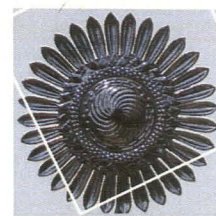


Report 1618b



nau archaeology

**Ayscoughfee Hall Gardens, Spalding, Lincolnshire:  
Conservation Plan**



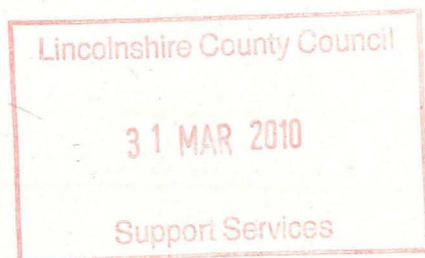
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March 2009



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens deserve to be called unique: a medieval hall, with a surviving set of early 18th-century town gardens, which include a garden canal. The building of the temple of remembrance at the head of this canal in 1922 adds to the significance and quiet drama of this garden. But Ayscoughfee Hall is also a welcoming place of education and recreation for the town of Spalding.

The Conservation Plan has been produced for South Holland District Council by staff of NAU Archaeology, and sets out to assess the condition and significance of the gardens, and the importance of surviving elements, with recommendations for conservation. It follows an Historic Building Survey of the Hall (Glenn and Taylor 1999) and a further assessment of the building (FAS 2005); an Historical Appraisal of the Pleasure Grounds was undertaken and published in 2000 (Anderson and Glenn 2000).

NAU Archaeology has carried out An Archaeological Desk-based Survey of Ayscoughfee Hall Gardens (Penn 2008), which sets out the historical background in greater detail. This was associated with a topographical survey and a programme of excavation.

This Conservation Plan presents a vision for the conservation and enhancement of the gardens, retaining the historic features and their setting, indicating ways to conserve and improve the relationship between the various elements, and to encourage and enhance public enjoyment of the gardens and amenities.

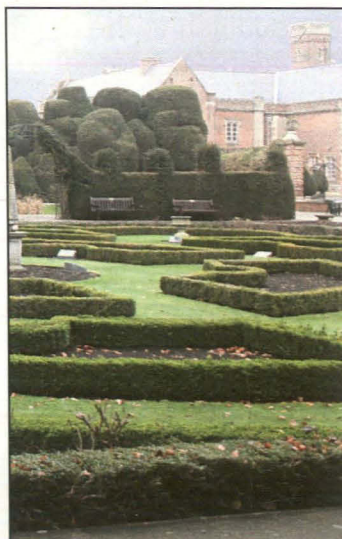


Plate 1. Ayscoughfee Hall from the Peace Garden

### 1.2 The Impetus for conservation

The Hall and Gardens came into the hands of the District Council in 1902 and became a public amenity, with various additions and changes to the former private grounds. The importance of Ayscoughfee Hall and its gardens has resulted in designation as a Listed Building Grade II\* and inclusion on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens Grade II.

The scope of this Conservation Plan covers in the history and significance of the gardens, with general conservation of both major periods of importance. The main significance must lie in the rare survival of the early 18th-century town gardens.

It forms one element in an ongoing programme of research, restoration and conservation of a nationally important site.

### 1.3 The Site

Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens occupy a site of about two hectares and lie central to the fenland town of Spalding, Lincolnshire, on the banks of the River Welland (TF 249 223, Figure 1). Ayscoughfee Hall and its gardens represent one of the most important features of the town, not only for its historic importance, but as a valued public amenity for the local residents. It is a site with three main periods, the first being the Hall itself, an imposing building with late medieval origins. The gardens at Ayscoughfee Hall combine two gardens: the town garden of an early 18th-century gentleman and antiquary (Maurice Johnson, a leader in scientific enquiry) and a municipal park of the 20th century, which contains a significant World War One memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Elements of both gardens survive, the one overlaid on the other.

The south garden and the canal garden are the least changed, with the yews in the south garden being of particular significance, and both have connections to Maurice Johnson and his circle of antiquarian and scientific enthusiasts. In the east, the Garden Close has lost its trees and garden buildings, but remains, in essence, a single long open space. It is the south-eastern area, probably kitchen gardens, an orchard and perhaps a greenhouse, that has most changed. Beyond this lies a children's play area and other facilities. The south-eastern part of the gardens represents a complete addition to the original garden scheme, but in spirit continues the formal nature of the original gardens.

The Hall remains in use as a museum, with the main attraction being the Hall itself. The gardens are open to the public and contain amenity and sports facilities: a café, bowling green, tennis courts and children's play area.

Ayscoughfee Hall and its gardens are of national significance, being an example of an enclosed 18th-century urban garden. Its footprint survives as a set of compartments, and some of its original planting also survives. Its significance is enhanced by the Temple of Remembrance of 1922, complemented by the modern Peace Garden, a memorial to more recent wars.



Plate 2. The canal with Temple of Remembrance.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LAYOUT

by Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia

### 2.1 General Comments on the History of the Site

There were presumably gardens of some kind around Ayscoughfee Hall in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, but the earliest representation is on John Grundy's survey of 1732, and the earliest surviving features are – at most – only a few decades older. Grundy's map shows a basic layout of boundaries and spaces similar to that which exists today. Then, as now, a rather simple entrance court separated the hall from the public road. To the east of the hall, in the area now occupied by a bowling green and tennis courts, three lines of trees ran at a slight angle to the façade of the house, their orientation determined by that of the adjacent property boundaries. To the south of this was what appears to be an area of kitchen garden and orchard; and a compartment featuring a rectangular canal, ranged north–south. To the west of this (and thus to the south of the house) was the most complex area of the gardens, and the only area in which original planting now remains. A straight walk, aligned on the south front of the hall, ran as far as the south boundary of the garden.

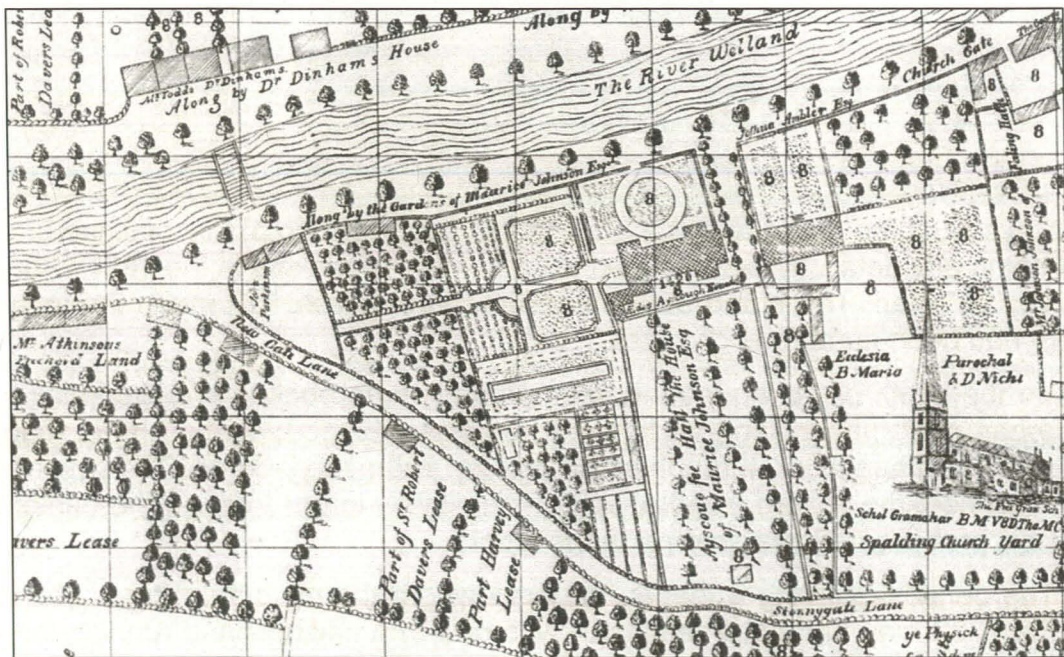


Plate 3. Grundy's map of 1732 (detail)

The features of the garden were arranged in a roughly symmetrical fashion to either side: first, two plain lawns or plats; next, after a cross-walk, a stippled area which may represent a low shrubbery; and finally, a more extensive area of woodland, evidently some kind of 'wilderness' or ornamental wood. Surviving planting suggests that the outer edges of the plats were bordered by yew hedges, which turned in along the southern edge of the cross walk, and then continued southwards, flanking the main north–south walk through the shrubbery, and then the wilderness. The junction between cross-walk, and main axis, took the form of a

light semi-circular bow or apse (described rather grandly as an 'exedra' in Andersen and Glenn 2000).

Although it is perfectly possible that the overall arrangement of spaces within the gardens shown on the 1732 map had early origins, the main features shown – and, in particular, the layout of the main area of gardens to the south of the house – must have been the work of Maurice Johnson II (1685–1755): for stylistically, the gardens shown on Grundy's map were evidently created in the decades either side of 1700. In particular, the elaborate use of yew hedging, and the extensive areas of shrubbery and wilderness flanking a walk axially focussed on the house, are typical of this period; so too is the creation of 'canal gardens', part of the influence of Dutch gardeners following the accession of William of Orange in 1688.



Plate 4. Yews along the central path

The Ayscoughfee gardens are shown on Armstrong's map of Lincolnshire of 1779, but not in any detail. In fact, the next detailed map of the site is the 1887 Ordnance Survey 25" map. The broad outlines of the gardens were still much the same but there had been numerous changes in detail:

- To the south of the house the geometric plats had become a single lawn; the areas of shrubbery and wilderness had been thinned to open lawn scattered with specimen trees, through which curving paths meandered. The yew hedges remained, the curved 'exedra' appearing slightly larger than on the earlier map (this probably reflects an error in the latter).
- The densest planting – that is, the area where the majority of trees shown on the 1732 map had been retained - was now in a narrow band running long the south western margins of the gardens, probably acting as a perimeter belt or screen.
- The area of probable orchard/kitchen garden is now shown as grass, scattered with trees, but this may still have functioned as an orchard, and glass houses are shown ranged along its northern boundary.
- The lines of trees to the east of the hall had now largely gone; this area is shown as mainly open lawn.
- An ice house is shown in the far south of the garden, just to the east of the southern end of the main north–south axis.



The 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map shows a broadly similar arrangement of features, but with some reduction in the number of trees, especially in the area immediately to the south of the glass houses.

In 1902 the hall and its gardens were acquired by Spalding Urban District Council. The gardens became a public open space, and a guide book prepared in 1912 includes a plan of the grounds. Four years later an article in *Country Life* included a number of photographs: together these sources provide the following information about the grounds.

- The yew hedges in the area to the south of the hall were by now tall and outgrown, and the outline of the 'exedra' was becoming indistinct and poorly-defined, especially on its eastern side.
- The canal garden was bounded on its eastern side by an equally outgrown yew hedge, but not apparently on its western side
- An ornamental garden building, the Owl Tower, stood at the southern end of the canal.



Plate 5. The canal garden in 1916, eastern side.

Soon after the end of the First World War the tower was demolished and replaced by the present war memorial. This, and associated hedges, intruded on the existing pattern of paths to the south of the canal, and these were reorganised. The 1929 1:2500 OS map shows these changes clearly, but also others, part of the gradual conversion of the gardens from private grounds to municipal open space:

- The area of lawn to the east of the hall was now occupied, as today, by a bowling green and tennis courts.
- A bowling green had also been created in the area (now the Peace Garden) to the east of the Canal Garden.
- To the east of this, a garden with central pond had been created, flanked to north and south by aviaries.
- There had been some further reduction in the amount of tree cover.

Recent, late 20th-century changes have included the creation of a formal rose garden, the Peace Garden, in the place occupied by the more southerly of the bowling greens.

## 2.2 A Description of the Grounds

The area to the east of the hall has been occupied, since the inter-war period, by tennis courts and bowling greens. Nothing of historical importance seems to remain above ground. A few small, neatly-trimmed yews grow next to the hall but these appear to be early 20th century. A stone wall terminated by a brick pier with ball finial (early 18th century?) projects eastwards from the south eastern corner of the hall, forming a partial boundary with the areas of garden to the south.

The area to the south of the bowling green was possibly an area of kitchen garden and orchard in the 18th century, and by 1887 was a lawn, scattered with trees, although still with glass houses along its northern side – perhaps display houses by this date, rather than utilitarian greenhouses. Nothing of any antiquity survives here today: the area is occupied by the Peace Garden, a slightly sunken rose garden, consisting of geometric beds, surrounded by low box hedges, set in lawn. This was created in the late 20th century.

The canal garden is one of the most interesting areas of the grounds. Although the long, rectangular canal is shown as a feature on the 1732 plan, and on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey, in its present form it is largely 20th-century in date. Photographs from the early 20th century show its sides as graded turf slopes: it now has municipal concrete edges as well as rather tidier grass sides, and ornamental fountains down the centre. It is flanked by tarmac paths. It may have been shortened slightly in the early 20th century, perhaps when the war memorial was erected. As already noted, until at least 1916 the eastern boundary was defined by an outgrown yew hedge, resembling those to the south of the house and presumably of similar date. The present hedge was planted some time in the 20th century, possibly at the time the Temple of Remembrance was erected or after the fire that destroyed the stables. Its western side is bounded in part by the old, outgrown yew hedge flanking the main garden area to the south of the hall; where this turns a right-angle, and runs to the west, the boundary is formed by a fairly recent yew hedge, slightly out of alignment.

The war memorial itself was designed by Edwin Lutyens, and is thus of some importance, although Pevsner typically fails to mention the architect and simply describes it as 'unfortunate'. The memorial replaced a gothic tower, of 1848 – the 'Owl Tower' – and comprises a simple, temple-like building with a block of stone, resembling an altar, in front. At the same time as these were erected, two yews in square brick surrounds were placed at the southern corners of the canal.

The southern parts of the gardens are shown as shrubbery and wilderness on the 1732 map, and as densely treed on the various 19th-century maps. This area extends along the south western edge of the garden: either side of the north-south walk; and then around the south of the canal garden and what is now the Peace Garden. It can now, for convenience, be divided into three main sub-areas: these bear little relation to the divisions shown on the 1732 map, but this is partly because none of this area contains much in the way of historic planting.

The area to the west of the north-south walk mainly comprises lawn, with geometric pattern of flower beds and a thin scatter of shrubs and trees, none of any antiquity. The layout of paths appears the same as in 1887. The path running along the side of the perimeter wall has a trellis, late 20th century, flanked on either side by linear beds: that beside the wall has a few privet bushes, that on the

other side a line of ornamental trees of mid-20th-century date: Atlas cedar *glauca* (with a girth of 1.4m), cypress sp. and swamp cypress.

The southern end of this area, next to the perimeter wall, comprises a small area of shrubbery, beyond which are six lime trees, planted close against the wall, all with girths of 1.9m or less. In the south-eastern corner of this area, near the end of the yew walk, is a large beech with a girth of 2.6m. All this planting appears recent – even the limes and the beech can only date from the first half of the 20th century.

The southern section of the area between the rectangular canal and the yew walk is shown as densely-planted in 1732 and was probably a wilderness: the character of the northern section remains uncertain, but was probably shrubbery. There is little planting of any antiquity here today. The area consists of lawn, scattered with shrubs and some trees. The paths, the layout of which has been altered following the construction of Lutyen's war memorial, are lined with specimens of yew, Irish yew, box, and a single Deodar cedar with a girth of 2.4m; the lawns have examples of yew, a young monkey puzzle and beech, and a silver birch (1.8m). None of this planting seems to predate the 20th century.

In the south of this area, up against the perimeter wall, is the ice house, beneath a low mound. The external brickwork has been much restored but suggests that the structure is (perhaps) mid-18th century in date. The mound is currently fenced off with iron railings, planted with recent shrubs and with a single beech, girth 2.7m, on its north western side.

The area to the south and the east of the war memorial is shown as the eastern side, and extension, of the wilderness on the 1732 map, and as a kind of perimeter belt on the 1887 OS, with a serpentine path running through it. The path was straightened between 1912 and 1929 – part of the 'municipalisation' of the site.

The 1887 and 1905 OS maps detailed the trees as both deciduous and coniferous. The principal survivors from before the 20th century are a scatter of yew trees: as the largest has a girth of only 1.7m these are likely to be of 19th-century or possibly earlier date. The other planting in this area is, for the most part, of 20th-century date. Two beeches, with girths of 2m and 2.2m, are unlikely to be older than the inter-war period; two sycamores behind the war memorial, with girths of 2m and 2.2m, are probably younger still; while a line of 9 limes growing against the perimeter wall (a continuation of those noted in area 5.2), all with girths under 2m, are probably early 20th century in date. The only tree (other than the yews) of any real antiquity in this area is found at the eastern extremity of the area: a large, almost dead oak, with a girth of 5.6m, which must be of early 18th- or even perhaps 17th-century date.

The only other feature of interest in this part of the grounds is the Victorian drinking fountain, but, as the notice beside this makes clear, this was originally erected (in 1874) in a different place, Hall Place, and only brought to this site in 1954.

The main feature of historical importance on the site is the ancient yews growing to the south of the house. The yews run at right angle to the house, along the outer edge of the grass lawn (two geometric plats in 1732) before turning at right angles, to form the southern edge of the lawn. They then turn again, lining the north-south path as far as the southern boundary of the garden.

Where they flank the lawn, immediately to the south of the house, the yews form a bank of vegetation which also includes other shrubs (principally holly) and a low privet hedge. The 'exedra' too has developed into a wide bank of shrubs. A strip of shrubs – laurel, holly – similarly accompanies the yews for part of the western side of the axial walk, although otherwise they grow here as individual specimens. Whether accompanied by other vegetation, or growing singly, the yews take the form of single lines of plants which form a slightly complex pattern, mirroring precisely the line shown on the 1887 and 1903 OS maps, including the central 'apse' at the junction of the lawn and the north–south walk, and also two small projections at the corners of the lawn. This indicates clearly that even in the early 20th century the yews defined recognisable hedges, rather than forming individual specimens, even if (to judge from the 1916 photographs) these were by then very outgrown (by 1916 the plants flanking the south walk were effectively individual trees).

The plants vary greatly in circumference, in part perhaps because some are later replacements but mainly because yew puts on girth very erratically, and also rather slowly if maintained as a hedge. The plants are today spaced unevenly: along the sides of the lawn, for example, intervals are mostly in the range 2.2–2.4m, but some adjacent specimens are separated by less than 2m and others by over 2.7m. This variation is what we normally find when a densely-planted hedge has 'grown out': some of the individual plants are outcompeted and die, or are removed intentionally to convert the hedge into a line of individual trees or bushes, as perhaps has happened on the sides of the north–south walk.

There is no evidence that the yews ever formed a double line; nor is there any clear evidence that they originally grew in the form of a tall hedge, with niches for busts etc., in the manner suggested by Anderson and Glenn. They may well have formed a low hedge, over which the ornamental planting of the shrubbery and wilderness could have been seen and enjoyed.

The garden walls were not examined in detail. They have been repointed and repaired on many occasions and would repay systematic recording. The south western wall appears to be of one build, all the way from the ice house to the yard of the parish church. It is constructed in English Garden Bond under a wide brick coping: it appears early 18th century in date. The western wall is more complex, with a number of distinct builds. From south to north, the first c.30 metres is a modern rebuild; the second is old and complex, but perhaps 18th century (hard to see under much poor re-pointing); the third section is highly irregular bond with fairly narrow bricks – 17th century?; the next two sections are also old, brick but on a stone base.



Plate 6. Part of the perimeter wall.

### 2.3 Conclusion

The grounds of Ayscoughfee Hall are an important example of an early 18th-century urban garden, and the present arrangement of compartments mirrors closely that shown on the 1732 map. Rather less actually survives above ground from this period: some of the perimeter walls; the arrangement of yews to the south of the house, evidently an outgrown hedge; the overall shape (although not the construction details) of the canal; and a single oak tree. The yews are an important survivor of c.1700 geometric planting, and would benefit from examination by dendrochronology. The walls should also be systematically recorded.

It should also be noted, however, that some of the later phases of the site's history are also worthy of investigation and, indeed, interpretation, most notably the Lutyens' war memorial and the associated changes to the canal garden.



Plate 7. Oak stump, possibly a survivor of Johnson's garden

### 3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Summary

The present gardens were first laid out by Maurice Johnson around 1730 and the present arrangement of the gardens mirrors closely that shown on John Grundy's map of 1732. After the death of Maurice Johnson in 1755, little was done to maintain or alter his schemes until 1902, when Spalding Urban District Council came into possession and the gardens became a public amenity. This period saw the creation of tennis courts, bowling green, café and other facilities within the gardens, besides the Temple of Remembrance of 1922, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, and the modern Peace Garden.

#### 3.2 The Lost Medieval Landscape

The Hall dates from the mid-1400s and both the western façade, facing the river, and the eastern or garden façade, have large oriel windows. Little is known of any early gardens around the Hall and the present gardens date back to Maurice Johnson's schemes in the early 1700s. The avenue of yew trees has been dated to around 1720; there were also yew trees in front of the house, removed in 1794.



Plate 8. Oriel window on the western façade

#### 3.3 Maurice Johnson: His House and Gardens

Maurice Johnson took over the Hall in his early 20s. He set up the Society meeting room at Ayscoughfee Hall. His new gardens were laid out in accordance with current fashions, not just in design but in the plants and techniques to be seen in them.

Ayscoughfee Hall was an urban house, on an awkward site, and stood in the north-west corner of a large triangular plot, fronting the road and set against the north wall of the property. The west front was the entrance court, whilst the east and south fronts were the formal garden fronts. On a constricted site, the kitchens and other offices were always a problem to garden design and hindered visual connection between the east front and the Garden Close.

Inspiration for the gardens came ultimately from the 'urban gardens' seen in the Low Countries, with especially strong links established with England through the accession of William of Orange to the English throne in 1688, and from the 'late

geometric' style of gardens. Typically, this led to the creation of separate inward-looking compartments, each arranged along strong axes, often defined by hedges of yew. In the Low Countries, canals were also important features of gardens, and Maurice Johnson had a canal cut in the gardens, in its own compartment, perhaps connected with the building of the Ice House.

Later photographs show that the north end of the canal garden was enclosed by a wall with elaborate gate, possibly an attempt to emphasise the enclosed nature of the canal compartment. Perhaps this was original or built when the stables were built (perhaps after the loss of Gayton House in 1755?) or in 1848 when the Owl Tower was built at the south end of the canal.

In the 1740s, Maurice Johnson introduced lead statuary, especially important in creating interest and a focus within a garden, and fashionable in the earlier part of the 18th century. Lead statues were produced commercially in England from the early 18th century, mostly in the form of Gods of Antiquity, drawn from classical mythology. Johnson's were: a Kneeling Slave, Roman Warrior, an Amazon, and Diana with Stag. Gardens became in effect, outdoor 'museums', in the older sense of 'the abode of the muses'.



Plate 9. Figure of kneeling slave in 1916

Johnson filled his gardens with the latest plants from fashionable nurseries, sending to London for them and acquiring the latest exotics from abroad (see Appendix 1). One of the likely features would have been a hothouse, and this may have stood close to the house.

John Grundy's map of 1732 effectively records the footprint of Ayscoughfee Hall and the present gardens, and shows that in general these are much the same today, but for the erosion of the 'soft landscape' and the loss of several important features.

### 3.4 After Maurice Johnson II

After Maurice Johnson, changes were slight (and these were mostly to the house). His grandson, Maurice Johnson IV (1756–1834), gave the west front a 'Gothic' look in the late 1700s and cut down the yews in the west front. In the middle of the 19th century, Maurice Johnson VI (1815–1864) gave the west front a 'mock-Tudor'

look in 1845 and built the 'Owl Tower' at the far end of the canal in 1848 (removed in 1921).

Armstrong's map of 1779 is very schematic and many features were probably not recorded, but it does show the hall and grounds after Johnson's death (when Maurice III the Colonel was in residence). The garden house, the building behind the outer wall in the Wilderness area, and both ponds are shown.

### **3.5 Local Ownership: the Gardens in the 20th Century**

Spalding Urban District Council came into possession of the Hall around the turn of the 19th century. Ayscoughfee Hall became a public amenity, and the natural site for the town war memorial, the Temple of Remembrance, in 1922 and the Peace Garden in the 1990s.

### **3.6 Below-ground archaeology**

Archaeological excavation has shed light on the early character of Ayscoughfee Hall and its surroundings (Trimble 2009), including evidence for early medieval activity south of the Hall, and an early east-west boundary south of, and enclosing, the Hall.

While the Conservation Plan has a focus on the planting and the extant garden layout, some of the features recorded in the excavation are of significance to the history of the Hall and the development of the gardens. Consequently they should also be considered in the implementation of the Conservation Plan.

On the southern lawn, there is evidence for early terracing and a 16th-century pathway, a precursor to Johnson's gardens of the 18th century. This work also revealed evidence for a culvert, draining from the house into another culvert linking the River Welland and the garden canal. These are elements of more extensive features.

It has been surmised that Johnson would have built a hothouse in his gardens, and the excavations also provided some evidence for this. At the south-eastern corner of the Hall, in the angle of the garden and summerhouse, the base of an outbuilding was found, with what might be a furnace attached at its north-eastern corner. The present east-west garden wall may rest on the southern foundations of this building. These remains now lie below a paved surface, and any deep planting here should be avoided. Against the west boundary wall, what may be the remains of a 'hotbed' were recorded, where Grundy's map of 1732 shows a building. Early 18th-century greenhouses are rare survivals in garden history and such features therefore have an added importance within the gardens.



## 4.0 SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE

### 4.1 Historical Significance

The gardens represent two phases of activity, and each gives the gardens its historic value. Both phases need to be regarded, whilst the recreational amenities give the gardens further public value.

Ayscoughfee Hall and its gardens are of national importance, being a rare example of an enclosed urban garden of the 18th century. Although much altered in the 20th century, the arrangement of its compartments and the yew planting survive. The yew gardens are the most significant feature, representing some of the original planting, in contrast to the more amenity oriented parts of the gardens.



Plate 10. Overgrown yews.

The gardens, although much altered in some areas, clearly match the footprint shown in John Grundy's map of 1732 and must belong to Maurice Johnson's schemes (perhaps incorporating work by his father, Maurice Johnson I). It is therefore a rare, perhaps unique, example of an early 18th-century urban garden surviving into the modern period, whilst many others have been lost in urban development.

Even though not an original feature, the Temple of Remembrance is significant in itself both as a memorial for the dead of the town, and as a monument designed by a major architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. The office of Edwin Lutyens won the government commission to design the Cenotaph in London and other war memorials around the Empire and these were done to a common pattern, of which the Spalding Temple of Remembrance is a good example (although reduced in size to match funds). The Temple emphasises the canal compartment and should be considered a significant and valuable addition to the original scheme.



Plate 11. The canal with temple.

After ownership by the same family since the gardens were laid out, it is fortunate that the town bought Ayscoughfee Hall when it did, at a time when many similar houses and gardens were being lost and replaced by speculative building. The modern park contains three important compartments that echo the formality of the earlier gardens: Peace Garden with Fountain, Pond Garden, and bowling green/tennis courts.

Urban parks such as Ayscoughfee Hall have been reassessed in recent years, not only as parks, but, especially, where existing gardens were taken over by local authorities, as heritage assets of local and national importance. They are also of great local importance as public parks, offering sport, education, and the civilising influence of the historic setting of gardens and memorials.



Plate 12. View over the bowling green and tennis courts

## 4.2 Social Significance

Ayscoughfee Hall had two main creative periods, the first associated with Johnson, the second beginning with the property coming into the hands of Spalding Urban District Council in 1902.

Following the establishment of municipal authorities in the mid-19th century, and the consequent growth of public amenities, public parks became a familiar feature of the urban townscape, and were often a source of local pride. Ayscoughfee Hall gardens belong to this 19th-century movement to provide public parks, sometimes from nothing; or, as in the case of Ayscoughfee, overlaid on an existing private 'park'.

The gardens thus remained open, but with a wider participation.

## 4.3 Cultural Significance

Johnson belonged to a cultural elite, and sought to establish metropolitan values and ideas in a country town, setting up the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in 1713. Like-minded individuals were welcomed into both the Society and Johnson's gardens (the first home of the Society).

Ayscoughfee Hall is now a centre for recreational and educational activities. This is the sole public park for the town, and combines both gardens and park, besides the amenities. These include areas for sport and a children's play area, besides facilities such as café and toilets.

The house is a museum, whilst the gardens present an historic character and identity. The Canal Garden remains an 'oasis', with the Temple of Remembrance dominating that compartment, and providing a focus for visitors and for the town.

The erection of the Fountain in 1954 and the creation of the Peace Garden in the 1990s has continued and reinforced this commemorative theme and significance.



Plate 13. The Peace Garden and the Fountain

#### 4.4 Botanic Significance

The gardens are significant partly because they were laid out on the newest principles and stocked with the latest species from abroad, and may have included a hothouse and medicinal plants.

The broad layout of the gardens has changed little since they were laid out, although the loss of the avenue (possibly elms) and of a garden house, both in the Garden Close, are significant, and the stables and (any) hothouse is long gone. The present gardens offer only the yews (and a stump of dead oak) as plant survivors from Johnson's garden.

When Country Life came here in 1916, even before any 20th-century additions had been made to the gardens, their focus was on the South Garden and yews, and the Canal Garden. Besides the surviving yews, evidence for the plants and flowers found in the gardens can be gleaned from the Society's Minute Books and Maurice Johnson's own letters. These suggest the existence in the 18th century of elms and walnut trees in the gardens and might also imply a hothouse. Johnson had an interest in rare and exotic plants, and in plants used in medicine, and one may assume that many of the plants mentioned in the Minutes were in his gardens.



Plate 14. The Canal Garden looking north in 1916

Plants for which there is evidence include:

Auricula Ursi, Jasmine, Grape Hyacinth, Eglantine Rose, Peach, West Indian Peppers, Pomegranate, Green Ginger, Mock Orange, White Grape, Apricot, Watermelons, Trachelium Americanum, Chilli Strawberry, Pear, Walnut, Opuntia/Indian Fig, Pineapple.

## 5.0 STATUTORY CONTEXT

Some cultural heritage assets are the subject of legislation. The treatment of archaeological remains within the planning system is discussed in *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning*, which gives government policy on archaeological remains and how they should be preserved or recorded (Department of the Environment 1990). PPG 16 provides advice on the proper treatment of archaeological remains and discoveries through the development plan and development control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and planning conditions. It also explains the importance of archaeology and outlines the process to be undertaken.

Ayscoughfee Hall falls within several planning designations. First, it lies within the Spalding Town Centre Conservation Area (South Holland Local Plan (2006)). Trees within a Conservation Area are accorded similar protection to Tree Preservation Orders, which will have an impact on any proposals in terms of procedure.

Second, in the South Holland District Local Plan, Policy BE5: Historic Parks and Gardens states:

*Development which would have a detrimental effect upon the character, appearance and setting of an historic park or garden will not be permitted, an historic landscape appraisal report may be required where development affecting an historic park or garden is proposed. Proposals for the restoration of these parks and gardens, based on thorough historical research, will be permitted.*

Ayscoughfee Hall is also registered as an Historic Park and Garden Grade II (English Heritage: Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (2003)). This non-statutory designation is a 'material consideration' in determining planning applications.

The Lincolnshire Structure Plan (2006) states of the 28 designated places in Lincolnshire:

*these are a great asset to the county and special care must be taken with any development of the property and/or grounds, whether for tourism, recreation or other uses, to ensure that their value particularly in visual, historic or ecological terms is enhanced rather than damaged. ...Restoration, including proposals for the positive management and regeneration of an historic park and garden should be based upon thorough historical research and comply with an appropriately formulated assessment and management plan.*

Ayscoughfee Hall is a Listed Building Grade II\*, the Garden Wall and the Temple of Remembrance are Listed Buildings Grade II.

## 6.0 POLICY

Three main areas may be identified which define policies: the Johnson Gardens, the 20th-century formal gardens and the amenity facilities.

- To retain and strengthen the character and planting of the Johnson Gardens.
  - To retain the open west front
  - To reduce later/intrusive elements
  - To retain the south gardens and Ice House
  - To retain and strengthen the Canal Garden
  - To retain and strengthen the Garden Close
  - To retain and maintain the Chestnut Avenue
- To retain and maintain the fabric and setting of the 20th-century formal gardens
  - To maintain and enhance the Temple
  - To maintain and enhance the Peace Garden and Fountain
- To improve amenity facilities
  - To decide the future of café
  - To consider the future of the aviaries
  - To consider the future of the children's play area
  - To maintain tennis courts
  - To maintain bowling green

## **7.0 CONSERVATION PROPOSALS**

### **7.1 The Problems and Proposals**

The historical importance of the site brings into sharp focus the changes to the original conception as recorded on Grundy's map of 1732. By Armstrong's map of 1779 Gayton House had been lost to the estate and perhaps new facilities such as stables and access were needed, hence the stables and gate. Thus, long before 1902, many changes had been made in the gardens. The creation of the municipal park of the 20th century led to the creation of amenities, which have their own significance, as well as being an important local facility.

Retention of the four major 'Johnson' compartments of the garden is essential, together with strengthening the early layout and enhancing the sense of enclosure. One of the intrusive elements of the municipal park is the necessary use of tarmac, but in some areas this could probably be reduced.

The two modern memorial gardens are 'intrusive' elements into the Johnson gardens, but both have intrinsic high significance in landscape and symbolic terms. Both should be enhanced through greater enclosure. In the canal garden, recreating the north wall and gateway will be part of this, while the reduction of gaps in the eastern hedge and allowing its upward growth will be other positive changes.

In the south-east, closing the gaps in the boundary screen will improve the general sense of enclosure and further improve the Peace Garden.

### **7.2 The cafe**

Other long-term possibilities revolve around the future of the café and its eventual replacement. When appropriate, a new café could be re-sited or designed so as to allow the reconstruction of the canal garden wall and gateway. It could be suggested that a new café might represent a recreation of the former 'garden house', but since nothing is known of its form, then this cannot be recommended.

The café needs a large area of tarmac to provide a seating area, but this impinges on the canal compartment. It should be reduced if possible, perhaps if the café is replaced. This would allow the reconstruction of the gate and wall at the north end of the canal compartment and the removal of large areas of tarmac, to restore the grassed character of the canal compartment.

A major concern is formulating a policy for the future of the yews, which have reached a size and character, perhaps not intended or foreseen. Any new planting of yews will be to replace aging trees, or to strengthen 'gappy' hedges, and should either be maintained as a formal hedge or allowed to grow out like the existing trees.

The original gardens were not overlooked, and had trees on most sides. Now, where the boundary has lost trees, buildings overlook the gardens in several places. Here, an aim should be to preserve the sense of 'enclosure' through tree-planting.

Where walls are to be opened up, the planting of espaliers should be considered, using species known and used by Johnson.

### 7.3 South Garden and Canal Garden

The problems lie mostly in reconciling the two gardens, their different uses and character, and the need for amenity facilities. Any scheme must retain the two Johnson gardens, the South Garden and the Canal Garden and make necessary restorations and maintenance, whilst the essence of the Garden Close can only be recaptured by judicious use of the present arrangement. The following discusses the gardens by 'character area'.



Plate 15. The western façade.

#### 7.3.1 West front and forecourt

The west front has retained its identity as the main entrance front, although around 1800 it lost its yew trees and acquired a 'gothic' screen, and was later given a 'Tudor' character, and later still new gates and railings.

The forecourt was almost certainly a turning circle for carriages, with little planting, leaving the façade dominant. It largely retains its character, but the façade itself has been altered by the removal of a yew screen and changes to the Hall, to produce a more 'gothic' appearance.

- The tarmac area is too large for this front and should be reduced and the central grassed area expanded.
- The central tree is not an original feature and should not be necessarily replaced
- The trees at north wall are also not original and should not be allowed to grow and dominate the west front; these could be replaced by espaliers.
- Prune tree in south-west corner

#### 7.3.2 South Garden and Ice House

The south front overlooks the least-changed part of the gardens, framed around a strong north-south axis, with lawns at the north and a 'wilderness' to the south. It is the south gardens that contain the yews, and it is their retention and future sustainability that are concerns. It is important that gaps in the former close layout are replanted so that there is some continuity in the gardens. The original intention may have been a formal hedge with views into other compartments, rather than complete enclosures.

The south gardens have a geometric layout based on three successive sections, with a central walk from the south side of the house. First, the path passes through a grassy 'plat', then through a former shrubbery, before it passes through a formerly wooded area, possibly a 'Wilderness'. The walk ends at the southern

boundary wall (with no sign of gate on the 1732 map). The axis lines up with a window on the south side of the house and is therefore not central to the grass plats.

On the southern boundary of the plats, the widening of the path announces the 'apse' in the planting. The nature of the minor planting is not certain, although the maps show that the gardens behind, i.e. to the south of the 'apse', may have been shrubs rather than full trees. On the west side of the plats, inside the outer wall, there is a long walk, with the wall on one side and a line of planting on the other. The planted boundaries may be yew trees.

The south side perhaps stays closest to the original concept, with lawns, shrubbery and a wilderness area beyond (with the Ice House built against the wall). The shrubbery and wilderness are now grown out, and other losses include the lead statues. Modern additions were the bandstand in 1937 (of which the cobble base remains) and the rustic pergola along the west wall.

Within the south gardens, Anderson and Glenn (2000) identified the 'apse' as an important feature, possibly an 'exedra' or seat where Maurice Johnson and members of the Gentlemen's Society could sit and talk.

The Wilderness is now represented by trees along the south-east boundary of the gardens.

Within the south garden several courses of action to restore the major outlines should be considered:

- Replant yews in gaps so as to restore mass and shape.
- Restore former paths and plats, according to Grundy's map, with paths indicated by differential mowing
- Restore the 'apse' by removing cobbles of former grandstand and removing intrusive planting in area of 'apse'
- In the south part restore tree planting (this will involve consideration of the statue bases and the siting of the 'pyramid' monument.
- Remove modern pergola
- Train trees along wall
- Signage on wall
- Remove sundial base from grass area
- Remove privet hedges
- Former shrubbery area: remove path, put down to grass
- East-west tarmac path between shrubbery and wilderness areas: remove and replace with yew hedge and grass path
- Former wilderness area: remove tarmac paths and plant trees

Some time in the 18th century the Ice House was built. Before refrigeration was possible, ice was gathered in the winter from ponds and kept in below-ground buildings, 'ice houses'. The Ice House was placed out of sight against the wall, and close to the source of ice, the canal.



The ice house, though a feature of a fairly common type, is again important as it survives within a contemporary garden, linked to the original house.

- Maintain and sign the Ice House

### 7.3.3 *The Canal garden*

The canal lay in its own enclosed compartment, with yew trees on both long sides, and probably one of the statues (kneeling Slave) at the far, i.e. southern, end. The compartment was almost entirely enclosed, and access from the north was through an imposing but narrow gateway that existed until modern times; the date of this gate is not known: it may have been around 1755 or later, in 1848. One column survives: a brick pier surmounted by a ball finial. The second finial is stored at Ayscoughfee Hall.

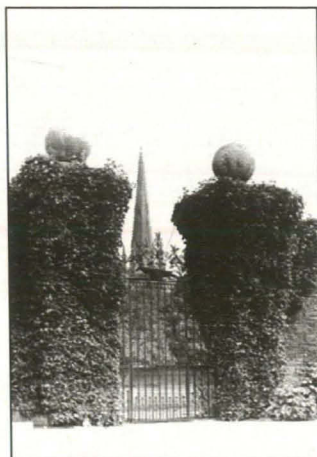


Plate 16. View from the Canal Garden through the gate in 1916

The gate may have been original or at least an early addition to the garden. Its formality combined with its narrowness suggests that it was used to provide an axial view and emphasise the character of this compartment.

The Owl Tower was built at the south end of the canal in 1848, one of the 'gothic' elements introduced into the grounds. In 1922 the Lutyens Temple of Remembrance was built at the south end of the canal, replacing the Owl Tower and Kneeling Slave statue.

Compartments such as this were features of 17th- and 18th-century gardens and the gateway may be considered an original and significant feature. This garden retains its original character to a large extent, and the Temple strengthens the line of the canal.

- Reduce areas of tarmac paths
- Remove tarmac at base of yews
- Rebuild gateway and wall, and provide a new gate (dependent on future of café and attached outdoor area)
- Fill the gaps in the hedge to the west (and remove tarmac path in South Garden)
- Allow the new yew hedge to east to grow up and remove the crenellations
- There are too many entrances through the east hedge, reduce number

### 7.3.4 The south-east quadrant (kitchen gardens)

To the east of the canal garden lies an area of formerly kitchen garden and orchard (and perhaps hothouses). Grundy's map shows trees and gardens. This also contained a small pond in its south-west corner, possibly a former fishpond, but now gone. The 'kitchen garden' area was divided into three parts each neatly laid out, perhaps including an orchard. There is no clear evidence of any greenhouse, although an open rectangle (unhatched) on the north boundary wall could be one (if Maurice Johnson had a greenhouse it may have been built after 1732).

The 'wilderness' seems to have extended along its south edge, with serpentine path, and appears on later maps.



Plate 17. Play area.

This area is perhaps the most changed since Johnson's day, with café, two separate formal gardens, modern aviary and play area for children, besides toilet facilities. The bank and rockery between the aviary and the tennis courts is modern and this whole feature is an intrusion

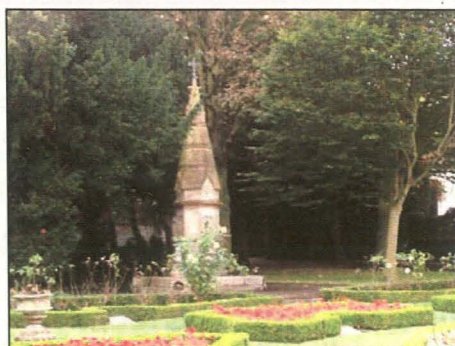


Plate 18. The Fountain.

The Peace Garden was laid out in 1994, overlooked by the Fountain (moved here from the town centre in 1954). The two formal compartments are appropriate additions (although the area at the extreme east end is less appropriate, with play area and other facilities).

Future of café and eventual replacement. (This could be replaced at the east end of the Garden Close). If café was moved, the toilet facilities could be retained and the canal compartment enclosed, as suggested).

- Restore the wall and gate at the north end of the canal garden (1916 photographs)
- Retain Peace Garden (and maintain Fountain)

- Retain Pond Garden (water in Pond?)
- Reinstate trees on south-east perimeter of gardens in this area, with serpentine path.
- Replace aviary with trees trained against the exposed wall.
- Remove rockery
- Reduce area of tarmac around café area



Plate 19. The bowling green and Ayscoughfee Hall.

### 7.3.5 Garden Close (East gardens)

On the east front a small terrace now overlooks the 20th-century bowling green, and beyond that the municipal tennis courts, replacing Maurice Johnson's formal 18th-century avenue and garden house (at the far east end). Thought should also be given to the restoration of the long sight-line on the east front, perhaps 'recreating' the long Garden Close compartment with avenue and garden house.

Although Grundy shows a building, possibly a garden house, apparently placed centrally to the outer lines of trees, nothing is known of this building, and it is possible that it was elaborate, of brick and of more than one storey, or a simple wooden structure.

To the north of the Garden Close, Grundy's map shows that this strip contained two lines of trees, now given over to grass or gardeners' facilities. By 1779 a stable block stood within the area, backing onto the kitchen gardens, possibly built when Gayton House was lost to the estate in 1755.

Whilst the avenue and garden house are lost, the present bowling green and area of tennis courts still fossilise the Garden Close, and have future potential in emphasising the original 'compartment' through a structure at the east end of the Garden Close.

- Restore avenue on north side of tennis courts (fastigiated trees)
- Restore garden house (evidence?)
- No high planting along line of sight (remove recent planting on line of sight?)
- Screen of trees at east end to close view (at present a modern house forms the east end of the view)
- New trees on north side to enhance the 'avenue'

## 7.4 The Chestnut Avenue

North of the Hall, between the Hall and Gayton House, Grundy showed an avenue of trees (replaced in 1848 and then 1959 with the present chestnuts). This shared 'drive' may represent an earlier 'shared' feature, even perhaps a spur from the river to serve the two late medieval houses here.

- Retain the avenue: some replicating is recommended, to provide successor trees.
- Retain the Gate, possibly put in when the stables were built, in 1755 or 1848? (possibly site for panel with garden map, etc.).



Plate 20. The Chestnut Avenue.

## 7.5 The Lead Statues

Maurice Johnson furnished the gardens with four lead statues, of which only the four stone plinths remain. They suffered during the bomb strike in World War II and were badly damaged, although they stood at some distance from the point of impact. They were sold in the 1950s, although they remain in circulation, having come onto the market in recent years.

These were discussed by Laurence Weaver, when he dated these 'pleasant examples of garden leadwork' to the 1730s and noted that 'replicas are to be found in other gardens of the period' (Country Life 1916).

Original statues to be replaced with modern replicas, with Kneeling Slave in the canal compartment. An alternative could be to site bases as seen on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

## 7.6 The Later Gardens

Maurice Johnson's garden remains in its broad outlines, the planting being much eroded and the original detailed layout lost. From 1902 Ayscoughfee Hall has been in the hands of Spalding Urban Council and South Holland District Council and a municipal overlay applied to the gardens.

Municipal additions were:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1908   | Bowling green was laid out to the rear of the Hall |
| 1920   | Tennis courts (on the aviary site).                |
| 1921-2 | Owl Tower removed and War Memorial built           |
| 1925   | New tennis courts laid out and aviary built        |
| 1931   | New gates on Love Lane                             |

1937	Coronation bandstand built in south gardens (base only remains)
1939	Allotments created on tennis courts
1942	Bombs damage lead statues
1954	Fountain moved here from market place
1959	Chestnut avenue felled and replaced
1966	Stable block burns down, yews damaged
1974	Café built
1990	Trees planted (Cedrus Deodar, Araucaria Araucana)
1994	Peace Garden

### **7.6.1 The Peace Garden**

The recent Peace Garden, whilst not an original feature, echoes the meaning of the Temple and contains its own monument, the Fountain (moved here from the town in 1954). As noted, both the Temple of Remembrance and the Fountain are recent additions to the Gardens, but may be accounted appropriate and emphasised in any future schemes.

### **7.6.2 Pond Garden**

An area with a small pond in a masonry basin. With its simple compartment, this echoes the adjacent Peace Garden layout, but in contrast contains a very simple planting with an ornamental pond at its centre.

### **7.6.3 Other monuments within the garden**

The gardens contain several small stone 'pyramids' set up on stone bases. One stands in the south gardens and another in the Peace Garden. These are probably original, though not in their original sites

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Retention of the four major 'Johnson' compartments is essential, together with strengthening the early layout and enhancing the sense of enclosure. One of the intrusive elements of the municipal park is the necessary use of tarmac, but in some areas this could probably be reduced.

The two modern memorial gardens are 'intrusive' elements into the Johnson gardens, but both have intrinsic high significance in landscape and symbolic terms. Both should be enhanced through greater enclosure: in the Canal Garden, by recreating the north wall and gateway, with reduction of gaps in the eastern hedge (and allowing its upward growth).

In the south-east, closing the gaps in the boundary screen will improve the general sense of enclosure and further improve the Peace Garden.

Other long-term possibilities revolve around the future of the café and its eventual replacement. When appropriate, a new café could be re-sited or designed so as to allow the reconstruction of the canal garden wall and gateway. It could be suggested that a new café might represent a recreation of the former 'garden house', but since nothing is known of its form, then this cannot be recommended.

The café needs a large area of tarmac to provide seating area but this impinges on the canal compartment. It should be reduced if possible, perhaps when the café is replaced. This would allow the reconstruction of the gate and wall at the north end of the canal compartment and the removal of large areas of tarmac, to restore the grassed character of the canal compartment.

A major concern is formulating a policy for the future of the yews, which have reached a size and character, perhaps not intended or foreseen. Any new planting of yews will be to replace aging trees, or to strengthen hedges, and should either be maintained as a hedge or allowed to grow out like the existing trees.

The original gardens were not overlooked, and had trees on most sides. Now, where the boundary has lost trees, buildings overlook the gardens in several places. One should aim to preserve the sense of 'enclosure' through tree-planting.

Where walls are to be opened up, the planting of espaliers should be considered, using species known and used by Johnson. In the Garden Close, some reconstruction of the avenue should be considered, with the planning of fastigiated trees, and the possible removal of the central trees along the short path between the bowling green and the tennis courts.

The two formal 20th-century gardens should be retained. The south-eastern boundary should be planted with trees, to recreate the former wilderness (post-Johnson) and further enclose the gardens as a whole.

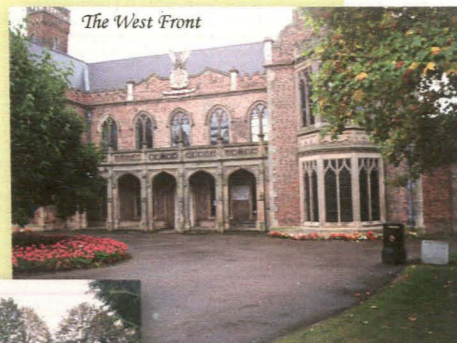
Other suggested actions include a possible reduction in the size of the tennis courts; new signs at the Ice House and Chestnut Avenue gate; a reduction in the use of tarmac and reinforced grass; the removal of some intrusive planting; the replacement of aviaries with fruit trees against exposed walls; and the removal of the rockery.

# Ayscoughfee Hall Garden Conservation Plan

- West Front*
- A1 remove new trees/replace with trained trees against wall. Wall phasing also exposed
  - A2 magnolia: do not replace
  - A3 reduce tarmac: extend central grass area
  - A4 prune tree at SW corner

- South Gardens*
- B1 reduce tarmac
  - B2 remove sundial base
  - B3 remove bandstand base
  - B4 remove cedars from 'apse' and replace with holly
  - B5 remove privet hedges and shrub planting and replace with planting, tulips etc.  
Input statues into alcoves
  - B6 remove shrubs at base of hedge
  - B7 mow differentially to create a 'central path'
  - B8 remove two trees
  - B9 remove tarmac paths
  - B10 reduction of planting; pruning (scale some to show size of original yews. Fill gaps with new yews
  - B11 strengthen E-W line of trees and remove E-W path
  - B12 remove tarmac
  - B13 statue copy for base?
  - B14 remove pergola, more light to wall: replace with trained trees?
  - B15 panel describing archaeological aspects of wall
  - B16 statue copy for base?
  - B17 remove tarmac
  - B18 prune trees
  - B19 remove south gate: site for a replaced statue?
  - B20 removal of planting, site of wall. Prune trees at south wall

Ayscoughfee Hall from the Peace Garden



The West Front



Canal with Temple of Remembrance



Overgrown yews



- Canal Garden*
- C1 reduce tarmac
  - C2 rebuild wall and finial, with gate, at north end (photographs)
  - C3 remove tarmac at base of yews
  - C4 yew hedge at east side: reduce gaps, no 'crenellations', allow to grow upwards, extend to north
  - C5 maintain Temple

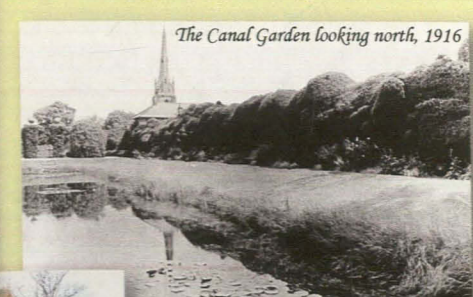
- South-east Quadrant*
- D1 increase tree screen at boundary
  - D2 maintain Fountain
  - D3 reduce tarmac
  - D4 café: see C2: resite or redesign café when due and make alteration C2 at the same time
  - D5 aviary. Remove and replace with trained trees at wall
  - D6 play area needs improvement

- Garden Close*
- E1 maintain Bowling Green. Planting could include more 'early' planting in borders
  - E2 reduce trees between Bowling Green and tennis courts
  - E3 plant trees on North side of tennis courts
  - E4 plant trees at East end of tennis courts as screen (see E8)
  - E5 reduce number of courts to three and increase screen at East end
  - E6 small sign at gate
  - E7 sign at front gate
  - E8 remove rockery and replace with trees

- Chestnut Avenue*
- F1 reinforce with underplanted trees



Views along the central path



The Canal Garden looking north, 1916



The Bowling Green & Ayscoughfee Hall



The Peace Garden & The Fountain



The Chestnut Avenue

## 9.0 MANAGEMENT

The main challenge concerns the café and its possible future resiting or replacement; that is, to leave the café in place when the time comes to repair/renew, or to consider a new location which is not so centrally placed. This is an issue which may condition what could be done elsewhere and it is worth discussing this soon. This decision will have an impact upon any reconstruction of the canal, garden gate and wall and affect the character of the whole enclosure.

Another major decision will concern the reduction in size of areas of tarmac in the early gardens. Although it may not be possible to restore the south garden, some hard elements of the 20th-century landscape should be reduced.

Moves should be made to locate the statues that were once here, and either to bring them back or investigate the acquisition of copies. The original positions are unknown but one may have stood in the canal garden.

Most of the recommendations could be undertaken in any order, as appropriate, although decisions about the major recommendations should be taken sooner.

Appendix 1 sets out the plants discussed by the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, and future planting should consider the plants here and those listed in contemporary plant and seed catalogues (such as Switzer).

The suggested changes will require few amendments to the present management regime, although some issues should be considered in the near future.

The following table sets out the main features in order of significance, whether they belong to the early or later gardens or whether it is an 'amenity'. The suggested actions are set out in brief.

Actions where a decision would be required soon are shown in **bold** type.



Feature (in order of significance)	Phase/ Amenity	Actions
West front	1	<b>Remove trees</b> Prune trees <b>Reduce tarmac area</b> Plant tulips
South garden-lawns	1	<b>Remove holly from 'apse'</b> <b>Remove cobbles from apse</b> Recreate central path by differential mowing <b>Remove pergola</b> Plant tulips
South garden-central	1	<b>Strengthen cross hedge (to enhance compartments)</b> <b>Remove curving tarmac paths</b> <b>Remove pergola</b> Restore sub-compartment
South garden-south	1	Espalier against walls?
South garden-ice house	1	New sign
Canal garden	1	<b>Reduce tarmac area</b> <b>Yews on east side to be allowed to grow higher with no 'crenellations'. Reduce number of gaps in the hedge</b> <b>Rebuild the north wall and gate as shown in photographs (this will need some work to the café)</b> <b>Fill gaps in hedge on the west side</b> <b>Ensure full screen of trees to the rear of the Temple of Remembrance</b>
Temple	2	Maintain
Peace Garden	2	Maintain
Fountain	2	Maintain

Feature (in order of significance)	Phase/ Amenity	Actions
Garden Close	1	<b>Recreate footprint by screen at east end (in place of the current end court) and trees along north side to represent the early avenue. Remove central trees between bowling green and tennis courts</b>
Bowling Green	A	Maintain
Pond Garden	A	Screen at east side
Chestnut Avenue	1	Maintain, underplant with successors.
Tennis courts	2	<b>Reduce to three courts</b> <b>Plant screen at east end</b>
Café	A	<b>To be reduced or resited in due course, to allow the canal garden to be better 'enclosed' with gateway and wall</b>
Play area	A	Resite/improve
Pergola	2	<b>Remove</b>
Aviary	A	<b>Consider removal or resiting to the play area. Use the wall for espalier?</b>

## ***Bibliography***

- Anderson, M. and Glenn, J., 2000 *Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, Lincolnshire: Historical Appraisal of the Pleasure Grounds*
- FAS 2005 *Historic Buildings Assessment: Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, (Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd)*
- Glenn, C. and Taylor, G. 1999 *Building Recording and Historical Research at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, Lincolnshire (SAH99) (Archaeological Project Services Report 62.99)*
- Penn, K.J. 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Survey of Ayscoughfee Hall Gardens, Spalding, Lincolnshire (NAU Archaeology report 1618a)*
- Trimble, R. 2009 *An Archaeological Excavation at Ayscoughfee Hall Gardens, Spalding, Lincolnshire (NAU Archaeology report 1618c)*

## Appendix 1: Entries in the Spalding Gentlemen's Society Minutes

(those shown in **bold type** were brought in by Maurice Johnson himself)

1725	Double red and white Anemone
1727	<b>Auricula Ursi (Grand Paisant)</b> <b>Amaranthus Coccinei (Jasmine)</b> <b>Cyclamen</b> <b>Hyacinth Botroides (common Grape Hyacinth=Muscari Botroides)</b> <b>Eglantine Rose</b> <b>Peach</b>
1728	<b>Capsicum Indiacum (West Indian Peppers)</b> <b>Double Purple Anemone</b> <b>Pomegranate</b> Seedling Pink (President) <b>Strawberry Spinage</b> <b>Trachelium Americanum</b> Cork Tree (John Johnson) <b>Green ginger</b> <b>Geranium Africanum</b>
1729	<b>Butchers Broom</b> <b>Mince Pye = Calibar of Minorca</b> <b>Pomegranate Apple</b> <b>Mock Orange = Gourd</b> <b>A white grape</b> <b>Apricot</b> <b>Sedum/Aloe</b> <b>Watermelon</b>
1730	<b>Scarabeus Aquaticus</b> <b>Globe Amaranthus</b> <b>Arum</b> <b>Horminum Agreste</b> <b>Solanum Lethale</b> <b>Trachelium Americanum</b>
1731	<b>West Endian Wheat = Pearl Barley</b> Chili Strawberry (Rev. Smith) <b>Muscovite strawberry</b>
1732	<b>Fir Tree</b> <b>Tulip</b> <b>Double lemon coloured Ranunculus</b> <b>Poppy</b> Carnation Scarlett and Black (Mr Stagg, co-adjutor)
1733	<b>Urtica Urentis</b> Auriculas (Mr Stagg, co-adjutor) <b>Iris</b> Red Beet (Pres)

1734	Gourd (President) <b>Fennel</b>
1735	Single Rocket/Eruca (Vice-President)
1736	<b>Willow Rose</b>
1737	<b>Chilli Strawberry</b> <b>Campanula Persia</b> <b>Double peach-leaved Bell Flower</b> <b>Province Rose Bud (from bowling green)</b> <b>Pear</b> <b>Walnuts</b> <b>Medlars</b>
1738	Tulips (Dr Green) Iris flowers (Mr Stagg co-adjutor) <b>Root like a radish</b>
1739	Auricula ursi (Dr Green) Discussion of Hot Beds
1741	Single White Hyacinth (Dr Green) Persian Iris (Dr Green) Golden Crocus (Dr Green) Persian Ranunculus (Dr Colby)
1742	Poppy (Mr Everard) Larkheels or Larkspur (Mr Everard) <b>Opuntia or Indian Fig</b> <b>Peaches</b> <b>Mespilus Apii</b>
1743	<b>Auricula</b> Hyacinths (RS Sedum Majus) Pine Apple (Richard Thompson) Persicaria orientalis (John Johnson)
1744	Coffee Berry (Dr Walker) Banana (Dr Walker)
1745	<b>Medica Cochleata</b>
1746	<b>Lavertera Africana</b> <b>Ice Plant Ficoides Africana</b> <b>Pine Apple</b> Brassica Fimbriata (Dr Green)
1747	<b>Elm</b> <b>Rhus Virginianum Sumac</b>
1748	Stramonium fructu <b>Hieracium/Auricula Muris</b>
1750	<b>Variogated Holly</b> Cortex Peruvian/Jesuits bark (Mr Cox, co-adjutor) Storax (Mr Cox, co-adjutor) Tamarind (Mr Cox, co-adjutor) Lacca (Mr Cox, co-adjutor) Malus (Mr Cox, co-adjutor)
1753	<b>A carrot with 6 roots</b>

