



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Hooton Pagnell Hall

Statement of Significance

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

1. Heritage Values Summary

At Hooton Pagnell Hall the small-scale pleasure grounds have evolved over many generations of the Warde family. Most of the buildings and garden features from their ownership in the early 18th century onward survive, including the walled garden areas adjoining the hall. The 18th century park, although now mainly a wheat field, is still in situ with its ponds and shelter belts. Adjoining the Hall, are a 20th century Arts and Crafts garden house, lodge, glasshouse and rockery, reflecting the gardening trends of the late 19th century/early 20th century. Although the gardens and parkland are of modest scale, the design may have been influenced by garden writers whom the owners consulted.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

The Hooton Pagnell estate dates from before Domesday and there have been many owners. Prominent among early owners are the Paganells who were there for the greater part of 100 years and from whom the estate derives its name. The Lutterells, of the Lutterell Psalter, were there for more than 200 years and built the 14th century hall which is the core of the present building.

In the journals of the Wardes the first owner, Patience, bought a copy of 'Compleat Gardener'. His daughter, Mary, left a journal of payments to garden workers. His son Patientius inherited in 1734 and had a hothouse. Next to inherit in 1775 was Saint Andrew and, following a favourable marriage, a major programme of work began. This included new estate buildings and modernisation of the hall by William Lindley. An area of land near the hall to the west, shown as demesne (or belonging to the manor house) in the records of 1297, was developed as a park. Five walled spaces near the hall were created including a lawn, a walled garden and a small woodland with a walk.

For much of 19th century the estate was rented and it was not until Sarah Julia Warde inherited in late 19th century, as Mrs Warde-Aldam, that major works recommenced. At that time Aldam coal money made it possible for several projects to be undertaken with new garden buildings, extensive plantings and restoration and renovation of the hall. The major architectural work was designed by Streatfield and Atwell of Lincoln. The garden design was probably by Mrs Warde-Aldam who left detailed records of her plant purchases and planting.



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3. Evidential Value ('Research')

While the estate ownership is well recorded there is much to be discovered regarding the evolution of the garden and designed landscape. As yet no information has emerged on the details of design or designers of these works. In the Doncaster archives, currently unavailable during relocation, there are microfilm copies of Warde family documents from 1704 including accounts and probably garden details. Also at Doncaster archives are many journals left by Mrs Warde Aldam containing details of plant purchases and possibly details of her building projects. On the ground it would be interesting to visit the wooded areas looking for 18th century trees and the walks shown on OS maps.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

It is of considerable interest that most of the buildings of the Hooton Pagnell estate survive with many in good condition. The late 18th century garden walls in front of the hall are complete and all of the 19th/20th century features remain although some are in need of restoration. The hall enjoys an excellent location in one of the most attractive South Yorkshire limestone villages and has a wide view over the surrounding landscape. The historic core of the village with Church, former vicarage, main street, Hall and near spaces and 29 listed buildings is included in a Conservation Area. Key features mentioned are limestone boundary walls and mature trees in the grounds of Hooton Pagnell Hall and the churchyard.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

The hall and its grounds make a valuable contribution to the attractive village. The hall and its outbuildings have been developed to provide hotel, conference and wedding facilities. In normal times there would be an annual village fair held in the hall grounds.

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