



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Sewerby Hall park and garden Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Sewerby 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

This is a good example of an early 19th century small gentry country estate created by acquiring and consolidating land during the period of enclosure. The landscape park retains its perimeter plantations, walled and formal gardens, enhancing the setting of Sewerby Hall and its associated buildings, many important listed buildings. Following its acquisition by the local authority in the 1930s it is a valued green space providing leisure, sport and educational facilities.

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

The manor of Sewerby cum Marton passed from the Carleill to the Greame family, who developed the estate during the early 19th century and retained ownership for over 200 years. John Greame I inherited funds from his father and uncle and with two advantageous marriages, developed the estate. He rebuilt the manor house, but the proximity of the village restricted the layout, except for a small garden and walled garden. The enclosure of open fields between 1802-11, removal of parts of the village and realignment of its roads, allowed for expansion of the estate and design of more spacious gardens and parkland surrounding the Georgian mansion.

The design was possibly influenced by the other local landowners such as Thorpe Hall in Rudston, which had been landscaped by Godfrey Bosville to create a picturesque Regency landscape. To this early 19th century landscape was added the formal garden and south terrace in the mid-19th century.

The estate was sold to Bridlington Municipal Borough in 1934 and became an important public park. The landscape reflected its change of use, adding features such as golf course, bowling green, cricket pitch, aviary and small zoo, thus altering parts of the earlier designed landscape. The former kitchen garden became a flower garden, a popular feature in public parks.

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

The landscape retains evidence of past human settlement dating from prehistory and the Anglo Saxon cemetery near Home Farm is an important scheduled archaeological site. Documentary evidence records an earlier medieval park, possibly a deer park, but its location and extent is yet to be established. Evidence for former medieval settlement and route ways are preserved within the landscape and hold potential for research.



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Maps of 1802 show a kitchen or ornamental garden, southwest of the house and possibly contemporary with it i.e. early 18th century. The area, although now covered with vegetation and part of a drive, may still retain buried evidence of its structure and internal features.

The later walled garden design and layout with hotbeds, glasshouses, and unusual slip garden, provides evidence of horticultural techniques in the 19th century. There are some contemporary accounts, but the fabric of the walled garden holds much potential for further research in the development of kitchen gardens of this period. Its date of creation is uncertain but probably between 1802 and 1829. The bricks used are relatively small and may have been reused from the former walled garden. Changes in the layout between the 1854 and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps editions shows a redesign of the internal features.

The remains of a stone and brick wall, interpreted as a ha-ha, lies in the gap between Leys Plantation and Yarburgh Plantation, dividing part of the parkland from the area to the east. Unusual for its location away from the house, it warrants further investigations as to how this feature functioned.

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

The park and gardens provide the setting for Sewerby Hall (listed Grade I) and its associated estate buildings and adjacent Church of St John the Evangelist, many also listed. The superb cliff top location has sea views to Bridlington Bay on the south, with housing hidden by trees to the west, a golf course to the east and the grounds of Marton Hall to the north. The coastal path from Bridlington to Flamborough Head passes to the south providing views into the estate.

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

Sewerby Hall has close associations with the local community, providing recreational and educational opportunities, fostering public spirit and social interaction via a range of events, which allows access to the house, buildings, parkland and gardens. The mature parkland and gardens is a valued green space, which adds to the rural character of the Sewerby Conservation Area in contrast to the adjacent urban areas of Bridlington. It is a popular holiday attraction.

In common with many other country houses, the RAF used Sewerby Hall as a military convalescent hospital during the Second World War, where the grounds encouraged recuperation and recovery. The place maintains strong links for the community to commemorate the events of the First and Second World War.

Sewerby Hall and gardens include an outreach centre (Worklink), which provides opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to gain skills and work experience within a horticultural environment. The museum houses an important collection of Amy Johnson memorabilia and other educational facilities provide valuable resources for schools.

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