



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Cheseldine

2024/93411/E LBC Internal and External Alterations and Landscaping Alterations Works, Public Conveniences, Dewsbury Mansion House, Crow Nest Park, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury WF13 2SG

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. 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.

Crow Nest Park is a Grade II registered park in Dewsbury laid out in in the early 1890's by the Borough Surveyor, incorporating features from the grounds of an earlier country house. The Crow Nest Mansion (early 18th century Listed Grade II) stands towards the southern end of the site, possibly on the site of the late 16th or early 17th century house. It commands important views to the south with the public conveniences in an adjacent building.

We are pleased to note from the Design, Access and Heritage Statement at 3: Site Information: 'The building being developed in this application is of local stone construction with pitched stone tiled roofs, cast rainwater goods and timber framed windows and doors, all typical of the area and matching the main adjacent Mansion House and other buildings in the vicinity. All design features that are proposed to be aesthetically maintained in the proposals in this application.'

This response from The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust is concerned with the proposed external alterations and landscaping alteration works and vis a vis the effect on the registered park and setting of the Mansion House.

We appreciate the need to improve the toilet facilities and provide an accessible toilet available for park users.

There seems to be 3 areas of hard surfacing to be changed or retained as shown on the Proposed Landscaping Details: a) 'Approx 75sqm existing external stone flooring slabs to be removed and replaced with suitable tarmacadam type floor finish...' This is the long length along the building.

b) '3sqm Existing Ramp to be retained'. We presume this is existing tarmac.

c) 'Approx 8sqm ...allow for a proposed level access footpath... Footpath to be suitable tarmacadam type floor finish...'

We are disappointed by the proposal to replace 75sqm of existing external stone flooring slabs with a tarmacadam finish, especially in view of the very commendable Design, Access and Heritage Statement at 3: Site Information – see above.

In terms of the heritage and conservation of Crow Nest Park, the existing site photos of the building to be renovated in the Design, Access and Heritage Statement show how well the stone flooring slabs 'fit' with the buildings. In our view tarmacadam will be an unsympathetic material in this context.

We understand that the surface needs to be easily negotiated by wheelchairs and children's pushchairs, but we consider that a competent paver can lay York stone paving slabs to a good standard, setting the slabs on a thin concrete substrate to prevent theft. Slabs are also a greener solution rather than petroleum-derived tarmacadam.

We strongly advise York stone paving slabs would be most appropriate for this area of Crow Nest Park despite many paths in the park now being tarmacadam. However, if the consensus is for tarmacadam, then we suggest that there is a coloured chip through it, to soften the impact slightly, especially as the soft landscaping is to be reduced.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England; the Gardens Trust