

# Achieving the balance

**Biodiversity  
Heritage Landscape Restoration  
&  
People**

## **Hackfall and Gledhow Woodland?**

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The Woodland Trust

# Hackfall - History of the site

- Bought in 1731 by John Aislabie
- William Aislabie created woodland garden from 1750
- A popular tourist destination until 1930s
- Sold for timber extraction and closed to visitors in 1930s
- In decline until significance of site recognised by local resident - James Ramsden formed the Hackfall Trust.



*Hackfall near Ripon* by Joseph Mallord William Turner, c.1816.  
Watercolour and gum varnish on paper support, 279cm x 396cm



*Hackfall Garth, 1766, by Nicholas Thomas Dall, watercolour and grey wash over graphite and black chalk (51cm x 74cm)*

# Green Frog Service



Fountain Pond Hackfall engraved by Dall (?), used on the 'Green Frog' dinner service

# Designations

- Within the Nidderdale AONB
- Adjacent to Grewelthorpe, near Ripon
- Covering 47.5 hectares (117.39 acres) alongside the River Ure



# Designations

## Historical

- Follies are Grade 2 and Grade 2\* listed
- Area is Grade 1 English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens
- Harrogate Borough Council Conservation Area

## Ecological

- Ancient semi-natural woodland
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Grade c Invertebrate Site Register







# Key work with £1 million HLF funding

- Main bulk of work began with views being reopened. • 2005 – 2006
- Top Pond and original Grewelthorpe entrance restored. • 2007
- Weirs and cascades restored and paths improved. • 2007
- Mowbray Castle undergoing consolidation work. • 2007-2008
- Fountain, Weeping Rock restored and Hackfall Events, Education Visits & Interpretation work. • 2009 - 2012

# Green Frog Service



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## Hackfall – Fountain History

The fountain at the pond was originally created in 1756 as part of William Aislaby's master plan for Hackfall, but had stopped working by the early 1800s. The original oak and elm pipework displayed below was found during pond and fountain restoration work in 2007.























*The Weeping Rock: A Waterfall at Hackfall* by Anthony Devis, c.1770, oil on canvas (61 x 84cm).







# Europa Nostra Award



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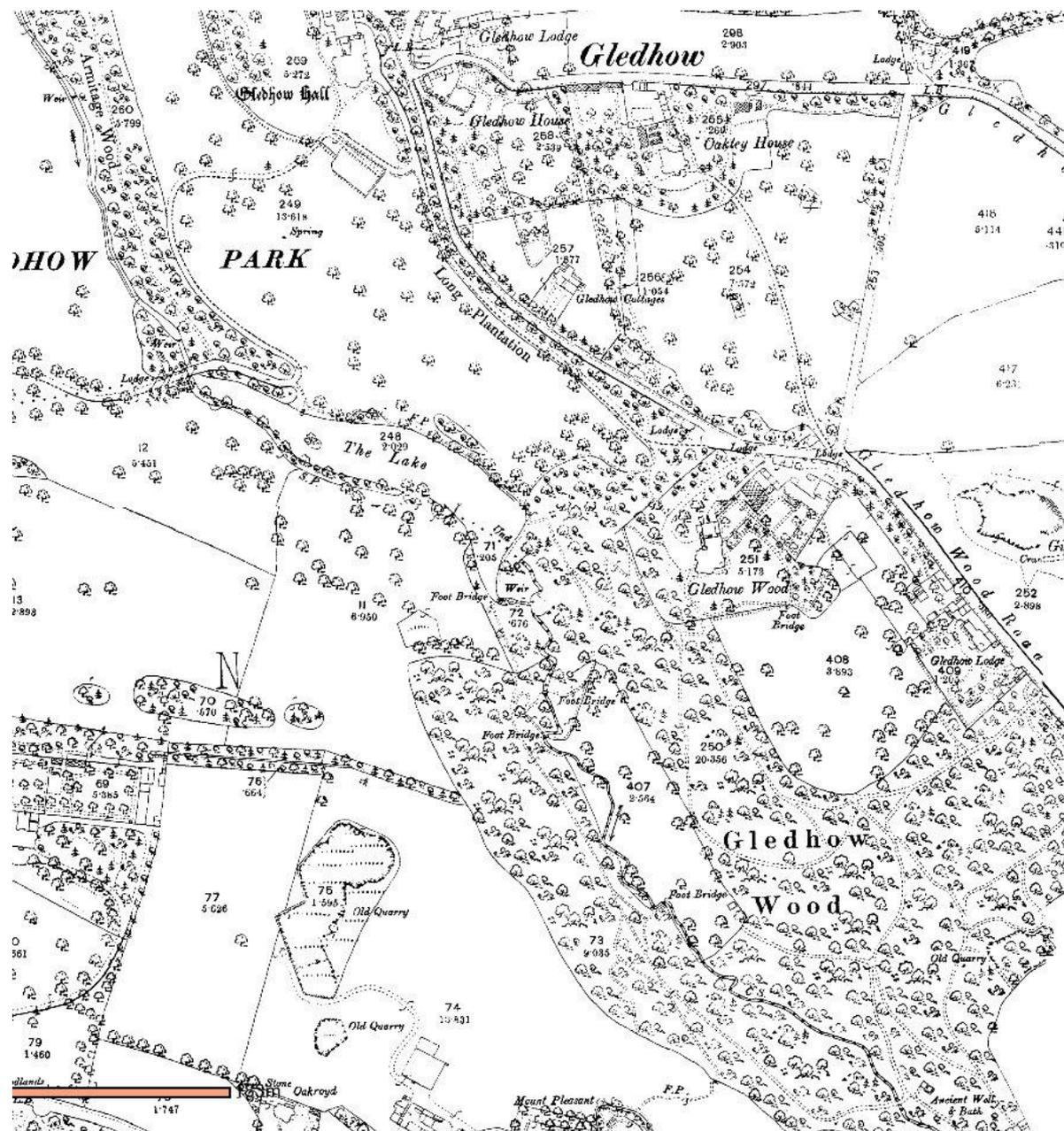
EDVARDUS WADDINGTON,  
DE GLEADOW  
ANNO DOMINI 1671'

Gipton Spa Bath House constructed by  
Edward Waddington of Gledhow.

Edward Waddington was the son-in-law  
of Alderman John Thwaites, who lived  
at Gledhow Hall, and who died the  
same year that the Spa was built

Interior of bath house at Gipton

The 1846 Tithe map shows the estate now split :William Hey and James Brown, owners of Gledhow Wood (and the spa) and Benyon, the Hall and surrounding pleasure gardens.



The house or hall at Gledhow belonged to a number of prominent Leeds families during the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the Becketts, the Benyons and the Coopers all lived there before the estate was purchased by James Kitson who became Baron Airdale in 1978. A staunch liberal he became the first Lord Mayor of Leeds in 1896



Gledhow Hall, c1900



The Gledhow Park and its woodland has inspired many artist including J.M.W Turner who made a sketch of the famous beeches in 1816.

Atkinson Grimshaw's study of beeches in the grounds of Gledhow Hall in 1872 is considered remarkable for its beauty.





Gledhow Hall by JMW Turner (engraving by G Cooke)



*Atkinson Grimshaw Study of Beeches Eve Effect c 1872*



Photograph of Gledhow Hall Park

Four contemporary photographs of Gledhow Hall and Park accompany Grimshaw's painting and show the influence and early development of photography in Grimshaw's work.

## GLEDHOW VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL 2006

### Gledhow Valley Woodlands

*“The lack of a management plan and appropriate funding have caused the 18th and 19th century design of the Gledhow Hall estate to be obscured.”*

*“Clearing some of the naturally-regenerated trees from the former open parkland to open up vistas of the lake and Gledhow Hall should be considered as one of the long term objectives for the area.”*

Gledhow Woodland is semi-natural mixed ancient woodland with remnants of a designed landscape and more recent areas of natural regeneration.



## Key Questions

- Can the Ancient Woodland Restoration work and the on-going woodland management help achieve some of this?
- Can a balance be achieved between the desire for heritage landscape restoration and biodiversity enhancement of the woodlands?
- Could long term thinning work and restoration help to further improve public access and the network of paths on the site?

**This could be a fantastic opportunity to open up the woodland for wildlife and people, together with an opportunity to highlight aspects of the historic designed landscape.**

