



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Mr Burrows and Mr O'Dwyer

**Felling Licence Application/Thinning Proposals for Beauchief Park, Abbeydale Golf Club, Setting for Beauchief Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden. SK332 810 Ref: 012/2475/2022**

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. In this case Beauchief Hall, 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.

Beauchief Abbey was founded in c.1175 and surrendered as part of the dissolution of the monasteries being granted in April 1537 to Sir Nicholas Strelley. The estate descended through marriage to Edward Pegge who built a new mansion in 1671 on a site to the south-west of the abbey described as 'a gentle descent on the brow of the hanging wood, the *bellum caput* or Beau Chief.' (Ref 1 below). Beauchief Hall is significant for its formal gardens and pleasure grounds mainly to the south of the Hall. The Abbeydale Golf Course occupies Beauchief Park which is immediately beyond the south/south-west registered boundary and is bisected by the historic approach Beauchief Drive. The south of the historic Hall grounds (now Abbeydale Golf Course where the land is undulating but generally rises gently to the south) is enclosed at its southernmost by a deep belt of trees which include and extend parts of Old Park Wood, some of which have been developed for housing in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Beauchief Hall (Listed Grade II\*) is positioned to command long views out over the former estate and distant countryside but there is a woodland belt running inside the southern boundary of the registered park and garden that separates the land in front of the hall from the golf course.

Thank you for answering my queries about this consultation. That has been most helpful as I found the maps confusing with their very geometric/angular compartments overlaying what appears to be the more 'natural' woodland and the grassland of the course. I was also able to visit Sheffield and

walk the public footpaths from Beauchief Abbey Lane towards Nether Wood (along the footpath that skirts the southern registered boundary) and then along Beauchief Drive yesterday. I was unable to view all the compartments, but the visit was helpful for my understanding.

I understand from your helpful advice that the proposal is for thinning of a number of compartments on the golf course and which I could see from my visit is needed. I understand that often thinning is over 100% of that particular compartment's area and thinning is defined as tree removal not exceeding 30% of the standing volume of timber. (Interpreted as being 30% of the standing trees.) In terms of this particular felling licence application, a very light thinning is proposed, probably less than 15% of the standing trees.

Looking at early OS 25 inches:1 mile maps from 1892-1914 it is apparent that the majority of the golf course compartments are woodland laid out for the golf course on what had essentially been open parkland with only compartments 13, 14 and 15 on older woodland, in this case Old Park Wood. The western side of Beauchief Drive has an avenue of trees marked on an early map and I noted some mature *Quercus petraea* (Sessile Oak) in that area and other parts of the landscape with young oak growing in hedgerows. There was some mature *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore). Generally, the woodland layout, species and lack of understorey appears fairly typical for a modern golf course. Compartments 1,2,5, 9 are nearest the reg boundary with compartments 3,4 west of Beauchief Drive and 13, 14, 15 and 16 at the most southern end adjacent to the 20<sup>th</sup> C housing with 6 and 17 near the western housing.

The proposed work should have little further impact on the setting of the registered park and garden. It would be aesthetically pleasing to continue to have undulating and naturalistic compartment edges.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to this thinning proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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