

The drive at the front of the hotel is a feature of the original design of the property and there are two notable trees, both of which must be early plantings. Near to the exit to Tadcaster Road is a red horse chestnut. A line which indicates grafting can be seen around the trunk, where the bark pattern changes. Compared with those of the white horse chestnut, the fruit-cases are matt brown with no spines.

Nearer to the hotel entrance is a splendid fern-leaved beech, with its remarkable deeply-cut leaves. This tree appears in a photograph dating from the 1930s, already mature and with its instantly recognisable shape.

Other trees to the front of the hotel include recent plantings of twelve Irish yews (distinguished by their columnar shape); a common lime, with its large leaf and fruit; and an ash and a cherry near to the corner of the hotel by the Knavesmire.

In the main car-park to the side of the hotel, there are good specimens of young hornbeam and Swedish white-beam, which has beautiful large bright red berries later in the year.

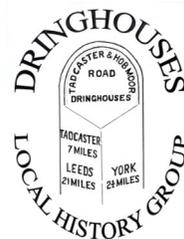
Throughout the grounds there is much to look for: the different forms and height of tree, the bark patterns, the various shapes, colours and sizes of leaf in summer and autumn and of bud in winter.

In the 19th century, the wealthy of York had properties of distinction built outside the city and they sought also to create gardens of note. From the 1830s onwards they were able to take inspiration from the collection of rare and beautiful trees in the botanical garden (now Museum Gardens) established in York by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

The Marriott Hotel is the much altered and extended house, called The Hollies, built for John Close in 1877. In the grounds there are numerous trees of considerable interest, including some recent plantings and many more which appear to be specimens planted either when the original house was built or shortly afterwards.

This leaflet has been prepared by members of the Dringhouses Local History Group and Barbara Hickman.

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YORK
Marriott
HOTEL

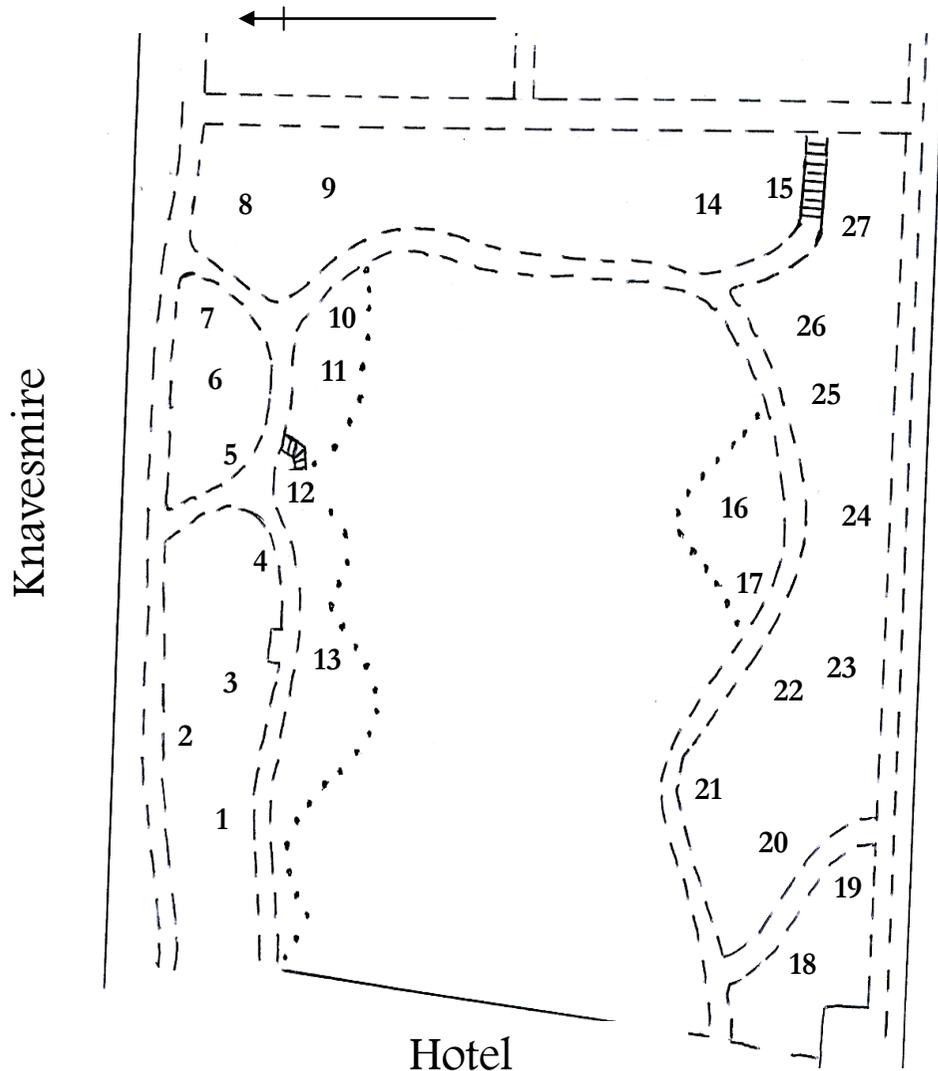
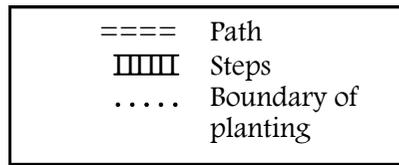


Trees

A short guide to the impressive variety of trees to be found in the grounds of the hotel.

Visitors are very welcome ~ just call at Reception first.

This plan of part of the back garden is based on the very detailed 1892 Ordnance Survey map. Many of the paths shown (with their stone or iron edging) and the short cast iron flights of steps can still be seen.



Not all the trees have been included in the list; in particular, there are more yew and holly. The most interesting specimens are given in bold type.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 to 4 Beech. Long narrow buds; smooth bark. 1 and 3 have strong buttressing (at the base of the trunk). | 15 | Common lime |
| | 16 | Yew |
| | 17 | Dessert apple |
| 5 | Common lime | 18 Beech |
| 6 | Small-leaved lime. Rare. Leaning; tiny orange tufts under leaf. | 19 Beech |
| | 20 | Common lime |
| | 21 | Hollies |
| 7 | Yew | 22 Beech |
| 8 | Sections of trunk of felled Lombardy poplar. | 23 Beech |
| 9 | Walnut. Pale grey deeply-fissured bark; wiggly branches. | 24 Hungarian oak. A splendid specimen. Large buds; tiny acorns. Leaves dark green, up to 25 cm long. Grows vigorously; height up to 30m. |
| 10 | Box | |
| 11 | Yew | |
| 12 | Holm oak. Evergreen. | 25 Beech |
| 13 | Variegated hollies | 26 Beech |
| 14 | Copper Beech. A notable specimen. | 27 Common lime |

The Orchard

At the bottom of the garden is the sheltered old orchard. The trees are mostly apple and pear but there are also plum and cherry. There is a particularly tall pear-tree near the corner of the tennis court.