



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Planning Officer
Sheffield City Council

Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

dcscan@sheffield.gov.uk

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

24th November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

22/03993/FUL Use of land for a horse-riding area including landscaping, parking and associated works. Land To The Rear Of Keren The Beeches And 11 Oriel Road, Brookhouse Hill, Sheffield, S10 3TF. (Porter Valley Parks)

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 the Porter Valley Parks (formerly registered as Endcliffe Park) 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.

The site for this proposal is on gently sloping existing agricultural grassland/horse paddock off Mayfield Heights, Fulwood to the north of the Porter Brook and north-east of Forge Dam. The land slopes southwards towards a mature belt of trees which form Whiteley Woods. There is an existing L-shaped stable block and associated concrete hard standing at the northern end of the field.

Endcliffe Park, Bingham Park, Whiteley Woods and Forge Dam form a sequence of linked parks and green spaces in the valley of the Porter Brook, (the Porter Valley Parks), from near the City Centre to the open countryside on the edge of the Peak National Park at Porter Clough. In the early part of the Industrial Revolution the Porter was dammed to provide power to a series of grinding mills. Subsequently when the workshops were abandoned the commitment to create and maintain a green corridor started in 1885 and continues to the present providing a very valuable series of parks that are much enjoyed by the people of Sheffield and its visitors. They are also of major importance in terms of industrial archaeology, history and ecology and lie within Green Belt, Areas of High Landscape Value, Areas of Natural History Interest and Fulwood Conservation Area.

The horse-riding arena is proposed to be sand with track surfacing of recycled Type 1 aggregate and post and rail fencing. Associated engineering works will be required to form the level arena using 'cut and fill'. The Application gives the site area as 1964.00sqm. There are proposed to be two spaces for vehicles, in this case horse boxes. It will be close to an existing horse-riding arena to the south of No 11 Oriel Road, (approved in July 2000).

We have not visited the site but note that the Planning Design and Heritage Statement at 3.9 identifies the following key characteristics of this area between Fulwood village and the wooded valley : south-facing open space sloping down to Porter Brook; Open fields bounded by stone walls and timber post-and-rail fences; Southern boundary enclosed by Whiteley Woods; Predominance of paddocks for horses; Large former Sheffield Hospital Annex (1907) converted to residential use with new garages and parking to the rear; Views across Porter Brook valley; Traditional drystone field boundary walls; rural atmosphere.

Without visiting this area of the Porter Valley, it is difficult to assess the possible impact of this proposed development on the setting of the registered historic park and garden and on the associated public footpaths but looking uphill at the arena through quite dense tree cover and as the arena would be flat and level, it would probably be quite difficult to see.

We strongly support the condition that the arena must never be allowed for anything other than private use, as stable expansion and vertical structures would be visible from the Porter Brook. Similarly, there should not be any lighting for the same reason.

Other considerations for this application are the issue of archaeology, modification of landform to allow the construction of a level arena and the loss of greenspace.

We suggest that advice is sought from your Authority's specialist Conservation Officer and that you are satisfied that any decisions comply with your Local Plan and Core Strategy's and the NPPF (July 2021) particularly paragraphs 195, 197 and 202. In which case we would not have any objections.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England
e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust