



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Mrs Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

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25th August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

26/04144/FU Installation of perimeter security railing with vehicular gate; associated formation of outdoor gym equipment, Athletics Track. Temple Newsam Park Road Halton LS15 OAE

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 (RPG). In this case Temple Newsam 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 historic parks and gardens and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

The wide extent of the registered landscape at Temple Newsam is significant as the setting to the grade I listed Temple Newsam House and a considerable number of other listed buildings. Britain's most famous landscape designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown made a plan for Temple Newsam in 1762, which was the first for West Yorkshire. This has survived and, in spite of his design not having been fully implemented, it sheds light on the design approach of this foremost landscape designer. This planning application relates to the already changed/developed Sports Arena towards the north-west boundary, so at some distance from the more significant parts of the designed landscape.

The Heritage and Design Access Statement is very helpful. The area of the proposal already has an established recreational use and there appears to be limited intervisibility between here and the rest of the RPG.

It is unfortunate but understandable that the proposed measures have to be taken to allow the general use and enjoyment of the leisure facilities. From the H & DA Statement we understand that two areas within the track are designated for the provision of outdoor gym equipment to provide a range of training opportunities within the facility with resin bound rubber mulch safety surface to enhance the current appearance within the track. The proposed railing will not impede public access. Openings are positioned at key points around the track to maintain convenient pedestrian routes and ensure safe, navigable entry for wheelchair users, pushchair users, spectators and track users alike. At 11, gaps for pedestrian access are informed by desire routes from the wider surrounding area.

The GT and YGT don't think that the railing, vehicle barrier, nor gym equipment can be classed as irreversible developments. However, we don't have the details about the gym equipment – height,

colour etc. We appreciate the proposed enhanced community facilities but wonder if this equipment might encourage further antisocial behaviour.

Although seemingly at odds with the historic landscape, the outdoor gym equipment should blend with the immediate recreational facilities so as not to appear too incongruous in the landscape. We would be pleased to receive further details.

Overall, the GT and YGT consider that the proposal may result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the RPG, but it would be at the lowest end of the scale. We have no objection but would appreciate information about the gym equipment please.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Dr Kristof Fatsar, Historic England, Yorkshire and the North East, Historic England; The Gardens Trust