The Gardens Trust
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
Phone: (+44/0) 207 608 2409
Email: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org
www.thegardenstrust.org

margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org

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Research - Conserve - Campaign

Caroline Grist
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
Sussex RH16 1SS
caroline.grist@midsussex.gov.uk

Dear Ms Grist,

**Ref : DM/22/1429 - Proposed single storey side extension to garage to create a habitable bedroom with ensuite. Single storey rear extension to create utility room. Internal remodelling. Adaptations to detached outbuilding/rotunda to make summer house. Little Manor, Lewes Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex**

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens as per the above application. We have liaised with our colleagues in the Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) and their local knowledge informs this response.

We have considered the online documentation and are surprised that despite the application site lying within the Grade II* registered park and garden (RPG) of Brockhurst, we could see no reference to this crucial fact within the documentation. The suite of documents does not include either a Design & Access statement, a Heritage Statement or as required by the NPPF, any assessment of significance (Paras 194 & 195). Added to this, the Gardens Trust have been consulted very late in the day and the application response time has already passed.

Due to the late consultation, our colleagues in the Sussex Gardens Trust have not been able to make a site visit. Fortunately, the proposals do not appear to be problematic, but we would like to stress, that in future any application which might affect a RPG should be accompanied by far more thorough documentation and sent to the Gardens Trust in a timely fashion. As the current information fails to meet the requirements of the NPPF we are surprised that your officers validated this application.

I am attaching a copy of our guidance for Local Planning Authorities which although it still refers to the earlier NPPF paragraphs, is still entirely relevant as far as the responsibilities of the LPA are concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer