



Ms Beverly Booth  
Planning Officer  
Planning and Development  
Richmondshire District Council  
By email only:  
[Planning.Enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.Enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk)

70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ  
Telephone: (+44/0) 207 608 2409  
Email: [enquiries@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@thegardenstrust.org)  
[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

15 June 2022

Please reply to:  
[consult@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:consult@thegardenstrust.org)

Dear Ms Booth,

**22/00200/FULL Full Planning Permission to Create a New Avenue from Bolton Hall to Lords Bridge by Converting a Corridor of Intensive Dairy Grassland to Low Intensity, Species Rich Grassland, a New Avenue of Trees, a Drive Down the Centre and a Carriage Sweep in Front of Bolton Hall, Bolton Hall, Wensley, Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4UF**

The Gardens Trust (GT) is the Statutory Consultee with regard to sites included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. We appreciate that Bolton Hall park and garden in Wensleydale is not on the register but as it provides the setting for Bolton Hall (Grade II), it is historically important and this planning application has come to our attention.

The proposed drive will run due North from Lords (Bolton) Bridge as a continuation of Bay Bolton Avenue, to the South of the A684. As it approaches Bolton Hall, it will fork either side of the existing terrace and curve back around to tie in with the existing gravelled hard standing to the front of Bolton Hall. It will also connect with the existing access running East-West, which will remain.

An avenue between Bolton Hall and Lords (Bolton) Bridge is shown on 18<sup>th</sup> century maps:

1723 Map of the manors [sic] of Wensley and Preston held by North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO) ZBO(M)1/1

1733/1737 map, held at Bolton Hall

Undated map of Preston NYCRO ZBO(M)2/1

1778 Plan of manors of Wensley and Preston belonging to his Grace the Duke of Bolton, NYCRO ZBO(M)5/1.

1775 Engraving by R Godfrey shows a carriage arriving along the avenue to Bolton Hall. The avenue was felled in the 1780's following the fashion (after Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and other 18<sup>th</sup> century 'landscape improvers') to create uninterrupted parkland in front of the Hall.

The Heritage Statement notes that:

'the avenue corridor would be 150 metres wide and create a 4.5 hectare wildlife corridor between the river, the Sites of Special Scientific Interest to the south and the wildflower meadows surrounding the hall. The central 70m corridor would be managed as herb-rich meadow with a simple farm track running down the middle, from the bridge to the hall. To either side of the central vista would be 40m wide bands of trees. Two lines of native, locally sourced, small-leaved limes (*Tilia cordata*) would be backed by lines of local oaks

Research • Conserve • Campaign

The Gardens Trust is a Registered Charity No: 1053446  
and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in  
England and Wales No: 03163187

(*Quercus petraea*) planted in a traditional quincunx pattern at 10m centres. The avenues would be enclosed in the baroque style with low (1.2m) clipped native hedges of thorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Stock and rabbit fencing, concealed within the hedge line, will protect the establishing trees.'

The re-instatement of the earlier avenue will potentially be a positive addition to the designed landscape and with the species rich grassland, the corridor would have significant environmental and biodiversity benefits. It would be a 21<sup>st</sup> century addition to the designed landscape and an interpretation based on the still existing 17<sup>th</sup> century formality of the gardens north of the Hall and in the 'wilderness' area west of the Hall.

However, we have some concerns about the proposal as the documents submitted give insufficient detail:

The Planning Statement at 3.0 Construction. '3.1 The drive's construction will comprise a compacted hardcore basecourse with a tarmacadam running surface, to tie in with the existing surface to the front of Bolton Hall. '

Tarmacadam would not be an appropriate surface for the avenue across the parkland both in historic, aesthetic, and environmental terms. This has been queried with the applicant and we understand that it is proposed to use chip with pea gravel around the carriage sweep, which is in keeping with the existing surrounding of the hall and will work on the slope. The drive through the park would be locally sourced ungraded hardcore limestone, which includes very fine to coarser particles and binds well.

There are no details in the application about the actual width of the drive, edge treatment, colour chips, together with no details of the size, treatment, potential archaeological implications of the turning circle or how the cattle will access the parkland to the east of the avenue.

To summarise therefore, although we consider that the re-instatement of the earlier avenue will potentially be a positive addition, we cannot support this application in its current form and can only advise that the outstanding information is requested from the applicant to allow a more informed assessment of the proposals. We look forward to being included in this consultation and being advised of receipt of the outstanding material in due course.

Yours sincerely,

[Alison Allighan](#)  
Conservation Casework Manager

Cc Yorkshire Gardens Trust