

From: Diane Russell <Diane.Russell@highweald.org>
Sent: 20 October 2025 13:05:53 UTC+01:00
To: "Stefan Galyas" <Stefan.Galyas@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: DM/25/2231 Stonehurst High Weald Response

Dear Sirs,

We do not wish to make detailed comments on this application. However, we trust that you will consider the application in the context of the [High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029](#), in particular the various Objectives set out for each of the Key Character Components of natural beauty. The Management Plan recognises the role that heritage assets, including registered parks and gardens, play in the character and natural beauty of the HWNL. In this regard, we note the comments from the Sussex Gardens Trust (member organisation of The Gardens Trust, the Statutory Consultee for RP&Gs), who have advised that they do not consider that the proposal would be harmful to the significance of either the RP&G at Stonehurst or Wakehurst Place. We also note the detailed assessment of the proposal by the MSDC Conservation Officer in this regard, and their comments regarding the need for detailed conditions relating to architectural detailing and external materials in this regard, should the LPA be minded to grant permission.

I would also draw your attention to the 'Dark Skies' Character component of the Management Plan, and the Objectives and Actions set out in that chapter. We would also expect the application to be considered in the context of the [high-weald-national-landscape-dark-skies-planning-advice-note](#), which the LPA may consider would require the submission of a lighting assessment prior to determination of the application. Also, should the LPA be minded to grant planning permission, we would suggest that consideration should be given to imposing a condition specifying that no external lighting shall be affixed to the tower, in order to minimise light pollution on the dark night skies in the HWNL.

Regards

Diane Russell BSc Hons Dip Arch PgDip Arch Cons
Planning & Design Advisor



High Weald
National
Landscape

High Weald National Landscape Partnership

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From: Stefan Galyas <Stefan.Galyas@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2025 15:15
To: Diane Russell <Diane.Russell@highweald.org>

Subject: DM/25/2231 Stonehurst High Weald Response

Importance: High

Good afternoon Diane,

I have consulted the High Weald National Landscapes Unit on the above application at Stonehurst due to the potential impact of the proposed tower on the setting of the wider landscape. I note that the consultation period has expired on the 1st of October but still wanted to enquire as to whether you wish to comment on the proposal and have been directed to do so by our head of department Steve Ashdown.

The tower would be a reinstatement of an earlier observatory and will stand at 23.3m above terrace level. A number of landscape and visual evidence appraisals have been carried out prior to the applications submission and should be visible in the case file.

If you could let me know whether you have any further comments regarding the proposal, it would be much appreciated.

Regards,
Stefan Galyas MPLAN
Planning Officer
Development Management
Mid Sussex District Council
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