



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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[www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

Mr Patrick Bean/Ms Louise White  
Planning Officers  
Leeds City Council

Mrs Val Hepworth  
Trustee  
Conservation and Planning

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

[conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

[Department.of.Planning@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Department.of.Planning@leeds.gov.uk)

Dear Ms White and Mr Bean

**23/06630/FU Variation of Condition 9 (external details) to previously approved Planning Application 20/07999/FU to account for the constantly developing solar panel technology and proposing to split Condition 9 into two Conditions Land Off Barnsdale Road Allerton Bywater.**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. In this case the park and garden at Ledston Hall is registered grade II\* with the Hall listed grade I. 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.

Ledston Hall is significant as a fine example of an English Country House estate with a long history. The park has 17C origins and the walled gardens and terraces are probably of a late 17C date with the area now called The Grove originally designed by Charles Bridgeman for Lady Betty Hastings c. 1731. (The payments to Bridgeman by Lady Betty are in C. Hoare and Co., Bankers, London, Ledger K, 27 March 1731.) The gardens, designed landscape and park registered at grade II\* means that it is a nationally important site of more than special interest.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020 we responded to **20/07999/FU Installation and operation of a solar park with associated infrastructure and upgraded access. Land Off Barnsdale Road, Allerton Bywater.**

This solar park covers an area of approx. 90ha of arable farmland that was once part of Kippax Park, and lies to the south- west of the registered historic park and garden and Ledston Hall. In addition to Kippax Park there may have been early settlements in this area. Barnsdale Road which is located on a ridge running north-south separates the site of the proposed solar park from Ledston and could be a Roman route. In our letter we suggested that any possible effect on the heritage assets from glint and glare is checked.

Application **20/07999/FU** has been given approval.

**23/06630/FU:** We understand that the applicants estimate that there may be up to a year between discharging the precommencement conditions, developing the roads and other site infrastructure, and installing panels on the site. Solar panel technology is constantly evolving, and as a consequence the applicants consider that there is a risk that the panels that could be approved at

precommencement stage may not be the most up-to-date and efficient panels available at the point of installation. To mitigate this risk, it is proposed that condition 9 is split so that details of the solar panels, invertors, and transformers are submitted to the LPA prior to their installation (rather than prior to the commencement of the development, including the enabling works and infrastructure).

We do not consider that we have expertise on this matter and suggest that the advice of your authority's officers such as the Conservation Team and Landscape Team is followed.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust have no further comments.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

Cc Historic England ([e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk)); the Gardens Trust