



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mr Matthew Peck
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8th March 2022

Dear Mr Peck,

RB2022/0276 Planning application for retrospective approval - Formation of vehicle circulation area to include laying of crushed stone and aggregate and associated planting at Wentworth Garden Centre Hague Lane Wentworth.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register – in this case Wentworth Woodhouse, at 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, and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

The Wentworth Woodhouse Fitzwilliam estate is a remarkable heritage asset. The Grade I listed C18 main house is but the centrepiece of over twenty supporting buildings and features with individual listings ranging over Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II. Land ownership of the estate became fragmented across the middle of the C20, resulting in a more challenging environment for the mutual preservation of these assets.

Wentworth Garden Centre has been created from land including the C18 walled Kitchen Gardens, an Italianate Garden and a Japanese Garden. The Garden Centre is more than 500m from the main house and the two are mutually invisible as they are divided by the crest of a hill and substantial quantities of mature trees. However, some of the secondary listed assets are nearby – e.g. the Kitchen Garden walls themselves and other associated walls, Doric Lodge, Doric Temple, Camellia House, Bastion Wall.

Remarkably, the overflow car park has been located on an island of land which appears to have had no formal designation in the history of the estate apart from being within the registered boundary – its role has become simply the setting for so many gems, perhaps in particular the setting of the gatehouse, Doric Lodge. We note that the car park already enjoys tree planting around its outer boundaries, and we regret that additional boundary planting is not included in this application – indeed the “red line” has been located inboard from the boundary walls. However, with the limited tree planting proposed between parking bays, it is our opinion that the introduction of new hardcore surfacing to the alleyways will not further jeopardise the settings of the various listed assets noted. Therefore, we do not object to this application.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee and Chairman Conservation and Planning

Cc John Stonard, Team Leader Development Advice, Yorkshire and the Northeast Historic England;
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