



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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25th March 2025

Dear Mr Shallcross

Consultation on Felling Licence for Sledmere Estate 012/713/2025 SE 930 638

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 Sledmere House, which is registered grade I. 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.

Sledmere House Registered Park and Garden (RPG) is c.300ha on land which falls gently to the south and east, rising again beyond. The pleasure grounds and park of Sledmere House were laid out by Sir Christopher Sykes 1771-1800 with advice from Thomas White (1736-1811) and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-83). Sykes was improving the 'wastes' of the East Riding with model agriculture and farms acting as eye catchers.

This consultation covers three compartments: 48 which is south of the House, part of Sylvia Grove boundary woodland, 78a due south of the House across the Park, which you say is the area behind the Temple (actually the Deer House) and will not be restocked so becoming open ground, and 135 which is the alternative restock area in an arable field adjacent to an existing broadleaf woodland. An ancient track runs through the adjacent woodland.

As I don't know Sledmere very well, I have consulted my colleague archaeologist Peter Cardwell who was brought up at Sledmere, and we have the following advice and comments:

Cpt 48: OS Yorkshire CXLIII.12 surveyed 1888, published 1890 marks a 'Monument' in Cpt 48, similarly on OS revised 1909 published 1910 and on 1st Ed OS published 1854. You note that there is no evidence of any monument, and we are uncertain as to the nature of the 'Monument' at this location. There is indeed a dogs burial ground near the woodland at the base of Sylvia Grove, but this should be unaffected as stated. The site of the monument appears to be towards the top side of Sylvia Grove, and while we are reasonably confident that the monument itself does not survive, it is possible that some foundations may do so and possibly this needs to be checked before any felling or replanting is undertaken in order that it can be avoided. An added confusion is that the OS grid reference for the listed Deer House is incorrect on the Historic England National Heritage List for England and is given as the site of this 'Monument' rather than its actual location within Cpt 78a (see below).

We note that Cpt 48 is proposed for clear fell and would be restocked with predominantly native broadleaves with a long-term vision to achieve a 20% canopy cover to restore the wood pasture parkland in accordance with available historic sources.

Cpt 78a: This compartment is around the western, southern and eastern sides of the grade II listed Deer House (which is given an incorrect grid reference and map location on the official listing on the Historic England National Heritage List for England as stated above). There is a photograph of the building on the Wikipedia entry for Sledmere House - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sledmere_House.

Peter has always understood that this was an 'eye-catcher' when viewed from the library of Sledmere House - being on the horizon to the south and complementing Sledmere Castle on the horizon to the east (so each at 45 degrees to the main south-eastern aspect of the house). As you have already noted there were no trees immediately around the deer house on the earlier historic mapping, so the proposed felling effectively restores the original landscape (the current trees are also conifers that were damaged in the storms last year).

Cpt 135: We concur with the response from Historic England in that a prehistoric linear earthwork is located immediately to the west of the proposed planting and that this should be taken into consideration in advance of and during the operations.

We consider that the proposed felling and replanting should be beneficial to the registered landscape and the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection.

For future reference which you may find of interest if you don't know: 'Neave, David, Turnbull Deborah, *Landscape Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*, Georgian Society for East Yorkshire, 1992 pp65-67 for Sledmere.

Also YGT website: www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk under our Research and Recording Section has uploaded our Yorkshire historic parks and gardens research so far, so you could check whether a site has been researched. The historic parks and gardens sites that we research are normally not on the Register so not available with Historic England Register but we do send them to Sites and Monuments Record.

Yours sincerely

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