



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Mrs Val Hepworth

Mr Mike Parkes
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31st December 2025

Dear Mr Parkes

25/04380/LB Listed Building Consent for the removal of internal walls to enable use of stores as additional living accommodation and changing external door to part glazed door. Ruffe House, Sawley, North Yorkshire HG4 3EA. Studley Royal.

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 (RPG), in this case Studley Royal at Grade I and a World Heritage Site. 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.

This response is from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

Ruffe House lies c. 800m south-west of the western boundary of Studley Royal near Fountains Hall. Originally a farmhouse it was acquired by William Aislabe as part of his developments in the 1770's and functioned as an eyecatcher viewed from a distance and a place to drink tea and take in the view (see Newman, in Appendix below). Aislabe incorporated architectural fragments salvaged from clearance of Fountains Abbey, rebuilding the farmhouse as a Picturesque ruin. The building was converted into a house in the 20th century and added to the list of buildings of special historic or architectural interest at Grade II in 1967.

The proposal is unlikely to result in harm to the significance of the RPG.

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust has no further comments. We would however emphasise that this does not in any way signify either our approval or disapproval of the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

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

APPENDIX

Newman, Mark, *The Wonder of the North Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal*, The Boydell Press in association with National Trust, 2015 p 214-15.