

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2407	Case Officer:	Emily Wade
Application Type:	Listed Building Consent		
Proposal:	Partial conversion of the garage into a downstairs bedroom. Minor alterations to existing internal walls, including widening of existing openings and relocation of WC. Widening existing patio door. Lowering the sill height of an existing window. Installation of a new garden facing window.		
Site:	White Lodge, Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2HU,		
Validation Date	23 Sep 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	24 Oct 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	17 Nov 2025
Target Date:	18 Nov 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Emily Wade

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	Stephen Ashdown	Date:	18 Nov 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2407

White Lodge, Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2HU
Partial conversion of the garage into a downstairs bedroom. Minor alterations to existing internal walls, including widening of existing openings and relocation of WC. Widening existing patio door. Lowering the sill height of an existing window. Installation of a new garden facing window.
Mrs Sarah Tavare

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

N/A

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

No objection.

INTRODUCTION

White Lodge is a Grade II listed building situated within the Lindfield Conservation Area, forming part of the group of buildings at Old Place. The building was originally stables at ground floor with staff accommodation above, later converted to garaging, and then to fully residential with only one garage retained. The current proposal is for the partial conversion of the remaining garage to a bedroom, with associated internal alterations, and external alterations at the rear.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

None relevant.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

White Lodge is a Grade II listed building, part of a group of three attached properties located to the rear of Old Place, a substantial Grade II* listed former manor house, at the northern end of Lindfield High Street, within the Conservation Area. These buildings were apparently constructed c.1908 as the stables block to the house, with staff accommodation at first floor. The ground floor of White Lodge appears to have been converted to garaging for cars c.1961, retaining bedrooms above. At some point after this, but prior to the listing of White Lodge and its neighbours in 1987, the property was converted to fully residential use, with only a single garage retained facing onto the adjacent driveway.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The current proposal is for internal and external alterations comprising the partial conversion of the remaining garage for use as a bedroom, associated internal alterations, including formation of a WC and ensuite within the adjacent hallway, and external works at the rear including enlargement of two existing openings and addition of a further window all at ground floor.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND LIST OF POLICIES

Planning legislation holds that the determination of a planning application shall be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Using this as the starting point the development plan for this part of Mid Sussex consists of the District Plan, Site Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Lindfield Neighbourhood Plan.

National policy (which is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance) does not form part of the development plan, but is an important material consideration.

Mid Sussex District Plan

The District Plan was adopted at Full Council on 28th March 2018.

Relevant policies:

DP34 Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets.

Site Allocations DPD

The SADPD was adopted on 29th June 2022. It allocates sufficient housing and employment land to meet identified needs to 2031.

There are no relevant policies.

Lindfield Neighbourhood Plan

There are no relevant policies.

Other Material Considerations

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 Consultation Draft

The District Council is reviewing and updating the District Plan. Upon adoption, the new District Plan 2021 - 2039 will replace the current District Plan 2014-2031 and its policies will have full weight. In accordance with the NPPF, Local Planning Authorities may give weight to relevant policies of the emerging plan according to the stage of preparation; the extent to which there are unresolved objections to the relevant policies; and the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the NPPF. The draft District Plan 2021-2039 (Regulation 19) is currently at Examination and stage 1 hearings were concluded on the 31st October 2024. There are unresolved objections to the majority of Policies in the draft District Plan and as such, only minimal weight can be given to the Plan and this planning application has been assessed against the policies of the adopted District Plan.

Relevant policies:

DPB2 Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets

Mid Sussex Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Council has adopted a 'Mid Sussex Design Guide' SPD that aims to help deliver high quality development across the district that responds appropriately to its context and is inclusive and sustainable. The Design Guide was adopted by Council on 4th November 2020 as an SPD for use in the consideration and determination of planning applications. The SPD is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2023)

Paragraphs 210-215 of the NPPF are relevant and state that:

'210. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

o the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

- o *the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- o *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.*

211. In considering any applications to remove or alter a historic statue, plaque, memorial or monument (whether listed or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the importance of their retention in situ and, where appropriate, of explaining their historic and social context rather than removal.

212. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

213. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

214. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;
- and
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;
- c) and conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

215. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.'

Section 16 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states:

'In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

ASSESSMENT

District Plan Policy DP34 will be relevant, and states that:

'Development will be required to protect listed buildings and their settings. This will be achieved by ensuring that:...

- *Alterations or extensions to a listed building respect its historic form, scale, setting, significance and fabric... '*

The current proposal, which follows on from pre-application advice, is for internal and external alterations to White Lodge comprising the partial conversion of the remaining garage for use as a bedroom, associated internal alterations, including formation of a WC and ensuite within the adjacent hallway, and external works at the rear including enlargement of two existing openings and addition of a further window all at ground floor.

At pre-application stage it was noted that the remaining garage space to the northwest corner of the Lodge at ground floor contributes positively to the narrative and hence the special interest of the listed building, being the most significant surviving evidence of its designed ancillary use as stabling, later garaging. The application scheme retains key features such as the brick flooring (albeit partly covered by a floating floor), the wainscoting to the walls, and the sliding garage door and tracks. The external appearance of this part of the building will also be unaltered. On balance, despite the subdivision of the room, this is considered acceptable.

The associated works to the adjacent hallway include removal of an existing WC enclosure, with construction of a replacement WC and ensuite in a different position. Although there is a greater impact on the space than the existing situation, this is considered on balance acceptable.

Also proposed internally are a number of new or slightly enlarged openings, which are not considered contentious. Externally at the rear it is proposed to enlarge an existing opening for French doors to accommodate a triple door, to enlarge a window opening, and to create a new window. These alterations will have a limited impact on the fabric of the building and on its appearance in views from outside the site, and are considered acceptable.

Subject to detail to be reserved by condition the proposal is considered to preserve the special interest of the listed building and to meet the requirements of District Plan Policy DP34 and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF.

PLANNING BALANCE AND CONCLUSION

For the above reasons it is recommended that listed building consent is granted.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Emily Wade