

Patrons Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd : President Mr Robert Parker DL



Lancashire Gardens Trust
Conservation & Planning Group

14 November 2012

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices, Planning Department
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Lancs

21 NOV 2012

FOR THE
ATTENTION OF

Dear Adrian,

Planning application 3/2012/0790 - Manège at Gisburne Park

My apologies for the delay of 2 days in sending you more information about Gisburne Park. This is because I have been waiting for some of the contents of an in-depth report prepared recently by consultants.

They found that a plan drawn by Lord Petre in 1735 for Thomas Lister was implemented in part; this landscape, in the 'extensive rural gardening' style pioneered by S. Switzer and C. Bridgeman, included a long canal, symmetrical plantations of trees, long avenues and the creation of vistas to historic points on the horizon. Grafted onto this is a later style of landscaping, the English natural style, and at Gisburne the advantages of the topography - hills and river - have been well-used to create an attractive, Picturesque composition. The complementary structures, a bridge, a temple, a summerhouse, are mentioned in the report. One paragraph focuses in particular on Stock Beck, the area concerned in the construction of the manège. I attach also two maps to highlight the manège site.

The conclusion is that this landscape is special; that it has largely escaped degradation during industrialisation; that it can still be 'read' today; that it can still be enjoyed by the general public and by the more informed public.

It is highly significant to Lancashire because of Lord Petre (1713-42); his home was Thorndon Manor, Essex, where he established the largest nursery of trees and exotics then known; he gained a reputation as a skilled plantsman and was quoted by the botanists of the day. He married Catherine Walmesley of Dunkenhall, and became acquainted with neighbouring landowners; he introduced several to the best artists and craftsmen, eg the architect Leoni, the draughtsman Bourguignon. He was responsible for rescuing the statuary from Stonyhurst when the building was offered to the Jesuits for a school, and transferred items by Jan van Nost to Welbeck Abbey. His extensive plans for this garden survive.

The landform features at Gisburne are a unique vestige of the design of this talented amateur landscapist; destruction of these landforms is a disappointing occurrence to a notable heritage asset. It is to be hoped that restitution can be made.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Taylor,

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