



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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5th December 2023

Dear Ms Williams

Consultation on Felling Licence for Bramham Park 012/3532/2023 NGR: SE 407 426

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 Bramham Park, which is 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.

Bramham Park is an internationally important historic garden and park; hence its grade I registration.

The pleasure grounds and park adorned with temples and statuary were laid out in c.1700-1713 with additions by John Wood the Elder c. 1725-8 for Robert Benson, 1st Lord Bingley.

This consultation is for Compartment 100 situated at the very north-west of the Registered site, at Hope Hall Corner, north of Lendrick Hills.

We understand that as there is a significant amount of ash with symptoms of Chalara ash dieback and after a discussion with the applicant the felling has been adjusted from 'clear fell' to regeneration fell, as 50% of the trees will be retained. The felled trees will be the diseased ash with sycamore, beech and oak being retained. Some understorey trees will be felled where necessary to create space to optimise conditions for the new planting. The proposal is for 40% conifer/60% mixed broadleaves, so as the felling is for 50% of the total number of stems, then with the retained broadleaves taken into account, there will be 20% conifer/80% broadleaf overall.

I am very grateful to the owner, Nick Lane Fox, a YGT Vice-president and Darryl Stubbs, Bramham's Forest Manager at Tilhill for further advice and information.

The Bramham estate has been systematically removing diseased ash (having identified and retained any remaining healthy trees) and replanting the areas with a selection of other native broadleaved trees. In some cases, such as this compartment, they have included some softwoods to act as nurses until the broadleaves are established. The compartments to the south of this one have already been selectively felled, and are due to be replanted this winter.

The proposed conifer species are Douglas Fir, Macedonian Pine, Coast Redwood and Grand Fir. The species have been chosen using the ESC tool from Forest Research set at the year 2050 & 2080 along with the data from soil pits. The woodland was originally arable ridge and furrow and wasn't shown as woodland until the 1840's. The OS 25 inches: 1 mile map, Yorkshire CLXXXIX, surveyed 1891, published 1893 shows that it was a mixture of conifer and broadleaf. The main thinking about the proposal is that hopefully this will provide a more diverse woodland that will be more resilient to the current threats from pests, disease and climate change while maintaining the original desired landscape effect and offering a varied range of timber products and habitat for the future. The native broadleaf species will be sourced, where possible, from seed of a more southern provenance such as zone UK405 or continental seed stands. All trees will be UK grown and procured from "Plant Healthy" registered growers.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust agree that the proposed felling and replanting will not be harmful to the registered landscape, and we hope will establish well. It is interesting to know the conifer species. We have no objection and thank Nick Lane Fox and Darryl Stubbs for the additional information.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust