



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Dear Mr Holmes

White Rose Forest Consultation Woodland Creation Plan – Zetland Estate: Gingerfield Valley, Aske Hall. Located at NZ 159 031

Thank you for consulting the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (RPG) – in this case Aske Hall, 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 registered sites.

Following several family's ownership since the Norman Conquest, the Aske Estate was purchased in 1727 by Sir Conyers D'Arcy (ownership 1727-1758). His works provided a foundation for the design for the historic park and gardens, to be continued by Sir Lawrence Dundas from 1763 until his death in 1781 and then by his descendants. John Carr of York and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown were both consulted by Sir Lawrence and their influences are still apparent. However, Brown's project was not implemented. Instead in the 1770's work seems to have commenced in the area now called High Park to the west and in 1777 'Muldring Fern' and Coalsgarth were planted, the latter with 2000 of beech, Scots pine and oaks. The key parkland planting took place in the 19th century when the landscape park with belts clumps and woodland were established with clearly defined entrances to the estate and boundary walls.

Thank you for sending further information last week and today.

The 4ha scheme has been planned with the Aske Estate Forester and is for land on either side of the Gingerfield Valley through which the Aske Beck flows from High Coalsgarth further west, to Low Wood, part of the western registered boundary. Low Wood is where the beck and woodland form part of the extensive and early picturesque designed pleasure grounds that were originally laid out by Sir Conyers D'Arcy in the early-mid 18th Century.

OS 25" : 1 mile map Yorkshire XXXVIII.8 surveyed 1892, published 1893 indicates the proposed area as Gingerfield Plantation consisting of a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees on either side of Aske Beck. Similarly on the map revised in 1911 and published 1913 but now called Gingerfield Wood. (Gingerfield Plantation is now the name for an area of woodland that has been planted up further south.) And this also is the case for the 1927 revision published 1928.

In your original consultation Zone 1 (Broadleaf) on the southern side of the valley is contiguous with the western end of the Low Wood pleasure grounds. Zone 2 (Conifer) and Zone 3 (Scrub) continue the planting on the south side. Zone 4 (Broadleaf) is on the upper north bank and down the slope leading to Zone 5 (Scrub). Zone 6 is at the western end on either side of the Beck (Scrub).

Your e-mail today gives an update to the mix compared with your original consultation. I note that Zone 4 being proposed as largely Scots pine and 10% Douglas Fir being included in Zone 1 and Zone 5:

Cpt No.		1	2	3	4	5
Pedunculate oak (English Oak)	POK	30%		10%		30%
Wild Cherry/Gean	WCH	25%				25%
Common alder	CAR			40%		
Aspen	ASP			20%		
Scots pine	SP	20%	85%	20%	85%	20%
Douglas fir	DF	10%				10%
Woody shrubs	WSH	5%	5%		5%	5%
Open ground	OG	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

2250 stems Ha

Area 6 is a scrubby area that needs a few Ash removed and 50% of the Scrub to allow planting of Alder 40%, Wild Cherry 40% and Open Ground 20%. 1100 stems Ha.

WSH - Hazel, Hawthorn Holly

Aspen – *Populus tremula* - should be nice alongside the Beck.

The Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) grows very fast, and they do well in the deep narrow valleys of Northern Scotland. I would think that they could overtop the other species but perhaps they will be planted to give some shelter and felled before they become excessively tall.

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) has historically been planted at Aske and is a splendid, picturesque tree historically much favoured by landscapers.

English Oak (*Quercus robur*) is a great host for supporting wildlife and as you would expect has been planted at Aske in the past. It does best on deep heavy soils.

Although I haven't been to this part of the Aske estate for many years, I would think that this Woodland Creation Plan for the Gingerfield Valley should work well. The Estate Forester is hugely experienced and will know the best locations for the various species. It is unlikely that the planting will have any visual effect on the Registered Park and Garden but will give more continuity of tree cover to the west of Low Wood.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Kristof Fatsar, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England
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PS You may be interested in what the landscape was like before altering in the early-mid 18th century. I will send you separately my image of a map of Aske that was made for Sir Conyers D'Arcy by J Colbeck probably in the 1720s. It shows the agrarian landscape (ie fields/closes) before Sir Conyers started designing and laying it out. The original is held in the Zetland Archive at North Yorkshire County Record Office (ZKN). Broad Close is now the park in front of Aske Hall with Calf Close and Cow pasture forming the wider parkland on either side. The Richmond to Gilling West Road is the loop of road at the bottom of the map. Note Mouldron, Gingerfields and Coalsgarth are marked
The Aske Estate have a similar map by Kirkham 1720.