



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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

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19th December 2022

Dear Ms White

**22/07645/FU Variation of condition 3 (operating life of wind farm) and removal of precommencement conditions 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 28 and 29 of Planning Application 08/01118/FU, Land At Hook Moor Wind Farm Micklefield Leeds**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting two sites on the Register – Lotherton Hall (list entry 1001223, first listed 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1984) and Parlington Estate, (List entry 1447854, first listed 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2017) both at grade II.

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.

Planning permission was granted on appeal in December 2011 for the installation of 5 125m high wind 3 bladed turbines, application ref: 08/01118/FU. The first export of electricity was 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 making the expiry date of the wind farm 12<sup>th</sup> January 2041. This application seeks to vary this condition to extend the life span of Hook Moor wind farm by a further 15 years lasting until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2056.

Lotherton Hall situated c.3km east of Aberford is c. 1km from the nearest turbine, Although the registered area is essentially the formal gardens round the Hall it should be noted that the Deer Park to the west is a significant component of the heritage assets, and the wider estate is valued by the community and Leeds City Council who were given the Hall and country house estate by its owner Sir Alvary Gascoigne in 1969.

The Parlington Estate was also a Gascoigne property bought by John Gascoigne from Thomas Lord Wentworth in 1545-6. The Estate lies to the west of Lotherton Hall with the A1(M) lying between the two sites. Hook Moor is to the south-east. The registered area is c.528ha and is a good example of an 18th century designed landscape reflecting the ideas, philosophies and interests of the Gascoignes including pioneering planting methods, and from c. 1700 racehorse breeding ('Gascoigne's Foreign Horse'). It has a strong group value with a large number of listed features probably the most notable being the Triumphal Arch of 1781 (listed grade II\*) built to commemorate the American War of Independence.

We have noted the Environmental Statement – Addendum, November 2022 and offer the following comments:

Leeds City Council (LCC) is currently implementing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for **Lotherton Hall and estate** and the negative impact/ visual detraction of the turbines is noted. Mitigation is achieved to some degree by additional tree planting (utilising historic maps to reinstate trees that assist in screening the turbines) and the CMP also states that the environmental benefit of low carbon energy should be considered a mitigation.

We therefore think that LCC would not object on behalf of Lotherton Hall on the grounds that any damage is mitigated both by the physical tree planting but also by the benefits to society of low carbon electricity. The estate will adopt a policy to maintain the screen planting (mentioned in the CMP).

We also agree with LCC officers who manage Lotherton Hall and estate that it would be very useful if the Liaison Committee for the Hook Moor Wind Farm could fund some display panels at Lotherton (in a suitable location) to interpret the wind farm and perhaps interpretation for one of Lotherton's conservation projects.

In terms of the **Parlington Estate** any impact will also be limited to visual intrusion particularly when the trees are not in leaf. One of the turbines can be seen at a point on the Avenue (permitted path) that links Aberford with the Triumphal Arch. The Avenue and the Arch are in a relatively elevated position and the turbines are situated on land at a similar elevation to the south- east. Parlington Lane, a PROW is much lower down, with intervening woodland, Aberford, and the motorway, so is not likely to be affected.

As much of the estate is private, we are unable to comment. However similarly to our comments for Lotherton above, there may be an opportunity for some display panels on Parlington Lane to interpret the history of the estate and the Gascoigne family.

Although Hook Moor Wind Farm has some visual impact on both Lotherton and Parlington, renewable energy is an important consideration and so overall, the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust do not object to this Variation of Condition 3 to increase the life of the wind farm for a further 15 years until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2056. However, we trust that should there be a move to increase the overall height of the turbines and/or the number of turbines at Hook Moor Wind Farm that such changes would be subject to further planning applications.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England [e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk); Conservation@ the Gardens Trust; Maria Akers, Senior Estates Manager, Temple Newsam and Lotherton, Leeds City Council