



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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

Mrs Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

Ms Marina Martignoni  
Woodland Officer  
Forestry Commission

[martina.martignoni@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:martina.martignoni@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

[conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

Mr Zoltan Varju  
Administrative Officer  
Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LS

[Zoltan.varju@forestryCommission.gov.uk](mailto:Zoltan.varju@forestryCommission.gov.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> August

Dear Ms Martignoni & Mr Varju

**012/2496/2022 Harewood Estate – Felling Licence Consultation, the Harewood Estate, near Leeds (Grid Ref SE 320 437).**

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 Harewood House, 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.

YGT was consulted on the Harewood PA2 Feasibility Study and we understand that the felling plans are inspired by the Study but not following every single aspiration of the historic advisors or Historic England. Thank you, Ms Martignoni, for the further information after my queries about this and reminding the Gardens Trust/YGT about the Forestry Commission's duty of care over biodiversity and priority habitats. And also confirming that no felling operations will be detrimental to historic features. We very much hope that the future of the Harewood designed landscape is in safe hands as it is registered at Grade I, meaning, as you will know, that it is a site of exceptional interest and one of only c. 9% of registered sites.

A few days ago, we responded to the **EIA-2022-0304 Woodland Creation 12.8ha of sparsely dense woodland (woodland pasture), composed of broadleaf trees and mostly deciduous shrubs with a very small conifer (yew) component. Land West of A61 and South of Sandy Gate, at the Harewood Estate, near Leeds (Grid Ref: SE 317 443), Stakeholder Consultation.** Peter Goodchild spent a good deal of time on this.

We have both looked at the Felling Licence consultation documents that have been sent to the YGT. At present we feel unable to offer much comment on the felling proposals. This FLA is very extensive, and we are somewhat at loss to understand the detail of what is proposed. We are volunteers who are not so experienced in the ways of the Forestry Commission. In cases like this one it would be very helpful to have a resume of the salient rationale/principles. We trust that the

work at Harewood has been fully co-ordinated with the overall proposals, and we again underline the significance of Harewood's historic designed landscape.

We understand from your e-mail of 22<sup>nd</sup> August that the felling is 'independent' from the restocking i.e. Harewood are proposing to fell mature trees on one site on historic grounds. It has been decided that this does not require compensatory planting. At the same time, Harewood are proposing planting across the parkland. These two operations are not connected from a business process point of view.

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust is very pleased to be consulted by the Forestry Commission and to advise on matters relating to the conservation of the historical character of the Harewood landscape and others. We are, however, a voluntary organisation, and anything that would help us to deal quickly and efficiently with casework, is very welcome.

Thank you, Ms Martignoni, for our telephone conversation this afternoon and Peter Goodchild and I look forward to receiving more information. I will be away for a time, but we hope that we will be able to comment further in due course.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England  
[e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust