



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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11<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Ms Martignoni

**Ref: 012/134/2023 Felling Licence Application Nostell Priory Obelisk Park, Nostell Park, Engine Wood, Roebuck Wood. Grid reference SE409176.**

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 – Nostell Priory at Grade II\*, (list entry number: 1001224). 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 principal building, Nostell Priory is listed grade I and the park, garden and designed landscape at Nostell Priory, is registered grade II\*. It includes several listed buildings and structures. 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, (Cpts 1a, 1b) and within the registered boundary.

All the compartments (apart from a section of 2b) are within the registered park and garden. You note that the woodland is made up mostly of broadleaves, with sessile and pedunculate oak, sweet chestnut and ash. There is some larch. Compartments 1 and 1b are covered by Tree Protection Orders and they are also PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites). You note that the site is adjacent to Nostell Brickyard Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, two medieval buildings at Nostell Priory Farm in addition to the other HE Registered and

Listed components. We understand that the objective is to thin these woodlands to improve the timber quality and encourage a more differentiated age structure.

Looking at the felling details spreadsheet it seems to suggest that 100% of the compartments are to be felled over this decade and there isn't any note about restocking – somewhat confusing for a non-Forestry Commission consultee. However, we assume from your note that in fact the spreadsheet means that the thinning is to be over 100% of the area of each compartment and it appears to include all the constituent species.

The compartments 1a, 1b, 2b, 3, 13, 14, 16, 17 are north of the principal building Nostell Priory, around Obelisk Park, which as noted above is a sensitive historic area and includes the caravan and camping site in Top Park Wood. Care will need to be taken both in terms of the views into the woodland from the park and for those using the caravan and camping facilities. Cpts 6a, 6b and 6c bound the west bank of the Lower Lake and Middle Lake again important in views. Cpts 8, 9a, 9b, 9c, 10, 11a are directly adjacent to the axial parkland, east of the priory, especially to the east of the ha-ha.

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, 9b), Roebuck Wood (9c), Ash Wood(10) and Chestnut Wood(11, 11a). 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.

We understand from a Forest and Land consultation that we responded to on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, that a 10-year woodland management plan is being/has been prepared of which this current consultation is a part. We trust that the work will maintain and enhance the woodlands.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England, [e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust