



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Carnaby Dutch Farm park and garden

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Carnaby Dutch Farm park and garden 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 site of a late 18th-century Dutch style ornamental farm and dairy at Carnaby, within a small park, is of particular historic interest retaining some elements of its plan and water features of a rare, albeit modest example of an English version of the garden of Marie Antoinette's Hameau de la Reine at Versailles.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

South of Carnaby village, originally sited on marshy ground, is a roughly square moated enclosure with fishponds, so named on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. Within the moated enclosure is an oval island surrounded by a water-filled ditch.

Documentary evidence records a manor house held by Walter Heselton in 1368 called 'le Parke', implying a deer park. The 1854 Ordnance Survey map labels 'The Park', adjacent to the moated enclosure, but this is more likely to relate to the immediate landscape surrounding the moat. The form of the moated enclosure and its internal arrangements seem more appropriate as an ornamental garden than a manorial site. It may have also functioned as a fishery. The medieval manor house more probably lay to the north-west, on the west side of Moor Lane, where 'Hall Close' and 'Old Banks' are shown in 1854, and where foundations have been exposed.

The manor of Carnaby passed to the Strickland family of Boynton soon after 1573. Lady Strickland created a farm and dairy, first recorded in 1780, incorporating a moat and water features. It is described and depicted in contemporary accounts of 1793 and 1802. Its style has been likened to the garden of Marie Antoinette's Hameau de la Reine at Versailles, providing a rustic retreat for the women gentry of the time. The Dutch style dairy was used as an occasional tearoom until the early 1830s, but probably abandoned by 1834.

The expansion of the railways across East Riding of Yorkshire, financed by wealthy Yorkshire families, including the Stricklands, saw the site cut through by the Hull to Bridlington line in 1844 and Carnaby station was opened in 1846.

During the 1940s RAF Carnaby (Bridlington) airfield was constructed adjacent to the site providing an emergency landing strip for bombers. A branch railway line was constructed across the southern



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side of the moated site to facilitate supplying the airfield, and after closure in 1969 demolition rubble was dumped over parts of the site.

3. Evidential Value ('Research')

The ornamental buildings have all been demolished although earthworks survive, but the site does present a puzzle. The form of the earthworks, published by the Ordnance Survey in 1854, shows an asymmetrical moat and oval island, surrounded by a small moat with three arms. However, this does not correspond with the contemporary plan of 1802 by Dorothy Richardson, depicting a square moat, circular island and moat, or ditch with four symmetrical arms. It may be a case of artistic licence on the part of the latter, or perhaps the site underwent alteration in the years between its decline in 1834 and its survey by the Ordnance Survey in 1849-50.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

During the late 18th to early 19th centuries this site is described as a secluded rustic retreat, with ornamental Dutch style buildings, a thatched dairy and foot bridges that crossed to the island, on which was an octagonal teahouse, the whole surrounded by meadows and trees, creating an enchanting rural scene.

The plan of a symmetrical circular island with its encircling moat and four arms, as depicted in contemporary sources, may have been influenced by the design of duck decoy ponds, also derived from Dutch influences, although its actual form could not have functioned as one.

Today the buildings are demolished and the earthworks to the south of the railway line are denuded and the area is overgrown with regenerated ash and willow trees, masking the features from Carnaby village and the adjacent industrial estate and waste recycling site. The trees have a visual impact in the flat terrain and landscape around Carnaby where there is little woodland. This part of the site has also been affected by 20th century disturbance. However, better preserved earthworks lie on the north side of the railway line, visible from the road.

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