

**DESIGN STATEMENT**  
**Addendum to Design Access and Heritage Statement**

**Internal and external alterations including replacement of windows and widened  
parking area:**

*Whitehouse Farm Cottage  
Staplefield Lane  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH17 6AU*

March 2025

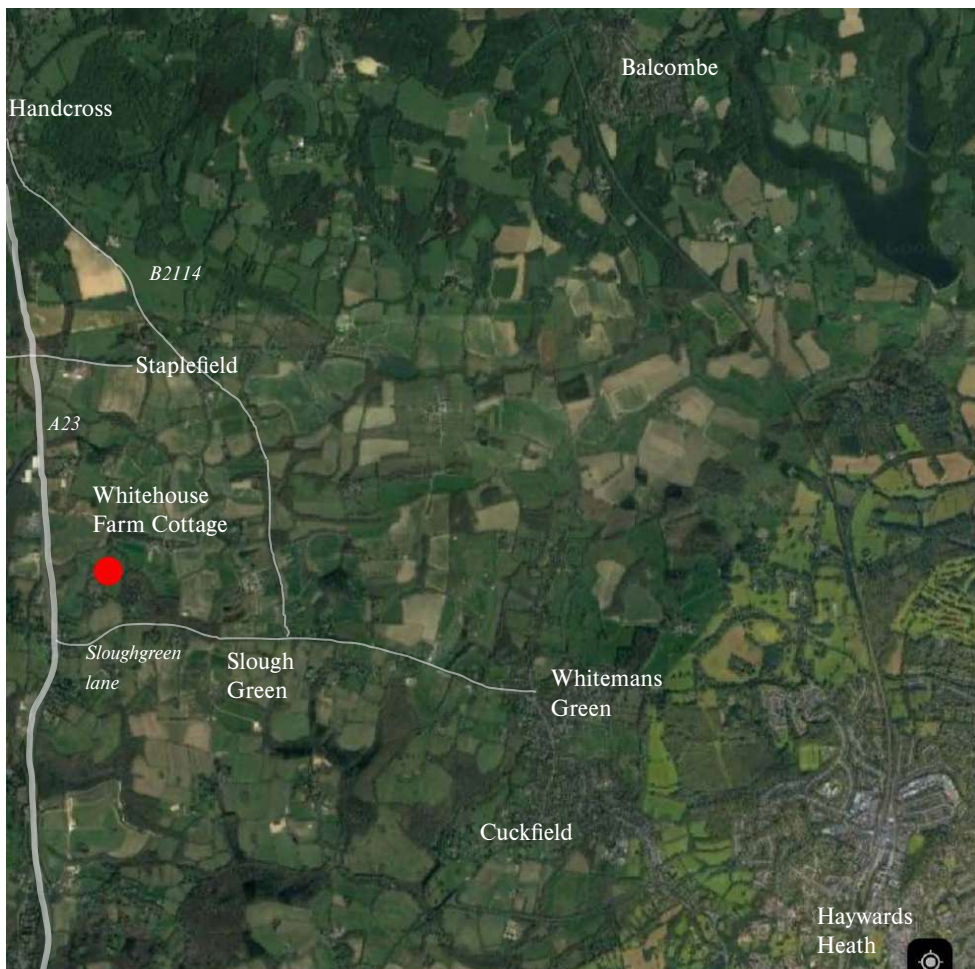
**Mr Julian Date & Mr Philip Robinson**

Rev.A 07.05.25

This document is an addendum to the Design Access and Heritage Statement to provide additional information on the design intent.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Whitehouse Farm Cottage is in a rural location between Staplefield and Slough Green in Mid Sussex. It is situated on Staplefield Lane, which contains a series of rural detached houses. Staplefield Lane is surrounded by fields and interspersed with woodland. The closest neighbour is Whitehouse Cottage to the north-east and Whitehouse Farm to the south-east. The property is situated in close proximity to the A23. The proposal site does not lie in a conservation area, nor in a National Park.



Googlemaps satellite image

## 2. EXISTING SITE CONTEXT

*List entry number:* 1025712  
*Date first listed:* 11.05.83  
*Listing:* Grade II

Description: 2. C 18. Two storeys. Three windows. Red brick and grey headers. Horsham slab roof. Casement windows.

### **Flood Risk Zone 1**

The property lies within Flood Risk Zone 1, which has a low probability of flooding from rivers and the sea.

### **Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**

There are no TPO's associated with this site.

### **Conservation Area**

The proposal site lies outside of the conservation area.

## 3. Planning History

There are no applications filed for the proposal site on the public register after 1948. The historic context of the proposal site is described further in the accompanying heritage statement.

#### 4. Local Planning History

The below note a few recent local approved applications on Staplefield Lane, which were looking to extend the existing house, or add an additional secondary outbuilding/structure to the existing site.

**App. No DM/21/3642**

*Address:* Whitehouse Cottage, Staplefield Lane, RH17 6AU  
*Proposal:* Replacement garage and proposal swimming pool with pool house  
*Status:* **Approved, 18.02.22**

The proposal for the garage contains facilities for a workshop and store. The proposed poolhouse facilitates a gym, WC and home office/study. The main material of the proposed is timber weatherboarding

**App. No DM/20/4681**

*Address:* Whitehouse Cottage, Staplefield Lane, RH17 6AU  
*Proposal:* Single storey front and rear extensions. Removal of external staircase and wall at front.  
Alterations to fenestration and roof with internal changes.  
*Status:* **Approved, 15.09.21**

**App. No DM/23/1355**

*Address:* Merrywood, Staplefield Lane, RH17 6AR  
*Proposal:* Erection of an oak framed outbuilding comprising of a home office and gym  
*Status:* **Approved, 17.07.23**

## 5. Proposal

### Amount, Gross Internal Area

#### Existing

|                       |       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Ground floor          | 87.91 | sqm               |
| First Floor           | 71.57 | sqm               |
| External outbuildings | 5.95  | sqm               |
|                       |       | <hr/>             |
|                       |       | <b>165.43 sqm</b> |

#### Proposed

|                       |       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Ground floor          | 87.91 | sqm               |
| First Floor           | 71.57 | sqm               |
| External outbuildings | 5.95  | sqm               |
|                       |       | <hr/>             |
|                       |       | <b>165.43 sqm</b> |

Proposed GIA as existing.

## **Scale and appearance**

When first approaching the site, whether it is on a frosty winter's or a warm summer's day, one is immediately drawn to a sense of peacefulness and calmness, which is portrayed by how harmoniously the cottage sits within its bucolic garden and overall setting. It feels entirely untouched, as if time somehow stood still. The current owners have lovingly looked after the cottage for decades and throughout this time were able to observe the qualities of the cottage, its architectural detail and the movement of light carefully. During the design process it was important to the client to develop a design, which is humble and earnest in scale, whilst unlocking the full potential of areas within and around the house, which feel currently underutilised. Our design research was drawn to studying extensively traditional cottages within West Sussex, as well as drawing inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement in the execution of architectural details and craftsmanship. In our view, if the detailing and proportion of a design aren't carefully considered, modern insertions can easily disturb the calmness of the existing architecture. Equally, a mimicry of the past portrays a similar sense of misbalance. The sense of the cottage feeling entirely unchanged, is of course an illusion, as historically it has undergone a series of alterations in accordance with living standards of a specific time period, as well as the demands and living circumstances of its previous residents. Therefore, we felt, a suitable design approach would be one, whereby the modern needs of how a house is used would be acknowledged. However, in order for the alterations to feel harmonious, they would need to be carried proportionately to how the cottage would historically have been expanded or altered.

Externally the main area of development would be the proposal of two dormer windows to the north-east elevation. There would also be smaller alterations to the external elevations, which have already been elaborated on within the Design Access and Heritage Statement and therefore have been excluded from this addendum to avoid duplication of information.

## **Dormer windows**

We are proposing the insertion of two modestly sized hipped dormers with flush casement windows and clay tile hanging to the dormer cheeks. The dormer roof would be made of traditional handmade clay tiles and mortar bedded bonnet hip tiles. In order for the proposed dormers to feel balanced against the existing, we felt it was important to carefully draw reference from the proportions, eaves and cheek detail, as well as the form of historic dormers within Sussex and Surrey. We also studied the architectural detailing of Edwin Lutyen's work with particular reference to Goddards. We believe the dormer windows have been designed proportionately as key existing architectural detailing such as the shallow catslide roof can still easily be identified and its historic character appreciated. Internally, the dormer windows enable a highly practical layout on the first floor without compromising on the proportions of the front rooms. The proposal facilitated a traditional designed staircase, which is much more in keeping to the cottage than the current one. It also enables for a small ensuite WC to be integrated meeting modern living needs.

# SOMMERER

Architecture & Living



Traditional hipped dormer with flush timber casement windows and tile hanging to dormer cheeks



Goddards, image from Sir Edwin Lutyens  
by Elizabeth Wilhide

# SOMMERER

Architecture & Living



Westbrook Godalming designed H Thackeray Turner

## **Layout**

The changes to the internal layout on the ground and first floor have been carefully described in the Design Access and Heritage Statement. To avoid duplication, they have therefore been excluded from this addendum.

## **Landscaping and access**

The proposed site access remains unchanged to the existing. The existing landscaping remains largely the same with a few minor alterations such as the increase of the existing driveway . Please refer to the proposed site plan 2403-01-10RevA. The proposed designed has been carefully redesigned taking into consideration the comments made during the pre-application advice DM/24/2445. We believe the proposed design does still not negatively impact upon the functional relationship between Whitehouse Cottage and Whitehouse Farm Cottage aa two constituent parts of Whitehouse Farm. The existing track is retained and the proposed works only concern the enlargement of the existing track on the north-eastern side as shown on plan 2403-01-10.

# SOMMERER

Architecture & Living

Sommerer Architecture & Living Ltd

55 Renfields

Haywards Heath

*West Sussex*

# SOMMERER

Architecture & Living

Sommerer Architecture & Living Ltd

55 Renfields

Haywards Heath

*West Sussex*

# SOMMERER

Architecture & Living

Sommerer Architecture & Living Ltd

55 Renfields

Haywards Heath

*West Sussex*