

LANCASHIRE
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER TYPE

ANCIENT & POST-MEDIEVAL
ORNAMENTAL

Definition:

This type includes mainly later 18th and 19th century designed landscapes, created to look 'natural' with lakes, stands of trees and vistas. However, there are also several parks with origins that can be traced back to the medieval period including a small number of deer parks.

Typical historical and archaeological components

The archaeological components of the **Ancient & Post-Medieval Ornamental** HLC type include a historic focus, usually the principal house or its successor, around which the park was designed. Where such buildings survive and are 19th century or earlier, they tend to be listed Grade II or above. There are 77 listed buildings within the type (2% of the total of 4,050 registered for the county), these being mainly 18th and 19th century buildings including the large houses themselves, lodges and stables. Associated with the main building may be ancillary structures concerned with the maintenance of the household and the running of the estate. These can include gardens, stables, barns, estate-workers' cottages, small reservoirs and icehouses. Beyond the house, components may include a well-defined parkland boundary, the hard landscaping of pathways, buildings and formal planting arrangements. These may be complemented by tree planting, both of specimen trees and of screening belts, and/or by 'informal' and 'exotic' plant collections. Earlier archaeological components from phases of activity pre-dating the park's establishment may also be present. These are most likely to comprise the ditches, hedges, walls and banks of former field systems, deserted settlement sites, fishponds, tracks and roads.

Enhancing and safeguarding the type

- *Conserve* Registered Parks and Gardens. Some ornamental land is included in English Heritage's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' and, although such listing provides no statutory protection, it affords them special consideration within the planning process. The effect of development that may result in substantive change to such landscapes is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- *Protect* unlisted buildings and structures related to ornamental land. The principal buildings within the parks, and other related structures, are often Listed Buildings and occasionally lie within conservation areas, and as such benefit from the additional protection provided by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. However, many of the lesser buildings and features are often left in disrepair or demolished, several appearing on both the national and local Buildings at Risk Registers (such as Bath Lodge, Ormskirk or Extwistle Hall and attached garden wall, Briercliffe). This can seriously affect the coherence of the surviving elements of the ornamental landscape – grant aid is available and owners should be encouraged to explore opportunities for repair, maintenance and enhancement. Grant giving bodies include the Heritage Lottery Fund (Public Parks Initiative) and English Heritage (Grants for the Repair and Conservation of Historic Buildings, Monuments, Parks and Gardens).
- *Encourage* public access, appreciation and understanding of ornamental landscapes and their component features through events such as the Civic Trust's Heritage Open Days. Ornamental landscapes have, by design, considerable potential for public enjoyment for their heritage interest or simply as recreational areas.
- *Avoid* loss of integrity by division into multiple ownership, or through inappropriate changes of use.
- Where ornamental landscapes are in multiple ownership *encourage* management regimes that foster

joint-working whilst protecting the key ornamental attributes, such as parkland trees through Tree Preservation Orders or parkland structures through listing or scheduling.

- *Encourage* the planting of new parkland and ornamental trees to replace those mature specimens that are integral to the historic landscape design.
- *Conserve* relict archaeological remains. Preservation of earlier archaeological remains within areas of ornamental land is usually good given the low intensity of most parkland uses. Development proposals or changes of landuse may require assessment in order that any consequent damage may be mitigated.
- *Promote* early consultation and the provision of supporting information for development proposals. Many ornamental landscapes are the subject of proposals for conversion to golf courses. Guidance recommends early consultation and the provision of sufficient information to assess the impact of proposals upon the historic interest of the landscape as prerequisites for successful and appropriate schemes (English Heritage: *Golf Course Proposals in Historic Landscapes*).