



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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20th November 2024

Dear Mr Allen

24/06153/FU Change of Use of Former Canal Gardens Public Conveniences building from Sui Generis (Public Toilet) to Class E, incorporating renovation and single storey side extension. (Roundhay Park)

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 Roundhay Park, which is registered 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.

Roundhay Park estate was purchased by Leeds City Council in the 1870's. The pleasure grounds called Canal Gardens are situated within part of the western boundary of Roundhay Park immediately south of the kitchen garden. The basic structure of this area with the canal and summerhouse is shown on the 1847 OS map. The building proposed for change of use is known as Canal Gardens Public Convenience and is located against the eastern wall of Canal Gardens that bounds Prince's Avenue. It is single storey of dressed stone construction with the remains of ornate barge boarding to the gable ends. shown on photographs in the Bat Roost Suitability Assessment (22/06/2022). The eastern gable end is a particular feature. The building is shown on the OS map sheet CCIII.SE published 1933, marked as 'Lav' and it is also marked on the OS map published in 1909. It appears to have been a building designed to not only provide lavatories but also an attractive feature of Canal Gardens.

On 20th July 2022 we responded to the previous application for demolition and expressed our concerns that seemingly due to lack of up-keep this unlisted building was proposed for demolition. We queried whether all alternatives for this attractive building had been explored and regretted the proposal.

We are now pleased to read a detailed Heritage and Design and Access Statement on behalf of Leeds Civic Trust for the restoration and extension of the former Canal Gardens Public Conveniences to bring them into a new use as a flexible-use space.

This proposal is a very laudable renovation and extension by Leeds Civic Trust, and they are to be congratulated.

We have not visited the site but note the yew hedge, elm and rowan tree are for removal. We have no objection to this and suggest that if there is an opportunity to enhance the planting sympathetically in the area round the building, this should be explored. Overall, the proposal will benefit the Registered Roundhay Park and enhance other heritage assets and the Roundhay Conservation Area.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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