



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Wassand Hall park and garden

### Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Wassand 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

Wassand Hall (listed Grade II\*) built in the early 19th century is complemented by its contemporary designed landscape. The design style of the 'rustic picturesque' takes advantage of the natural surroundings in particular the large inland lake, Hornsea Mere. The Hall has therefore fine views across mature wooded parkland to the lake, which is now a major resource for nature conservation and leisure.

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

The Constable family (later Strickland-Constable) purchased the manor of Wassand in 1529 and owned the estate through to the 20th century. By the early 18th century a manor house lay within a small park, planted with numerous trees to create copses and woodland belts, which were both ornamental and used as nursery crops.

Charles Constable rebuilt Wassand Hall in the early 19th century to designs by Thomas Cundy and the parkland was extended and remodelled. The house was re-sited on higher ground to take advantage of the setting and views, extending across to the picturesque Hornsea Mere, a natural glacial lake, which became a key feature of the designed landscape. The style of the lodges and teahouse reflect this 'rustic picturesque' style that was popular at the time, being used by designers such as Humphry Repton.

The western edge of Hornsea Mere was landscaped in the late 19th century and maintained as a wild life sanctuary, kept for private leisure use of the family. The mere was also a source of food, providing fish and wildfowl for the estate. An oval duck decoy pond on the western fringe and other possible decoy ponds in Decoy Plantation would have provided meat, duck down and feathers.

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

The site of the former manor house and its surrounding gardens lies to the northeast of Hotham Hall on the parkland edge, under grass and some trees. There is potential for survival of features below ground to be preserved and revealed.

Trees are recorded in the Wassand Estate Heritage Management Plan. There is potential to compare this with the detailed records of trees planted in the early to mid 17th century and Charles Constable's notebook of landscaping and plantings made during the early 19th century, to establish what survives.



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

The parkland provides the setting of Wassand Hall (listed Grade II\*) and other listed estate buildings. The house sits on a slight terrace with views across sweeping lawns towards parkland, with mature tree plantings in scattered clumps and significantly with vistas across Hornsea Mere.

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

Hornsea Mere is the largest natural freshwater lake in Yorkshire and is a major resource for nature conservation and leisure. It is valued for its migrating birds and other wildlife and visitors can use the small hide on the Wassand Estate. The mere is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Specially Protected Area (SPA) and also a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS).

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