



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Cave Castle parkland

### Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Cave Castle 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

Cave Castle and its parkland reflects the rising social status of a Yorkshire family in acquiring land, establishing an estate and landscaping it during the late 18th century. The major work on the parkland (thought to be by William Emes) is comparatively late and fashions were moving towards the picturesque at this time. The design at Cave Castle though retains the influence of professional improvers such as Lancelot Brown. Its irregular lake, perimeter shelterbelts and trees in a wide area of open parkland, serve to make the best out of a limited space, once offering views towards the River Humber. The historic listed buildings are now a hotel and country club and the remaining parkland is much reduced by housing development and conversion to a golf course. However, they form an important component of the South Cave Conservation Area.

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

The Boldero Barnard family owned the estate at Cave Castle from 1748 through to the 20th century. They descended from a Hull merchant family and transformed the estate and village, which reflects their rising social status. The estate enabled them to accumulate wealth and influence the social and economic affairs of South Cave, bringing many benefits to the local community.

Henry Boldero Barnard was responsible for most of the landscaping from 1783 to 1815 and his son Henry Gee Barnard made some further improvements in the 1830s. William Emes was apparently commissioned to remodel the parkland in circa 1787, introducing a style similar to that of Lancelot Brown. John Claudius Loudon, prolific horticultural and landscape design writer of the early 19th century, approved of it and described it as 'a small but extremely pleasant park, with very large gardens and pleasure-grounds'. Some elements of this landscaping still survive.

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

The previous manor house of East Hall, which was demolished, has evidence from a 1759 plan for formal grounds laid out over 10 acres. The later rebuilding and landscaping associated with the present Cave Castle, together with the installation of a golf course have transformed the area. However, there is still potential for some features of the early 18th century layout to survive and be identified where elements have been incorporated into later features. Surviving parts of a beech



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tree avenue northeast of the house are significant and the site of East Hall is undisturbed by golf course re-landscaping.

Parts of the pleasure grounds and wilderness, northeast of the house, although cleared for timber in the late 20th century and partly re-landscaped, does retain some elements of structures and planting. They surround the walled garden and icehouse. This part of the former garden lies within the South Cave Conservation Area and further research can enhance and aid revision of the plan to highlight aspects for preservation.

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

The parkland provides the setting for Cave Castle, its two lodges and stables, which are Grade II listed and are striking Gothic style buildings. The western lodge commands a prominent position, adjacent to All Saints Church, forming an eye-catcher from the village, leading through to the parkland and mansion house. The east lodge is imposing, retaining its castellated towers, curved screen walls and bear statues.

The irregular lake with trees planted at either end, similar to other work by William Emes (hence the attribution), still retains some mature plantings. It provides a framed view from the house across the parkland to the wider borrowed landscape beyond, aided by the realignment of the sunken public road. The irregular planting on this southern boundary allows peeps into the parkland from outside, across the lake towards the house and church.

The retention of some of the parkland mature trees and shelterbelt plantations, both in the parkland and within the housing estate, contribute to the distinctiveness and strength of character of the South Cave Conservation Area.

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

Cave Castle hotel and country club with golf course allows access for people to appreciate the parkland setting. The encroaching urban spread of South Cave into the south-eastern area and southern part (formerly Bull Pasture) has reduced the size of the parkland by almost half, which reinforces the need to retain the remaining green spaces and trees, that can be shared and appreciated by the local community.

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