



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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19th March 2025

Dear Mr Lamb

24/02327/LBC Listed Building Consent for works to walls, including creation of a new gateway and reinstatement of walls to full height, Cusworth Park, Back Lane, Cusworth, Doncaster, DN5 7TU.

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 - Cusworth Park, a landscape park laid out 1761-5 by Richard Woods, 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.

Cusworth Park as laid out by Richard Woods, was designed to provide the setting for Cusworth Hall (listed grade I) and much of his work survives. It lies within the Cusworth Conservation Area. The Walled Kitchen Gardens are part brick and part stone-walled and lie 200m east of the Hall. They have been partially infilled with housing, but the three sections of the central area remain – Bowling Green, Flower Garden and Hall Garden - and as part of the Cusworth Hall and Park estate, are significant heritage assets for the residents of Doncaster MBC and this part of Yorkshire.

The Design and Access Statement notes that the south wall of the Hall Garden dates from the 17th century and relates to the original Cusworth Hall that stood at the top of the sloping walled gardens. There were several entrances into the original walled garden, but they have been lost due to house building on those former parts of the garden. The two current entrances are problematic with the maintenance gated entrance via the Bowling Green now on a private drive and this leads onto slopes unsuitable for people with limited mobility or disabled. The Orchard entrance from the east leads onto grassland, again unsuitable for disabled users and it is also disconnected from the parkland making it difficult for people to find. The proposed new entrance in the centre of the south wall is proposed to be totally accessible for people with limited mobility, visitors with pushchairs and disabled users and provide a direct link in and out of the walled garden to the main parkland.

We were pleased to have been invited by Mr David Shore and Mr Peter Lamb last summer to view the draft plans for the Hall Garden and discuss the issue of access.

We have no objection in principle to this good proposal but have found the documents submitted with this application lacking in detail.

The Application Form notes: 'A small section 1.5m wide x 2.2m high of the existing south wall of the hall garden will be demolished and a new stone arch constructed. The stone will be clean cut soft limestone with a 2025 dated keystone above. A bespoke hand forged metal gate will be the focal point of this new entrance'.

We consider that an LBC should have a more detailed drawing with measurements and eg how the wall is to be finished off to take the gate, the dimensions of the gate and opening, the entrance surface and what will be done with the historic bricks. We are slightly concerned about the stability of the wall and its ability to accommodate a new gateway. Will a structural survey with necessary repair works be needed?

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens trust have no objection in principle but suggest that further information is necessary to achieve a good conservation and public accessibility outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Kristof Fatsar, Historic England; the Gardens Trust