



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

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Dear Ms Roddis

2023/0724 Erection of 9 sculptures - 7no. 2m high sculptures and 2no. 4m high sculptures to form a sculpture trail in grounds of Cannon Hall. Cannon Hall Museum, Bark House Lane, Cawthorne, Barnsley, S75 4AT

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting Cannon Hall, a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens, as per the above application, at 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. And thank you for sending me the link the other day.

John Spencer was responsible for extensive works on the house (listed grade II*) and grounds in the 1760's, which were executed to designs by Richard Woods (1716-93) who produced a map showing his proposals in 1760.

The proposed sculpture trail is to be placed alongside the path through the woodland to the south of the series of lakes and cascades (of the Daking Brook), that lie within the deer park that gently slopes downwards south of the Hall. The lakes, bridges and cascades were constructed to Woods' designs during 1760-4, and Spencer's diary has many references to the work as it proceeded. The planting in this part of the park was designed and intended to be managed so that there are views of the water from the Hall and of the Hall from the waterside framed by trees. The engraving by Neale of 1821 (Ref below) shows a view from the lakeside with the general disposition of the planting on Woods' plan. Spencer wrote in his diary of removing and transplanting 'large trees' in order to achieve the composition.

The proposed installation, Guardians of Bird Island (GOBI) is an Arts Council funded project planned to be installed in Spring 2024. The intention is to celebrate the environment and wildlife and to promote our guardianship of nature. In an area that is not often discovered by visitors, it is intended that the new artworks will provide an incentive for visitors to go to this area and increase visitor numbers and enjoyment. The 9 sculptures are being designed by local artists Lenny and Whale and more than 500 families engaged in the preceding workshops.

We have not visited this area for several years, but we understand that the location of the work has been selected to ensure that there are no direct sight lines from the Hall, but that the work can be clearly viewed from the pathway that runs past the Boat House. The sculptural elements at the top of each pole are constructed from reclaimed and repurposed pine. The colour palette has been selected

for its limited use of chemicals and the colour choices reflect work from the DeMorgan collection held in Cannon Hall Museum. Patterns and motifs painted onto the work are also influenced by the collection. The posts are telegraph poles covered with an outer hexagonal wooden painted 'sleeve', painted in the exterior paint and have been designed so that there will be no protruding/reachable elements within the reach of a tall adult.

We are pleased to read in the Design Access and Heritage Statement that a specialist contractor will undertake the installation works and that if tree roots are uncovered during the installation process, an alternative location for the sculpture will be found in the area.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to this planning application. We have not noted any interpretation but presume that is included in the project and we also trust that the staff at Cannon Hall will frequently monitor the trail to ensure that wear and tear/damage to the installation and to the surrounding woodland and grassland is carefully managed.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust

REF:

J P Neale, *Views of the Seats on Nobleman...(1821) Cannon Hall, Yorkshire*, [reproduced in Sheeran, 1990 p52]

G Sheeran, *Landscape Gardens in West Yorkshire 1680-1880*, 1990, pp50-54.

R Woods, *Cannon Hall, the seat of John Spencer, 1760* (Spencer Stanhope Collection, additional deposit, map 101, Sheffield Archives.)