



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Dr Carroll

Consultation Request - Proposed Scheme at Hangingwater Road, Sheffield, S11 7LP, National Grid Reference SK 31600 85200 Porter Valley Parks

Thank you for your e-mail about the proposed scheme at Hangingwater Road, Sheffield. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the Gardens Trust (GT) and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of sites included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens (RPG). In this case Porter Valley Parks registered at Grade II.

This response is from YGT.

These parks are a sequence of municipal parks and green spaces created in phases between 1885 and 1938, along the valley of the Porter Brook which was involved with cutlery manufacture in the 18th century. The area became public walks and pleasure grounds for Sheffield's rapidly expanding western suburbs towards the end of the 19th century.

The proposed development lies entirely within the RPG in the area of the weir with Porter Bridge at the western side, Greystone Cliffe to the south and Whiteley Woods to the east as the Porter Brook flows down the valley to Endcliffe Park. This is a narrow linear part of Porter Valley Parks and access may be more difficult. Thank you for the detail:

The work comprises the construction of a diversion chamber within the highway to divert all flows towards Wilsons field. A new weir/ spill chamber will be constructed within the field to divert spill flows towards new pipe storage. The pipe storage will consist of three parallel 2.4m diameter pipes approximately 18.5m long. These will be installed to a max depth of approximately 6m. Works will also include associated pipework/ manholes to reconnect the storage pipes back into the highway downstream of the weir chamber. The combined sewer overflow (CSO) will also require gutting and removing of the existing storm king and will require the installation of a new weir/ mechanical screen. It is understood that a control kiosk for the CSO mechanical screen and actuated penstock will be located above ground, while the remaining works will be below ground. The above ground elements will likely measure 1.5-2m in height, 0.75m wide, and 2m in length.

I have in the past walked the length of Porter Valley RPG and I presume that Wilsons Field is part of Bingham Park that lies further east towards Endcliffe along the Porter Brook. Without a site visit and plans of the work it is difficult to be precise with any advice. However, I can make the following comments which probably tally with your thinking:

There is bound to be some disruption to the designed and historic landscape but there should be an assessment on-site at an early stage to determine what interventions to achieve the work would be the least damaging.

In your opinion and that of Sheffield City Council Conservation, does there need to be a watching archaeological brief as there may be remnants underground from the earlier cutlery manufacture in the Porter Valley?

We trust that the new structures will be finished in a muted colour to least distract the eye from the pleasure grounds.

It is important to take care with machinery and storage of materials and personnel facilities to avoid damaging the historic landscape and the future pleasure of the local community and visitors – the best methodology to avoid harm will be revealed by the on-site assessment. Any damage to the watercourse and its structure should be included.

There should be a method statement for making good and any sympathetic replanting that needs to be done post development.

The Porter Valley is a significant historic park and cultural area much enjoyed by Sheffield residents and visitors – it became an important part of the Sheffield Round Walk completed soon after the Second World War. Therefore, all the work should be conservation-led.

Thank you for your enquiry and we hope that our comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England, e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust