



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Stuart Daniel

22/01355/FU Provision of new recreational facilities to include cycling and walking routes, a 'learn-to-ride' facility, a play area and improvements to wildlife habitats to site of former golf course Temple Newsam Park Temple Newsam Road Halton

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust 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 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.

The former Temple Newsam golf course covers a large area within the north- western and western boundary and north of the southern boundary of the Registered Park and Garden. The planning application area is in the north and east parts of the golf course and includes the area of the golf clubhouse. Much of the eastern area of the golf course site was used for open cast mining in the 20th century but notably the area immediately west of the House was left along with a section to the south- west.

You will be aware that Temple Newsam estate is currently the subject of work by consultants to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) that is expected to be completed by April 2022. Our Vice-President Peter Goodchild attended a stakeholder presentation on 7th February, and we have sent comments to Ms Maya Harrison, Principal Keeper, Leeds Museums and Art Galleries. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust is very pleased that a CMP is being produced and we hope this will be an integrated tool for the management of Temple Newsam for years to come and allow future developments to be thoughtfully incorporated into this important heritage asset.

We apologise for the slight lateness of our response, but my colleague Jane Furse and I have had difficulty seeing the details of the plans on your planning website. The keys in particular are blurred,

and we have found it impossible to make out the details of the cycle path widths and finishes for the different areas – all important for their impact on Temple Newsam’s historic park. This was not helpful for our response as statutory consultees.

We understand and appreciate the provision of new recreational facilities at Temple Newsam, but particularly have reservations about the new cycling and walking routes by Temple Newsam House.

Our concerns are threefold.

a) As far as we can see there is no screen planting or no fencing of the new tracks around the club house from the entrance drive. This is not just an aesthetic but also a safety barrier between cars, delivery vans and coaches from young children and teenagers.

b) The plan to reinstate the missing vista westwards from the house is no longer shown in the documents. Although we understand that this is an objection from Leeds Landscape section, the Leeds CC planting is a mere 50 years old or so after the open cast finished. But this area is VERY clearly part of the Capability Brown plan - included with this application- and lasted for most of the intervening 200 years but we would hazard was much older, an Elizabethan or Jacobean feature Brown respected, ie. a 300-400 years old vista. We strongly regret that the plan to reinstate this vista has been lost, a vista which has been a key part of Temple Newsam’s setting from the City of Leeds for hundreds of years. The length of the vista should be cleared to balance the intrusion into the quiet green spaces all these new paths will make. It would be a positive contribution linking the importance of the house and the past, with the future of Temple Newsam.

c) Finally, and we think most importantly we are really shocked that there is nothing in this archaeological report about the mound/Mount area, which is within this planning application, next to the south -west corner of the formal garden (see concentric contours on Fig 8 in Appendix D the Heritage Statement) but OUT of both the golf course area and MOST IMPORTANTLY out of the open cast area. In other words, it’s much bigger trees and steep profile really were there before any open cast took place. As a result, we cannot agree with the report that says everything had been messed up by open casting and nothing remains.....this is not accurate.

Evidence for the mound/Mount: On the early maps the marked track to a temple (now lost) is always shown skirting the mound/Mount rather than going directly from the house. The track is on the 1st Edition OS map 6":1mile, i.e. 1840’s and every subsequent one. The mound/Mount’s oval shape is also marked.

Your council’s own planning application, Fig. 8 p.31 in Appendix D the Heritage Statement, shows the mound/Mount. We think it is an important feature and should have been investigated already with a view to listing if found to be what we think it is. It is at huge risk with these proposals. We have not found reference to any surveys or archaeological investigation of the mound/Mount. We note that the plan of the proposals shows an existing path immediately west being upgraded but also LINKED to brand new cycle ones.

We strongly propose that the mound/Mount should be urgently assessed by Historic England. Without this assessment we consider the new paths as harm, justified by the consultant’s own criteria (see Heritage Statement) and therefore, in view of the Mount’s long -standing association with the setting of Temple Newsam House, should be refused permission to within say 30 metres at least until a proper archaeological survey report has been commissioned and reported.

The Mount should NOT have cycle paths made really close to it. You will appreciate that this will be an invitation to bikers, many of whom will have thick "mountain" tyres, to ride right next to it on a brand- new track so close to the house gardens. Cyclists will rapidly colonise it and erode the mount’s slopes and destroy all the tree roots in addition to a potentially important historic landscape feature. You will be aware that in any wood where mountain bikes go these days, the damage to the

most exciting steepest slopes that they create, is all too visible. We are also concerned that a path so close to the formal gardens could potentially invite unwanted incursions and possible damage to the gardens.

If the new limestone path was kept away, zig zagging down the slope further away from the gardens than currently planned, it could still be a cycle circuit BUT the existing pedestrian paths would not have to link up and thereby imperil the mound/Mount.

Apart from reinstating the missing vista we welcome the new woodland areas and habitat enhancements.

Yours sincerely

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Trustee Conservation and Planning

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