



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Planning Officer
Leeds City Council
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Chris Webb
Chair
Yorkshire Gardens Trust

29 July 2024

Dear Planning Officer

24/03770/LI Listed building application for works including: Bollard lighting to the car park area surrounding the Hovels building, External uplighters to paving adjacent the building, External downlighters attached to the building, Altered opening to the bar area, New opening from the bar into a store room, Single door rather than two doors into the kitchen from the event space, No door installed from the event space into the WC/ bar lobby, Revised WC/ Store layout, External stone fire pit and Flue to the plant building. The Hovels Harewood Estate Otley Road Harewood Leeds LS17 9LR

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee for any proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens, in this case Harewood House Registered 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.

This application follows from a withdrawn application reference 23/03954/LI to which we responded in August 2023. A copy of our response to that application is attached for ease of reference.

The site currently known as The Hovels lies within the Grade I Registered Park and Garden surrounding Harewood House and thus lies within a historic designed landscape considered to be of international importance. As you will be aware we have responded to a series of applications associated with the repurposing of The Hovels and this area of the landscape since 2018, expressing some concerns about the impact on this Grade I landscape.

We continue to have concerns about the flue for the plant building. The present application requests that the stainless-steel flue as installed should be approved on the grounds that 'The matter is subjective, and in our view the stainless-steel flue as installed has less visual impact on the landscape than a black flue would'. The application provides a photoshop of the plant building with a black flue, and an image of the plant building with the existing flue. The images are presented from close range in front of the plant building, and so provide no guide to the impact of the present design in the context of the Grade I registered park and garden, which is the major concern here. Although the Heritage Statement (Prospect Archaeology 2018) refers to mitigation measures in its Executive Summary p4 and 'impacts of the proposed scheme on the Registered Park', the text of the design and access statement makes no reference to the Grade I registered park and garden, and so the subjective opinion it expresses in relation to the flue provides little evidence that the design has considered this

internationally important landscape. The glinting nature of stainless-steel is one of its inherent characteristics that render it visible over wide areas. We reiterate that the stainless-steel flue is harmful to this landscape and can be mitigated by the substitution of a black flue. We object to this element of the application.

We have no comments in relation to the lighting and fire pit elements of this listed building application.

Yours sincerely

Chris Webb
Chair, Yorkshire Gardens Trust

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