



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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York Planning Office
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Dear Tanyeli Scarsbrook

**25/01584/FUL Construction of 28 piers to stabilise walls; Palace Gardens Bishopthorpe Road York
25/01407/LBC External works to include new stabilising piers, repairs and repointing of walls; Palace
Gardens Bishopthorpe Road York**

The Gardens Trust (GT) is a Statutory Consultee for proposed developments that could affect sites included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of GT, works in partnership with it in the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by GT to respond on GT's behalf in such consultations.

We are responding to this application because it relates to a listed garden structure (we responded to the LBC application on 7th August) and impacts upon rare, cultivated fruit trees. We endorse the two comments submitted by Anne Lee of the Northern Fruit Group.

The application seeks to stabilise the walls that provide the boundary for Bishopthorpe Palace walled garden, thereby retaining this significant garden structure and enabling it to continue in use by Brunswick Organic Nursery. We support the objectives of the application, but are concerned that it will do avoidable and irremediable damage both to the structure and to the trees it accommodates.

Walled gardens are designed to be seen and appreciated from the inside. This proposal introduces modern interventions on the inside of the garden, obscuring the historic piers, thereby devaluing the visual, constructional and historic significance of the registered structure, including the nationally significant pear wall. The introduction of the steel piers, by the applicant's admission, entails the removal of some of the fruit trees, damages the roots of others, and diminishes the possibility of using the walls in the manner for which they were designed. The historic flues, somewhat dismissed by the applicant, are integral to understanding the structure and are becoming ever rarer as observable features; they should not be damaged by the proposal.

We recommend that the applicant is asked to submit an amended application that overcomes these avoidable harms.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Webb
Chair, YGT

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