



North Yorkshire Council

By email only [rachel.tyas@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.tyas@northyorks.gov.uk)

4 August 2026

70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ  
Telephone: (+44/0) 207 608 2409  
Email: [enquiries@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@thegardenstrust.org)  
[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

Please reply to:  
[consult@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:consult@thegardenstrust.org)

Dear Rachel Tyas,

**25/02219/FULMAJ Erection of ground mounted solar farm, battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure including access improvements, internal access tracks, 3no. power stations, 1no. switching station, 1no. meteorological station, 2no.storage containers, CCTV surveillance, fencing and ancillary development including landscaping and ecological enhancements: Land At Juniper Farm North Of Main Street And East Of Woodgate Lane, Weeton, North Yorkshire, LS17 0AY**

Thank you for reconsulting the Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee on the above application which would have a material impact on the significance of Harewood House, an historic designed landscape of particular significance which is included by Historic England on the Register of Parks and Gardens (RPG) of Special Historic Interest at Grade I. The inclusion of this site on the statutory register at Grade I requires the greatest weight to be given to its conservation (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 212).

We have liaised with our colleagues in Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) and their local knowledge informs this joint response. The GT and YGT submitted detailed comments in response to the original consultation and, rather than repeat in full here, we would refer you to that letter dated 29 August 2025.

The register entry states Harewood House RPG consists of gardens and pleasure grounds of the C18 with elements designed by Richard Woods and Thomas White, and a terraced garden of 1844-51 designed by Charles Barry, with a planting scheme possibly by William Andrews Nesfield. Parkland laid out to designs by Lancelot Brown during the period 1772-80 with alterations and additions of circa 1800, some of which were executed to proposals by Humphry Repton.

We have studied the additional information provided in support of the application, namely the Rebuttal to Consultation Responses with Appendix 1 - Updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Appendix 2 — Viewpoint Photography, Photomontages and Visualisations Figures 7a-10d, Viewpoints 1-10. We note there is only limited reference to Harewood House RPG, but a substantive comment 8.1.4 *'The distance and intervening vegetation inhibits views of the Site from Harewood House Registered Park and Garden'*; presumably the assessment from viewpoint 9.

Following the site visit undertaken by YGT on 24 August 2025 it was clear that any screening of the development would be largely due to the intervening tree cover being in full leaf. With the reduction in deciduous leaf cover over the winter months, it would be unlikely to be as effective over this period. We remain concerned that no further assessment of outward views from the RPG towards the development site have been undertaken from other viewpoints where visibility was noted in our previous letter. We accept that visual intrusion into views from Almscliff Crag towards Harewood House has now been acknowledged in the rebuttal document; Table 6.3 Rc1, where the effect of

magnitude of change is assessed to reduce from High to Medium over a 15-year period with the level of Effect and Importance likely to remain as Moderate over the same time. With the intervisibility between Almscliff Crag and Harewood House RPG, the GT and YGT consider that the views out from the Grade I RPG are equally important. This is a reciprocal view to and from Harewood House towards/from Almscliff Crag and is a key eyecatcher in the J M W Turner and Thomas Girtin landscape paintings of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. We believe that the significance of views of the RPG and Harewood House from Almscliff Crag will be impacted by the development site, particularly during its construction phase, but probably for the full term of the proposal's operating life of 40 years.

With the establishment of the proposed mitigation screen planting, this visual impact may reduce over the longer term, but it appears that the proposal will remain visible in views across the northern setting of Harewood House RPG resulting in less than substantial harm to the significance of this heritage asset. We would therefore question whether the requirements of paragraphs 213b and 215 have been met:

213b 'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification'.

215 'Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal'

As you will be aware, Harewood House is one of only two Grade I RPG's in West Yorkshire and one of only nine in the whole of Yorkshire. The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust therefore reaffirm the detailed concerns expressed in our joint letter of 29 August 2025 and trust these will be taken into consideration when determining this application. We confirm we have no further comments at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Allighan BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI  
Conservation Officer

cc Yorkshire Gardens Trust