



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Mr Peter Lamb
City of Doncaster Council

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Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

5th December 2023

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Dear Mr Lamb

23/02104/LBC Listed building consent for reinstating steps to the Summer House and associated works, Brodsworth Hall Brodsworth Estate Road Brodsworth Doncaster

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens – Brodsworth Hall Registered Grade II* (List No 1001250). 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.

The gardens and landscape park were created as the setting for a new Italianate style country house, Brodsworth Hall (1861-3, Listed Grade I, List No 1191614), replacing a demolished 18th century house a short distance to the north. The gardens were largely constructed between 1861 and 1868 and today are a rare example of high Victorian gardening in the 'Gardenesque' style.

The Summer House was built in a 'Classical' style with 'Roman Doric' features by mason John Ball in 1866. It was an integral part of the original design for the garden. Sitting upon a man-made mound, it offered views over the Park, Formal Garden and Pleasure grounds that were not available from any other place within the garden. Underneath the Summer House was a small brick-built storeroom. This room was used both as a tool store or an icehouse, using ice taken from a shallow depression just beyond the estate fence that could be purposely flooded by a nearby water tank.

YGT was pleased to respond to a pre-application consultation. The archaeology report for the investigation of the mound made for a good understanding of the structure and its development over the years. It included revealing the re-use of stones from the previous house and evidence for railings. We understand that the proposals are based on the archaeology report and are pleased to learn of the materials proposed including Breedon gravel for the new hoggin path to match the existing paths. (Path materials are very pleasing at Brodsworth.) It is proposed to reinstate eight Oolitic Limestone steps to the steep slope of the mound. The new metal handrail will be in a similar style to the existing handrail (1990's) next to the steps on the north of the mound, and in terms of historic precedence, although a handrail was not in place when the original curving path was constructed, the archaeology indicates that there were railings round the Summer House.

Although the proposals will bring the Summer House mound closer to its appearance in its Victorian heyday, there is a balance to be struck between the 19th century structure and the contemporary

gardens at Brodsworth which are enjoyed by a large visiting public, and so we understand the need for modifications to the number of steps and the inclusion of handrails. A positive attribute is that the new path will provide visitors with improved views over the garden and wider landscape as they ascend to the Summer House.

The current work will no doubt be recorded in the Brodsworth Hall archives along with the archaeology report and other recent investigations carried out, so that future generations can understand the evolution of this part of the gardens.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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