



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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11th October 2023

Dear Ms Shtyka

RE:– 012/2681/2023 Castle Howard Estate - Felling Licence Consultation. SE 727 702 (Cpt 1)

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development that could affect a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens – Castle Howard at Grade I. 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.

Castle Howard is a designed landscape of monumental scale developed from c.1678 and decisively important for the development of the English Landscape Style from the mid-18th Century. Horace Walpole commented following a visit in 1772 that Castle Howard presented 'the grandest scenes of rural magnificence' which allowed him to see 'at one view... a palace, a town, a fortified city, temples on high places, woods worthy of being each a metropolis of the Druids, the noblest lawn on earth fenced by half the horizon, and a mausoleum that would tempt one to be buried alive'.

Compartment 1 is along part of the southern bank of Mill Hills Beck that forms the north-eastern and eastern boundary of the registered park and garden. This compartment lies to the east of the Temple of the Four Winds, designed by John Vanburgh 1724-8, Listed Grade I, an impressive porticoed pavilion at the end of Temple Terrace that has views to the south and east.

The Compartment is along the edge of a woodland block for half and is a narrow, wooded strip for the other half. The proposal is to fell 35 Cricket Bat Willow. We understand that after the site visit, discussions were to replant with mixed broadleaves and woody shrubs as the applicant wishes to turn part of the compartment into low lying woodland with shrubs because the wider designed landscape can be seen from the view- point at the Temple of the Four Winds. The restocking proposal is for Alder 35%, Goat Willow 20%, Aspen 20%, Mixed Broadleaves 15% and Woody Shrubs 10% at a stocking density of 126 stems/ha.

Having looked at the early OS maps:

Yorkshire Sheet CXXIII.12 surveyed 1889, published 1891, 25inches: 1mile

There is no notated planting south of the Beck.

Yorkshire CXXIII.12 Revised 1909, published 1912, 25inches: 1mile

Again, no notated planting south of the Beck.

It seems that tree planting in this area was not part of the historic designed landscape scheme and perhaps an open view of Mill Hills Beck was desired from the Temple of the Four Winds and also from the now ruined Temple of Venus (by Nicholas Hawksmoor, collapsed in the 1940's) further north at the eastern edge of Ray Wood; the two Temples being connected by a walkway. The 20th century has seen changes in the areas of tree planting. We haven't been to the Mill Hills Beck area of the registered park or looked at the views in recent times, but it would be worth monitoring how any planting progresses relative to the views. We query whether the Castle Howard Archivist, Dr Christopher Ridgeway has been consulted and suggest that that opinion would be useful before any replanting is implemented. In which case the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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