APPENDICES
Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site
Draft Management Plan 2015-2021

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### When did the area become a WHS and how big is it?

In 1986 Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal was designated a World Heritage Site. Its title on the World Heritage List is ‘Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site’. The boundaries were largely drawn to reflect the land in National Trust ownership at that time. The World Heritage Site is 822 acres (333 hectares).

### Administrative areas

The Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site lies in the Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council authority areas. The Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site is also within the boundary of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### Rivers

The River Skell flows through the valley from the South-West - feeding the formal ponds, canals and cascades that form the central features of the water garden before exiting in the direction of Ripon.

### Farmland

The estate also includes an extensive deer park, which contains a large deer population consisting of three different species; these are Sika, Red and Fallow deer. There are also three tenanted pastures totalling 90 acres of farmland.

### Public rights of way

The Studley Royal Deer Park including Mackershaw and the Seven Bridges Valley is open to the public. Each year we estimate that 150,000 visitors come just to enjoy this free area of the estate and the many walks through it.

### Nature conservation

Four areas of the World Heritage Site are designated Sites Important to Nature Conservation (SINC’s). The World Heritage Site also lies within the boundary of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### Heritage designations

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. A buffer zone for the WHS was approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2012. The site has 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument (the abbey ruins); 8 x Grade I listed buildings; 8 x Grade II* listed buildings and 38 Grade II listed buildings. In addition to this the estate is listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Grade I Special Historic Interest. The village of Studley Roger which lies just outside the WHS is a Conservation Area.

### People

There are currently 79 members of permanent full and part time staff employed by the National Trust at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal with an additional 60 members of staff working flexibly during our peak seasons. Almost 400 people volunteer across 28 different teams.

### Visitors

On average, over 350,000 people visit Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens each year (344,113 in 2013) with an estimated 150,000 additional people visiting the Deer Park. This makes the estate one of the most visited ‘pay-for-entry’ sites of the National Trust and one of the most popular historic sites to visit in Yorkshire. The National Trust segments visitors into seven core ‘user-groups’. This segmentation helps site managers to identify who uses their sites and how they can improve opportunities and increase enjoyment. Detailed segmentation research at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal identified that the site is most prominently visited by ‘Out and About’ (spontaneous and sociable visitors), ‘Explorer Families’ (active, educated and enthusiastic people spending time as a family) and ‘Curious Minds’ (visitors generally over 45 with broad interests).
Appendix 2: A Short history of the site

Introduction

The Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal estate has a special and significant history. This section looks at the history of the lives of the Cistercians at Fountains Abbey, the medieval origins of the Studley Royal estate and the development of the designed landscape under the Aislabies. It also introduces the families who have owned the Fountains and Studley Royal estates over time, the history of tourism on the site and the land use history of the estate and associated sites.

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal – a brief history

The present Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal estate only became a single entity in 1767. In the medieval period, it was comprised of three distinct components:
• Fountains Abbey monastic estate, both inside the precinct wall boundary and some adjoining lands;
• Mackershaw Wood, a fragment of the pre-Conquest estate of the Archbishop of York;
• The village of Studlei Magna in the present deer park, which became the Studley Royal estate in the 16th century.

Fountains Abbey, founded in 1132 in unpromising circumstances, soon became one of the richest and largest Cistercian abbeys in Britain. Its wealth was largely built on the wool trade and vast donated or purchased land holdings. It was dissolved in 1539 and sold the following year to Sir Richard Gresham; a London merchant, who recouped some of the purchase price by selling the abbey’s building materials. In 1597, Sir Stephen Proctor acquired the Fountains estate and built Fountains Hall (1597-1604), partly with stone from the monastic complex. The Messenger family owned the Fountains estate from 1627 to 1767, when it was purchased by William Aislabie and combined with Studley Royal. Mackershaw was a managed woodland let by the lord of the manor at Studley from the 14th century until 1730, when it was purchased by John Aislabie and incorporated in Studley Royal designed landscape.

The Studley Royal estate was owned by the Mallory family from 1452 until 1667, when George Aislabie acquired it through marriage to Mary Mallory. The deer park, probably of medieval origins, is first recorded in 1577 and has been progressively extended. Studley Park, which was landscaped with formal avenues in the later 17th century by George Aislabie, retained its original manor house until 1748, when it was largely rebuilt. The associated landscape garden built by the Aislabies between 1670 and 1781 made Studley Royal nationally famous; it was even referred to as ‘The Wonder of the North’. Built on a magnificent scale from the outset, the design – contrived by the Aislabies themselves – understood and incorporated every major new garden fashion as it emerged. The resulting gardened landscape revolved around eye-catchers, contrived vistas and carefully designed water features and contrasts, all taking full advantage of the topography of the Skell valley and the presence of the abbey ruins. Studley Royal became an outstanding illustration of the successive landscape fashions of

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the 18th century, and was a frequent and important stop on cultural tours of the north of England.

Ever-growing numbers of visitors inspired many of the changes carried out by subsequent owners. The Marquis of Ripon took over the estate in 1859. In 1870, he commissioned the renowned architect William Burges to design St Mary’s Church (which was built between 1871 and 1878) at the western end of the main vista across the park, aligned with Ripon Minster. Although subsequent owners did not alter much of the Aislabies’ original design, they slowly withdrew from its extremities whilst the lack of maintenance gradually resulted in some landscape features suffering irreversible decay. However, the abbey ruins were well cared for, especially during the second half of the 19th century, when major excavations and research took place. In 1946, Studley Royal House was destroyed by fire. The historic Studley Estate was broken up when sold by its last private owner, Henry Vyner, in 1966. It was then that the High Stables, Wheatbriggs House and the Pheasantries were sold into separate ownership, while the gardens, abbey and parkland were acquired by West Riding County Council. There was a huge backlog of conservation work to be addressed. The National Trust acquired the estate in 1983 from North Yorkshire County Council (successor to the West Riding County Council). Since then, a programme of restoration and conservation has been under way in the Water Garden, Fountains Hall, and, in partnership with English Heritage, at the abbey mill (opened to the public in 2001) and to the monastic precinct wall. The abbey ruins have been in the guardianship of the State since 1966 and their consolidation has progressed since that date.

Fountains Abbey from foundation to dissolution

Fountains Abbey was founded in 1132 by a group of 13 dissident Benedictine monks who left St Mary’s Abbey in York in search of a more austere religious way of life. The abbey they founded became known as ‘Sancta Maria de Fontibus’ (Charter of Confirmation by Henry I, 1133) and joined the reformist Cistercian order as a daughter house of Clairvaux in France. The Cistercian ideals of austerity, simplicity and solitude fulfilled the aspirations of the founders of Fountains Abbey.

After a near collapse in the early years (before the foundling abbey acquired sufficient resources to support itself) the period 1135-1265 marked the rapid expansion and growing economic influence of Fountains Abbey. Its first simple timber buildings were lost to arson in 1146, but rebuilding in stone was already in hand when the fire was set, one of a series of redesigns in the course of the 12th century necessitated by increasing numbers of monks and lay-brothers. The current extent of the buildings complex was reached by the early 13th century, although modification and replacement of buildings continued throughout the abbey’s life. Through gifts of land, Fountains Abbey progressively extended its land holdings throughout the north of England, building much of its wealth initially on the wool trade. By 1150, it had founded eight daughter houses (foundations of 12 monks and a prior sent out from Fountains Abbey). There was a progressive economic and spiritual decline in the following centuries, ended by a period of recovery under abbots Greenwell and Huby in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. Lay-brothers were replaced by tenant farmers and servants, while the monastery was further extended, more richly
decorated, more comfortably furnished and the unique Huby’s Tower built.

In 1539, during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Fountains Abbey was one of the richest Cistercian foundations in Britain. Henry VIII sequestrated the abbey’s valuables, and then contemplated schemes for the creation of a new northern diocese, one of which included using the former Fountains Abbey estate as the financial base. The eventual selection of Chester as the new cathedral freed up Fountains Abbey for private sale. In 1540, it was sold to Sir Richard Gresham, a London merchant, who partially demolished it for the sale and reuse of its building materials.

The medieval origins of Studley Royal

Settlements in the general area of the medieval village of Studley appear in surveys of the Archbishop of York’s lands (‘Stodlege’, c.1030) and in the Domesday Survey (‘Stollai’ and ‘Estollai’) of 1086. The first reference to the name ‘Studley Royal’ does not appear until 1537.

The village of Studlei Magna, established in the late 12th century or early 13th century, dwindled to just a few tenancies by 1360. Development on this unpromising site in the north of the present park, far from water supplies, was prompted by the construction of a road linking Ripon to the West Gate of the abbey. The village seems to have had some unusually large houses, one of which was excavated in 1989-1991, while traces of more humble dwellings have been found in the fields of Swanley Grange and in the park. Most of the present deer park was cultivated using ridge and furrow techniques, to improve drainage and soil fertility. The earthworks of this system are still visible extending over approximately 300 acres.

The manor house remained occupied long after the village became extinct, particularly by the Mallory family between 1452 and 1667. Studley then came into the ownership of George Aislabie, following his marriage to Mary Mallory and the death of the last male Mallory.

The origins of the deer park are not well documented. Thomas de Bourne, lord of the manor, obtained hunting rights over rabbits and small mammals (the right of Free Warren) in 1343. The first documentation for a deer park dates from 1577. Red deer are native in this area.

Development and decay of the Aislabies’ designed landscape

Studley’s earliest landscaping took place in the Deer Park, adopting the 17th century fashion for formal avenues. The main avenue and Studley Gate (framing the view of Ripon Cathedral) were probably created in 1670-1675 for George Aislabie. George’s early demise slowed development works, but they were again in mind soon after John Aislabie’s inheritance in 1693. Studley Royal House – the former medieval manor house - was renovated by John Aislabie after a fire in 1716 and then further modified (twice) by his son William in 1748-1752 and 1758-1762. It was modernised again by the Marquis of Ripon in the 1860s. Fire completely destroyed the mansion in 1946. The extensive stable block (by Roger Morris, advised by Colen Campbell) built in 1728-1732 remains.
In the 18th century a group of the gentry, nobility and rising monied classes experiencing economic prosperity and political power developed and landscaped ‘Pleasure Gardens’ to extend their enjoyment of their great estates and demonstrate their wealth and taste to others. In keeping with this fashion, from 1718 to 1742, John Aislabie developed the ‘Water Garden’ along the River Skell: the canal was created and the valley bottom levelled. Ponds, buildings, statues, formal hedges, new plantations and walks followed, probably in three main phases of development. The formal style of the valley bottom contrasts with the naturalistic treatment of the wooded slopes. The new garden buildings and the abbey ruins are used as eye-catchers and create a complex network of contrived vistas, taking full advantage of the topography of the Skell valley and of the presence of the abbey ruins. How Hill tower was the first eye-catcher, built in 1718.

From 1742 to 1781, William Aislabie extended his father’s work. Following new fashions, he created a sublime landscape and an unusually early Chinese landscape in the Valley of Seven Bridges. It was a distinctive feature of Studley that William added to the early works rather than remove them as many of his contemporaries did. When he ran out of space to expand at Studley, his solution was to develop gardens on other family properties, at Laver Banks and especially at Hackfall. Chronologically interwoven, and physically linked, the three sites should really be considered to be parts of one and the same designed landscape. In 1767 William succeeded, where his father had failed, in buying the Fountains Abbey estate. He landscaped and consolidated the abbey ruins, which became an integral part of the Pleasure Gardens. He also extended the designed landscape, in a naturalistic style, a further mile upstream of the abbey, to Spa Gill wood.

The year of William’s death, 1781, marks the effective 'high water mark' for the designed landscape’s extent and sophistication. The 18th century landscape was little altered by subsequent owners, who mainly respected and only modestly enhanced the original design by their additions - Surprise View, De Grey Walk and St Mary’s Church. Meanwhile many features disappeared and the maintained part of the grounds contracted through lack of maintenance, especially in Chinese Wood, Spa Gill, How Hill and in the area behind the Banqueting House. A number of decaying buildings and features from the late 18th century were removed by the first Marquis of Ripon c.1870. The lost features include the bathing house, the Belvedere, the Tent on Tent Hill, the Chinese building, lost vistas and statuary.

The families who owned the estate

The Mallory family, medieval owners of Studley for two centuries, rose to local and national significance under Elizabeth I. The family provided Ripon’s first Members of Parliament in the 17th century.

George Aislabie, although of much humbler stock (he was a yeoman farmer’s son), joined gentry circles after inheriting £20,000 from the family of his former employer. He was therefore able to seek the hand of Mary Mallory (her family having been impoverished by the Civil War) and ultimately secured mastery of the Studley Royal estate. He was killed in a duel in 1676, leaving 12 children. John Aislabie, his third son, was MP for Ripon from 1695 until 1721, Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1718-1720, and was expelled from Parliament after the South Sea Bubble scandal.

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John’s son William took the family seat in the Commons in 1721 and remained an MP until his death in 1781. The Aislabie name died out with William, the estate being inherited by his daughter (Elizabeth Allanson) and later a grand-daughter (Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence) before the line was extinguished in 1845.

Studley then passed to Earl de Grey and then to his nephew the first Marquis of Ripon in 1859. The Marquis was one of the elder statesmen of his time – Viceroy of India in 1880-1884, and a freemason of the highest rank. He married his cousin, Henrietta Vyner, from Newby Hall. His son, the second Marquis, was a celebrated shot who developed the Studley Royal pheasant shoot and received Edward VII and George V at Studley on several occasions.

The early owners of the Fountains estate were not well-known public figures – especially the Messenger family. Their Catholic faith, royalist persuasion in the Civil War, and often dubious liquidity encouraged ‘quiet living’ during the 140 years that the Messengers owned the Fountains estate between 1627 and 1767.

The history of tourism at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal

The earliest ‘tourists’ at Fountains Abbey were antiquarians, first recorded being drawn to the abbey ruins in the 1660s (although a connection between Fountains Abbey and the Yorkshire version of the Robin Hood legend may have origins with medieval visitors). Studley Royal landscape garden added a further attraction in the 18th century, and the estate soon became an essential feature of the ‘tour of the north’.

Visitor numbers were boosted to unusually high levels in the late 18th century and during the 19th century by the proximity of the growing Spa at Harrogate. Studley Royal was ideally placed to provide an outing for those ‘taking the waters’. The relatively early arrival of the railway in Ripon and Harrogate in 1848 made the estate accessible to the populations of the Yorkshire, Lancashire (and latterly Teesside) manufacturing towns. The earliest known school visit is recorded in 1851, with first reference to the availability of food for visitors on the site of the present Studley Café in 1854. As early as 1853, a one shilling entrance fee, professional guided tours and estate regulations were in place. At the inauguration of St Mary’s Church in 1878, the estate is said to have welcomed about 30,000 visitors. Few rural attractions can have rivalled such visitor numbers at that time. The first floodlighting of the abbey in 1932 was initiated by the Vyners to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the abbey; its popularity eventually leading to the permanent installation of lighting, which permitted evening visiting.

After the National Trust acquired the estate in 1983, a visitor centre was built in 1992 to help reduce the congestion of the historic area, and deal with visitor numbers which had grown to around 300,000 a year.
Land use history

The monks claimed they built Fountains Abbey in a wilderness: in reality the landscape around the Skell valley was probably already well managed in the 11th century. Small settlements (Swanley, Morker, Studley) practised low-intensity agriculture, exploiting surrounding woodland and scrub. Gradually the abbey established more intensive agriculture across its home grange farms.

At Studley Royal, the deer park was progressively extended, and land use gradually changed from mixed agricultural to grazed parkland between the 16th and 18th centuries. As the woodland resource became scarcer, the Archbishop of York jealously guarded his woods at Mackershaw. Only in the Skell valley, too rough and wet for agricultural development, did scrub land survive. The Aislabies incorporated the existing trees in the valley scrub in their designed landscape and planted both new and native species, in particular many yew trees. Mackershaw was annexed as a further deer park in the 1740s, while the Pleasure Garden was extended to the abbey precincts and beyond after 1767.

At the end of the 19th century, a pheasant shoot was developed in the grounds, and a golf course existed in the deer park from 1891 to 1927. The pheasant shoot continued, and the shooting interest was sold into private hands when the Studley Royal estate was broken up in 1966.
Appendix 3: Planning and policy framework for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site

There are a range of policy and management frameworks which apply to the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site, and this section does not attempt to be exhaustive but only captures some of the key strategic policies. Much of the relevant legislation will apply to specific elements or assets within the site (such as protected species or archaeology), and no attempt is made to record all elements here.

National Policy

National planning policy direction is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/themes/planning-guidance/assets/NPPF.pdf], which sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It is supported by the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), a web based resource which brings together current planning policy guidance [http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/].

The NPPF includes the appropriate conservation of heritage assets as one of its ‘Core Planning Principles’ which underpins the planning system (Paragraph 17 bullet 10). This is expanded upon principally in Section 12 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (Paragraphs 126-141), but policies giving effect to this objective also appear elsewhere in the NPPF. Paragraphs 132, 137 and 138 in particular make reference to World Heritage Sites, and emphasise that the greater the significance of a designated heritage asset, the greater the weight that should be given to the asset’s conservation. In particular, it notes that the presumption in favour of sustainable development may not apply to designated heritage assets (Paragraph 14 footnote 9).

Further legislative framework for the historic environment, relevant to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, is provided by:

- the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest; and
- the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, which provides specific protection for scheduled monuments.

Any decisions relating to listed buildings and their setting must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see in particular sections 16, 66 and 72) as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the relevant Local Plan.

Local Policy

The Local Planning Authority for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal is Harrogate Borough Council. At the time of writing (2014), local planning policy is provided by the Harrogate District Local Plan (2001 Selective Alteration 2004 and Direction (Saved Version 2007)) and its associated Policies Map; the Core Strategy (2009); and Local WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Planning Guidance which includes the Heritage Management Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2014. The Council’s Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) Submission Draft had to be withdrawn at its Examination in May 2014, and as a result the Council is now preparing a new Local Plan, with the aim that is should be adopted in 2018, replacing the saved Local Plan policies and the Core Strategy.

The National Trust and English Heritage, as site managers, had worked closely with Harrogate Borough Council in the preparation of their draft Sites and Policies Development Plan Document to ensure policies were included which gave the buffer zone, and therefore the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site itself, a level of protection. This same level of work will continue throughout the preparation of the new Local Plan.

In the meantime, the relevant saved policies from the Harrogate Local Plan (2001) are HD7, HD7A and C2, all of which have been saved by the Secretary of State’s Direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and are therefore a material consideration in determining planning applications. These are as follow.

**Policy HD7 – WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Development within the World Heritage Site of Studley Royal Park and Fountains Abbey will only be permitted in very exceptional circumstances where there is no adverse effect on the cultural, natural and manmade interest which led to the site’s designation and either:

A. It is required to enhance the interpretation of the site’s cultural, natural and man-made interest for visitors; or
B. It is essential for the management of the site or of visitors to the site.

The Council will encourage appropriate conservation and restoration measures.

The setting and views of the site are protected by policies C2 and HD7A of this Plan and will be afforded the strictest protection.

The supporting text, in paragraph 6.48 of the Local Plan, goes on to recognise that, although being afforded the highest level of protection, certain development may still be required.

*(Para 6.48)* As such this site and its environs must be afforded the strictest of protection from development which could be harmful to its cultural, natural and man made

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interest. The very nature and importance of this site means that it is likely to continue to be under considerable pressure from visitors. The site attracts in excess of 400,000 visitors a year. This may from time to time require the provision of facilities to improve the interpretation of the site’s interest or to manage the pressures from visitors within the site. Access for the elderly and disabled must continue together with rights of way through the parkland for the general public. (See Policy R11 of this Plan)

Policies HD7A and C2 are also of particular relevance to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal WHS, in providing protection to the Registered Park and Garden and encouraging restoration of the historic landscape.

Policy HD7A – PARKS AND GARDENS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

Development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the character or setting of parks and gardens included in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Policy C2 – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Development should protect existing landscape character. In locations where restoration of the landscape is necessary or desirable, opportunities should be taken for the design and landscaping of development proposals to repair or reintroduce landscape features, to the extent that this is justified by the effects of the proposal

The Harrogate District Core Strategy 2009 also contains objectives and policies of particular relevance to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. These are objectives 18 and 19, and Policy EQ2, as follows.

Core Strategy Objective 18:

To protect and enhance the built and natural environment, including biodiversity, landscape character, giving special protection towards those areas and buildings of recognised importance (Relating to Policy EQ2)

Core Strategy Objective 19:

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To encourage exemplar design quality which safeguards the distinctive character of its settlements and minimises impact on the environment, particularly in sensitive areas (Relating to Policies EQ1, EQ2, SG4)

Policy EQ2 aims to protect and enhance the District’s character, biodiversity, landscape and heritage, including the World Heritage Site.

POLICY EQ2: THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN BELT

The District’s exceptionally high quality natural and built environment will be given a level of protection appropriate to its international, national and local importance. In addition, more detailed protection and where appropriate enhancement measures will be applied through the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document, relevant management plans and by working in partnership with landowners and interested parties.

Subject to the District’s need to plan for new Greenfield development, the landscape character of the whole District will be protected and where appropriate enhanced.

The extent and detailed boundaries of the West Yorkshire and York Green Belts in the District will not be changed.

Where criteria based planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection, local landscape designations will be identified:

- To protect the high quality of the landscape which is important to the setting of the towns of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon;
- To protect those ‘green wedges’ in Harrogate town which are an important part of its character and distinctiveness;
- To protect appropriate green space within the main built up areas of Group A, B, and C settlements listed in Policy SG2 of this Core Strategy.

Priority measures to protect and enhance the District’s natural and built environment are to:

- Increase wildlife habitats and species in accordance with the District’s Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Review and update the Council’s local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation;
- Improve the condition of the District’s Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
In 2014, the Council approved the Heritage Management guidance as a Supplementary Planning Document. The guidance has been drafted in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and supports Core Strategy Policy EQ2 by providing detailed guidance on how heritage and design guidance policies will be applied in decision making. The guidance includes a number of appendices in the form of a ‘living document’ which means they can be updated as and when necessary. The guidance also sets out the direction for management of the historic environment, explaining the threats and identifying the key priorities for the Council to ensure that the vision and objectives for the District’s historic environment are achieved and maintained in the long term. It contains a number of references to the World Heritage Site, including recognition of the buffer zone.

Other relevant planning advice is contained within the Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (2004). The Landscape Character Areas that apply to this location are Area 30 (Vale Fringe south of River Skell and Skell Corridor) and Area 44 (Aldfield to Studley Vale Fringe Farmland) which includes the World Heritage Site itself.

In November 2014 the Council adopted the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This seeks to enhance the natural and built environment of the District by helping applicants and developers ensure that proposals for development make the most of opportunities to improve existing and create new green infrastructure and will be used as a material consideration when considering planning applications.

http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/plan/Pages/GI-Guide.aspx

The Nidderdale AONB Management Plan (2014-19) sets out policies to maintain landscape character, biodiversity and the historic environment within the AONB whilst promoting peoples enjoyment of the area, promoting tourism and improving accessibility.

Relevant policies include:

- **Policy HE1** – Protect the historic landscape and features of archaeological Importance by resisting inappropriate development and supporting owners and managers to improve condition where possible.
- **Policy HE2** – Support innovative proposals for sustainable future use of historic buildings and structures where this does not cause unacceptable harm to the asset or the wider landscape.

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• **Policy HE3** – Encourage initiatives designed to increase awareness and understanding of archaeology and the historic environment.

• **Policy L1** – Promote awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the AONB.

• **Policy L2** – Maintain and enhance the special qualities of the AONB’s landscape including priority wildlife habitats and restore damaged or degraded features.


**The Ripon City Plan**

The Ripon City Plan is currently under preparation and will be a detailed strategy for the future of the parish of Ripon. This is a Neighbourhood Plan and is being prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act of 2011. This allows local communities to produce a plan for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the development and growth of their neighbourhood. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Local Development Plan and must be used to determine planning applications.

The development of the plan is being led by the Ripon City Plan Committee comprising representatives of the Ripon City Council and a number of other interested organisations and people from across the city.

The National Trust and English Heritage have been working with the Ripon City Plan Committee to ensure that the UNESCO approved buffer zone is protected, particularly the main vista from the WHS to Ripon Cathedral and beyond to Blois Hall Farm. A preliminary draft Ripon City Plan went out for consultation in October and November 2014 and includes proposals to define Ripon’s skyline and control development proposals that may affect it. Whilst the detailed wording of policies in the plan is still being developed, and will need to be tested at Examination, the intention is that the policy will support the Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey Buffer Zone and ensure that development in Ripon does not impinge on views from the WHS across Ripon.

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## Appendix 4 – List of World Heritage Site Stakeholders involved in the WHS plan

### Steering Group
- **Tony Earnshaw**  
  Assistant Director of Operations (National Trust)
- **Chris Fowler**  
  General Manager at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal (National Trust)
- **Sarah Parkinson**  
  WHS Coordinator (National Trust)
- **Dave Allenby**  
  Head of Planning and Development (Harrogate Borough Council)
- **Deborah Wall**  
  Principal Local Engagement Advisor, Yorkshire and the Humber (English Heritage)
- **Peter Goodchild**  
  Landscape Conservator (ICOMOS-UK)
- **Ian Fielding**  
  Assistant Director Waste and Countryside Services (North Yorkshire County Council)

### Representatives of NT
- **Michael Ridsdale**  
  Head of Landscape at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
- **Roy Phillips**  
  Operations Manager at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
- **Alexa Morton**  
  Visitor Experience & Marketing Manager at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
- **Kate Gardner**  
  Consultancy Manager
- **Barbara Hooper**  
  Planning Adviser
- **Joanna Royle**  
  Head of Marketing & Supporter Development

### Representatives of EH
- **Keith Emerick**  
  Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Deborah Wall**  
  Principal Local Engagement Advisor, Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Neil Redfern**  
  Team Leader, Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Tammy Whitaker**  
  Planning and Conservation Director, Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Liz Page**  
  Historic Properties Director North
- **Henry Owen-John**  
  Head of International Advice
- **Clea Warner**  
  Area Manager, Yorkshire
- **Mark Douglas**  
  Curator

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
National Agencies and Organisations
ICOMOS-UK
Local Authority World Heritage Forum
Natural England
Environment Agency
National Heritage Training Academy

Local Authority Representatives
Ann Johnson  Conservation Officer, Harrogate Borough Council
Andrew Siddall  Planning Officer, Harrogate Borough Council
Paul Burgess  Nidderdale AONB
Heather Garnett  Chair of the Nidderdale AONB Heritage Steering Group
Ruth Benson  Landscape Officer, North Yorkshire County Council
Gail Falkingham  Historic Environment Team Leader, North Yorkshire County Council

Interest Groups
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
Welcome to Yorkshire
The Ramblers Association
Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Ripon CVS
Open Country
York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership
Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership
Yorkshire Gardens Trust
Ripon Civic Society

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Harrogate Naturalists Society
Nidderdale Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group
Ripon City Plan Committee Members
Ripon City Development Manager
National Trust Harrogate and Dales Association
Visit Harrogate

Local Community representatives
Cllr. Mick Stanley Mayor of Ripon
Cllr Jim Clark The Worshipful Mayor of Harrogate
Cllr Nigel Simms (Deputy Mayor - Harrogate) Chair of Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee
Robin Dennis Markington Parish Council
Derrick Slater Fountains Abbey (including Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains) Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Atkinson District Councillor Masham and Fountains - NYCC
Cllr Alan Skidmore Heritage Champion & Planning & Transport Manager

Neighbouring landowners
Local residents and landowners

Spiritual and Community Matters
Ripon Cathedral
Local churches

National Trust Volunteer Representatives
Guides Coordinator, National Trust
Information Assistants Trainer, National Trust
Research Coordinator, National Trust
Visitor Assistant Coordinator, National Trust
Guides Trainer, National Trust

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Info Assistant Coordinator, National Trust

Educational Representation
   Representative from local schools, colleges & universities

Other WHS Representatives
   World Heritage Site Coordinator, Durham WHS
   World Heritage Officer, Saltaire WHS
Appendix 5 – Outcomes of phase 1 consultation

Introduction

This document comprises the engagement strategy that is a key component in the process of reviewing the World Heritage Site Management Plan for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal during 2014. Its main aim is to ensure that all those involved with the WHS including staff, volunteers, visitors, stakeholders and the local community are consulted about proposed objectives and have an opportunity to comment and feel ownership of the future of their World Heritage Site. This report also includes a summary of the outcomes of the first phase of consultation. These were taken into consideration in producing the draft management plan which goes through a more formal two month public consultation stage from the 1st December to the 31st January.

Consultation and Engagement

Two phases of involvement/consultation on the development of the Plan are proposed:

- Phase 1 - An informal/open consultation on the issues for the review. Events will run from February to May 2014.
- Phase 2 - Formal consultation on the Draft Plan, for an 8 week period from December 2014 to January 2015.

The key groups involved in development of the Plan are:-

The WHS Steering Group has overall ownership of the Plan. The members are National Trust, English Heritage, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council and ICOMOS (UK). This group met at key stages in the plan process to review consultation responses and approve the consultation draft and final Plan.

The World Heritage Site Stakeholder Group has met annually over the last 3 years at World Heritage Stakeholder events organised by the National Trust. This group includes representatives from key organisations and agencies such as Nidderdale AONB, Environment Agency, Welcome to Yorkshire, the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, local parish councils and Ripon City Council, Harrogate Borough Council and neighbouring landowners. This group were involved in developing the vision for the WHS and identifying issues for the review at a workshop in September 2013. A further facilitated session with this group was held in November 2014 to launch the consultation on the Draft Plan.

The National Trust property staff and volunteers are involved on a daily basis in the full range of issues around management and operation of the site. This group plays a key role in delivery of the Plan and it’s vital to tap into their knowledge and experience of the site. A number of manned drop-in sessions where volunteers and staff could pin ideas on maps and answer questions on topics such as visitor experience and conservation were held in March 2014.
The site has good links with the local community and the surrounding landowners and parish councils. Ripon is right on the doorstep of the site and it was felt that an event in Ripon Town Hall would be a good way to engage the surrounding communities in the early stages of development of the Plan. The event was a manned family friendly event on a weekend with displays, maps and questions about the World Heritage Site and also some fun activities for children. The event was held on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} March and over 100 people attended.

Visitor involvement is also an important element in development of the Plan and some fun consultation activities for visitors were held as part of the annual World Heritage Weekend. The weekend usually includes an exhibition about the World Heritage Site and family activities and these were extended to include opportunities to comment on the future management of the site.

Key individuals and partners with a special interest or delivery role in a particular plan issue were involved in reviewing the plan through discussions/meetings. Many of those partners were already involved in the Plan through the Stakeholder Group.

All groups and individuals with an interest in the site were offered opportunities to participate through a questionnaire on the website and social media.

Opportunities will also be taken to discuss issues for the review of the Plan through membership and representation on existing committees and forums such as Local Business Forums, Local Tourism Networks and the AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

A summary of the content and timetable for this first phase of consultation is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHS Steering Group</td>
<td>Winter 2013/14</td>
<td>FASR</td>
<td>All formal meetings</td>
<td>Approve Engagement Strategy; timetable; objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7\textsuperscript{th} May 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review consultation outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} June 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Agree consultation draft plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review consultation responses &amp; agree Final Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHS Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>26\textsuperscript{th} Sept 2013</td>
<td>FASR</td>
<td>Annual meetings</td>
<td>Facilitated sessions to consider the draft plan before</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property staff &amp; volunteers</td>
<td>20th Nov 2014</td>
<td>Fountains Abbey &amp; Studley Royal</td>
<td>Drop in sessions</td>
<td>Displays/provision for written comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th March 2014</td>
<td>Ripon Town Hall</td>
<td>Drop in sessions plus family activities</td>
<td>Displays/provision for written comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>22nd March 2014</td>
<td>Annual WHS Weekend May Bank Holiday 2014</td>
<td>Drop in sessions plus family activities</td>
<td>Displays/provision for written comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialists &amp; key partner agencies/organisations</td>
<td>March &amp; April 2014</td>
<td>Fountains Abbey &amp; Studley Royal</td>
<td>Discussion/Meetings</td>
<td>Meetings with key partners to develop actions around key topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All groups</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Short questionnaire on website March 2014, newsletters, social media</td>
<td>Newsletters, social media &amp; website</td>
<td>Opportunities provided to comment for all groups re social media, Wiki etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **staff/volunteer, community and visitor events** all followed a similar format. There was a large plan of the World Heritage Site and another plan of the WHS and surrounding area mounted on polystyrene on a table in the centre of the room. Participants were able to stick flags in the map to mark ideas for projects or particular issues such as areas that flood. There were a series of posters around the room which set out some of the key issues for the Management Plan such as conservation, climate change, environmental performance, visitor experience, sustainable management, protecting the site and setting. Accompanying these facts and figures posters were some key questions which asked for views on how the Plan should address these issues.

Some basic data on numbers of people responding, age, where they live, whether they are frequent visitors to the site was collected. The events were all run on an informal drop in basis. The World Heritage Site Coordinator and other property staff were at all the events to answer questions and help people participate. Members of the Steering Group also attended some of the events. The staff/volunteer event and visitor events were held on the site and the community event in Ripon Town Hall. This event was kindly supported by the Ripon Mayor and Ripon City Plan Group.

In addition to these events there were discussions/meetings to engage those involved in delivery of objectives and projects in the Plan. These have been used to inform the content of the 6 Year WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021.

Key topics include:

- Conservation – nature conservation, parks and gardens, historic buildings and landscape, promotion of heritage skills
- Climate Change
- Water management and flooding
- Environmental Performance
- Protecting the WHS, buffer zone & setting and boundary review
- Visitor experience
- Learning
- Volunteering
- Green transport and access

The first phase of consultation has informed the content of the draft plan. There will then be a second more formal phase of consultation on the draft plan where all groups and individuals have the opportunity to comment on the content of the Plan through online comment forms.
Results of the first phase of consultation September 2013 to November 2014

A summary of the results of the consultation are listed under topic headings and these have informed the draft management plan. Not all the topics were covered at all the consultation events, for example the visitor event focussed on the visitor experience. Where possible, we have indicated how the comment has been reflected in the draft plan.

Conservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Link natural and cultural landscape. Nature conservation and geological assets should be emphasised more.</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>Section 1.3 Other Values, Objective J &amp; actions under J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore external funding opportunities for conservation.</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>Objective C &amp; actions C5 &amp; C6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand the role of the WHS in promoting and sharing experience.</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>Objective O &amp; action O7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop the Shoot in the abbey area</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer &amp; community</td>
<td>Shooting rights outside NT ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce strimming/short grass around abbey</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Comment picked up as part of presentation of site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record &amp; conserve monastic paintwork</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action J5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserve Quebec area of the garden</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action J1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More wildflowers – snowdrops magnificent</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Objective J, protect existing species &amp; habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information about the conservation work on site</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Objective J &amp; Action J3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to Galand Bridge</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Access to this area is restricted by the Shooting Rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water management and flooding a serious issue upstream &amp; downstream which needs serious consideration. Consider interventions upstream, flood storage barriers etc.</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>Objective L, Action L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involve Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust as key partner</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>Objective L, Action L9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Open dialogue with upstream landowners re: flood plain, woodland planting initiatives.
Staff/volunteer | Objective L, Action L1

## Fill in grips on moorland that were dredged in the 1960s
Staff/volunteer | Objective L, Action L1

## Work with landowners in upper catchment area, blocking drainage on upland/moorland area.
Staff/volunteer | Objective L, Action L1

## More small dams to control flood water & use water management as education topic.
Community | Objective L, Action L1

## Reduce impact of flooding on features on the site.
Staff/volunteer | Objective L & actions

## Consider a silt trap upstream that can be emptied/dredged on a regular basis
Staff/volunteer | Objective L, Action L1

## Dredge half moon reservoir
Staff/volunteer | Action L2

## Repair lake outfall cascade
Staff/volunteer | Action L5

### Environmental Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve energy efficiency of buildings</td>
<td>Community &amp; Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action K2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure all staff recycle &amp; improve their environmental behaviour i.e. turning off lights/computers</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action K3 &amp; K7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycle food waste</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action K6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore opportunities for renewable energy &amp; reducing energy usage</td>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>Objective K &amp; actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell people more about the environmental ethos on site through social media and information on-site.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action K7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finance and Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve arrival experience at the Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Action C2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Various improvements suggested to Visitor Centre including create a dedicated function suite, provide outside covered area, move the offices out of the Visitor Centre and put shop back to its original location in the Visitor Centre. Make the Visitor Centre more of a hub for the estate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Action C2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Continue to make more links with local producers & work in partnership with them to provide more information/interpretation about their work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community &amp; Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Objective R &amp; Action R5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Improve admission and retail space at the Studley entrance, considering reconfiguration of current building use (possibly converting toilet block building).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Action C2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Enhance catering facilities at Studley with the provision of a new kiosk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Action C2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Investigate feasibility of moving West Gate admission point to opposite West Gate car park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Focus for this plan to look at Studley &amp; Visitor Centre admission points.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Community and Volunteering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a Ripon day or community day with free entry or reduced cost entry</td>
<td>Community &amp; staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective M &amp; Action M8 plus provision of Ripon Resident passes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as cost is a barrier to some local families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide discount for Ripon residents</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Objective M &amp; Action M8 plus provision of Ripon Resident passes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give more talks to local community about what we do &amp; how we operate</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective Q, Action Q1 &amp; Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite specific local groups from the community for tour of the estate</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective Q Action Q1 &amp; Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like WI &amp; Mothers &amp; Toddlers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have community groups to work in garden or have a plot of land that</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community groups look after</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make more links with local disability groups</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Actions M1 &amp; M2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
| Comments                                                                 | Who                                           | WHSMP Response                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Improve play area for young children                                     | Community, Visitors & Staff/volunteer                                                           | Objective N – consider more specific action around play                           |
| Do more for toddlers & small children                                    | Visitors & Staff/volunteer                                                                     | Objective N – consider more specific action around play                           |
| Use Swanley Grange as a family picnic area                               | Staff/volunteer                                                                               | Objective N – consider more specific action around play                           |
| More play around the estate – tree houses in Quebec, play in the deer park| Visitors & Staff/volunteer                                                                     | Objective N – consider more specific action around play                           |
| More recreational facilities such as boats on lake & ‘Go Ape’ style area | Staff/volunteer                                                                               | Objective N – consider more specific action around play.                         |
| More events like Park Run & keep Park Run going                          | Visitors & Community                                                                           | Action Q3                                                                        |
| More paths for use by cyclists                                          | Community                                                                                      | Current plan priority to look at cycle links with                                |

Visitor Experience

- Improve trails connecting the estate to the local area
- Improve exit message, signpost drivers to Ripon & highlight places to go in Ripon after closing
- Broaden volunteering offer – volunteers to support general work of caretakers plus introduce visitor experience team who help bring history to life
- Work with volunteers to create new offers for visitors.
- Create a weekend gardening team
- Encourage more crossover between the different volunteer teams
- Involve teenagers more with volunteering on the site.
- Provide more working holidays
- Work with volunteers to create new offers for visitors.
- Create a weekend gardening team
- Encourage more crossover between the different volunteer teams
- Involve teenagers more with volunteering on the site.
- Provide more working holidays

**Visitors & Community**

**Action Q3**

- More events like Park Run & keep Park Run going
- More paths for use by cyclists

**Community**

- Currently our emphasis on more regular volunteering & corporate volunteering which has greater take up.
Various use suggested for Fountains Hall – make the Hall come alive, use as exhibition space, use for storytelling, drama, dinners etc. Look at presentation & interpretation of Hall. Hold open days in the Hall and access to more rooms in the Hall. Furnish the Hall.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Action N1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ripon. Any use of path by cyclists needs to not impact on walking visitors.</td>
<td>Community &amp; Staff/volunteer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide arts exhibition area in Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Visitor &amp; Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Piety for art &amp; explore other art opportunities</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Swanley Grange for more workshops</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold more concerts, events &amp; plays on the estate</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Currently hold a programme of events &amp; plays on site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at more use of apps &amp; other technology to interpret the ‘spirit of place’ i.e. augmented reality/smart phones etc</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Objective N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy Studley Stables for interpretation</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Other priorities for spend over plan period i.e. conservation and interpretation within buildings already in NT ownership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Visitor Centre as interpretive space for experience ahead</td>
<td>Community &amp; Stakeholder</td>
<td>Action N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide more costumed re-enactors</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer, Community &amp; Visitors</td>
<td>Action N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link the story of the site to places in York &amp; Ripon</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action N1 to N2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide artefacts for people to handle in Porters Lodge</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Consider as part of Action N2. There are already objects in Porters Lodge for handling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide fun activities for adults too</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Actions N1 &amp; N2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More nature interpretation – nature groups, trails in deer park, bird ringing, Tabernacles as bird hide</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer &amp; Visitor</td>
<td>Consider as part of N1 &amp; N2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreate the past with sound – sound in the abbey</td>
<td>Community &amp; Visitor</td>
<td>Action N2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>Make more use of the mill area – workshops &amp; activities, make artisan bread, brew ale etc. More interpretation of industrial archaeology.</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Action N1 &amp; N3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| N1     | Provide an information point as visitors leave Admissions  
| N1     | Improve signage, currently poor. Suggestions made for signs.  
| N1     | Replace toilet block at Studley with visitor information point plus holiday cottage display in Fountains Hall  
| N1     | Provide more walks leaflets  
| N1     | Look at monastic routes & Ripon to Fountains Walk  
| N1     | Provide more interpretation (boards, guides, tours) – Fountains Hall, garden buildings, ice houses, lost buildings of Studley House & Bathing House, Seven Bridges, deer park, Mackershaw.  
| N1     | Interpretation & displays at Swanley Grange – introduce abbey story  
| N1     | Open up more garden buildings with more information guides. Look at dedicated ‘experience’ team  
| N1     | Rebuild abbey boundary wall between abbey and Tent Hill with info board or picture of what it would have looked like.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Staff/volunteer | Action N1 | Interpretation considered under Objective N. |
| N1     | Improve welcome leaflet  
| D1     | Provide visitor toilets at abbey tea room  
| D1     | Provide more litter bins & dog bins (locations specified)  
| D1     | Provide more seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Community & Visitors | Action D1 | |
| S5     | Stakeholder Action S5  
| S5     | Provide more interpretation (boards, guides, tours) – Fountains Hall, garden buildings, ice houses, lost buildings of Studley House & Bathing House, Seven Bridges, deer park, Mackershaw.  

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
### Learning (specific question only asked at Stakeholder Meeting & Staff/Volunteer Sessions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning &amp; intellectual interpretation to be included in vision</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Learning is covered under the ‘understanding’ bullet point of Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational offering should include WHS &amp; its role and</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Objective O &amp; Action O7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>should include options beyond schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor post-graduate degrees</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Objective O &amp; actions. Don’t have a specific action on this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of lifelong learning in Ripon – raise awareness of what we do on site &amp; look at links with other organisations</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Objective O &amp; actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More living history experiences for schools</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain symbolism of statues in garden</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective O &amp; Action I3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve dairy buildings &amp; use as additional space to Swanley</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Proposals to use dairy buildings for workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach more about economics of abbey life</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Look at as part of Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to mill leat orchard</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>This was done Autumn 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve facilities at Swanley Grange</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action O5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attract higher level education more frequently</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop learning offer to match curriculum</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action O1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broaden primary school offer to include outdoors/nature</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action O1 – look at how outdoors/nature relates to curricula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create marketing plan for schools offer</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain, improve &amp; monitor quality of school workshops</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action O4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve learning resources for schools</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More workplace placements</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Actions P5 &amp; P6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve access up/down the slope between the Visitor</td>
<td>Visitors, community</td>
<td>Action M3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre &amp; the abbey/water garden – for wheelchairs, less able visitors &amp; pushchairs</th>
<th>&amp; Staff/volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide lift access to rear of Fountains Hall reached by path from Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More pro-active welcome for disabled visitors i.e. early opening for autistic children, coffee mornings for disabled groups.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility tours at set times of the day</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better wheelchair access to West Lodge toilets</td>
<td>Community &amp; staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make footpaths easier to negotiate for less able visitors</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide accessible transport like golf carts</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide wheelchair access in deer park/Studley entrance</td>
<td>Visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicise minibus more</td>
<td>Visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide disabled parking at mill leat so disabled visitors don’t have to cross the road.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve surface at West Gate car park and the road crossing into the estate</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No parking at St Mary’s Church/deer park</td>
<td>Visitor &amp; staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access leaflet for site</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire out segways</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at links between Banqueting House &amp; Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Green Transport**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explore the idea of a Green Travel Plan for the estate</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Objective S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at a NT-run bus service from Ripon to Fountains &amp; on to Brimham</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dales bus reduced to 3 days a week, explore options to get people to and from the site.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in bus service also impacting on staff &amp; volunteers getting to site to work. Current bus times good for visitors but not staff and volunteer duty times</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S1 &amp; S7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure any bus service connects with 36 bus</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve bus service to Fountains &amp; advertise</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Action S1 &amp; S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Align bus times with visiting times</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange a bus from Harrogate for Saturday park run, lots of people travel individually in cars.</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link Fountains better with Harrogate</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Action S1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve cycle routes – look at link to Ripley route and include interpretation</td>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Action S4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a cycle route from Ripon – routes suggested</td>
<td>Stakeholder, community &amp; staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade public footpath to bridleway to allow cycle access to Spa Gill, allow more safe cycle routes</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Priority for this plan period to look at links to Ripon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide secure cycle racks at Studley and West Gate entrances &amp; lockable area for rucksacks</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore cycle route through Seven Bridges &amp; make gate more cycle friendly</td>
<td>Visitor &amp; staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Consider this issue, balance of pedestrian &amp; cycle use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide cycle routes to abbey &amp; water gardens</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Current policy no cycling through estate due to conflict with other visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide cycle route in deer park</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Already cycle route ‘Way of the Roses’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage more car sharing</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install electric vehicle charging points in car park</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>Not current action, but under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better promote walking routes from Ripon to Fountains &amp; Studley</td>
<td>Community &amp; Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Action S5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow horse access through the estate – provide a horse/bike</td>
<td>Community &amp;</td>
<td>Issue of how we balance use of deer park for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
accessible path through the estate & link to surrounding bridlepaths.  

Staff/volunteer  

horses, cyclists & pedestrians. Action to monitor current uses within deer park Action B3.

Research (comments either received from stakeholders or our staff/volunteers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor post-graduate degrees</td>
<td></td>
<td>Look into as part of delivery of Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish Mark Newman’s book about the estate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Action I5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore Kitchen Bank archaeology</td>
<td></td>
<td>Action I2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce summaries of all research for staff, volunteers &amp; visitors</td>
<td></td>
<td>Action I6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at areas outside the estate such as Spa Gill &amp; Spa House, Laver Banks, Bishopton etc and links to the wider monastic use &amp; heritage.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research project for future plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More research into Chinese Garden &amp; Studley House</td>
<td></td>
<td>Action I2, considered as part of research framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More research into social history &amp; stories about people of the estate. Think about more research into below stairs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Action I2, considered as part of research framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell the stories of Fountains Hall.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Objective N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Raising awareness of our WHS status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>WHSMP Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work towards bringing the whole estate &amp; incorporation of abbey into water garden as one concept</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure school parties go away from visits inspired &amp; informed</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Objective O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put more emphasis on the industrial/commercial history of Fountains &amp; Studley i.e. wool production &amp; links to other sites/Europe</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Objective N, Action N3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put world heritage logo on road signs &amp; include signage with WHS logo on road from Ripon</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>No current plans to change signage to site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Create a coherent national publicity programme for world heritage &amp; link more with other WHSs.</th>
<th>Staff/volunteer</th>
<th>Action Q5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold events with a festival vibe plus lectures, dinners, workshops</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide better on-site information about the World Heritage Site.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective N – consider action on World Heritage information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicise guides/site lectures about the World Heritage Site more.</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective N – consider action on World Heritage information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage local families more</td>
<td>Staff/volunteer</td>
<td>Objective P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 6 - Progress Report on delivery of the 2009-2014 World Heritage Site Management Plan

Introduction
This report provides a brief summary of the delivery of actions from the 6 Year Action Plan which forms a key element of the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009-2014. It highlights areas where work is ongoing or an action has not been delivered.

Theme 1: Management Policy, Financing the Future and Investing in People

Long Term Objectives:
A  Ensure holistic and sustainable management to achieve the vision for the area.
B  Retain the distinctiveness, sense of historical continuity and peaceful beauty of the site.
C  Ensure adequate and sustainable financial and human resources to achieve the vision for the site.
D  Achieve the appropriate standards of maintenance of the whole estate, including the infrastructure, through long term planning and allocation of adequate resources.
E  Ensure the boundaries of the WHS include the area that gives the site its universal significance, establish a buffer zone to protect the WHS overall and protect the landscape setting.
F  Develop awareness of the WHS status amongst key partners, the local community and visitors.
G  Examine the impact of climate change on all objectives and adopt a strategy for accommodation and adaptation.
H  Minimise the impact of the pheasant shoot on access and on the historic and natural environment and woodland management.
I  Develop a research programme to improve the understanding of the site and to inform its management.

6 Year Action Plan Achievements:
· The World Heritage Site Management Plan was launched in 2010 and a WHS Co-ordinator appointed to monitor delivery of the Plan. A regular programme of stakeholder events and publications has been delivered.
· The membership of the World Heritage Site Steering Group has been extended to include Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council and ICOMOS (UK).
· The National Trust has a project management framework in place and developments include Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Environmental Impact Assessments, examples include the Lake Project and the Visitor Centre Ground Source Heat Pump Project.
· The Strategy for Sustainable Development for the WHS has been implemented and is generating funds for conservation projects. The milestone of £500K net income per annum set in the Plan was exceeded in 2010.
· The commercial projects set out in the plan have been implemented. These include:
  · Conversion of How Hill farm buildings to holiday cottages.
  · Development of a plant sales area which sells locally grown hardy perennials in peat free compost.
  · Development of the range of locally sourced foods available on site.
- Enhancements to the Visitor Centre include improved admissions point, a customer information hut and improved welcome signage.

- There are around 400 regular volunteers on the estate and 27 different volunteer teams. New teams set up over the Plan period include the Stone Cleaning Team, Archaeology Monitoring Team and Family Activities Team.

- Since 2011 there has been a successful internship programme on the estate.

- Group volunteering takes place on site both with local groups such as Mental Health Ripon and corporate groups who contribute financially to the estate for the chance to work on landscape projects.

- External funding including grants and legacies make a significant contribution to conservation of the estate. A large grant for repairs to Fountains Hall roof was received from the Wolfson Foundation and Higher Level Stewardship funding has been received for environmental management and capital conservation projects in the deer parks.

- Policies were included in the Draft Harrogate Borough Council Sites and Policies Development Plan Document to protect the WHS (this plan has been withdrawn), the buffer zone and the wider setting of the site. The buffer zone was approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2012.

- World Heritage Site status is strongly communicated in marketing communications, press releases, websites and adverts. The logo is used on publicity material, Visitor Centre signage and estate vehicles. There is a programme of annual World Heritage Weekends, World Heritage tours and world heritage is an element of the volunteer guide training.

- The estate continues to maintain a positive relationship with the Shoot and are currently agreeing a management plan for the garden. Priorities include the opening up of 18th century views and management of wooded areas on the garden valley sides.

6 Year Action Plan Not Achieved/Ongoing

- Work has begun to scope out a Climate Change Strategy for the WHS and we hope to develop this with partners through the WHS Management Plan process. Links are also being explored with work English Heritage is carrying out on flood risk as part of the National Heritage Protection Plan.

- There is currently no formal research strategy for the WHS. Most research on the estate is commissioned to meet a management need or for a specific conservation project. The Quebec Historical and Archaeological Survey was carried out to inform future conservation works. The recent Bathing House archaeological dig aimed to solve local drainage issues as well as to find the lost building. The volunteer research group have researched and gathered information about the history of the estate.

- The property archive still needs to be developed and made public, although work has been done on cataloguing our furniture, statuary and paintings and making them available on the NT online Collections database.

Key Performance Indicators

- The number of volunteers has increased from 330 in 2008 to around 400 volunteers present day and volunteer hours have increased from 20,764 in 2008 to 28,938 in 2012.

- Over 300 volunteers come from the local area, mainly from Ripon, Harrogate, Leeds and their surrounding villages.

- The Annual Volunteer Survey 2012 showed that 96% of volunteers
that responded agree or strongly agree with the statement ‘I would recommend working with the National Trust’.

- There has been an increase in awareness of our WHS status from 65% in 2011 to 85% in 2012. There is still confusion over the reasons for inscription with 55% identifying the Abbey as the element justifying the WHS status and 45% thinking it is all the elements of the site including the Water Gardens, St Mary’s church, Fountains Hall and the Abbey.

**Theme 2—Conservation Policy and Environmental Performance**

**Conservation Policy**

**Long term objectives:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K</th>
<th>Ensure the long term conservation and appropriate standards of maintenance of the garden and designed landscape.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Complete the first time consolidation of the monastic remains and continue their conservation and maintenance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ensure the long term conservation of the many features of the historic environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Ensure the long term conservation, and optimise the opportunities for enhancement, of the natural features of the site and improve standards of monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Develop with partners, long-term solutions to recurrent problems affecting the water features that arise from the catchment area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**6 Year Action Plan Achievements:**

- The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been produced and sets out a vision, objectives and programme of works for the 11 character areas on the estate. Work is in progress to share the plan with stakeholders, local communities and visitors.
- A programme of repairs has been carried out on the Abbey by English Heritage including repairs to the Infirmary tunnels, Huby’s Tower walkway, Guest House river walls, new windows at Cellarers Chequer and repairs to the mill wheel at Fountains Mill.
- Most of the conservation projects on the indicative project list have been completed, most significantly:
  - The desilting of Studley Lake and the removal of the island.
  - The restoration of 18th century garden features such as the recent bosquet project at Rustic Bridge, repointing of the Serpentine Tunnel and Middle Walk Bridge restoration.
  - Repairs to buildings including the Banqueting House stonework and consolidation of Mackershaw Lodges.
  - Conservation of the ice houses is in progress.
- There is an ongoing programme of repair to the monastic precinct wall and the deer park wall and an annual programme of maintenance and repair for buildings, trees, fencing and footpaths.
- The estate has had apprentices in both the landscape and building teams and holds heritage skills training days with local colleges and universities, most recently at the ice houses. The site is used as a learning base for the Princes Foundation and the National Heritage Training Academy.
- A geodiversity audit of the designed landscape has been prepared in partnership with Natural England which explores the role of underlying geology in the development of the garden and recommendations for future management. A Soil Survey was carried out as part of the CMP.
· Entry to the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme has provided opportunities to improve management of the deer parks including removal of invasive species, management of deer numbers, care of veteran trees and deadwood and better grassland management.
· The Ripon Multi-Objective Project (MOP) was in place at the start of the Plan period and grant aided land management works upstream of the site aimed at reducing run off from land up river of the property. This project has now ended. Research has been carried out on the provenance and management of silt on the site.

6 Year Action Plan Not Achieved/Ongoing
· Although a historical and archaeological survey was carried out in 2011 the restoration of Quebec has still to be delivered. Landscape restoration of this area will not take place until the flooding in this area of the garden can be managed. Hydrological modelling is being carried out to develop options for reducing the impact of flood water on the garden.
· Other projects not delivered include:
  • Consolidation of the bypass tunnel in Seven Bridges
  • Restoration and reuse of How Hill Tower
  • Restoration of High Seat (works planned 2015)
  • Provision of an electrical supply to the Water Gardens.
· The full consolidation of the Abbey has not been delivered. However, the Asset Management Plan for the Abbey is currently being reviewed.
· The impact of the Shoot management including the impact of pheasants and associated infrastructure continues to have a negative impact on nature conservation and access to the wider 18th century landscape.
· The end of the Ripon Multi-Objective Project has slowed partnership working to find a solution to the recurrent problems affecting the water features. It’s a priority to find another means of taking this catchment-wide management forward.

Key performance Indicators
· The conservation performance on site continues to steadily increase from a baseline of 58% in 2010 to 65% in 2013, as measured through the National Trust Conservation Performance Indicator. The increase is due to delivery of conservation projects, improved management through HLS in the deer parks and better protection of the setting through the buffer zone.

Environmental Performance

Long term objective:
Improve environmental practices incorporating environmental compliance, reduced energy use, water conservation measures and sustainable resource use.

6 Year Action Plan Achievements:
· An environmental review of the estate has been completed for energy use and work is in progress on waste and water.
· A wide range of environmental performance projects have been delivered. These projects include:
  • Completion of the ground source heat pump at the Visitor Centre which will provide heating at the Visitor Centre and hot water, reducing our reliance on LPG.
  • Water efficiency measures in the newly refurbished Visitor Centre toilets such as waterless urinals and low water usage taps. A programme of replacing water mains to reduce potential for water leakage has now been established.
• Secondary glazing and insulation installed in estate buildings including holiday cottages and tenant housing.
• Draught proofing and automatic doors installed at the Visitor Centre.
• In 2011 the How Hill Holiday Cottage project contributed towards the estate winning an Akrill Media Group Green Business Award and a Ripon Civic Society Award for ‘Best Sustainability Project’.

6 Year Action Plan Not Achieved/Ongoing
• The estate priorities going forward are to continue the work with Nidderdale AONB to look at potential hydro power projects and to implement energy efficiency improvements to the let estate.

Key Performance Indicators
• Performance indicators show the environmental initiatives are having a positive impact with a 7.5% reduction in energy usage in 2011/12 against the 2009 baseline.
• Water usage on the estate has been reduced from annual consumption of 13,325m³ in 2010 to 11,505m³ in 2012/13.

Theme 3—Access, Enjoyment and Understanding

Long term objectives
Q Implement a comprehensive and sustainable access policy for all incorporating intellectual access and learning, physical access, social, economic and cultural access opportunities.
R Promote enjoyment, understanding and engagement to deepen the relationship with supporters and develop a dialogue with them to share information and estate stories.

S Develop the learning experience for all through engagement with current and potential new audiences.
T Inspire support and encourage active involvement through volunteering, financial contribution and repeat visiting.

6 Year Action Plan Achievements:
• The interpretation in Porter’s Lodge was developed in partnership with RNIB. Hearing loops are available at the Visitor Centre, the Mill and for guided tours. The NT have produced and Access Audit of the site.
• New signage has been placed in the Visitor Centre during the Plan period as part of the ‘Welcome Project’ and a customer information hut is now sited at the entrance to provide information for visitors.
• Regular visitor segmentation work by the National Trust is enabling a greater understanding of visitors and ensures that interpretation, events and marketing meets their needs. A natural play area and bird hide were developed in 2013 aimed at family visitors. Events range from tours and ‘live’ archaeological digs to a varied family activity programme including den building and pond dipping.
• The National Trust website was redesigned in 2012 and the estate use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to publicise events and work on site. The website also includes regular updates and blogs on conservation projects such as the Bathing House dig.
• Around 12,000 students visit the site a year. Formal learning activities include the ‘Day in the Life of a Monk’ and a range of curriculum related activities for KS1,2, 3 and 4 which include self-led and guided activities, workshops and theatre. There are also free, downloadable resources on the website. One of the most popular projects has been the partnership with North Country WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Theatre to provide an interactive theatre workshop where children learn about the history of the site.

- A range of informal education activities have been developed for adults and children including guided tours and specialist tours, craft activities and workshops.
- Porter’s Lodge now houses an interpretation centre with a permanent exhibition about the history of the working abbey. In 2011, interactive displays were put in with funding from WREN landfill and advice from the RNIB.
- A medicinal herb garden with interpretation is now open at Fountains Hall.
- A range of World Heritage Site trails have been developed as part of the annual World Heritage Weekend including a ‘Lost Places’ trail and a follies trail. The garden buildings are open to visitors and include moveable easels with information panels about each garden building.
- An updated guidebook and children’s guide to the site have been published.
- All conservation projects include an element of interpretation which may include site panels, live digs, re-enactors and archaeologists talking to visitors.

6 Year Action Plan Not Achieved/Ongoing

- An Access for All Audit was carried out but wasn’t developed into a formal access strategy. A range of initiatives have been taken forward to improve access such as an increase in the number of free Personal Mobility Vehicles, better surfacing on valley paths, free minibus service linking entrance points, automatic doors in the Visitor Centre shop and restaurant and ramped entrances at the Mill, St Mary’s and the Abbey. The route from the Visitor Centre to the Abbey is a problem for wheelchair users and less able visitors due to the steep gradient and options are being developed for resolving this issue. Options for wheelchair access to Fountains Hall will be explored when considering the future use of the building.
- Work is in progress with ICOMOS (UK) to develop an education programme focussed on the garden heritage and conservation management of the WHS to complement the existing formal and informal learning activities.
- The interpretation in the Mill and Fountains Hall has not been refreshed and ideas for more permanent interpretation/use of the garden buildings will be explored through the work the National Trust is developing with the ‘Spirit of Place’ project.
- The Archaeological and Historical Survey of Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal is currently with the National Trust Specialist Publications team.

Key Performance Indicators

- The Action Plan target of a 1% increase in visitors per year with a target of 325k visitors by 2013 has been exceeded with visitors to the pay for entry area reaching 336,326 for 2012/13 and an additional estimated 150,000 visitors to the deer park.
- The estate has achieved an average score of 73% of visitors rating their visit as very enjoyable over the last 3 years.
- There has been a drop in educational visits from 13,858 in 2009 to 11,137 in 2012.
Theme 4 - Local Community Links and Partnerships

**Long term objectives:**

U Strengthen links with local, and other communities of interest, respecting feelings of ownership of the site and people’s love of the site.

V Continue to develop contacts and partnerships with the local authorities, statutory bodies and other key organisations, individuals and adjoining landowners.

W Building understanding of the impact of the WHS on the local/regional economy and optimise that impact.

X Encourage access to the site by means other than the motor car and promote the use of sustainable transport, such as bus, bike or walking to the site.

6 Year Action Plan Achievements:

- A range of stakeholder events and newsletters have been held/produced over the last 3 years. World Heritage Weekend has developed into an annual event with activities aimed at the local community and free entry to the estate.
- There has been ongoing dialogue with a range of linked local sites. Key projects delivered during the Plan period include the Aislabie Walk linking Hackfall and Studley Royal and a walk delivered with young people as part of the ‘Under the Blue Sky Initiative’ which follows monastic routes to link Fountains Abbey to Brimham Rocks. A downloadable walking route linking Fountains with Markenfield is now available. The site also engages with local sites through membership of the Nidderdale AONB Heritage Steering Group.
- The World Heritage Site is reflected in a range of local plans and strategies including the Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan and the Nidderdale AONB Management Plan.
- The estate is represented on a number of local tourism groups such as Discover Ripon, Visit Harrogate and Ripon Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Ripon Ring (a group representing large visitor attractions near Ripon). The estate worked closely with Ripon on the Jubilee Celebrations in 2012 and engaged with Harrogate Borough Council and local schools for the Olympic Torch journey through Fountains.
- Regionally, the site worked closely with Welcome to Yorkshire on a pocket guide to the Yorkshire World Heritage Sites. The site is consistently rated one of the top visitor attractions in Yorkshire on Trip Advisor and in 2012 won the Best Large Visitor Attraction in Yorkshire at the White Rose Awards.
- There are leaflets about the estate in a range of languages and audio guides in English, French and German. Guided tours are also available in Dutch, Italian, German, French and Russian.
- The site has close links with local producers through its food offer. A local food map in the Restaurant shows where the food has come from.
- The site is part of a network of northern World Heritage Sites which share good practice and are currently developing a leaflet promoting world heritage in the North of England.
- A range of cycling initiatives have been developed over the last 6 years including the Way of the Roses cycle route which links Morecambe with Bridlington with a route down the deer park avenue to Ripon. Cycle facilities are available at entrance points and visitors are encouraged to visit the site by bike. Evening community bike rides through the estate take place in the summer.
- There is currently a bus service to the site from Ripon three days a
week. The bus service has been reduced over the Plan period.
· The National Trust ‘Great British Walk’ campaign has become a regular annual event. ‘50 things to do before you’re 11 3/4’ encourages play and activities in the outdoors. The estate has acted as a venue for Harrogate Borough Council’s ‘Fit 4 Fun’ project, providing free access for young mothers who want to ‘stroll and tone’ with an instructor.

6 Year Action Plan Not Achieved/Ongoing
· In 2014, the local bus route linking the site to Ripon has been reduced to 3 days a week.
· The site has no formal engagement strategy but work is in progress to develop a strategy for engaging communities and visitors in the Management Plan Review.
· A Visitor Travel Audit complemented by a recent survey of visitors travel choices and options was carried out for the site as part of a Masters Dissertation. This is now being developed into a Green Travel Plan for the site.
Appendix 7 – Core principles and key policies of the National Trust and English Heritage

National Trust triple bottom line approach

The National Trust has adopted a three-fold approach to evaluating its activities as part of its strategy. The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) ensures that projects and activities deliver benefits not only of a financial nature, but also enhancing conservation and environmental values as well as delivering on a human level to a variety of stakeholders, be that in terms of education, access or wider social improvements.

‘When we take decisions in the Trust, we should do so knowing their effect on people, money and the environment. We describe these three elements together as the triple bottom line. To help with our local decision-making, we use a triple bottom line tool to assess proposals. The aim is to make well-informed decisions that optimise the three areas of the triple bottom line. It is not necessary to achieve equal outcomes across the three areas. For example, a car park will always primarily be about visitor access and money, and the restoration of a peat bog about nature. The question the triple bottom line tool asks is how the car park affects the environment and how the peat bog can be funded and accessible.’

Excerpt from National Trust Guidance

National Trust conservation principles

The following conservation principles have been designed to guide the work of the National Trust, foster exemplar standards and ensure consistency in the pursuit of common goals throughout the organisation. There is no hierarchy of importance. A more detailed explanation of each conservation principle is available on www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Principle 1: Significance
We will ensure that all decisions are informed by an appropriate level of understanding of the significance and ‘spirit of place’ of each of our properties, and why we and others value them.

Principle 2: Integration
We will take an integrated approach to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, reconciling the full spectrum of interests involved.

Principle 3: Change
We will anticipate and work with change that affects our conservation interests, embracing, accommodating or adapting where appropriate, and mitigating, preventing or opposing where there is a potential adverse impact.

Principle 4: Access and Engagement
We will conserve natural and cultural heritage to enable sustainable access for the benefit of society, gaining the support of...
the widest range of people by promoting understanding, enjoyment and participation in our work.

**Principle 5: Skills and Partnership**  
We will develop our skills and experience in partnership with others to promote and improve the conservation of natural and cultural heritage now and for the future.

**Principle 6: Accountability**  
We will be transparent and accountable by recording our decisions and sharing knowledge to enable the best conservation decisions to be taken both today and by future generations.

**English Heritage conservation principles**

English Heritage recognises that the historic environment should be sustained for present and future generations. Listed below are the principles contained in the English Heritage ‘Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance’ the aim of which is to ‘provide a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance on a consistent basis about any and all aspects of the historic environment, and for balancing its protection with the economic and social needs and aspirations of the communities who live in it’.

**Principle 1**  
The historic environment is a shared resource.

**Principle 2**  
Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment.

**Principle 3**  
Understanding the heritage value of places is vital.

**Principle 4**  
Significant places should be managed to sustain their values.

**Principle 5**  
Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent.

**Principle 6**  
Recording and learning from decisions is essential.
Introduction
Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal is a very special place, inscribed as a World Heritage Site for its stunning 18th century landscape and Water Garden, integrating the ruins of Fountains Abbey. The National Trust, in partnership with English Heritage, is responsible for managing and conserving the site for future generations to enjoy. This Conservation Action Plan sets out our programme of works to conserve the parks and gardens over the next 6 years. Historical views will be revealed, the 18th century garden will be interpreted and currently inaccessible areas of the garden such as

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Quebec and Tent Hill will be restored and reinstated as part of the visitor journey. At the same time we will be focussing on the essential maintenance of the core elements of the garden such as the ancient and veteran trees, abbey and garden buildings and designed water features.

In addition to our 6 year work programme, we’ve also included some of our future ambitions for the garden beyond 2021. Some of these will be challenging to deliver, such as the creation of a direct route from the Visitor Centre to the Water Garden and the restoration of areas currently off the visitor route such as How Hill and Kitchen Bank.

The site is a complex one and to make it easier to understand we have split it into 11 character areas and these are shown on Map 1 – An Overview Map. The works have been identified through analysis of the history and current condition of the landscape and its buildings and structures and our assessment of the significances of the estate.

The timescales for delivery of the conservation works will vary as they are dependent on the resources available. The projects will be mostly implemented by the National Trust with the involvement of English Heritage and other relevant partners, interest groups and the local community. Many of the proposed projects will need planning consent, listed building consent or scheduled monument consent.

Works do not include conservation and maintenance of the Abbey which are the responsibility of English Heritage and managed through the English Heritage Asset Management Plan.

**Programme of Conservation Works 2015-2021**

The following is the programme of conservation works. For each Character Area we have set out:

- a summary of the current condition and history,
- the vision for the area, and
- a programme of works
CHARACTER AREA A – VISITOR CENTRE AND ACCESS ROAD

Summary of the Condition and History

The Visitor Centre, built in 1992, and associated access roads dominate this Character Area. The building is designed around a courtyard, perhaps to reflect an ecclesiastical cloister, although its function as a temporary resting place, a pause in a journey, is shown by its fractured north-west and south-east corners through which a view of Huby’s Tower is afforded. This is, of course, the true destination for the visitor.

The building was extremely well received when it was opened and it is still considered to be an exceptional and influential building. One only has to travel the country’s motorways, visiting attractions and heritage sites, to see its influence on the design of buildings that offer comfort and refreshment, whilst not necessarily being the final destination in their own right.

At the time of its design and construction, emphasis was placed by planners on the need for the building, access road and parking areas to have as little impact on the historical setting and visual environment as possible. In short, the visitor facilities were required to be unobtrusive, with the result that the Visitor Centre, a handsome and interesting building, is for the most part concealed within screen belt plantings of uncertain character.

The concern to minimise the impact of the visitor amenities also influenced the Centre’s siting and, whilst it is reasonably close to the Abbey ruins, it is some way removed from the Water Garden, at least in terms of currently used tracks and footpaths. Geographically it is not so far removed. This issue was raised at the time of the Visitor Centre’s development. Although the reasons for its location are well understood, the impact of its location on the visitor access to, and circulation through, the Water Garden, remains a problem.

The Vision

The vision for the Visitor Centre is two-fold.

Firstly, the aim is to create a more dynamic introduction to the World Heritage Site by presenting the Visitor Centre, in itself, as a significant building, framed in a mature and well-managed woodland setting, approached by a drive so rich in interest and variety that it prompts a keen anticipation about what is to come and, on arrival, offers the visitor a clear and inviting welcome.

Secondly, the aim is to ensure that the Visitor Centre fulfils its role as the hub of the World Heritage Site, offering an informed introduction to all the principal attractions of Fountains Hall, Fountains Abbey, the Water Garden and the deer parks of Studley Royal and Mackershaw.

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## 6 Year Priorities for Visitor Centre and Access Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC1</td>
<td>Maintain Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Continue to maintain and present the Visitor Centre as a significant, award-winning, example of a late 20\textsuperscript{th} century public building by a highly-regarded architect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC2</td>
<td>Improve Visitor Centre car park</td>
<td>Improve the design and layout of the existing Visitor Centre car park to increase the number of parking places, improve the surfacing and improve the signage - all providing a better welcome and approach to the Visitor Centre for visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC3</td>
<td>Manage screen planting</td>
<td>Continue to improve the management of the screen planting along the approach road and around the Visitor Centre. Thin all woodland belts favouring native tree species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC4</td>
<td>Identify and manage key views along approach road to St Mary’s Church spire, the Obelisk &amp; Huby’s Tower</td>
<td>Identify and manage key views as envisaged in Ted Cullinan’s design from along the approach road, the car parks and Visitor Centre. These will include views to St Mary’s Church spire, the Obelisk at St Mary’s Church and Huby’s Tower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC5</td>
<td>Maximise view of Huby’s Tower</td>
<td>Maximise the impact of the view of Huby’s Tower, framed by the Visitor Centre’s entrance portal and fragmented southeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC6</td>
<td>Improve footpath from Visitor Centre to St Mary’s Church</td>
<td>Improve the quality of the footpath setting along Church Walk from the Visitor Centre to St Mary’s Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC7</td>
<td>Erect new signs at estate entrance</td>
<td>Erect new signs at the main entrance to the estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC8</td>
<td>Explore options to provide better links between the Visitor Centre and the entrance to the Water Gardens</td>
<td>An important part of understanding the Water Garden is to provide ways for visitors to enter the garden from the north through Canal Gates. This was the entrance to the garden in the 18\textsuperscript{th} century. Options for linking the Visitor Centre with the Water Garden, either by green transport or walking, will be explored through the Visitor Experience Project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC9</td>
<td>Extend the range of interpretation in the courtyard and Visitor Centre.</td>
<td>Extend the range and variety of interpretation available both in the courtyard and the Visitor Centre. This will include the significance of the Visitor Centre itself and reinforce links to the Water Garden, Deer Park, Fountains Abbey and Fountains Hall. Celebrate and communicate the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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very special nature of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the significance of our World Heritage Site - Studley Royal Park, including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey.

Long Term Plans:
• Develop a pedestrian link between the Visitor Centre and the Water Garden and beyond with linked signage and interpretation.
• Establish a green transport hub providing access to the Water Garden and other locations on the estate.
• Catalogue and create an accessible archive of all the documents and plans which informed the development of the Visitor Centre.

CHARACTER AREA B – SWANLEY GRANGE

Summary of History and Condition
This area overlooks the abbey and is rich in agricultural history. The current screen planting and field boundaries are on the footprint of early field boundaries reflecting farming activities dating possibly from Saxon times. Today the area plays a key role in linking the visitor centre with the Abbey, Fountains Hall and Water Garden.

The existing grass in the area is uniformly green which suggests restricted biodiversity and a utilitarian approach to managing amenity grassland. The paths from the Visitor Centre and down the field lack the presence of the principal visitor routes serving the Abbey, Fountains Hall and Water Garden. They are also steep and not very accessible. The Swanley Grange estate buildings (the Learning Centre) could be better presented with wider opportunities for learning and interpretation. They are divorced from the grassland by a fence and gate, encouraging most people to walk past, heading straight for the abbey.

Vision for Swanley Grange
The vision is to reinstate the historic and agricultural character of Swanley Grange and to create a legible environment which is varied and attractive. It will suggest long-established patterns of management over the seasons, rich in detail and ecologically diverse.

Within this setting is the working heart of the estate - supporting its maintenance, providing practical conservation master-classes in traditional craft-skills, a hub for exploring the tools, techniques and materials of estate management and learning about the archaeology, ecology and the history of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. Swanley Grange estate buildings, therefore, should not appear cut-off from the wider area.

Swanley Grange as a whole should be a place of modest beauty, with comfortable paths leading through traditional hay meadows,
leaving the modern world behind in the Visitor Centre and entering (in the imagination, if nothing more) the world of mediaeval land management, with glimpses of Fountains Abbey, Fountains Hall and Kitchen Bank. The visitor should be able to understand the fact that, from the 13th century, if not before, this was the home grange of the Abbey.

### 6 Year Priorities for Swanley Grange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SG1</td>
<td>Conserve agricultural/pastoral character of the fields south of the Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Reinstate/conserve the agricultural/pastoral character of the fields and meadows to the south and south west of the Visitor Centre. Encourage a varied sward and diverse flora.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG2</td>
<td>Improve accessibility of paths from Visitor Centre to the Abbey and Fountains Hall</td>
<td>Improve the quality and accessibility of the physical paths from Visitor Centre through Swanley Grange, to the Abbey and Fountains Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG3</td>
<td>Enhance views of the Abbey from Visitor Centre and Swanley Grange</td>
<td>Maintain and enhance glimpses and views of the Abbey from the Visitor Centre and Swanley Grange wherever possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4</td>
<td>Restore field boundaries south east of Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Restore and conserve field boundaries, ecological interest and character of the fields to the south east of the Visitor Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG5</td>
<td>Conserve historic hedges</td>
<td>Conserve the historic hedges in the Swanley area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG6</td>
<td>Conserve farmhouse and farm buildings</td>
<td>Continue to conserve and maintain the farmhouse and farm buildings sympathetically, with appropriate materials and techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG7</td>
<td>Open up entrance to Swanley Grange Learning Centre</td>
<td>Open up and make more inviting the entrance to the Swanley Grange Learning Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG8</td>
<td>Maintain, develop and promote a range of activities at Swanley Grange Learning Centre</td>
<td>Maintain, develop and promote the range of activities presented at the Swanley Grange Learning Centre. As part of wider interpretation/education programme develop restoration and interpretation policies to reflect the long history of Swanley Grange including its mediaeval role and management. Options for future visitor use of Swanley Grange will be developed as part of the Visitor Experience Project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Long term plans
Establish modern estate management facilities and storage in fields near the Visitor Centre.

CHARACTER AREA C – FOUNTAINS HALL

Summary of Condition and History

The principal attractions of the Fountains Hall Character Area are the historic monastic entrance to the Abbey and, of course, the Hall itself. In any other location in the country the Hall would be considered and presented as a major architectural attraction. On a site so rich with treasure, however, it is easy for the visitor to overlook this particular jewel. In fact, today, the principal route from the Visitor Centre to the Abbey ruins does, indeed, avoid the Hall. Visitors who do approach the Hall are sometimes uncertain as to whether or not it is open, and some of those who have entered the building have expressed disappointment with the quality of the interior’s presentation. Furthermore, it is unlikely that many recognise or explore the fact that the Hall was built centuries after the West Gate provided entry to the Cistercian Abbey, and only developed there because the Dissolution had so comprehensively transformed the role and setting of the Abbey.

Probably enlarged from an earlier building, the present Hall dates from the end of the 16th / start of the 17th century, and is a fine example of late Elizabethan / early Jacobean architecture, reflecting the impact of Robert Smythson and, in its charming, relatively small scale, closer to Barlborough (Derbyshire, attributed to Smythson) than Wollaton or Hardwick, which boast more symmetry and grander scale and setting. Both of the latter are positioned on high land, commanding all-round views of parkland and gardens, a manifestation of their owners’ power and ambitions. Fountains Hall, on the other hand, is squeezed into the space between the steep north face of the valley and monastic route to the Abbey from the west. Although this location provides handsome views over Kitchen Bank – and, of course, took advantage of the ambience, and even the materials, of the Abbey – the gardens to the north and west are characterised by narrow terraces on steep land, some of which – framed by the dark lines of yews – were probably modified and enhanced in the early part of the 20th century (photographs dating from the end of the 19th century show the Hall against a much more open and light setting).

Refurbished and upgraded in the first decades of the 20th, this is an outstanding example of a house built for Elizabethan gentry, almost within the shadow of a mediaeval Abbey, and regularly adapted, over the subsequent centuries, as a family home.

The Vision for Fountains Hall and surrounding area
The focus of the vision is to recognise and present Fountains Hall as an architectural jewel, its setting being the principal approach to one of the most important mediaeval Cistercian abbeys in the country, and its final polish being applied and refined over many generations.

Key to this is recognising the distinct periods and functions which meet at the Hall: the West Gate; the Hall itself, with its agglomerative elevations and interiors; and the gardens and landscape setting. The religious, social and cultural history of those who lived and worked in this area for centuries is reflected here, in layers of change and modification.

Thus, this is a place where the Trust’s high standard of conservation and visitor engagement practice should be applied: to the Hall as if it were a stand-alone property, built within a setting replete with the patterns of much older purpose.

6 Year Priorities for Fountains Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FH1</td>
<td>Conserve Fountains Hall and surrounding buildings</td>
<td>Continue to conserve and protect Fountains Hall and the surrounding buildings including Deer Cottage, West Lodge, the Ticket Office, the Summerhouse in Kitchen Garden, Fountains Cottage and Abbey Cottage and Store. Carry out a Quinquennial Survey of Fountains Hall and review and deliver the programme of works set out in the 2011 Condition Survey for the surrounding buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH2</td>
<td>Options appraisal for future use of Fountains Hall</td>
<td>Develop the interior presentation and transform the interpretation offered in Fountains Hall and increase the areas open to the public including the Chapel Room. Develop as part of the Visitor Experience Project to look at future options for the Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH3</td>
<td>Research, restore and interpret gardens around Fountains Hall</td>
<td>Continue the programme of researching, restoring and interpreting the gardens and orchards surrounding Fountains Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH4</td>
<td>Increase access to the Kitchen Gardens, including Herb Garden and summerhouse</td>
<td>Increase access to the Kitchen Gardens, including the new Herb Garden. Seek to increase visitor access, including access over the bridges, to the orchard and the Mill. Provide seating in the summerhouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH5</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian safety at</td>
<td>Work with the Highways Agency to improve pedestrian safety at the road crossing between West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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| FH6 | Resurface West Gate car park | Resurface West Gate Car Park to improve wheelchair access. |
| FH7 | Improve condition of area near West Gate | Improve the condition of the area near West Gate including Rookery Wood. Reduce the visual impact of sewage works, the car park and screen belt woodland. |
| FH8 | Conserve and interpret the history of West Gate and monastic route | Conserve and interpret the long history of West Gate and the monastic route. |
| FH9 | Protect and interpret archaeology | Protect and interpret archaeology e.g. precinct wall and the old dairy in Rookery Wood. |
| FH10 | Restore the 17th century Mallorie family portrait | Carry out restoration works to the 17th century painting of the Mallorie family which previously hung in Studley Hall and is now in storage and look at options for public display. |

**Long Term Plans**

- Identify and protect the exchange of views between Fountains Hall and Kitchen Bank.
- Thin the beech plantation at Rookery Wood and replant as oak and hazel woodland.

**CHARACTER AREA D – ABBEY PRECINCT**

**Summary of History and Condition**

This large character area is dominated by the substantial, evocative and beautiful remains of the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary (1132-1539), which were so successfully incorporated into the Studley Royal Water Garden by William Aislabie, from 1767. Quite understandably and rightly, the Abbey, now a Scheduled Monument, has become an iconic image of Yorkshire and receives huge numbers of visitors. Unfortunately, the Abbey rather overshadows its neighbour – the ground-breaking Studley Royal Water Garden – and it appears that the vast majority of visitors to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site do not venture beyond the Abbey, into the Gardens. This means that they do not understand or enjoy Fountains Abbey in its role as a highpoint in the experience of the 18th century landscape as a whole, coming to the finale first and often not experiencing the rest of the play.

Great care has been taken to consolidate, conserve and reveal the fabric of the ruins, but the associated removal of rubble and vegetation, and the creation of a smooth, green sward in the
immediate vicinity of the buildings, has resulted in the loss of much of the romantic and mysterious atmosphere, so frequently depicted in 18th and early 19th century views.

Also lost is some of the visual and emotional connection of the Abbey to its working landscape: the Abbey Mill (c.1140); and Kitchen Bank, on the southern slope of the valley, with its archaeological remains of monastic agriculture, industry and fishponds and the imposing precinct wall.

Today, the main access route, from the Visitor Centre, is rather utilitarian and awkward, as the narrow path cuts straight down Swanley Bank. Also open to improvement are access to Kitchen Bank (currently only via a bridleway along its southern edge); views to the Abbey, from the east and south; and the provision of points at which the visitor can linger and contemplate the history and atmosphere of this special place. Perhaps the biggest loss, however, is the sense that the Abbey was, in the 18th century, a grand culmination to the design of the remarkable Water Garden, despite the fact that, from that time, the view of the Abbey from the east has become one of the most significant, iconic, views of this part of Yorkshire.

Conservation Vision for the Abbey Precinct

The vision is two-fold.

Caring for the whole of this area, including all the estate buildings and landscape setting, should be coherent, with each element being given the same attention to the detail of its care as the Abbey ruins themselves (including all available estate buildings, the Mill leat, Kitchen Bank etc) and the wider amenity grassland being managed to create a less utilitarian character (whilst accepting that accessible circulation is one of the key requirements here). Visitors can then be encouraged to explore more aspects of the site, hence reducing the intensity of footfall in some places, with a consequent benefit to the monument and to the quality of the visitor’s experience.

Secondly, having improved conservation of the whole of the Abbey’s setting and enlarging the opportunities for physical access, the aim must be to match that with inspirational interpretation, aimed at all levels of age and interest, hence intellectually and emotionally engaging the visitor at a more profound level than is always available today. Thus, the history of the ruins and the wider monastic landscape must be tied to patterns of mediaeval use, estate management, belief, social and cultural milieu; more should be then be made of the cataclysmic shift in religious, social, political and cultural mores which followed the Dissolution; vital, too, is the story of the role of the Abbey in one of the country’s greatest gardens; and its subsequent history, as national (indeed,
international) archaeological monument and icon, should not be overlooked.

### 6 Year Priorities for the Abbey Precinct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP1</td>
<td>Work with English Heritage to maintain fabric of the Abbey</td>
<td>Continue to work in partnership with English Heritage to monitor and maintain the fabric of the abbey according to Guardianship Agreement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| AP2    | Repair dams and walls of River Skell | Continue to undertake a programme of repairs to the dams and walls of the River Skell, to maintain its character as a working river, supporting the Mill and Abbey, and, further downstream, as a formal feature of the Water Garden. Priorities include:  
  - Repairs to the lower weir and river walls at East Green  
  - Repairs to the upper weir just to the east of the Abbey  
  - Removal of the silt between the upper and middle weirs to maintain flow and the Abbey Green pools. |
| AP3    | Restore 18th century romantic qualities of the Abbey | Following innovative and comprehensive archaeological research, by careful planting, natural plant colonisation, reinstatement of decorative abbey stone work and management of the immediate and wider landscape setting, seek to recapture something of the romantic atmosphere which was so prevalent in the second half of the 18th century, when the Abbey was a mysterious and awe-inspiring ruin in a garden setting. |
| AP4    | Establish varied programme of grassland management around the Abbey ruins | Outwith the Abbey ruins, establish a varied programme of grassland management, promoting a herb-rich sward and, by considered patterns of mowing, directing footfall to disperse visitors to minimise/manage compaction, erosion and damage to archaeology. |
| AP5    | Expand range of interpretation about the Abbey | Enlarge the range and type of interpretation about the site, making available its many-layered, nuanced and internationally significant history. |
| AP6    | Increase conservation and interpretation of the Mill area, | Increase conservation and interpretation of, as well as visitor access to:  
  - the Mill area and other estate buildings; |
| AP7 | Review floodlighting infrastructure | Review the current floodlighting infrastructure by either screening existing lights/removing from mature trees or considering smaller more discrete lights. The presence of bats and archaeology will influence intensity and location. |
| AP8 | Conserve monastic fish ponds | Conserve monastic fishponds on Kitchen Bank and in Robin Hood’s Wood. |
| AP9 | Review manure run-off with neighbouring dairy farmer | In consultation with the neighbouring dairy farmer review ways of reducing manure run-off into Robin Hood’s Wood, Kitchen Bank and the Skell. |
| AP10 | Develop veteran tree plans for remaining yews of Seven Sisters | Develop veteran tree management plans for remaining 2 yews of the Seven Sisters. |
| AP11 | Manage trees and shrubs in the area | Manage the trees and shrubs in this area, including young trees and ancient veterans, to secure their long-term health, to promote diversity, and to ensure that the trees and shrubs contribute to the visitors’ experience of the site by enriching understanding of the history and symbolism of the Abbey precinct; revealing, obscuring and framing views and subtly managing visitor circulation patterns. |
| AP12 | Maintain views of Huby’s Tower from the Visitor Centre and approach path, and from Kitchen Bank | Where possible, maintain the open views of Huby’s Tower from the Visitor Centre and approach path, and from Kitchen Bank. Maintain viewing points to Abbey on the East-West path along the top of the valley at Swanley Bank. |
| AP13 | Continue precinct wall repairs in Robin Hood’s Wood and west end of Kitchen Bank | Complete the programme of repairs on the precinct wall in Robin Hood’s Wood and small sections at the west end of Kitchen Bank. |
| AP14 | Accommodate large numbers of | Continue to be able to accommodate the large numbers of people visiting the Abbey ruins - |
visitors to Abbey ruins whilst conserving monument wherever possible, dispersing patterns of footfall, thus improving conditions for the monument and augmenting opportunities to improve physical, intellectual and emotional access.

| AP15     | Provide more seating at the Abbey and along Abbey Walk | Provide well-designed, simple, seating to encourage visitors to linger and absorb the Abbey’s history and atmosphere. |
| AP16     | Repair Robin Hood’s Well and improve setting          | Repair Robin Hood’s Well on De Grey’s Walk and improve its setting by reducing surrounding yew and reinstate historic planting. |
| AP17     | Improve landscaping of De Grey’s Walk                 | Improve landscaping along De Grey’s Walk by removing poor yew hedge and establishing low level planting including box and ferns by path and bank. |
| AP18     | Protect and interpret flora and fauna of Abbey ruins and surrounding area | Protect and interpret the interesting range of fauna and flora associated with the Abbey ruins, the Skell, Kitchen Bank and the wider setting, including bats, veteran trees, great crested newts and white-clawed crayfish. |
| AP19     | Review environmental conditions for collections in the Mill | Review the environmental conditions for the collection of Abbey objects displayed in glass cases on the top floor of the Mill |
| AP20     | Develop research framework for the Abbey area          | Develop and implement a research framework for the Abbey area. |

**Long Term Plans**

- Investigate and implement a new and improved access, including a less steep path with resting places, down Swanley Bank. This will provide a better visitor route from the Visitor Centre to the abbey. Explore options to bring visitors to the abbey from the west, as historically required by the Cistercians.
- Continue programme of woodland thinning on Swanley Bank.
- Ease congestion on the main Abbey Walk and De Grey Walk by undertaking selective removal of trees and shrubs which create the ‘tunnel’ of planting along the former and by re-opening other routes, through adjacent woodland.
- Recapture some of the 18th century presentation of the Abbey as a garden feature by addressing site-wide circulation to encourage visitors to approach the Abbey from the east, as a crescendo in their tour of the Gardens (see Actions in Water Garden).
- By felling or thinning broadleaf trees and conifer plantations in the vicinity, ensure that views of the Abbey are not intruded upon by inappropriate planting.
- Seek to increase visitor access to Kitchen Bank and interpret this once busy industrial/agricultural part of the Abbey and its role as part of the Aislabies garden for visitors. 

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- Seek to remove the 30 year old block of grand fir at Kitchen Bank and reinstate the pasture that existed until the 1920s, to restore the Abbey ruins pastoral and broadleaf setting.

CHARACTER AREA E – THE WATER GARDEN

Summary of Condition and History

This large and complex character area forms the core of John and William Aislabie’s gardens, created from 1718 to 1781. It is the site of the most celebrated and spectacular of Studley’s features, including the geometric pools and canals, designed vistas, such as the ‘Surprise View’ of the Abbey, and four surviving garden buildings: the Temples of Fame and Piety, the Octagon Tower and the Banqueting House, with its modified ‘Coffin Lawn’. The well-trodden visitor circuit takes in all of these attractions, mainly following paths on the valley floor and the High Ride, on the eastern slope.

Unfortunately, gradual contraction of the designed landscape, even from the later-18th century, compounded by restrictions imposed by the current Sporting Owner, has meant that today’s visitors are only able to access and enjoy about half of this character area. Many walks, particularly on the western slopes, are inaccessible and are gradually being concealed by earth and overgrown vegetation. Even the substantial Kendall’s Walk, which provided important links to the Banqueting House and the Water Garden in the first half of the 18th century, is closed and starting to disappear under self-set and planted trees. On the east, openings to adjacent areas, such as Mackershaw Park, have been blocked up, obscuring views. Tree growth has concealed several other important views. In the last two centuries, a number of buildings and structures have been boarded up, reduced to ruins or removed entirely.

This decline, though hard to avoid in such a large and demanding landscape, has made it difficult for visitors to understand how the Gardens would have looked in their prime, to appreciate the interconnectivity of features, and to interrogate the ambitious aesthetic philosophies articulated by John and William Aislabie in their planting, buildings and views. Restoration and interpretation of some of what has been lost has already been undertaken (e.g., Temple of Fame); more is essential, and would help Studley to become much more than a beautiful and tranquil garden and to regain its rightful place as a dramatic visitor attraction of international standing, with an importance to rival that of its partner and neighbour, Fountains Abbey.

Conservation Vision for the Water Garden

The vision is to reinstate the Water Garden at the heart of the Studley Estate and at the core of the visitor experience, by introducing the visitor to the Gardens from the Deer Park, by significantly increasing access to the valley sides and by introducing...
the Abbey ruins as a visual, intellectual and emotional climax to the Gardens Tour.

The vision is predicated on rediscovering, restoring and presenting the Gardens’ history, meaning and exceptional significance, through the reintegration of the terraced pleasure grounds on the valley sides with the canals and pools of the valley floor, the conservation and interpretation of key ornamental structures, the sensitive and appropriate tree and woodland management, and the reopening of views both along and across the Water Garden.

For many years, parts of the Water Garden and the wooded valley sides have been managed as game cover for the benefit of the Shoot. Inevitably the consequence has been that the form, structure and meaning of the 18th century designed landscape, with its distinctive tree groupings and sinuous walks, have been, in places, submerged under uncontrolled scrub growth and eroded paths. Therefore, it must be asserted that, notwithstanding the importance of recovering more of the Gardens for the benefit of the public, the primary imperative, at this stage, is to identify and halt decay of historic fabric. The disappearing features of this unique work of art must be protected, conserved and, where possible, recovered.

### 6 Year Priorities for the Water Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WG1</td>
<td>Improve access to the Water Garden from the Visitor Centre</td>
<td>Develop green transport initiatives and footpaths to improve links between the Visitor Centre and the Water Gardens to encourage visitors to enter the Water Garden from the north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG2</td>
<td>Produce a Tree Management/Planting Plan for the Water Garden</td>
<td>Plot key ancient and veteran trees and groups of trees, ensuring that distinctive tree compositions are recorded. Formulate and implement plans for tree conservation, formative pruning and re-planting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG3</td>
<td>Protect historic paths and drives</td>
<td>Protect the surviving historic paths and drives (several of which are terraced) which are currently inaccessible to visitors and which are, in a number of places, disappearing beneath slippage and recolonization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG4</td>
<td>Reopen historic walk on the eastern slopes</td>
<td>Improve the circulation on the east valley side by reinstating the walk from Anne Boleyn’s Seat through Galand Wood westward to De Grey’s walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG5</td>
<td>Initiate programme of tree management</td>
<td>In partnership with the Shoot owners initiate a programme of tree management on the west and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WG6</th>
<th>Removal of inappropriate 20\textsuperscript{th} century tree plantings</th>
<th>Consider removal of new cherry trees on Laurel Bank, plane trees on lower slopes of Tent Hill, gold Chamaecyparis pisifera near the Fishing Tabernacle.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WG7</td>
<td>Interpret the design and construction of the Water Garden</td>
<td>Provide interpretation of the Water Garden’s design and construction to emphasise: their significance in the WHS; the importance of the designed interchange of views; the 18\textsuperscript{th} century narrative/design beginning at the northern entrance; significances of the design of the ornamental structures and garden buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG8</td>
<td>Renew formal yew hedges and bosquets in the valley floor</td>
<td>Undertake long-term renewal of the formal yew hedges and bosquets in the valley floor and near the Banqueting House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG9</td>
<td>Planting on the High Ride</td>
<td>To reduce erosion and compaction plant groups of native ferns and shrubs along the High Ride.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG10</td>
<td>Restore earthwork ramparts</td>
<td>Restore earthwork ramparts in the vicinity of the Moon Ponds and on the west side of the Upper Canal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG11</td>
<td>Encourage access to Tent Hill</td>
<td>Given the importance of exchange of views to and from Tent Hill, encourage access to the summit by reinstating path to viewing point at the summit. Increase opportunities for visitors to sit and engage with the past and absorb the atmosphere of Tent Hill and its views over the Water Gardens including the Abbey ruins by providing benches and interpretation. Consider rebuilding pavilion, or tent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG12</td>
<td>Continue to monitor pH of Banqueting House lawn and manage the magnesian limestone grassland to conserve its diversity</td>
<td>Continue to monitor pH of Banqueting House lawn and manage the magnesian limestone grassland to conserve its diversity. Remove the threat of invasive and dominant tor grass, Brachypodium pinnatum. Prevent loss of area of limestone grassland to tree and shrub encroachment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG13</td>
<td>Improve soil condition at Half Moon Reservoir and Rustic Bridge</td>
<td>Improve the conditions of soils and reduce erosion/compaction in vicinity of Half Moon Reservoir and Rustic Bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG14</td>
<td>Desilt Half Moon Reservoir</td>
<td>Establish a regular programme of desilting the Half Moon Reservoir with full consideration of how to manage the silt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WG15</td>
<td>Desilt and improve circulation in Moon Ponds</td>
<td>Desilt the moon ponds and look at options to improve circulation in the ponds. These measures should help recover and maintain the reflective qualities of the Moon Ponds, which are essential to their meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG16</td>
<td>Investigate options for managing flooding in the Quebec/Rustic Bridge area</td>
<td>Investigate possibilities for redesigning/modify management of water between Half Moon Reservoir and Quebec to help manage flood events and reduce damage to this area of the garden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG17</td>
<td>Reinstate Quebec as landscape feature</td>
<td>Reinstate Quebec as a landscape feature within the designed landscape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| WG18 | Reopen historic views | Recover as much as possible of the web of interlaced views which contribute much to the significance of the Water Garden. Key views include:  
- Exchange of views between the Octagon Tower and the Banqueting House and site of the Rotondo.  
- Exchange of views between the site of the Rotondo and Octagon Tower, Deer Park and Lake.  
- Exchange of views between Tent Hill, Half Moon Reservoir, Temple of Fame and Anne Boleyn’s Seat. |
| WG19 | Archaeological survey of the Rotondo | Through archaeological survey and research establish the location and interpret the Rotondo. |
| WG20 | Conserve the precinct wall at Galand Wood | Remove self-seeded trees and vegetation growing against the stone monastic boundary wall. Continue the programme of restoration of the monastic wall. |
| WG21 | Conserve the lead and stone statues | Carry out conservation repairs to the graffiti on the Wrestlers and investigate feasibility of reinstating historic white painted finish to lead and stone statues. |
| WG22 | Conservation of Temple of Piety | Regularly maintain cast iron and stone gutters including leaf removal. Limewash columns and stucco every 5 years. Improve ventilation of roof space and install a more permanent system of ventilation to the side rooms. |
| WG23 | Conserve Rustic Lodge ruins | Carry out archaeological excavation/recording of Rustic Lodge ruins, consolidate wall tops and point up open joints, consider soft topping to walls. Interpret the remains of the building. |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WG24</th>
<th>Conserve High Seat</th>
<th>Undertake conservation work and reinstate the structure into the landscape.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WG25</td>
<td>Crayfish survey and mitigation</td>
<td>Develop survey and mitigation programme for freshwater crayfish to understand the current population and ensure this is protected during routine land management and ongoing river maintenance and repair works.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Long term plans:**

- Seek to reopen selected walks on the east and west hillsides.
  Seek to open up High Walk, High Seat and viewing platforms to visitors.
- Restore the 18th century wall associated with the Water Garden.
- Restore the exchange of views between Octagon Tower and Mackershaw and from High Seat over the Water Gardens.
CHARACTER AREA F - STUDLEY LAKE

Summary of Condition and History

John Aislabie’s Studley Lake (started c.1718, expanded in the following decades), with its dams, cascade and Fishing Tabernacles, is a pivotal feature of the designed landscape, providing a transition between the formality of the Water Garden, the more naturalistic parkland of Studley Royal and the rugged terrain of Seven Bridges Valley. High Fall, a spectacular cascade fed by a reservoir in Mackershaw Park, dropped into the Lake on its eastern side.

From the north bank of the Lake could be seen the distant eye-catcher of How Hill, as well as several key garden buildings, arranged in a broad vista – especially the Rotondo and the Octagon Tower. Until 2010, many of these views were blocked by a large, irregular island, created in the 19th century, which dominated the centre of the Lake. The removal of this island – a major undertaking in 2011 – has contributed to the process of reopening key views into and out of the Water Garden, the principal axis being the Long Canal. Indeed, from the raised vantage point, at the north end of the Lake, one has a 180° panorama of extraordinary theatricality: to the left (east and ESE), one captures the beginning of the river (as it describes great meanders down the ‘Serpent Valley’); then the cascade as the Lake debouches to the river; followed by what must have been the breathtaking High Fall, cascading from the top of the Mackershaw plateau; then the long cascade flanked by the pair of Fishing Tabernacles - the gateway, both physical and metaphorical, to the Water Garden beyond, with the cliffs at the mouth of the narrow valley supporting the Rotondo and the Octagon Tower, to west and east. This is one of the most remarkable landscape vistas one could imagine. And, at last, its recovery seems almost within grasp.

The Studley Café, pale against the landscape background, marks the location of the entrance to the Water Garden. It is a busy and welcome place to find refreshments - and it has fulfilled this role since at least the 1860s. The building may have replaced an earlier lodge. It originally had a softer, more Picturesque quality - even somewhat Swiss in style, with an attractive emphasis on overhanging eaves and a sheltering verandah. Today, the café has been spoiled with hard cement rendering, its quoins neatly delineated, the light paint colour means it overshadows the adjacent stone Fishing Tabernacles. The café has been hedged about with inappropriate conifers, as if to separate it from the wider setting. The planting lends the Café – and its vicinity – a highly suburban air, cutting the visitor off almost completely from what lies beyond the magnificent gates.

As a whole, the Lake character area is a busy one, playing an important role in the dispersal of visitors across the estate, thus reducing their impact on the most popular areas - the Abbey and Water Garden. The area accommodates visitors using the Lake car park, which developed on the site of a carriage park for 19th century tourists; those starting walks into the Deer Park; and those accessing a walk around the Lake, into Seven Bridges Valley (both

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free entry zones), the latter being extremely popular, particularly with local and / or repeat visitors.

Although there is concern that allowing vehicular traffic to enter and park in this area – to some, it ‘represents perhaps the largest single source of disturbance to the special qualities of the World Heritage Site from visitor traffic’ – this area has seen visitors arriving in their carriages and gathering at the Canal Gates for over a century, at least. This arrival point also fulfils the extremely important purpose of bringing visitors to the ‘correct’ starting point for tours of the early 18th century Water Garden. Any proposals to minimise vehicular traffic here, in principle, is sensible; but the impact of such a change must be carefully monitored.

### Conservation Vision for Studley Lake

The recent removal of the island has already achieved one of the mains aims for this area: that of drawing attention to the pivotal role of the Lake in the remarkable landscape composition. By starting to recover its 18th century appearance, including some of the key views across it, we now have more than a hint of how vital this area is to the whole. The vision for this area is, therefore, simple: the Lake is intended to ‘announce’ the Water Garden and invite contemplation of a remarkable, 180° vista. That is what it should do once more.

### 6 Year Priorities for Studley Lake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SL1</td>
<td>Monitor and restrict vehicle numbers in Lake Car Park</td>
<td>Monitor and restrict number of vehicles in Lake Car Park to protect grassland and trees. Look at posts or low fencing to prevent cars parking under tree canopies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL2</td>
<td>Provide better access to the vantage point at the head of the Lake</td>
<td>Provide better access to the vantage point at the head of the Lake (near where Aislabie might have planned a house). Present the Nebot view (c.1760) here, as a tantalising vision of what was intended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL3</td>
<td>Erect signage to slow vehicles on main route to car park</td>
<td>Erect signage or discrete traffic control to slow vehicles along main drive from Studley Roger and routes to car park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL4</td>
<td>Formalise desire line footpath along north bank of Lake</td>
<td>Formalise/surface the desire line footpath along the north bank of the Lake between café and Seven Bridges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL5</td>
<td>Produce and implement</td>
<td>Produce and implement a landscape plan for Studley Café and the surrounding area to improve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
landscape plan for Studley Tea Room and surrounding landscape. appearance of the building, the landscape and reopen views along the lake balustrade.

| SL7        | Restore carriage drive east of the Lake | Restore the carriage drive to the east of the Lake and replace post and wire mesh deer fence and gate with more historically suitable boundary treatment. |
| SL8        | Remove box elder north west of Studley Tea Room | Remove box elder at NW corner of Café to reopen the exchange of views between Café surroundings, Canal Gates and the Lake and Deer Park. |
| SL9        | Examine and repair cascade, weir and tunnels | Examine cascade, weir and tunnels and undertake repairs. |
| SL10       | Redecorate Fishing Tabernacles | Reinstate lath and plaster coved ceilings and redecorate in distemper. |

**Long Term Plans**

- Reduce the impact of the car park by reducing its footprint, improve landscaping and provide a frequent green transport link to Canal Gates from the Visitor Centre or by foot.
- Improve disabled access from the Lake Car Park to Canal Gates.
- Selectively remove the coniferous plantation on the east bank of the Lake and replace with broadleaved woodland. Ensure trees are excluded from archaeology of High Fall. Repair / consolidate the remnants of the constructed, rugged cliff-face.
- Make much more use of estate buildings to enlarge interpretation and educational opportunities.
- Improve the presentation of the Canal Gates entrance by looking at options to replace the current ticket office and shop.

**CHARACTER AREA G – STUDLEY ROYAL DEER PARK**

**Summary of Condition and History**

The Studley Royal Deer Park represents the heart of the original Studley estate. Its early history is somewhat obscured. In the early 14th century, however, the land was intensively farmed, as evidenced in the extant earthworks of lynchets, ridge and furrow. By the mid-14th century, reflecting the impact of the Black Death, the manor came to dominate, and the land was used as pasture. There is no identified date for emparkment, but it probably developed from the Free Warren Licence, first purchased by the Lord of the Manor in 1343.

In 1452, the Mallory family acquired an interest in the estate and thus they continued, surviving the impact of the Dissolution and supporting the Crown’s interests in the neighbourhood. In 1607,
the first systematic record of the estate described Studley Hall itself, together with its, ‘court, fold, orchard, hopgarths and gardens’. The Civil War left its mark on the estate: the Mallories supported the Royalist cause. Fines and debts followed, almost certainly limiting significant change on the estate. Only when the upstart, George Aislabie – who had married a Mallory daughter – came into the estate in 1663, and had successfully resisted the rightful claims of his two sisters-in-law by 1667, were there significant new developments. George’s death, in 1675, is likely to have led to a pause; in 1689 his second son, another George, took on the oversight of Studley, though he did not come into his majority until 1690. By 1693, George was dead. His younger brother, John, inherited the estate.

The two George Aislabies may have entertained ambitious plans for Studley. George senior seems to have consolidated the holdings of land on the east side of the Park, building a new stone wall and, probably, the new entrance to the Park on the east. This, in turn, precipitated the W/E avenue across the Park, its eastern end focusing on the magnificent view of Ripon Cathedral. But it is to John, who did not die until 1742, that we must look for some of the major changes to the Park which remain evident today. Map analysis – especially reference to Thomas Jefferys’ plan of 1775 – combined with careful examination of the trees on site, reveal that there was extensive planting through the 18th century. John was certainly responsible for introducing many of the limes (Tilia x europaea ‘Pallida’) to the principal avenue, which adjoins what seems to be a secondary, slightly earlier, N/S lime avenue (also ‘Pallida’, probably planted c.1690), leading to Gillet Hill. John Aislabie probably also initiated the planting of lime trees along the crest of the Dale, which was then ornamented, by his son, with horse chestnut trees.

After 1721, following the débacle of the South Sea Bubble, John Aislabie devoted more time to his estate. He focused on new gardens which he was developing to the south, in the rocky terrain which framed the River Skell; it is likely that he approached these new gardens via a gate in the south-west corner of the Deer Park, which thus linked his manor house – which was regularly refurbished, but never, in his lifetime rebuilt – with the new Water Garden.

During John’s time, the Studley stables were built, in the Palladian style, to the design of Roger Morris. This seems to have presaged a new house - but a radical rebuilding of the earlier house had to wait until the later 1740s, with further modifications thereafter, when it was commissioned by his son, William. It is probable that the latter also undertook some gapping-up of the principal, lime avenue, as well as other planting through the Park.

By 1838, the estate had been the seat of Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence for some thirty years. The vast scale of the ornamental landscape contracted somewhat during the 19thC, but it was Mrs. Lawrence who was responsible for erecting the stone obelisk at the western end of the principal avenue – which features as an important ‘milestone’, glimpsed on the new vehicular route to the Visitor
Centre. She, too, probably gapped up the main avenue and the Oak Line, which runs eastwards from the vicinity of Rough Bridge and which seems to have been planted in association with building of the High Stables, from 1728. It was also during Mrs. Lawrence’s time that the glories of the many mature trees in the Studley Deer Park were much appreciated: she commissioned portraits of some of the most remarkable of the trees, which were then illustrated in J.C. Loudon’s very influential, 8-volumed Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum of 1838.

In 1859, the Studley estate passed to the Earl De Grey & Ripon. A statesman of great renown, playing a leading role in government for over fifty years, he died in 1909. Despite his dedication to public life, Lord Ripon also reworked the house once again, creating an enclosed, formal garden around the house. He also established a pheasantry - the Pheasantry Cottage of 1875 serving as gamekeeper’s house. This was a sign of a passion for field sports, enjoyed by both the first and second Marquis of Ripon – and still exerting its influence on the shape of the estate today. Indeed, sport of another kind was served when, in 1891, a golf course was laid out in the Deer Park.

The most significant contribution of Lord Ripon, however, was the building of St. Mary’s Church in 1871. This was commissioned from William Burges, a leading architect, whose passion for early Gothic architecture was matched only by his enthusiasm for the rich decorative details which imbued Pre-Raphaelite paintings and early Arts and Crafts ornament. This Church was one of a pair, the second being Christ the Consoler, built at Newby: both were to commemorate the death of Frederick Vyner, Lord Ripon’s brother-in-law, who was killed while visiting Marathon, in Greece. At Studley, the church was accompanied by an equally distinctive Church / Choristers’ Cottage, also by Burges.

The 20thC saw not only the impact of ever greater numbers of visitors – Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey had long been on the tourist trail – following the purchase of the estate by the West Riding Council, in 1966. In 1983, the National Trust acquired the property and, in 1986, the estate was inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Since that date, the Park retains its function as a Deer Park. There is still relatively limited vehicular access to the Park, and it remains expansive, well-treed and beautiful, a rich ecological resource and a deep reservoir of archaeological, historical, arboricultural and cultural meaning.

Conservation Vision for Studley Royal Deer Park

It is acknowledged that, whilst the Park displays many centuries of history – demonstrated, for example, in archaeological remains of the mediaeval village of Studlei Magna with its ridge and furrow farming – its principal significances depend upon activities undertaken in the late 17th century and the 18th century. Magnificent formal avenues and other tree compositions were planted in the Deer Park to enhance the topography, direct views and indicate walks and drives through the parkland, and the bones
of this layout are still evident in the fine collection of mature and veteran trees.

The vision is to conserve and maintain the legibility of the 18th century parkland, with wood pasture, its long-established deer herd and its many magnificent ancient and veteran trees, especially its avenues, which mark the desired circulation and frame key views. Conserving and promoting these great historical and cultural assets will also serve to protect the very valuable ecological assets, for which the Park is already designated locally.

6 Year Priorities for Studley Royal Deer Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SP1</td>
<td>Use LiDAR to carry out tree and archaeology management</td>
<td>Acquire full coverage of LiDAR to assist with tree and archaeology management in the Deer Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP2</td>
<td>Record and conserve veteran trees and develop a phased tree continuity programme</td>
<td>Record and conserve veteran trees and distinctive tree compositions in the Deer Park through the development of a Veteran Tree Management Plan. This will help consolidate this area as a fine exemplar of a Deer Park and Wood Pasture, both UK BAP Priority Habitats. Establish a long-term programme of replacing, as and when required, historic / veteran trees, which characterise the 18th century parkland designed landscape, with trees of the same species (cloned / vegetatively propagated where possible) in a pattern / grouping as close to the historic pattern as feasible. Recognise the importance of major, forest trees and also smaller or more ornamental / productive trees, including hawthorn, field maple, cherry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP3</td>
<td>Carry out programme of tree surgery to improve condition of the limes on main west/east avenue</td>
<td>Carry out programme of tree surgery to improve conditions for the oldest limes (Tilia x europaea ‘Pallida’ and Tilia cordata) in the main west/east avenue which dates from late 17th century/early 18th century and the mid to late 18th century lime trees. Also carry out minor tree surgery to mid/late 18th century limes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP4</td>
<td>Protect limes on south avenue leading to Gillet Hill</td>
<td>Develop a Veteran Tree Management Plan for the ancient limes leading to Gillet Hill. Remove deadwood from vicinity of the avenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP5</td>
<td>Propagate trees for future of lime avenues</td>
<td>Initiate a programme of propagating Tilia x europaea ‘Pallida’ for future management of lime avenues in the Deer Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP6</td>
<td>Thin woodland belt on west side of Deer Park</td>
<td>Thin the woodland belt on the west side of the Deer Park.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP7</td>
<td>Manage the deer without impacting historic fabric</td>
<td>Manage the deer (and any other proposed livestock) at a level and in a manner that does not impact negatively on the historic fabric of the Deer Park, deer health or the ecology of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP8</td>
<td>Implement the Grazing Management Plan</td>
<td>Implement the Grazing Management Plan for the Deer Park which includes an assessment of grazing the Park with a mix of deer and cattle, as well as rotational cutting regimes to improve fodder value and biodiversity interest of the sward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP9</td>
<td>Protect all views through and beyond Deer Park</td>
<td>Seek to protect all views through and beyond the Deer Park, especially to the east, including those within the buffer zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP10</td>
<td>Encourage greater visitor access, understanding and enjoyment of Deer Park</td>
<td>Encourage greater visitor access, understanding and enjoyment of the Deer Park by promoting its history and landscape, revising current signage and continuing to develop our programme of deer park walks. Monitor use and enjoyment of the Deer Park and the health of the deer to ensure a good balance between conservation and access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP11</td>
<td>Remove inappropriate trees and planting</td>
<td>Develop a plan for the management/removal of inappropriate trees and tree groupings planted in the 20th century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP12</td>
<td>Management of deadwood</td>
<td>Develop a deadwood policy. Except in areas close to the avenues, or in areas of visual sensitivity, fallen deadwood should be left in situ (at least for 48 hours, as some decay organisms may need to transfer between the parent tree and the fallen branch). Where feasible, fallen branches should be retained within areas of tall-herb grassland, to provide food sources for the larvae of saproxylic invertebrate species. Repeat saproxylic invertebrate survey of 99/00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP13</td>
<td>The Dale – general condition, presentation and interpretation</td>
<td>Ensure the Dale is inviting and its role is interpreted. Remove the deadwood from the valley floor to provide a walk to Rough Bridge. Foster flora suited to magnesian limestone along the floor of the Dale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP14</td>
<td>Provide more benches</td>
<td>Provide more simple timber benches for visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP15</td>
<td>Continue programme of repairs to the Deer Park wall</td>
<td>Continue the programme of repairs to the Deer Park wall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP16</td>
<td>Restore and interpret Rough</td>
<td>Undertake substantial repairs to Rough Bridge and renewal of damaged stonework.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
### Bridge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SP17</td>
<td>Remove trees from site of Studley House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP18</td>
<td>Conserve and interpret mediaeval land management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long term plans

- Develop a greater degree of public engagement with the Deer Park through improved green transport links with the Visitor Centre and enhanced interpretation and promotion.
- Undertake conservation of the ha-ha north of Kendall’s Walk.
- Reinstate the historic boundaries of the walled Deer Park by reintegrating the lost areas of Gillet Hill into the Deer Park.

### CHARACTER AREA H – SEVEN BRIDGES VALLEY

#### Summary of Condition and History

Seven Bridges Valley has had several incarnations, including being part of the park from at least the seventeenth century. It was probably first brought into Studley Royal’s designed landscape in the 1730s, by John Aislabie, who may have introduced the exaggerated meanders, especially at the mouth of the valley, where there is a line of sweet chestnuts, probably planted by John. He, too, was probably responsible for the erection of the Roman Monument in the then ‘Serpent Valley’. From 1743-45, William Aislabie redeveloped the valley, and the adjacent Chinese Wood, into one of the earliest and largest Chinese landscapes in Georgian England, complete with a series of wooden, Chinoiserie bridges, a tea house or ‘ting’ (Temple, Pavilion) and characterful planting on the rocky hillsides, where the steep, eroded limestone cliff appears, in places, to have been cut back to exaggerate its drama. Extensive and meticulous river engineering produced a series of weirs, rapids and cascades to enliven the valley with the sight and sound of rushing water.

Probably after 1781, the bridges were rebuilt in stone, in the rustic style, with adjacent stone-paved fords for carriages. These represented a move away from the overt use of Chinoiserie motifs, but retained natural, rugged textures, signifying a shift towards a more general Picturesque taste (in itself, of course, this was infused by the ‘Chinese’ style). The valley’s sheer limestone cliffs, scree slopes and hanging woodland still revealed the impact of China (or, at least, how ‘China’ was construed in the west).

The design of what became known as Seven Bridges Valley has been little modified since William’s day, though a major
intervention was Major REB Crompton’s hydro-electric generator – a pioneering exercise in the development of electrical transmission – installed just below the Lake outlet.

Chinese Wood, including the Ting, was lost from the estate in the 1960s, when it was sold by the Vyners. There is now little obvious evidence of the Chinese landscape aside from clear archaeological traces, though the general character of the Valley, with the very distinctive, rough, limestone cliff faces and hanging woodland still convey a ‘Chinese’ flavour. John Aislabie’s Roman Monument survives, but in reduced form; it is now generally called the ‘Devil’s Chimney’. There also remains some fine planting, including veteran sweet chestnuts in the valley bottom.

The Valley, part of the free-to-enter zone, is extremely popular with visitors, who enter the Valley at the Lake end. Once in the Valley, they are constrained by deer fences at the tops of the slopes and by a lack of paths leading to the adjacent parts of the estate – Mackershaw Park and Gillet Hill, or even the Devil’s Chimney, and must either climb the steep hillside, leave the estate, following the public footpath, or retrace their steps back to the Lake.

The slopes of the Valley, particularly on the northern side, are suffering from severe soil erosion, caused by deer and rabbits (and some people). The failure and subsequent blocking of the 18th century bypass tunnel around a natural swallow hole means that there is now no surface flow in the lower reaches of the river, during the summer.

**Conservation Vision for Seven Bridges Valley**

The vision is to recover the picture of the river snaking through the Valley to conserve, enhance and interpret the dramatic, Picturesque – still somewhat ‘Chinese’ – character of the Valley, whilst recalling its previous incarnations as a setting for the Roman Monument. The prevailing perception of the Valley as an informal country walk should be challenged / enlarged by highlighting the important links with the rest of the Aislabies’ designed landscape, through the restoration of paths and views into the surrounding character areas, particularly Gillet Hill. Avoiding new planting and reducing the amount of deadwood on the Valley floor will assist in this subtle change of emphasis.
## 6 Year Priorities for Seven Bridges Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SV1</td>
<td>Enhance ‘Chinese’ characteristics of area</td>
<td>Enhance / reveal the ‘Chinese’ characteristics that still exist: ensure that the limestone cliffs are not obscured by vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV2</td>
<td>Improve collapsed section of Swallow bypass</td>
<td>Carry out measures to improve the collapsed section of the Swallow bypass to reveal the tunnel openings, improve fencing to exclude stock and visitor access. Investigate feasibility of removal of gravel from river bed to recover historic river flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV3</td>
<td>Riverbank erosion</td>
<td>Carry out deer management measures such as fencing off areas to reduce erosion of valley slopes and river banks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV4</td>
<td>Restore key historic views to Roman Monument and along the valley</td>
<td>Restore key historic views through tree work and removal of some deadwood. Priorities include a) view up to the Roman Monument from the valley bottom and b) views along Seven Bridges Valley from the west to capture a view of the limestone ‘chimneys’ (sheer cliffs) on both sides, with intervening hanging woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV5</td>
<td>Conserve Roman Monument</td>
<td>Following detailed archaeological recording, carry out conservation works to Roman Monument and close off and repair the steep eroded path from valley bottom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV6</td>
<td>Address soil erosion of cliff slopes</td>
<td>Tackle soil erosion on the cliff slopes (without intrusive engineering if possible). Note requirement for survey of effect of wind and rain / southern exposure on cliff faces – this should help inform any necessary treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV7</td>
<td>Modify balance of woodland and grassland</td>
<td>Slightly modify the current balance of woodland and grassland by removing (possibly replanting) some of the younger trees that are close to the Valley floor. Introduce 1 or 2 weeping trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long term aspirations:
- Recover the vision of the Skell snaking its way, in exaggerated meanders, through the Valley.
- Undertake a study to look at the feasibility of restoring the bypass tunnel around the swallow hole to allow surface water flow in the lower reaches of the valley.
- Improve interpretation to give a greater understanding of the design and evolution of the landscape.
• Restore access to the Roman Monument from Gillet Hill.
• Increase views into, from and across the Valley (particularly long views of Roman Monument and views from the north bank of Seven Bridges Valley to the Octagon Tower across Mackershaw).

CHARACTER AREA I - GILLET HILL

Summary of History and Condition
Until the mid-20\textsuperscript{th} century, Gillet Hill was part of Studley Deer Park. This area was a significant part of the early 18\textsuperscript{th} century landscape commanding spectacular views to Seven Bridges Valley, Mackershaw Park, perhaps even the Rotondo and Octagon Tower in the Water Garden, Studley Royal Park, Lindrick Drive and the house, an exceptionally good view of St. Mary’s Church, and How Hill to the south. There are also spectacular distant views to Ripon Cathedral and beyond. The oldest lime avenue on the estate leaves the principal lime avenue in Studley Deer Park and heads south to Gillet Hill. Later in the 18\textsuperscript{th} century, the Belvedere was erected near the summit, by William Aislabie. In later years it seems to have been one of the more private parts of the estate and off the main tourist route by the 19\textsuperscript{th} century.

Today, the only signs of Gillet Hill’s parkland origins are the remains of the very early and important lime avenue (some of its ancient trees are concealed within plantations), a number of open-grown mature / veteran trees and the dilapidated park wall, forming the eastern boundary of this character area. Until 2012, the rest of the Hill was tenanted and under arable crops. This area has now been reverted back to parkland. There are still areas of game crops, with 20\textsuperscript{th} century pine plantations supporting populations of pheasants for the Shoot. There is no public access. The emphasis on agricultural and Shoot management has had, and continues to have, a detrimental impact on the health and presentation of the Hill’s remaining parkland and boundary trees. Given the importance of views and vistas to John Aislabie’s landscape design, there can be no doubt that this area should not be obscured and inaccessible.

The vision for Gillet Hill
The vision is to reintegrate Gillet Hill with the rest of the designed landscape. This will make sense of the remnant Gillet Hill avenue (which will no longer come to a sudden halt against a pine plantation) and allow its restoration. It will create the opportunity to command large parts of John and William Aislabie’s landscape and will provide a pivotal vantage point from which all can be unified, in the eye and imagination.

Immediately, addressing the threats against the area’s veteran and significant trees must be the first priority.

Ultimately, it may be that revisiting the summit of Gillet Hill will reveal or illuminate some aspects of the landscape which, as yet, remain rather vague. For example, it is apparent that the interchange of views between Mackershaw (especially the Lodge)
and the Studley Deer Park are significant: how significant, we cannot yet know.

6 Year Priorities for Gillet Hill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GH1</td>
<td>Restore parkland character</td>
<td>Continue the programme of restoration of the area’s parkland character and reintegration into Studley Royal Park, through arable reversion, removal of 20th century boundaries and removal of 20th century plantations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH2</td>
<td>Provide a quiet area for deer</td>
<td>Allow deer to graze here, to manage the grassland and help to relieve pressure and thereby reduce soil erosion on the neighbouring Seven Bridges Valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH3</td>
<td>Conserve trees on lime avenue</td>
<td>Undertake conservation work to the trees, especially the ancient avenue limes. Gap up and replant lost trees from the avenue using stock propagated from lime trees on site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH4</td>
<td>Tree conservation on field margins</td>
<td>Decompress and improve soil fertility in root zone of those mature deciduous trees along the former arable field margins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH5</td>
<td>Repair 17th century wall</td>
<td>Repair the 17th century rubble and cobblestone park wall along the east edge of Gillet Hill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long Term Plans
- Encourage visitors to access and enjoy this part of the wider parkland and the range of views from it.
- Interpret the site of the Belvedere and consider its re-creation.
- Reopen physical, visual and cultural links with neighbouring character areas such as Seven Bridges.
- Seek to thin mid 20th century pine plantation to reveal remnants of early lime avenue and in the longer term to remove the pine plantations all together.
- Taking care to preserve any lining, desilt dew pond near White Quarry to improve aquatic biodiversity and provide a water source for wildlife in this otherwise dry area.
CHARACTER AREA J – MACKERSHAW DEER PARK

Summary of Condition and History

Mackershaw Park originated as mediaeval woodland, owned for over 700 years by the Archbishops of York. In 1731, John Aislabie acquired Mackershaw and the valley slopes to its east and west, enabling him to expand his designed landscape out of the valley bottom. The main part of Mackershaw remained predominantly agricultural, but John started to introduce some designed elements, including an apparently never-completed formal layout, with a reservoir for the High Fall, which dropped into Studley Lake; associated terraces; and, probably, Mackershaw Lake.

The Mackershaw Lodge, standing at the highest edge of the Park, may have been built in the 1730s-40s and probably functioned more as a distant focal point than as a frequently used entrance to the Park. The building is now partially derelict.

William Aislabie abandoned his father’s unfinished formal scheme, though he did retain High Fall (which must have required some sort of reservoir). From 1756 (and perhaps before), Mackershaw was physically separated from the pleasure grounds by a ha ha east of the High Ride, which was increasingly filled with trees, thus closing views to the west. The Park seems to have continued to be used, particularly for the enjoyment of views to the north-west, along Lindrick Drive.

This attractive parkland is now grazed by Red deer and beef cattle and suffers from soil erosion, particularly on the steep slopes at the centre of the Park. It is little visited, having lost its links to the adjacent Water Garden and Seven Bridges Valley. Access is restricted to a public footpath and there is no encouragement for the visitor to linger and explore the Park with its fine trees (including veteran oaks and field maples); archaeological earthworks (which include remains of the formal garden layout and a large, Iron Age enclosure); and distant views to Studley Royal Park and Lindrick Drive, Gillet Hill and the Roman Monument, in Seven Bridges Valley.

Conservation Vision for Mackershaw Park

The vision is two-fold: bring this forgotten parkland back into the visitor circuit by re-opening visual, and eventually physical, links with the Water Garden, Seven Bridges Valley and Gillet Hill, beyond; focus on fostering a rich biodiversity in this relatively quiet and rather isolated part of the estate. Visitors should be encouraged to wander through the Park, enjoying its healthy trees and sward, long views and striking Lodge buildings and should be given the tools to understand its long and diverse history, as well as its natural diversity.
6 Year Priorities for Mackershaw Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP1</td>
<td>Retain character of Deer Park</td>
<td>Retain character of Wood Pasture/Deer Park. Grazing intensity has been reduced to address problems of soil erosion and compaction and tree damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP2</td>
<td>Protect and conserve veteran trees</td>
<td>Protect and conserve the veteran trees. Protect from livestock. Decompact and improve soil beneath canopy of trees. Exploit deadwood habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP3</td>
<td>Restore biodiversity of water bodies</td>
<td>Restore the biodiversity of the water bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP4</td>
<td>Improve the landscape presentation</td>
<td>Improve the landscape presentation to Mackershaw Lodges and interpret.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long Term Plans

- Restore physical and visual links with neighbouring character areas, particularly views to and from the Octagon Tower, Gillet Hill and Mackershaw Lodge.
- Complete consolidation of Mackershaw Lodge and interpret for visitors.

CHARACTER AREA K – HOW HILL

Summary of Condition and History

How Hill is an outlying part of the Aislabie’s designed landscape. The Tower, built in 1718 on the Hill’s summit, on the site of the mediaeval chapel of St Michael, was a very important early focal point for many views from John Aislabie’s gardens and parkland. The long canal in the Water Garden was constructed at the same time and deliberately aligned upon it. Clumps of large, probably late 18th century, beech trees, planted around the Hill’s summit, seem to have been placed to direct the view.

The Hill, which is at the junction of three of the Abbey’s granges, is a rich archaeological site, likely to have supported human occupation and agriculture for at least the last 4500 years. The upstanding remains of Monk Wall, the boundary of Fountains Park, the Abbot’s hunting park, form the character area’s northern boundary. St Michael’s chapel was used as a pilgrimage chapel and sinuous paths up the hill, traces of which survive, may have been part of the ritual of the pilgrimage.
How Hill is still agricultural and is heavily grazed by a dairy herd, which has the potential to damage the natural and archaeological fabric of the Hill. The Tower, and its 18th or 19th century extensions, is shut up and disused. The financial and physical future of the farm buildings on the north side of the Hill has been secured by the recent adaptation of the buildings to five holiday lets and by the application of sustainable technology wherever possible in the building’s restoration and conversion.

Although the public is free to walk up to the Hill summit, this access is not widely known about. As a result, this early focus of the Aislabies’ designed landscape, with its tremendous views extending to the North York Moors, is largely unvisited.

Conservation Vision for How Hill

The vision is for visitors to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal to be aware of the existence of How Hill and its importance, in both the monastic and designed landscapes. Visitors, in small groups – which will not threaten the natural, archaeological and designed significances of this unique area – should be able to travel to the Hill, using green transport links from the Visitor Centre. Once there, they will be able to climb the Hill and enjoy its towering beech trees and spectacular views, from both the Hill’s summit and the Tower, and to absorb its unusual atmosphere, which is at once tranquil and exhilarating.

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6 Year Priorities for How Hill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HH2</td>
<td>Conserve nature and manage land accordingly</td>
<td>Recognise the nature conservation interest of the area and manage the land accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH3</td>
<td>Initiate planting programme</td>
<td>Initiate a planting programme to provide a supply of parkland trees and shrubs to provide future trees and to maintain a mixed-age class, recognising the archaeological sensitivities of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH4</td>
<td>Improve water quality and biodiversity of ponds</td>
<td>Carry out measures to improve the water quality and opportunities for biodiversity at the north and south ponds at How Hill. Develop an understanding of the significance of South Pond as a designed landscape feature and ensure conservation work maintains the historic construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH5</td>
<td>History of How Hill</td>
<td>Increase understanding of the history and significance of How Hill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long term plans
- Restore and consider new uses for the Tower.
- Encourage visitor engagement with How Hill by including it on any future green transport route. Promote and interpret the area as a key element of the 18th century designed landscape.
This plan should be read in conjunction with:
HTLA Conservation Management Plan, 2015

The National Trust
FOUNTAINES ABBEY AND STUDLEY ROYAL

BOUNDARIES & CHARACTER AREAS

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
APPENDIX 9 - Review of the geodiversity of Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site

Completed 13th November 2014

Jonathan Larwood, Senior Specialist – Palaeontology, Landscape and Geodiversity, Natural England

Purpose

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site is centred around a meander in the River Skell. Exposures of Carboniferous sandstone are uncomfortably overlain by Permian Magnesian Limestone. There is a cover of Pleistocene gravel and clay with associated late Pleistocene landforms. The geological influence at Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey is both implicit and explicit within the natural, designed and built elements of the Site’s landscape.

Whilst the Site’s geodiversity is not part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) it is an attribute that is clearly associated with OUV and strongly influences the distinctiveness of the designed landscape at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. Understanding geodiversity is an important part of understanding Fountains and Studley Royal Estate, its construction and the design of its landscapes. This is emphasised by the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) which states that ‘the layout of the gardens is determined by the form of the natural landscape, rather than being imposed upon it.’

The current World Heritage Site Management Plan (2009-2014) sets out to better understand the role geology has played in the design of the property’s landscape (Action K6) and to survey and map the Estate’s geology (Action N2). In response, this report provides a review of the geodiversity of the Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site and the influence and role it has played in the location, construction and design of the Abbey and Studley Royal Gardens.

Background

Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey is located on the River Skell where it cuts through the Permian Magnesian Limestone escarpment which runs from the Durham Coast to Nottingham. The steep sided River Skell Valley was cut during the Late Pleistocene when the river was swollen with glacial melt water, cutting down through the Magnesian Limestone into underlying Upper Carboniferous sandstones. The natural shaping of this landscape and the geological resources that it has provided have been central to the establishment of the Abbey and the design of the Studley Royal landscape. The deep and remote valley with the presence of fresh water provided a tranquil, safe and productive location for the establishment of the Cistercian Abbey. Magnesian Limestone and Carboniferous sandstone were key materials in the building of the Abbey with other resources being brought in from further afield. The later development of the Aislabies designed landscape is strongly influenced by the natural landforms and flow of the River Skell, and today the Estate’s habitats and species are influenced by the underlying contrasts between Magnesian Limestone, sandstone and extensive glacial glacial tills.

This report explores these themes and the connections with geodiversity and considers the opportunities for linking geodiversity into our understanding of the site, how it is presented and managed.

Geodiversity of Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Some links and connections</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permian</td>
<td>The Permian Magnesian Limestone was deposited approximately 255 million years ago, in a shallow sea known as the Zechstein, which encompassed the present day North Sea Basin and covered much of NW Europe. Climatically similar to the present day Bahamas (and during the Permian at a similar latitude) the Zechstein Sea was subject to periodic exoporation and replenishment and on its margins the development of the Permian Zechstein Reef which was the primary source of the lime-rich sediments which today forms the thick sequence of Magnesian Limestone. Lower Permian Magnesian Limestone (Cadeby Formation) crops out on the eastern side of the site with exposures visible on the steep slopes and paths to the east of the Crescent and Moon Ponds and along the gorge sides of the Seven Bridges valley (Photos 1 &amp; 2). The basal Lower Magnesian Limestone unconformity with the underlying carboniferous, is noted to cross the River Skell near the Moon Ponds at grid ref. 280 686.</td>
<td>Garden and parkland</td>
<td>The most substantial Magnesian Limestone exposures are found in the Seven Bridges Valley. Here there is concern about collapse of some of the sections, however, this is not an issue in terms of maintaining the Magnesian Limestone sections and no management intervention is needed. There is some minor degradation of the Limestone sections on the garden slopes beneath the Octagon Tower with blocks rolling onto the path. This is natural degradation and difficult to slow down. A low retaining wall has been built to catch rolling blocks and visual inspection of section with occasional removal of precarious blocks (though taking care not to increase instability) is recommended. For completeness it would be useful to undertake a more detailed survey and mapping of Lower Magnesian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255 mya</td>
<td>The Permian Magnesian Limestone has had a strong influence on the character and design of the Studley Royal landscape. This is most explicit in the Seven Bridges Valley which inspired Aislabie’s Chinese landscape gardens. Here the Magnesian Limestone forms the steep gorge sides and a series of bridges cross cut across the Skell as it flows down the gorge. Little modification of the underlying landscape was necessary to achieve the desired affect though the river has a 75m long bypass tunnel constructed to avoid it disappearing down a large swallow hole. Some additional work was undertaken by Aislabie in Seven Bridges Valley to make the river more serpentine in character and cascades constructed to create torrents. The Valley was known as ‘Serpent Valley’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
The Lower Magnesian Limestone at Fountains and Studley is typically a cream to grey coloured dolomitic limestone. It is thinly bedded and jointed with a blocky appearance.

There is evidence of contemporary Permian bioturbation (burrowing), in fallen blocks near the path to the immediate north of the Moon Ponds.

by 1741.

Natural outcrops of Magnesian Limestone occur on the steep wooded slopes to the east of the Crescent and Moon Ponds. The exposures have been incorporated into the sides of paths and part inspired the construction of the Serpentine tunnel which emulates the bedded nature of the limestone in its construction.

Buildings

The Magnesian Limestone was locally quarried (the nearest significant quarries are at Ripon) and used in the construction of local buildings most notably the Abbey, Fountains Hall & Studley Royal. In the Abbey Magnesian Limestone is used in a variety of ways. It is used as decorative stone as it relatively easy to carve – it is found forming the more ornate door lintels and posts, inscriptions and statues (Photo 3). Huby’s Tower, constructed around 1500, is built from Magnesian Limestone (Photo 5).

Once exposed to the elements (when the roof was removed from the Abbey) the Magnesian Limestone has weathered quite rapidly and much of the more ornate detail has been diminished

Habitats and wildlife

Thinner soils associated with Magnesian Limestone. Magnesian Limestone grassland flora – for example the Banqueting House lawn.

In the Seven Bridges Valley the opened joints, minor hollows and collapses in the Magnesian Limestone are likely to offer potential bat roosts/potential hibernacula. Also, unstable slopes and associated bare soils and rock may offer a number of potential habitats/substrates for invertebrates.

Industry

Magnesian Limestone quarried locally (within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site) otherwise sourced from Cadeby Quarry (which was within the ownership of the estate). Lime kilns are present within the estate.

outcrops (within the site and its wider buffer zone). Examine more fully the vegetation change – sandstone vs limestone – can this be picked out and provide an indication of changing geology where rocks aren’t visible?

<p>| Carboniferous | Approximately 315 million years old the thick Carboniferous sandstone and gritstones exposed at Fountains and Studley were deposited by an extensive river and delta system flowing from high ground (Askrigg Block) to the north. This was a near equatorial climate in an area that was subjected to periodic rise in sea level (reflecting a global change in sea level and more local disturbance associated with a mountain building phase known as the | Garden and parkland | Best exposures of Lower Plompton Grit are in the disused quarry faces to the North of the Abbey. These are becoming overgrown, particularly with the encroachment of ivy from above. Increased vegetation management here would open up these sections and has |
| c. 315 mya | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landforms and processes</th>
<th>Devensian - present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| There are a number of landforms associated with the Devensian and more recent evolution of the landscape.  
Dry valleys – in the deer park The Dale forms a northwest-southeast dry valley with a deposit of sands and gravels overlying glacial till (Photo 7). It’s likely that this formed during a periglacial environment (similar to modern tundra) with the ground deeply frozen (and impermeable) and allowing the development of a small river. With the onset of warmer conditions the ground has thawed and become permeable - no longer supporting surface flow and leaving the dry valley.  
River Skell valley and Seven Bridges Valley – the Skell forms a relatively steep sided meander which is likely to reflect both glacial diversion of the Skell to a new course during the Devensian (Photo 8), a significantly larger river fed by glacial melt water and continued post glacial deepening of the |  
| Garden and parkland | The River Skell is the most influential natural element at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. It has provided a basis for the original settlement cutting a deep and sheltered gorge. It is a source of water for drinking (together with local springs) and was used to establish Fountains Mill. It has provided the conditions (and possibly inspiration) for the construction of the water gardens which, in their design, incorporate the widening and deepening of the river meander the shape of which is arguably mirrored in the design of the Crescent and Moon Ponds. The limestone gorge it cuts has provided the backdrop for the ‘Chinese’ Seven Bridges Valley.  
River management is critical to the future of the Fountains Abbey both in terms of flooding (risk of increase with environmental change) and silt build-up. The challenge is to balance maintenance of the Sites Outstanding Universal Value, reducing levels of siltation, accommodating the likelihood of raised water levels/flooding and managing the Skell within its wider catchment (upstream run off from Sidderdale and downstream into Ripon). The critical point here is that management decisions should be taken with an understanding, and in the context of, the Estate’s geodiversity, in particular the functioning of the Skell and its catchment. |  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Superficial</th>
<th>Devensian 18000-14000 years ago</th>
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| Much of the higher ground is mantled by Quaternary sands, gravels and clays (belonging to the Vale or York Formation). These are largely associated with the late Devensian cold phase (the last ‘ice age’) and glacial and periglacial environments from 18000 to 14000 years ago. During this period glacial advance from the Lake District covered the area extending down into Lincolnshire.  
On the estate glacial till (boulder clay) dominates the wider Park to the north and northeast with isolated patches of sand and gravel associated with former river terrace deposits. Advance and retreat of ice strongly influenced the course of rivers such as the Nidd, Ure and Swale, diverting them southwards and creating glacial diversion gorges which may in part account for the deepened gorge of the Skell. |  
| Dominant influence on soils and subsequent land-use (agriculture) within the wider estate. |  

| Buildings |  
| The Lower Plompton Grit has been widely used in the construction of the Abbey and associated buildings. This fine to coarse grained sandstone gives the Abbey its characteristic red colour. Examining the cut faces of the Grit building stone provides a close-up view of the typical cross-bedding and the rounded to sub-angular quartz grains which vary in size from 1-10mm (Photo 6).  
Industry | The Lower Plompton Grit was quarried on-site as the main source of building stone for Fountains Abbey. The vertical faces to the north of the Abbey represent the final quarry faces and provide evidence of roof lines which were set into the quarry face (possibly quarry men dwellings). |  
| Habits and wildlife | The riverside slopes are dominated by ancient woodland, predominantly oak, elm and lime. |  

Hercynian Orogeny).  
At Fountains and Studley the Lower Plompton Grit (which belongs to the Middle Carboniferous Kinderscoutian Stage) forms prominent exposures on either side of the River Skell, to the north and north east of Fountains Abbey and unconformably beneath the Lower Magnesian Limestone on the southern part of the slopes to the east of the Crescent and Moon Ponds. Most notable is the high quarried cliff to the north of the Abbey which exposes up to 7m of cross-bedded (indicating current direction) fine to course grained, pebbly sandstone with a colour variation from yellow to red (Photo 4).  
The underlying Addlethorpe Grit is inferred to cross the Skell valley in the vicinity of Fountains Abbey (at 2717 6821) – it is not clear whether any exposures are visible.  
Towards the end of the Carboniferous the Hercynian mountain building phase (a consequence of the coming together of two continents) lead to widespread uplift and a period dominated by erosion rather than deposition. Relative sea level rise in the Permian lead to the area being inundated and eventually the unconformable deposition of the Permian Magnesian Limestone over the Carboniferous landscape.  
**WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021**  
Undertake a survey of landforms within the Site and its wider buffer zone.  
For completeness it would be useful to undertake a more detailed survey and mapping of Carboniferous outcrops (within the site and its wider buffer zone).  
Examine more fully the vegetation change – sandstone vs limestone – can this be picked out and provide an indication of changing geology where rocks aren’t visible?  

| a wider link to the quarrying history of the Abbey. |
river as a consequence of local uplift. The Seven Bridges Valley gorge has a
similar origin. A steep sided limestone gorge has been formed with swallow
holes down which the Skell flows to re-emerge near to Ripon. Minor
faulting, jointing and a number of collapsed hollows are visible in the gorge
sections.

The Skell drains from Nidderdale to the west and flows via Ripon into the
Ure. Run-off and management of the drainage has a strong influence on
the rate of sitting at Fountains and control of flooding through Fountains
Abbey and Studley Royal and into Ripon.

How Hill – within the wider landscape of the World Heritage Site How Hill to
the south is interpreted as a moraine-like glacial mound – a deposit of
glacial gravel left by a retreating glacier.

Springs and flushes – natural springs and flushes on the estate are likely to
be linked to Quaternary sands and gravels overlying glacial till.

Soils – there are a variety of soils within the Estate reflecting its history of
cultivation and in many areas more minimal intervention. A separate soil
survey has been undertaken identifying 4 soil types and considering the
condition and soils erosion within the estate.

Since the establishment of the mill and the growth of the
Abbey the course of the Skell has been controlled and
 canalised. Whilst there was an understanding of the need
to alleviate flooding in the design of the garden, the
controlled flow of the river restricts the ability to dissipate
energy during floods and risks both damage to the World
Heritage Site and flooding.

Also notable is the bridged Dale dry valley in the deer park
and viewpoint provided by the glacial How Hill to the
south.

The Ice House – the ice house (located to the north of the
Seven Bridges Valley) has been constructed on an area of
high ground in the glacial till above the water table
avoiding the risk of water flow through the ice house.

Industry
The Skell powered the mill which has been central to the
subsistence and income of the Abbey.

Develop a short guide or information notes for volunteers
to the fabric of the buildings of the estate.

Explore whether there any other decorative stones
associated with the Abbey perhaps sourced from other
Cistercian monasteries?

Geology from
further afield

Nidderdale Marble
Early Carboniferous
Nidderdale Marble is a dark crinoidal early Carboniferous limestone used as
a decorative stone for pillars within the Abbey Church (Photo 6). It was also
carved to make the large marble stoup, formerly located in the Cloister and
now on display in the Mill. Fountains Hall also has examples of decorative
Nidderdale Marble.

The marble was quarried at Blayshaw Quarry near Lofthouse in Nidderdale
and its use is thought to be restricted to Fountains Abbey and Hall (though
it is speculated that the steps at St George’s Chapel, Windsor, may be
Nidderdale marble).

Now exposed to the elements the Nidderdale Marble columns are heavily
weathered.

These materials were available during the early
construction of the Abbey. They demonstrate the use of
more local resources from Nidderdale for example but
also the wealth and reach of the Abbey estate and its
ability to bring slates in from Cumbria.

Imported materials
within Fountains Abbey,
garden and park
Westmorland Slate – main roof material, an Ordovician (450-400 million
years old) volcanic ash (Borrowdale Volcanic Group) from Cumbria. Widely
used as a green tinged slate.

York stone – Upper Carboniferous river-lain sandstone used for flooring
flagstones within the Abbey.

Hackfall tufa - used in the construction of the grotto and sourced from
Hackfall Wood in Nidderdale. Deposited by modern springs saturated in
calcium carbonate.

Bricks and tiles – bricks and tiles mainly used for flooring (eg medieval
church), bricks also seen in Aislabie’s Kitchen. Probably made from either
local Carboniferous mudstones or glacial till.

Metal – evidence of lead smelting and iron working (remains of slag) at
Kitchen Bank. Lead likely to have been sourced from Nidderdale and used

wider buffer zone.

Consider the development of a soil management plan
conserving the characteristic soil profiles of the Estate.
St Mary's Church
This late 19th century medieval gothic church contains an unprecedented diversity of widely sourced building and decorative stone.

The exterior walls (Photo 9) are constructed from Catraig Stone (Upper Follifoot Grit) - a Carboniferous sandstone from the nearby Spa Gill Wood, the roof is made from Lake District green slates from the Borrowdale Volcanic Group and the finely carved porch of Lower Magnesian Limestone from the nearby Morcar Quarry (Photo 10).

Internally stone is sourced from across Europe, North Africa and the USA (the font is made from Tennessee Marble) (Photo 11). Around 20 different decorative stones are used and include a full range of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks with colours including cream, black, white, red, green, orange and purple. A number of the marbles are sourced from quarries first exploited by ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilisations.

There is a striking and visual geological story to be told here that connects across Europe and to the ancient world. This is also an illustration of the changing nature and accessibility (to the wealthy anyway) of global building stone which didn't exist when the Abbey was constructed.

This is an underplayed geological asset and warrants its own geological guide.

Next steps/recommendations
Develop a simple management plan for the Site's geodiversity, this could include:

- Some vegetation and stability management
- Survey of the link between vegetation and underlying geology
- More detailed geological survey within the Site and buffer zone
- Identifying sources of building stone for repairs
- Develop a soil conservation and management plan

Develop a strategy for integrating geology into the way the story of Fountains Abbey is told and presented. The influence of water, the use of raw materials and the visibility of geology in the landscape and its influence on design are possible broad themes. Provide training for volunteers and develop information notes for volunteers.

Develop a geological guide for St Mary's Church (based on unpublished notes see below).

Establish links with local geology groups – recruit new volunteers. The Leeds Geological Association occasionally includes Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal within its field visit programme. The West Yorkshire Geology Trust is a very active local geoconservation group.

Explore more fully the link between Fountains’ archaeology (including industrial ) and geodiversity.

Explore potential links with other locations (particularly in Trust ownership) in the Region specifically connecting with geodiversity (eg the Carboniferous sandstone Tors of nearby Brimham Rocks).

Explore links with other World Heritage Sites within the Trust's care (particularly cultural) encouraging integration of geodiversity as part of the ‘fabric’ of World Heritage – use Fountains as an example. Extend this to other World Heritage Site and the story they tell. For example, Durham Cathedral and Castle and Creswell Crags (on the WHS Tentative List) are both located and associated with late Pleistocene cut river valleys/gorges: the incised meander and peninsular of Durham and the Magnesian Limestone Gorge of Creswell Crags to the south.

Link to the new Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Management Plan (2015-2021) - these recommendations are particularly relevant to:

Theme 2, Objectives J1 and J2
Theme 2, Objective L
Theme 3, Objectives N, O & P
Theme 4, Objective Q

Further reading
British Geological Survey, Harrogate Sheet 62
Photographs

Permian

Photographs 1 & 2  Lower Magnesian Limestone (Cadeby Formation) exposed in Seven Bridges Valley

Photograph 3  Weathered carved door Magnesian Limestone lintel and inscription at base of Huby's Tower

Carboniferous

Photograph 4  Carboniferous sandstone (Lower Plompton Grit) exposed to the north of the Abbey ruins.

Photograph 5  Fountains Abbey ruins built from Carboniferous sandstone, note yellow Magnesian Limestone of Huby's Tower

Photograph 6  Weathered column of Carboniferous Nidderdale crinoidal limestone


Murray Mitchell, 2005. The building and decorative stones of St Mary’s Church, Studley Royal (unpublished notes for volunteers and staff)
Devensian - landforms

Photograph 7 The Dale dry valley in the Deer Park

Photograph 8 ‘Surprise View’ showing the incised and modified meander of the River Skell

St Mary's Church

WHS Draft Management Plan 2015-2021
Photograph 9  St Mary’s Church built from Carboniferous Catraig Stone with finely carved Lower Magnesian Limestone porch (detail Photograph 10)

Photograph 11 Interior decorative stone sourced from Europe, North Africa and USA. Ripon Tomb: figures White Carrara Marble from Italy, columns and slab Verde Antico, a serpentinite breccia from Greece, chest alabaster from Notting-Derby area.