



Kirklees Local Plan Examination

**Site H2684a/H2730a Lepton – Woodsome Hall setting
Council Response to Inspector's Requests**

June 2018

Planning Policy Group
Investment and Regeneration Service
Kirklees Council
PO Box B93
Civic Centre III
Huddersfield
HD1 2JR

H2684a/H2730a – Land to the east of Woodsome Drive, Lepton

Inspector's request for:

- Note to set out the Councils response to third party evidence submitted in respect of the impact of development on the setting of Woodsome Hall, Farnley Tyas

Council response:

Woodsome Hall is a Grade 1 listed building currently the home of Woodsome Golf Club which enjoys the expansive landscape of the area as a backdrop to the course. The landscape to the hall is not designated as an historic park and garden although the Parks and Gardens UK does hold an entry. To attribute the landscape to Brown is somewhat weak and whilst there have been historical references to Brown these have been amended following research. To argue that an allocation should be removed due to a somewhat tenuous link to Brown is not felt to be appropriate (many fine halls have viewing terraces) and the assessment should be based upon the setting of the Grade 1 listed building and Castle Hill, a nationally significant ancient monument. In terms of these assessments, these were discussed during the EIP. The impact upon Castle Hill was the subject of discussions with Historic England who agreed with the Council's assessment of the lack of impact. In terms of Woodsome, when questioned by the Inspector, both parties agreed that no assessment has been carried out due to the lack of impact upon the setting. Throughout the assessments carried out by heritage experts, the impact upon the setting of Woodsome Hall has not concluded with a concern over the harm caused. Equally the site promotor has supplied an assessment of the harm and concluded there is none, a conclusion agreed with by the Council.

There is no substantive evidence to suggest Brown was involved, yes he was prevalent in the area with commissions at Cannon Hall (Barnsley) Whitley Beaumont (Huddersfield) and Wentworth Castle (Rotherham) all of which are relatively nearby but he may have purely visited rather than carry out a full design. There are no plans associated with him that are relevant to the landscape to Woodsome Hall. Brown was the landscape architect of choice to many country landowners and they enjoyed the prestige of employing him but that does not mean to say he was involved in all parks and gardens associated with the landed Gentry. The further representations suggest that the terrace was an element introduced by Brown to enjoy the landscape beyond. Apart from the lack of evidence to support this view, many a historic grand house had such a feature which acted as a viewing platform across in many cases open landscape or water features (Clumber Park et al). It is not clear that the landscape would have been the same as it is now, the trees are a later feature perhaps from the design of the golf course and are not of particular relevance other than a fairway feature due to the terrace being used as a tee.

The site allocations are beyond the course and some distance away to such an extent that their visibility is somewhat reduced if at all.. The eye is drawn, as it is from Castle Hill, to the established woodlands in the surrounding landscape rather than to the agricultural land; if developed the area would not have a detrimental impact upon either the hall or Castle Hill.