



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Everingham Park Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Everingham Park, 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

Everingham park and gardens is a good example of the influences that shape a designed landscape through the centuries. The social status of the landowner is reflected in the creation of the deer park in the 13th century, as the King could only grant the licence to empark. This is also evidenced by the improvements made in the 2nd quarter of the 18th century. The then absentee owner, Sir Marmaduke Constable, employed Thomas Knowlton. He was the gardener of Lord Burlington, one of the leaders in moving landscape design from the formal to the informal. What is also striking is the economic effect of the owner's Catholic faith, due to fines imposed and no public office being granted, which has resulted in a largely unchanged landscape in the park from its 18th century outline. The pleasure gardens and kitchen garden developed alongside the two overt Catholic buildings on the estate, reflected Constable Maxwell's new found freedom to express his faith publicly in the early 19th century. While this landscape is in private hands, the whole village and the wider community benefit from its continued existence.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

Everingham was owned by the Constable family from the early 16th century, when Sir Marmaduke of Flamborough married Barbara Sohill, until the mid-20th century. The Constables were an important Catholic family in Yorkshire and adhered to their faith despite the social, economic and political difficulty that it brought them. The estate reflects this not only in the buildings but also the landscape. One of the first pieces of landscaping done by Thomas Knowlton in 1731/2 was to plant an avenue of elms, screening the Anglican Church from the estate and Hall.

We have detailed knowledge of the work undertaken between 1730 and 1743, as the owner was abroad and needed to correspond with his steward. This is the period when Thomas Knowlton was employed. Most notably as gardener for the nearby estate of Londesborough that belonged to Lord Burlington, Knowlton was celebrated as an excellent plantsman. He trialled many new plants in the north that had been sent to him by the leading plant collectors, as demonstrated by his extant correspondence.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The first designed landscape was that of the medieval deer park, created by the Everingham family in the 13th century. It continued to be used as a place to keep deer until possibly the 19th century,



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as a deer shed is noted on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map. Boundary banks and ditches revealed on aerial photographs suggest there is archaeological potential for the medieval park pale to survive and further survey investigations may confirm this. There was also a hall and village in the medieval period, the former under the site of the current building and the latter in the park south of the church, along the former road that was diverted in 19th century improvements.

Although no trace has been found of it, St Everilda reputedly set up a nunnery here in the 7th century and there is potential to reveal evidence in the area that became the kitchen garden in the 19th century. This is supported by the place-name evidence of 'Old Priory' marked on the 1851 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and a well dedicated to St Everilda marked on a 1765 survey plan and subsequent OS maps.

From the existing surveys and plans, landscaping work was carried out between 1765 and 1806 but the designer is to date unknown. It *may* be the work of Thomas White, an important improver who worked on the nearby Houghton Hall and Holme Hall: this needs to be investigated further.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

Everingham Park was one of the early estates to be landscaped in a more natural way, following the ideas of William Kent (protégé of Lord Burlington) in the 1730s and predating the work of Lancelot Brown by twenty years. While there were still some straight formal avenues leading from the house to the south and the west, there were also more informal plantations and shelterbelts on the perimeters shown in the 1765 map. There was also an irregular pond surrounded by a lawn.

Further landscaping was carried out in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including the creation of the serpentine lake but the park we see today is largely unchanged from the 1851 OS map. Indeed some of the plantations date from the first half of the 18th century. The trees that line Main Street opposite the hall have Tree Preservation Orders. The parkland provides the setting for Everingham Hall (listed Grade I) and is recognised as a rare example of such a historic landscape by inclusion within Everingham Conservation Area.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

Everingham is a place where the faith of the major landowner had a direct bearing on the village and its layout. The Catholic chapel and oratory built by the Constable Maxwells in the 19th century were both put in their private designed space and screened from the Anglican church.

While the former kitchen garden and pleasure grounds are privately owned, they are largely empty neglected spaces. Due to the Conservation Area, development here is limited but they could be turned into an important green space for the community to enhance the limited public space which currently exists.

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