



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Campsmount Park

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Campsmount Park, created by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, is derived from research carried out as part of Doncaster Historic Designed Landscapes project.

1. Heritage Values Summary

Campsmount Park was created as a designed landscape in the mid-18th century by Thomas Yarborough, who was one of the two major landowners in Campsall. His interest in landscape design led him to develop Campsmount Park over a period of about 30 years. This included development of pleasure grounds on the limestone ridge, including cedar and beech walks, much tree planting, a summer house, and a substantial walled garden. He appears to have drawn on his own knowledge, and local nurserymen, the Perfects of Pontefract, rather than seek a major designer for the landscape. Apart from enlargement of ponds to form one large fish pond, by George Cooke-Yarborough in the early 19th century, the designed landscape remained mostly unchanged until the mid-20th century when Campsmount was demolished. The footprint of the 18th century landscape still has visual impact, although few specific features remain. Much of the parkland has reverted to farmland or been built over for housing.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

Campsall is perhaps unique in having two major designed landscapes adjacent to it. Originally a royal manor, by the early 18th century it was in the hands of the Yarborough family of Brayton Hall and later Campsmount and the Frank family of Campsall Hall.

In 1697 Thomas Yarborough (1687-1772) inherited Brayton Hall from his father who had lived there since 1650. In the 1720s, with a strong interest in contemporary landscape design, Thomas Yarborough started to make changes to the rolling limestone landscape, including much tree planting for woodland walks, construction of a summer house and large walled garden. He then built Campsmount on the ridge with good views to the south and east. Brayton Hall was demolished. Little change was made to Thomas Yarborough's landscape by his descendants. Although George Cooke-Yarborough (1737-1818) commissioned a new landscape plan from John Webb of Staffordshire, little of it was put into effect apart from the formation of a much larger fish pond. Minor amendments were made to the walled garden and pleasure grounds in the late 19th century, but the landscape design remained mostly unaltered until the mid-20th century.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The Cooke-Yarborough archive provides much detail of the development of Campsmount Park by Thomas Yarborough. Robert Carr and his son, John, were given responsibility for the construction of



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Campsmount house and home farm. Notes in account books indicate Thomas Yarborough's interest in, and knowledge of, contemporary landscape trends. Thomas Yarborough appears to have relied on Joseph Perfect, of the Perfect nursery family of Pontefract, to implement many of the features of the designed landscape. The inference from the surviving documents in the Cooke-Yarborough archive is that, in contrast to seeking several plans for the building of Campsmount house, Thomas Yarborough relied mainly on his own views for the design of the landscape. Further research on the links between Thomas Yarborough and other Yorkshire landowners may reveal more of the influences on the landscape design.

There are many gaps in the archives from about the 1750s onwards. It would be interesting to know if any further plans for change, other than those sought by George Cooke-Yarborough, were sought or executed.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

The landscape retains much of the character laid out by Thomas Yarborough, with a ridge of woodland, lake and farmland providing a backdrop to the village of Campsall. The historic core of the village, covering the Church, former vicarage and the main street, is included in a Conservation Area.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

Although the Campsmount estate is not accessible to the public, it provides an important historical landscape as an integral part of Campsall village.

01.05.19