



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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22nd November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

23/06438/FU 23/06439/LI Improvements to traffic free walking, wheeling and cycling route through Temple Newsam Estate, to including, reinstate an historic carriageway, widen and extend paths, adjustments to an existing area of cobbles, Temple Newsam House Temple Newsam Road Halton. Sustrans NCN660

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register in this case Temple Newsam 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.

National Highways grant funding has been allocated to the project 'Rothwell to Temple Newsam Walking and Cycling Route', in the East Leeds Aire Valley, near M1 motorway Junction 45. The area detailed in this planning application - **Sustrans NCN660** - is a sub-section of this wider project to allow the large populations surrounding Temple Newsam, including Rothwell, to access Temple Newsam, the nearby Roundhay Park and eventually Leeds City centre via traffic-free paths. There is currently no smooth, sealed and signed route for wheelchairs and cycles between the sealed track at the top of Dog Kennel Lane (south of the House) and Elm Tree Walk/NCN66 to the north. All these areas are within the registered park and garden.

We were pleased to meet the officers from Sustrans on site to discuss proposals last April and for subsequent pre-application advice via e-mail consultations. The Heritage Assessment and the Planning Design and Access Statement – Temple Newsam Estate: Path Improvements, 31st and 11th October 2023 respectively, give a comprehensive explanation of the proposals.

In our letter of 1st August, we explained our concerns about the interaction between cyclists and pedestrians and in particular about cyclists going fast. Our concerns were that we think that grinding the existing sets could allow the cyclists to speed up whereas we wondered if rumble strips ie resin-bound gravel with sets, incorporated in the track at either end of the route that passes in front of the House (outside the immediate setting of the House front), will help to slow down cyclists and will alert them to the change in cycling surface. However, we accept that planning/smoothing the existing cobble surface in terms of the setting of the Grade I Listed building may be the best option.

We would recommend that any new works or resurfacing of tarmac within the immediate environs of Temple Newsam's Grade I House be done with a resin bound top-coat; gravel to be chosen on site with Conservation staff of Leeds CC to be sympathetic with the historic site. We have noted Historic England's comments re surface materials, but we cannot find any information appended as mentioned in their letter, so we don't know their preferred option. However, we of course support ensuring that the impact on the setting of the Grade I listed building, and the character and appearance of the registered park and garden, is minimised and in-keeping with the heritage significance of the site.

Surfacing with black tarmac is not what was discussed in the pre consultation meetings with us. The plans do refer to tarmac, and we would like to make the point that impermeable black tarmac is not sustainably, historically or aesthetically acceptable in front of this Grade I listed house. A permeable, long lasting "gravel coloured" surface will last longer and therefore need less maintenance than just a tarmac one. In our discussions we recommended a topcoat of *resin bonded* gravel should be applied where the existing tarmac areas are located. A top layer of *resin bound* gravel should be applied to create a **permeable** surface for the new areas of cycle highway. These coatings are temperature and humidity sensitive but crucial to the aesthetics of the setting for this internationally important property. Suppliers advise a temperature between 12-18 degrees Celsius on a dry, mild cloudy day.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust support ensuring that the impact on the setting of the Grade I listed building, and the character and appearance of the registered park and garden, is minimised and in-keeping with the heritage significance of the site. Other than the surface treatment about which we are not clear and if the Conservation staff at Leeds CC are content that the impact is minimised and in-keeping with the heritage significance, then we have no objection.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Yorkshire and the North East, Historic England; The Gardens Trust;