



LONDON OFFICE

Mr Hamish Evans
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS

Direct Dial: 0207 973 3627

Our ref: P01597193; L01597203

1th July 2026

Dear Mr Evans

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**SUNTE HOUSE, BIRCHEN LANE, HAYWARDS HEATH, WEST SUSSEX RH16
1RZ**

Application Nos DM/25/1708; DM/25/1709

Thank you for your letters of 15th June 2026 regarding further amendments to the above applications for listed building consent and planning permission. On the basis of the information provided, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the applications.

Introduction

Historic England provided written advice on the original scheme on 11th September 2025. The proposal involved the residential conversion of a group of curtilage-listed farmyard buildings, including the barn located to the north of Sunte House.

As we considered that certain elements of the scheme would result in harm to the significance of the listed building, revised proposals were subsequently submitted, and we provided further advice on these amendments on 12th January 2026.

In that correspondence, we acknowledged that several of our recommendations had been incorporated into the amended scheme. However, concerns remained in relation to the proposed barn extension. While the redesign as a lean-to structure reduced the adverse impact of the earlier proposal, the extensive use of glazing resulted in an incongruous, domestic appearance for this important former farm building.

In addition, the proposed zinc-clad roof, intended to distinguish the contemporary intervention, was not considered to relate sympathetically to the host structure.



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We therefore recommended reducing the extent of glazing in the barn's southern extension to lessen its visual dominance and better reflect the agricultural and utilitarian character of this rural building type.

In our original letter, we set out the significance of the farm buildings and the relevant policy context. We do not repeat that information here; however, our earlier advice should be read in conjunction with the comments below on the recently submitted amendments.

Historic England Updated Position

We welcome the revisions to the design of the barn extension, which respond positively to our previous recommendations. In particular, we support the reduction in glazing, achieved through the introduction of weatherboarded side elevations and the insertion of bi-folding timber shutters to screen the sliding glazed frontage doors.

Furthermore, the replacement of the previously proposed zinc-clad roof with more contextually appropriate clay tiles is a positive change.

Overall, these amendments succeed in retaining the character of the former farm building, while ensuring the extension remains appropriately subordinate in hierarchical terms.

Recommendation

Historic England recommends that your Council should approve this application, which, broadly, would conserve the significance of Sunte House, unless it finds that other considerations indicate otherwise.

Yours sincerely

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