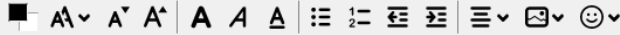


Subject: Fwd: Consultation on potential registration of Denmans Garden

Body Text

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Subject: Consultation on potential registration of Denmans Garden

Date: Mon, 9 Dec 2019 17:04:38 -0000

From:

To: Margie Hoffnung <margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org>

Dear Margie

As Jim Stockwell is away, I have collated the comments from SGT Council/Research team members on the consultation and the consensus is that we support the addition by registration of Denman's Garden to the NHLE.

We consider that the garden, although not typical of the design style for which Brookes' is probably best known, i.e. the 'room outside' concept, demonstrates many notable features that he later describes in his writings, such as a mixture of materials to create pattern, planting in different surfaces such as the gravel and in paving, and a controlled and repeated use of colour in the planting. One might speculate how far he was actually inspired by Mrs Robinson's original, innovatory approach in 1969, which seems to anticipate the popularity of gravel gardens such as Beth Chatto's, and the current fashion for "longer grass of contrasting [heights] where flowers [are] allowed to grow" but he certainly continued to use these themes in his writings and design work.

On the basis that Brookes continued to develop his design thinking through his years at Denmans, which in turn influenced his subsequent writings and landscape design commissions, the garden appears to meet the HE site selection criteria of "sites which were influential in the development of taste, whether through reputation or reference in literature" or "sites which are early or representative examples of the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of national importance". There are of course other John Brookes gardens which would be worth looking at as more typically significant of his design style, but Denmans has the strongest associational significance.

Although there was one concern voiced that its condition was not sufficient to warrant registration, we are of the majority view that this has improved since the recent change of ownership and management and it is now in better physical (and financial) condition and is likely to continue to be appropriately restored and cared for to maintain its significance. The current condition may have an impact on the likely grade allocated to it. It looks unlikely that documentation on the garden, which appears from the list of references to be thin, would enhance its potential grade.

We would be grateful if you would pass this on to HE.

Best regards

Virginia Hinze

On behalf of Sussex Gardens Trust