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# NABURN WOOD NABURN YORK NORTH YORKSHIRE

# **DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

REPORT MAY 2005



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SITE CODE: NBW01 NGR: SE 6100 4425

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#### **Non-technical Summary**

This report presents an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, on behalf of JBA Consulting for UK Coal Mining Ltd, on an area approximately 6km southwest of the City of York. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in support of an Environmental Statement for a proposed drainage scheme forming part of remediation work following coal mining in the local area. In order to carry out the assessment, a Study Area encompassing some 33km² was defined around the area of proposed drainage. This Study Area was used to identify known and potential sites within and immediately around the area of proposed drainage. The historical and archaeological significance of these sites and the likely impact of the proposed work upon them was then assessed. The study also sought to establish something of the broader archaeological and geographical context of the sites within the Study Area, allowing the archaeological significance of the local landscape to be established.

The assessment was undertaken by first identifying known and potential sites through a search of the North Yorkshire and City of York Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), which include lists of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas as well as an 'events' record of previous archaeological interventions in the area. Additional information regarding Listed Buildings was obtained from English Heritage. Further sites were identified by consulting the Ordnance Survey Antiquity record and other historic maps, some of which were held at the North Yorkshire Public Records Office, Northallerton, and others at the York City Archives. Aerial photographs, where available, were also consulted. Further sites were identified through a variety of primary and secondary historical sources including Enclosure Awards and published works which included references to the Study Area, in particular a number of informative works by Local History groups. The types of cultural resources identified within the Study Area were various, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas, a Registered Historic Park and Garden, Listed Buildings, belowground archaeological remains, historic structures and historic landscapes. These were graded in terms of their significance and evaluated in terms of the likely impact upon them resulting from the proposed drainage work. Where appropriate, this allowed mitigation strategies to be formulated.

The cultural heritage resources identified within the Study Area ranged from the Bronze Age to the present day and attest to a variety of human activity within the area. Earlier evidence has not been found within the Study Area thus far. The Bronze Age is represented by a number of polished stone axes, a possible settlement site and flints at Lingcroft farm and barrows and a possible Bronze Age enclosure. Iron Age, Romano-British and early medieval sites and finds are not well evidenced within the Study Area, but place name evidence suggests the possibility of human occupation in the area prior to the medieval period. Medieval activity is well-evidenced and all of the settlements within the Study Area - Acaster Malbis, Deighton, Escrick, and Naburn - as well as two deserted medieval settlements are documented from Domesday (1086) onwards. Other evidence from the medieval period includes remains of ridge and furrow earthworks and the sites of several wind and watermills.

During the post-medieval period there was considerable change around Escrick, when the layout of the village was significantly altered to allow the creation of Escrick Park. Further developments and episodes of rebuilding took place at Bell Hall, Naburn Hall and Moreby Hall. Other landscape changes included limited Parliamentary Enclosure, the construction of new locks and a cut at Naburn to facilitate improvements to the Ouse Navigation, and the building of the East Coast Mainline Railway opened in 1871 which crossed the Study Area.

Developments within the early modern and modern periods included the construction of a World War II fighter and bomber station southwest of Acaster Malbis, a marina at Naburn and the filling out of settlement at Acaster Malbis, Naburn and Escrick. Much of the Study Area is now important as a local leisure amenity, notably the River Ouse and the disused East Coast Mainline which is now the Sustrans Cycle Track and part of the national cycle network.

While the assessment found that few of the known cultural heritage resources within the Study Area are likely to be directly affected by the proposed drainage, the potential exists for some of the resources to experience a low adverse affect, particularly during the physical process of re-cutting new drains and as a result of the lowering of the groundwater level. However, given the relatively low archaeological potential of the area of proposed drainage the assessment did not recommended the need for a watching brief during the proposed drainage work except where the work was likely to directly compromise any of the sites identified in which case suitable recording and monitoring would be recommended.

#### Acknowledgements

Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd would like to thank Mr Steve Judge, JBA Consulting, for his support and advice during this assessment. Thanks are also due to the staff of the North Yorkshire Heritage Unit, the City of York SMR, and Kate Bould of English Heritage for their advice and assistance in the preparation of this report.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd on behalf of JBA Consulting for UK Coal Mining Ltd. The assessment was carried out in support of an Environmental Statement for a proposed drainage scheme as part of remediation work following coal mining in the area. The assessment aims to establish the significance of known and potential sites within the area of the proposed work, to evaluate the immediate archaeological impact of that drainage work and to suggest appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies. It also aims to assess the significance of the wider archaeological and historical landscape in the locality of the proposed drainage and the potential impact of that drainage upon this landscape.

#### Structure of the Study

In order to carry out an assessment of the known and potential sites, and to assess the impact of the proposed drainage work upon them, a Study Area covering an area of some 33km² and encompassing the area of proposed drainage was defined. The Study Area was used to identify known and potential archaeological sites and cultural resources in the area of the proposed work, and to assess their historical and archaeological significance and the likely impact of the proposed drainage upon them and their wider setting.

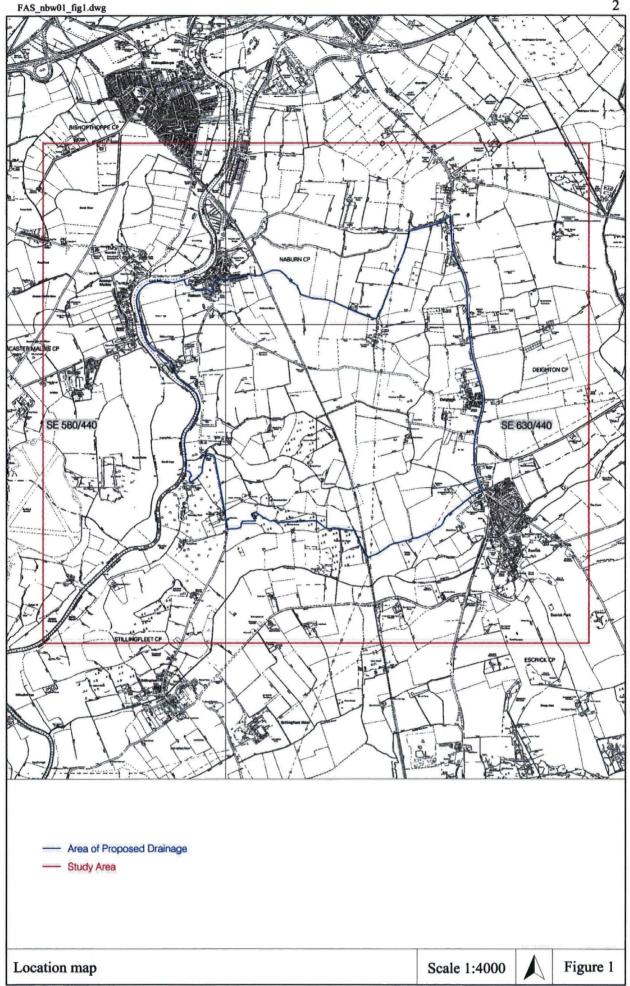
#### 1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The Study Area covers an area of 33km² (centred on SE 6100 4425) located approximately 6km south of the City of York (Figure 1). The Study Area is defined by a number of geological and topographical features. Natural features include the River Ouse, the Escrick moraine, flood plains, whilst man-made features, including the local road system including the A19 trunk road, the former East Coast Mainline railway and post-medieval parkland, continue to characterise the present day topography of the Study Area. Settlement within the Study Area is either clustered along the banks of the River Ouse, as with Naburn and Acaster Malbis, or located on higher ground, such as Escrick on the Escrick moraine.

Much of the Study Area is comprises low-lying, marginal land prone to seasonal flooding and traditionally, these areas have been used largely as part of a pastoral farming regime. High ground has been used extensively for arable farming. During the post-medieval and modern periods, settlements within the Study Area have expanded and a number of small industries, notably brick and tile making capitalising on abundant sources of clay, emerged. In the present day, much of the Study Area remains used for agriculture, with pockets of light industry as well as facilities for the leisure industry including numerous caravan sites and moorings and a marina associated with pleasure boating on the River Ouse.

#### Geology

The solid geology of the Study Area is characterised by two principal features: the Escrick Moraine and the flood plains of the River Ouse. The Escrick Moraine, a ridge of gravel-capped clay which spans the Vale of York in a gently curving arc stretching from the Ouse to the Derwent and crossing the Study Area, was formed about 11,000 years ago when the large glacier, which had travelled south down the Vale of York, began to melt causing the deposition of material dredged up from along its course (Taylor 1999; Radley 1974). The Escrick Moraine thus marks the southernmost limit of glaciation in the area during the last Ice Age. Although a marked feature



of the local topography in an otherwise flat terrain, few areas of the Escrick moraine are higher than 25 metres above sea level and, in general, much of it is lies at between 13 and 15 metres AOD. The presence of this ridge has played an important role in determining the character of settlement, sites and the local economy of the Study Area.

Much of the rest of the Study Area is located on low-lying land, most of which lies little over 7.5 metres above sea level. Within the bends of the River Ouse, which flows through the Study Area in a roughly north-south direction, are extensive tracts of land located little above sea level. These areas are naturally prone to severe flooding even above Naburn Lock, the most northerly point at which the Ouse is tidal; these areas of marginal land are known locally as Ings (Pugh 1976, 74). Frequent episodes of flooding and the meandering course of the Ouse over time has resulted in the deposition of high quantities of alluvial clays, sands and gravels across much of the Study Area (British Geological Survey 1973). The presence of this low-lying marginal land and the River Ouse has had a marked influence on the character of settlement and the local economy as well as the distribution of sites within the Study Area over time. Furthermore, the alluvial deposits characteristic of the area have implications for the archaeological visibility of sites within the Study Area (Archaeological Services WYAS, 2002). However, the presence of flood plains and low-lying ground within the Study Area has not had an appreciable affect on the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence and the 'Archaeological Wetlands GIS for England' (Version 2.0.31) shows that the potential for wetland archaeology within the Study Area is low.

#### 1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The assessment was undertaken in support of an Environmental Statement for a proposed drainage scheme as part of remediation work following coal mining in the area. The aims of the assessment were threefold: to establish the wider archaeological and historical context of known and potential sites in the area of proposed drainage; to identify and assess the significance of known and potential sites in the area likely to be affected by the proposed programme of drainage; and to establish the impact of the proposed drainage work on those sites and remains and the wider archaeological and historical landscape.

#### 2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Known and potential sites within the Study Area were identified by a number of means. Firstly, a search was undertaken of the North Yorkshire and City of York Sites and Monuments Records (SMR's), which included lists of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas as well as an 'events' record of previous archaeological interventions in the area. Additional information concerning Listed Buildings was also obtained from English Heritage, Tanner Row, York, whilst further environmental and archaeological evidence was retrieved from the 'Archaeological Wetlands GIS for England' (Version 2.0.31) produced by The Landscape Research Centre and English Heritage. Aerial photographs for the area, where they exist, were also consulted in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey Antiquity record and other historic maps as a means of identifying known and potential sites. Many of the historic maps and other relevant documentation were consulted at the North Yorkshire Public Records Office, Northallerton, and the York City Archives, York, whilst

secondary published sources were consulted at the York City (Reference) Library, Northallerton Library, the JB Morrell Library and the King's Manor libraries at the University of York, and the York Minster Library. In addition, a site visit was undertaken to inspect the Study Area, with special attention being paid to implications of the proposed drainage work on the known sites and their archaeological and historical setting. However, the site visit was conducted on the basis of public access and therefore some sites and areas within the Study Area were not inspected at close quarters.

All of the sites identified within the Study Area were assigned an individual Desk-Based Assessment number (DBA Ref.) and entered into a gazetteer (Appendix A) with cross references made to their Scheduled Ancient Monument Number (SAM), Listed Building reference (LiB) and other forms of referencing where appropriate. The distribution of known and potential sites within the Study Area was also plotted onto Ordnance Survey mapping data (see Figure 2).

At the heart of this assessment was the evaluation of the significance of known and potential sites within the Study Area, consideration of the likely impact of the proposed drainage work upon them, and the formulation of appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies where required. This involved a three-stage approach. Firstly, the importance of the individual resources was considered. Secondly, the importance of individual sites within the Study Area was assigned in relation to a number of different criteria, including documentation (archaeological and historical), international, national, regional and local significance, statutory protection, survival, group value (if applicable), potential, and amenity value. Thirdly, on the basis of these criteria, five different grades of importance were ascribed to the cultural heritage resources within the Study Area, as follows:

Table 1 Grading of Importance

CATEGORY	GRADING	IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE
<b>A</b>	Very Important	Resources of national importance, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or those monuments in the process of being scheduled and which otherwise meet scheduling criteria, all Listed Buildings grades I and II*, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens grades I and II*, and Registered Historic Battlefields
В	Important	Resources of importance within a regional or county context, including Conservation Areas, Grade II Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens grade II
С	Moderately Important	Resources of local importance. These may have been partially destroyed by past land use, whether by agricultural activity or previous built development
D	Not Important	Resources that are so badly damaged or altered that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category
E	Uncertain	Resources of uncertain importance based upon their type or condition

The impact of development upon cultural heritage resources will be either direct or indirect, and may be adverse

or beneficial. Direct impact includes destruction, demolition and alteration. Indirect impacts may include changes to the historic character of an area, site or monument, alterations to views to and from a site, accidental damage from construction work, temporary loss of amenities (largely arising during development work and including air and noise pollution, visual intrusion, increased traffic, changes in the character of a landscape or townscape). Categories of impact may be graded thus:

- Very High Adverse (VHA)
- High Adverse (HA)
- Medium Adverse (MA)
- Low Adverse (LA)
- Negligible / None (N)
- Low Beneficial (LB)
- Medium Beneficial (MB)
- High Beneficial (HB)
- Very High Beneficial (VHB)

Following consideration of the value of the cultural heritage resource and likely impact of development on that resource, an assessment was made of the magnitude of the effect of the impact. This assessment was based broadly on the assumption that the most significant effect will result in circumstances where the very highest impact occurs to very important remains. On the basis of these judgments, various mitigation strategies may be suggested. These strategies may include mitigation by design, by record, by public involvement, by research and by the dissemination of information.

#### 2.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

#### Cultural Heritage Resources

The cultural heritage resource comprises all aspects of the historic environment. In the context of this assessment the cultural heritage resource comprises:

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Below Ground Archaeological Remains
- Historic Structures
- Historic Landscapes

#### Chronology

In the context of this assessment, the following periods are of importance:

- Palaeolithic (c.250,000BC c.8000BC)
- Mesolithic (c.8000BC c.4500BC)
- Neolithic (c.4500BC c.2500BC)

- Bronze Age (c.2500BC c.700BC)
- Iron Age (c.700BC AD43)
- Romano-British (AD43 c.AD409)
- Early Medieval (c.AD409 c.AD1066)
- Medieval (c.AD1066 c.AD1539)
- Post-Medieval Early Modern (c.AD1539 AD1900)
- 20th Century Present Day

#### 2.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The relevant legal framework and national and local planning context for this assessment of the cultural heritage resource within the Study Area is set by the following legal instruments:

#### National and Regional Planning Framework

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

#### Guidance

- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning)
- Register of Parks and Gardens (non-statutory) (English Heritage)

#### 2.4 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A variety of different sources were consulted during the course of this assessment. A visit was made to the North Yorkshire and City of York SMRs in order to search for sites entered into the SMR as well as those reports, sources and sites not yet accessioned into the SMR. The SMR provided information regarding Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas as well as an 'events' record of previous archaeological interventions within the Study Area and information from the 'Archaeological Wetlands GIS for England' (Version 2.0.31). Additional information regarding Listed Buildings was obtained from English Heritage, Tanner Row, York. Visits were also made to the City of York Archives and the North Yorkshire Public Records Office, Northallerton, in order to consult historic maps and other primary documents germane to this assessment. The types of documentary sources consulted included Enclosure Awards and maps, plans of the River Ouse and documents relating to the transfer of land within the Study Area. Further cartographic evidence was acquired from old versions of Ordnance Survey Data, dating from the mid-19th century; these maps, together with other historic plans, allow changes to the landscape of the Study Area during the past four hundred years to be identified. A variety of secondary and published sources were also consulted, including books of local interest and general works which referred to sites within the Study Area, as well as unpublished archaeological and environmental reports. Such sources were consulted at the North Yorkshire and City of York SMR's, North Yorkshire Public Records Office and the York City Archives, York City (Reference) Library, York Minster Library, Northallerton Library and the King's Manor and JB Morrell libraries at the University of York. Furthermore, the area under study is located at the western edge of a larger area defined by the Humber Wetlands Project (see, for instance, Van de Noort and Davies 1993). Where appropriate, elements of this study have been

incorporated into this assessment.

The sources consulted reflect those available for study at the time when this assessment was undertaken and which were easily accessible to the researcher. Every effort was made to consult all available sources and no source was knowingly omitted. It is therefore considered that the sources used accurately reflect those available for the Study Area and that no intellectual bias has knowingly been imposed on the findings of this assessment.

#### 3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

#### 3.1 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

#### 3.1.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) (including buildings, earthworks and isolated structures) are nationally important archaeological sites which are protected by the state through the auspices of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required if work or alteration is to take place within the boundary of the area that has been scheduled. Buildings designated as SAMs, or buildings within areas designated as SAMs, may also be Listed Buildings, but it should be noted that in such instances, legislation relating to SAMs (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) takes precedence over that relating to Listed Buildings.

There are no SAMs located within the Study Area, although a SAM (30110), St Andrew's College and moat, is located immediately west of the southwestern corner of the Study Area. This monument represents the remains of a late medieval secular college with an associated moated enclosure and extensive earthworks within which survive the footprints of a chapel, various ranges and other smaller buildings (Harrison 2003, 6).

#### 3.1.2 Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance', and are designated by local authorities under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

There is only one Conservation Area within the Study Area. The Escrick Conservation Area (Plate 1) was designated in 1992 and covers an area of c.1.8 hectares focussed on the main part of the estate village formed after the creation of Escrick Park, as well as the northern most parts of Escrick Park (**DBA 33**). The special character of Escrick comes from its history as an estate village, with individually important buildings complemented by more modest architecture consistent in design. In addition, the whole village is given added unity by its strong and mature landscaped setting. Of particular importance is the approach into the village from the north, with views of St Helen's Church providing an attractive prelude to the main part of the village and Escrick Park.

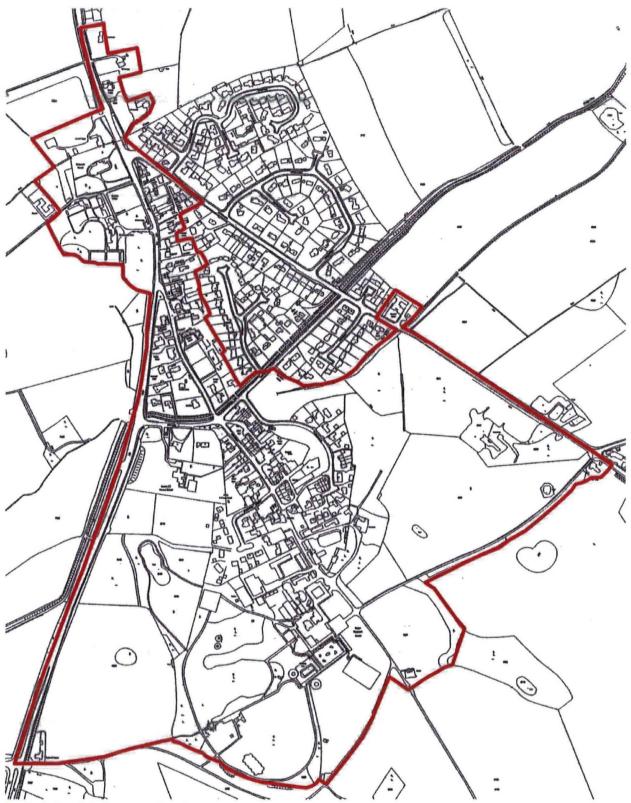


Plate 1 Escrick Conservation Area

### 3.1.3 Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings are 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest' which are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and which are included on a list compiled by the

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Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Listed Buildings in England are graded according to criteria recommended by English Heritage. The grades are summarised as follows:

Grade I Buildings of exceptional interest

Grade II\* Particularly important buildings of more than special interest

Grade II Buildings of special interest

There are 52 Listed Buildings within the Study Area, ranging from medieval to early modern structures, both ecclesiastical and secular, and including actual buildings, industrial structures and garden features.

Only 2 of the 52 Listed Buildings are designated Grade I. These are Holy Trinity Church, Acaster Malbis (**DBA** 7), which dates from the 14th century, and Bell Hall, Naburn (**DBA** 92), a small Carolean country house built by Sir John Hewley in c.1680. A further 3 buildings are designated Grade II\*. These are Moreby Hall, Stillingfleet (**DBA** 109), built 1828-32; the hall at Escrick Park, Escrick (**DBA** 43), now Queen Margaret's School, the earliest parts of which date from c.1680-1690 with later additions; and the coach house and stables, Escrick Park, Escrick (**DBA** 44), built to the designs of John Carr of York in 1763.

The remainder are listed Grade II. These include St Matthew's Church Naburn (DBA 80); Naburn Hall, Naburn (DBA 80); Deighton Hall, Deighton (DBA 23); The Ship Inn, Acaster Malbis (DBA 9); Naburn Locks and Banqueting House (DBA 90 and 91); the Jubilee Fountain, Escrick (DBA 65); a large number of garden features at Escrick Park (DBA 42) and Moreby Hall (Park and Garden) (DBA 108); and Bell Hall, Naburn (DBA 92), including garden urns, lodge houses, gates, a folly and kennels (DBA 45-56, 93-96, and 110-120). Many of the other Grade II listed buildings are cottages and farmhouses from across the Study Area (for instance, DBA 8, 10, 24, 25, and 97-104).

#### 3.1.4 Historic Parks and Gardens

The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England has been compiled by English Heritage since the 1980s and contains over 1,300 sites. Although inclusion on the register does not afford statutory protection, it aims to ensure that important parks and gardens are safeguarded and managed appropriately, and inclusion constitutes a material consideration in planning terms. Inclusion on the list is based on a number of criteria, including survival, quality, interest of historic structure, group value, significant historic or biographical association, and influential nature of the site in terms of contemporary tastes and fashion. Sites included in the register are divided into three bands:

Grade I Parks and Gardens of International importance

Grade II\* Parks and Gardens of exceptional historic importance

Grade II Parks and Gardens of national importance

Within the Study Area there is only one Registered Historic Park and Garden. This is the park and garden associated with Moreby Hall (DBA 108) and it is afforded Grade II status. Although earlier gardens existed at the site, the gardens and park as they now appear were landscaped by John Burr, who was head gardener at Moreby in the mid-1880s. The gardens may be divided into several areas, including the Bowling Green, the