



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Georgia Styles
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Chris Webb
Chair, YGT

24 April 2024

Dear Georgia Styles

24/00543/FUL: Installation of below-ground concrete crane pads to the terrace for sculpture installation, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Park Lane, Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as 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.

You will be aware that on 26 October 2023, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/part/3/chapter/3/>) enacted strengthening the protection for registered parks and gardens amongst others and giving them the same level of planning protection as listed buildings and conservation areas. Chapter 3 (Heritage), Para 102, 58B (1) states 'In considering whether to grant planning permission or permission in principle for the development of land in England which affects a relevant asset or its setting, the local planning authority or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the asset or its setting.' It continues Para 102, 58B (2) 'For the purposes of subsection (1), preserving or enhancing a relevant asset or its setting includes preserving or enhancing any feature, quality or characteristic of the asset or setting that contributes to the significance of the asset.'

We understand the function of the crane pads to be installed, and consider that, once installed, they will have little or no impact on the Bretton landscape and the buildings in it. However, we are concerned that the works associated with their installation could destroy historic evidence of the use and cultivation of the gardens at a significant point in their development, and that cannot be evaluated through historic site mapping.

The Heritage Statement and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service both refer to an estate map of 1810 (though it is not reproduced in the Heritage Statement) which clearly shows structures in the vicinity of the terrace. A subsequent map of 1826, also not illustrated, also shows such structures. We know from archival research that Diana Beaumont built a whole collection of glasshouses, both large and small, for different plant collections, some of which did not survive very long. For this reason, they are not all recorded on maps or plans and can only be recovered by archaeological investigation.

The importance and rarity of this activity and its associated buildings, as outlined in the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service's statement, therefore leads us to support the condition proposed by Service; and to deprecate, with them, the fact of there having been prior invasive investigation to a depth of 1.6m without the safeguard of an archaeological watching brief.

We oppose this application unless a condition is imposed allowing sufficient time and cost in the project for archaeological investigation and appropriate archaeological recording, plus a watching brief on the works. We recommend that the condition adopts the wording given by Historic England in their Historic Environment Good Practice Advice, Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Webb
Chair YGT

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