



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Boynton Hall park and garden

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Boynton Hall park and garden, created by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, is derived from research carried out as part of the East Riding Historic Designed Landscapes project.

1. Heritage Values Summary

Boynton Hall set within the Great Wold Valley, has a long history from the 15th century through to the early 19th century. The designed landscape surrounding the house retains elements of development from the early 17th to early 18th centuries. A canal, vestigial terraces and a chalk-cut walk potentially of early 18th century date, survive. The parkland plantations cover much the same area as they did in the mid-19th century. The many listed built features enhance the landscape setting of this park and garden, with dairy, Fond Bridge, Carnaby Temple and particularly the banqueting house, which is rare in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Access to the landscape via public rights of way and popularisation through recent artistic media reinforces the heritage values of this designed landscape.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

The park and garden provide the setting for Boynton Hall, a Grade I Listed building, evolved from a 15th century medieval hall and transformed by Lord Burlington (1720s - 1730s), with additions by William Kent (1730s) and John Carr (1760s -1770s). It is of exceptional architectural significance, being linked to the Palladian movement in England and showing a remarkable similarity of evolution and style to the house and garden front of Old Chiswick House (Hounslow, London) circa 1730, which is now demolished.

There is a strong historic group value in the twelve Listed Buildings and structures associated with the house and landscape parkland. The banqueting house dated 1615 retains interior architectural details. A pigeon house, probably late C18, of stone ashlar has reused medieval masonry with sculptured fragments. Fond Bridge, a gothic folly of the 1770s, carries the public road Woldgate over a former private carriageway, along a scenic route from Boynton Hall to Carnaby Temple. This two-storey octagonal brick tower with lantern and basement was built c.1772, probably to designs of John Carr. It is an eyecatcher within the landscape forming a prominent local landmark and commanding extensive views over the estate and beyond to the Wolds and Bridlington Bay.

The Strickland family, who owned the house and estate from the mid 16th century until the mid 20th century, were proactive in horticultural and agricultural developments and benefactors for the local community. They imported exotic trees and plants, establishing a botanical garden during the 19th century, though the plants were since sold. A woollen manufactory built by 1765 mirrors the architecture style of an arcaded loggia attached to the walled kitchen garden, which it faces. In a largely poor agricultural community this industrial complex was an important source of income, at its height employing 150 hands, including women and children, benefitting the people of Boynton



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village and the local area. This illustrates a rather unusual aspect of life on a country house estate during the 18th century.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The parkland and gardens at Boynton Hall and its wider setting are rich in archaeological remains, surviving both above and below ground. Non-intrusive investigations have revealed a wide range of archaeological features from prehistory to the 20th century providing information about past human activity. Small-scale excavations have also shown the archaeological potential for the preservation of garden features.

Excavations have revealed earlier phases of the garden bordering the house, beneath the current lawn surface, which was raised over one metre during the early 1600s. This area of the former courtyard garden has further potential for research to uncover features that may be contemporary with the adjacent banqueting house dated to 1615.

Enhancements to the natural sloping topography facing the south side of the house show earthworks of vestigial terraces and a hollowed walk cut into the chalk slope, opening the landscape to a glade or viewing area. Plinths for statues or urns and elements of an associated garden have also been revealed by excavation and geophysical survey. These features are significant in providing evidence for the garden design from 1720s -1730s, or earlier.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

The landscape surrounding Boynton Hall retains elements of successive periods of design ranging from enclosed gardens to open parkland framed by woodland. Views focus on gothic structures, with scenic paths and carriageways around the estate taking in the Great Wold Valley, village church, temple, rustic and ornamental bridges, fishponds and woods. The Gypsy Race harnessed to feed a fishpond and a former canal, still retains water, when the seasonal levels of this chalk stream water fluctuate.

Although some of the parkland has reverted to agriculture, the extensive periphery plantations of the wider designed landscape provide a stark contrast to the surrounding Wolds landscape, which is mainly devoid of trees.

David Hockney, one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century, has incorporated Fond Bridge and other parts of the landscape flanking Woldgate, which runs through the former parkland, in many of his paintings, drawings and films (2005-2013).

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

Local people can experience the tranquillity of the landscape setting with views to Boynton Hall, across the parkland and 'borrowed' views beyond, as public rights of way cross the estate and allow a progression through it. It provides opportunities to reveal and reinforce the heritage values of the designed landscape and its associated assets to those local to the Hall as well as those inspired to come and visit from further afield.

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