

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/0891	Case Officer:	Emily Wade
Application Type:	Listed Building Consent		
Proposal:	Adjust ground levels in vestibule to enable level accessibility to main building.		
Site:	Hurstpierpoint College, College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9JS, ,		
Validation Date	3 Apr 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	2 May 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	22 May 2025
Target Date:	29 May 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:	23 May 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/0891

**Hurstpierpoint College, College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9JS,
Adjust ground levels in vestibule to enable level accessibility to main building.
Mr Dan Higgins**

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

Not relevant.

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

The committee's recommendation is that MSDC should give permission.

INTRODUCTION

Hurstpierpoint College is located in a rural position to the north of Hurstpierpoint. At the centre of the College campus are two Grade II listed buildings, the building of the inner and outer quadrangle, and Star House, which is now linked to the quads. These date from the mid 19th century. The current proposal is for alterations to the floor level within the vestibule linking inner and outer quadrangles, to allow improved accessibility.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

None relevant.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Hurstpierpoint College is located in a rural position to the north of Hurstpierpoint. At the centre of the College campus are two Grade II listed buildings, the building of the inner and outer quadrangle, and Star House, which is now linked to the quads. These date from the mid 19th century. The current proposal relates to the vestibule linking the inner and outer quads.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The current proposal is for alterations to the floor level and door thresholds within and around the vestibule to allow for improved accessibility, by allowing level access between the vestibule and the adjacent cloisters. The proposal allows for the careful lifting and relaying of the existing, original quarry tiles to the area, with any damage to these made up with new tiles to match. Works to the door thresholds will also be in matching materials.

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 Hurstpierpoint 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.

Hurstpierpoint and Sayres Common Neighbourhood Plan

There are no relevant policies.

C5 - Hurstpierpoint College.

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 some of the 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...'*

Policy C5 of the Neighbourhood Plan supports development that conserves or enhances the character and appearance of the listed buildings.

The vestibule is a key area linking the inner and outer quadrangles of the College, and opens into two flanking cloisters which run back around the rear quad. At present, the floor level of the vestibule sits below that of the cloisters, which impedes accessibility. The current proposal is to alter the floor level

within the vestibule to introduce a gentle slope from front to rear and a level platform across the rear of the area between the cloister entrances. To achieve this, the existing original quarry tiles will be carefully lifted and relaid over a regraded substrate, on a lime mortar bed, and with thin joints. Any shortfall in tiles will be made up with new tiles to match the existing. Where door thresholds need to be changed, this work will also be carried out with matching materials.

The vestibule is a significant space at the entrance to the school, and a key point in its circulation route. However, the proposed works will have only a minor impact on its proportions and appearance. The re-use of the existing, original tiles is important, and a condition requiring details of new tiles to match existing where necessary is suggested. Subject to this, the proposal is considered to preserve the special interest of the listed building, meeting the requirements of District Plan policy DP34, policy C5 of the Neighbourhood Plan and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF.

PLANNING BALANCE AND CONCLUSION

It is recommended that listed building consent is granted.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Emily Wade