



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Goldsborough Hall park and garden

Statement of Significance

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

1. Heritage Values Summary

The designed landscape at Goldsborough has developed over the last 500 years by its owners taking advantage of its natural beauty and favourable topography. In the 18th century, they used the leading designers of the day, including possibly Stephen Switzer in the 1730s, with Richard Woods and Thomas White providing plans in the 1760s. After Daniel Lascelles' death in 1784, Goldsborough became part of the estate of the Earls of Harewood and was often occupied by the heir to the Harewood earldom, providing an opportunity for them to shape its designed landscape. The last of these was Viscount Lascelles, later the 6th Earl, whose wife, Princess Mary, was a keen gardener. Her influence on the grounds adjacent to the hall remains to this day. In the wider landscape, all the parkland and most of the woodland that were in-situ in the 18th century remain and provide an important setting for the Grade II* listed Goldsborough Hall and its associated buildings.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

The de Goldsborough family held the manor from the mid-12th century and utilising an extensive wood to the south, created a deer park by the early 16th century. During a dispute over the inheritance in the 1580s, the manor house was burnt down. While the park remained intact, when Sir Richard Hutton bought the property c. 1599, he decided to build his house in a new location adjacent to the church, which was completed c. 1610. It remained with Hutton's descendants until 1762 when Elizabeth Byerley sold the estate to Daniel Lascelles. During the period of the Byerley family occupation from 1692, they made significant changes to the landscape including gardens around the hall and the conversion of the park into a *ferme ornée*, both influenced by the ideas of Stephen Switzer.

Daniel Lascelles had already bought the neighbouring estate at Plumpton and abandoned his plans for a new house there to concentrate on Goldsborough. His first choice of designer was Richard Woods, who submitted a plan in 1763 for the immediate grounds around the hall. Sometime between delivering the plan and starting work, Lascelles decided the old kitchen garden needed to be moved to a new site east of the church. He was replaced by Thomas White in 1766 but only the new kitchen garden and plantation next to it had been implemented by this stage. White added a pleasure ground to the west and suggested opening up the former parkland by removing field boundaries and the gardens next to the hall. The latter still appeared to be a work in progress by the end of the 18th century.



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During the 19th century, there were some alterations most notably expanding the parkland back to its probable original (i.e. 16th century) boundaries. The walled kitchen garden was remodelled in 1824 with the greenhouse in the orchard area replaced. Further glasshouses inside the walls were added in the 1850s. Although family members did live there, for long periods the hall and grounds were rented out. This changed when Henry, Viscount Lascelles (later 6th Earl) married Princess Mary on 28 February 1922 and Goldsborough became their home in December of that year. As well as making alterations to the hall, they made the first significant changes to the grounds in nearly a century. Princess Mary was a keen gardener and added new twin herbaceous borders to the south of the hall, a rose garden in the walled garden and the Lime Tree Walk. In 1952, the estate was put up for sale and the hall and immediate grounds became a school under the new owners. It then operated as a care home prior to the current owners acquiring it.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

There was a grant of free warren on the 12 October 1269 to Richard de Goldeburg for his demesne lands in Goldsborough. Whether there was an enclosed park at this stage is not clear and later documents relating to the estate do not mention one until the late 16th century. Further research is therefore required to establish a more accurate date of construction.

Little archive material survives from the time of the Byerleys' (1692 – 1762) occupation of Goldsborough with the exception of four undated (possibly improvement) plans, an estate map from 1738 and a written survey made in 1758. They were clearly keen to alter the designed landscape and it would be interesting to know whether they had any help from designers of the time, including Stephen Switzer. While the area covered by the plans has subsequently been remodelled, an archaeological assessment of the grounds may show whether any of the features on the plans were implemented.

While the extant evidence points to Richard Woods being the designer of the existing walled kitchen garden, more research is needed to establish whether he was also responsible for the design of the building in the northeast corner there.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

Goldsborough Hall stands on an elevated position with the ground sloping down south to the northern edge of the former Leases Wood and east to the former parkland and pond. The view from the hall has hardly changed over the past 300 years with the latter ground used for pasture and the maintenance of the woodland. The changes made by Princess Mary in the 1920s immediately around the hall provide an attractive setting and have been further developed by the owners for the benefit of their guests.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

The historic estate is still an integral part of the village, although parts such as the walled garden and wider parkland are now in separate ownership to the hall. The hall itself brings visitors to both stay and dine as well as dedicated open days specifically for the garden.

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