



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Sir/Madam

DCCONLEG 6.038.43.LB ZC23/01443/LB Repair works on two sections of flanking wall forming part of the weir and cascade outlet from the lake within the Studley Royal Water Garden located within the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage Site (1000094) and Grade I registered park and garden (1000410). The proposed works are intended to stabilise the wall and repair the damage through installation of modern retaining walls which will be dressed using the stones saved from the extant walls. Following the repair, the walls will be reinstated to their former character and stabilised for the future. Weir And Cascade At Lake Outlet Studley Park Studley Roger North Yorkshire HG4 3DY

Thank you for consulting 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 – Studley Royal at grade I. 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.

Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey was designated as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1986 due to its world importance, combining an early water garden and designed ornamental pleasure grounds with the ruins of a monastic site.

We note the following from the detailed Heritage Impact Assessment and Design and Access Statement, April 2023 by JBA Consulting:

‘The weir and cascade outlet lies on the north-east side of the Studley Royal lake. The works comprise repair of two sections of flanking wall on the north and south side of the River Skell, which are currently in disrepair and collapsing into the river. The repairs to the north wall comprise construction of a new retaining wall, based on a new concrete foundation slab extending under the present riverbank and bed and will be clad with re-used stone to maintain its historic appearance. The repairs to the south wall comprise re-building of the collapsed wall re-using original stones. During construction of the works there would be noise and visual impacts on the setting of the water gardens, its associated listed structures and the weir and cascade outlet structure. With regards the works themselves, these impacts would be partially mitigated due to the low-lying position of the

flanking walls compared to the garden, which obscures them from view. The work will also involve establishment of a temporary works area for vehicles and materials to the north-east side of the lake beside the weir, visible from other areas of the designed landscape across Studley Lake. These impacts would be temporary and restricted to the construction phase of the works. Dismantling of the present surviving wall fabric will result in some loss of present evidential value in relation to the listed weir and cascade outlet. Any loss would be of very limited intrinsic archaeological significance. No significant effects have been identified as a result of the proposed development on the heritage assets of the Studley Royal Park or the attributes of the Studley Royal Park, including the ruins of Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site. There is considered to be modest potential for other previously unknown buried archaeological remains to be encountered during ground-breaking works in the construction phase. This potential extends to the area of the works area, though no ground-breaking activity is anticipated here. Following construction of the scheme the flanking walls will be visually improved compared to present, although it will take time before the works weather in. The repair works will also serve to protect the weir and cascade outlet from future erosion damage. The works are considered to have a minor positive impact on the weir and cascade outlet and Studley Royal Park as a whole. It is proposed that prior to construction the walls be subject to a level 1 historic building survey to record their current form. Any ground-breaking works should be subject to a watching brief undertaken by a suitably qualified and competent archaeologist. All proposed mitigation should be completed in line with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance.'

We do not have particular expertise for this type of work but are pleased that prior to construction the walls will be carefully surveyed and recorded, and the work will be subject to a watching brief. We are pleased that the mature tree is retained, new retaining walls are faced in existing stone and assume that this will be well secured to the new concrete retaining wall.

The proposal is important for the future of this part of the WHS, and the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to this planning application.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England; conservation@ the Gardens Trust