



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Shallcross

Consultation FLA 012/1031/2026 Londesborough Hall

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens (RPG). In this case Londesborough Park, which is registered 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.

Londesborough Park is a significant early garden and designed landscape laid out in the late 17th C wholly or partly by Robert Hooke (1635-1703) for the first Lord Burlington in the formal style of the period. (Shown in Birds Eye View c. 1700 by Leonard Knyff, engraved by Johannes Kip). Alterations and additions were made by the third Lord Burlington, (inherited 1704), from the 1720's until the mid-18th C. The estate plan drawn up by Thomas Pattison in 1739 shows the park and garden seemingly in a state of transformation from the formal to a more natural style. Elements of the earlier formal grounds remain but meandering walks and irregular areas of water cascading to a large 'natural' lake have been introduced, and in more distant parts of the park clumps of trees are shown. To the east of the hall (demolished 1818/19) the gardens remained unaltered but to the west they have been transformed. It is this area that forms Cpt 3 of this consultation. See the appended photographs of the 1739 plan.

This consultation is for three compartments within the RPG:

Cpt 1 is on a steep bank overlooking the new hall. A clear fell of dangerous over-mature trees. Our concern here is the visual impact from the park as your Historic Environment Advisor, Catrin Jenkins has pointed out. We advise that the work should ensure that any veteran or trees that may date from the Burlington period are safeguarded. The early Ordnance Survey maps (NLS website) although much later could be helpful in determining historic locations.

Cpt 2 is thinning primarily to remove Ash with die-back and a light thin to bring back into management. We agree with Catrin that the thinning is unlikely to cause harm to the significance of

the RPG. But as in Cpt 1 we advise that the work should ensure that any veteran or trees that may date from the Burlington period are safeguarded.

Cpt 3 is historically particularly sensitive. This was the 'Wilderness' area planted in the 1720's by Richard, 3rd Earl of Burlington ie later than the Knyff & Kip, and when I did some work there, c. 20 years ago many of the original yew trees remained and the design could still be discerned although there were many self-sown trees and shrubs.

You will know that in the late 17th and in the 18th century in England the term 'Wilderness' was the most common name used to designate a wooded feature with (usually winding) paths running through it. The winding paths were as a 'natural' labyrinth supplying to the landscape garden an element of mystery and surprise where the 'explorer' might seek his own spiritual origins and experience the sensation of being lost ... but emerge safely at the end! The Wilderness at Londesborough had winding walks, terminating in small open spaces with features such as vases or statues. South of the earlier yew avenue the bowling green was replaced by a rectangular pond with apsidal ends from which ran a formal walk which expanded in stages to form a large open area and then contracted to a walk again, terminating in a circular clearing. This was a Rococo pleasure garden. See the appended photographs of the 1739 plan.

We advise that the trees in Cpt 3 need to be carefully assessed and great care taken as this area is a remarkable survival. We agree that ash and sycamore trees should be felled but the yews and lime trees need to be retained and protected by good woodland management measures. The original planting scheme should be enhanced rather than simply restocking – and certainly not with the proposed species mix. This is an opportunity to conserve and take such a significant historic wooded feature into the future.

We understand the issue of tree safety concerns but trust that the work will enhance the heritage significance. In terms of public access there may be an opportunity at some point to deliver interpretation?

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Dr Kristof Fatsar, Historic England; the Gardens Trust

APPENDIX

D Neave & D Turnbull, *Landscaped Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*, 1992 pp48-54, 82.

Henrey, Blanche, *No Ordinary Gardener Thomas Knowlton 1691 – 1781*, 1986, British Museum, Natural History, pp 72-79 etc.

Photos from Henrey and also with thanks to Neave and Turnbull:

1. Londesborough Park, 1739, redrawn from an estate plan by Thomas Pattison, reproduced from Neave (D), Londesborough (1977)
2. Londesborough: plan of gardens, hall and village, 1739, redrawn from an estate plan by Thomas Pattison, reproduced from Neave (D), Londesborough (1977).