



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

[www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

Mrs Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

Mr George Lee  
Operations Admin Officer  
Forestry Commission  
Operational Delivery Team  
Bucks Horn Oak Hub  
Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LS

[conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

george.lee@forestrycommission.gov.uk

15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Mr Lee

## **Consultation on Felling Licence for Allerton Park Estate FLA 012/3469/2024 SE 416 576**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. In this case Allerton Park, which is registered grade II. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

Allerton Park of c.212ha lies 6km east of Knaresborough. The registered park and garden (RPG) includes the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century terraced gardens that provide the setting for the country house, Allerton Castle, and the surrounding parkland which was enlarged in the 1720's and reworked in the 1770's. The registered park includes a number of designated heritage assets including Allerton Castle (grade I), Temple of Victory (grade II\*), Lady's Cave Folly (grade II), two stone boathouse remains, icehouse and bridge all listed grade II. The park was described by John Bigland, in 1812, as 'charmingly picturesque, presenting a great variety of hills, dales and groves, delightfully interspersed.' A series of lakes, High Fish Pond, Middle Fish Pond and Lower Fish Pond form a chain running north-west to south-east across the site, dividing Near Park from Far Park.

We understand that the application is for continued management of woodland across three compartments.

The compartments are numbers 8943a and 8943b called Hew Bank Plantations lying immediately south of the Lower Fish Pond and north east of Allerton Castle just south of part of the eastern boundary of the registered site. Diseased ash on the outskirts of the woodland will be removed, and the interior will be lightly thinned for access and improving the stand. The ash did not appear healthy enough to keep.

The third compartment, 5883b, Low Plantation, lies outside the registered site south of the A59 road. On inspection there were no signs of P ramorum on the larch trees

Compartment 5883b will be clear felled and replanted with mixed broadleaves including oak (robur and petraea), hornbeam, small leaved lime and 20-30% conifers namely Western red cedar and Scots pine. Changes to this compartment are unlikely to have any impact on the RPG.

Compartments numbers 8943a and 8943b called Hew Bank Plantations are in a visually and more sensitive area, with both located on the south bank of Lower Fish Pond. However, we understand that the smaller compartment that is nearer Allerton Mauleverer and the Castle, 8943a, is to be regeneratively felled (ash and mixed broadleaves) and restocked with 50% oak (robur and petraea), 10% hornbeam, 10% small leaved lime and 10% hazel with 20% Scots pine. The larger compartment 8943b, a little further east is to be thinned. This will be thinning of Scots pine, ash, mixed broadleaves and mixed conifers. We understand that felling will be more than 20m from the lake and extraction routes directed away from it.

Looking at the OS 25":1mile map Yorkshire CLV.7 surveyed 1892 and published 1893 these compartments of woodland did not exist. Hew Bank Plantations are on what was then an area of Worm Hole Close with just the area of the Lower Fish Pond bank and its footpath and footbridge to Jupiter's Coppice planted with conifers and deciduous trees. Similarly on the revision map of 1907, published in 1909. The Yorkshire Sheet CLV.NE Revised 1950, published 1952 is also similar. Therefore, it appears that Hew Bank Plantations were never laid out as part of the designed landscape and the area has been planted up since World War II. This also accounts for it being just outside the RPG boundary despite the Lower Fish Pond being an important landscape feature developed from a pre-18<sup>th</sup> century, square pond, possibly medieval in origin. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century the square island and rectangular pool were retained as a feature followed, after 1845 by the remodelling of the north shore to create a second island. There were two boathouses associated with Lower Fish Pond. Lower Fish Pond and its environs must have been an important and enjoyable part of the designed landscape for the owners and visitors to Allerton Park. Bigland, quoted above gives an insight into the aesthetic qualities of Allerton park, and as you will know Scots pine was a favoured tree for its picturesque qualities. This should be borne in mind for the replanting so that its picturesque nature can be enjoyed in the future.

We have not been on site to assess how the designed views will be affected by the work at Hew Bank Plantations, but we are pleased to find that felling will be more than 20m from the lake and extraction routes directed away from it. We would like to underline the significance of the historic footpath and the views across the park and the Fish Pond towards this woodland – the woodland boundary nearest the RPG needs to be carefully thought through for future visual quality as well as economic and climate sustainability. By carefully considering the species and their group planting relative to the topography, the work is an opportunity to enhance the setting of the RPG. The views from the Temple of Victory (grade II\*) and Lady's Cave Folly (grade II) should be checked and also from the drive across Near Park from the North Entrance.

We are pleased that Historic England and your internal historic adviser C. Jenkins, have been notified for advice.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposed work in these compartments at the Allerton Park Estate but trust that our advice will be helpful in determining the detail of the work.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England [e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust