

Sussex Gardens Trust

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

47 Denmans Lane
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

To: SDNPA
Submitted via e-mail FAO Jane Rarok

3rd December 2020

Dear Sirs,

SDNP/20/04537/FUL: Goodwood House Underground Heat and Power Services

Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) is a member of the Gardens Trust (GT) (a national statutory consultee), and works closely with the GT on planning matters. The GT has also brought this application to our attention.

Representatives of SGT have carefully studied the documents submitted with the application together with earlier applications (SDNP 19/02256 and SDNP/20/03380/FUL). Much of the work associated with the present application is to be undertaken within the boundary of Goodwood House, a Grade I Registered Park and Garden.

The underground heat and power network is a truly innovative project and by eliminating the plant and equipment previously proposed within the hotel grounds is a distinct visual improvement. The Heritage statement indicates the disturbance caused by installing underground equipment through areas of archaeological and landscape significance has been recognised. The simple building proposed to house the local equipment within the kitchen garden reflects the proportions of the other, original, service buildings the only significant change appears to be the use of brick instead of mainly flint walling. Provided a suitable stock brick is used the result should be acceptable - if the bricklayer executes the work in sympathy to the location.

In terms of the impact of the power network on the landscape of the registered parkland there will be some disturbance during the installation but there should be little or none in the longer term.

Conclusion

SGT does not object to the present application and welcomes the transfer of the biomass facility to a location well away from the registered site. The re-design for the hotel extensions and gardens will possibly be a more significant consideration for SGT when the revised application is submitted in the new year.

Yours faithfully

Jim Stockwell
On behalf of the Sussex Gardens Trust.
CC: The Gardens Trust