



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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5th July 2023

Dear Mr Daubney

Consultation on Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) for Woodland to SW of Yorkshire Sculpture Park/Bretton Hall

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 Bretton 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.

As you know Bretton Hall is a unique heritage asset combining as it does a number of listed buildings including the mansion; pleasure grounds of late 18C and early 19C, parkland of the 18C with earlier origins and links with two notable landscape designers/gardeners, Richard Woods (1716-93) and Robert Marnock (1800-99); and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park laid out on part of the pleasure grounds and parkland.

We understand from your e-mail that *Phytophthora ramorum* has been identified within the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and that you are moving forward with the Statutory Plant Health Notice, (SPHN). The extent area is round the Upper Lake: Bridge Royd Wood, Long Lawn Plantation, Bath Wood, with a spur to the north alongside the drive (Hoyland Lodge Drive) from Cascade Bridge. Having been out on site at the end of April with Mark Chesman, Head of Estates for YSP and Mark Outhwaite (FC Field Manager) you are proposing to treat an area in Bath Wood to remove *R ponticum* and intend to complete the work by 31st March 2024.

You will know that at the head of Upper Lake there is a boat house with four monolithic stone columns supporting a 20th century roof – this appears to be immediately west of the treatment area but care should be taken. The path curves eastwards to follow the south shore of the lake and c.200m south-west of Cascade Bridge there is a rustic stone grotto with two entrances and a conical roof, designed in the late 18th century by William Lindley, the architect who added the north range to Bretton Hall in the 1780's. The Register description (1998) notes that there are traces of shellwork on the wall and ceiling. A stone wall divides Bath Wood from the parkland.

We are pleased to read the advice from Fiona Quick, Lead Adviser, Land Management & Conservation, Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire Area, Marine, Coast & Southern Lowlands Team, Natural England in her e-mail dated 20th June and support her comments.

Whilst Diana Beaumont's period is too early for "Hardy Hybrid" rhododendrons, it is clear that later generations of the Beaumont family added rhododendrons around the house and amongst the follies. As Hardy Hybrid's are impossible to identify when out of flower, any surviving ones at Bretton NEED to be identified (if not already done so by consultants), prior to future works anywhere else in the historic designed landscape next May/June - in case the infection returns. So that suitable replacement varieties can be sourced and returned.

The survey work for the Bretton Hall/YSP Parkland Plan, funded by NE, I think carried out by Jane Winter and previously the Landscape Agency, should give an indication and no doubt Mark Chesman will be knowledgeable on this matter. It is important that any exotic species are flagged up and contractors made aware that they are dealing with a historic designed landscape.

On the matter of the historic structures/follies and archaeology, the site history should be consulted, and measures put in place to protect such features/archaeology, as they are significant parts of the heritage assets at Bretton Hall/YSP. We agree very much with Fiona's comments, but no doubt Mark will be able to advise.

As the extent area and treatment area are round the Upper Lake, the work there will impact on the historic designed landscape and historic views both from the north, including the core of the estate covering Bretton Hall, also from along the length of the two lakes and Cascade Bridge and views from Long Side. We trust that there will be plans in place to restore the area.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc, Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England; conservation@ the Gardens Trust, Mark Chesman, Mark Outhwaite. Fiona Quick

REF:

Lynch, Karen, '*Happily Situated, in an Elegant Style*': *The Development of the Bretton Hall Landscape, c1760-1830*, Garden History 41:1 pp75-95.

P 85 'Diana's main contribution to Bretton was the flower gardens and the conservatories and hot houses for exotics. Like many of her Regency contemporaries she had conservatories and glasshouses attached to the house and others nearby in the gardens. She also planted extensively around the mansion, showcasing new and rare species.'