



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Grimston Garth park and garden

### Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Grimston Garth 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

The grounds of Grimston Garth, although on a small scale, are an excellent, largely unchanged, example of a landscape thought to be designed by the prolific late 18th century landscape gardener Thomas White. The parkland retains his characteristic perimeter plantations, with a break on the east side providing a sea view from the delightful Gothic summer residence. The parkland is of particular significance as almost the only area of woodland along the Holderness coast from Bridlington to Spurn Head. The wider estate has a scheduled medieval moated manor site with an associated moated garden and park, although this is under threat from coastal erosion.

#### 2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

The long association of this estate with the Grimston family started in the 14th century (or possibly earlier) and continued until the mid-20th century. However given its location next to an eroding coastline, it was perhaps difficult for the family to consolidate their property interests and it often became a secondary location when other inland estates were acquired, most notably Kilnwick. Their early residence was a moated manor house thought to have been partially destroyed in the latter part of the 17th century and a farm put in its place.

When Thomas Grimston inherited the estate in 1780, he decided instead to have an integrated house and landscape five hundred metres south of the medieval site. The buildings were designed by John Carr but in a Gothic rather than Palladian style, as the former had become more fashionable. Thomas White may have designed the landscape around the main house, according to a plan he submitted in 1782. It was primarily a summer residence, which was unusual given the main family residence at Kilnwick was less than thirty miles away. Clearly it remained an important location for the Grimston family history.

Thomas Grimston may have been influenced in his decision by his father, John (1725-1780), who had rebuilt Kilnwick Hall, again using John Carr and landscaped the grounds. John was a noted collector and interested in horticulture as demonstrated by the letter from Thomas Knowlton on 11 January 1777 about using the Perfect nursery to buy oak trees and shrubs for Kilnwick.



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### 3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The wider estate contains two scheduled monuments. One is the site of a medieval or later moated manor house and the other is the adjacent moated enclosure known as the Mount. The latter is of particular interest in potentially retaining evidence of a garden designed as early as the late 15th century but no later than the 17th century. It is depicted with trees on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map and may have been an orchard or ornamental pleasure garden. It merits a higher level survey, given the threat of coastal erosion, as it may retain evidence of these earlier phases. The Mount is set within an area called 'Great Parks', which would appear to have been in existence at the time of the estate plan of 1686.

The landscaping undertaken in the 1780s reflects the fact that the new building was primarily being used as a summer residence, as suggested by the surrounding tree plantations acting as shelterbelts, but with an open aspect to the east to allow views to the sea. More research is needed to establish whether the type of planting was also designed to coincide with the summer season. In addition, the remaining woodland in the park may have evidence of original trees, such as the 6000 oak trees that were obtained in 1783.

### 4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

The setting for the castellated Gothic mansion designed by John Carr (listed Grade I) is complemented by an impressive entrance lodge in the form of a gatehouse with a sham portcullis and embattled towers (listed Grade II) and stable block (listed Grade II\*).

The increasingly close proximity of the Gothic mansion to the North Sea adds to its 'romantic' setting, as it is perched on the edge of rapidly eroding clay cliffs. The plantations and parkland are in marked contrast to the surrounding countryside, which is characterised by large, open arable fields mainly devoid of trees.

### 5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

The interior of the walled garden area and parts of the northern tree plantations are now built over and currently occupied by research laboratories that undertake controversial animal testing, which has evoked many public responses.

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