



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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

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13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Mr MacPhail

## Consultation on Felling Licence for Bramham Park 012/2904/2022

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 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Bingley.

This consultation is for mature broadleaf woodland in compartments 44 (PAWS ie Planted Ancient Woodland), and 31e both outside the registered park; although 31e is against part of the eastern boundary. Compartments 32b and 49b are within the registered boundary. 32b lies immediately within part of the eastern boundary towards the north and 49b immediately within the eastern boundary further south towards Black Fen (a significant feature of the historic pleasure grounds designed by John Wood the Elder).

The Plan of Bramham Park, John Wood the Elder c.1728 (which is being used for the current restoration/conservation work), does not include the areas of this consultation. However, the route to the house now used by visitors passes Bramham Biggin which is alongside compartment 44 'Biggin Wood' and then passes along Old Road before turning and passing alongside compartment 32b to its west and near compartment 31e to the east, before turning west and across the park to the house. So, these compartments contribute to the sense of arrival at this important designed landscape and are part of its setting, so we advise care is taken in these areas.

Thank you for the following helpful information:

'In compartments 31e, 49b and 32b regeneration felling is going to be undertaken focusing on the removal of ash suffering from dieback; alongside this there will be an element of thinning. Deadwood

will be left where it is safe to do so as per UKFS. Restocking will be carried out and protected from herbivores; a small element of mixed conifer (10%) is going to be introduced. Plant Health Grant to be applied for. It is worth noting that in 31e that there is a significant area of open space that is not currently stocked. 32b is adjacent to Bilton Beck [I think that this is Bramham Beck which is situated immediately to the north of that compartment]; measures identified in the UKFS, alongside good practice, will be undertaken to ensure there is no impact on the waterway. Compartment 44 is going to undertake a 30% thinning.'

Thank you for the further information regarding the mixed conifer that is being proposed:

49b: Scots Pine and ideally an element of Austrian Pine (instead of Corsican Pine that is under a moratorium). There was previously no conifer in this block so could plant just Scots Pine. Austrian Pine was introduced in 1835, so maybe Scots Pine would be more appropriate as the compartment is not too far from Black Fen.

32b: Scots Pine, Douglas Fir and an element of Austrian Pine. There is already conifer in this block.

We presume that careful consideration will be given to how the conifer groups are arranged within the compartment and that the planting arrangement will be sympathetic to the historic designed landscape and its aesthetic qualities and view lines – although these conifers may be later thinned out?

We understand from our Vice-president Nick Lane Fox (Bramham Park) that the park has suffered badly from ash die back. As much diseased ash as possible is to be removed and the woodland replanted with suitable replacement hardwoods (oak, *Quercus robur*, sycamore, beech and sweet chestnut mostly, with some softwood nurses to draw the hardwoods up, which will be thinned out in due course). He writes that although not part of this consultation but part of the felling licence, the estate has taken the opportunity, whilst removing all the ash in Black Fen, to re-cut two avenues, shown on the 1728 John Wood plan, which had disappeared. One of these terminates at the Round House rotunda. Additionally, the estate has included a small triangular oak bosquet, also shown on the Wood plan.

The work proposed in this consultation should have little conservation effect on the registered landscape, particularly once the replacements have grown up and we are pleased that the estate has taken the opportunity to re-instate areas of Black Fen. The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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