



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Saltmarshe Hall park and garden

Statement of Significance

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

1. Heritage Values Summary

The grounds of Saltmarshe Hall, although on a small scale, are an excellent, largely unchanged example of a landscape created in the early 19th century by the owner Philip Saltmarshe, as a setting for his new house. The icehouse attached to the stable block is an unusual design. The park was created incorporating medieval village crofts and many mature oak trees survive in parts of the parkland, which is managed for grazing. It retains original perimeter plantations to the north, west and east and those to the south have walks to provide views over the River Ouse.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

The long association of this estate with the Saltmarshe family began in the medieval period and continued until the mid-20th century. The site Philip chose among closes of trees was near to the old medieval hall, which had been abandoned by about 1700 in favour of a property nearer the village. Sadly, many of these trees were lost in a storm of 1839. The present house was built in a simple Neoclassical style in 1825-8, by Charles Watson, a leading Yorkshire architect of the time, and J P Pritchett, surveyor and architect to Earl Fitz William at Wentworth House. The house was extended and the gardens further developed by his son, also Philip.

Even before the house was started, Philip had begun forming the park with perimeter plantations of oak, plane, blackthorn and hawthorn. A plan of 1805, now in a private collection, shows his proposed layout.

The walled kitchen gardens were built in 1817. A fig house shown in a plan of 1842 may have been built for two mature fig trees extant against the north garden wall, and a mushroom house shown on the same plan may well account for some of the markings on the outside of the north garden wall, beside what was clearly the boiler houses and bothy. The road was moved away from the site of the new house in 1823.

By 1856 Saltmarshe Hall was described as standing in 'a well-wooded lawn and neat pleasure grounds', and three years later the Leeds Mercury states that Philip Saltmarshe and his gardener, Mr Gibson, were exhibiting in the 'gentlemen's and gardeners' class at the Howden Floral and Horticultural Show'.



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The last member of the family, another Philip, died in 1970, and the estate was sold. It is now in divided ownership with the hall, stables, and seven acres of the old park separate from the rest of the parkland. The latter is part grazing, part arable farmland with the perimeter plantations maintained.

2. Evidential Value (Research)

The site of the former hall, depicted on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, lies within the parkland to the east of the present house. Archaeological investigations may provide more evidence of the buildings and particularly any associated gardens.

Saltmarshe Staithe lies south of the hall and records identify it being used to bring in peat for the garden by river. It may well have been used for pleasure boating, as suggested in a sketch of c.1824. It lies adjacent to the site of a beacon, but its earlier history, possibly associated with the former medieval hall, may still have the potential to reveal older structures.

The icehouse, attached to the north wall of the stable block, built by Prichett in 1842, is a very unusual design, as most icehouses were constructed as separate structures. The circular structure, entirely encased in brickwork, is accessed internally via stairs on the first floor. Further investigation and detailed recording of this fairly unique form of icehouse is much warranted.

4 Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

The park that Philip Saltmarshe envisaged in the early nineteenth century still exists and is recognised and managed to preserve its integrity, providing a peaceful setting for Saltmarshe Hall (listed Grade II*). The parkland landscape is significant as one of the few remaining areas of woodland along the lower reaches of the River Ouse and Humber Estuary.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

Saltmarshe Hall its gardens and parkland are used as a venue for private functions and public events, thus making it accessible to a wide audience. People can share and experience the house and its historic setting and develop some understanding of its significance within the East Riding of Yorkshire. It holds memories for those families that lived and worked on the estate.

The parkland is a valuable green space along the River Ouse and local people can experience the tranquillity of the river views and landscaped parkland by using the public footpath along the riverbank.

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