



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

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28th June 2023

Dear Ms Willows,

2023/0534 Installation of Visitor Information Shed with ramp for a temporary period of 5 years, Wentworth Castle Gardens, Park Drive, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3EN

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 – Wentworth Castle 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.

Wentworth Castle is a Grade I house set in its own Grade I garden and surrounded by its Grade I Stainborough Parkland, the only property of such significance in South Yorkshire. It has 26 listed structures in its vicinity, of which many important ones, such as Stainborough Castle Grade II*, "Gun Room" Grade II*, Duke of Argyll's Monument Grade II*, Queen Anne's Obelisk Grade II* and the Rotunda Grade II* are missing from the applicant's Design and Access Heritage statement concerning this application.

The latter three are particularly relevant to this application as the proposed shed at 3.5m long by 2.5metres high will occupy a site adjacent to and therefore within the setting of the Grade I Stainborough parkland and thereby highly visible to all NT parkland visitors and users of the permissive right of way nearby.

This area has never been used for any building within the last 300 years (ref: Kip and Knyff 1714, Badeslade c.1732), VWM map/63R c.1734, VWM map/8 OS map 1855 6"/mile 1st edit., OS Map 1897 1st edit 25" mile) so it's possible intrusion would set an unwelcome precedent.

When Thomas Wentworth, Lord Raby bought this property in 1708 the public road from Stainborough to Hood Green ran through the tarmac parking area here and yet absolutely no buildings are shown outside the walled garden and gardeners house since that date.

The 'sheds' of shed lane have always been hidden from sight from the House and Long Barn. They were behind and parallel to the Kitchen Gardens' Eastern wall. As a result, we would advise that the proposed shed should be relocated along this part of the route or adjacent to the current "free

standing visitor welcome and orientation sign to include property map” ref. 2021/1664 awarded planning permission in Dec. of that year by yourselves.

We would also request that it's five- year permission on a more discrete site than that proposed is rigidly enforced so that a better, more permanent solution with a more historically appropriate design can become a priority, hopefully within a rejuvenated Kitchen Garden Area as hinted at in the Design and Access and Heritage Statement, at 1.2:

During 2023, we have commissioned a spatial plan on site, which will in turn inform future redevelopment of the walled garden. Within 5 years we would therefore expect to have a more permanent solution to the Visitor Information Shed.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Historic England; conservation @ the Gardens Trust