



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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[www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

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15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Mr Watson

**ZG2023/0982/DOC Discharge of conditions 03 (building recording), 06 (window openings), 09 (basement units), 14 (lift), 16 (conservation management plan) and 17 (garden schedule of works) of approval 2020/1414/LBC Listed building consent for conversion of single dwelling house to form 11 apartments including limited internal alterations. Moreby Hall, Moreby, Stillingfleet**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. In this case Moreby Hall at 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 and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

Following our letters of 19.06.2020 and 05.10.2020 we are pleased to review the documents for 16 conservation management plan (CMP) and 17 garden schedule of works of approval 2020/1414/LBC to meet the conditions of the planning permission.

## Decision Notice Ref:

16. Prior to occupation of the development hereby permitted, a Conservation Management Plan for the maintenance and repair of the 14 acres of the historic park and garden which are to be retained for use by the occupiers of the proposed apartments hereby permitted, including the mechanism to ensure its long term management, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Conservation Management Plan shall be prepared by a suitably experienced historic park and garden landscape architect. Once approved, the development shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained within the approved Conservation Management Plan. Reason: In order to safeguard the appearance, setting, character and amenity of the historic park and garden in accordance with Policy ENV16 of the Selby District Local Plan.

17. Prior to commencement of works in respect of the repair of garden features, such as walls and steps, a schedule of works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, which sets out the proposed repairs for each feature, including details of proposed materials and methods and which sets out clearly the necessary intervention to existing fabric.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural or historic interest, character, appearance and integrity of the Listed Building by ensuring the retention and significance of the original features and in order to comply with Policies ENV1 and ENV24 of the Selby District Local Plan and Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

We have read *Moreby Hall, Moreby, Stillingfleet*, Conservation Management Plan, by DRaW (UK) Ltd, dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023, (CMP) which includes the Summary of Significance, Assessment of Conservation Needs and Action Plan and Management Strategy. This is somewhat basic in terms of historic research and background but covers the necessary steps that we think will be required in the near future. The ongoing maintenance and management seem eminently practical and the priority and we trust that there are resources to cover the works. It is important in the short-term to implement the maintenance works to prevent further deterioration of the gardens and designed landscape.

We are pleased to read about the longer-term objectives which will give much more coherence to the historic design and make the setting of Moreby Hall more significant and in our view more historically important, returning it to something of the quality that it exhibited in 1906/7 when it was visited for the *Country Life* article. We appreciate that many of these longer-term objectives are more aspirational but should be reviewed at the CMP review every 5-10 years. We recommend that a management group should be set up and decisions made on a practical systematic list of longer-term objectives.

One example; the shrubbery north of the Courtyard, including the river frontage could be managed to include not only some native woodland but also Victorian appropriate flowering shrubs and trees and perennial understorey such as Martagon lilies, primulas, Daphne laureolum etc. William Robinson's *The Wild Garden*, (1870) could provide inspiration for this. Robinson (1838-1935) was a prolific writer and publisher of periodicals and a significant garden influencer during his lifetime. There are now good resources for research on the Victorian garden and planting that could be used, and the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has an extensive report and list of references for Moreby Park (Report by Louise Wickham, August 2016) on the Research and Recording section of the website.

As you know once the CMP has been agreed then a copy should be sent to **the parks and gardens UK database at Hestercombe: <https://www.parksandgardens.org>**

We hope that the CMP will breathe new life into Moreby Hall's gardens and designed landscape and that the residents will take pride in their significant heritage asset and manage it with sympathy and enjoyment as they continue the research and develop the planting.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc. Historic England; Conservation the Gardens Trust

**Some References:**

*Country Life*, 21 (16 February 1907), Moreby Hall, Yorkshire, The Seat of Mr H E Preston, pp 234-43  
*The Ladies' Magazine of Gardening* (1841), pp 361-2

Elliott, Brent, *Victorian Gardens*, Batsford, 1986 (V good overview)

Carter, Tom, *The Victorian Garden*, Bell and Hyman, 1984

More General:

Thomas, Graham Stuart, *Recreating the Period Garden*, National Trust, Collins, 1984. (includes planting summary).

Strong, Roy, *Small Period Gardens A Practical Guide to Design and Planting*, Conran Octopus, 1992 (includes historical plant lists compiled by Tony Lord.)