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Dear Kirsty Harte,

24/00384/FUL Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (Output upto 40 MW), With Associated Works, Equipment, Infrastructure and Landscaping: Land Adjacent To A614 Blyth Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 3PA

Thank you for reconsulting the Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee on the above application which has a material impact on the significance of Clumber Park and Thoresby Park, historic designed landscapes of national importance which are included by Historic England on the Register of Parks and Gardens (RPG) of Special Historic Interest at Grade I. The inclusion of these sites on the statutory register requires great weight to be given to their conservation. Unfortunately, the GT has no record of having received any previous consultations regarding these proposals prior to December 2024, although from your website it is clear that the consultation has been on-going since April 2024.

Inclusion on the Register at Grade I accords the highest significance to both Clumber Park and Thoresby Park requiring the greatest weight to be given to their conservation and preservation of their cultural heritage. The eastern boundary of Clumber Park lies immediately opposite the application site, following the line of the A614 and the location of two Grade II* listed structures Drayton gate and Normanton Gate, marking entrances to the park. Thoresby Park lies approximately 500m to the south, also on the opposite site of the A614.

Having reviewed the information accompanying the application and noting the comments of Historic England's landscape advisor and of the LPA conservation officers of Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) and Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC), and consulting with our colleagues in Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust, we offer the following observations.

By its nature and appearance, a solar array and battery storage facility as proposed is an industrial development within an area of rural landscape. This part of north Nottinghamshire is characterised by the large, designed landscapes and estates that run contiguously through and help characterise a large part of Sherwood Forest. We note the proposals have been amended to include some new design planting to the south to re-emphasise the C19th processional route, the reinstatement of some field boundaries and buffering in the form of visual screening (during summer months) of the site from within the adjacent registered parkland areas of Clumber and Thoresby. These components are of some value as mitigation, but they are unlikely to remove the harmful impacts on the character and significance of the agrarian and designed landscape elements of the setting of the surrounding heritage assets. Although we have been unable to make a site visit, a comparison of summer and winter Google Street View images clearly demonstrates the very much increased permeability of the existing deciduous tree cover between Clumber and Thoresby Parks, and the application site over the winter months

The public appreciation of the Sherwood Dukeries heritage landscape is amplified through the accessibility and popularity of the local rights-of-way network. The proposal site sits within this

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landscape area and is bounded by very well established and used recreational routes which provide some of the most accessible means to appreciate the cultural and natural heritage of the area. There is little doubt that the contrast of the industrial character of the proposals would be felt quite profoundly by those who regularly use the ROW network and visit the area for rest, relaxation and to enjoy the countryside here.

The GT and NGT consider allowing a solar array development in this location would cause harm to the significance of the setting of two historic registered parklands and the of designated listed buildings strongly linked to these historic estates of Clumber and Thoresby, thus failing to conserve the heritage significance and setting of the registered parklands. The Gardens Trust and Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust do not object to solar developments in locations where they will not harm the designated heritage of the area, but on this occasion, we have grave concerns about these proposals. The harmful impacts, whilst less than substantial, on two of the 30 registered parklands of Nottinghamshire, both registered at Grade I, is considered to be a very considerable price to pay and we refer you to NPPF 215. *Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.* Whilst there is undoubted public benefit to be gained from this proposal, we feel that it is highly likely that there are less impactful locations elsewhere in the area that would be better suited to this type of development. We would therefore advise that alternative sites are investigated.

We have no further comments to add at this stage but request to remain included in any further consultations.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Allighan BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI

Conservation Casework Manager & Acting Conservation Officer

.cc Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust