



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mr James Skipper
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Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

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24th October 2024

Dear Mr Skipper

White Rose Forest Consultation on Woodland and Tree Planting Projects: Middleton Road North, Middleton Road South, Winrose Grove, Woodville Square, Leeds; Hunslet Cemetery, Leeds SE315303

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 Hunslet Cemetery, Leeds, 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.

Like Beckett Street Cemetery, Woodhouse Hill or Hunslet Cemetery, Leeds, opened in 1845 and was also one of the earliest publicly funded cemeteries in England. The Hunslet township was rapidly becoming densely built up with mills, factories, gasworks and brickyards, all surrounded by back-to-back housing. The RPG is the c.4ha early Victorian section on the edge of a residential area with some open land to the east. Various buildings including the Anglican and Nonconformist chapels, entrance gates etc were designed by the Leeds architects, Robert D Chantrell and Thomas Shaw.

Hunslet Cemetery is situated c.3.7km south-east of Leeds city centre on land rising gently to the west and north. There are good views to the north-east, east and south-east from the eastern end of the RPG, although some obscurity due to mature tree growth. The layout of the cemetery is simple and symmetrical with tree-lined paths and a central path aligned on the chapels. A fine group of monuments are prominent 10m north-north-east of the north chapel forecourt. Like Beckett Street Cemetery there are 'inscription' or 'guinea' graves which allowed those who could afford the guinea to be buried in a shared marked grave.

There are four consultation sites:

Site Name: Middleton Road North; NGR: SE3149729811; Description: Community Orchard
Species: Small/medium fruit trees e.g., malus, pyrus, prunus, etc.
Immediately south of the cemetery.

Site Name: Middleton Road South; NGR: SE3139129351; Description: Community Orchard
Species: Small/medium fruit trees e.g., malus, pyrus, prunus, etc.
South of the cemetery.

Site Name: Winrose Grove; NGR: SE3146030058; Description: Community Orchard
Species: Small/medium fruit trees e.g., malus, pyrus, prunus, etc.
South of the cemetery.

Site Name: Woodville Square; NGR: SE3106130543; Description: Community Orchard
Species: Small/medium fruit trees e.g., malus, pyrus, prunus, etc.
North-west of the cemetery.

We have not visited the sites, but they all seem to be small parcels of land within the 1km Buffer Zone of Hunslet Cemetery. Community orchards are a good use of spare land when in a topographically suitable place and with local commitment to maintenance and care to prevent damage. Fruit trees will enhance the environment and biodiversity of the area, and we hope that the trees will be looked after carefully. You will probably be thinking of planting northern/Yorkshire varieties eg Cockpit, Ribston Pippin apples? *The Northern Pomona* is a treasure trove of apple varieties (see below) and RV Roger Ltd, Malton Road, Pickering YO18 7JW, a well-known fruit tree nursery gives advice on fruit trees suitable for particular sites.

We have no objection.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Kristof Fatsar, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England
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Reference:
Hawthorne Linden Ed, *The Northern Pomona*, Pomona Publications, York, 2007