York and Beyond: Gardens and Green Spaces

Every city needs its green spaces. Somewhere to walk in peace, reflect on the day, escape the office, enjoy the sunshine, eat a sandwich, and jog round. The parks, gardens and green spaces of York and its surroundings come in all shapes, sizes and styles, and form an integral part of the city’s heritage and magnificent architectural landscapes.

Clifford’s Tower and The Eye of York
Tower Street, York, North Yorkshire YO1 9SA
www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/cliffords-tower-york

One of the most familiar landmarks of York, Clifford’s Tower sits on top of a steep, grassy mound in front of York Castle Museum. This green space provides an excellent site for a variety of events and historical re-enactments. A climb up the steps to the top is rewarded by panoramic views across the city. Press contact: Caroline Topps, caroline.topps@english-heritage.org.uk

Dean’s Park and Treasurer’s House
York Minster, York, YO1 7JN
www.visityork.org/York-Deans-Park-Garden/details/?dms=3&venue=1505834

In the shadow of the great Minster, Dean’s Park is a handsome, open lawn with walkways leading to Minster Yard, where the delightfully secret little garden of 17th century Treasurer’s House (owned by the National Trust) is tucked away.

Goddards
27 Tadcaster Road, York YO24 1GG
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-goddardsgarden

This hidden little gem was once the gardens of Noel Goddard Terry, who was part of the famous York chocolate making family. The gardens are designed by George Dillistone, and offer beautiful yew-hedged garden rooms, a bowling green, wilderness gardens and plants for every season. The tranquil gardens are a haven for wildlife and are home to one of the few British colonies of midwife toads. Press contact: Clare Fletcher, clare.fletcher@nationaltrust.org.uk
The Homestead Park is open all year round for people of all ages to enjoy. Known for its glorious floral displays, the park also has a large play area, lawns, walkways, picnic areas and plenty of wildlife to discover. Children under 12 can enjoy the play area, which has an excellent range of outdoor play equipment. There are several climbing frames, swings and a large helter-skelter slide, as well as special equipment for children with wheelchairs. The equipment in the play area has protective wood-chip flooring, and a section is reserved for under-sevens. The Homestead Park has been open to the public since 1904, and in 2012 won a gold award from Yorkshire in Bloom. Park facilities include car parking at the Shipton Road entrance, picnic benches and public toilets.

New Walk
The start of the walk is at Tower Gardens opposite Clifford’s Tower
www.friendsofnewwalk.org.uk

One of Britain’s first riverside walks, the New Walk was originally created when walking for pleasure was a completely new idea. Now it has been restored. The tree-lined avenue follows the River Ouse for about a mile and, using the new Millennium Bridge, pedestrians can cross the river and return on the opposite bank, making a walking route of around an hour – perfect for a city stroll! The Millennium Bridge, a footbridge and cycle path, which opened in 2001, joins New Walk on the north bank of the Ouse with Terry Avenue on the south bank. Its opening provided the vital link in the White Rose Cycle Route, a National Cycle Network route between Hull and Middlesbrough. It has also created a pleasant, traffic-free shortcut from the city centre to Rowntree Park and the Racecourse.

Rowntree Park
Terry Avenue, York, YO23 1JQ
www.rowntreepark.org.uk

Frederick Rowntree designed Rowntree Park as a memorial to the workers of the Rowntree factory who fought in the First World War. It occupies 30 acres on the south bank of the River Ouse, designed around a large lake, with grassland, trees and colourful flowerbeds. The park also offers children’s play areas and sporting facilities such as bowling, tennis courts and a basketball court.

The banks of the River Ouse
Walks and boat rides along the River Ouse offer a wonderful feeling of space and fresh air in the city as well as a different view of the city’s historic buildings, such as that of the impressive Guildhall. Pleasure boats cruise along the Ouse to Bishopthorpe Palace just east of the city centre, residence of the Archbishops of York since the 13th century. The river affords superb views of the palace and grounds, which are also open to the public and well worth a visit.
West Bank Park
Hamilton Drive, York, YO24 2NS

This beautiful urban 20-acre park is an unexpected find in the middle of Holgate, occupying the former site of the 19th century Backhouse Nurseries.

It boasts a mature woodland and former arboretum at the top end of the park (off Acomb Road) with many specimen trees including dawn redwoods and a giant redwood. The woodland attracts many bird species, including the long tailed tit, goldcrest and greater spotted woodpecker. There is easy access except stepped rose garden and woodland path.

York Museum Gardens
Museum Street, York YO1 7FR
www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk

With the city walls forming one border, the River Ouse and the Abbey ruins forming two others, this city garden occupies an idyllic location. The land was originally granted to the Benedictine monks in 1088 on which to build the Abbey of St Mary, and its Early English and Romanesque ruins still dominate the garden. Other architectural features around the garden include the 12th century Gatehall, once the main entrance to the Abbey grounds, and the medieval half-timbered Hospitium alongside the river, once a guesthouse for visitors to the Abbey. In 1827 the land was given to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, on which to build a museum and create a botanical garden. The grand Yorkshire Museum building now overlooks the gardens and holds much of York’s Roman findings. The octagonal observatory was built in 1832, its revolving pyramidal roof is thought to have been designed by J. Smeaton of Eddystone Lighthouse fame.

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York’s churches
The churches around the city provide a haven of peace and tranquillity in the midst of the busy city. In particular the lovely Holy Trinity Church on Goodramgate is set in its own, small grounds, hidden away behind buildings and reached through a little gate next to Lady Row, York’s oldest row of houses.

Beyond York

Beyond York, the countryside is renowned for its grand historic houses and gardens. Further afield there are plenty more gardens to explore throughout North Yorkshire, such as the magnificent Studley Royal Gardens and Fountains Abbey (World Heritage Site) and the terraces, temples and trees of Duncombe Park.

Beningbrough Hall, Gallery and Gardens
Bembridge, Beningbrough, York YO30 1DD
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-beningbroughhallandgardens

The award-winning landscaped gardens contain beautiful flower borders and a revitalised walled garden with one of the largest collections of top fruit in the North of England. There is also an American garden, Victorian laundry and potting shed and a wilderness play area for children.

Press contact: Joanne Parker, Joanne.Parker@nationaltrust.org.uk

Visit York
visityork.org

A PART OF Make It York
Bishopthorpe Palace Gardens
Palace Flats, York YO23 2GE
www.bishopthorpepalace.co.uk

Home to the Archbishop of York for over 750 years, Bishopthorpe Palace is surrounded by nine acres of beautiful grounds - idyllic location on the River Ouse. The gardens were established as long ago as the 11th century, and were formally laid out around 1700. Historical features include the fishpond, now called Warren pond, which dates back to 1255, on the terrace beside the river, and next to it the remains of a folly. The garden also contains rare trees and spectacular displays of spring flowers and rhododendrons. A more recent addition is the Garden of Remembrance for Diana Princess of Wales. Please check the opening times.

Breezy Knees Gardens and Nursery
Warthill, York, YO19 5XS
www.breezyknees.co.uk

Enjoy a wonderful array of gardens from the Fragrant Rose Garden to the Breezy Bench Garden; there is a garden which will appeal to everyone. If it leaves you feeling inspired to create your own paradise then pop into the Nursery to find a great range of plants and seeds. With over 6,000 different varieties of plants to discover, there’s always lots to see. Extensive borders form the heart of the gardens, giving a succession of flowers all the way through from May to the end of September.

Contact: Colin Parker, marylenparker@hotmail.com

Brodsworth Hall and Gardens
Brodsworth, Doncaster, DN5 7XJ
www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/brodsworth-hall-and-gardens

Brodsworth Hall was built in the 1860's in the Italianate style also favoured for Queen Victoria’s Osborne House, though furnished on a more comfortable and domestic scale. Much of its original scheme survives today, making it one of England's most unaltered Victorian country houses. The gardens, a collection of 'grand gardens in miniature', have been restored to their Victorian splendour, reflecting the desires and aspirations of Victorian country gentry. Visitors can enjoy the garden vistas and discover enchanting features like the pleasure grounds with their fountain centrepiece or the classical summerhouse or the fern dell and pet cemetery. With snowdrops and winter evergreens, spring tulips and laburnum and summer roses and autumnal leaves, the gardens are open year-round with an ever-changing colour palette.
Burnby Hall and Gardens
33 The Balk, York, YO42 2QF
www.burnbyhallgardens.com

These iconic Yorkshire Gardens have been described as "a jewel in Yorkshire’s Crown" and have been awarded the prestigious Yorkshire in Bloom Gold Award for five consecutive years (2010-2014). The Upper and Lower Lakes are home to a National Collection of over 100 varieties of Hardy Water Lily, and offer a wonderful array of changing vistas. The Gardens also include a Rockery, Stumpery, a Victorian Garden, Secret Garden, formal beds and natural shrubbery.

Contact: Peter Rogers, peter@burnbyhallgardens.com

Castle Howard
York, YO60 7DA
www.castlehoward.co.uk

Castle Howard is a haven of peace and tranquility with extensive woodland walks, temples, lakes and fountains and 1000 acres to explore. The monumental landscape offers breathtaking views at every turn, taking in the countryside of the Howardian Hills, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As well as the dramatic landscape, Castle Howard is well known for its annual displays of daffodils, rhododendrons, bluebells and roses. Study days are held in the gardens, and the Arboretum is linked to Kew Gardens. A Plant Centre opened in spring 2004, set within the Walled Garden.

Press contact: Hannah Cooke, Press & Communications Manager, hcooke@castlehoward.co.uk

Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
Ripon, Harrogate, HG4 3DY
www.fountainsabbey.org.uk

The perfect complement to the Abbey is Studley Royal Water Garden, a Georgian masterpiece of an ornamental green garden adorned with Classical statues and follies. Once wild and wooded, the valley of the river Skell was transformed into one of England’s most spectacular Georgian water gardens. Disgraced by a financial scandal in the 1700’s, John Aislabie channelled his energies into creating a landscape of often breath-taking and ground breaking vision. This is a place where guests can truly relax and leave modern day stresses behind whilst being transported to another era.

Contact: Alexa Morton, 01765 608888, alexa.morton@nationaltrust.org.uk
Harewood House and Gardens
Harewood, Leeds, LS17 9LG
www.harewood.org

Harewood is renowned for its magnificent Capability Brown landscaped gardens, which include the Serpentine lake, walled garden, woodland and a fascinating bird garden, a sanctuary to exotic species including penguins, owls, flamingos and parrots.
Contact: Alexis Guntrip, alexis.g@harewood.org

Helmsley Walled Garden
Cleveland Way, Helmsley, York YO62 5AH
www.helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk

Dating back to 1759, Helmsley Walled Garden nestles at the bottom of the North York Moors between the Grade One listed landscape of Duncombe Park and the scheduled ancient monument of Helmsley Castle. The garden was a major employer during most of its history, but following the First World War, it was leased as a commercial enterprise and was run as such until 1984. In 1984, it was abandoned and fell into dereliction. The restoration began in 1994 to restore the garden back to its original Victorian beauty and productivity. Local woman Alison Ticehurst wanted to create a beautiful garden for visitors to enjoy as well as provide horticultural therapy for local people in need. Today the aim of Helmsley Walled Garden is to conserve and restore the fabric of this historically important walled garden and to return it to full productivity using environmentally sustainable techniques.
Contact: Tricia Harris, Marketing Manager, tricia@helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk

Newby Hall and Gardens
Newby Hall, Ripon, HG4 5AE/HG4 5AJ
www.newbyhallandgardens.com

One of Britain's finest Adam houses with Chippendale furniture, Gobelin tapestries and classical statuary. With 25 acres of garden including double herbaceous borders, a woodland walk & contemporary sculpture park. “A Garden for all Seasons” – Newby's award winning gardens, created in the early 1920s, have evolved over the years making a major contribution to 20th century gardening. They provide a haven for both specialist and amateur gardeners alike. The beautiful double herbaceous border, a length of 140m, is one of the longest in Europe. Structurally laid out by Major Compton in the 1930s, it was during the time of Mr Robin Compton that the borders took on their unique planting feel. With its north-south axis, the border holds the fine Wren house at the top, and slopes down to the River Ure below. A haven for birds, bees, butterflies and hoverflies, this is a border worthy of more than one visit during the Open Season. To add to the visual impact throughout the year there have been significant changes and improvements. A blaze of colour from June to September, combining many varied and interesting Herbaceous Perennials, some of which are familiar, others unusual, all work together to create a cohesive spectacle.
Contact: Kate Bankier, kate.b@newbyhall.com
Rievaulx Terrace and Temples
Rievaulx, York, YO62 5LJ
http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/rievaulx-terrace

Discover one of Ryedale's true gems - the 18th-century landscape of Rievaulx Terrace. Stroll through woods, then out on to the terrace, with its stunning views down over the Cistercian ruin of Rievaulx Abbey. In spring the bank between the temples is awash with wild flowers, in summer the lawns are the perfect spot for picnics, while in autumn the beech woods are a mass of rich hues.

Contact: Lindsey Porter, PR Manager - North English Heritage, lindsey.porter@english-heritage.org.uk

RHS Garden Harlow Carr
Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1UE
www.rhs.org.uk/Gardens/Harlow-Carr

RHS Garden Harlow Carr in Yorkshire covers 68 acres. Set in a valley and very much a part of the Yorkshire landscape, the garden has a wide variety of growing landscapes, from running and still water to woodland and wildflower meadows. Acidic soil affords a fabulous environment for rhododendrons and Himalayan blue poppies. Visit the ‘Gardens Through Time’, the Alpine House or the Kitchen Garden, or take a stroll down the streamside.

Contact: Sasha Jackson, sashajackson@rhs.org.uk

Sutton Park
Main Street, Sutton On The Field, York, YO61 1DP
www.statelyhome.co.uk

The award winning gardens attract visitors from both home and abroad, and have been featured in many prestigious publications. In fact Sutton Park is a frequent winner in the “Yorkshire in Bloom” Competition winning the Silver Award in both 2011 and 2012. The gardens featuring herbaceous rose borders are full of rare and interesting plants laid out with great care over the past thirty five years. In the grounds are a Georgian Icehouse and woodland walks.

Contact: Elaine Ellis, suttonpark@statelyhome.co.uk
Scampston Walled Garden
Malton, YO17 8NG
www.scampston.co.uk

Scampston Hall has remained in the same family since it was built towards the end of the 17th century. It was extensively remodelled in 1801 by the architect Thomas Leverton with fine Regency interiors and now houses an important collection of works of art. Scampston Walled Garden is a stunningly beautiful contemporary garden, quite unlike any other. Designed by the renowned Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf, and featuring modern, perennial meadow planting alongside more traditional areas, the garden is acclaimed as one of the finest gardens to visit in North Yorkshire. Many of the plants that in the garden can also be bought on site in the plant nursery sales area, including those interesting and unusual plants that are particular to Scampston Walled Garden.

Contact: Anne Ainsley, anne@scampston.co.uk

Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens
Stewart Lane, Stillingfleet, York YO19 6HP
www.stillingfleetlodgenurseries.co.uk

The 18th century Stillingfleet Lodge farmhouse is surrounded by a wonderful array of gardens. Each garden provides a delightful mixture of plants, which are planted using traditional cottage garden principles. Stillingfleet Lodge Garden is a quintessentially English garden, managed to be as wildlife friendly as possible. It has been planted-up over 40 years and now comprises a series of small gardens surrounding the family home, opening out into an avenue that leads to a wild flower meadow. The planting emphasises a cottage garden style and every part is maintained organically. Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens offer a variety of gardening workshops and talks from February until September.

Contact: Vanessa Cook, redkiteservices@uwclub.net

Wolds Way Lavender
Wintringham, YO17 8HW
www.woldswaylavender.co.uk

The family run Lavender Farm is situated within ½ mile of the Wolds Way Walk, surrounded by mature woodland, on the edge of the picturesque Yorkshire Wolds. Wolds Way Lavender and Herb Farm is a wonderful and relaxing place to visit set on 12 acres, the site is currently planted with over six acres of Lavender ranging from rich hues of purple to the purest white. An area of the Lavender Farm has been made accessible for the disabled and the raised Lavender and Herb beds make perfect viewing for all. There are over 120 different types of Lavenders and Herbs growing which, when in flower, paint an incredible splash of colour across the site.
York Maze
Dunnington Lodge, Elvington Lane, York, YO19 5LT
www.yorkmaze.com

Visit the UK’s largest maze! Created from over one million living, growing maize plants, York Maze is an award winning fun filled day out in the country. Meet the farm animals or try out one of the 20 different rides, attractions and shows.
Contact: David Leon, david@partners-group.co.uk

Yorkshire Lavender
Terrington, York, YO60 6PB
www.yorkshirelavender.com

This spectacular garden is set amongst the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Walk through the amazing gardens with the vibrant mixture of colours from soft pinks to deep purple, and indulge in the relaxing scents of lavender.
Contact: Nigel Goodwill, lavenderworld@btconnect.com

For more information and to book your stay in York:
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