



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

[www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk)

Mr Gabriel Holmes  
White Rose Forest Project Officer  
White Rose Forest  
Kirklees Council,

Mrs Val Hepworth  
Trustee  
Conservation and Planning

Gabriel.holmes@kirklees.gov.uk

[conservation@yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk)

6th November 2024

Dear Mr Holmes

## **White Rose Forest Consultation on Woodland Creation at Hornby Old Vicarage, North Yorkshire ref 2024\_Nyc\_103 Located at SE219938**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (RPG) – in this case Hornby Castle, 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.

It was very good to come out on site on 27<sup>th</sup> September and meet you and owner Tom Woodings to discuss your proposals for woodland creation – specifically wood pasture and a small orchard - on the parcel of land at Hornby Old Vicarage.

For completeness, regarding our response to your enquiry in August, I will reiterate some notes that I've sent you in e-mails.

Hornby Castle Park is a well-preserved example of a Brownian landscape overlaid on a medieval hunting park and for some years there has been archaeology carried out near the western RPG boundary (and south of the Old Vicarage) which indicates an early moated site, a site with a very long history and several heritage assets in the vicinity/setting of the proposed woodland creation site.

The proposed woodland creation site is a sloping, south facing parcel, which seems well-drained and has a Public Right of Way from the lane to the south passing north hence the separation of the main western section from the small triangular section along the eastern boundary. The parcel of land lies northwest of the Grade II Registered Park and Garden, Hornby Castle and beyond the registered boundary. Some ridge and furrow seemed to be evident in the north- western area of the parcel.

The historic site of the Pigeon Cote (marked on OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 6":1mile, surveyed 1851 and later OS 25":1mile surveyed 1891 but now gone) lies about a third of the way west of the western boundary, along a ridge that runs east-west. There are remnants of old hawthorn on this line at the western end and it is planned to replant the hedge – mainly hawthorn with some other species eg blackthorn, hazel, holly.

The small triangular section is planned to be a small orchard which should work well and would continue the orchard tradition that is evident in the walled garden area immediately to the east as shown on OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 6":1mile, surveyed 1851 and later OS 25":1mile surveyed 1891. I would suggest RV Roger Ltd, Malton Road, Pickering YO18 7JW for advice on fruit trees for your site and ordering. It would be good to include some old Yorkshire varieties, but they will advise.

Wood pasture would be appropriate for the parcel, with spacing to avoid damage to the ridge and furrow and the proposed species will be advised. The planting in groups of say 5/7 of one species would avoid 'spottiness' which was abhorred by landscape improvers. Heights and canopy spread, and the planting layout needs to be thought through carefully thinking about how it will look in 20+ years when viewed from various vantage points. It was useful during our meeting to look at the old planting on Hornby estate and as a result we thought that there should be some major woodland tree species such as Oak, Beech, Lime and some Sycamore to reflect this. The Sycamore would be a resilient tree on the west side of the parcel which is the prevailing wind, and these would protect the Oak which I think tends to do better in the early years of growth when they have some shelter. We should be looking at planting wood pasture that is going to give aesthetic and environmental benefits for a very long time, potentially centuries.

Thank you for your e-mail of 29<sup>th</sup> October with the details of the final proposal:

The Orchard: 8 trees at 10m spacings, maiden/half standard, each tree with nursery recommended guard/stake to suit the tree. See my reference below.

Low Density Wood Pasture: 9 Beech, 9 Downy Birch, 18 Pedunculate Oak, 6 Rowan, 6 Silver Birch, 12 Sycamore (latter not listed in the box on the plan on Excel Spreadsheet). To be planted within species clusters of around 5-10. Sycamores to be concentrated on southwestern side of plot. Trees to be planted in a 1.2m guard and stake within a cactus guard. Within each cactus guard 3-4 companion trees to be planted additional to main trees – 50 Dog Rose, 50 Guelder Rose, 125 Hawthorn. These will provide shelter in the early years, which will allow the guard to come off sooner when the main tree is establishing.

The Hedge: 43m with 5 trees/shrubs planted per metre. Species to include – Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel, Dog Rose, Guelder Rose. All in spiral guard and cane.

Thank you for including species that are more in fitting with the character of the area and to be planted in parkland guards with Sycamore to the west for shelter. Also, instruction for planting trees together in small species clusters to avoid spottiness. Noted as 5-10 on Excel Spreadsheet but I think that as the overall number of trees is small then 5 would be fine, and for the species with low numbers eg Rowan and Silver Birch then probably in two groups of 3. I suggest that the owner goes out on site and also looks from the surrounding area to visually decide where the tree groups should be planted particularly thinking of the final heights and spread and the fact that the beech, oak and Sycamore are long-lived trees whereas the birches and rowan are not. That should ensure the visual enjoyment of the site and its links with the designed landscape nearby far into the future.

The aftercare and maintenance is vital for success as you know, so pleased to read the notes about that. I would emphasise – and I know this can be difficult – that a good watering makes the difference between success and failure during prolonged dry weather - and this site is probably quite well drained situated on a south facing slope.

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust supports the wood pasture and orchard as proposed at Hornby Old Vicarage and we look forward to seeing it flourish in years to come enhancing the aesthetic environment and the biodiversity of this part of North Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Kristof Fatsar, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England  
[e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust

Reference:

Hawthorne Linden Ed, *The Northern Pomona*, Pomona Publications, York, 2007 (a treasure trove of apple varieties.)

RV Roger Ltd, Malton Road, Pickering YO18 7JW

Some northern/Yorkshire apple varieties that are described in *The Northern Pomona* and are successfully grown by the National Trust in their orchards at Nunnington Hall, near Helmsley:

Arthur Turner; Beauty of Kent; Blenheim Orange; Burr Knot;; Green Balsam; Nancy Jackson; Ribston Pippin.

There are hosts of other varieties - cookers, eaters and dual-purpose apples - that do well in the north. Nunnington orchards also grow Catillac pear and quinces.