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Planning and Development Services.
Torbay Council
Roebuck House,
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Your ref : P/2015/0042
Our ref E14/1332

23 January 2015

Dear Sirs

Temporary erection and operation of a 50m observation wheel with ticket booking office to the west (front of wheel) adjoining coffee & crepe unit within a timber decked seating area to the south (facing out to the harbour) and secure panelled service, ride control and generator compound area to the east (pavilion side). Open daily to the public from Saturday 28th March 2015 until no later than Sunday 1st November 2015. Princess Gardens, Off Torbay Road, Torquay, Devon.

Thank you for consulting the Garden History Society on the above application which affects the Princess Gardens and the Royal Terrace Gardens, historic designed landscapes of national significance which are included by English Heritage on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at grade II.

The Devon Gardens Trust works in partnership with The Garden History Society in responding to consultations. We have visited the site on many occasions previously and have studied the documents on your web site

The heritage asset of Princess Gardens comprises the late C19 seafront public garden which is a grade II Registered landscape, Princess Parade, the Pavilion, a cast iron fountain and the early C20 war memorial, all listed grade II.

We consider that, as a permanent feature, the proposed observation wheel with its supporting infrastructure would detract from the significance of Princess Gardens. But as the application is for a temporary period of even months, we do not wish to object to the proposal.

If your Authority is minded to approve the application, we would ask that, in order not to compromise the potential for repairs to the this heritage asset in the future, that your Authority requires the removal of the structure and its associated infrastructure and the reinstatement of the site immediately after 1st November 2015

Yours faithfully
John Clark
Conservation Officer