



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Ms Stella Spriggs
Planning Officer
Leeds City Council

Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

planning@leeds.gov.uk

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

10th March 2023

Dear Ms Spriggs

23/00718/FU Change of use of field adjacent to Thehovels for use as marquee field associated with existing wedding venue use Thehovels Harewood Estate Otley Road

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 – Harewood House 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.

The site currently known as Thehovels lies within the Grade I Registered Park and Garden surrounding Harewood House and thus lies within a landscape considered to be of international importance. There is no mention of Harewood's very significant designed landscape in this submission.

The applicant was granted full planning permission for additional use of the premises for marriage ceremonies on 9th August 2021. With the applications **21/04111/LI 21/04110/FU** for overspill car parking there is now provision for 66 vehicles. **23/00718/FU** is a new application for the premises to be used for Marriage ceremonies to include a linked outside area We note the application form indicates that there are no trees and hedges on the proposed development site nor on land adjacent that could influence the development or might be part of the local landscape character. On our site visit in 2018/19 for earlier planning applications there was hedging nearby, and we trust that this is still there – it appears visible on the aerial photograph.

The supporting statement regarding 'Proposal for use of existing field at Thehovels', advises that erection of the marquees/tents will be infrequent - estimated to be ten outdoor ceremonies per year, temporary in duration - in position for 3-4 days, and on a hire- by- hire basis so not a consistent design and there is no mention of size or colour. The application form describes the proposal as a 'linked outside area'. If proposed as a physical link to Thehovels, further information/detail is required on how this would be achieved such as any alterations to the boundary, creation of footpaths/walkways etc.

The Leeds Country Way enters the park through Lofthouse gates and follows the 18th Century route through the park to New Bridge at which point it rises up and follows the wooded ridge above Carr Park through Stub House Plantation. The latter part of the route gives sweeping views down across the Wharfe Valley and is very popular and always busy. The marquee will inevitably – along with the

agreed overspill car parking – have a harmful effect on the views although we trust that the public will only see a marquee on a maximum of 30-40 days per year.

We very much regret this gradual piecemeal eating away at Harewood's **Registered Park and Garden, an internationally designated site.**

We have no further comments. This does not in any way signify either our approval or disapproval of the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth

Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England; the Gardens Trust