

4.0 Environmental & sustainability approach

The Wickenden Manor development in Mid-Sussex is a part-new build, part-retrofit project designed to assure the continued use of the manor, with a lower energy demand and lower overall carbon emissions. The scheme adopts a fabric-first approach, with the new extension rebuilt to achieve high insulation and the existing manor internally insulated to preserve its stonework while targeting high thermal performance. Heating and hot water in the new-build areas will be provided entirely by efficient air source heat pumps, which will also supply hot water to the existing building. Combined with high-performance fabric, passive low-energy design, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery and LED lighting, the design achieves a 72% reduction in regulated CO2 emissions compared to the Part L 2021 baseline, from 5.3 to 1.5 tonnes per year. A 35.4 kWp ground-mounted solar PV array will generate an estimated 27,774 kWh annually.

Water-saving appliances will meet the equivalent of a BREEAM Good standard, while responsibly sourced low-carbon materials will be used throughout. The scheme incorporates demand-side response capability via the heat pump system with buffer storage, enabling alignment of energy use with low-carbon electricity periods.

With sustainable transport links and the challenge of delivering a low-carbon basement extension, Wickenden Manor aims to be an exemplar of heritage-sensitive, high-performance sustainable design.



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Proposed solar plant, located in the walled garden

5.0 Conclusion

The redevelopment of Wickenden Manor, Chilling Street, East Grinstead, presents a rare opportunity to revitalise a site of both architectural merit and spiritual significance.

The proposal has been carefully developed to respond to the estate's varied functions, combining massing that is sensitive to the historic Manor with a contextual design which respects the original manor without being a pastiche of it. It delivers high-quality accommodation and purpose-built spaces for spiritual contemplation and learning, all while exceeding statutory environmental performance standards.

The scheme ensures full accessibility, protects the existing mature landscape, and preserves the heritage character of the Manor. Together, these elements create a development that is both respectful of its past and equipped for its future.

On this basis, we believe that planning permission should be granted for this proposal.

A-Zero Architects
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