



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Ms Martignoni

## **RE: 012/2758/2022 New Covert, Hornby Park - Felling Licence Consultation**

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 Hornby Park, which is 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.

Hornby Castle Park, a medieval hunting park was modified as a landscaped pleasure gardens and park for Lord Holderness in the 1770s. The Earl of Holderness, a politician and also a patron and friend of Revd William Mason the poet and landscape gardener, holds the distinction of having employed Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at four estates: his country seat Sion Hill on the edge of London, Shillington in Bedfordshire and his two Yorkshire estates, Hornby near Bedale and Aston, near Sheffield. John Carr was employed at Hornby in the 1760's whilst Brown was at work on the landscape, creating a grass terrace around the castle that then rolled gently down to a string of serpentine lakes that appeared as a river in the middle ground as seen from the higher ground by the mansion; part of Brown's distinctive English landscape style, such an important design style developed from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Brown planted new plantations encircling the estates giving privacy and also shelter to the rides that usually wound through them, but these were cut though occasionally to allow the passer-by to admire the landscape within. Clumps of native trees such as oak, beech and sweet chestnut broke the expanses of lawn and meadow, and there were individual specimens of exotic species such as Cedars of Lebanon and various firs. Meandering gravel paths, often edged with shrubs to hide them from the windows of the house, allowed the ladies to keep their feet dry when they walked out in damp weather.

New Covert Plantation lies immediately within the north- eastern registered boundary and consists of compartments 1 and 2.

Looking at OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 6 inches:1mile (1851): Cpt1 incorporates the little circular 'Fox Covert' with obviously later planting round it (shown on the OS 1inch: 1mile 1885-1900) and Cpt 2 incorporates 'West Close Plantation'.

The map with the sale catalogue for the Hornby estate in 1930 shows Cpts 1 and 2 as they are now and are called 'New Covert Plantation'.

Unfortunately, I don't know details about the trees here at Hornby. I presume that it is wet ground as there are willows and Taxodium (Swamp Cypress) proposed. The latter can grow to 35m, a size which may not be in scale with the other planting. Red Oaks should do fine here. They were introduced in 1724 and have been used historically in designed landscapes.

Thank you, Marina for the very helpful further information:

'Cpt 1 is currently dominated by elm (all dead or dying) with other mixed broadleaves. The intention is to fell the diseased elm and ash, and restock with 30% beech, 30% sweet chestnut, 20% Douglas fir and 20% Scots pine.

Cpt 2 is currently a predominantly: 20 yr old oak plantation with several other (more mature) broadleaves on the western side, and semi-mature beech with other broadleaves on the most eastern third of the compartment. The owner's intention is to keep looking after and enhancing the oaks on the west and the beeches on the east. The proposed felling targets the diseased ash and elms (only 0.25 ha) and restocking with a few interesting specimens (mixed conifers including the swamp cypress and possibly 1-3 redwoods) and red oaks (to keep in line with the 'oak plantation theme' as well trial new species for resilience). The proposed restocking density in this 0.25 ha area is 1100 stems / ha, but any retained tree counts towards this density, so we are talking in the range of 100-200 new trees max.'

And thank you so much for looking up the OS 1inch: 1mile 1885-1900 maps for us. We find the National Libraries of Scotland web site very useful as it contains old OS maps of the whole country in a very clearly visible format. Maybe you know that the link is <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>. Select either "explore georeferenced maps" or "mapfinder with outlines" depending on the map series you want to view. There is also an option to view an old map with the satellite imagery either side by side or by changing the transparency of the view.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposals although we wonder if the mass and scale of the redwoods may be at odds with the current situation and eventually with the mass and scale of the other trees.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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