



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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26th September 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

22/05733/LI Listed Building Application to dismantle and rebuild two sets of garden steps within the West Garden, Ledston Hall, Hall Lane Ledston

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 the park and garden at Ledston Hall is registered grade II* with the Hall listed 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.

Ledston Hall is significant as a fine example of an English Country House estate with a long history. The Park has 17C origins and the walled gardens and terraces are probably of a late 17C date with later additions/changes. The gardens, designed landscape and park registered at grade II* means that it is a nationally important site of more than special interest. The garden steps are listed grade II.

The West Gardens ('Fore Garden') may have been laid out in the 17th century. They are shown on one of John Settrington's series of paintings in 1728 and the steps are clearly visible leading down into the formal gardens within the enclosures that remain today. The 'Fore Garden' but not details of the steps are shown on an Estate Plan of 1770. The steps are clearly shown on the OS 25 inch:1mile map surveyed 189 and published in 1892.

The steps are in a very poor condition with many stones suffering subsidence and metal cramps have also caused damage to the stonework. The planning application proposes to dismantle and rebuild the steps using conservation techniques. We understand that both a pre-commencement record and watching brief are to be integral to the works. This will be very helpful to our understanding of the development of the Hall and its designed landscape.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust support this careful conservation work that will enable the residents and the visitors to Ledston Hall to enjoy the gardens in safety and secure the future of the steps.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England
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