



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Ms Stockdale

## **ZC23/03354/PRELMM Land Comprising OS Field 8044 Hall Lane Moor Monkton North Yorkshire GR: SE 52978 57027 PRE-APPLICATION.**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to any proposed development that could affect a site included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. In this case Beningbrough Hall at Grade II. Another historic area, but not included on the Register is Red House. 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 is for the construction of a solar farm (95.5ha/210acres) on land at Upper Poppleton YO26 8JQ (Qeequeg Renewables Ltd), for a period of 40 years. The 45.7MW Solar Farm will 'include the installation of solar panels with transformers, a substation, a DNO control room, a customer substation, GRP comms cabin, security fencing, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.'

The site consists of two nearby parcels of land, one to the south-west of Red House (Parcel A, 33ha, adjacent to Green Belt) and the other larger parcel immediately south and south-east of Red House (Parcel B c.62.5ha within Green Belt).

Red House lies on the south bank of the River Ouse. Beningbrough Hall is on the north bank of the river with the parkland coming down to the riverbank. Redhouse Wood, (thought to be ancient woodland – it is shown on OS 1<sup>st</sup> ed 6 inches:1mile Yorkshire Sheet 156 surveyed 1848, extent and shape as today, with walks and rides, but the wood is not shown on Jefferys map of 1771), on the south side of the river, lies between Beningbrough Park and the proposed solar farm. In effect the proposed solar farm is within the setting of both the registered park and garden and the unregistered Red House site.

Beningbrough Hall is a Grade I listed building and sits in its wider parkland at grade II, together with other structures listed at Grade II associated with the Hall and Gardens immediately adjacent to the Hall. Similarly, The Red House (HE Entry 1315358) is Grade II and the Chapel Grade II\* (HE Entry 1190840). Red House was drawn by Samuel Buck c.1720. (Reference in notes.) Nearby, the Moat (HE Sched Mon ID 1020887) and the (former) Deer Park south of Red House gardens - the original approach to house was through the deer park.

We would like to make the following comments relative to the heritage assets:

**Views from Beningbrough:** The land in this area south of Red House is very low-lying, and often waterlogged (see Street View images; the equestrian activities on the Red House estate are often cancelled after heavy rain). Beningbrough Hall and the Registered Park and Garden (RPG) are also located on very low-lying land, but it is likely that any view from the site across to Parcel A would be blocked by Redhouse Wood. It is possible Parcel B would be visible from the Hall but probably only from the top floors, but assuming the panels will be slanted towards the south, this may not be an intrusion on the RPG views. We advise and presume that the National Trust will check the situation.

**Red House:** The remnants and earthworks of the early -mid1600s formal gardens at Red House are not designated and as far as we are aware are not recorded on a Harrogate Local List. From YGT's experience they are of significance in Yorkshire and perhaps more widely because of their early date and we advise that if they have not been investigated by Historic England then they should be investigated and recorded. The formal garden layout, with a viewing terrace along the east side is terminated by a summer house, to the east an orchard, and to the south an informal landscaped park, all with built features, are evident on OS 1<sup>st</sup> edn 6 inches:1mile Yorkshire Sheet 156 surveyed 1848, published 1852. The design extends south past Fishponds and Rookery into the Deer Park along the original south approach, which forms part of Parcel B. The deer park is shown, with Keepers House and Deer Hovel, on the 1848 OS map, so perhaps deer were still present at that time, or at least into the early1800s. The moated site of the earlier hall, and on the 1848 OS map another orchard, and the existing Chapel etc lies immediately north of the present Red House. Red House and gardens are also significant as Sir Henry Slingsby, was held under house arrest at Red House, and was the last person executed, for support of Charles I 1658. Visiting Knaresborough Castle in 2019 there was an exhibition about Slingsby with the painting, referred to in the attached notes, exhibited.

I am attaching notes on Red House at the end of this letter.

The Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Gardens Trust strongly advise that the significance of the early – mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century gardens and designed landscape at Red House, and its medieval origins are investigated fully before there is any application for development on the land Comprising OS Field 8044 Hall Lane Moor Monkton North Yorkshire GR: SE 52978 57027

Yours sincerely

Val Hepworth  
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Historic England; Chris Mayes, National Landscape Adviser, Historic England; Dr Margaret Nieke, Natural England Historic Environment Adviser; Conservation, the Gardens Trust

### **Some Notes on RED HOUSE, MOOR MONKTON, Nr YORK by SK of Yorkshire Gardens Trust**

Red House is a 19C house on an early moated site on the river Ouse which is scheduled and dates back at least to 14C. The earlier property was owned by the Royalist Slingsby Family in the mid 17C and is in Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook p236 of the Wakefield facsimile edition. There are gate piers possibly attributed to Inigo Jones and earthworks of an early garden and a deer park. In 20C it became a prep school owned by a Major Gordon and there is a photograph album of 1902 with photos of the boys working in the grounds. The adjacent chapel c.1600 with ?14C Bohemian stained glass.

Thomas Allen in his 'Complete History of the County of York' 1828 describes, ' the present ( the house) remains in a sad state of decay' and ' >From the terrace, which is a handsome raised walk, was formerly a good view of York and its cathedral, and the surrounding country. Red house is now the residence of Mr Hops'.

House Grade II originally built in the first years of C17 by Sir Henry Slingsby of Scriven, Sheriff of Yorkshire, etc.; improved by his son, Sir Henry 1<sup>st</sup> Bt (1601/2–1658) in 1630s. E wing demolished and house encased 1860s.

Moated site of an earlier house, 50m to NE = Scheduled Monument; chapel c. 1600 is Grade I.

### **History**

Sir Henry Slingsby of Scriven (c. 1560–1634), m. Frances Vavasour of Weston

Building started by 1606; Sir H *almost certainly* laid out the first garden, c. 1606–30 (fruit trees etc purchased 1614)

Sir Henry 1<sup>st</sup> Bt of Scriven (1601/2–1658), m. Barbara Belasyse, dau Viscount Fauconberg of Newburgh Priory  
Improvements made to house and gardens 1630–40.

Sir Henry was a supporter of Charles I. In 1633 the King visited York (reputedly stayed at Red House). Sir Henry's horse won at Acomb Moor in the King's presence – Slingsby commissioned Andrew Karn/Kearne (a Dutch/German associate of Nicholas Stone) to make a statue of the horse, this set in garden by 1638. This is *probably* the horse shown in the painting of Red House (nd, but post-1638; artist unknown). The horse (a 'mutilated figure' by 1809) was moved to the moat in C19, and was removed to its present site outside the chapel in C20. Karn/Kearne also made a lead statue of a blackamoor, originally on the stairs in the house, now on the same stairs removed to the chapel.

Sir Henry fought in the Civil War (1642→), records Battle of Marston Moor 1644 in his diary. He also records spending the next few years at Red House, 'house arrest', in fear of ill-treatment by soldiers. Estate sequestered, eventually bought by kinsmen to save it for the Slingsby children.

1650s: Slingsby jailed at Hull (cf Sealed Knot)

1658: executed (the last Loyalist executed)

### **Evidence, sources for the early/mid C17 Red House garden**

- **surviving garden features and layout:** raised terrace and steps; walls; below-ground remains of dovecote, gazebo; fishponds; gate piers; possible haha (deer park)
- **Painting of Red House** (Harrogate Museums and Galleries). *Probably* commissioned by Sir Henry 1<sup>st</sup> bt, 1633–40. (*Possibly* commissioned by his son, Thomas, post-1660.) So probably shows garden as it was by 1638.
- **Hadham Hall, Herts** (painting by ?same artist; Sir Arthur Capel was a friend/associate of Slingsby; also executed); cf Roy Strong: *The Artist and Garden, The Renaissance Garden in England; Tudor and Early Stuart Gardens in Herts*
- **Diary of Sir Henry Slingsby** (pub. 1836)
- **Slingsby papers** (YAS)

Dr Margaret Nieke visited Red House when an Inspector for English Heritage c.1990's scheduling medieval moated sites. She wondered if the moat had served as a garden canal-type pond.

The HE schedule entry, includes the comment that 'A number of the garden features shown on the map still survive including ornamental ponds forming the southern end of the garden, a pair of gate pillars and a raised walkway along the eastern side of the walled garden. The original date of construction of these garden features is not yet known. The form of the garden defined by the ornamental ponds and the raised walkway may indicate a 17th century origin. If this is the case these garden remains are of national interest and importance in their own right.

Also of probable significance are the connections between the Slingsby, Vavasour, Belasyse and Aislabie families, in particular with Henry Belasyse in 1620s, cf Dedication to Henry Belasyse in William Lawson, *A New Orchard and Garden, 1618*.

***Post script***

Sir Henry Slingsby 5<sup>th</sup> bt of Scriven (1693 –1763), m. Mary Aislabie sister of William Aislabie (Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey).

This Henry rebuilt Scriven Hall, Knaresborough in the early C18 (Wm Wakefield/Wm Etty), and planted beeches in the landscape along the Nidd. He was a Jacobite and a major player in the plans for the '45 rebellion and French invasion of Britain.

Is York surrounded by a series of quite interesting houses and gardens in the late medieval/early Stuart periods? This cluster along the river along with the Fairfax houses on the other side of York (including Nun Appleton Hall and Bilborough Manor). Andrew Marvell's poem 'Upon Appleton House' was written about Nun Appleton - a Fairfax garden, where Marvell was tutor to Fairfax's daughter.

Val Hepworth

YGT Trustee

Conservation and Planning

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