



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mr Nathan Denman
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Cc Tony Wiles, Design & Conservation
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10th February 2023

Dear Mr Denman

**REF: 2022/0800 Installation of ground mounted solar panels on land to side of dwelling and associated works, Park House, Road adjacent to Wortley Park, Wortley, Sheffield, S35 7DE
ADDITIONAL RESPONSE**

Thank you for your recent e-mails regarding the above following our original response on 29th November 2022. The area for this proposal is within the registered boundary of Wortley Hall, a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens at grade II.

We understand from your site visit that the paddock for the proposed solar panels is not as in the application documents, which noted that the site is bounded by a hedge to its north alongside the historic drive. A fence rather than a hedge was in place and that has been removed. However, the applicant has now planted a mix of soft landscaping on the northern boundary line.

We agree with Mr Wiles that the impact of views of the array should be mitigated and the development should be as invisible as possible particularly as there is the potential for glinting/glare from the panels surface. We also agree with the suggestion of your Biodiversity Officer that the hedge in this location in the park should be native species with mainly Hawthorn (70%) mixed with others such as Holly, Blackthorn, Hazel, and Gelder rose.

We see from your later e-mail that the applicant has sent an amended site plan showing the planting and the list of native species which have been planted. This is a much wider selection of species with a smaller percentage of Hawthorn balanced by a reasonable amount of Blackthorn and several additional species such as Field Maple, Dogwood, Spindleberry and climbing Honeysuckle but no Holly, a native berrying evergreen.

The hedge needs to be well-managed, kept watered in dry weather and weed-free until properly established, (c. 3 years) and cut as it grows to encourage it to thicken up. The final height should be sufficient to screen the array from view and as this is on the northern side of the array this should not have any effect on the functionality of the panels. Please see note below.

If this maintenance/management is carried out, then the proposed ground mounted solar panels should have very little impact on the registered park and garden and the Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust would have no objection.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk; Conservation@ the Gardens Trust

NOTES on HEDGE

Young plants will need watering during dry spells in spring and early summer – a good soaking. Keep the hedge bottom free of weeds, and do not allow any other plants to grow within 30cms on either side of the new hedge. Early training is important. Side branching must be encouraged to promote thick bushy growth from base to apex. At planting time or in spring, cut back all growths to c. half or two-thirds of their length. The hedge can be left to grow freely after the initial tipping at planting time but if lateral branching is poor then they should be pruned again in the early spring of the second year. As the hedge that has been planted with a wide number of species that will naturally grow at different rates then the over-vigorous species may need to be kept in check.