



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mrs Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

Mr David Lewis
Admin Officer
Forestry Commission
Bucks Horn Oak
Farnham
Surrey GU10 4 LS
David.lewis@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Mr Steve Burrows
Woodland Officer
Steve.burrows@forestrycommission.gov.uk

conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

31st December 2022

Dear Mr Burrows and Mr Lewis

Felling Licence Consultation for Parlington Estate, near Aberford. SE 411 364

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 Parlington Estate, which is registered grade II. List entry 1447854, first listed 21st Sept 2017. 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 Parlington Estate was a Gascoigne property bought by John Gascoigne from Thomas Lord Wentworth in 1545-6. The Estate lies to the west of the A1(M) with the registered area of c.528ha and is a good example of an 18th century designed landscape reflecting the ideas, philosophies and interests of the Gascoignes including pioneering planting methods, and from c. 1700 racehorse breeding ('Gascoigne's Foreign Horse'). It has a strong group value with a large number of listed features probably the most notable being the Triumphal Arch of 1781 (listed grade II*) built to commemorate the American War of Independence.

Compartments 8a, b part of the area named 'Old Wood' lie to the north-west of Home Farm and abut Barwick Bank, the wooded area to the west, which extends further westwards to Cock Beck. The Cock Beck and Barwick Bank form the western edge of the Parlington estate. Hillum Cliff Plantation is the name given to the woodland on Barwick Bank immediately west of Old Wood on the 19th century OS maps, and in the timber sale document of 1840, trees on Hillum Cliff Plantation are for sale alongside what are also probably trees in The Old Wood (top left-hand corner). See attachment and reference below.

We understand that the woodland is for shooting with no public access to the area of the consultation and a species mix of approx. 60% Ash, 30% Sycamore and 10% mixed broadleaves, all mainly mid rotation. The Ash is suffering from Ash Die-back. There are some older, bigger trees sparsely

scattered throughout, notably a group of Beech at a ride junction on the southern boundary, could be retained for species/age diversity. The proposal is to clear fell the compartments and replant with 20% each of Norway Spruce, Oak (not specified as to robur or petraea), Sycamore, Wild Cherry/Gean, Common Alder.

Much of the Parlington Estate is private so we have not been able to visit Old Wood. On a YGT visit a few years ago, along the publicly accessible Parlington Lane several old trees were noted particularly Beech. One of these, Nellie's Tree was voted UK Tree of the Year in 2018 by the Woodland Trust.

Looking at early maps, the 1773 'Map of the Township...' shows the woodland, not named as Old Wood but as 'Plantation'. See the attachments and reference below.

It is known from research that the Gascoigne's were notable tree planters; part of the historic significance of the Parlington Estate. The West Yorkshire Archives in Leeds hold archive for the Gascoigne's including Gascoigne's Account Books 1722-1726 (ref: WYL 115/F6/12b) that include references to trees being grown, planted and pruned. See reference below.

By the time of the Ordnance Survey maps The Old Wood is marked:

1st ed OS Yorkshire Sheet 204, surveyed 1845-1847, published 1849, indicates that it is largely deciduous (broadleaf) in Compartments 8a, b but with some conifer to its west and south.

Yorkshire Sheet CCIV.SW surveyed 1890-91, published 1894 marks Old Wood and shows deciduous and coniferous. Hillam Cliff Plantation is the name given to Barwick Bank.

Yorkshire Sheet CCIV.SW revised 1938, published 1945 indicates mainly deciduous but with some conifer in Compartments 8a,b - there is more conifer in the woodland to the south.

Some of the historic documentation for the trees at Parlington and the notes and references included as an Appendix, we hope will be of interest for the current proposal and for any future work on this estate.

Although we understand the problems caused by Ash Die-back we recommend that wherever possible, older trees such as the Beech which have been part of the considered historic planting should be protected during the felling process and retained as noted in your consultation details.

If this is implemented then the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposed felling and replanting in Compartments 8a, b Old Wood.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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

APPENDIX

Attachments: (Courtesy West Yorkshire Archives)

1840	Sale of timber	WYL115/XC/Box55(Box 4, bundle 2)
------	----------------	----------------------------------

1773	'A Map of the Townships of Abberford and Parlington ... Survey'd for Sir Tomas Gascoigne in the Year 1773' (detail) (John Flintoff surveyor??cf Map of Manor of Barwick, 1772)	WYL115/MA/add/1
------	---	-----------------

Notes:

WYL115/F6/12b (Gascoigne's Account Book). 28th February 1729. To Pontefract [Perfect] ...bt 1000 Scotch Firs [ie **Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris***] 3 years old one yr removed & 100 Yews 4 yrs old to give £7-0-0. Trees were obtained from Lord Irwin's gardener. Lord Irwin owned Temple Newsam. Perfect of Pontefract were important nurserymen in the North of England.

The Gascoigne's were a Catholic family and Scots pine have a history with Catholic families - they were *reputedly* planted to indicate to Catholic travellers that they would receive a warm and safe welcome at the house.

As we have not had a site visit, we are not aware whether there are any old Scots pines at Parlington however, they would be very appropriate for a formerly Catholic 18th century estate and could perhaps be considered in replanting schemes?

Cherry Strip: This remains as a narrow strip of woodland going directly north from Old Wood. It is marked on 1773 Map and also on early OS maps with largely deciduous tree notation. It would probably have been part of the perimeter belt and possibly significant in views or as part of a ride. The name suggests that it was planted with cherry trees presumably either Gean or Bird Cherry. This is a nice link with the proposed Gean/Wild cherry planting (*Prunus avium*) although *Prunus padus* Bird Cherry may be also considered?

Cherry Strip shown on 1st Ed Os 6 inches:1 mile but not named.

By OS 6 inches:1mile Yorkshire Sheet CCIV.SW 1890 Survey, published 1894 it is called 'The Belt continuing at right angles to the north also named The Belt. Largely deciduous but some conifer.

OS 6 inches:1mile Yorkshire Sheet CCIV.SW revision 1906, published 1909, woodland called 'Cherry Strip'.

OS 25 inches Yorkshire CCIV.14 Revised 1938, published 1940 shows 'Cherry Strip 'without trees – presumably felled, as trees present OS 25 inches Yorkshire CCIV.14 Revised 1906 published 1908.