



National
Trust

National Trust representation
17th February 2026

Planning application ref. PL/2026/00089 | External works to the church and hall comprising the installation of a photovoltaic array... [and various other works] | United Reform Church, The Street, Holt, BA14 6RS

The National Trust is a conservation charity that looks after nature, beauty and history for the nation – for everyone, for ever.

The Trust is the custodian of The Courts Garden, an English country garden. The garden is a grade II registered park and garden – and the house is grade II* listed – and they form part of the Holt Conservation Area. The garden is open to visitors (from March to early November this year).

The Trust is supportive of renewable energy as a matter of principle, and we believe appropriate development can play an important role. We understand that the proposed solar PV panels are part of a new heating and power strategy, and we assume they are designed to meet the church's own energy needs. We note they would lead to reduced fossil fuel use, which is a material benefit in terms of the need to tackle climate change.

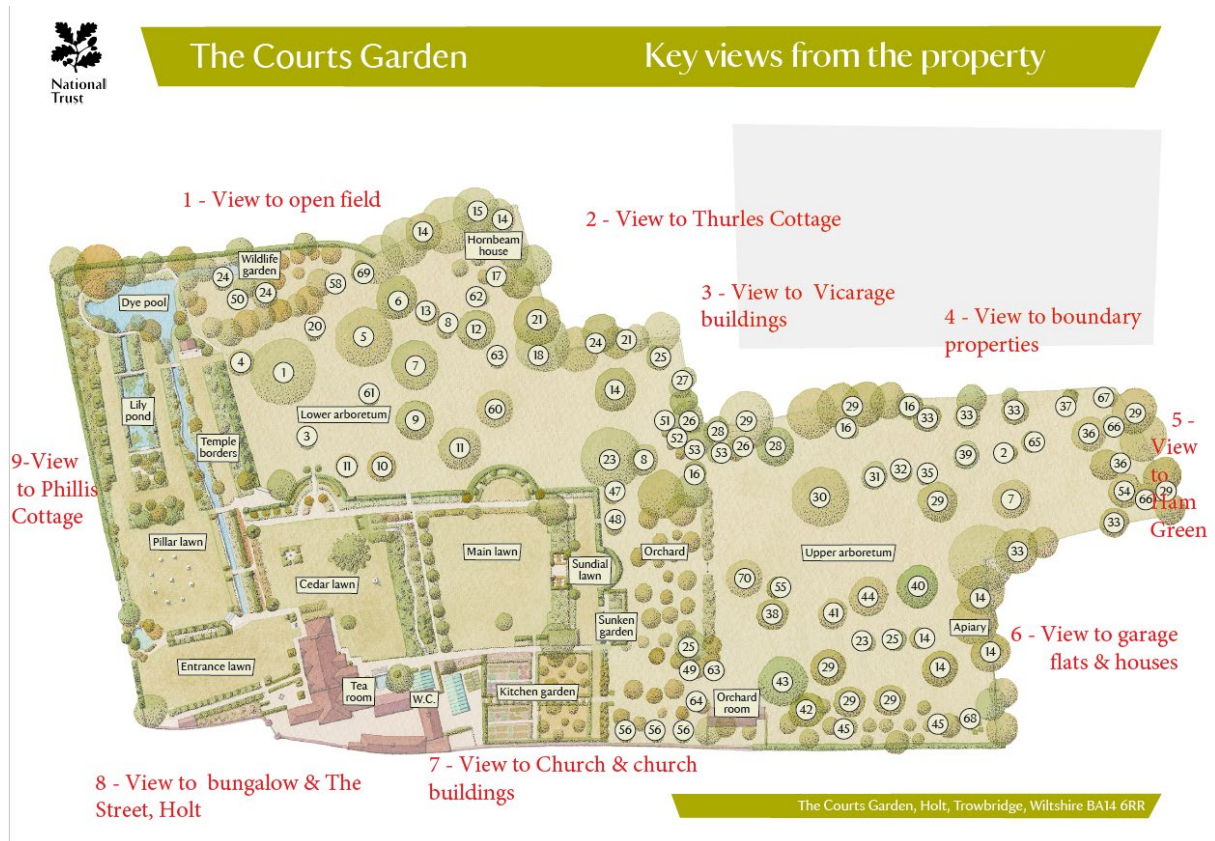
The Trust also has a role in standing up for the special places in our care. The proposed PV panels on the church roof would be visible from The Courts Garden adjacent, and by visitors to the garden (see our map and images). The views out from garden are paramount to its setting and the views of the church and its buildings are integral to that experience, with those views to the church having been carefully managed since 1903. Looking at the applicant's D&A and Heritage Statement, this refers to the Conservation Area yet omits to mention The Courts Garden as a designated heritage asset (or indeed the other listed buildings nearby). This goes against the national policy requirement in the NPPF to describe the significance of affected heritage assets and the contribution made by their setting.

In conclusion, the Trust supports renewable energy and appropriate development in principle, yet we have significant concerns about the assessment of heritage impact. We would ask that the Council gives this due weight and attention as part of its decision.

Enclosed:

- Page 2: Key views map
- Page 2-3: Selected photos
- Appended document: Photo record of key views (see no. 7 photos)

Key views from The Courts Garden



Selected photos

Photo showing view of church from the Main Lawn:



Photo showing view of church from the Sunken Garden:



Photo showing view of church from Upper Arboretum:



Key views from the property record - Courts Garden

17th October 2016

Plan ref No	Description	Photograph	Recorded by
1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA

1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA

1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA
1	Views to open field		PA

1	Views to open field			PA
1	Views to open field			PA
2	Views to Thurles Cottage			PA

2	Views to Thurles Cottage		PA
2	Views to Thurles Cottage		PA
3	Views to Vicarage buildings		PA

4	Views to East boundary properties		PA
4	Views to East boundary properties		PA
4	Views to East boundary properties		

4	Views to East boundary properties		
5	View south to Ham Green		PA
5	View south to Ham Green		PA

5	View south to Ham Green		
5	View south to Ham Green		
5	View south to Ham Green		

5	View south to Ham Green			
5	View south to Ham Green			
5	View south to Ham Green			

6	View south to garage flats and houses		
7	View west from Yew Walk		PA
7	View west from Main Lawn		PA

7	View west from the Top Terrace			PA
7	View west from Glasshouse			PA
7	View west from Glasshouse			PA

7	View west from Nursery entrance			PA
7	View west from Apple Arch			PA
7	View west from Small Orchard			PA
7	View west from Small Orchard			PA

7	View west from Small Orchard			PA
7	View west from Apple Arch			

8	Views north to bungalow and The Street, Holt			PA
8	Views north west to bungalow and The Street, Holt			

8	Views north to bungalow and The Street, Holt			
8	Views north to bungalow and The Street, Holt			
9	Views east to Phillis Cottage			

9	Views east to Phillis Cottage		
9	Views east to Phillis Cottage		
9	Views east to Phillis Cottage		PA