



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Ms Andrea Pearson
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Mrs Val Hepworth
Trustee
Conservation and Planning

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13th May 2024

Dear Ms Pearson

RB2024/0572- Paid pre app enquiry for proposed solar farm at land at Fullerton Road Canklow. Boston Park, Rotherham.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

This pre application affects an area west and south-west of Boston Park and Moorgate Cemetery both Registered at Grade II. Moorgate Cemetery, established in 1841, lies to the north- west of Boston Park and is partially located within Moorgate Conservation Area.

Boston Park was the first public park in Rotherham and was laid out in the 1870's over a former sandstone quarry, associated with Boston Castle, (listed grade II), a shooting lodge which occupies a prominent position on an escarpment overlooking the Don and Rother valleys. Research indicates that Thomas, third Earl of Effingham and ninth Baron Howard began building 'Boston Castle' on 2nd December 1773 as a shooting box and for much of the first half of 1774 'Boston Castle' is referred to as 'the House upon the Common.' The earliest definitive use of 'Boston Castle' as the permanent name of the building is on a receipt dated 29 July 1774, clearly displaying the Earl's sentiments towards the situation in America - very much opposed to the War in America. See note below. A significant feature of Boston Park are the fine views. From the Castle and car park panoramic views extend north towards Wentworth Woodhouse and Barnsley (across Moorgate Cemetery), west towards Sheffield and the moors of the Peak District, and south towards north-east Derbyshire.

The application site lies on land at the AMG Chrome facility which is a long-standing industrial area and c.800m from the registered park and cemetery.

We have looked at the documents and overall don't consider that the proposed solar development would have much impact on Boston Park and the Cemetery and their immediate setting. Our concern would be glint and glare but that is more likely to be a possibility on the areas further south and Canklow Woods etc would have an ameliorating effect.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no objection to this pre application but trust that any development would be treated with care to its surroundings.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England;, the Gardens Trust

REF:

The so-called Boston Tea Party took place on 16 December 1773 and was first reported in the London papers on 21 January 1774.

<http://bostoncastle-rotherham.co.uk/BostonCastle.html>

William Mason (1725-97), Rector from 1754 of Aston seven miles south of Rotherham, was one of Horace Walpole's intimate circle, and frequent correspondent. One of his letters, written in the summer of 1775, implies that the building was started before the calamitous event of 16 December 1773 at Boston:

'A room which he built about two years ago on a fine brow of a hill between this place [Aston] and Rotherham, which commands much the best prospect in this country. He christened it Boston Castle because no tea was ever drunk in it. The statute is religiously observed.'