47 Denmans Lane
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2JN

SDNP
Submitted by e-mail to: dcplanning@chichester.gov.uk

15th October 2023

Dear Sirs,

SDNP/23/03454/FUL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS AT UPPARK

Thank you for consulting Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) and 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 Garden. SGT is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations.

Representatives of SGT have carefully studied the documents submitted with the application and also undertaken a site visit. Many aspects of the application are internal and have no impact on the landscape. Other aspects are external and those relating to repairs to the West Pavilion and Dairy, and water treatment tanks do not appear to cause any harm to the significance of the Grade II* landscape. For all of these aspects SGT offers no comment and neither supports nor objects.

However, the potential harm associated with the new and much higher chimneys/flues at the existing Biomass Energy Centre is not fully evaluated in the application. The Heritage Statement includes a description of the significance of the Park and the impact of the proposals on that significance. Section 5.1 on page 5 of Appendix A states:

> "*Although the increase of the flue height has potential to impact visually, its top will still be below the adjacent tree line and therefore will not be seen by the wider park."*

Appendix A concludes the new flues will cause "NO HARM.

The new chimneys will be approximately 7m above ground level and our representative has viewed the existing facility from nearby parts of the Registered Park. This height of the new chimneys appears to approximately the same as the height of the existing trees, but higher

than the existing shrubs. Without further evidence, SGT does not, therefore, accept the new chimneys will cause “NO VISUAL HARM” to the Registered Park

Before the application is determined, SGT suggests the applicant should be asked to provide some photomontages to show definitively whether the new chimneys will be visible, either directly or through glimpsed views, from parts of the Registered Park. If so, consideration should be given to mitigating any harm – e.g. by maintaining the height of the tree shrub screen at a higher level and providing a condition in any approval to this effect.

Kind regards

Jim Stockwell
Trustee
On behalf of
Sussex Gardens Trust