



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Ms Walsh

**ZC25/00787/REMAJ Reserved matters application for Phase 1b (Grounds Shed) seeking approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the construction of new grounds shed, with access, 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 regarding this reserved matters application for Phase 1b (Grounds Shed) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in response to **23/01184/OUTMAJ**.

The Outline Landscape Masterplan Specification – Parcel E, Drawing Number PWP-932-DR-L-0002 Revision 5 notes:

'A belt of individual proposed tree planting provides a green buffer around the proposed development, screening from the north and north-east, as identified in the landscape strategy submitted as part of the outline planning application (23/01184/OUTMAJ). A diverse range of species have been proposed, including parkland and coniferous species to tie in with the wider parkland landscape of Rudding Park'.

However, looking at the Planting Schedule for Trees, of the seven species listed a number of them appear to be ornamental eg Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' is a recent American introduction (1980's) and its tight columnar habit makes it ideal as a street tree. Metasequoia glyptostroboides, the Dawn Redwood, discovered in China in the 1940's is a deciduous conifer, and we would have thought that an evergreen such as Pinus sylvestris, Scots pine, a native pine and much planted by 'landscape improvers' could have been a choice. (T10 is a mature Scots pine in Parcel D/Zone 1A.) We agree that planting a variety of species should potentially be better mitigation against climate change and

tree disease, but would the suggested mix integrate the proposed development into the heritage significance of the designed landscape at Rudding Park?

We are pleased to note that the application has been amended to safeguard the veteran oak, T9, a 'standalone parkland tree sited prominently along the Historic Carriage Track to Rudding House'. We are unsure as to whether this tree is *Quercus petraea*, sessile oak, or *Quercus robur*, English oak but have not seen either oak species in the Planting Schedule. We would have thought that the oak species historically growing at Rudding Park as T9 should be incorporated into the schedule and ideally continue the line of the historic carriage drive.

It is important that the landscaping makes the Grounds Shed and its infrastructure much less of an imposition in the historic landscape whilst integrating it into the parkland planting.

As we wrote in our previous response, we consider that the 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. We appreciate that it's easier to plant smaller ornamental trees whereas with planting parkland species in some density to mitigate the development, they will need to be carefully thinned over the coming decades. The owners of Rudding Park have a good reputation for the quality of their developments so we assume that a sound conservation management schedule/plan will be in place to care for the designed landscape and the planting for the proposed development into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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