

Sussex Gardens Trust

Encouraging the protection, conservation and evolution of the local garden heritage

47 Denmans Lane
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

Planning Policy,
Wealden District Council,
Vicarage Lane, Hailsham,
BN27 2AX

12th December 2015

Sent by e-mail to: ldf@wealden.gov.uk. .

Dear Sir,

Consultation on Wealden Local Plan: Issues, Options and Recommendations

Thank you for consulting Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) regarding the above (your e-mail dated 16th October to Mr Johnson refers). We note that the deadline for the comments as advised in your e-mail and on your website is 5pm on 14th December, although we also note the document itself mentions a deadline of 30th November.

Our comments are generic in nature and have been set out in this letter since they do not fit easily into the specific questions included in the document.

Summary of SGT comments on Wealden Local Plan

SGT welcomes many aspects of the Local Plan.

It would however like to see evidence that the dispersal of the required settlement growth within this rural district will be informed by thorough and detailed character analysis of the various towns and villages. This will help ensure that plan making decisions are informed by a proper understanding of the morphology of the various towns and villages, and their urban and landscape design qualities and significance.

The Trust would further hope that every opportunity is taken to ensure designed landscapes are preserved or enhanced through this plan making process and opportunities for new designed landscapes are taken and integrated within any major housing developments that may be proposed. Only then may development be seen as a positive feature and not a threat to designed historic landscapes.

The Trust welcomes the plan to create a local list of heritage assets; hopefully to include many sites that have yet to be identified or designated. As you know Historic England has usefully prepared appropriate selection criteria, and the Trust seeks some assurance that through this plan resources can be made available for the delivery of such a list. For example the plan fails to identify some 15 non-designated heritage assets that were identified in research paid for by WDC and undertaken by SGT volunteers between 2003 - 2005. It is recommended that Local Plan should be updated to refer to these, which are shown at Annex B of this letter.

Background

Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) is a local Sussex heritage charity which aims to encourage the protection and evolution of local garden heritage. SGT maintains a database of notable parks and gardens in Sussex and extracts from the SGT records showing sites located in the Wealden DC area are shown at Annexes A, B and C attached.

Annex A: Sites Included in the Historic England Register of Historic Parks & Gardens

Annex B: Sites Identified by Wealden District Council to be of Local Historic Interest (supported by Detailed Research Report)

Annex C: Sites Identified by Sussex Gardens Trust to be of potential Local Historic Interest

In many cases SGT volunteers have prepared research reports and added information about these to the national Parks and Gardens UK Database which is open for public access (see http://www.parksandgardens.org/).

Detailed Comments on Wealden Local Plan

SGT welcomes many aspects of the Local Plan. In particular the Trust supports the principle of assessing and managing changes affecting designated and non-designated historic parks and gardens. The Trust is also pleased to see that sites included in the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens are specifically identified in Appendix 4 of the Design and Heritage Background Paper.

SGT also agrees with the statement at paragraph 21.35 that

> *"there may be other historic parks and gardens in the District that would warrant protection because they are demonstrably of equal significance to those designated."*

In 2003/4 WDC commissioned SGT to undertake detailed research at some 16 non-designated sites and detailed reports were delivered to the Council shortly after. One of these reports relates to a site that is now included on the Historic England Register and the other 15 are shown at **Annex B** attached.

SGT considers the Local Plan to be inadequate because it fails to identify these 15 non-designated sites and it is recommended that Local Plan should be updated to refer to them and that they should be added to the Design and Heritage Background Paper.

SGT has previously asked East Sussex County Council to add these sites to the Historic Environment Record (HER), but since this has not yet happened it is recommended that WDC requests ESCC to do so. Copies of the reports are available from SGT if required.

SGT is also aware of many other sites that may be of significance – these are listed at Annex C.

We look forward to continuing to work with WDC on planning issues relating to parks, gardens and other designed landscapes.

Yours sincerely

J A Stockwell

On behalf of the Sussex Garden Trust.

CC: The Gardens Trust

Annex A

Sussex Gardens Trust Database of Notable Parks and Gardens
Located Within the Wealden District Council Area
Sites Included in the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

Site Name (with hyperlink to Parks and Gardens UK Database where available)	*Historic England Designation*	*LPA*	*Parish*	*Map Ref*	*Body Commissioning Report (if any)*
Sheffield Park	I	Wealden	Fletching	TQ 4124	
Glen Andred	II*	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 4418	Wealden DC
Buckhurst Park	II*	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 5035	
Buxted Park	II*	Wealden	Buxted	TQ 4923	
Charleston Manor	II*	Wealden	Westdean	TQ 5200	
Eridge Park	II*	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5635	
Herstmonceux Castle	II*	Wealden	Herstmonceux	TQ 6410	
Hoo (The)	II*	Wealden	Willingdon	TQ 5802	
Penns in the Rocks	II*	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 5234	
Rotherfield Hall	II*	Wealden	Rotherfield	TQ 5429	
Groombridge Place	II*	Wealden	Withyham		
Wych Cross Place	II*	Wealden		TQ 4131	
Bayham Abbey	II	Wealden	Frant	TQ 6536	
Frant Court	II	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5825	
Hammerwood Park	II	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4339	
Heathfield	II	Wealden	Heathfield	TQ 5820	
Horsted Place	II	Wealden	Little Horsted	TQ 4618	
Kidbrooke Park	II	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4134	
Wadhurst Castle	II	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 2292	
Wootton Manor	II	Wealden	Folkington	TQ5605	

Annex B

Sussex Gardens Trust Database of Notable Parks and Gardens Located Within the Wealden District Council Area

Sites Identified by Wealden District Council to be of Local Historic Interest (supported by Detailed Research Report)

Site Name (with hyperlink to Parks& Gardens UK Database where available)	***Historic England Designation***	***LPA***	***Parish***	***Map Ref***	***Body Commissioning Report (if any)***
Bentley Wood	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4816	Wealden DC
Bestbeech St Mary	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 6230	Wealden DC
Chapelwood Manor	N/A	Wealden			Wealden DC
Chelwood Vachery	N/A	Wealden			Wealden DC
Dutton Homestall	N/A	Wealden	Ashurst Wood	TQ 4237	Wealden DC
Friston Place		Wealden	Friston	TV 5598	Wealden DC
Glyndley Manor	N/A	Wealden	Westham	TQ 6006	Wealden DC
Heron's Ghyll Gardens	N/A	Wealden	Buxted	TQ 4827	Wealden DC
Horselunges Manor	N/A	Wealden	Hellingly	TQ 5812	Wealden DC
Isfield Place	N/A	Wealden	Isfield	TQ 4418	Wealden DC
Leyswood	N/A	Wealden	Groombridge	TQ 5235	Wealden DC
Possingworth Manor House	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 5320	Wealden DC
Priesthawes Manor	N/A	Wealden	Westham	TQ 6006	Wealden DC
Sharnden	N/A	Wealden	Mayfield	TQ 6028	Wealden DC
Shepherd's Hill	N/A	Wealden	Hadlow Down	TQ5122	Wealden DC

Annex C

Sussex Gardens Trust Database of Notable Parks and Gardens
Located Within the Wealden District Council Area
Sites Identified by Sussex Gardens Trust to be of potential Local Historic Interest

Site Name (with hyperlink to Parks& Gardens UK Database where available)	***Historic England Designation***	***LPA***	***Parish***	***Map Ref***	***Body Commissioning Report (if any)***
Alciston Court	N/A	Wealden	Selmeston	TQ 5005	Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT)
Arches (Farm) Manor	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4919	SGT
Ashdown House	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4435	SGT
Ashdown Park (A.P.Hotel)	N/A	Wealden	Maresfield	TQ 4332	SGT
Ashdown Place	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4233	SGT
Barham House	N/A	Wealden	East Hoathly	TQ 5317	SGT
Barkham Manor	N/A	Wealden	Fletching	TQ 4321	SGT
Beeches Farm	N/A	Wealden	Isfield	TQ 4520	SGT
Bentley Wildfowl	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4814	SGT
Berwick Court	N/A	Wealden	Berwick	TQ 5204	SGT
Birling Manor	N/A	Wealden	East Dean		SGT
Blackham Court	N/A	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 5037	SGT
Bolebroke	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4737	SGT
Bramblehurst	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4135	SGT
Brambletye House	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4135	SGT
Brownings Manor (Grove)	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 5320	SGT
Bryckden Place	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 5420	SGT
Buckham Hill House	N/A	Wealden	Isfield	TQ 4520	SGT
Buckwood Grange (The Rocks)	N/A	Wealden	Uckfield	TQ 4621	SGT
Camberlot Hall	N/A	Wealden	Hellingly	TQ 5511	SGT
Carter's Corner Place	N/A	Wealden	Hellingly	TQ 6012	SGT
Castle Hill (House)	N/A	Wealden	Rotherfield	TQ 5428	SGT
Chelwood Beacon	N/A	Wealden	Danehill	TQ 4229	SGT
Clapham House	N/A	Wealden	Friston	TQ 5309	SGT
Claverham Manor	N/A	Wealden	Ripe	TQ 5370	SGT
Clinton Lodge	N/A	Wealden	Fletching	TQ 4223	SGT
Cobblers	N/A	Wealden	Crowborough	TQ 5329	SGT
Cotchford Farm	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4734	SGT
Cowbeech House/ Hall Farm	N/A	Wealden	Cowbeech	TQ 6314	SGT
Cranesden	N/A	Wealden	Mayfield	TQ 5826	SGT
Crossways House (St	N/A	Wealden	Upper Dicker	TQ 5609	SGT

Annex C

Sussex Gardens Trust Database of Notable Parks and Gardens
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Site Name (with hyperlink to Parks& Gardens UK Database where available)	***Historic England Designation***	***LPA***	***Parish***	***Map Ref***	***Body Commissioning Report (if any)***
Bede's School)					
Danehurst	N/A	Wealden	Danehill	TQ 4026	SGT
Dewhurst Lodge	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 6133	SGT
Eckington Manor	N/A	Wealden	Ripe	TQ 5210	SGT
Ely Grange	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5936	SGT
Fishers Gate	N/A	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 4933	SGT
Folkington Manor	N/A	Wealden	Folkington	TQ 5603	SGT
Folkington Place	N/A	Wealden	Folkington	TQ 5604	SGT
Foxhunt Manor	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 5417	SGT
Framfield Grange	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 5020	SGT
Framfield Place	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4920	SGT
Frankham Park	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 5931	SGT
Frant Lodge	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5935	SGT
Frant Manor Cottage	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5935	SGT
Gamelands	N/A	Wealden	Hellingly	TQ 5715	SGT
Hammond's Green	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ4920	SGT
Hamsell Manor	N/A	Wealden	Rotherfield	TQ 5533	SGT
Hankham, Handcombe Hall	N/A	Wealden	Handcombe		SGT
Heasmonds (Prospect House)	N/A	Wealden	East Hoathly	TQ 5216	SGT
Heatherden	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 5621	SGT
Herstmonceux Place	N/A	Wealden	Herstmonceux	TQ 6311	SGT
High Cross	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4918	SGT
Highfield Park	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4938	SGT
Highlands, Holtye	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4539?	SGT
Hilders Court	N/A	Wealden	Chiddingly	TQ 5415	SGT
Holly Hill	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4533	SGT
Holly Mount	N/A	Wealden	Buxted	TQ 4926	SGT
Horeham Manor	N/A	Wealden	Horam	TQ 5717	SGT
Isenhurst	N/A	Wealden	Mayfield	TQ 5623	SGT
Knole	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 6034	SGT
Laughton (Lodge) Manor	N/A	Wealden	Laughton	TQ 4913	SGT
Lealands	N/A	Wealden	Hellingly	TQ 5713	SGT
Lime House	N/A	Wealden	Herstmonceux	TQ 6312	SGT
Lower Sandhill	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 4917	SGT

Annex C

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Site Name (with hyperlink to Parks& Gardens UK Database where available)	*Historic England Designation*	*LPA*	*Parish*	*Map Ref*	*Body Commissioning Report (if any)*
Ludlay	N/A	Wealden	Selmeston	TQ 5207	SGT
Maresfield Park	N/A	Wealden	Maresfield	TQ 4624	SGT
Markly	N/A	Wealden	Warbleton	TQ 6218	SGT
Milton Court and Milton	N/A	Wealden	Arlington	TQ 5507	SGT
Molesley Gore	N/A	Wealden	Uckfield	TQ 4721	SGT
Monks Park	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 6434	SGT
Mount, The	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 6132	SGT
Newplace Farm	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 5019	SGT
Old Buckhurst	N/A	Wealden	Withyham	TQ 4935	SGT
Old Whyligh	N/A	Wealden	East Hoathly	TQ 5116	SGT
Otham	N/A	Wealden	Polegate		SGT
Owlesbury Park	N/A	Wealden	Rotherfield?	TQ 6120	SGT
Pixton Hill	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4335	SGT
Plawhatch Hall	N/A	Wealden	East Grinstead	TQ 3932	SGT
Rocks, The	N/A	Wealden	Buxted	TQ 4925	SGT
Searles	N/A	Wealden	Fletching	TQ 4325	SGT
Shepherd's Gate	N/A	Wealden	Hartfield	TQ 4433	SGT
Shernfold Place (Park)	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5934	SGT
Sherrington Manor	N/A	Wealden	Selmeston	TQ 5007	SGT
Snape	N/A	Wealden	Wadhurst	TQ 6230	SGT
Steep Park	N/A	Wealden	Rotherfield	TQ 5327	SGT
Stilliands Tower/Stillyans	N/A	Wealden	Heathfield/Waldron	TQ 5818	SGT
Tanners Manor	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 5618	SGT
Tilton Farmhouse	N/A	Wealden	Firle	TQ 4906	SGT
Tottingworth Park	N/A	Wealden	Waldron	TQ 6122	SGT
Trulls Hatch	N/A	Wealden	Rotherfield	TQ 5729	SGT
Whyly (now Pilgrim Hall)	N/A	Wealden	Framfield	TQ 5017	SGT
Windmill-hill Place	N/A	Wealden	Wartling	TQ 6511	SGT
Woodside	N/A	Wealden	Frant	TQ 5934	SGT
Yew Tree Hall	N/A	Wealden	Forest Row	TQ 4333	SGT