

# Cawood Castle Garth Group

## Management Plan

4<sup>th</sup> Draft dated: 4 July 2006

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## 1) Introduction

The Castle Garth site is located at the centre of the village of Cawood. It is officially designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, that is, a site, work or place considered to be of national importance. The Garth was purchased by the Parish Council on behalf of the village over 20 years ago to secure it... When village groups asked to make use of the Garth for their activities and events they were unable to reach agreement with English Heritage. English Heritage based their decisions on the grounds that we lacked detailed knowledge of the physical features, were unaware of the location of any historical remains on the site – and because the site was of national importance there was a need to preserve it for future generations. In 2005 the Parish Council applied for and were awarded a Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) grant, with which we aim to undertake research and fund other heritage projects to inform and assist the future use of the site by the community. Once we have discovered what is there and how it is valued we can then agree the best ways to conserve the Garth for the village, now and in the future.

This Management Plan is intended as a statement of the group's vision for work on the site in the next 5 years. It will be used as the basis for any subsequent Scheduled Monument Consents and will be agreed with the following parties:

- Cawood Parish Council
- English Heritage
- Landmark Trust
- Selby District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council

We aim to understand more about the historical and social significance of the Castle Garth site and will make its history and ecology come alive to visitors and local people and, to improve the access to the site for visitors and those with disabilities. We sought expert advice on the site archaeology, access, ecology and landscape management to ensure we can protect the unique features of the site and will also devise an ecological management plan to improve the wildlife value of the Garth site. We will involve the community in all aspects of the project.

- We have compiled a site Conservation Statement which summarises documentary evidence we have gathered. In reviewing it, English Heritage suggested further work we need might wish to consider.
- Once we understand the true historical significance of Cawood, we will examine ways to raise awareness of the site's legacy and explain its role in shaping both local and national events.
- We will publish a new account of the history of the Castle which will address many of the short comings we have found in a widely quoted, but poorly researched, early historical account which has unduly influenced later writers.

- We will involve local people in regular ecological surveys and our work on history of the site. We are also determining the feasibility of setting up a Cawood green gym project to involve local people in supervised work to manage the site habitats more effectively – the LHI grant funds the research into best practice, to help us develop an appropriate ecological management plan, which the green gym volunteers will bring to fruition.
- We have already involved local school children in survey work – on a mole hill sift. We aim to further develop our links with the school and other local groups and to involve them in our work, in particular in our work to promote the site.
- We have undertaken a resistivity survey of the Garth under the direction of the University of York Archaeology Department – this involved over 15 volunteers from the village who enjoyed learning about the investigative methods used.
- We have also held an Earthworks and Landscape survey weekend providing training for volunteers from the village in survey techniques.
- In June 2006 we held our first Finds day to gather evidence of the development of the village

## 2) Significance

In trying to establish the significance of the Garth we have identified and attempted to cover three distinct elements:

- archaeology
- community
- ecology

Coupled with these areas of significance is the necessity to keep in mind a series of further questions which consider:

- what is valuable about this area,
- who values it,
- how do they go about valuing it, and
- is it being adequately protected and managed?

### 2.1 *Statutory and Other Designations*

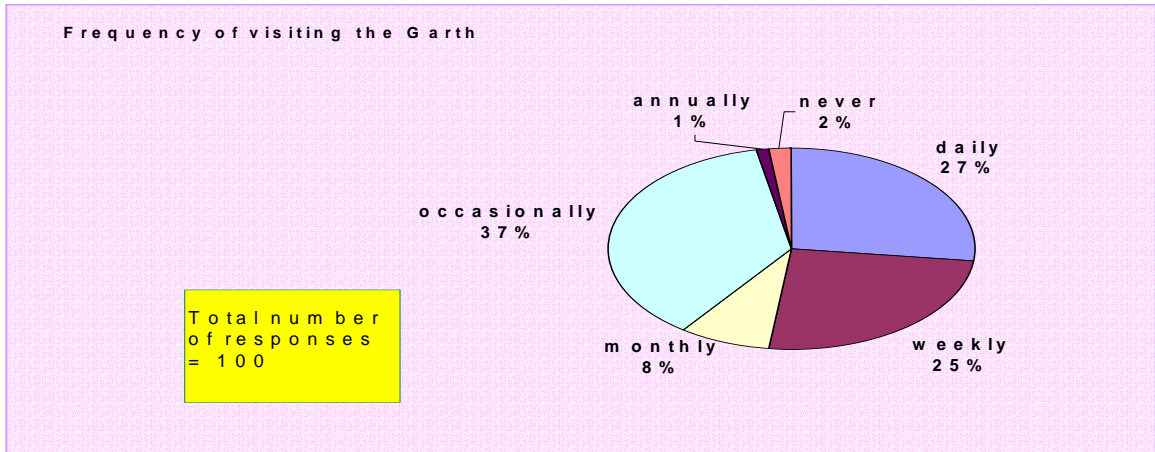
- The Castle Garth is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No 20539) (Appendix).
- The site lies within a Conservation Area (Name and extent) Appendix.
- Cawood Castle Gatehouse is a Grade I listed building (No 325885) (Appendix).
- The Banqueting Hall is a Grade I listed building (No 325886) (Appendix).

Natural History assessment?

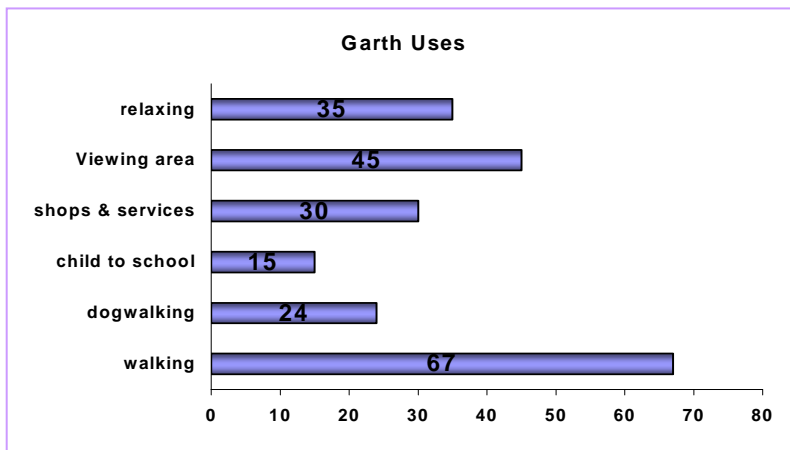
### 2.2 *Community Significance*

The significance of the Castle Garth draws from a wealth of values and meanings not all of which are to do with policy and legislation (see above list). In order to find these other values and arrive at a broader understanding of the place it is necessary to understand the ways in which the community uses and thinks about the Garth. In order to do this we encouraged the community itself to offer responses and opinions, and this has been achieved in a number of ways. Principally, this is being achieved through community surveying, conducting conversational interviews and generating an A-Z of local distinctiveness. The initial results of these exercises suggest that the Garth plays a pivotal role in defining the village of Cawood, providing a source of pride and connection with a continuing history. It offers a “history that defines who we are...today” (Respondent 11), which impacts upon the “life-styles and attitudes of the village” (Respondent 3). Essentially, it becomes an important part of the heritage and culture of the village, and this provides an alternative, but equally valid, reason for conserving and looking after the Garth.

The diagram on page 5 indicates the frequency of members of the local community visiting the Garth

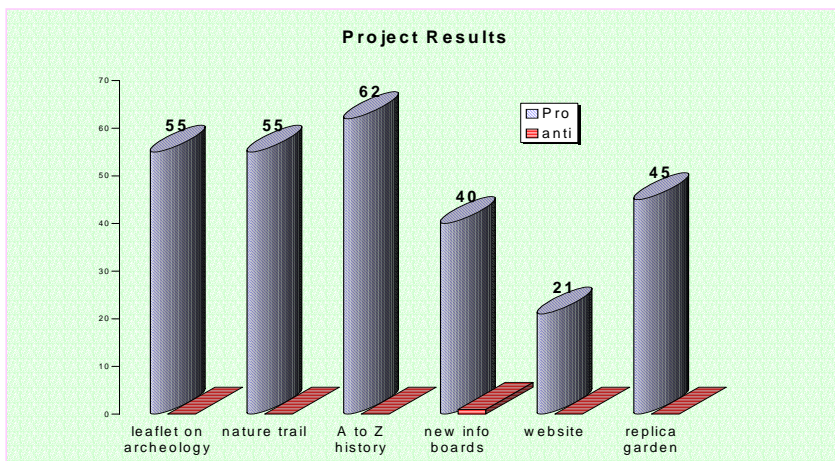


97% indicating that their frequency of visiting is occasional or more, with 27% corresponding with daily visits. It indicates very high levels of interaction with heritage. The reasons for visiting vary:



This represents a general break down of why people visit the Garth, and this analysis of 'Uses' can be supplemented by conversational interview results. In addition to using the Garth in largely recreational terms, the Garth also

offers a sense of character to the village, and a rich and storied history that has relevance today (Respondent 11). It also provides a vital corridor for wildlife, which has clear importance to Cawood today (Respondent 5). The clear sense of history is important not only in an archaeological sense, but also in its ability to keep the village rooted and pass along a sense of belonging and community spirit (Respondent 4 & Respondent 6). Generating a clearer understanding of these aspects of the Garth is also a key aspect of the significance, as it becomes that cultural work or activity that enables the associations of heritage and people to become stronger and more potent. Methods of accomplishing a more comprehensive and inclusive understandings were discussed, with the following results:



comprehensive and inclusive understandings were discussed, with the following results:

An A-Z, for example, allows

other aspects that may not be so readily recognisable to surface as viable and important aspects of the site. Essentially this enables the immediate vicinity to be tied in with the surrounding area, and thus position it within its context and setting. This adds to a developing understanding of what it is about Cawood that makes it special to those who define themselves as local to the area. It also allows for the archaeological aspects to be visualised and understood in tandem with the natural and ecological history, which together provide a uniqueness that instils a sense of attachment.

### **2.3 Significance of Landscape Context and Setting.**

The Castle Garth site is located next to a bend in River Ouse, with a ferry crossing on the way to York. The landscape has been influenced by the river, there are staithe, ings, marsh areas, boggy ground and forested areas – which provide support for the original development of the castle as a hunting lodge. There is also evidence of the prehistoric occupation and Viking landings at Kelfield, Roman occupation near Cawood, the moated Keesbury Manor site, and Gill Green bordering the south side of the Garth.  
Mining?

### **2.4 Statement of Significance**

Given their historical associations, Cawood Castle and the Garth have been considered to be of exceptional significance and this is reflected in their status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Simply put, the Garth holds together a multitude of values which can be traced throughout the Conservation Statement. (This needs a bit more work)

## **3) Aim**

We want to make sure that Cawood Castle and Garth remain at the heart of the village, and to do this we are addressing three main areas. Our plans are detailed in this document to enable us to reach agreement with the all concerned parties:

1. To research the history of the site. The work we have undertaken to date has shown some inconsistencies – in the later sections we have specified some actions we propose to take to gather more evidence.
2. To enhance the ecological value of the site.
3. To enhance community access and use of the site. This involves some physical access improvement works and developing working arrangements to ensure the sensitive areas of the public space are protected and those organising future events on the site do so without causing any damage to the natural environment or any historic artefacts. It also involves sharing information on the results of our investigations to raise awareness of the site.

## **4) What we want to do - long term**

1. Undertake a Mole hill sift of the whole site over the next two years.
2. Survey the earthworks on the site to understand their current and original form and determine in which order they were constructed.
3. Repeat the resistivity survey in drier weather eg. in July/August 2006.
4. Take soil core samples across the site to give information on geology, past plant and animal life in the areas where it was not practical to do a resistivity survey – primarily the New Cut, the orchard area and the sycamore wood area.
5. Recreate a medieval garden in part of the site that would reflect the Garth's appearance at the time of the Great Feast of Cawood in 1466.
6. Create a wild flower meadow in the area to the rear of the wood yard on Thorpe Lane.
7. Work with The Landmark Trust to adapt the unused, remaining Castle building - the Banqueting Hall, for more extensive community use.

## **5) What we need to do**

This section describes the work we will be doing – the initial research and projects we will do with the LHI grant are described first, followed by longer term goals which we need to seek further funds to pursue.

### **5.1) Short term**

#### **5.1.1) Regular Maintenance**

- A) Grassland – cutting in June and October, with grass cuttings to be raked up and taken off site. We need to cut the particularly sensitive areas and remove the waste grass to allow the smaller, more delicate species to grow. We should encourage the specific plants by scraping the surface slightly to allow the plants to spread.
- B) Pond – annual clearance of 20% of surface vegetation and some silt deposits each Autumn.
- C) Hedge maintenance – to ensure the neighbouring paths are kept clear of vegetation.
- D) Gates – swing action to be checked regularly.

#### **5.1.2) One off maintenance tasks**

- A) Access A crossing over the inner moat – and the path leading from the Broad Lane (school) to Thorpe Lane entrance to be made more accessible. Crossing over the inner moat and a new surface, which grass can grow up through to be laid to provide a level surface across the most used pathway.
- B) The three pedestrian gateways – to be widened - to minimum of 1200 mm wide gates.
- C) Gateway surfaces – to be levelled and resurfaced in toning, coloured concrete.
- D) Existing Tarmac Path – to be repaired and widened to 1200 mm with passing places installed every 100m.

- E) Investigate the addition of a wider platform to the Bishopdyke bridge and improvements to the pavement to improve access from Sherburn Street.  
Note: this bridge and the footpath from Sherburn Street to Broad Lane are owned by North Yorkshire County Council.

### **5.1.3) Research**

- A) Produce a zoned map, see Appendix 2, indicating areas the community can use for:
- a. dog walking
  - b. use for community events
  - c. areas other recreational uses
- B) The New Cut. This is a very interesting feature in ecological terms and would benefit from further investigation - particularly the insect life. This could be a huge task just to identify the beetles that live there. These are important because of the associations with earlier watery meadows in the Vale of York area – a habitat that is under threat from agricultural use.
- C) In 2005 the Skating Pond was designated by NYCC as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) for its role in supporting a large population of Great Crested Newts. We will consult them and English Nature on its future management.

### **5.1.4) Projects**

- A) Work with Cawood School to promote a number of ecological activities involving the young people for example:
- a. Fix bird boxes for less common species to trees.
  - b. Fix bat boxes to trees.
  - c. Building some hibernation insect boxes. This could be a classroom project recycling waste packaging.
- B) Continue work on oral history project to determine more information about the development of the village in the past 150 years.
- C) Project video.
- D) Project web pages – to be updated as new information is available.
- E) Leaflets on:
- a. history of castle
  - b. archaeology results and heritage tour of the village.
  - c. A to Z of Cawood.
- F) Information provision – new signs and site interpretative panels to be designed.

## **5.2) Long term**

We need to find more funding to pursue these longer term issues. If we are aiming to encourage more visitors to enjoy the Garth, we need to consider providing some essential visitor facilities.

### **5.2.1) Maintenance**

The LHI project guidance will be written up to form a site ecological management plan. The Parish Council will take responsibility for supervising the maintenance work in accordance with the plan.

### **5.2.2) Research**

- A) Keep a diary of the pond levels to monitor impact of weather and issues from the ending of water pumping following the closure of the adjacent coal mines in 2005.

### **5.2.3) Projects**

- A) Improvements to visitor facilities, information and services:
- a) Provision of Shelter – (wet weather shelter, bus shelter?)
  - b) Provision of Public toilets
  - c) Provision of car parking spaces and designated disabled person's parking bay.
- B) Provide a notice board and exhibition area in the gate house area to communicate topical/seasonal information to visitors and locals viewing the site – for example record sightings of migratory birds.
- C) Agree more extensive community use of the Banqueting Hall – arrange for its interior floor and door way surfaces to be levelled and the windows to be glazed and all other services – lighting, heating and electrical power supply to be provided.
- D) Develop an area of grassland as a wild flower meadow.
- E) Recreate an area of medieval garden to give visitors an idea of the original appearance of the Garth when the castle was occupied.
- F) **Interpretation panels**
1. These could be placed at the entrances to the site as well as near the pond or at other features on the Garth eg wild flower meadow with explanation of what we are hoping to achieve.
  2. One placed near the bridge on the Bishopdyke to give explanation about it.
  3. Move the castle panel nearer the road end of the track and make it lower.

## **6) Agreement/Endorsement**

The following bodies have agreed the aims and description of proposed works:

- Cawood Parish Council (and Cawood Castle Garth Group)
- English Heritage
- Landmark Trust
- Selby District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council

## **7) Review**

The document is a five year plan and will be reviewed annually by English Heritage and Cawood Parish Council.

## **Appendix 1: Designation descriptions**

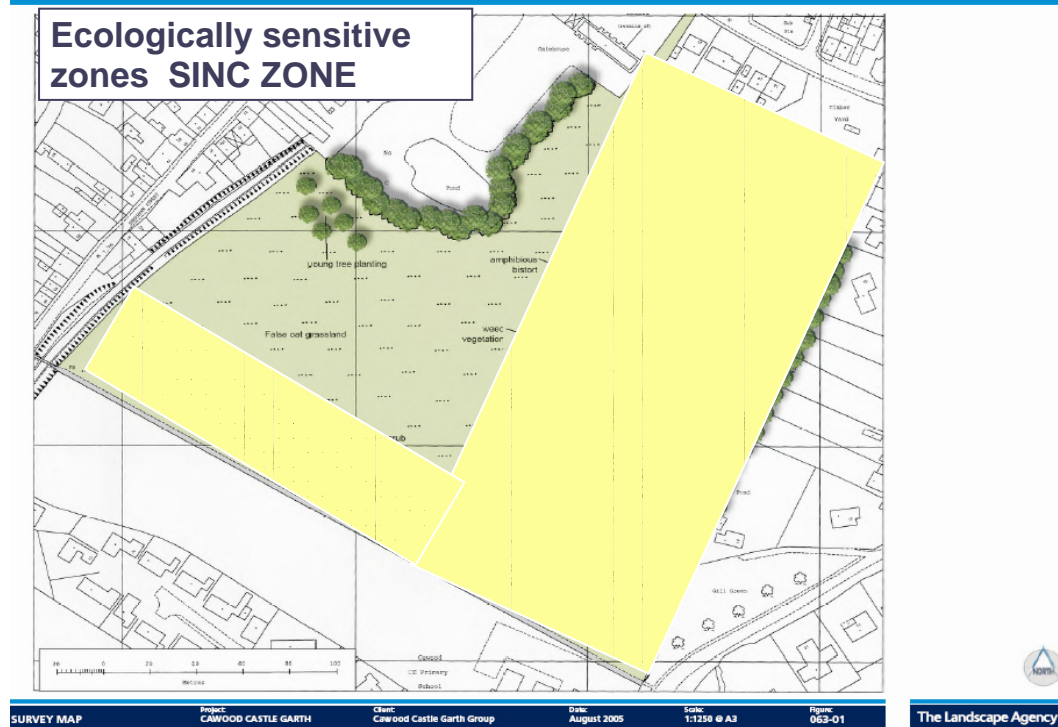
- The Castle Garth is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No 20539).
- The site lies within Cawood Conservation Area.
- Cawood Castle Gatehouse is a Grade I listed building (No 325885).
- The Banqueting Hall is a Grade I listed building (No 325886).
- Kensbury Hall Moated site is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. SM20540).

## Appendix 2: Map of zones of use

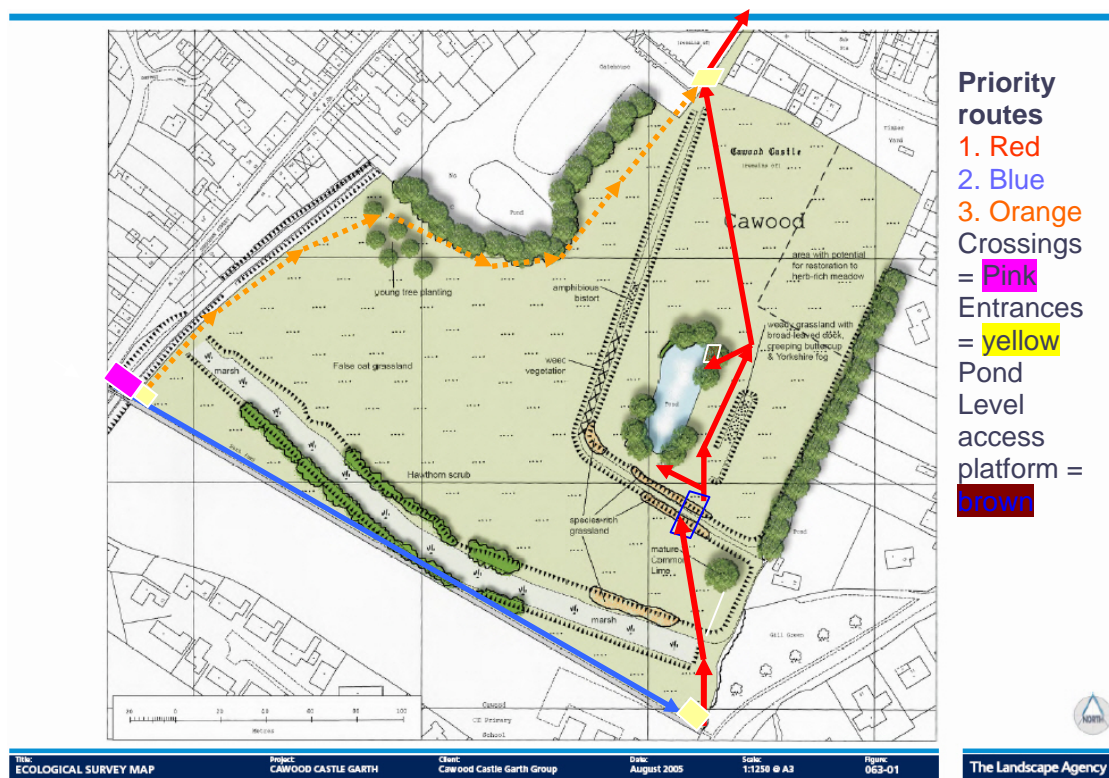
### Zones for community amenity use



The areas marked in **pink** above are the less sensitive areas. Those shown in **yellow** below have been designated as a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) and need protection for their ecological value.



## Appendix 3: Schedule of works to improve access



### Garth Access Improvements Phases and Materials schedule

#### Phase 1

1. To upgrade the path from Broad Lane to Thorpe Lane, by rerouting it, underlaying it with scalpings and then reseeding with hard wearing grasses. There would be two spurs off the path near the pond. One to the seat and information panels and the second to a new pond viewing platform (to be installed in phase 4, to ensure wheelchair access to view the pond edge).
2. South of the inner moat, the route of the current path to be changed slightly, to fit with the proposed crossing point, to avoid earthworks and ensure the work to level the sloped area between the inner moat and new cut areas would be minimised. The new line is a straight line heading towards a specified tree to the right of the pond steps, when viewed from the Broad Lane entrance.
3. To cross the Inner Moat by means a 9m long bridge with a width of 1.5m, which would be located about 2 to 4 meters further from the Lime tree than the site of the current path dip. The construction of the bridge should be wooden with a similar design to that of the steps leading to the pond, to be able to withstand the weight of a powered wheelchair or buggy.
4. Path construction requires excavation of 8 centimetres of material from the surface, then infilling with scalpings, compacting and topping with a layer of top soil. The path to be reseeded with a hard wearing grass species.
5. We are required by English Heritage to keep a watching brief during the excavation of the path foundations and to bag and mark the location of any objects found on a site plan.

- The path surface between the gate and road at the Thorpe Lane entrance to be levelled; the surface could be tarmaced or treated with scalpings. The ridge of bricks that sticks up near the end of the grassed section needs to be levelled.

### Phase 1 Materials & Costs

Item	Materials	Labour	Cost
1a. Excavation of path from Thorpe Lane to Broad Lane	1x digger and driver hire	Contractor ?? + team of volunteers to do the watching brief.	Tbc
1b. Scalpings for path from Thorpe Lane to Broad Lane	400m of path, 10mm depth needs 50 Tons = 5.5 lorries – charge of 137.50 per full lorry = so 6 lorries = £ 825	Contractor Carl Charlesworth 01757 212477 £55 per hour to lay them – say 15 hours = £1,100	£1,925
1c. Top soil – use excavated material		Volunteers/contractor to move soil from excavation site to storage area and then replace it on top of scalpings.	Tbc
1d. grass seed	costs for area (400m x 1.2m) = 480m <sup>2</sup>	= 8.6 kg grass seed = £80.60	£86.00
1e. Bridge for moat crossing	Supplier ...£1,500	Riccal carpenter	£1,500
Total costs Phase 1			c £6,000

### Phase 2

- The current bridge over the Bishopdyke and gate at the Sherburn Street entrance need to be made wider to enable disabled access.
- The bridge needs to be replaced with a structure that is a minimum of 1.5 meters wide. The gap between the end of the bridge and the roadway is very narrow. The current bridge structure has a right hand bend on it, which makes it difficult for wheelchair users and pram users to access the bridge. The new structure needs some means of ensuring that children emerging from the bridge do not walk out into the line of the traffic. We would also like to add an information panel to the bridge site, to explain the history of the Bishopdyke. We suggest a platform structure should be built that includes the bridge and space for visitors to view the information panel, that takes account of road safety issues and has level access across to the gateway.
- The gateways at the Sherburn Street and Broad Lane entrances both need to be a minimum of 1m wide and fitted with self closing gates that can swing out both ways to enable a wheelchair user to open and push them through.
- The ground at the base of both of the gateways needs to be a level and firm eg. concrete or paving stones.
- The gates need to be a minimum of 1m wide.
- The entrance at Broad Lane requires a dropped kerb stone at the road side end of path of at least 1.2m in width.
- To provide a dropped kerb stone at the road side end of the path at Thorpe Lane.

8. The width of the flagged path from Broad Lane roadside to gateway should be increased to a minimum of 1.2m.
9. Tarmaced path from Broad Lane to Sherburn Street entrance needs to be widened, the surface repaired and to ensure the camber is made level. We should extend width of tarmaced area in the narrowest part to a minimum of 1200mm (double its width at the narrowest point). Two passing places to be created by widening it out to 1500mm for a distance of 1000mm. These are to be positioned 60 to 80m from each end.

### Phase 2 Materials & Costs

Item	Materials	Labour	Cost
2a. Bridge over Bishop dyke – (NYCC footpaths)			Tbc
2b. Gateways	2 New 1000mm wide gates	Redoing entrances – moving gateposts?	Tbc
2c. Dropped curb stones at Sherburn St, Broad Lane & Thorpe Lane (NYCC Highways)	3 sites to be investigated		Tbc
2d. widening and repairing current tarmac path between Sherburn Street & Broad Lane entrances (NYCC footpaths)			Tbc
Total Phase 2			TBC

### Phase 3

1. To upgrade the path around the Skating pond – underpin with scaplings and seed with tougher grass species. [To avoid disrupting the Greater Crested Newt colony, this work needs to be undertaken between October and January].
2. To use scaplings to provide a hard standing around the two interpretative pedestals in their current location and next to the bench to enable wheelchair access.
3. To replace signs (directional, informative and ownership) on all entrances and the current 3 information panels.
4. To install new interpretative panels on the Bishopdyke bridge
5. To install commemorative seats or benches 200m from each end of each path.

### Phase 3 Materials & Costs

Item	Materials	Labour	Cost
3a. Excavation by hand of circular path around the Skating pond, and keep a watching brief for newts & archaeology	Own tools	Volunteers or contractor	Tbc
3b. Scalpings for path	300m of path, 10mm depth needs 3.75 Tons = 4 lorries – charge of 137.50 per full lorry = so 4 lorries = £ 550	Contractor £55 per hour to lay them – say 10 hours = £550	= £1,100
3c. Top soil – use excavated material			Tbc
3d. grass seed	=300 x 1.2 = 360m <sup>2</sup>	6.4 Kg of grass seed	£64
3e. Signs for entrances	3x information, ownership & safety messages		£1,000
3f. Information panels	1,300 each – 4 needed		£5,000
3g. benches and seating	Donated in memory of family members	Charge labour costs to family	Nil
Total costs Phase 3			C£9,000

### Phase 4

1. To underpin the path from the Sherburn Street entrance to the Thorpe Lane with scalpings, or just with top soil to form the foundations for a grass path, reseed with tougher grass species.
2. To provide one disabled parking bay in Cardinals Court (or provide a designated disabled parking area on gravelled area in front of the Banqueting hall).
3. To provide a level access viewing platform between two trees sited on the north east side of the pond. There is a gap of 5 meters between the tree trunks. The viewing platform to be a rectangle 3m x 4 m with a spur off the main scalping path leading to it and wooden hand rails on the 3 sides away from the path. The platform to include a site for an information panel describing the pond and tree habitats. The surface of the platform to be wood or concrete.

#### Phase 4 Materials & Costs

Item	Materials	Labour	Cost
4a. Excavation by digger of path from Thorpe Lane to Sherburn St.	Contractor with digger	Volunteers to do the watching brief	Tbc
4b. Scalpings for path from Thorpe Lane to Sherburn St	400m of path, 10mm depth needs 50 Tons = 5.5 lorries – charge of 137.50 per full lorry = so 6 lorries = £ 825	Contractor Carl Charlesworth 01757 212477 £55 per hour to lay them – say 15 hours = £1,100	£1,925
4c. Top soil – use excavated material		Volunteers to assist with moving it	Nil
4d. grass seed	for area = 400 x 1.2 = 480m <sup>2</sup>	= 8.6 kg grass seed = £80.60	£86.00
4e. Pond level access viewing platform		Riccal carpenter.	£1,500
4f. Disabled access parking provision near Thorpe Lane entrance (NYCC or Landmark Trust)			TBC
Total costs Phase 4			£6,000

#### Costs for each phase

Phase	£
1	6,000
2	TBC
3	9,000
4	6,000
Total	

#### Maintenance implications

Frequency	Issue
Monthly	Mowing of the paths with scalpings on them. Checking condition of the bridges
Quarterly	Gates to be checked and hinges oiled
Annually	Wood treatments for wooden structures Tarmac paths to be inspected and repaired Signs and information panels to be cleaned.

## **Appendix 4: Detail of research work:**

### **A. To understand and seek evidence of the original Garth's functions (before the castle was destroyed)**

#### **A.1 Garth functions/purposes - evidence needed on**

- Rich man's garden - or an area to service the castle.
- Provide foods, feed or recreational space – eg. fish ponds.
- Stabling for horses and kennels for household or hunting dogs.
- Enclosure for keeping farmed animals safe (stop them falling into the bogs in the surrounding ings and marshland).
- Other functions (preparation of household materials)
- Small industrial use

#### **A.2 Evidence of Garth features**

##### **A.2.1 Vegetation – pollen sampling from core samples, present species distribution**

- Mediaeval garden area-what type of plants grown there?
- Wild flower meadow area-what species should be there?
- Medicinal plants
  - Edible plants/trees
  - Plants used for household/industrial use:
    - Building materials
    - Dyes
    - Animal feed/bedding
    - Fuel wood

##### **A.2.2 Water features - Evidence of sites and construction**

- ponds
- moats
- drainage works
- waterflows into and out of the site eg. links to the river

##### **A.2.3 New Cut area**

- What was the purpose of the new cut? e.g. a fishpond, a swannery or a decorative garden feature or something else?
- When was it constructed?
- How was it created?
- When did it stop being used for its initial use and why?
- Did it ever connect to the Bishopdyke watercourse?
- How does it impact on the drainage of the site?
- What is the Horseshoe shaped depression at the Broad Lane end?
- Could it have been a harbour for boats taking stone to the river Ouse from Bishop's Dyke for the building of York Minster?

- Was it once joined to the present day Bishop Dyke waterway?
- Was it a source of clay for brick and tile manufacture?
- What plant life grew on the site?
- What depth might it originally have been?
- Did it continue across the east end into the present road (at Gill Green)?
- Did it change direction at the west end (near Bishop Dyke) and continue north towards the castle?
- What might be the use of dam area (crossing point)?

#### **A.2.4 Quarry area**

- When was it quarried?
- Any evidence of the use of the clay material removed and its use? – a link to tileworks or in construction of buildings on the castle site or elsewhere in the village?
  - What level was the quarry get worked out to and when was the in fill placed in it?
  - Ground is not level now – any indication of the purpose or origin of the earthworks
  - Where did the infill materials originate?
  - What evidence is there of the method of quarrying used? Tools or toolmarks.

### **A.3 Buildings on the Garth**

#### **A.3.1 Possible buildings in the area between the pond and the school**

- Structure
- Age
- Purpose
- Construction methods
- Documentary evidence of layout and building use – if not here then on comparable sites?

#### **A.3.2 Other buildings on the Garth site**

- Location
- Evidence of construction and purpose

### **B. Later Agricultural usage phase**

**(what happened after the castle was demolished)**

- Grazing use
- Agricultural improvement of site – application of fertiliser, drainage, organic wastes
- Evidence of fencing

- Evidence of ploughing (age)
- Evidence of drainage works
- Impact of Enclosure Act
- Impact of war activities – or other changing agricultural practices

### C. Earlier phases of use

What happened to the site before the Castle developed here? Is there any remaining evidence of earlier settlements in the village? The name Cawood does not appear in the Domesday book – was it ever called something different?

## Appendix 5 Grassland management

- there are three principle types of grassland on the Garth:-
- **Firstly**, the majority of the Garth is of **low** conservation significance as it is species poor. Also the current cutting regime has impoverished the sward with the result that enhancing its botanical diversity significantly would be difficult if not impossible given resource constraints
- however, some small degree of enhancement could be achieved by simple methods, e.g., cutting **and removing** the grass in June and in late Summer (just before the Craft festival perhaps) or Autumn could increase a few species (e.g., cow parsley) thereby providing a food source for insects and their predators.
- **secondly**, an area near the timber yard (see map) may be suitable for more intensive, botanically friendly management. (Grass growth is already noticeably thinner here and some wild flowers/herbs are more abundant.) The Parish Council is invited to consider the creation of a wild flower meadow type area.
- Initially, this would require two to three cuts (strimming) during the growing season with rigorous removal of cuttings on the same day combined with manual (or similar) raking to remove thatch.
- subsequently, **locally produced** wildflower seed could be introduced (e.g., bulbous buttercup, common knapweed, oxeye daisy, pignut and meadow vetchling). Some CCGG group members have already expressed an interest in harvesting wild flower seeds, growing wild flowers to be transplanted onto the Garth, etc. We may also be able to find other appropriate suppliers through English Nature, the internet, and so on.
- **thirdly**, there are some very small, more species rich, 'unimproved' areas on the banks of some of the earthworks (no more than a few tens

of square metres each – these are the light brown areas on the map). These may be ancient remnants of undisturbed turf, are very scarce in the Vale of York and are of **significant** conservation interest.

- these areas are very small and therefore **vulnerable**. The current cutting regime is **unfavourable** to their conservation because the thick thatch it leaves smothers smaller herbs and grasses.
- these areas should be left uncut until July when they should be strimmed – cuttings should be left for a few days to allow seeds to fall then be removed by manual raking.

### **Proposed maintenance regime.**

**April** strim and hand rake (or similar) the proposed wildflower area (both on same day).

**May**

**June** mechanically cut the large, poor quality areas, after marking out the proposed wildflower area and the vulnerable, species rich areas to protect them. (Remove cuttings, if desired.)

strim and hand rake (or similar) the proposed wildflower area (both on same day).

**July** late in month, strim the vulnerable, species-rich areas, leave cuttings for a few days to allow seed to drop, then remove cuttings by hand raking.

**August** just prior to Craft Festival weekend, mechanically cut the large, poor quality areas, after marking out the proposed wildflower area and the vulnerable, species rich areas to protect them. (Remove cuttings, if desired.)

strim and hand rake (or similar) the proposed wildflower area (both on the same day)

There would be plenty of opportunities for the parish council handy person, parish council and CCGG working parties and other members of the community to become involved in these activities (e.g., marking areas out, strimming, raking, removing cuttings, harvesting wild flower seed, growing and/or planting wild flowers).

*This plan was developed with support from the LHI. The Local Heritage Initiative is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding*

from Nationwide Building Society.



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