

## LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

## MODERN ORNAMENTAL

### Definition:

Within the county there are 18 areas of landscapes identified as Modern Ornamental (created post AD1850), many of which are small scale and measure between 10 and 20 hectares. The largest is Stonyhurst Park, which was once larger but reduced to accommodate a golf course.

### Typical historical and archaeological components

As for **Ancient and Post-Medieval Ornamental** there is usually a principal house and associated structures. There may also be planted woodland and other landscape features, but the quantity of follies, eyecatchers and parkland oddments is significantly less than within the earlier type (and certain structures, such as icehouses, feature not at all). Instead the emphasis rests upon either the plant collections close to the house, or upon the exaggeration of principal features (the main building, gatehouse or entrance), marking the often newly-acquired status of the owner. The pre-ornamental phase of land use is likely to be represented by boundaries, routeways and other earthworks as well as older trees. There are 19 listed buildings within this HLC type (0.5% of the total in Lancashire).

### 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. 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 land use 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*).