



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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28<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**ZC25/00786/REMMAJ Reserved matters application for Phase 1a (Tennis) seeking approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the construction of a new tennis pavilion, outdoor tennis courts, access, car parking, landscaping, and associated engineering operations and ancillary works pursuant to outline planning permission reference: 2301184/OUTMAJ Rudding Park Hotel Follifoot Harrogate North Yorkshire HG3 1JH RECONSULTATION**

Thank you for reconsulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development that could affect a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens – Rudding 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.

We wrote on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in response to **23/01184/OUTMAJ**, and again on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 for the reserved matters application when we wrote that the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no significant objections to the principle of the reserved matters application but suggested tree planting that we consider would be more in accord with historic parkland.

Our comments relate to Parcel D/Zone 1A.

We have examined historic OS 25":1mile maps eg Yorkshire CLXX1.7 Revised 1907, published 1909 where the area of Parcel D has lines of deciduous trees running north-west to south-east which are likely to denote the old field boundaries with a large, fenced clump of deciduous trees to the west.

OS 1:25,000 published 1952 reprinted 1966 shows deciduous trees less regularly in rows with some conifers alongside the Carriage Drive (maybe the existing Scots pine in T10). The clump remains on the map.

Although the former historic South Carriage Drive from Follifoot to the House has been bisected by the A658 it remains a significant historic feature, and we agree that it is important to retain its legibility as it passes along the eastern boundary of Parcel D and thence through the park to Rudding House.

The tree planting here therefore is important and the existing parkland tree species planting should be strengthened with similar species. We note that T10 is mature Scots Pine and T9 in Parcel E/Zone1B and thus the other side of the Carriage Drive, is 'a fantastic specimen' Oak, *Quercus* sp. We have not been on site to check but we would expect that it is *Quercus robur*, English Oak, so perhaps someone could identify it precisely as we have noted that the oak proposed for planting is specified as *Quercus petraea*, Sessile Oak, that is more often seen on the west side of the UK where rainfall is higher.

In our letter of 1<sup>st</sup> April last we wrote that we consider that trees would be better in clumps and, apart from possibly some ornamentals close to the new buildings, clumps of trees reflecting the historic mix would be preferable. Some of the species could be planted in groups of three or five etc – historically 'landscape improvers' disapproved of 'spottiness' in planting.

It appears that G11, G4 and G3, existing small clusters of trees, are mixed species eg G11 includes Ash, Birch, Oak and Pine with occasional Beech and Spruce. So, we suggest that the more typically parkland species are chosen to strengthen the existing group and following our advice in the previous paragraph, clump planting consisting of only one or two species reflecting the historic mix would be preferable. We are pleased to see that G2 at the north- west of Parcel D consists of 4 early-mature to mature Oak, *Quercus* sp. (Which species?). This should form a guide to the planting and could be used to inform the new planting and its arrangement.

There is one clump proposed in the south-east corner, but it does rather resemble a tree collection, rather than a good solid clump in the traditional sense of one or two predominant species. The planting mix to the north of the building along the access track is the same sort of composition and appears to be joining up existing planting to create more screening. Overall, the species mix is said to reflect that already on site for continuity, but we suspect it rather more reflects the more recent planting associated with the golf course, rather than the true historic layout. We advise that there is now an opportunity to plant species and in arrangements reflecting the historic nature of the designed landscape at Rudding Park. We agree that planting to the north of the pavilion should screen and act as a buffer between the golf course and the proposed tennis courts and should provide screening in the views from Rudding House. This latter needs to be checked. It should also 'bed' the pavilion into the landscape. We note the opportunity to reduce the mowing regime in the south east corner which should help biodiversity.

We have noted the 7m high lighting columns and trust that lighting will be incorporated into the development not to impact on the views from Rudding House.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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