



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Sir/Madam

ZA23/25045/LBC Re-slating to secure integrity of roof to include introduction of breathable roofing membrane and thermal insulation at rafter level. Replacement of 'neoprene' gutter lining and cornice weathering with lead, West Lodge West Marton Skipton, BD23 3JL

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development that could affect a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. 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.

From 1918 to 1922 Edwin Lutyens time was almost totally taken up with war memorials. His meeting with the Lancashire mill owner, Amos Nelson, enabled him to return to garden designing, but in a severely classical style and the result is Gledstone Hall, (listed grade II*) usually recognised as one of Lutyens best classical houses. Gledstone Hall is on the H E Register of Parks and Gardens at grade II.

The design of Gledstone Hall gives formal access from the north and the drive enters the walled forecourt sweep by passing between the two detached flanking pavilions (listed grade II* with the Hall) standing at the north-west and north-east corners of the forecourt before passing through a fine ironwork screen and carriage gates with an ornamental overthrow carrying the Nelson arms. The gates are flanked by large urn-topped piers.

The *Country Life* article, April 13th 1935, (see reference below) p 377 writes: *The most distinctive characteristic of the Gledstone design however, is the planning of its environs. From the north a most satisfying vista is framed by the isolated pair of cottages, acting as detached pavilions, the roof slopes of which are echoed by that of the portico beyond. The general view of the buildings from the north-west reveals broader harmonies. We notice how close and compactly the various parts come together and fit into their setting; how smoothly the roofs flow into the mass.*

The subject of this planning application is the north-west pavilion (West Lodge), as noted above part of the historic design of Gledstone Hall and within the curtilage of the main building and so affecting its setting and that of the registered garden.

We understand the need for the proposal and have no objection in principle. The work to replace the modern neoprene failed membrane with a breathable membrane and replace the gutter linings with lead along with re-fitting the lightening conductor and smoke detection are positive conservation

steps. We trust that the lead flashing round the chimneys will be checked and replaced as appropriate during the work.

We have noted and support the report from Hinchliffe Heritage. All the roofs at Gledstone ie the whole assemblage as designed/built by Lutyens, were laid with Cotswold slates. We agree with the re-use of the existing Cotswold slates on the north, south and west roof slopes but have reservations about using the Grey's Cotsway reproduction stone slates on the east elevation even though it is away from the main entrance. As we noted above in the extract from the notable architectural historian the late Christopher Hussey's article in *Country Life*, the roofs were designed as a harmonious whole. In addition, Gledstone is one of the most significant sites of architectural, historic and landscape interest in North Yorkshire, particularly of this early 20th century period. Although we haven't been out on site recently, we understand that there may be a need in the relatively near future for other re-roofing work on the buildings at Gledstone. This future situation should also be taken into account in the decision about the slates in order to maintain the harmony and the setting of the registered park and garden.

Bearing in mind Historic England's generic advice in its *Making Changes to Heritage Assets*, we think that the use of natural Cotswold slates to replace those that have failed is much more preferable to using the reproduction stone slates. We hope that Historic England can advise and support Hinchliffe Heritage's comments and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England; Conservation, the Gardens Trust

REFERENCE

Hussey, Christopher, *Country Life*, *Gledstone Hall – I*, p374-379, April 13th 1935, *Gledstone Hall – II*, p400-405, April 20th 1935.