



Beningbrough Hall Mediterranean Garden ZB23/01330/FUL

Response to:

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust

The National Trust welcomes the considered response of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) (dated 19th July 2023) to the proposal and would like to provide our response to the points raised as follows;

YGT has explained they find it hard to assess how the full implementation of the various new gardens at Beningbrough will relate to each other and to the historic landscape having in mind the conservation management plan completed in 2015. National Trust would be happy to share the garden masterplan and undertake a site visit with YGT to discuss the interrelationships and explain how we will engage with visitors and their journey through the gardens. It was not provided at this point as the proposals will come forward over a 10-year period, may change and many components relate to reinvigorating the gardens that would most likely not form development requiring planning permission. This is therefore not part of the current application which needs to be considered on its own merits. If it would be useful for the Council to see this wider context, we could submit this for information purposes.

The YGT response considers *'that there is enough evidence to represent or recreate some former features of the sequence of different gardening approaches over time at Beningbrough'*.

The HIA shows that one of the main characteristics of the garden has been that of regular and significant change over the generations. The one characteristic that each successive design of the gardens at Beningbrough has in common is that it wipes the slate clean and wholly ignores its predecessor (unlike some other garden evolutions on other sites where features of earlier phases were retained or reflected in aspects of later). So, if we started doing that now this would actually be at odds with the one consistent Beningbrough characteristic.



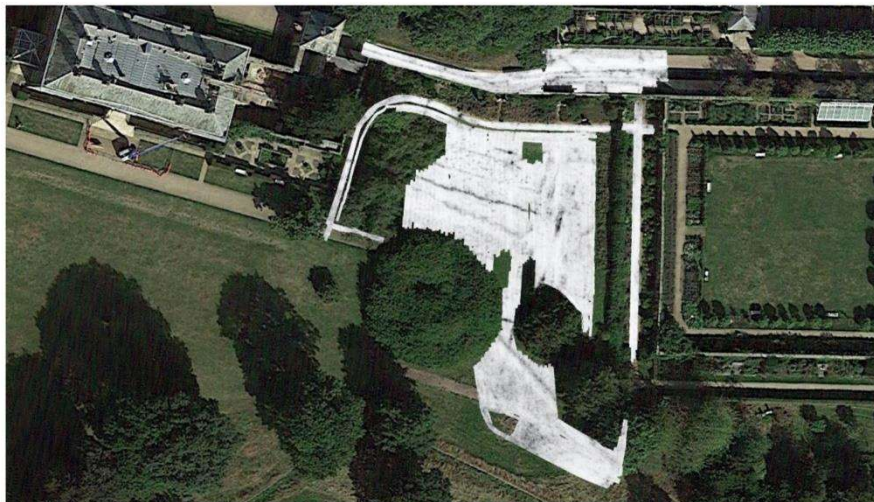
Moreover, having given the same matter very careful deliberation we did not reach quite the same conclusion that YGT have: earlier phases of gardening were only known from map sources without any material evidence for the detail represented on plan while no physical remains of earlier phases survived other than the yew and laurel clumps (overgrown from the C19 iteration) and the cherry trees and border planting from the GST guidance (all of which contribute to the proposed design).

The response considers *for the main path from the mansion to the American Garden which is shown on the OS 1st Edition 6" survey (HIA Fig 8) and the OS 1st Edition 25" pub 1893 (HIA Figs 10a, 10b)... We think that this may be an important feature of an earlier design and should not be ignored in the development of the new garden.*

The route is present by 1841, but given its very solid construction (noted recently in ground penetrating radar survey) it is not considered to be much earlier. This route actually runs under the present laurel clump and then close into the mature trees to the South, not (as suggested by YGT) to the southern side of the mound and trees. Recreating the original route therefore would result in significant removal of the existing laurel/Yew and mature trees to the south east under which the original feature ran.

The main southern path proposed in the application is not far from its predecessor, and will reinstate the concept of the original path, just not in its exact position. In terms of aesthetic/design functionality it therefore reflects its predecessor in the way that it is currently designed. We consider this is a balanced response as the retention of the laurel Yew and mature trees is entirely appropriate as a reflection of mC20 garden, it is an important element of the new garden and important to retain for habitat reasons. It is also consistent with the NPPF advice (para 131) that existing trees are to be retained wherever possible.

PLAN overlays follow to illustrate these points,

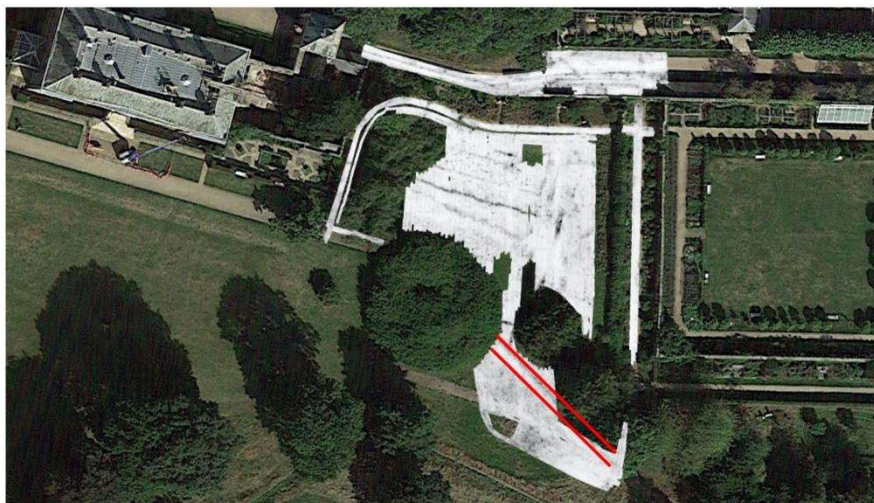


Beningbrough Hall
January 2023

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
450 MHz



GPR survey showing position of yew and laurel clumps



Beningbrough Hall
January 2023

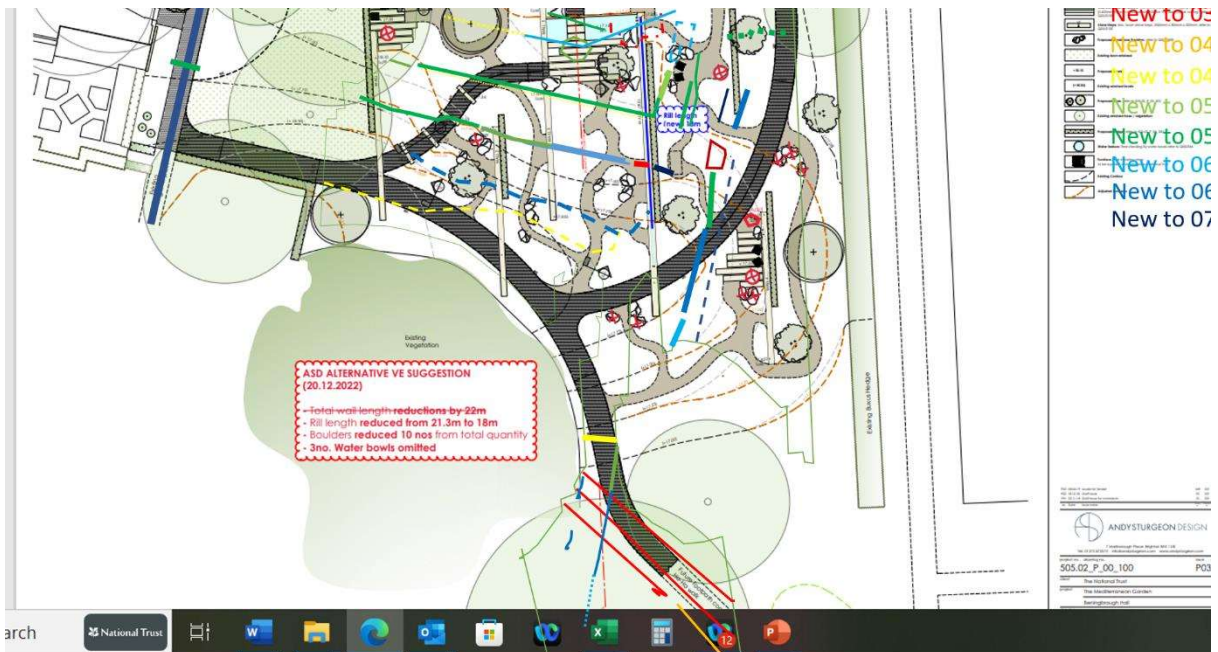
Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
450 MHz



GPR survey showing position of yew and laurel clumps, remains of the walk highlighted in red



GPR anomalies, still in red, overlaid on 1907 OS 25" depiction of the path



GPR anomalies overlaid on the proposal design, showing the proposed path route