



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Ms Smith

Consultation on Felling Licence 012/4585/2025 Broughton Hall Grid Ref:SD 939 506.

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 (RPG). In this case the Broughton Hall, 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.

Broughton Hall (listed grade I) sits on a platform on the south side of the valley of the Broughton Beck. The RPG includes significant formal gardens by William Andrews Nesfield (1793-1881) and pleasure grounds partially remodelled by Nesfield but with early 18th Century origins as does the park. The park was probably laid out in approximately its present form during the early 19th century, possibly at the same time as the construction of the early 19th century structures in the pleasure grounds that lie within the vicinity of the Hall and includes The Grove (cpts 12a, 13a, 14a.); a significant design feature.

This Felling Licence accompanies a Woodland Management Plan for the Broughton Hall Estate. It includes some compartments of ASNW/PAWS and some compartments that are within the RPG. We understand that the felling is mainly for thinning and selective thinning as well as the removal of diseased or vulnerable species such as Ash and Larch. Where restock is required it is to be done with individual trees or by natural regeneration as per the restocking conditions.

Apart from a YGT visit to the Hall, to the immediate gardens and the walled garden in 2006, I have not visited the Broughton Hall estate, so this response is rather generic, and we have not been involved with the Woodland Management Plan.

The Operations Map:

North of the A59 road the land rises with cpts 6a (Tom/Town Hill Wood, c.110-120m) and 7a (Deer Haw Plantation c.135m), north of the RPG boundary opposite the Hall so potentially in the northern setting of the RPG. Cpts 4a (Hall Close Wood) and 5a (Skinnerground Wood) are further north still.

On the south side of A59 16a Mill Wood is immediately outside the western RPG boundary (the old Mill may date back to 1300's) as is 24a Railway Plantation across the old trackbed that forms the southern RPG boundary.

The RPG cpts are 12a, 13a and 14a The Grove in the pleasure grounds east of the Hall; 15a Dancliff Plantation south of the drive from the Lodge on A59 to the east, with cpt 20a along the drive to its north, 17a and 18a are part of the pleasure grounds to the west of the Hall planted with trees and shrubs, 22a Denbers Plantation is in the distant view across the park from the Hall.

Examining the old OS maps:

Yorkshire Sheet 157 6":1mile surveyed 1848-1850, published 1853:

Cpt 13a The Grove has 2 seats marked alongside the southern perimeter path with views across the park. Cpt 20a indicates trees and shrubs like The Grove. Only the eastern end – the spur to the north - of the present Dancliffe Plantation cpt 15a is wooded and includes conifers. The present Denbers Plantation cpt 22a does not exist. All the way south from the Hall to the railway line is parkland with scattered deciduous trees. However, the north-eastern leg called Sandwells Plantation is planted with conifers. Cpts 17a, 18a are woodland without conifers.

Yorkshire sheets CLXVII.7 and CLXVII.11 25":1mile Surveyed 1893, published 1894:

Dancliff plantation, cpt 15a and Denbers Plantation cpt 22a are now extended to the current area. All the woodland is a mix of deciduous and conifers apart from cpt 18a which remains without conifers.

Yorkshire CLXVII.7 surveyed 1907, published 1909:

The most striking feature is a semi-patte d'oie of trees radiating south-west from the eastern entrance Lodge on the A59 and with avenues of trees on either side of the drive to Low Lodge at The Grove apart from cpt 20a which continues as woodland along part of the northern avenue.

The Register entry (1998) describes The Grove as a substantial block of woodland planted largely with yews and pines. A system of paths, most of them lined with small boulders, runs through the woodland. A note dated 1730 amongst the estate papers records a gardener being sent to Stoneyhurst 'To get yews for the grove' (quoted in Country Life 1950) which raises the possibility that the area was part of the gardens/pleasure grounds at that date and that some of the yews may date from this period. Yews were also planted by Nesfield c.1855 along the banks of the Broughton Beck. On the north-west side of The Grove, at the point at which the drive emerges into the lawns, there is rockwork on each side of the route, that on the north side being formed of naturalistic boulders and that on the south side including the remains of a small classical structure and a datestone of 1817, possibly one of the seats marked on the 1848-1850 OS map.

As you will appreciate it is important in any woodland works to take into account the historic designed landscape. This includes considering view lines and vistas (these can of course also be outside the RPG boundary) and historic species that were planted – usually to give a specific effect, but thinking about climate change, we maybe have to plant with more future- robust species that also carry through the intended design effect. In terms of any felling and restocking work (latter in cpts 15a, 17a and 22a), the woodland edges and overall effect in the views should be considered. Archaeology and buildings that have been lost are important considerations, so I advise that any remnants of the seats in cpt 13a The Grove and the boulders lining the system of paths should be conserved. Yews have been planted in historic parks and gardens for a very long time, so it is important to conserve them. Overall care should be taken.

We trust that our advice is useful and as such the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has no objection to the proposed work.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust