



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Langford

Consultation on Duncombe Park, Helmsley, Higher Tier Application; CRM-3428493-N1L2M7

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. In this case Duncombe Park, which is registered 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. My apologies for not responding sooner.

Duncombe Park is an internationally important historic garden and park; hence its grade I registration.

Duncombe Park has been described as a 'landmark in the development of the English natural style' of designed ornamental landscapes. The pleasure grounds are of c. 1718-30 with a curving terrace, blocks of woodland with curving paths leading through them and a serpentine ha-ha (attributed to Charles Bridgeman). The park was probably created in the early 18th century and early to mid-19th century partially on the medieval deer park associated with Helmsley Castle.

The Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme for Duncombe Park, includes woodland that's SSSI and within the Registered Park and Gardens. There is a woodland management plan in place. The Higher Tier Annex is for work prescriptions to be carried out (mainly ride management/coppice/open space management and deer and squirrel management).

Ideally, in order to give advice, it would be very useful to do a current site visit. However, we can offer the following advice based on our understanding of the Registered Park and Garden listing description and visits some years ago.

Overall, the entrances and approaches to the various elements of the designed landscape, the elements themselves and the views enjoyed as people walk or ride through the areas, are fundamental to the historic designed landscape and what makes Duncombe Park so significant. So, these should always be taken into consideration for any work whether it is ride management (P2001-6), open space (P2000), thinning (P2011), coppicing (P2009), caring for veteran trees (P2010), replanting etc.

References from the Register Listing are in quotations below:

1180 Plockwoods Bank Wood

This lies east of the River Rye opposite the curving Terrace and is important for the woody vista as seen eastwards from the house front:

"The building is notable for the choice of a site close to the edge of the natural escarpment above the River Rye where advantage could be taken of views of the valley and the rising land beyond with the ruins of Helmsley Castle in the middle ground." (RPG description). Views from The Terrace below are the same, although the name seems to jump sometimes south (OS 6":1 mile county series 1853) and sometimes eastwards (OS 25": 1 mile 1910) depending on the map date. However, we don't think the proposed operations of P2002, WS1/FG11, P2000 and P2001-6 will be detrimental.

3518 Mill Bank Wood

This parcel of woodland lies on the south bank of the River Rye opposite the straight South Terrace that has the Tuscan Temple at its eastern end:

"The route from the Ionic Temple along the Terrace gives continually changing views of the Rye valley below. The Tuscan Temple [on FC Map called Doric Temple] (c 1730, attributed to Sir Thomas Robinson, listed grade I), c 400m south of the sundial, is on a circular bastion with views over the valley and the Vale of Pickering to the east and south, along the curve of the Terrace to the north, and along the South Terrace to the west. This Terrace runs along the edge of the scarp at the base of the southern block of woodland. There are views across the valley partially obscured by trees, and the Terrace follows a straight route westwards to the south end of the Broad Walk." (RPG listing). Proposals WS1/FG11, P2002 and P2015 here are unlikely to have a detrimental effect although the comment about the views being obscured by trees may apply to this wood - it is not clear from the text which wood it refers, to particularly as it was written more than twenty years ago. Opportunities to address this may be appropriate within the application and YGT can advise on the relevant views.

4586 Park Plain Wood

A drive from the Nelson Gate passes through this wood which is at the south-western boundary of the registered site. We don't think the proposals P2002, P2000 etc will affect it but we are unsure as to whether there were views from the drive. If so, ride creation/management P2001-6 may be on the line and therefore following the historic layout, but we can't be sure.

5659 Park Hill Wood

Bounded by part of the Nelson Gate drive on the east, the new ride P2001-6 may not be a problem. We note the coppice P2009 south of the Tuscan/Doric Temple which should open up the views. Also, FY1 Deer high seat.

Interesting to see in various parcels of land, the deer exclusion plots, FG11, (excluding deer from an area to check whether their grazing is detrimental to the biodiversity). Also, the deer high seats FY1 which we presume are for watching the deer from for shooting.

Duncombe Park is such a very significant historic park and garden that every care should be taken to conserve its integrity and we hope that our comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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

REFERENCES:

1. G & S Jellicoe *et al*, *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, 1986, p149
2. C Hussey, *English Gardens and Landscapes*, 1967, p140-6