

Sustainability Statement

February 2026

Proposed extension to existing Visitor Reception building within main car park at Standen to make provision for staff and volunteer welfare facilities, namely a new kitchenette and toilet.

Introduction

- 1.0 The Visitor Reception building is located within the main visitor car park at Standen. Staff and volunteers use the building to sign visitors in and there is a small office. The building currently has no mains water or foul drainage and is located some distance from the nearest WC. This proposal will support staff and volunteer welfare by providing them with a small kitchenette and WC that is convenient and close by, particularly useful in wet weather and dark winter months. It will only be used by National Trust staff and volunteers.



*Photo 1: External finish and materials of existing VR building, Standen car park.
Source: Baird Design.*

- 1.1 Policy DP39 Sustainable Design and Construction of the adopted Mid Sussex Local Plan (2014-2031) requires all development proposals to improve the sustainability of development. The statement below sets out how sustainable design and construction measures have been incorporated into the design where appropriate and feasible:
- Efficient use of energy and resources – the materials and construction methods for the extension will match that of the existing VR building. It will be constructed using a traditional timber frame technique, of sawn wood of natural and sustainable materials. As with the original building, it will be of breathable construction and fabric with high levels of insulation, using locally sourced traditional materials where possible. The walls will be insulated with 140mm Rockwool Flexi insulation. The

building is not heated outside of opening hours with the exception of electric radiator frost stat protection. All internal lighting will utilise low energy LED fittings.

- The extension will sit on a traditional trench fill concrete foundation, with the ground bearing floor slab being constructed of lime screed laid on an insulating base of Geocell foamed glass (made from 100% recycled glass). The floor finish will be FSC certified solid wood boards. The Glasscrete construction is vapour permeable and an LABC registered detail.
- The roof will match the original building and be of traditional SW rafter construction. The external finish will be hand-made Wealden clay plain roofing tiles, as manufactured by Keymer Tiles. Keymer supplied the tiles used by Philip Webb in the construction of Standen in 1890s and were last used when the roofs at Standen were last recovered. The internal lining of the roof will follow the same detail as the wall finished, with Rockwool insulation extending up to the ridge.
- The doors and windows will match that of the original building, being clear finish oak, with double glazed Low-emissivity inner panes. The WC area is to be mechanically ventilated with an extractor fan, which may operate intermittently with background ventilation. All rooms to have 'trickle vents' giving background ventilation.
- Limit water use – The kitchenette and new DDA WC has been designed for use by approximately 1 to 4 staff and or volunteers and is not for general use by the visitors. Water use will therefore be limited.