



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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

Matt Taylor (Director)  
Forest and Land Ltd

Mrs Val Hepworth  
Trustee  
Conservation and Planning

forestandland@googlemail.com

[conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Mr Taylor

## **Nostell Priory Draft Woodland Plan**

Thank you for consulting the Yorkshire Gardens Trust as a stakeholder of the National Trust Estate at Nostell Priory, Wakefield.

You will know that the Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the Gardens Trust (GT), the Statutory Consultee, with regard to any proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. YGT works in partnership with the GT 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, garden and designed landscape at Nostell Priory, is registered Grade II\*. The parkland is situated to the north, north-west and east of the house and retains elements of an early 18<sup>th</sup> Century scheme by Stephen Switzer and later 18<sup>th</sup> Century additions including lodges by Robert Adam. Adam designed Obelisk Lodge in 1776. It is situated on the highest point of the park overlooking the northern area of the parkland, Obelisk Park. To the west of Obelisk Park is located the caravan and camping site enclosed by woodland, Top Park Wood, and within the registered boundary. The caravan and camping site has been in existence for many years.

We understand that you are preparing a 10-year woodland management plan which will maintain and enhance the woodlands.

Unfortunately, the Yorkshire Gardens Trust does not have detailed knowledge of the woodlands at Nostell Priory. You will know that we are also a charity of volunteers and similarly unfortunately do not have the current capacity to comment/advise in detail on Woodland Plans in addition to responding to planning applications throughout Yorkshire.

Although there is much mature woodland with veteran trees, we understand that many of the trees, the subject of this Woodland Plan, have been planted post- World War II and some much more recently where a couple of small plantations have been reinstated in Obelisk Park. Thinning is the normal management of replanted areas, and we would support that procedure. We also understand about the problems of invasive species and tree disease etc.

As you will know the designed views within the Nostell Priory landscape should be maintained and enhanced if necessary and on past visits have noted the designed long views within the park,

including the massive view eastwards in front of the house cunningly utilising slight shelves in the ground to give a seemingly endless view into sky and flanked by Engine Wood (9a,b), Roebuck Wood (9c), Ash Wood(10) and Chestnut Wood(11). We recommend that great care is taken with the tree work to ensure that the woodland edges at Nostell Priory are aesthetically pleasing and relate to the historic significance of the landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. . Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England  
[e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust