



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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6th May 2023

Dear Ms Howson

22/03797/FUL Erection of an ancillary woodland management building/workshop. | Nanny Knowles Wood North of Track Beverley North Yorkshire (Eagle Hall) RECONSULTATION

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting 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. With our local knowledge we also on occasion comment and give advice on sites that are not listed on the HE Register of Parks and Gardens.

You will know that on September 22nd 2015, we responded to **15/03345/FUL** with recommendations.

We also refer you to our letter of 21st November 2022.

The designed woodland garden at Eagle Hall is not registered but is significant as a relatively unchanged example of a Victorian woodland garden. Historically lead mining has been continuous in the Greenhow area since Roman times but on a large scale since the 17th century and it is as a result of the lead mining activities – the Eagle Level from 1825 - and problems with the water that led to the lakes/fish ponds that are the focus of the woodland garden laid out later in the century. Eagle Hall woodland is important in views from all approaches to Pateley Bridge and particularly for walkers along the Nidderdale Way. It is likely that the woodland at Eagle Hall designated as ancient woodland appears to have been continuously replanted with the oldest existing trees probably not earlier than the 19th century, with the exception of some of the beech, that could have been planted in the 18th century.

The woodland garden was probably laid out in the 1880's and complements the house that was rebuilt by William Atkinson of York for the Hon H.E. Butler (later 13th Viscount Mountgarret) between 1876 and 1879, the estate having been bought for him by his great-aunt, Miss Rawson of Nidd Hall. The woodland garden incorporated the lakes, cascades, bridges, woodland walks, the drive and more open park area below the house and between the two fish ponds/lakes. The park was a large area of mown grass with groups of exotic conifers, shrubs and ornamental heathers. Further exotic

conifers and deciduous trees were added to the existing woodland as accents in the composition. Comparisons can be made with Titus Salt's Milner Field laid out by Robert Marnock in the 1870's.

Nanny Knowles Wood, the site of the current application, lies to the south-west of the new house, 'Stillwater', on the side of the valley that rises south above Eagle Level. The OS 6 inches:1mile map sheet 135 NE, published 1910 indicates this woodland as mixed coniferous and deciduous. It will undoubtedly have ecological value and is part of the setting of the historic designed landscape.

We have read the recent Supporting Information for this application and have nothing further to add. We suggest that your authority's specialist conservation, ecological and arboricultural advice as well as that of the Nidderdale AONB JAC, assists with the determination.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England, Conservation@ the Gardens Trust, Nidderdale AONB

APPENDIX NOTES from 1999 survey of Eagle Hall Woodland:

There are a wide variety of species including common beech, copper beech, common lime, sycamore, oak, ash, horse chestnut, holly, yew, alder, rowan, hazel, a few birch and two fern-leaved beech on the south side of the larger fish pond. The conifers apart from the stand of larch on Pincher Hill, are generally planted as accents amongst the deciduous trees. They include: Lawson cypress, Sawara cypress 'Squarrosa', coast redwood, giant sequoia (wellingtonia), deodar cedar, blue Atlas cedar, Norway spruce, western hemlock, southern Japanese hemlock and silver firs. To the south of the large pond is a Lawson cypress, a Sawara cypress 'Squarrosa' and two coast redwoods; next to the dam is a wellingtonia and western hemlock and four further wellingtonias pierce the woodland, which supports some deodar cedars, to the south side of the sloping drive from the house to the bridge. The north bank of the smaller fish pond is enlivened by deodar and Atlas cedars alongside the track with some spruce behind underplanted in part by laurel and scattered with yew, holly and hawthorn and with several copper beech to the east. Other parts of the wood have a considerable planting of evergreens. The other notable planting is the hollies, some of which are variegated, flanking the sloping drive from the house.