



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

## **23/01224/FU Installation of Combined Heat and Power container unit with pipe connection to main building, Oulton Hall Hotel Rothwell Lane Oulton**

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 Oulton 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 and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

The historic designed landscape at Oulton Hall (Listed Grade II) is notable for the park and pleasure grounds being laid out in part to designs by the important landscaper Humphry Repton, 1809-10. As part of the commission, Repton produced one of his signature 'Red Books'. Mid- 19<sup>th</sup> C additions were made by the later notable designer W.A Nesfield. The Hall is in use as an hotel with the parkland as a golf course.

The proposed works are to the west of the main Hall between the single storey, pitched roof Switch Room building and the driving range. There are 2 existing shipping containers used for storage located on the site. The northerly container will be removed to allow the installation of the new Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit and it will sit in line with the existing building and behind the line of the driving range brick wall. A length of the pipework from the unit will run underground where there are existing mature trees and then where the land falls away the pipe will be enclosed in timber boxing and enter the hotel extension building via a pipe bridge.

We have no objection in principle but have the following concerns:

The CHP unit is in a relatively discrete location but near the driving range. The proposed bright blue colour will have an impact and particularly noticeable alongside the existing HV/LV & generator switch room which is a more pleasing single storey building with a pitched roof. To mitigate the impact on the Registered Park and Garden (RPG) we advise that there should be a screening enclosure or a recessive colour.

The underground pipe goes through the belt of mature trees which make a positive contribution to the RPG and the Conservation Area and screens the hotel extension. We have noted the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023) and have concerns about the large and significant T7

mature Beech. T3 and T6 are early mature Lime sp and T2 early mature Ash. These will need particular care to ensure that they and their roots are not damaged during the works and to ensure their continued healthy growth. We suggest that your Authority's Landscape Team assess the AIA Observations and Recommendations for these trees and make any other recommendations that they consider necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England; the Gardens Trust.