



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Hoban

RE: 012/3172/2022 – Mulgrave Estate - Crow Wood - Felling Licence Consultation, NZ 830 111

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".

Compartment 1a is a large area of woodland immediately north of part of the south and south-west boundary of the Registered Park and Garden and runs up to the southern banks of East Row Beck. The compartment is the area west of a valley with a stream, falling below Castle Rigg and just to the west of the ruins of old Mulgrave Castle. Old Mulgrave Castle is a significant feature of the historic designed landscape. Built in the 12th and 13th centuries with 16th century alterations it is listed grade I. The ruinous remains of a keep, bailey walls and a gatehouse survive. Repton proposed rebuilding part of it as a romantic ruin, though this was not done.

The proposal is for the felling of the Ash only in an Ash dominated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland of c. 50.40ha (approx 90% Ash 10% scatter of native broadleaves.) The Ash is severely impacted by Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*) showing more than 50% crown loss. The replanting is to be 70% *Quercus robur*, 5% Sycamore and 5% Birch with 20% open space (presumably including the existing scatter of native broadleaves.)

We understand the problems that we're facing with Ash Dieback and replanting with oak seems a good solution, but we wonder if there are any plans to include conifers such as Scots pine as a possible conifer, as it is a picturesque species and would we think have been planted historically.

Having looked at the 19th century OS maps – from 1st Ed 1850's onwards, Crow Wood (marked part of Mulgrave Woods) is much as Cpt 1a today geographically although the southern boundary has been slightly modified in places.

From the OS 25inch:1mile maps we have noted:

Yorkshire XXXI.8 surveyed 1893 published 1894

Mainly deciduous but some scattered conifers in the woodland south of East Row Beck from the western boundary of Cpt 1a (and the Reg boundary in the west) to the waterfall in the east. There are more conifers east of the valley ie in the eastern half of Cpt 1a.

Yorkshire XXX1.8. revised 1910 published 1913

Shows more conifers in general and marked in small groups.

So, including some small groups of Scots pine in appropriate topographical locations may be a valuable addition to the proposed replanting and my thanks to Head Forester, Tommy Milburn with whom I've had a brief discussion about this felling licence and that for Cat Shed Wood. Our response on the latter will be sent separately.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposed felling and replanting and trust our comments will be useful.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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