



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Hutton Hall park and garden

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Hutton Hall park and garden, created by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, is derived from research carried out as part of North York Moors National Park Authority Historic Designed Landscapes project.

1. Heritage Values Summary

Hutton Hall park and garden is a late Victorian landscape that was created around the newly built Hall by some of the leading experts at the time for the industrialist, financier and MP, Joseph Whitwell Pease. On a site with natural beauty and a long history of development, Pease enhanced the surroundings to complement the new Hutton Hall and its associated estate buildings. Of particular note was the extensive kitchen garden of 6 acres that contained over 20 glasshouses, the scale of which was on a par with the largest estates in the country. The historic park and gardens of 737 acres that included extensive parkland and hillside plantations is largely in place today although key features such as the glasshouses and summerhouses in the woodland have not survived.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

NB The original spelling that was used for the priory, manor and Hall was 'Gisborough', however the town is now 'Guisborough'.

The manor of Hutton [or Hoton/Hooton] Lowcross has long been valued for its setting on the edge of the Cleveland Hills. Originally part of the Gisborough estate of the de Brus family, it became part of the Gisborough Priory lands (endowed by Robert de Brus c. 1119) in the 14th century. Following the dissolution of the priory in 1540, it was split between the Chaloner family who acquired the bulk of the priory's lands in Gisborough, the Crown and the See [Archbishop] of York. The land was rented out and in addition to the medieval village of Hutton, a second settlement called 'Hooton Green' was built in the late 16th century in the Archbishopric's lands.

By the mid 19th century, Hutton comprised a number of farms including the property of the Reade family, known as 'Hutton House Farm' (later known as old 'Hutton Hall'). This would form the basis of the 'Hutton Hall' estate that Joseph W Pease developed from the late 1860s. Pease first encountered the site when he and his father invested in the local ironstone mine and built a railway to it from Middlesbrough in 1851. From 1859, Pease began to acquire land but negotiating with the many landowners meant the historic park and gardens of 737 acres was not complete until 1875.

Pease had the resources to build a new hall and estate that employed the best in their field including the renowned architect, Alfred Waterhouse; the rockwork specialist, James Pulham; the landscape designer, William Broderick Thomas; Simeon Marshall of James Backhouse & Sons, the



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nursery and landscape designers and William Richardson, the horticultural building expert. In 1874, he engaged as his head gardener James McIndoe, who skilfully managed an extensive kitchen garden of over 6 acres and about 20 different glasshouses.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

While there is some evidence from the surviving archive material, there remain some unanswered questions in relation to the second phase of landscaping and alterations to the kitchen garden complex between 1874 and 1880. The original landscape had been designed and laid out by William Broderick Thomas between 1868 and 1871 with rockwork by James Pulham and the overall masterplan of the site was possibly by the architect of the buildings, Alfred Waterhouse. Pease's diaries record visits by Simeon Marshall of the James Backhouse & Sons nursery in York and also William Richardson, who is likely to be the horticultural building engineer, in late 1873 and early 1874.

Both James Backhouse III and Richardson were fellow Quakers and related to Pease. No further information has been found as to the extent of the involvement of Marshall and Richardson. However the kitchen garden underwent a major redevelopment from late 1874 including the building of an extensive range of glasshouses. A year later, Richardson greatly expanded his business and for the next fifty years became one of the leading suppliers of greenhouses and conservatories. More research is needed to establish whether this potential major contract from Pease was the catalyst for Richardson's expansion.

Judging from his diaries, JW Pease appeared to be quite involved in the design of both the buildings and the landscape. He may have been inspired by the gardens in Cornwall of Glendurgan and Trebah, created respectively by his wife's father and uncle, Alfred and Charles Fox. More research is needed to see whether this was the case and also whether there were any transfers of specimen plants both for the outside landscape and the extensive areas under glass. He was also a regular visitor to nearby Grinkle Park for the shooting and may have been influenced by the development of the landscape there by the gardener, George Abbey.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

The Hutton Hall estate makes the most of the 'borrowed landscape' to the south and the west. The Cleveland Hills range includes the notable 'Hanging Stone' to the south and 'Roseberry Topping' to the west. To the north and east, the former parkland is surrounded by belts of mature trees, originally to hide the railway line but now screens the modern housing estates. The Hutton 'Beck' or stream runs throughout the estate, flowing down towards the pleasure grounds from the hills above. The whole historic estate (excluding the 19th century Hutton village to the south) lies within a Conservation Area and this contributes to preserving the landscape from the encroaching urbanisation of Guisborough.



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Although a lot of the areas on the hillsides have been replanted in the last 100 years and key features such as the summerhouses in Reed's Wood have disappeared, the overall design remains unchanged. Closer to the Hall, the pleasure grounds are largely intact and some specimen trees remain, although many now are coming to the end of their lives.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

Although the Hall and immediate surroundings are privately owned and not open to the public, the wider estate has many public footpaths from which the designed landscape can be enjoyed. The land around Hutton is now owned by the Forestry Commission (Guisborough Forest), where public access is encouraged. On the edge of the estate is the Guisborough Walkway on the site of the former railway line from Pinchinthorpe to Guisborough via Hutton station. Designated as a nature reserve by Redcar and Cleveland Council, it has an active Friends group who maintain it and the immediate area to the south.

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