



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Neswick Hall parkland

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Neswick Hall parkland, 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

The former parkland of Neswick Hall with its boundary plantations provides a good example of the typical layout of a modest mid-18th century designed landscape. The hall, used to billet soldiers during the Second World War, was demolished in 1954, together with its lodge in *circa* 1965. Of particular interest is the restored walled kitchen garden with refurbished glasshouses and vinery. The stables and home farm (listed Grade II) with its barn (listed Grade II) and dovecote also survive, some converted to residential use. Large parts of the parkland are under pasture and extensive earthworks of former medieval settlement survive, which adds to the historic layers of the parkland. Mature trees survive as clumps in the parkland and within the former pleasure grounds, whilst the surrounding woodland and narrow shelterbelts still remain.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

Up until the ownership of Thomas Eyres in the first half of the 18th century, Neswick had a village with open ploughed fields and possibly a former manorial settlement. Eyres cleared away parts of the village and enclosed the arable fields, although the extent of any gardens or parkland surrounding his new house is unknown. It was during the tenure of Robert Grimston in the 1770s that the landscape we see today was formed. In addition to significant plantations, Grimston also remodelled the house and created a walled kitchen garden. He was linked to the family at Grimston Garth on the Holderness coast and Kilnwick Hall on the Yorkshire Wolds, being the ward of John Grimston (1725-1780) and was clearly influenced by the work done at these estates. Little further work was done to the landscape by succeeding generations.

The large eighteenth century walled garden, divided in two, as 'nursery' and 'garden' contained a peach house and vineries. One restored glasshouse (vinery) retains original arches at the base of the front wall, revealing developments in techniques for growing vines. The interior of the walled garden has been replanted, maintaining its function of providing fruit and vegetables. Its circular ornamental pond, yew lined walks and lawned areas (for bowling?) hark back to some leisure uses too.



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3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The parkland retains good survival of earthworks of medieval settlement and open field systems of ridge and furrow. Although there is some documentary evidence for the deserted Neswick village, the earthworks reveal a more complex story, with two distinct areas, one perhaps an earlier manorial complex and the second a more regular layout, possibly a planned village. An earthwork survey could determine more about their form and phasing to help interpret the development of the medieval landscape prior to and during the laying out of the eighteenth century parkland, when settlement appears to have been cleared by emparking. These earthworks also have the potential to protect and masque earlier settlement and field systems beneath them. Within the wider landscape arable fields reveals cropmarks, displaying patterns typical of the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

The northern boundary shelterbelt 'Charcoal Plantation' suggests an association with the production of charcoal. Garden Covert, formally 'The Ash Wood', does have a number of coppiced trees along its southern fringes and some trees in the pleasure grounds, surrounding the walled garden, are also coppiced. Although coppiced wood may be used for agricultural purposes, it can also be used in charcoal production. Further archaeological investigations may confirm evidence of this and show whether it has any links to the tile kilns site also recorded within the former parkland.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

Although the house is demolished, the remaining walled kitchen garden with its redesigned interior and restored glasshouses are notable. Mature trees, especially yews, formally part the pleasure grounds enhance its sheltered setting. Beyond the perimeter tree belts and clumps within the parkland are significant, contrasting the wider landscape of arable fields where woodland and trees are sparse.

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