern side of this valley is a steep escarpment rising some 15m from the level of the ponds to the top, where the Rose Garden Cafe is located. It is created by the outcrop of the Grenoside Sandstone where, further along, to the east, is the site of Norton Hall. From this ridge the ground falls gently away towards the southern boundary of the Park with two smaller ridges created by outcrops of younger, unnamed sandstones.

The main drainage of the Park, as noted above, is via a small stream which appears to the east of Bunting Nook, is culverted under the road and into the east wall of the upper dam. It then flows south-south-west through the ponds and into the steep-sided, wooded valley, through the outcrop of both the Grenoside Sandstone and the Greenmoor Rock before disappearing into a culvert under Woodseats Road. Along the length of the channel there is much evidence of anthropogenic activity in the form of stone-built footbridges and stone-walled channel margins. A very small tributary, from the south, joins the main stream within the valley while a second small stream that forms from a spring near to Hemsworth Road flows south-westerly down into the main valley below the last pond. Wherever the land is underlain by the mudrocks there is much evidence of water seepage creating boggy conditions but with insufficient flow to form streams.

Regional heritage context of the site

Graves Park née Norton Park is situated close to the historic landscape around Beauchief Abbey and Beauchief Park to the west and a series of smaller imparkations to the east and the south-east. These include the pseudo-medieval park at Oakes Park, and parks at the Maugerhay, Norton House, Jordanthorpe House, Sheephill Park, North Croft, and others. We view this association of parks as a miniature version of the Nottinghamshire 'Dukeries' countryside but in North Derbyshire; a grand assemblage of residences and parks associated with medieval owners and then with local wealthy industrialists. The proximity of these parks and halls is shown in the map below.



The *Finding Lost Norton Park Project*: Summary of Findings

1. Historical Research - Telling the Story

Project volunteers and members of the Friends of Graves Park group identified and collected a rich and varied resource of historical information as part of the '*Finding Lost Norton Project*'. Some of the key questions centred on identifying and confirming the location and boundaries of the medieval park(s) and the later evolution of the Graves Park landscape. However, the information collected broadened in scope as the project progressed. The discoveries are now telling a very interesting story about the history of Norton Park and its Hall, and placing this into a wider local and regional context.

An inventory of information sources was compiled (see Appendix C); this lists over 100 items or groups of items that have been sourced. These materials include detailed illustrations, estate maps and plans, charters and leases, minutes of meetings, official records and inventories, personal recollections and published sources such as books and newspapers.

The information has been used in conjunction with field surveys where features were recorded using GPS. This has enabled the project to confirm boundaries and other fixed-point features still present today, as well as noting the loss or changes that have occurred. The series of maps and estate plans identified have been particularly valuable in demonstrating how the landscape of the park(s) has evolved (see below and Appendix D). A detailed study of the 1741 Dickinson's Plan of Norton Park and Hall and comparison with the 1775 estate plan show significant and important changes. These include changes to the approach and entrance to the Hall and courtyard, the development of the new formal gardens and the picturesque park landscape and the first phase of the development of the existing Hall. These maps and plans also give field names and show the boundaries of the park(s) and the site of the Tower/ Summerhouse (see the Timeline section below for more details). A comparison with later Ordnance Survey maps and modern GPS recording of features shows that there is a high level of accuracy and reliability between them.

An in-depth historical timeline (see separate section below) has been created. This fills some of the gaps from an earlier timeline produced by the Friends of Graves Park and extends the time period back to prehistory and forward to the late twentieth- and beginning of the twenty-first - century. However, some gaps still exist around the medieval period and others need further confirmation before we can be sure that important gaps have been filled. The timeline shows that there have been periods of significant activity in the Park linked to changes in its ownership and evidence of these can still be seen in the heritage features found in the Park and its surrounding area. One aspect incorporated into the timeline is the genealogy of the families that were Lords of the Manor for Norton and Alfreton.

The search for the charters and legal documents that are specific to Norton Park has also located others which relate to the landowners and landownership around the Park. Some of this material covers grants of land or leases by the then Lords of the Manor to local landowners who were themselves from quite prominent families. These include for example, documents relating to farms/ properties at Lightwood, Jordanthorpe, Norton Lees, Hemsworth and Hazelbarrow. These

are all close-by Norton Hall and Park and part of the ancient manor. One interesting find is of the building and sale of a new house with land called 'The Oakes' in the seventeenth century, the modern day Oaks Park and itself a Grade 2 listed Historic Park and Garden. Other documents record enclosures of fields taking place in the Tudor period and the development of substantial farmhouses and other halls in the seventeenth century. The Lord of the Manor's lands included some of these early enclosure fields and woodland adjacent to the named Park and Hall (and much more beside). However, evidence found so far does not record the land inside the Park and closest to the Hall as being part of these enclosures. There is other evidence, however, that shows some of the land inside the Park was leased to other landowners for animal pasture or meadows, for example land known as 'Nether Hare Hill'.

Moving into the nineteenth century, the Hall and Norton Park had a series of owners and associated with this, periods of mixed fortunes. However, its setting and aspect were something that was celebrated. In 1824, in his '*Peak Scenery or the Derbyshire Tourist*', Ebenezer Rhodes described a visit to the Hall and its grounds and Park in some detail. This includes walking through the landscaped gardens with planted avenues of trees, seating and grottoes and inscriptions of sentimental poetic verses; seeing very large 'ancient' oak trees and going down into a woodland 'glen' where a brook flows down a steep rocky bank before crossing an open grassed area back to the west front of the Hall. He also describes the views from the highest point to the distant moors and the spectacular sunsets that could be seen. Whilst much of the detailed walk has been lost in further developments around the formal gardens there are still parts of his walk, the vistas and the sunsets that are recognisable today.

Through publicity via a press release, a search of local picture and newspaper archives, and personal reminiscences, the story of the '*Summer House*' (or 'Summerhouse') is being revealed. The Summer House was so named in the late eighteenth/ early nineteenth century, we believe but other names associated with it include the Tower and the Dower House. We have a much clearer picture of the layout and construction of the Summer House and its surroundings and have located the site of the footings for the building. The oldest / original part was a stone-built tower (see image on p30) shown on Dickinson's 1741 survey at the intersection of two avenues of trees on the top of the hill. In the nineteenth century, the tower now had an extension which was occupied until the middle of the twentieth century and then used as a store by Sheffield Parks Dept. until its demolition in the 1960s. We have recorded some of the personal stories about the people who lived there and their occupations. This included the first corporation head park-keeper and his family in the 1930s; and earlier occupants running their own businesses. The Summer House address was separate from the Hall and had its own entrance. Many memories have been collected of the bell which was on the side of the tower being rung to tell people that Graves Park was closing.

Further documentary research has started to uncover the detailed municipal history of the acquisition of Norton Park and surrounding land which led to the preservation of the earlier landscape inside the modern Graves Park. This earlier landscape covers not only the central Norton Park's land associated with the Hall putting it in context, but also Tudor enclosure field boundaries, older earthworks, a turnpike road and smaller features including gate stoops.

Personal recollections have given further insights into many aspects of the site. These include the use of the Park and Hall during WW2 and earlier in WW1; how the changes in boundaries and entrances have respected much older trackways and Public Rights of Way; and how the tradition of fêtes and galas in the park has continued over the period. For example, there is a print of a garden fête from the nineteenth century when the Cammell family owned the Hall which shows pavilions erected on the same area that the Fun Fair used in 2019 (for more-detailed description, see Timeline section below).

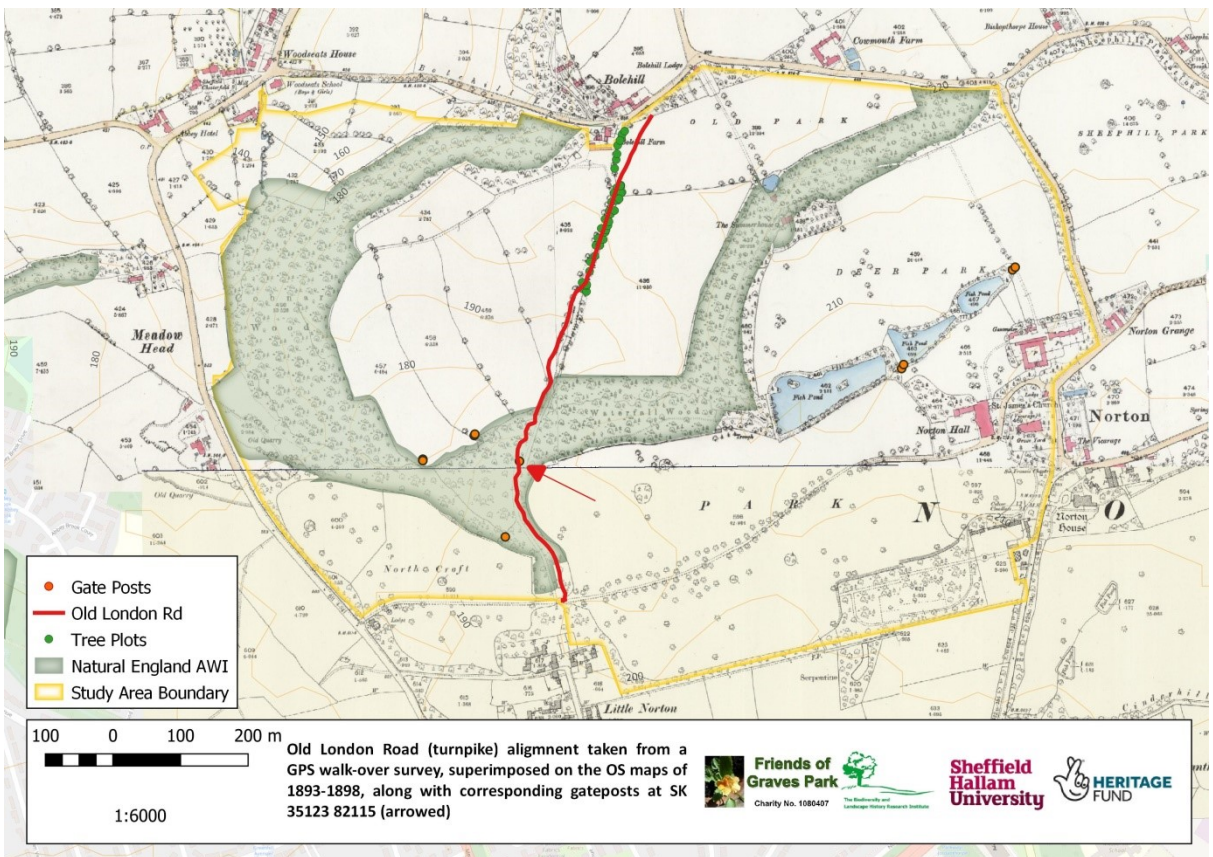
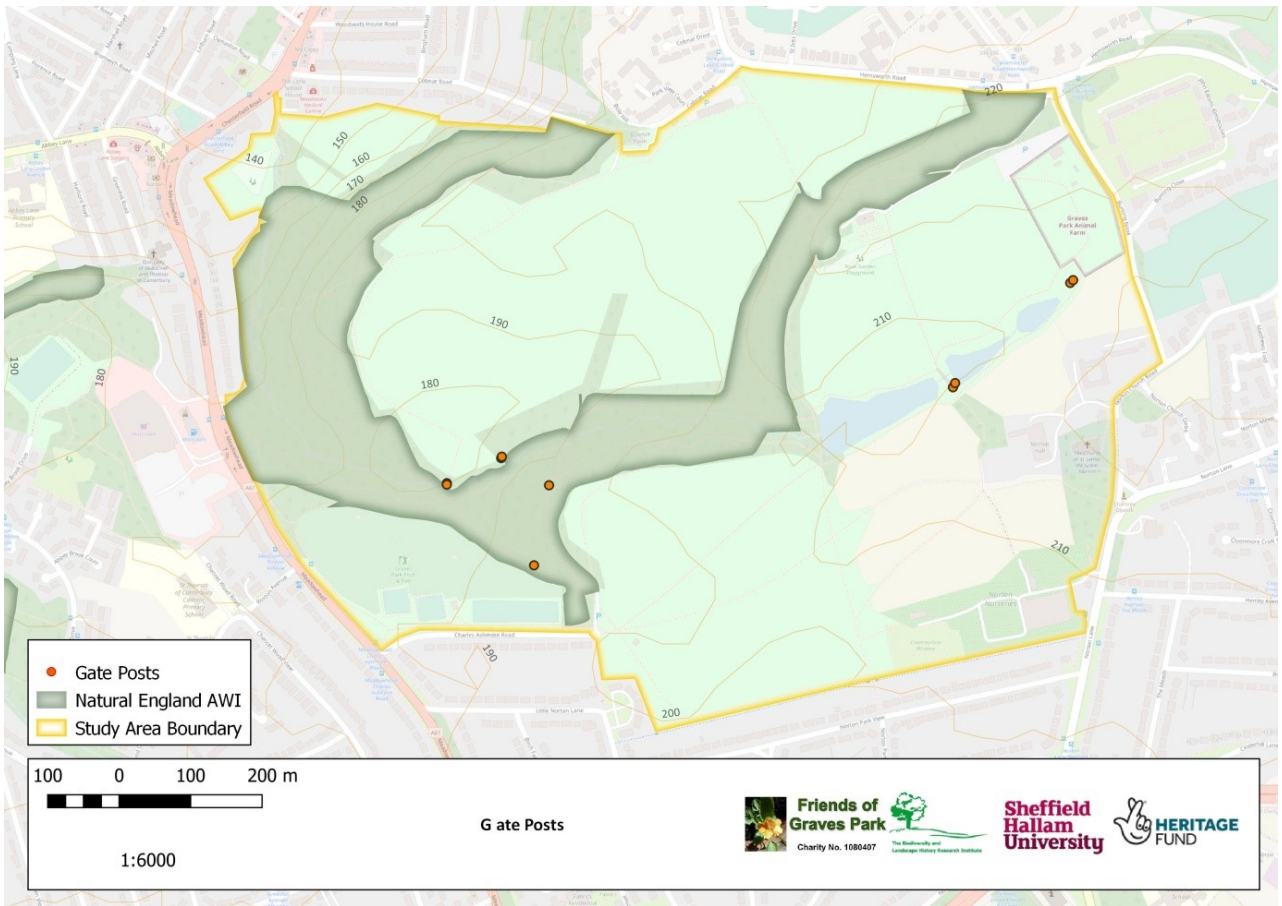
As with all historical research, there is more work to be done through further and more-detailed analysis of specialist documentary sources, newspaper archives and the continuing collection of personal memories. Some of the sources identified, for example the Newton Shaw and Jackson collections held in Sheffield City Archives, revealed large amounts of potentially useful information. However, time constraints on the 'Finding Lost Norton Park' project meant that the collections could not be looked at in detail.

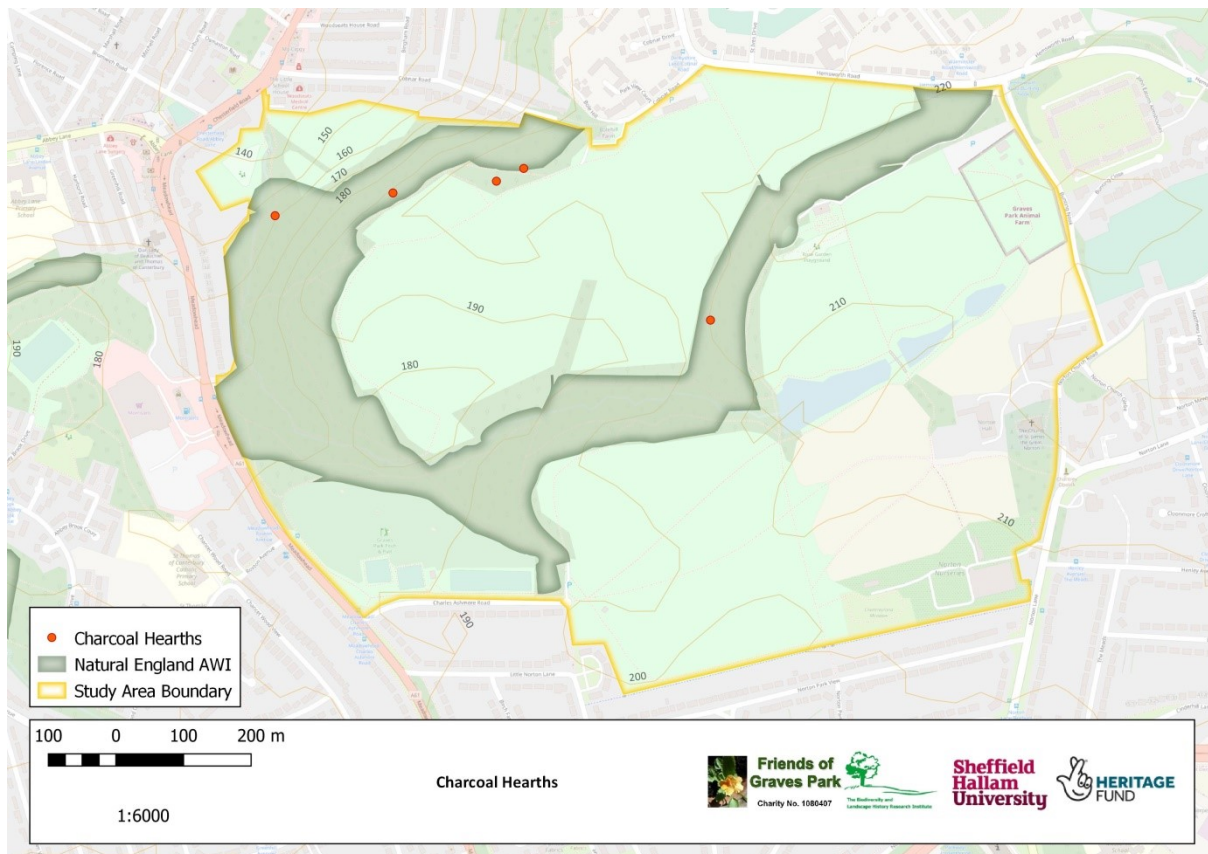
2. Landscape evidence and ecological historical indicators

Landscape Features Surveys

To complement the archival research on the site history, a landscape survey was undertaken to assess and map selected features – the boundaries, the linear features, the trackways, the woodlands, point features (such as charcoal hearths, significant trees, and gate-stoops), potential prehistoric features such as the possible barrow, built structures, lost buildings, and other field evidence like ridge and furrow. The three maps below give some examples of the survey information gathered with a longer sequence of maps in Appendix D. Further examples of short reports on specific surveys can be found on the project web-pages

<https://www.ukeconet.org/lostnortonpark.html>





Ecological Historical Indicators Surveys

Plant ecological indicator species can be used to provide evidence of antiquity and of land-use continuity in a site. Surveys of selected botanical indicators were carried out alongside those of landscape features. This phase of the work specifically targeted botanical indicators of ancient woodlands. These botanical indicators, due to their location and abundance within specific parts of the landscape, can indicate landscape antiquity and continuity of land-use over centuries. There are regional variations in the occurrence of different suites of ancient woodland botanical indicator species. The key species listed below, and recorded as part of these surveys take this into account (see Rotherham & Wright, 2011 and Rotherham, 2011, for further explanation). Surveys of such species can complement and aid interpretation of other landscape features or challenge prior assumptions. The overall methodological approach used is outlined in the *Woodland Heritage Manual* (2008).

Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory maps, available as open-source data from data.gov.uk, identified much of the woodland within Graves Park as ancient (i.e. in existence before 1600). These boundaries are shown on the maps in darker green and in the key as Natural England AWI. They provided a base-line guide for the surveys. However, it should also be noted that anomalies in the official inventory were noted.

The following key species were recorded:

Early spring woodland flowers:

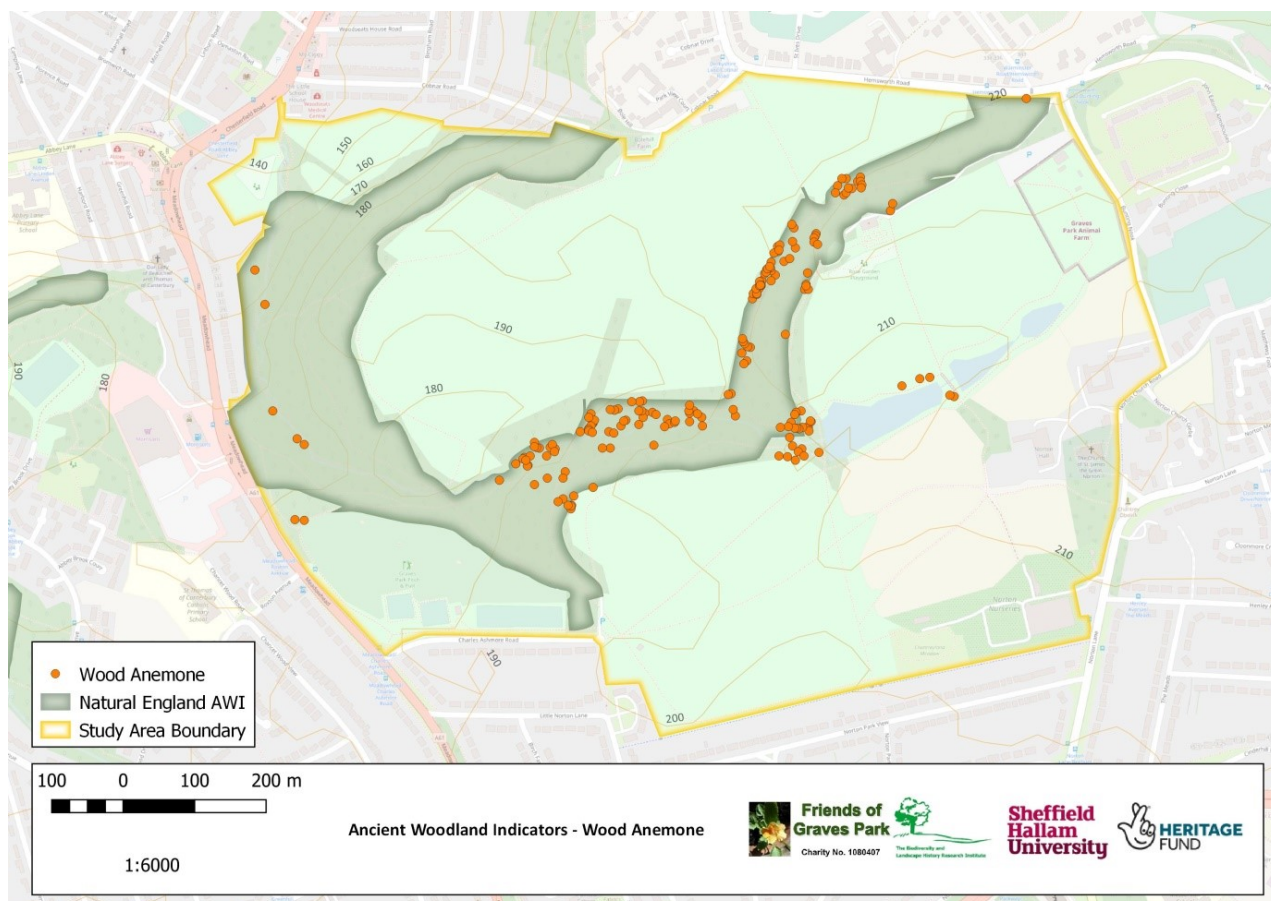
Bluebell, greater stitchwort, dog’s mercury, wood anemone, yellow archangel, golden saxifrage, wild garlic

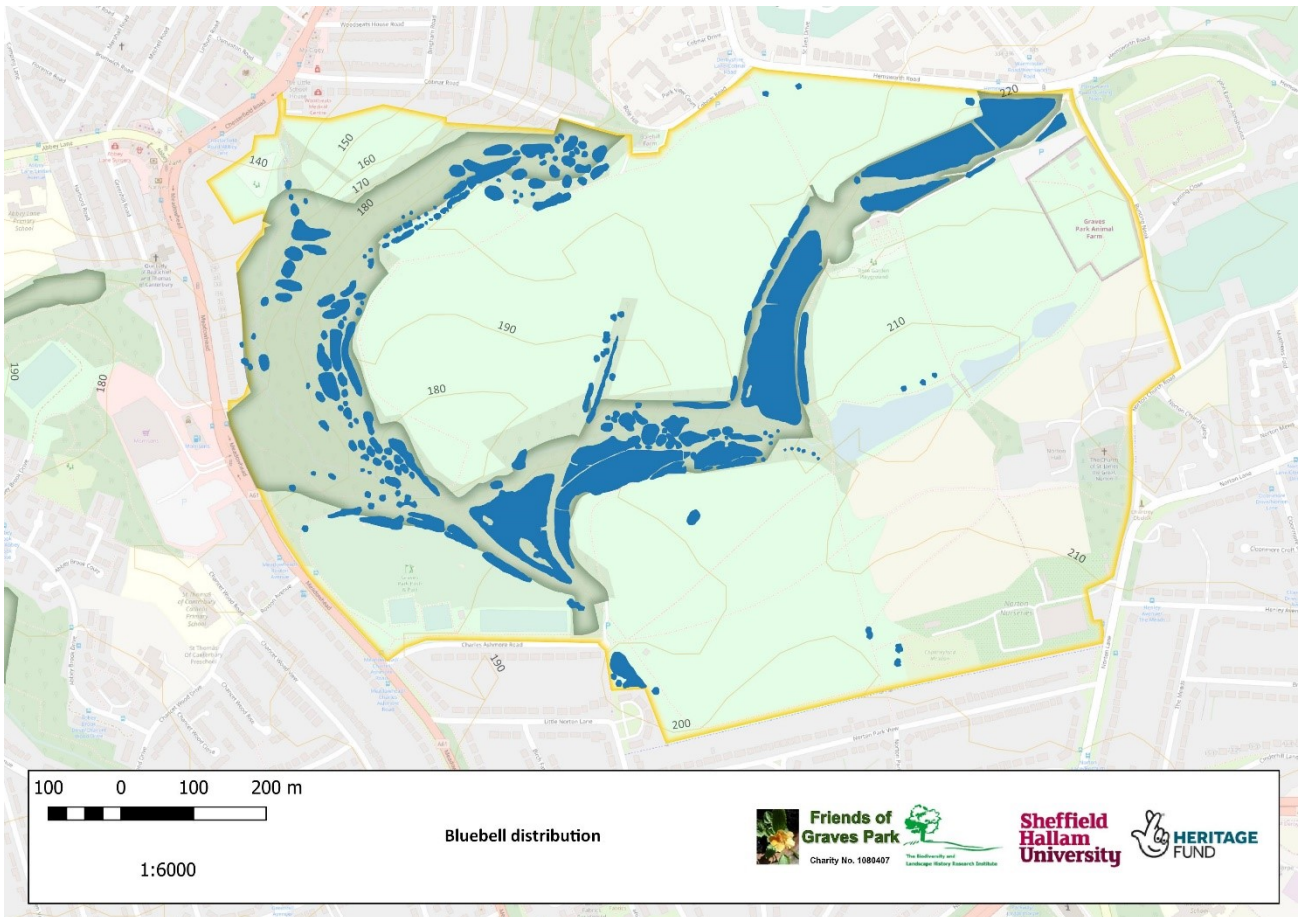
Early summer species: (*= already known from Graves Park)

*Wood melick grass, *wood millet grass, *honeysuckle, *greater woodrush, hairy woodrush, wood sedge, *remote sedge, pendulous sedge, *broad-leaved helleborine, bilberry, *creeping soft-grass, *pignut (grass or wood), wood brome grass, wood false-brome grass, wavy hair-grass, *wood sage.

Other species to not include as indicators (because of their ubiquity) – wood avens, giant fescue grass, native holly, hazel, old oaks, and old ash.

The various layers of evidence were over-laid as computer-generated GIS maps to allow interrogation of the differing sources of information from the investigation. Examples of the distribution maps for Wood Anemone and Bluebell are given below. They show some similarities but also differences in terms of coverage within and outside the Ancient Woodland boundaries. Some of this variation can be explained by the different habitat requirements for each plant and the extent to which they can move in the landscape over time (centuries). Of particular note are the records from outside the current ancient woodland boundaries some of which are currently wooded areas and others which can be identified as boundaries and wooded areas on the eighteenth century maps. Other examples of species maps are given in Appendix D.





Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage in Graves Park - IDR



Dog's mercury – IDR

Finding Lost Norton Park – the Timeline

Prehistoric

The Historic Environment Record (HER) held by South Yorkshire Archaeological Service lists spot finds of a Bronze Age spearhead (ref: 00874/01) and a socketed spearhead (ref: 04637) both at Jordanthorpe. This is just outside the core study area, to the east, but near enough to indicate Bronze Age activity in the area. Within the Park itself, there is a possible Bronze Age Barrow (ref: 00872/01 – MSY4312) listed as an ‘unditched earth mound 1.4m high. This was identified by W.A. Timperley in an archaeological report ‘Discoveries at Oakes Park, Norton’ published in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* vol. **71**, in 1951, where he states, “Mounds. Several have been found some certainly barrows, long and round, others may be. One in Graves Park is probably a Bronze Age round barrow. Another is being excavated and has been shown to cover artificially worked rock in which there are cysts.” It is also speculated that the ‘barrow’ in Graves Park was constructed as a ‘tree mound’, a later feature related to the eighteenth-century landscaping of Norton Park or is a former round pillow mound (rabbit warren) associated with the early medieval deer park. It could be any of these with an earlier burial mound being later re-used several times. In the later twentieth century, the mound was used as a platform for a sculpture created as part of a trail through the park. During the current landscape surveys, several long, linear boundary features (now heavily degraded) have been discerned. The precise date for these is still to be determined but the major one which runs close by the possible barrow also overlain by a confirmed medieval wood and in doing so descends a very steep slope. This feature is suggested by archaeologists to be prehistoric and possibly either Bronze Age or late Neolithic in origin.



Contemporary image of the ‘barrow’ looking south-east across the park.

First to Eleventh Century AD

At present, there is no direct archaeological evidence from within the park of Roman or Romano-British activity. However, a third-century Roman coin (HER ref: 03216/01 – MSY10924), recorded in the HER, was found at Woodseats just to the north-west of the park.

The earliest recorded written reference to Norton [manor] is in 1002, in the will of Wulfric Spott who gifted the land to Ufegeat to help support Burton Abbey. Spott was an Anglo-Saxon nobleman with extensive landholdings across the North Midlands including in modern-day Staffordshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. He was one of the key lieutenants of King Aethelred (Ethelred), charged with policing and safeguarding the Northumbria / Mercia border which at the time ran close by the historic manor and the Park.

By the middle of the eleventh century, at the time of Edward the Confessor, and according to Domesday (1086 AD), the manor had passed to Godiva and Bada who were recorded as the lords at Norton and holding the lands between them. The listing for the Manor of Norton describes a very small settlement, comprising 12½ bovates and eight acres of land with enough land for two ploughs and three households (villanes) and one plough. In the wider soke of Tupton and Norton there were seven acres of meadow, 60 acres of 'cleared land' and 45 sq. miles of woodland for pannage (5x3 leagues).

At the time of Domesday (1086), the manor of Norton is listed as having a much lower value than in 1066 (from 20s (£1) to 1s 5d (7p)) which is probably an indication that Norton was 'wasted' as part of William's suppression of rebellion in the north. It was under the custodianship of Roger de Busli who had been appointed tenant-in-chief of the area by William I in recognition of his support in the [Norman] invasion. Roger held extensive lands across the area including in Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, his principal base was at Tickhill. The lord of Norton, who held the land under a grant/ lease from Roger de Busli, is listed as Ingram of Bilby (his name is sometimes written as Ingelram).

It is possible that there was already a place of Christian worship, near to the existing church, by the end of the eleventh century and perhaps even a house next to it but there are currently no definitive records to confirm this.

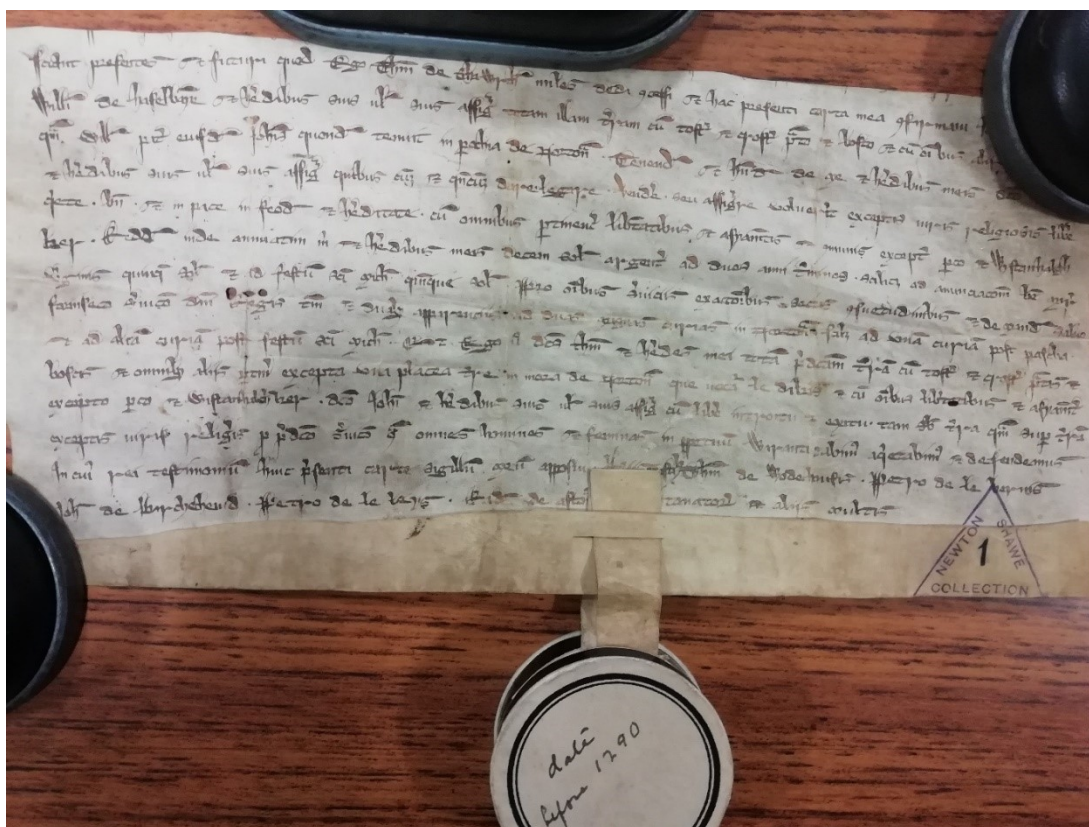
Twelfth to Fifteenth Centuries

Norton's parish church, St James the Greater, is a Grade II* listed building (HER ref: 00258/01 – MSY 3899; NHLE 1178962) with elements (restored door) dating back to the twelfth century and a thirteenth century tower. There are medieval slab grave covers in the chancel and when under-floor heating was installed in 2005 the work uncovered 'an exposed pilaster base' and a 'possible early clay surface'. It is one of the oldest churches inside the modern City of Sheffield boundary.

Ingram's son, Ranulph de Alfreton (or Ralf de FitzIngelram), inherited the lordships of Norton & Alfreton with Markham in the twelfth century. He served as Sheriff of Nottingham & Derbyshire twice around the middle of the century in the time of Henry II. This lineage included Robert FitzRanulph de Alfreton, who, through a gift of land to Welbeck Abbey around 1176, founded Beauchief Abbey (approx. 3km to the west of Norton Park) as a daughter house to Welbeck. Beauchief's official foundation date is 1183. The de Alfreton estates were extensive and passed down the male line until the mid-thirteenth century, during the reign of Henry III, when the line failed to produce a male heir.

Alicia de Alfreton the daughter of Thomas, the last male heir of the de Alfreton lands was one of his co-heirs. She married Sir William de Chaworth and had a son also called Thomas. In the *Medieval Parks of Derbyshire*, (Woore and Wiltshire 2009), a timeline is given for a medieval park at Norton although their conclusions do not specifically identify the site of the Old Park (part of

Norton Park) as the medieval park. The timeline includes a record of a right of free warren granted to a Thomas de Chaworth in 1257 (W & W ref: Cal. Chart. R. no.472) and a record of a Thomas de Chaworth asking for a warrant of free warren in 1281 (W & W ref: Derbys. E. No. 466). [During the current research project a thirteenth century Chaworth charter was found in the Newton Shaw collection in Sheffield Archives but this has yet to be translated in full to see if there are any specific location references which may shed light on the site of this park.] Alicia de Alfreton's father, Thomas died in 1269, so (speculatively) the right of free warren granted in 1257 may have been to Thomas de Alfreton's grandson, Thomas de Chaworth. And he, Thomas de Chaworth, was the one, who in 1281, applied for the further warrant of free warren (W & W ref: Derbys. E. No. 446). [One of the questions here is whether the 1257 warrant was still operational in 1281 and the latter application was for an extension to the original or whether the original had lapsed or had to be applied for again due to inheritance issues and was being re-instated and/ or perhaps enlarged. This may then start to explain the multiple smaller boundary park features which can still be traced.]



Document held in the Newton Shaw collection at Sheffield Archives.

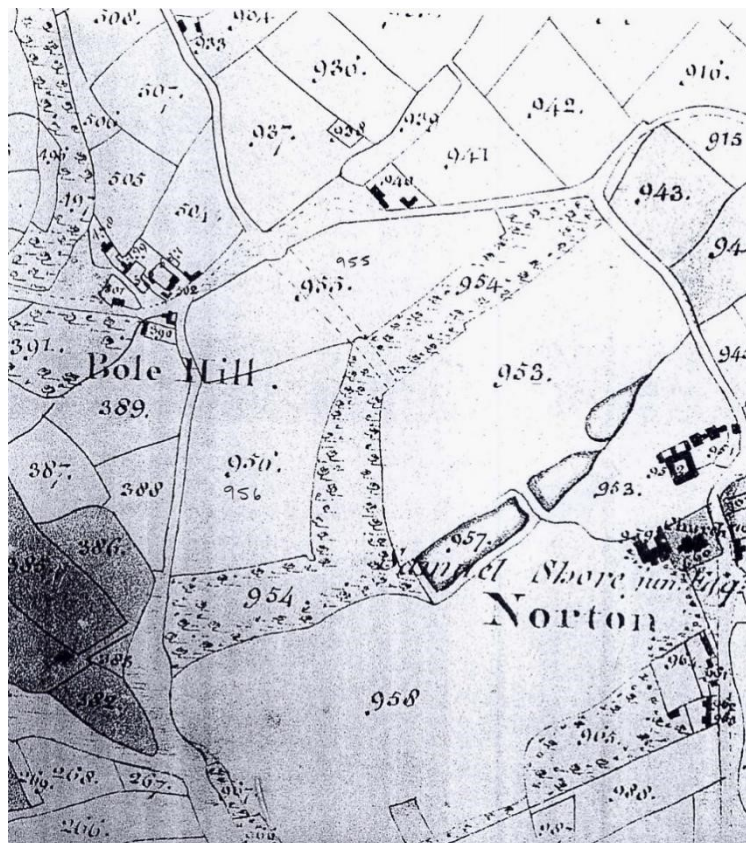
By 1330, records show that another Thomas de Chaworth had a park and right of free warren at Norton and, according to Armitage "... the jury returned a favourable report. [on how it was kept]". He quotes from pedigrees of the Chaworth family published in the *Thoroton Transactions* of 1903 & 1904 that, "The Chaworths, as early as 1260, had a park at Norton and no man may hunt there under a penalty of £10." This date ties in with the right of free warren granted in 1257. [It has not yet been possible in the current work to verify this by consulting the original documents.]

It should be noted that the Chaworth and Alfreton families also held other manors and land-holdings elsewhere in Derbyshire/ Nottinghamshire and we have not yet found evidence of the extent of the use of the park as the principal residence. In the Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire

Charters, Jeay (1906), there are nine charters listed under Norton. The most relevant is that from 1352, where Thomas Cha[u]worth gives John & Isabella Tynet ‘all lands which were sometimes Robert de Loucock and a piece of land known as Harecrofte in Norton’ which is probably an early reference to the land referred to as Nether and Upper Harehills on later maps. And, in 1474, there was confirmation by the feoffees (free-holders) of Thomas Chaworth to Henry Foljambe of the stewardship of Thomas’s manors including Norton, at a yearly fee of 40s.

What is known, from the Beauchief Abbey records, is that Chaworth family members were buried at the Abbey during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and were large benefactors of that foundation. By the end of the fifteenth century, the male line had once again died out and, Joan, the daughter of William Chaworth, inherited the Alfreton and Norton estates. These estates passed to John Ormond (her husband) and their principal residence became Wiverton House in Leicestershire which was imparked in the fifteenth century. The last Chaworth burial at Beauchief Abbey was Sir Thomas, Joan’s grandfather, in 1489.

North of the main parkland and adjoining parts of the earliest medieval parks, lies Bolehill; a site of early lead-smelting. The location is marked by trackways to carry lead ore from Derbyshire and by a small hamlet with ancient cottages and the eighteenth-century Bolehill Farm.



William Fairbanks map of 1804/05 showing the Bole Hill hamlet and the line of the old Turnpike (London Road)

The latter marks the parliamentary enclosures of perhaps an open-field landscape into a modern farming era to the west of the medieval park. From the present-day Bolehill Farm the old Derbyshire Lane or London Road (now abandoned) heads due south across the western boundary of an area shown on maps as Spring Park. The name ‘Spring’ in Spring Park is likely to be a reference to the nearby ‘springs’ or coppices in the adjacent ancient woodland known at that time by the simple name of ‘The Wood’. The boundary is evidenced by a massive hollow-way with

ancient trees and botanical indicator plants along its edges. The plants indicate a historical continuity in the landscape. This track-way and the later eighteenth-century improvements associated with enclosures are marked by high-status gate-stoops and the remains of bridges across the (now) Graves Park Beck. The mix of features may represent periods both before and after the main farming enclosures but this remains to be confirmed. The grasslands in the present-day park include visible remains from prehistoric periods, through the era of the medieval and later deer-parks, and of the associated open fields of both Norton village and the nearby hamlet of Little Norton. Close to the latter there was a complex landscape of small, enclosed fields but now much of this is lost under twentieth-century housing and the formalisation of the nineteenth-century park boundary. Lands to the immediate west of the present park were also lost when the main Chesterfield Road was cut through and then widened. The twentieth-century military use of that area also removed the earlier park and rural landscape.

The woodlands at both Cobnar Wood and 'The Wood' have a number of early charcoal hearths dating probably from the 1200s and through until the 1700s. These were probably last used in the 1600s as the park evolved into a picturesque landscape and the earlier industrial activities ended. There are associated trackways and other features from these activities.

Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

The Ormond family had, via marriage and inheritance, extensive landholdings across the country and the Alfreton & Norton estate was split between two of Joan and John's daughters in the early sixteenth century. One, another Joan, married Thomas Denham, the other, Elizabeth, married Sir Anthony Babington. The result was that the estate was split between the Denham and the Babington families. Little direct reference to the Park and associated buildings has so far been found in the archival searches.

Through the sixteenth century, the Denham's share of the estate passed successively, to the Bullocks, the Eyres, and the Blythes who were all prominent families in the local area at the time. In 1587, after the treasonous 'Babington Plot' and the death of Sir Anthony Babington, the other half of Norton Manor was also acquired by the Blythe family. Earlier, in 1566, there is a record of a fine levied on Henry Babington of Dethick; the details relate to land in Coal Aston and part of the manor of Norton but do not refer specifically to the hall and park. (Ref: D1088/MT/1)

The Bullock[e] family bought the estate together with the manorial rights from the Blythe family sometime towards the end of the sixteenth century. There are memorials to the Bullock[e] family in Norton parish church; and a Blythe chapel was added to the church in 1524 to commemorate the parents of Geoffrey Blythe who had lived at Norton Lees. The Bullock[e] family continued as the Lords of the Manor and likely occupants of Norton Hall into the middle of the seventeenth century. However, they supported the Royalist cause in the English Civil War and suffered severe financial losses as a consequence. This resulted in the mortgaging and eventual sale of the estate and Manor to Cornelius Clarke. There are several records of sales and leases by the Bullock[e] family in the Derbyshire Records Office dated between 1666 and 1674. These include 'Title Deeds for Lease and Possession' (ref: D369/G/ZT/27) from 1668, relating to a conveyance from Sarah Bullocke the widow of William Bullocke which mentions the manor house at Norton, with 'all outhouses, lands and messuages with the manors of Norton, Greenhill, Jordanthorpe, Bradway and Coal Aston'. However, no precise location is given for the manor house etc. at Norton. In 1672, in another deed relating to the tithes (ref: D187/9/7) "5s of tithes from named lands in Norton and

belonging to the capital message of Norton in which Samuel lives ...” Again, as far as we have been able to find, no precise locations are given for the Hall.

After the death of Cornelius Clarke in 1696, his sister Ursula and through her, his nephew Robert Offley inherited Norton Hall and became the Lord of the Manor. The Offley family owned the estate for several generations. There was a picture dating from the end of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth century, which used to hang in the Hall showing the Offley’s huntsman, George Chantry and his ‘whipper-in’ Brownell with two hunting dogs. It also shows an old three-storey and bayed ‘Elizabethan’ Hall in the background with trees and a walled structure at the front. This picture is reproduced in Armitage’s *Chantreyland* (1910) and at the time the book was published, the painting still hung in the Hall. The picture gives what is perhaps the earliest pictorial depiction of the Hall and Park. It is unclear as to what became of the original picture.

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries



William Dickinson’s 1741 Map & Plan of Norton Hall Park estate for Joseph Offley

The Offley family continued as Lords of the Manor until around the middle of the eighteenth century when there was no male succession. In 1741, Joseph Offley commissioned a plan of 'Norton Hall with lands that lye contiguous thereto' from William Dickinson. This is the earliest detailed pictorial representation of the Hall, grounds and associated parkland that we have so far discovered. It gives a detailed picture of the Hall, the parkland surrounding it, the location of gardens, orchards, woodland, individual trees and ponds as well as entrances and track/ carriage ways. It clearly shows the 'old hall' in relation to the church; a large paddock with smaller enclosure in one corner; a sequence of three ponds; the stable block, ornamental and kitchen gardens; the extent of woodland and a named 'The Wood'; names of fields/ open areas including Spring Park, Old Parks, Harehill and Holling Hill (the latter possibly signifying an area of Hollins for winter deer fodder; and the tower on the hill overlooking 'Old Parks' (to the southwest) opposite the Hall. The original, in colour, is in the Newton Shaw Collection at Sheffield Archives (see below). Close examination of this plan has raised the question of whether it also includes some potential 'improvements' to the parkland with lines of trees apparently super-imposed on and across older features. It is known that Joseph Offley had plans for the rebuilding of the old Hall and he is credited with building a new western wing.

The major redevelopment of the Hall was left to the Shore family at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century (see map of 1775). There is a print of 1793 which shows the Hall in transition and includes a smaller, pitched roofed building as an eastern wing nearest to the church. Part of this smaller building still appears to be incorporated into the modern boundary wall between church and Hall. Bricked-in stone window frames on the church side of the wall and possible chimney recesses on the hall side of the wall were found during field surveys in summer 2019.



The boundary wall between the churchyard and the Hall: a) filled-in window and b) opposite side and c) recess to wall on the Hall side - CH

Without a male heir, the estate had passed via Urith Offley to the Shore family with her marriage to Samuel Shore. It was Samuel Shore together with his son, also Samuel, who rebuilt Norton Hall largely as it is today and they were responsible for greatly extending and opening out the grounds around the house. These works transformed the park into a landscape of beautiful formal gardens and picturesque parkland. A map was commissioned in 1775, 'A map of the Demesn Grounds at Norton the seat of Samuel Shore Esq.' (see below). This shows a survey of the area around the Hall giving details of fields and boundaries including names, similar to the map and plan of 1741. However, the 1775 map and plan show changes in landscape features and gardens and include a

different entrance and approach to the Hall and new lodges etc. Several features of this landscape still exist and are recognisable within the park today and link to the present-day Norton Hall.



1775 Map of Norton Hall Park and grounds produced for Samuel Shore

As part of the later improvement works to the estate, a new carriageway to the house was developed. It allowed visitors to approach across the parkland from an entrance and lodge which came off the new London/ Chesterfield Road through the hamlet of Little Norton. This gave a grander entrance with views of the house, ornamental parkland and gardens than formerly when the entrance was from close by the church. The route of the new carriageway followed the line of a much older track-way to the church and as part of the development a new straight path and boundary to the park was created (sketch map shown below). This cut off part of the older landscape and one of the pond features known as the Serpentine pond. The new path became

known as the Serpentine Path (although it was straight) and is still in use today. The carriageway was used as the main public route to the house into the middle of the twentieth century and is now one of the main paths leading towards the house from the Charles Ashmore Road entrance to Graves Park. Some of the old trees and tree-stumps still line the way; these have been GPS plotted onto the modern map. The new boundary alongside the Serpentine Path still exists as the modern boundary of the park with a long section of thin-flagged sandstone wall which we believe is original and locally quarried.



Map showing the alignment and re-alignment of the new carriageway and public rights of way across Norton Park

The 'List of Gentlemen and Gamekeepers' Certificates for Killing Game' which appeared in the *Derbyshire Mercury*, September 1800, records Samuel Shore Jun. as gentleman and Isaac Thomas as gamekeeper. They are both shown at Norton Hall. They appear on lists from other years and in September 1820, there is a notice published in the *Sheffield Independent* stating that a gamekeeper has been appointed for the Manor and giving warnings to poachers etc. The illustration below of 'Norton Hall from the Deer Park in the 1800s' shows a later ornamental deer park in the areas shown as Upper Harehills and the Tofts on the eighteenth century maps. It is also interesting to note that the line of trees shown in the illustration can be traced on the earlier map and one or two of these may still survive in the modern landscape.

In 1823, Ebenezer Rhodes visited Norton Hall and its park, and wrote about his walk through the grounds in his book, *Peak Scenery or the Derbyshire Tourist (1824)*. He describes in some detail this walk looking at the picturesque scenery from within the Park, visiting the grottoes, a well, a stumpery and other features (which included inscriptions of poems next to seats) which Samuel Shore had had designed; together with his [Rhodes] impressions of the new Hall. Rhodes described some of the old trees in the Park, "*Norton Park is well stored with stately trees; the oak and elm, and particularly the ash, find kindly nurture in the soil, and flourish in health and beauty...*". He particularly noted the views, "*From Norton Park many openings occur that admit distant views of the country around. To the west, the hills of Beauchief are singularly beautiful, both in form and clothing, and Ecclesal Wood, declining gently into the vale from the right of the landscape, is a very pleasing feature in the scene; beyond the heathy moors of Derbyshire fill up the distance, which is*

often rich in colouring and picturesque with light and shadow. From these grounds some of the finest effects of nature are often presented when the sun is sinking in the west: at this particular time of the day, the moors that terminate the prospect are often seen reposing in a deep purple shadow, while the nearer objects, touched with the rays of the setting sun, are brilliantly lighted up with his departing effulgence." This description and the views of the sunset attracted visitors and tourists in the nineteenth century. The vistas across to the Derbyshire moorlands and views of the sunset still draw visitors today.



Norton Hall from the deer park in the early 1800s



Norton Park sunset by Ian Rotherham

The Norton Estate remained with the Shore family until 1843, when Offley Shore, was forced to dispose of the Estate. This was owing to the failure of the Sheffield Old Bank (Parker, Shore & Co.) of which he was co-owner. Shore had difficulty selling the Hall and Park so the next resident of Norton Hall was James Yates, a tenant rather than the owner and Lord of the Manor. Yates is of interest in the wider context of the time since he was a scientist and in 1846 was President of the Sheffield Literary & Philosophical Society. He hosted at least one meeting at Norton Hall and knew local luminaries James Montgomery, Joseph Hunter, and Henry Clifton Sorby joining the latter on local geological expeditions.

Eventually the Shore Estate was put up for auction in 1850 in several lots. A copy of the sale particulars including maps and written details for the whole estate is in the Newton Shaw collection available in Sheffield City Archives (ref: NS/116). The sale particulars refer to the Summerhouse which appears to have been built as an extension to the much older tower (identified in the 1741 estate plan and known from later photographs) and Parks including a Deer Park. However, the area shown as the Deer Park on the sale map looks as though it is an ornamental feature nearer to the house rather than part of the ancient park. There is another area marked as 'Old Park' further to the northwest and which at the time was overlooked by the Summerhouse. Below the Summerhouse, adjacent to a trackway was a pond next to which was another building known as the 'Old Coach House'. There are photographs of these with the Summerhouse on the hill behind and whilst the buildings no longer exist the outline of the pond can still be seen as can the ditch and bank boundary (of Old Park) running north from the pond.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, it appears that the Summerhouse was a separate residence to the Hall and no longer functioned as part of the Park. Map evidence shows a separate entrance and drive-way from Bunting Nook (an ancient sunken hollow-way leading from Norton Lees and Meersbrook to the Parish Church; also forming the boundary of the ancient and modern parks) with a garden area to the front of the Summerhouse overlooking the ponds towards the Hall. Woodland now surrounded the Summerhouse on the other sides although none were shown on the eighteenth century maps. A report of an accident in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* in 1856 names Mr Chapman as living at the Summerhouse. In 1894, in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, there is an advert for a holiday let for Norton Hall (between similar entries for Matlock and Bridlington) and asking for all enquiries to be addressed to Mrs Lee, Summerhouse, Norton Park, nr Sheffield.

The Hall and Park were eventually bought around 1860 by Charles Cammell, one of the new generation of Sheffield steel magnates and businessmen. During the time that the Cammell family lived at the Hall there were some alterations and a 'Colonnade' or Orangery was built onto the Hall and a gasworks constructed near to the stable block to supply the house. Charles' son, Bernard Cammell, also lived at the Hall. The family entertained in the grounds including opening them up to public fêtes; one of which is depicted in a print from around 1890 (IDR personal collection). This shows a range of activities including a marching band, picnics, photographers and several large marquees in an area where public fairs and events still take place in 2019. In 1887, Norton Park was described as "200 acres of 'rich arable pasture park and woodland' with timber, and abounding with oak and other trees, as well 'as sheets of water and extensive pleasure grounds'".

In 1892, the Cammell family sold the Hall and Park to John Sudbury who shortly afterwards sold the estate to William Frederick Goodliffe, a hosiery (stocking) manufacturer from Nottingham. He lived in the house with his wife and two daughters until retiring to Bournemouth in 1902, when he sold the estate.

The landscape has extensive features associated with this period and these include some of the ornamental tree-plantings of the parks as evidenced on old maps and which remain today as mature trees and avenues. There are also significant built structures and in particular the grand entrance from Derbyshire Lane and the associated gatekeeper's lodge.

Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries



Norton Hall early 1900s showing the later addition of the colonnade and trees which are still in existence today

Bernard Alexander Firth, from another well-known Sheffield steel magnate family, bought the Hall and Park in 1902. Firth, an army officer and keen shot, converted the old quarry in Cobnar Banks (now Cobnar Wood) on his estate into a shooting range for the Norton Rifles Association. The quarry had fallen out of use late in the nineteenth century. He lived at the Hall until, during WW1, it was requisitioned as officers' quarters for No.2 Northern Aircraft Repair Depot which was built alongside the Park. Firth, a distinguished soldier and businessman, moved first to Dorset and then to Cirencester where he died in 1929. Although he still had ties to Sheffield he did not take up residence at Norton again after WW1 and this resulted in the Norton Hall and Park estate starting to fragment. At that time, Sheffield Corporation and Sheffield Joint Hospital Boards were looking at the expansion of the city (residential and commercial) and the need for a bigger hospital to serve the whole of the city. The Norton Hall and Park estate was put forward as one possible site for this hospital.

Prior to the sale to the Hospital Board, Firth, in 1921, had agreed to lease the old kitchen garden together with a house, adjacent woodland and rookery, and orchard to Edward Sibley to develop a plant nursery on the site. This area formed part of what had been Shore's eighteenth-century designed landscape. The Nursery developed and passed through via John Hogg to Henry Widdowson who moved out in 1940. It was during this time that the 'Chantrey Viola' was created by the nursery. In 1936, Alderman J.G. Graves had bought a further 44 acres of land for the new Graves Park which included the Nursery though Widdowson was allowed to remain until his lease expired. The Nursery continued as the City Council's Parks Department plant nurseries until the 1990s. During that time the area of nursery was expanded and partly re-developed, so some of the original features from the eighteenth century and earlier are no longer evident. However, the Friends of Graves Park group now have part of the site as their wildlife and orchard or arboretum

area and during recent surveys it is apparent that some features from the older landscape still exist.



Old boundary wall by former kitchen garden / nursery (pets' cemetery) EB 0719

In 1925, Norton Hall together with 112 acres of parkland was purchased on behalf of the Sheffield Voluntary Hospitals (Joint Hospital Board) and Bernard Firth gave a further 7½ acres of land as a gift to the hospitals. This was a significant change in the ownership of the land. It had moved from private ownership to municipal ownership for the first time. The Hall and land purchased by and gifted to the Hospital Boards included cottages at Little Norton (just outside the Park) and the old lodges for the Park and part of the immediate parkland around the house. It did not include all the land now covered by the modern Graves Park. After a further review it was decided not to build the new major hospital at Norton, and instead an alternative site at what is now the Northern General Hospital (just to the north of the centre of Sheffield) was chosen. It was agreed instead that the Hall would become an annexe for Jessop's Hospital for Women (which has premises in the city centre) and this was opened in 1927 closing in 1972. The building then became a private hospital before being converted into apartments in the 1990s. The Hall (as Norton Hall Hospital with Orangery and Colonnade) was listed Grade II* in 1973 and amended in 1995, NHLE listing number 1246798. This mostly covers internal features and the building itself rather than the garden and any of the wider parkland setting.

The Joint Sheffield Hospital Board retained some of the land and tenancies on the cottages and lodges into the 1940s but other parcels of land (nearest to the modern Norton Park Road and adjacent to where there had been some building for the Aircraft Depot) were sold for private residential development. This in effect covered over part of the southern boundary of the old Park and built over the ornamental 'Serpentine Pond' although this southern boundary had been modified and straightened in the eighteenth century by the Shore family as part of their new landscaping (see earlier).



Norton Hall as the Jessop's Hospital Annexe mid-1900s - IDR

A further 154 acres of the Estate which included the Summerhouse and land next to Norton Hall and Park were purchased by Councillor and Mrs J.G. Graves in 1925. This land was presented to the City Corporation as a gift to the people of the City of Sheffield, for use as a public park and was named Graves Park in their honour. This purchase was partly as a result of the interest by speculative builders and the potential availability of more land surrounding Norton Hall being put up for sale and built on. It was also partly in keeping with J.G. Graves' philanthropic interests in 'saving' green open-space for the benefit of the people of Sheffield. During the 1920s and '30s, sporting and recreation facilities in the park were developed including an open-air theatre, formal rose garden and tea pavilion/ cafe. The open-air theatre, which proved very popular in the late 1920s and 1930s, was built into the former shooting range and old quarry with new walks and gardens constructed from the bottom of Cobnar Road through Cobnar Ravine (at the south-west end of the park). Further small parcels of land were acquired to enlarge the Park towards Woodseats and Chesterfield Road during the 1930s. These extensions incorporated areas of old farmland (at least dating from the seventeenth century) and the route of the old (1756) Turnpike Road from Sheffield to London. These features have been mapped and recorded as part of the 2019 project. [This road was the turnpike from Sheffield south to Chesterfield and in Norton Park followed the western boundary of the early deer park and the line of a medieval 'holloway'. South of Norton village Norton Lane was turnpiked in 1825 to run westwards to Greenhill Moor. When the Woodseats to Meadowhead by-pass (Chesterfield Road) opened in 1797, the old Derbyshire Lane was 'stopped up and discontinued' in 1806.]

In newspaper reports of the development of the Park, the Summerhouse was called 'The Dower House' and was reported as pre-dating Norton Hall. The formal rose garden and tea pavilion/ cafe were built just at the front of the Summerhouse taking over some of the land that was used as the Summerhouse garden. The Café and garden are still well-used and popular today. The Summerhouse which was acquired as part of the sale in 1925 became the head park-keeper's house. Prior to that time it had been lived in by a succession of tenants who had run various businesses from the premises. The old tower incorporated into the house was where the bell was rung to tell people that the park was closing. The pictures of the building show a squat stone built tower with a brick-built extension. The house became uninhabitable in the late 1940s / early 1950s

and was then used as a joinery workshop and for the winter storage of the rowing boats used on the ornamental ponds (pers. comm.) until the whole was demolished in the 1960s. The footings of the buildings can still be found, together with pathways at the back of the present café and rose garden area. These footings were mapped in 2019 as part of the current project.



Summerhouse in the 1930s

During WW2, part of the Graves Park area was converted to arable (in part its former land-use as evidenced by extensive ridge and furrow) whilst other parts of the former Norton Park (around the area next to the Rose Garden and café) were covered with defensive structures to stop enemy aircraft landing. The Park also included a civil defence / Home Guard post and look-out area. The stable block at the Hall was requisitioned by the Army but the hospital continued as the annexe for Jessop's Hospital especially after 1940 when the area around the city-centre hospital site was bomb-damaged.

From the late 1940s onwards, the area now known as Graves Park developed as a municipal park with new sporting facilities (pitches, pavilions and tennis courts /etc.) and Norton Hall, continued as a hospital with a separate public entrance through some of the older parkland which the Sheffield Hospital Board had retained as part of their estate. During the 1960s and 1970s, the final land acquisitions were made. The area nearest the entrance from Hemsworth Road / Bunting Nook being incorporated into the park to create the Rare Breeds Centre (now the Animal Park) with new car parking facilities and alterations to the entrance. Previously the old boundary wall, which delimited the extent of the 'Old Park' (the probable boundary of the original thirteenth-century park), had been replaced along Hemsworth Road. However, it still follows the older alignment. The early park pale is evidenced along the lower part of Summerhouse Wood (an eighteenth-century plantation) by a bank and deep ditch. The area of parkland that was retained by the Health Authority was also acquired; this area is now fields, and houses some of the animal grazing for the farm. The 2019 surveys and mapping exercises have identified features within these fields including trees which we believe date back to the designed landscape of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and may even hold evidence of the earlier park and gardens of the sixteenth- / seventeenth-century hall.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, Graves Park is now the largest municipal park within Sheffield continuing to house sporting facilities such as the tennis courts, bowling green, pitch-and-putt, and sports pitches (football and cricket) across part of the site. Some of the farm buildings and cottages have been sold or are under threat, although the former nursery garden area is now managed as a community project. The larger part of the present-day park however, includes some ancient woodland and later eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantations; large expanses of open grassland interspersed with trees; the series of three ponds shown on the earliest known detailed plans of Norton Park; and ancient routeways including the eighteenth century carriageway to the Hall. The latter was originally a path which led to the church from Little Norton (diverted in the eighteenth century to make way for the carriage route) as well as more-recent paths leading into and through the park as part of the local amenity network. Whilst Norton Hall itself, the stable block, and the parish church are no longer intimately linked to the Park, the aspects and views from the modern park and grounds of the Hall are still recognisable from nineteenth century prints of the area and there are many older features that still exist.

The park grasslands have extensive ridge-and-furrow of variable date from medieval, to nineteenth-century, and perhaps twentieth-century wartime cultivation. Grassland areas hold evidence of the enclosure farming period around Bolehill Farm although it is possible that the major recurved lynchets here are of an earlier provenance. Around the perimeter of much of the modern park there are extensive walls and other boundary features which probably date in part from the 1600s and 1700s with 1800s additions. Within the park itself there are numerous boundaries and associated walls, banks, and ditches often with multiple phases of usage; in some cases from prehistoric to the modern-day. Re-use of materials from the earlier boundaries has also occurred with extensive 'robbing' of the older park boundaries to form the designed gardenesque features including path-sides and cascades down the Cobnar Ravine.

There are two major commemorative avenues of planted trees with memorial plaques to the various Lord Mayors and Lady Mayoresses of Sheffield. Whilst some of these have been recorded and in some cases the commemorative plaques have been grown into the tree trunks, many have been stolen. The avenue running north towards Derbyshire Lane seems to remove an earlier planted avenue from the 1700s / 1800s perhaps removed during WW1.

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(Also see Appendix C)

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Photographs taken as part of the NHLF project 'Finding Lost Norton Park'



September 2019 public walk - CDP



July botanical indicators survey workshop - CDP



Field survey parch marks – B. Greatorex



View over old paddock area – CH

Appendix A:

Historic England Criteria for Registration of Rural Landscapes: Criteria for recognition and registration

[Notes extracted from Historic England 'Rural Landscapes Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide' first published 2013 with second edition 2017].

All sites included on the Register of Parks and Gardens must hold a level of significance defined as 'special historic' interest in a national context. Nine general criteria have been defined, five relating to date and rarity, and four to other considerations, which have been used in assessing candidates for inclusion since the start of the Register in the 1980s.

6.1 Date and rarity

The older a designed landscape is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to have special interest. Likely to be designated are: a) Sites formed before 1750 where at least a significant proportion of the principal features of the original layout is still in evidence; b) Sites laid out between 1750 and 1840 where enough of the layout survives to reflect the original design; c) Sites with a main phase of development post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required special interest rising as the site becomes closer in time. Particularly careful selection is required for sites from the period after 1945. Sites of less than 30 years old are normally registered only if they are of outstanding quality and under threat.

6.2 Further considerations

Further considerations which may influence selection, and may exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit designation, are as follows. In each case there is an expectation that at least a significant proportion of the main elements of the designed landscape layout survives: a) Sites which were influential in the development of taste, whether through reputation or reference in literature; b) Sites which are early or representative examples of a style of layout or a type of site, or the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of national importance; c) Sites having an association with significant persons; d) Sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets.

Graves Park nee Norton Park demonstrates features from **6.1 a)** formed before 1750, where a significant proportion of the principal features of the original layout is still in evidence, and **6.1 b)** laid out between 1750 and 1840 and with enough of the layout surviving to reflect the original design. Furthermore, Norton Park is strongly associated with literary outputs such as by Harold Armitage, and with the iconic birthplace of Sir Francis Chantrey, England's finest ever wood sculptor. The site is the centrepiece of a remarkable collection of imparkations during the 1500s to the 1900s. The designed landscape from the late 1700s to the 1900s was undoubtedly influenced by Capability Brown and Joseph Paxton who worked at nearby Chatsworth, and by Robert Marnock (Paxton's student) who worked elsewhere in Sheffield.

Appendix B

Future work priorities

A first priority for heritage-related work will be to collate a catalogue of heritage ‘finds’ for the site with a brief description, an interim assessment of importance and significance, and an evaluation of current status and degree of threat.

This will be followed by two major phases of community-based citizen-science research and activity.

Phase 2 Collecting and collating key information and developing local skills and resources.

Wildlife Workshops & field sessions:

1. Flora of meadows & pastures – wild flowers as indicators of old grasslands
2. Waxcaps & grassland fungi as indicators of unimproved pastures
3. Butterflies & moths
4. Lichens & bryophytes of ancient woodlands
5. Woodland fungi as indicators
6. The birds of Graves Park – to include importance for ‘visible migration’ – breeding, wintering, migrating
7. The bats of Graves Park
8. Other fauna

Local history & memories:

1. Oral histories – interviews, workshops, transcriptions, collations
2. Archival research – workshops, field research, transcriptions, collations, interpretation

Heritage & archaeology:

1. Mapping the sub-surface archaeology of the earlier landscape, Norton halls & grounds & Summerhouse – geophysical survey (magnetometer survey, ground-penetrating radar survey, and/or resistance survey as deemed necessary.)
2. Mapping & recording significant trees
3. Drone imaging & aerial photography; high resolution LiDAR (COMMISSIONED survey)
4. Aerial photography (COMMISSIONED survey)
5. Mapping and recording the boundaries of the parks
6. Coring and auguring selected features – barrow, linear bank, charcoal hearths, wetland sediments in Waterfall Wood, geophysical survey (magnetic resistivity, ground-penetrating radar)
7. Tree cores for ageing & growth-rates
8. Tree graffiti & stories

Some outputs:

1. Leaflets, booklets, on-line materials

Phase 3 Drawing together and developing the interactive outputs.

3-D computer models – time-sliced

Possible targeted excavations – linear banks, barrow, around hall, old nursery, old coach house and Summerhouse

The wider landscape & parks around Norton

Book on the history & natural history of Norton Park

Appendix C

Finding Lost Norton Park: selected catalogue of archival & historical sources and resources

Books NB: there are other popular publications, for example from Heron Publishing, which have images of and mention the Park and Hall.

Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
Chantreyland	Ch.7 Lords of the Manor gives an account of the successive owners of the manor and Norton Hall up to the early twentieth century. Also includes reproductions of illustrations of Norton Hall and Park. Quotes comments by contemporaries relating to some of the redevelopment that took place.	Armitage, H. 1910 new edition 1989 Applebaum Books, Sheffield
Peak Scenery or the Derbyshire Tourist	Part 4 Section 1 pp270-273 is a description of a walk to Norton Hall and around Norton Park looking at the picturesque scenery and visiting the grottoes and other features which S. Shore had had designed together with the new Hall.	Rhodes, E. 1824, London
Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire Charters	Lists of charters with descriptions by place-name. Under Alfreton No.23: confirmation by the feoffees of Thomas Chaworth to Henry Foljambe of the stewardship of Thomas's manors including Norton, at a yearly fee of 40s, dated 1474. Under Norton, 9 charters are listed; most relevant one is, No.1776: Grant from Thomas de Chauworth, lord of Norton, to John & Isabella Tynet all lands which were sometimes Robert de Loucock and a piece of land known as Harecrofte in Norton, dated 1352. Others detail land at Little Norton, Jordanthorpe, Norton Lees and Hazelbarrow etc.	Jeayes, I. H. 1906, Bemrose & Sons, London Accessed online
Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals as illustrated by the records of the Quarter Sessions of the County of Derby, from Queen Elizabeth to Queen Victoria	Local history written using the records from the Quarter Sessions – criminal and fiscal – from the late sixteenth century. These have references to Norton but not researched in detail.	Cox, J. C. 1890, Bemrose & Sons, London
Domesday Book (ref) edition	A. Recorded population of 3 households in 1086; Meadow 7a, Woodland 5x3 leagues; in cultivation in 1066 and waste in 1086; owner King William in 1086/ Edward in 1066; 2 owners	A. Phillimore Derbys 1,8 B. Phillimore Derbys

	B. Land of Roger de Busli – 3 villagers, 2 ploughlands & 1 plough team; value £1 in 1066 and 1s5d in 1086; Tenant in chief, Roger de Busli; Lord in 1086, Ingram of Bilby; Lords in 1066, Bada & Godiva of Norton.	16,6 (open Domesday – Anna Powell-Smith website)
Norton (Archive Photographs: Images of England)	Selection of 200 photographs which include some of Norton Hall and surrounding area.	Norton History Group, Tempus Publishing, 2000
Around Norton (Images of England)	A further selection of photographs with some text featuring Norton Hall and Graves Park area.	Norton History Group, Tempus Publishing, 2005

Primary Archival Documentary Sources

Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
Title Deed – copy of grant of lands made in the thirteenth century copied in the sixteenth century	Between Thomas de Chaworth, knight, to Robert de Hanebeck of the land tenanted by William de la Rive around Lichtwood at Norton. The summary doesn't mention Norton Hall or Park. [STILL TO TRANSLATE PROPERLY]	Derbyshire Archaeological Society: Society records and other papers, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D369/G/ZE/1
Quit claim, 1415	By Thomas Chaworth, knight, which lists several manors including Norton – enrolled in the Court of Pleas on 5 th roll of charters and pleadings, Trinity Term, 3 Henry V	Revell family – title deeds, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D184/2/12
Copy deed to lead the uses of a fine, 1566	The fine to be acknowledged by Henry Babington of Dethick, Esq. to John, Lord Darcy of Thorne (Yorks) and Sir Thomas Mettam of the Manors of Dethick and Litchurch and all his lands etc. This covers lands in Coal Aston etc including part of the manor of Norton.	Manor of Dethick – Babbington etc families, Derbyshire County Archives Office, ref: D1088/MT/1
Title Deed of Sale & Lease, 1666	Between William Bullocke and John Stacy of Sheffield mentions field names Over Justice & Nether Justice fields adjacent to a parcel of wood called Spring Wood next to Maidbrooke. [still need to identify precise location]	Derbyshire Archaeological Society: Society records and other papers, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D369/G/ZT/22
Title Deeds of lease for possession,	Document relating to the estate of Sarah Bullocke, widow	Derbyshire Archaeological Society:

1668/1669	of William Bullocke which details land holdings across the parish and includes 'namely a manor house at Norton with all outhouses and lands and messuages with the manors of Norton, Greenhill, Jordanthorpe, Coal Aston and Bradway and all other lands except..... 'However, no precise locations are given for the manor house although it gives details of names of fields, woodland, tenants and an iron furnace and forge.	Society records and other papers, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D369/G/ZT/27
Bargain and Sale, 1672	From John Lee of Lightwood at Norton to Francis Barker of Lees Hall for a newly built messuage called the Oakes for £1,600. [This could be an indication that 'The Oakes & Oakes Park' was a later creation than that of Norton Hall & Park?]	Sheffield City Library Archives, OD 5
Deeds of small properties, Norton Tithes, 1674	Conveyance by Sarah Bullock of Norton widow to Samuel Hallowses of Norton esq. for 5s of tithes from named lands in Norton and belonging to the capital messuage of Norton in which Samuel lives ... [reference to Norton Hall?]	Woolhouse and Gallowses of Glapwell , Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D187/9/7
Copy deeds (Greensmith – Dyneley) re Manor of Darley, 1770	This also includes messuages and appurtenances in Chesterfield, Norton and Bolehill (parish of Norton).	Papers of the Haslam Family, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: D1079/5/1-3
Agreement to sell, 1793	Between Samuel Shore and Joseph Clay & Joseph Deakin for sale of timber in Park Wood. [need to verify location of Park Wood]	Sheffield City Library Archives, YWD 923/10
Norton (Act and Bill) in Quarter Sessions, 1803	Enclosure Act for the Manor of Norton's commons and waste grounds.	Quarter Session Records, Derbyshire Record Office, ref: Q/AR/1/62
Sale Particulars for Norton Hall Estate, 1850	[See also accompanying map which gives location of all items referenced.] The sale particulars detail the tenants, names of the fields and other features and extent of the acreage. Mentions Summer House and Parks including a 'Deer Park' – lots of detail.	Newton Shaw Collection 116, Sheffield City Library Archives.

Maps & Plans

Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
A map of Norton Hall with lands that lye contiguous thereto: Surveyed for Joseph Offley by William Dickinson 1741	Detailed survey and pictorial representation of the old hall, adjacent church and the land around the hall including gardens, orchard, ponds, woodland, field names with boundaries – mentions Old Park, Spring Park, The Wood, Holling Hill & The Paddock; shows small square building (?) at approx. location of Summerhouse. [Question has arisen when comparing this with later maps & plans regarding the true representation of the house and park and a map drawn up to represent the building and landscape plans of Joseph Offley.	Newton Shaw Collection 93, Sheffield City Library Archives.
A map of the footway across the lands of Norton Park passing Norton Hall	Sketch map showing the line of a footpath across the Park to the Church along the approx. line of the late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century carriage way to the Hall which continued as the main public access through the twentieth century until the Jessop Hospital Annexe and Clinic closed; it is now one of the modern footpaths in the park.	Newton Shaw Collection 139, Sheffield City Library Archives.
Map & Plan for Conveyance of Land, 1770	Showing purchase of two parcels of land from Jacob Rose by Samuel Shore Jun.; they adjoin Norton Lane and have a footway running through – detail shows hedge with trees. It is around the time that Shore was in the process of re-designing the Park and a new straight boundary at the southern edge was created. This boundary still exists. The conveyance also shows a similar purchase in the Greenhill area.	Fairbanks Collection, Sheffield City Library Archives
A map of the Demesne Grounds at Norton the seat of Samuel Shore Esq. 1775	Survey of area around Hall showing detail of fields and boundaries with names of areas, similar to the map & plan in 1741; but this map & plan show the changes in landscape	Newton Shaw Collection 104, Sheffield City Library Archives.

	features and gardens and include a different entrance to the Hall and new lodges.	
Enclosure Awards Map for the parish of Norton 1804/05	This includes the area now covered by the whole of Graves Park, and with the accompanying notebook details the land holdings with acreage, ownership, tenancy and including some names of fields and woodland.	Fairbanks Collection, Sheffield City Library Archives
Plan of the Estates of Offley Shore Esq. in the parishes of Norton and Dronfield in the County of Derby as allotted for sale 1849	Map produced to accompany the sale of the Estate, depicts the hall, church and other buildings together with the surrounding area showing woodland, gardens, ponds and field boundaries. (Has accompanying sales particulars which detail each parcel of land/ buildings to be sold)	Newton Shaw Collection 96, Sheffield City Library Archives.
Series of Ordnance Survey maps	1875 map shows detail of parkland landscape with 'newer' names for woodland including Summerhouse Wood and Waterfall Wood. Later maps show the evolution of the park and the residential building around the fringes.	Ordnance Survey

The following presents selected illustrations showing the evolution of the hall and area adjacent to it. There is an extensive collection of later photographs and illustrations in some of the published sources and in Sheffield Archives' Picture Sheffield collection.

Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
1693 portrait of huntsman	1693 portrait of huntsman with old hall in background.	
Norton Hall and Church, 1793		p.139 Chantreyland Armitage, H. 1910 new edition 1989 Applebaum Books, Sheffield
Norton Church and Hall, about 1800	Shows church and older hall with bays and tower in background. Between 3(?) storey hall and church wall are lower pitch roof buildings with chimneys.	p.97 Chantreyland Armitage, H. 1910 new edition 1989 Applebaum Books, Sheffield
Norton Hall, 1850		p.147 Chantreyland Armitage, H. 1910 new edition 1989 Applebaum Books, Sheffield

Fete at Norton Hall, seat of C. Cammell Esq. c.1892	Detailed illustration of public fete set out in front of the hall and stretching over to Summer House Wood showing different activities and marquees set up at the top of the slope.	Copy from private collection
Norton Hall, 1910	Shows nineteenth-century hall with later addition of colonnade and surrounding lawns with line of large trees through garden.	p.117 Chantreyland Armitage, H. 1910 new edition 1989 Applebaum Books, Sheffield

Newspaper Sources

Below is a summary of some key relevant extracts from the newspapers.

Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
Notice asking for bidders to collect tolls	Notice from Trustees of Turnpike Road asking for people to bid for the business of collecting tolls, includes the route through Norton.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Register, Yorks, Derbys., & Notts. Universal Advertiser, 23.7.1790
Report of Annual Meeting of Norton's Association for Prosecuting Felons' Society	Article reports on the various activities and prosecutions with 30 members of the society listed. These include Samuel Shore Snr & Jnr and Miss Offley. Clerk was Thomas Fox, schoolmaster.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Register, Yorks., Derbys., & Notts. Universal Advertiser, 30.11.1792
List of Gentlemen and Gamekeeper's Certificates for killing game	Samuel Shore Jnr is listed as gentleman and Isaac Thomas is listed as gamekeeper both for Norton Hall.	British Newspapers Archive: Derby Mercury, 18.9.1800
Notice headed Manor of Norton	Notice stating that a gamekeeper has been appointed for the Manor giving warnings to poachers etc.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Independent, 9.9.1820
Providential Escape	Report of an accident involving Mr Jonathan Wood on a runaway horse and trap down Derbyshire Lane; he had been visiting Mr Chapman who lived at Norton Summerhouse.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 20.9.1856
The Burglary at Norton Hall	Report of break-in and burglary at Norton Hall whilst the Cammell family were at home; this was a couple of days after	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 9.8.1883

	the Norton Flower Show had taken place. Lots of details about house and items.	
Norton Hall	Detailed report and description of contents of Norton Hall that were to be auctioned off in the house sale.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Independent, 15.9.1892
Seaside & Country Apartments	Advert in the listings for lettings. "Derbyshire – pleasant apartments situated in a charmingly situated country house, lovely scenery – apply Mrs Lee, Summer house, Norton Park, nr. Sheffield.' Listed next to Bridlington, Scarborough and Matlock.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 5.7.1894
Fire at Norton Hall	Stop press report of fire in the billiard room which fire brigade was able to contain and stop spreading to main hall.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 1.2.1913
Early Non-Conformity at Norton	Report of lecture on the subject given by Rev. C.J. Street at the Channing Hall. Gives details of the timeline for non-conformist ministers linked to Norton Hall, the Offleys and Shores.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 26.10.16
Parliamentary Consolidation Sheffield Corporation 1918	Various services and powers relating to business of Sheffield Corporation including proposed new tramway No. 2 from Chesterfield Road to Coal Aston – mentions route passed the lodge to Norton Hall.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 20.11.17
Hospital Needs; Great Joint Scheme for Sheffield; £100,000 more yearly; proposals to purchase Norton Hall	Long article reporting on discussions about having a 'consolidated' hospital for Sheffield; about fees for attending hospital; and final paragraphs which set out idea to buy Norton Hall and Park as a site for a hospital.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 11.05.20
New Companies	Notice in paper of a new company formed 'George Wright (Rotherham Ltd)' iron founders etc. One of the first directors was Mr J.A. MacDonald of Summerhouse, Norton, Sheffield.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 12.10.21
New Park for Sheffield – Norton Estate Becomes City's largest open space	Report of acquisition of the land to create a new park with description of ideas for facilities; mention of land 'Norton Park' also acquired by Sheffield Hospital Board; and reprint of Alderman Graves' letter to Sheffield Corporation offering the land to them. Plus note about it being 'saved' from builders.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 8.10.25
Cricket Pitches in New Sheffield Park	Newspaper opinion piece about need for more pitches and identifying a particular section of the new park where cricket	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 10.10.25

	pitches could be laid out.	
Letters to the Editor – Norton Hall	Letter from James Henderson, Chairman of Jessop Hospital for Women Board, correcting earlier inaccuracies in reporting and use of Norton Hall for Jessop Hospital.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 5.11.25
Woodland Playground & Pictures of the Opening of Sheffield's New Park	Five photographs including one of the Lady Mayoress walking over the stepping stones. Accompanying article reporting in detail the opening ceremony, speeches, location 'just in front of summerhouse', what women were wearing <i>etc.</i>	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 4.6.26
Norton Hall Bazaar – Jessop Hospital extension	Report of meeting to discuss the Bazaar held by the Hospital's Linen League to raise money for equipment to support expansion of hospital; gives details of number of maternity beds <i>etc.</i>	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 5.6.26
Col. B.A. Firth; Death of Steel City Magnate; man of many interests	Obituary with photograph. Includes detailed information on his life and his accomplishments – includes his involvement with Norton Rifle Club which met at Meadowhead and used Norton Park. Also includes details of sale of Norton Hall & Park in 1924 to Sheffield Hospitals Board.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 19.02.29
Adverts 'Motors <i>etc.</i> for Sale'; and Motor-cycles	Alfreton and Sheffield Aerodrome – Severn's Motor Auctions, first and foremost in the kingdom: 200 vehicles in a week, Tuesdays in Sheffield. 2. Triumph Solo, 4.h.p., splendid engine, late owner dead, will take any reasonable offer, T. Carter, Summerhouse, Norton, Sheffield.	British Newspapers Archive: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 17.05.29

Personal Recollections Sources

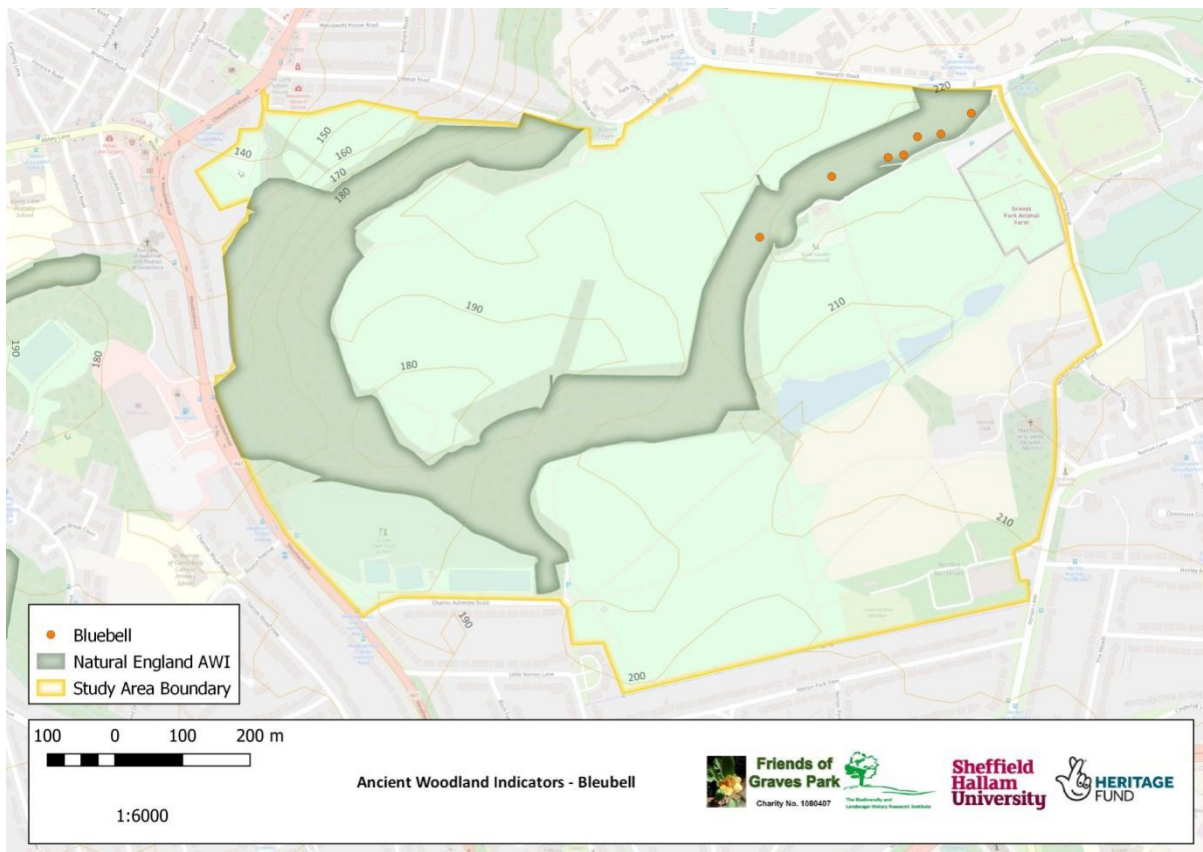
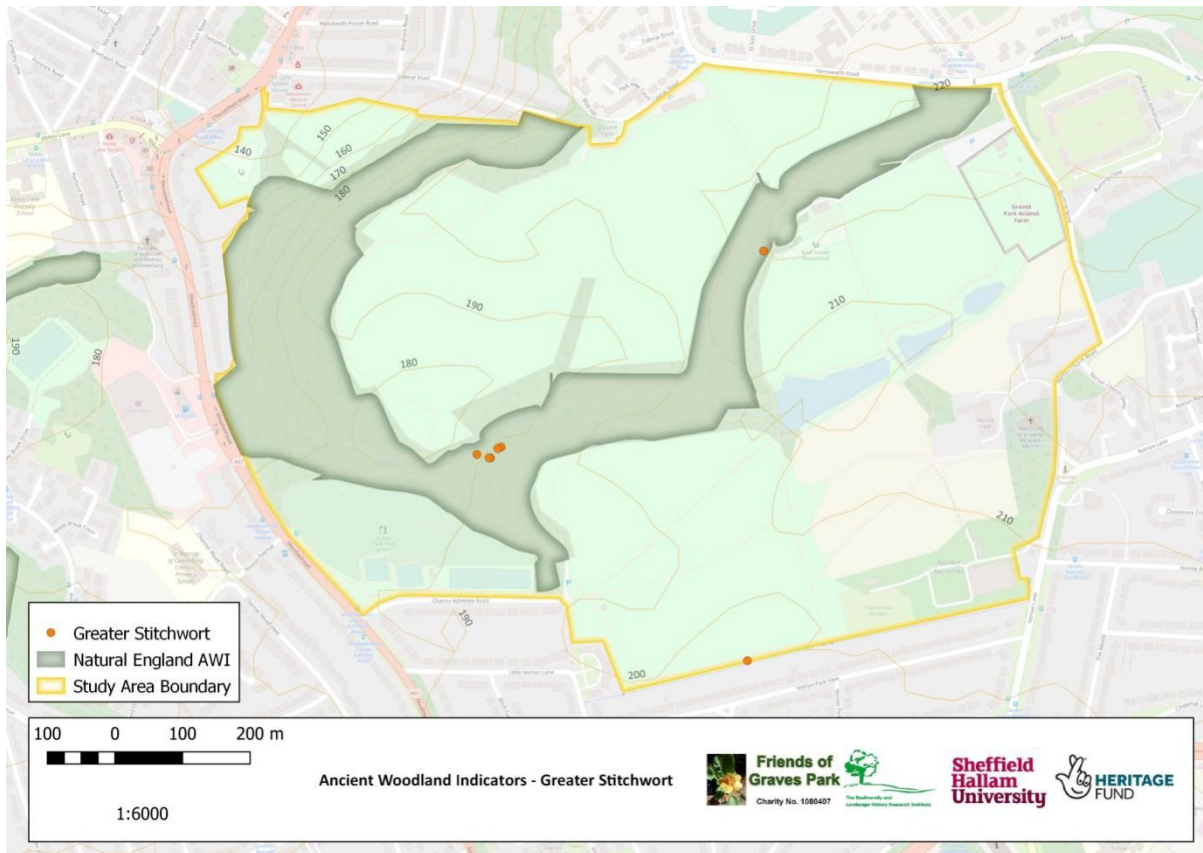
The following notes are personal recollections gathered during the project.

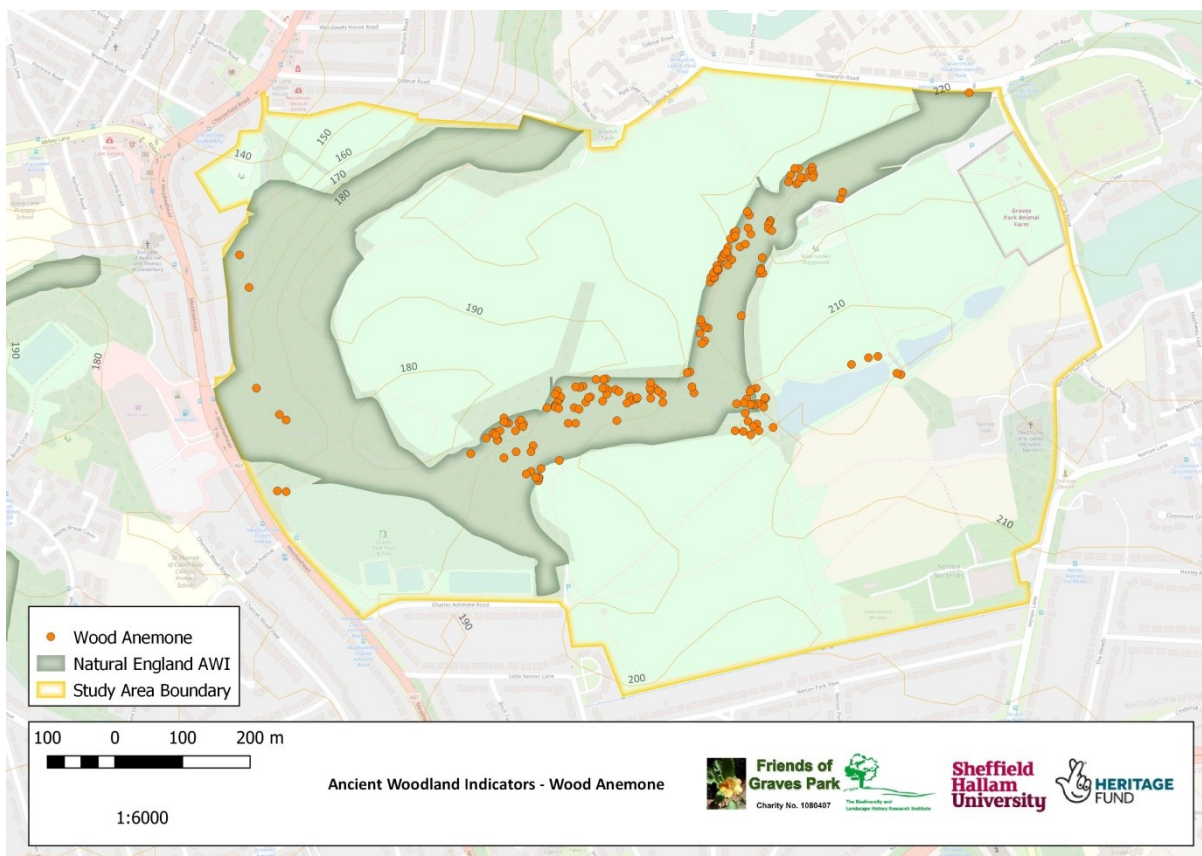
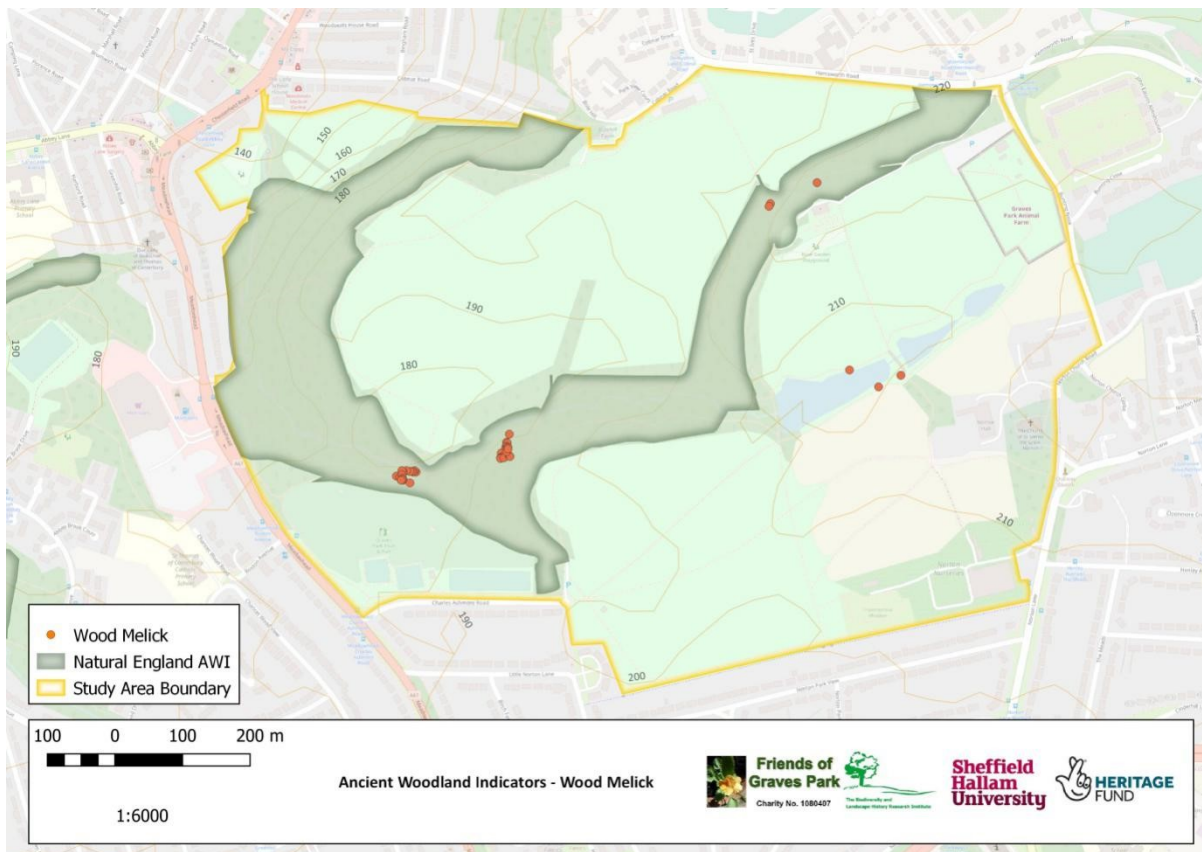
Title	Summary / Notes	Reference / Source
Graves Park Memories	Recollections of childhood visits to Graves Park from the 1950s and early 1960s. Includes information about the area that is now the Animal Farm and the Nursery area; descriptions of events including Whit Sings.	Sally Vardy
Memories of Graves Park, Sheffield	Family history from locality including grandmother's memories of earlier park – deer and skating on pond; own memories include helping park keepers; picking mushrooms; Whit Sings & singing to hospital patients; old rose garden with statues; 'bell' tower and situation; father in Home Guard and tree stumps planted to stop planes landing; 2009 had 30 small holly trees planted around Derbyshire Lane entrance – Rotary Club.	Ann Norris
Fond memories of Graves Park	Born 1939? Remembers father's allotment where children's playground is now, playing in park, sledging, fishing in ponds, people falling through ice, summer holidays building dens in wood, bandstand and tea in the pavilion, paying half a crown for using football pitches when youth club leader. Later walks in park with children and grandchildren.	Ralph Dickens
(1) No title (2) Family history info. to corroborate Mr Kitson (3) Annotated map showing location of features mentioned in reminiscences	Born in 1931; memories of wartime growing of wheat and barley and combine harvester but not all ploughed up some left for cricket etc. Location of park keepers' house and home guard post; mentions Mr Kitson and his Humber Snipe in war and telegraph poles planted over flatter areas to stop gliders in war. Charles Ashmore area was not then part of park but belonged to hospital and this was where public entrance to hospital was. Talks about wooden huts, cricket facilities etc. and locations; also amphitheatre and description.	Malcolm Burrell (1) & (2); and (3)
Finding Lost Norton Park: memories of Graves Park	Memories of going to park as child - Cobnar Road entrance; later WW2 crops in fields. Private area for hospital grounds and drive. Names of park-keepers and where lived. Flower beds, Whit Sings etc.; bands playing & Punch and Judy; not allowed to ride bikes; boating in 1960s not before, feeding ducks.	Beryl Rothwell
Via phone call in	99 yrs old, born and brought up in area, family was the local coal merchants and uncle	Mr Wilson, Worrall

response to Star Retro	cut hay on 'football' fields. Remembers Mr Carter, park-keeper and 'Stone House' with bell. Lots of family history detail and of deliveries of coal to local brickworks amongst other places – horse-drawn carts. Trained as a joiner and after Navy in WW2 he joined Parks Dept. and used Stone House as a store and place to mend benches and rowing boats. Also information about other park staff, Oakes Park, local farms and aeroplanes from Cobham's Flying Circus.	
Summerhouse information	Grandfather, Mr Carter, was the head park-keeper in the 1930s and lived at the Summerhouse as did Mr Millington's mother until she married. She and her sister ran a dressmaking business there. Prior to coming to Graves Park he was at Meersbrook Park and lived in Bishop's House. Photographs of Summerhouse including one looking outwards.	K Millington
Email in response to Star article	Great grandfather was one of park-keepers, Fred Morton. This was during WW2 when the land was farmed. The family lived in the house at the bottom of the park (Woodseats Road) that is now a nursery. Her grandfather used to take the family into the park and point out the (amphi-) theatre.	Gemma Oxley
Phone call in response to Star Retro	Born in 1938, he lived as a child in one of the old cottages at the top of Little Norton next to the Hall. Lots of detail about growing up and going into the park and old plantation to collect conkers. Was paper boy for the porters at the hospital; details about local farmers and families in Little Norton and area now covered by Cloonmore Drive which he visited as a boy with his neighbour to see grandmother who lived in old cottage. Also old cottages on Bunting Nook. Was heavily involved with the Crown Green Bowling Club for over 40 years; names of park-keepers; Woodseats Cricket Club etc.; remembers the bell being rung in the park.	Colin Yeardley

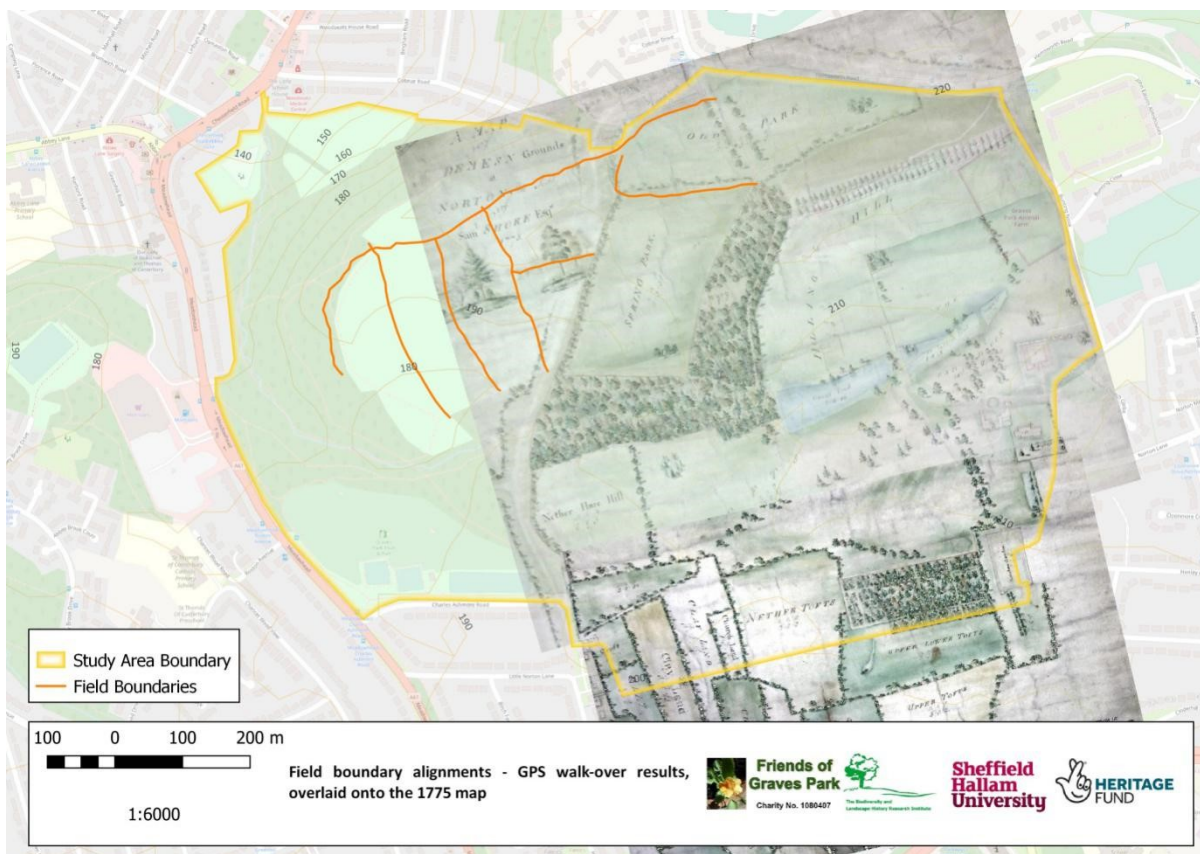
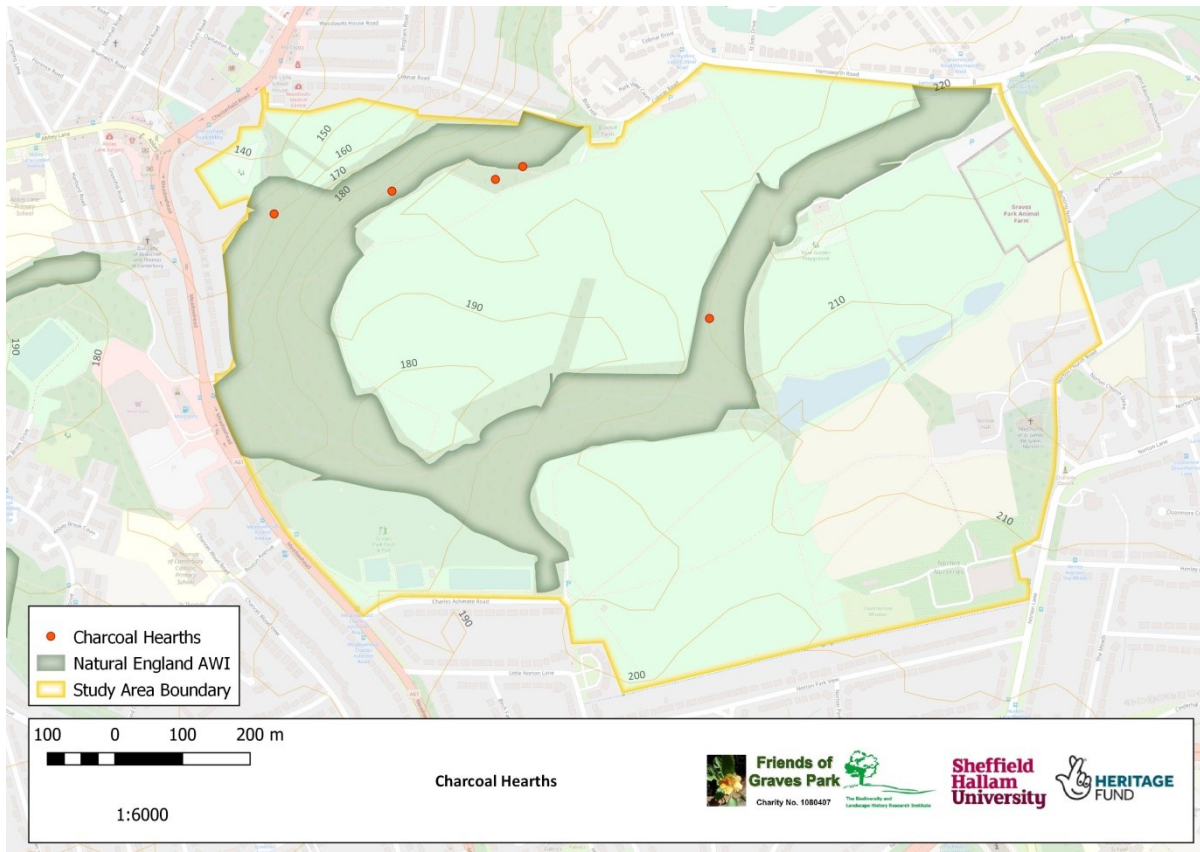
Appendix D – Map presentations:

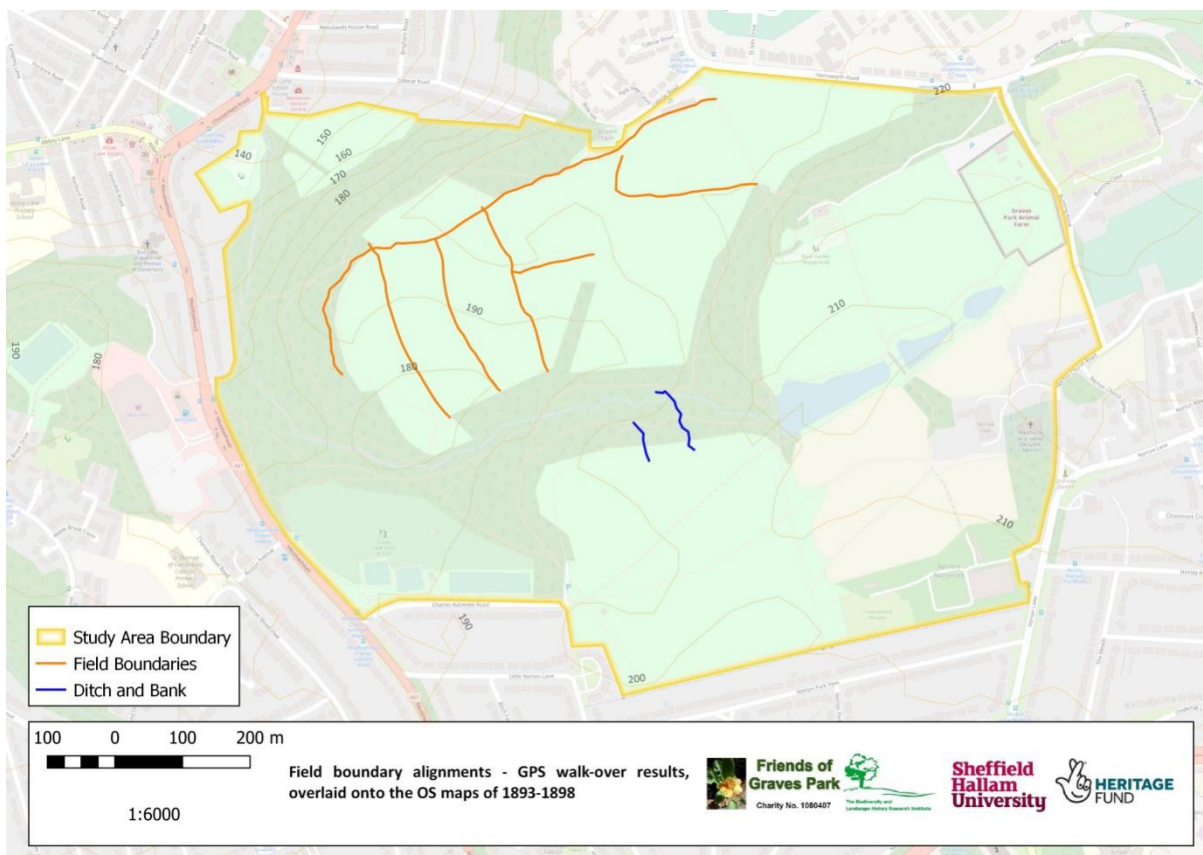
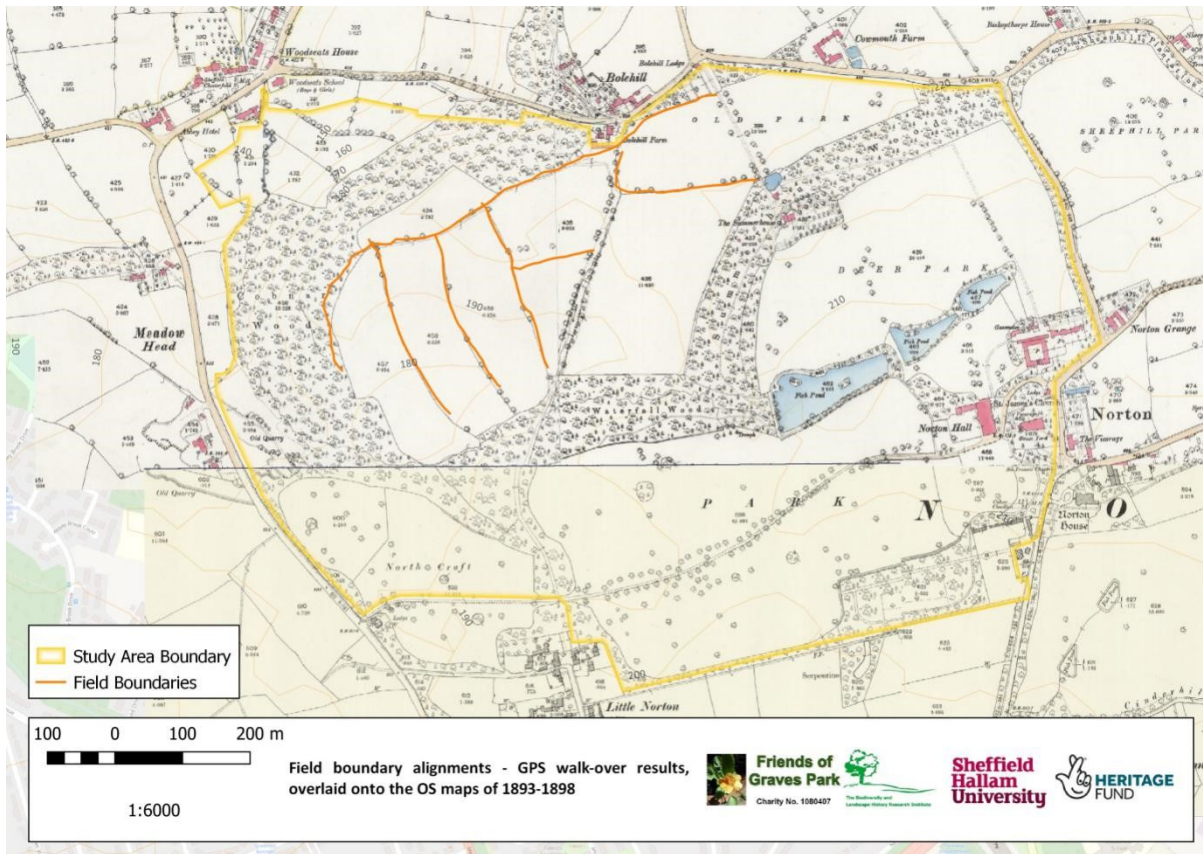
Ecological Indicators of antiquity (These were introduced earlier in Section 2.)

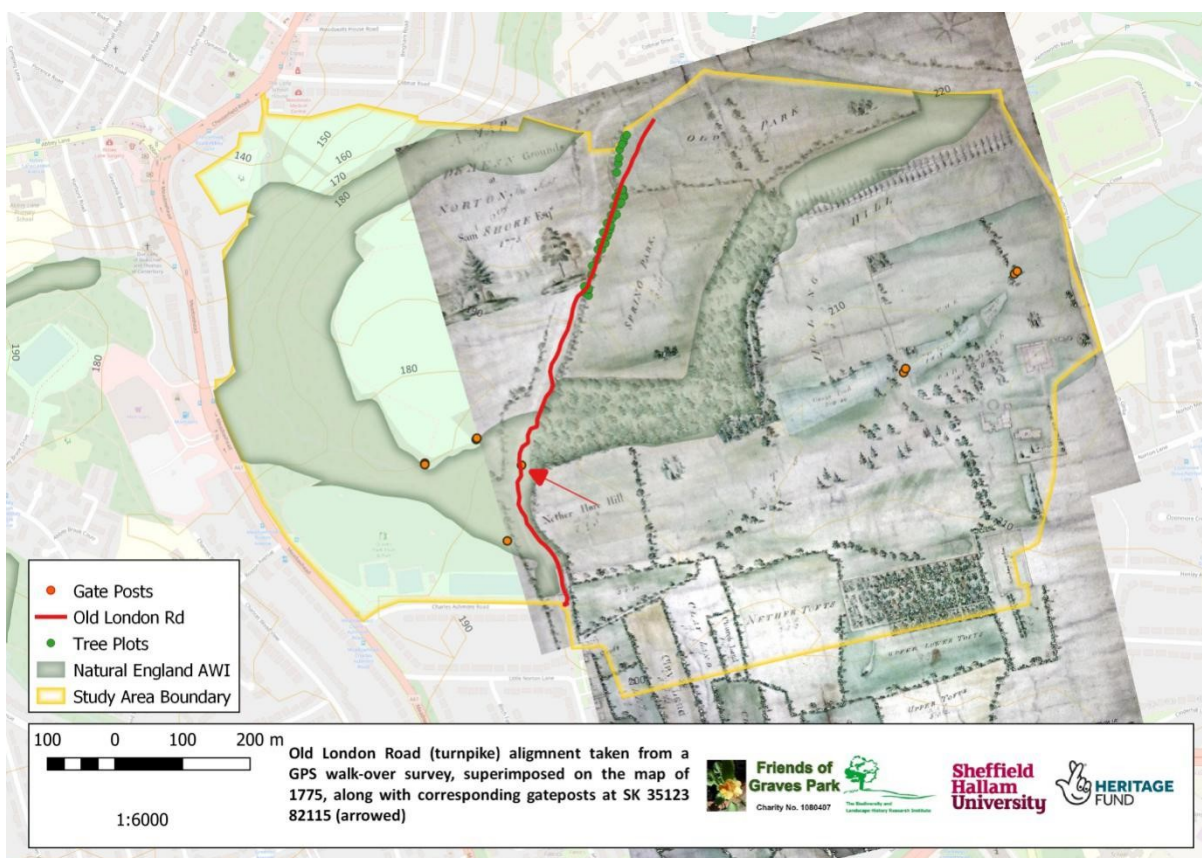
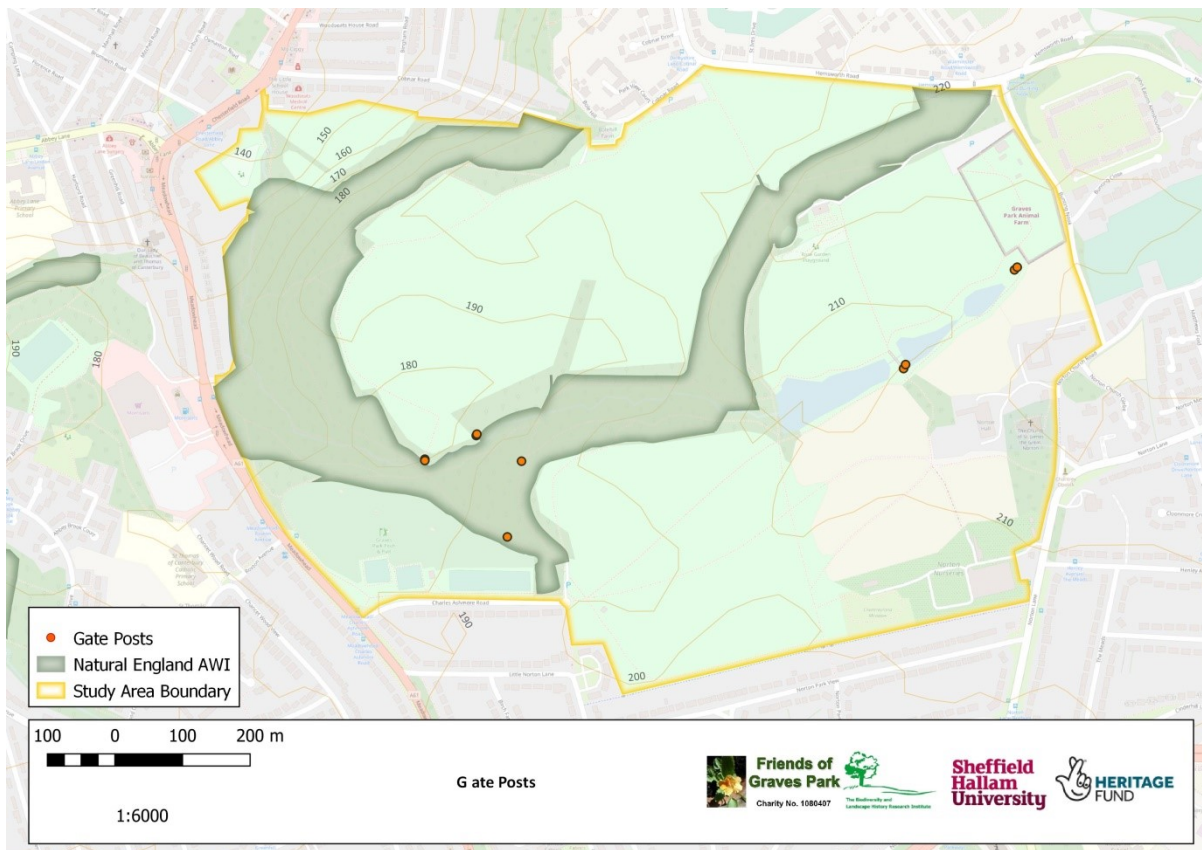


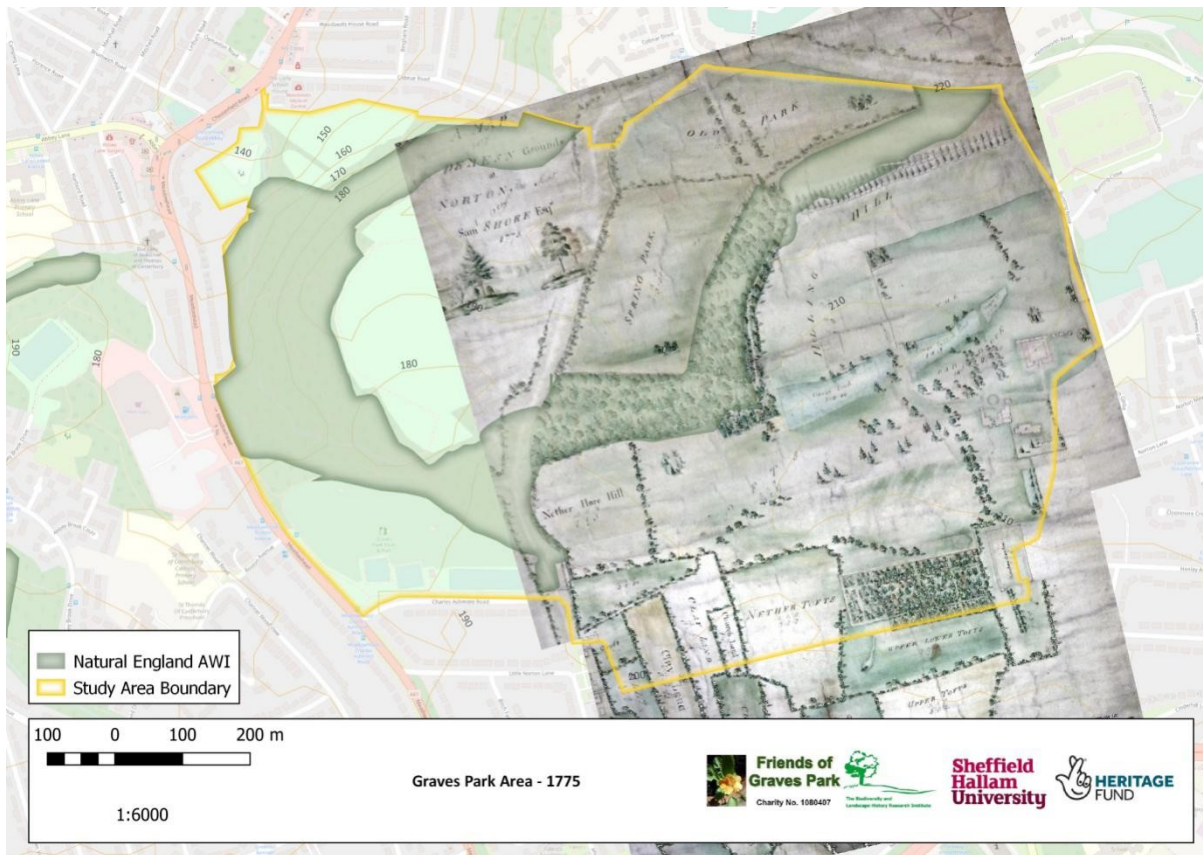
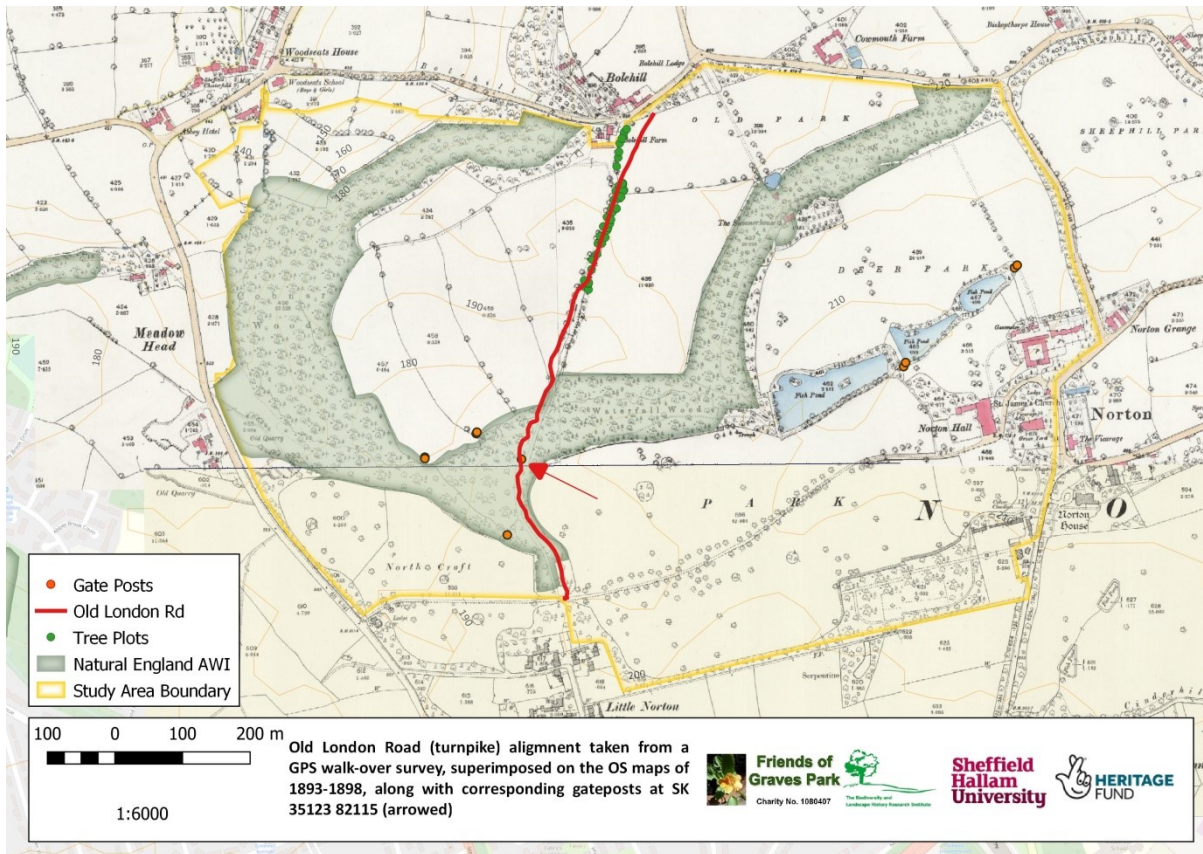


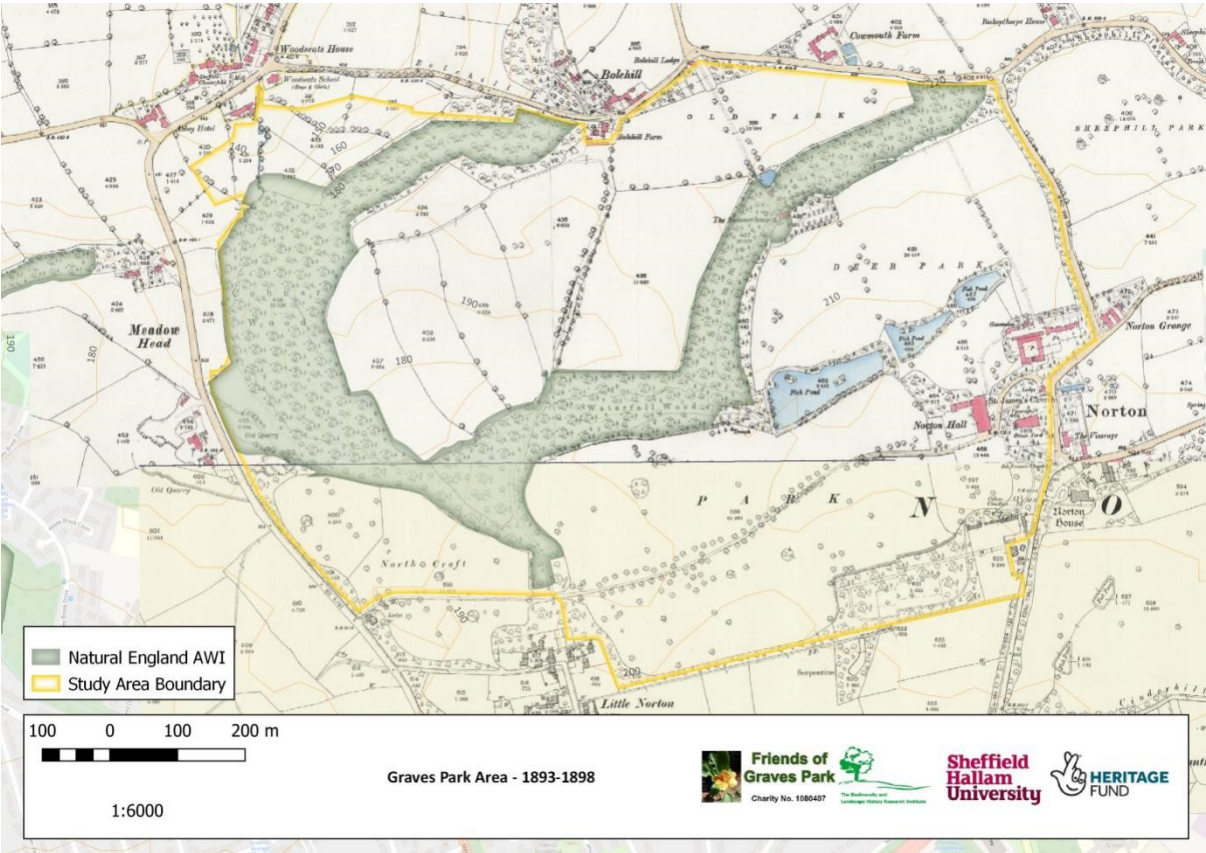
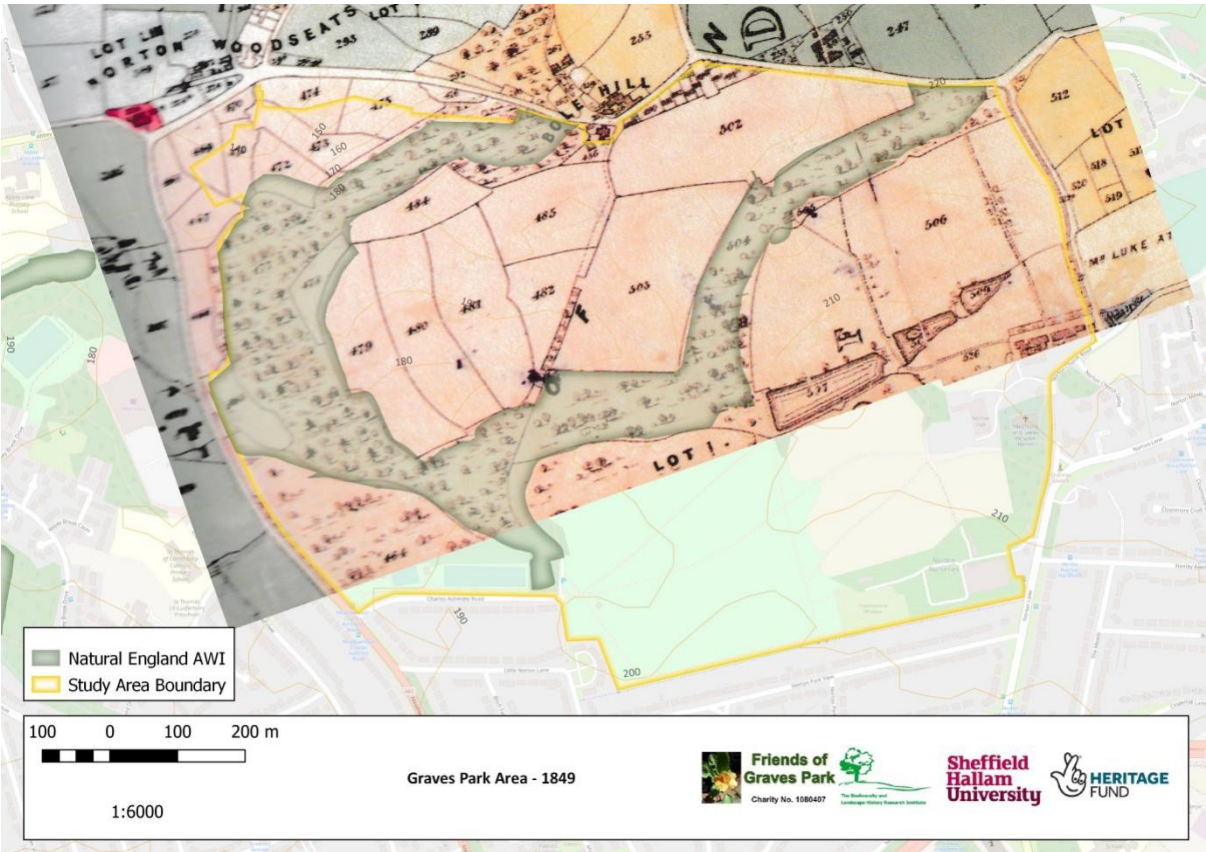
Landscape features











Expert Statements in support of the importance of Norton Park

In support of the medieval origins of Norton Park

Work undertaken by *the Friends of Graves Park, South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group, and Sheffield Hallam University*, as part of a recent National Lottery Heritage Funded project, has helped to unearth archaeological and historical evidence in support of Graves Park in Sheffield being the site of medieval Norton Park. Not only this, but it seems apparent from the initial research and field survey that many features of that landscape survive to this day.

Documentation discovered by the group as part of the project relating to medieval charters of warren granted to a Thomas de Chaworth in 1257 and a record of a Thomas de Chaworth asking for a warrant of free warren in 1281, demonstrates hunting interests in the landscape. Importantly such documents often precede the granting of the right for landowners to impark landscapes in medieval times, and may hint at a thirteenth century or early fourteenth century date for the establishment of Norton Park. This is further supported by the Armitage reference (also mentioned in the report) to a Thomas de Chaworth who had a park and right of free warren at Norton from 1330.

William Dickinson's 1741 Map & Plan of Norton Hall Park estate displays an enclosure named the 'Old Parks'. It is almost certain this 'Old Parks' represents the area of the original medieval park.

Further place-name evidence from the 1741 suggests that alongside the 'Old Parks' themselves, the area of the later Graves Park was created out of a wider medieval parkland and hunting landscape.

Adjacent to the 'Old Parks' is an area called 'Holling Hill'. This is likely to be the fossilisation of an earlier *Hollings, Hollins, or Holly Hagg*. Such features are areas of Holly woodland which are a common landscape feature found in relation to medieval parks. Holly provided winter fodder for fallow deer, and these features occur widely in side parks, or in the vicinity of them.

Two large enclosures can be seen on the southern side of the park called 'Nether Hare Hill' and 'Upper Hare Hill'. It is possible that these areas were used for hare hunting, but may also have been medieval rabbit warrens. Rabbit warrens are a regular part of medieval parks or parkland landscapes. Rabbits were not native to Britain and were kept in enclosures throughout the medieval period. As a precious resource for meat and fur they would need to be protected from poachers and wild animals and were either often located within parks or near to lordly residences. Within these enclosures lie mounds which may represent Bronze Age Barrows. It is also possible they represent circular pillow mounds used for housing rabbits in the warren. If so, these mounds could have been re-used barrows.

Within this parkland landscape fish and wildfowl would also have played an important part, and with future research it may be possible to investigate further whether the cascade of ponds within Graves park have medieval origins, or whether at least fish ponds were present

somewhere in the landscape, possibly on the bounds of the 'Old Parks', if not on the site of the current ponds.

The site of the former 'Summer House', which was until a few decades ago was the site of a large 'tower' like building, would also benefit from archaeological investigation, to search for possible surviving foundations. The elevated location of the site overlooking the 'Old Park's', may have made it ideal for a hunting lodge or tower. This site and some of the other preserved ridge and furrow, field boundaries and linear banks (possibly prehistoric), should also be investigated further and have been a fantastic discovery through this project.

Alongside precious resources relating to hunting it was not unusual for lords to enclose precious mineral reserves and workings within parks. Bolehill Farm as suggested in the report may represent an area of early lead working. It may not be a co-incidence that Bolehill farm sits adjacent to the 'Old Parks' on the 1741 map.

Also 'Spring Park', which is likely a later addition to the parkland landscape, contains the name 'Spring' which is a medieval name relating to the practice of coppicing. [Which occurred in the nearby 'Wood' Ed.] This practice was ideal for charcoal burning, which may represent another important resource in the landscape, and charcoal hearths have been found in Graves Park. Ancient woodland indicator species and the use of the name 'the Wood' suggest that woodland has been present in this area for a long time.

With the above evidence in mind, I would suggest with some confidence that Norton Park (later Graves Park) was the site of a medieval park ('Old Parks') within a larger parkland or hunting landscape which covered much of the later area of Graves Park, and that it should be recognised as such, and afforded the protection and status that such a designation should bring.

Andy Gaunt, Director, Mercian Archaeological Services CIC, 04/02/2020

Ancient origins of the Graves Park Landscape

I consider that the evidence provided in this report presents a compelling argument for the ancient origins of the Graves Park landscape and the persistence to the present-day of significant heritage features. On the basis of the present work, it would appear that at least some of the earthworks and associated features are of considerable antiquity and may be prehistoric in origin. While much has been found through landscape survey supported by in-depth archival research, further fieldwork is required to confirm the specific nature and dates of the identified heritage landscape features. Nevertheless, on the basis of the current evidence, the possible barrows, the major linear earthworks, the possible Tudor hunting tower, and the medieval fishponds are considered to be of great significance; that these remain identifiable in a modern-day park, itself with an established timeline of around 800 years, is remarkable.

Ken Smith, Lead Member, Landscape and Culture, Peak District National Park Authority (formerly Cultural Heritage Manager, Peak District National Park Authority)

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