



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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

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19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Ms Edson

**23/02226/FUL Minor changes to existing plant at the factory, to include updating stacks, vents, dryers, clay feed shed and new silos. Ibstock Brick, Swine Lane, Nostell, Wakefield, WF4 1QH**

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 the park, garden and designed landscape at Nostell Priory, which is 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 and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

Nostell Priory, a house of Augustinian Canons, was founded during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and some of its buildings were converted into a house post the Dissolution. The site was acquired by the Winn family in 1654. The parkland retains elements of an early 18<sup>th</sup> Century scheme by the notable designer and writer Stephen Switzer (1682-1745), and there are later additions by Robert Adam (1728-1772) who also of course worked on the house. Nostell has been in the care of the National Trust since 1954 and has in excess of 300,000 visitors a year who visit to enjoy this unique site with its historic collections and wonderful intact and distinctive designed landscape all within industrialised and populous West Yorkshire. In addition, the historic landscape is important for the conservation of many valuable wildlife habitats: woodland, wetland, marginal wetland and wet woodland. The latter are both UK BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) Priority Habitats.

The brickworks are located less than 400m from Nostell Priory where the house and stables are both Listed Grade I, with 27 listed buildings and the Registered Park and Garden are at Grade II\*.

Although we appreciate that the brickworks site on Swine Lane, to the south of the southern registered boundary, has a longstanding use, we are concerned that it is proposed to replace the existing chimney stack (27m) with four new chimneys in closer proximity to Nostell Priory. The height of the stacks at 26.1m high and the four vents at 11.4m high has the potential for heritage and environmental impacts that we do not think have been fully assessed. The application is supported by technical reports including Air Quality Assessment, Landscape and Visual Appraisal and Noise, which according to the Planning Statement Conclusion at 6.0 confirm that there are no significant

impacts on the surrounding area. However, we are not certain that the impacts on Nostell Priory and the Registered Park and Garden have been thoroughly assessed.

We have the following concerns:

**Air Quality:** We have not found information as to the areas at Nostell Priory which are most susceptible to air pollution viz Wragby Lodge, Nostell Stables, the café, visitor facilities, gardens and the house. Concomitant with the house are the potential effects of pollution on the internationally and nationally important collection in the house itself.

**Landscape and Visual:** We note that the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) concludes that the intervening woodland (deciduous) between the application site and the Registered Park and Garden prevents intervisibility between the two. However, we have noticed that the existing chimney stack is visible in winter views. The proposed four new chimneys, which will be nearer to Nostell could be intrusive features and we advise that this should be assessed during the winter when the trees are not in leaf. This is particularly important as the Nostell Priory estate is now open for visitors during the winter months and their enjoyment could be affected.

**Noise:** We advise an assessment of any additional noise from the brickworks processes in relation to the Stables, Wragby Lodge, the gardens, parkland and children's playground.

**Heritage Impact Assessment:** As this planning proposal lies within the setting of a large range of heritage assets, we are surprised that a Heritage Impact Assessment/Statement has not been included with the application to comply with paragraphs 205, 206, 208 of the NPPF (revised December 2023).

Overall, the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have a series of concerns about this application and its impact on the heritage assets and in particular the Registered Park and Garden. As a result, we consider that we must object to this application as submitted but further information from the applicant may enable us to revise our position.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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