



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

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www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Val Hepworth

Trustee

Conservation and Planning

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26th July 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

22/04304/FU Solar panels to rear of existing roof 5 Norwood Avenue Menston Ilkley.

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust. The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Register – High Royds Hospital, Grade II Listed Building, HE ref 1240191; and set within the grounds of High Royds Hospital, Grade II Registered Park and Garden, HE ref 1001469. 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.

High Royds Hospital was built as a mental hospital by West Riding County Council, and it was opened in 1888. It had been designed by the County Surveyor, Vickers Edwards. Edwards adopted an "echelon" layout for the wards – only the second such building in England. Constructed around the centre of its 100ha site the Hospital enjoyed a generous boundary of fields and trees.

The hospital closed in 2003 and it has been progressively converted to residential use since 2007 to the present day. The site now consists of a carefully managed mix of original hospital buildings, now converted to residential use, and groups of new dwellings. This application concerns one such house within a street of new detached dwellings. Whilst the roof of No 5 does not directly impact on either the original buildings, nor the parkland setting, it does play its part in the overall well-controlled architectural arrangement of the site.

We note that the applicant roof already incorporates two, mutually dissimilar rooflights. The submitted drawings indicate that the photo voltaic, (pv), panels will be arranged to step around these – leading to a somewhat ragged arrangement. We also note that the application is for "approximately 11 panes" – suggesting that even this arrangement as drawn may not be adhered to.

Whilst we understand the increasing importance of 'green energy', it is important that the applicant roof should uphold the design standard of the High Royds site – and the ragged layout, and imprecise specification, of the proposed pv panels as indicated do not fulfil this duty. Perhaps the panels could be limited to less than half the roof, and installed to achieve a simple rectangular group – perhaps at the expense of the smaller existing rooflight. As the application stands, we object.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hepworth
Trustee Conservation and Planning

cc. Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect North of England, Historic England
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