



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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23rd January 2023

Dear Mr Hoban

012/3175/2022 Mulgrave Estate – Cat Shed Wood –Felling Licence Consultation, NZ 851 119

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 – Mulgrave Estate at 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.

The park was laid out by the first Earl of Mulgrave in the late 18C and early 19C incorporating proposals made by Humphry Repton (1752-1818). Repton was the leading English landscape gardener of his period. The site is made more significant because Repton's Red Book of proposals is still held by the family. Repton wrote in his report on first seeing Mulgrave that it had "the most magnificent, the most beautiful, the most romantic" of scenery that "abounds in the greatest variety of pleasing and interesting objects".

This consultation is for three areas of overmature Norway Spruce – Compartments 1a, 2a and 3a below Castle Rigg. These are situated east of East Row Lodge in woodland south of the drive from East Row and north of East Row Beck near where there are Stepping Stones across the Beck.

Compartment 1a of 0.12ha is Planted Ancient Woodland (PAWS) within the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) of Mulgrave Woods. Cpts 2a (0.05ha), 3a (0.06ha) are conifers planted in Deciduous Woodland. We note from the description that broadleaf restocking was suggested for all three compartments in the context of their situation within an extensive ASNW/Deciduous Woodland. However, this was rejected by the estate but provision of 15% Open Ground within the restocking proposal was agreed in the expectation of it being colonised with broadleaf regeneration.

The maps show the three compartments as very geometric, but we presume that the shapes are due to digitisation of the map and that the compartments will be more informal in outline. Unfortunately,

we have not received any answers to our queries. However, I have been able to speak with Head Forester, Tommy Milburn with whom I've had a brief discussion and I understand that these are small old stands of Norway Spruce. We wonder if they are on specific type of terrain or within specific views hence the planting of these compartments of Norway Spruce within deciduous woodland many years ago? It seems rather contrived for a picturesque landscape but maybe there is a good reason.

Having looked at the areas of the three compartments on the earlier OS maps they are as follows:

- a) **6":1mile Yorkshire Sheet 32 surveyed 1849 publ. 1853.** This area is not planted with trees so the drive from East Row village would have been through open ground.
- b) **25":1mile Yorkshire XXXI.1 surveyed 1892-3 publ. 1894.** The woodland is all deciduous. A footpath leads to a footbridge over East Row Beck between Cpts 2a and 3a.
- c) **25":1mile revised 1911 publ 1913 and revised 1927 publ. 1928** are both similar to the map surveyed 1892-3 publ. 1894 above.

This map evidence suggests deciduous trees have historically been planted in these compartments.

Without understanding the situation better, we cannot make any further comments.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust