



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mrs Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

Mr Simon Rochester
Forestry Consultant
Associate Director
Savills
River House
17 Museum Street
York YO1 7DJ

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

simon.rochester@savills.com

10th October 2025

Dear Mr Rochester

Dalton Hall Registered Park and Garden Woodland Management Plan Consultation.

Thank you for consulting the Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT). The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (RPG) – in this case Dalton Hall, 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.

We understand from your consultation that the FC 10 year Woodland Management Plan (WMP) includes multiple woodland blocks either within or adjacent to the Dalton Hall RPG.

As you will know the designed landscape at Dalton Hall (also called South Dalton) encompasses one of the best preserved Rococo gardens. This was created in the 1730's and with its straight allee to the west of the Hall, flanked by winding walks has similarities to the pleasure garden at Londesborough. It is known that Thomas Knowlton, Lord Burlington's gardener at Londesborough gave advice on the Dalton Hall design in 1729. Sir Charles Hotham (d. 1738), 5th baronet was a close friend of Lord Burlington whose wife was a cousin of Sir Charles' wife, and he frequently shared his table at Londesborough when ideas on gardening must have been discussed. See **APPENDIX** below.

The grade II* registration indicates that Dalton Hall is a particularly important site of more than special interest. (This grade only applies to c. 28% of registered sites, and in Yorkshire there are only c.130 Registered sites of all grades.)

My apologies for not replying to your e-mail sooner and I am sorry that YGT is unable to respond properly to a consultation for a Woodland Management Plan. We are a volunteer-led educational charity, and unfortunately, we do not have the volunteer capacity or woodland/forestry knowledge of the Dalton Hall estate for this sort of management plan in addition to all the consultations that we receive regarding planning proposals affecting RPG's in Yorkshire.

Historic England normally responds to consultations affecting Grade I and II* Registered sites, so I have consulted Dr Kristof Fatsar, Regional Landscape Architect – North (North West, North East & Yorkshire Regions) for Historic England. He tells me that as there are Scheduled Monuments on the site that the WMP consultation is being led by his Inspector of Ancient Monuments colleague at the York. We understand that they have asked for more information and are in negotiations with yourselves. We trust that Historic England can advise on the proposals as this RPG and its setting are nationally significant.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Dr Kristof Fatsar, Historic England, e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust.

APPENDIX

The Word 'rococo' is familiar from the worlds of art and architecture and has been borrowed for gardens. The movement can be said to date from the late 1720's onwards. The essentials of rococo are intricacy, scroll-like forms and shapes (C and S), elaborate ornamentation, asymmetry and often a sense of lightness, playfulness and decoration for its own sake. In terms of architecture unlike in Italy, Spain, France and Germany, Britain had little rococo, but some particularly fine examples of rococo plasterwork can be found at Hagley (Worcestershire), Farnborough Hall (Warwickshire), Felbrigg (Norfolk), all of which had notable gardens. The finest British rococo craftsman was Thomas Chippendale. However some landowners did experiment in rococo design of gardens and their artefacts.

D Neave and D Turnbull, *Landscape Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*, Georgian Society for East Yorkshire, 1992 pp68-73. Includes: ***Plan of gardens at South Dalton, 1737, surveyed and engraved by John Rocque (from Vitruvius Britannicus, vol 4)*** [John Rocque was a French surveyor probably arriving in England in 1709 as a refugee.]

The plan shows the layout with an oblong lawn with a bow to the west, a serpentine south walk, vista and pavilion. A system of serpentine walks and clearings is shown in woodland on either side of the vista/walk to the pavilion. These walks are shown in simplified form in the deciduous and coniferous woodland ('Dalton Wood') on OS 6":1mile map Yorkshire Sheet CXCIV surveyed 1851-1852, published 1855 and further simplified on map Yorkshire CXCIV.9 surveyed 1890 and published 1891.

Blanche Henry, *No Ordinary Gardener Thomas Knowlton 1691-1781*, British Museum (Natural History), 1986 pp 74-77