



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
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29th August 2023

Dear Ms Willows,

2023/0735 Resurfacing of existing paths with resin bound surface in Union Jack Garden to improve accessibility and safety, Wentworth Castle Gardens, Park Drive, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3EN

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 – Wentworth Castle at Grade I. 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.

Wentworth Castle is a Grade I house set in its own Grade I garden and surrounded by its Grade I Stainborough Parkland, the only property of such significance in South Yorkshire.

The Union Jack Garden was part of the pair of Wildernesses planted in 1713 that combined the crosses of St George and St Andrew to commemorate the Union of England with Scotland in 1707. This was a key moment in the reign of Strafford's patron, Queen Anne – hence their local nickname: the Union Jacks.

The Union Jack Garden is located c.100m south-west of the House and in its current form was completed by the Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust less than twenty years ago. Due to its location the garden lies within the setting of the House and other heritage assets.

The existing pedestrian surfaces at Wentworth Castle Gardens, re-laid in the early years of the present century, are a mixture of unbound (crushed aggregate) and bound (bituminous macadam) construction, with surfaces of bound construction having a mixture of both bound and bonded surface finish, including in the vicinity of the Union Jack Garden. The garden topography results in a significant west to east slope.

We understand from visits that the paths can be difficult especially for buggies and wheelchairs in wet weather. In the past the GT/YGT has tried to encourage the use of self-binding gravels such as hoggin, Coxwell Stone or Breedon Gravel as far as possible as these sit more comfortably with the

historic nature of a site. However, where a path is subject to extremely heavy traffic then bound resin may well be the only option.

The proposal is for a sub-base of crushed aggregate at a depth of 150mm to provide a solid basis for bituminous macadam at a depth of 70mm. Then a thin layer of Daltex Autumn Quartz chippings, selected to be visually consistent with nearby unbound surfaces, bonded by resin, as the top layer.

Under the circumstances the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to the proposal. As the paths will be a non-permeable surface then they may become icy in the winter. Applying rock salt would not be an option as it would damage the planting so we presume that any dangerous paths would have to be closed.

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Historic England; conservation @ the Gardens Trust