



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Rise Park

### Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Rise 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

Rise Park has been shaped by its owners, in particular the Bethell family who have owned the estate since the mid-17th century. Many generations have made their mark on the parkland that incorporated a medieval manorial site and deer park, which were both a status symbol and had a practical purpose. William Bethell transformed the parkland in the 1770s, consulting the leading 'professional improver' of the day, Lancelot Brown, demonstrating the importance he attached to the project. What we see today is largely unchanged from this remodelling over two hundred years ago and still provides an appropriate setting for Rise Hall (listed Grade II\*) and the estate buildings.

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

The Rise Park estate includes the site of Black Hall, a medieval manor house, which the Fauconberg family held until 1372. They also had a deer park at Rise in 13th century. Rise manor passed to the Crown from 1475-1628, initially held by Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III. The manor house site was abandoned by the early 16th century.

The Bethell family bought the estate in 1646 and still own most of it today. A house was built on a new site, which in 1716 was surrounded by formal gardens and extensive woodland with deer. It was William Bethell (1728-1799) who made the most significant changes to the landscape, demolishing houses and moving the village and road to create more space for the house setting. He commissioned a plan from Lancelot Brown, who was working at Burton Constable and Sledmere in the East Riding of Yorkshire between 1772 and 1779. Areas of woodland were cleared to create more open parkland with ponds. Richard Bethell (1772-1864) rebuilt Rise Hall between 1815 and 1820 and carried out additional work on the parkland.

The designed landscape was not only aesthetically pleasing but also had an economic role in providing food, as well as sport. The deer park continued to be stocked until the start of Second World War, when the park was ploughed for growing arable crops. The two ponds with islands were stocked with fish and Old Pond incorporated a duck decoy. The plantations also provided valuable timber, most notably oak woodland, which was partially cleared in 1775. The estate had an icehouse and large walled kitchen garden to supply the house.



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

Earthworks remains of the medieval manorial complex of Black Hall lie in the northwest area of the parkland. An earthwork survey plan exists, but there is potential to reassess the evidence, including any survival of possible garden features. The wider parkland also retains elements of medieval settlement and field systems, which may hold evidence for the later manor house, possibly located at 'Whitehall Closes' in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The exact location and extent of the medieval deer park has yet to be established. The site of a possible hunting lodge at Black Hall, if confirmed, would be significant. Later remodelling of the parkland in the 18th century retained deer in the eastern area of the park and features associated with this post medieval phase may also be revealed.

A plan of 1716 shows formal gardens adjacent to the former house. The area lies south of Rise Hall and is currently under pasture, but has the potential to reveal surviving features. The plan also shows a building, of uncertain function, with small pond and two leats feeding Old Pond and the decoy pond. A surviving earthwork bank and covered drain in the park may have some association with this former water management system, which requires further research.

As the Brown plan of 1775 cannot be traced, further survey may establish the extent of the changes in the 1770s and the work done after the 1820s, in particular looking for any trees that date from these periods.

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

Rise Park largely maintains its early 19th century outline with parkland managed for pasture and a small part used for arable farming. As a result, the views from the principal building, Rise Hall (listed Grade II\*), remain unchanged, looking out onto a relatively flat landscape, enhanced by the Brownian-style parkland with clumps of trees, ponds and surrounding shelterbelts.

The estate buildings (many listed) enhance the parkland setting; there are several lodges, a stables and coach house with cobbled yard surrounded by ranges of outbuildings, including a smithy. The former vicarage (listed Grade II and renamed Rise Park) has its own associated gardens, with some elements dating to the late 18th century, which adds to the historic layers of the parkland.

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

Rise Hall, under separate ownership from the estate, has been restored, accruing much media interest. It is used as a venue for private functions, making it accessible for people to share and experience the house and its historic parkland setting.

Families have associations and connections to the house and park, as its history includes RAF personnel based there during the Second World War, when it was used as a headquarters for searchlight batteries and motor transport depot, followed by conversion to a girls' convent school.



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The walled kitchen garden declined in use when it was turned into a racehorse training circuit, but has been revived by a company growing and selling organic fruit and vegetables. School groups visit the walled garden, enhancing their learning about growing plants for food, which is linked to the national curriculum.

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