



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: Countess of Harewood

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

www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

Ms Gabby Crisp
Area Ranger
Skell Valley Project

Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

Gabby.Crisp@nationaltrust.org.uk

conservation@yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

8th December 2022

Dear Ms Crisp

RE: Consultation on HER for Tree Planting Sites in the Skell Valley.

Thank you for enquiring about these sites in the Skell Valley. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the Gardens Trust (GT) and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of sites on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens.

The Gardens Trust is the Statutory Consultee regarding any proposed development affecting a site included on the Register and the YGT is authorised by the GT to respond on the GT's behalf. We can on occasion advise on non-registered sites as per your enquiry. Thank you for sending the tree planting plans as pdf's.

We understand that there are three monument records in the planting areas:

MNY31681 – Eavestone Lake

MNY31755 – Grantley Hall, Park

MNY32675 – Designed Landscape inc. Folly named How Hill Tower, Markington with Wallerthwaite.

The planting plans are for native broadleaved trees, predominantly Oak and Birch with scrub species.

Grantley Hall (listed Grade II*) has a historic designed landscape that is not registered but nevertheless locally important, however its nationally important Japanese garden, is listed by HE on their Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade II.

None of the sites fall within a Registered Park and Garden but the How Hill area is within the Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey WHS boundary and there are two SMs close by. However, we cannot comment on these. Because of How Hill Tower's location and construction as a viewpoint, we consider that the proposed planting may have an impact and could potentially obscure the view away from the tower. This should be checked on site – How Hill is c. 575 feet, an extremely dramatic and prominent feature. (The Tower seems to be off the map as it is south of How Hill Farm and that is what is indicated on the pdf.) We think the planting will be about 30m lower than the hilltop and is situated directly north whereas the views for Studley are more to the north-east. The SM description for "Site of medieval chapel and section of Fountains Park park pale, 170m south west of How Hill Farm" List Entry Number: 1020119 says "The top of the hill is dominated by an 18th century tower, which was constructed as part of the designed landscape of

Studley Royal, 1.7km to the north west." It is clearly shown in the Balthasar Nebot, *View of the Lake and Water Gardens along the Canal with How Hill in the Background*, 1750's. John Aislabie's first garden building was How Hill Tower, erected to focus the vista along the main canal. (Mark Newman, 2015, p105, see below.) Newman also writes p 250, 'The 1810 survey recorded a farmhouse on the site, but its associated acreage had altered by 1822 and the dwelling was now recorded as 'How Hill House and Tower'. The hilltop structures had clearly lost forever their role as visited garden buildings, now serving simply as a distant eye-catcher.'

We think that now, once in the valley by the water gardens, the view is completely enclosed by the valley sides. However, the Tower is within the visual envelope of Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey and is significant as we have noted, so care should be taken and NT's future plans taken into consideration.

The Eavestone Grange site is, as far as we can judge about 1km north of Eavestone Lake. We have not visited the site but feel that the distance means the planting (which is just for two hedges) is unlikely to impact the view from or into the lakeside at all as the land falls away from the lake which we think is surrounded by trees. There are no designations at all in this area.

Gowbusk Farm does not have any designations and no designed landscape close by so we cannot comment on that.

We hope that the information in this letter is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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

REF:

Newman, Mark, *The Wonder of the North Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal*, The Boydell Press in association with the National Trust, 2015.