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Wealden District Council
Planning and Environmental Services
Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX

By email: planning@wealden.gov.uk For the attention of Ms A Choudhury

2nd November, 2020

Dear Sirs,

WD/2020/1735/FR Herstmonceux Castle RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDING TO PART HORTICULTURAL/PART RESIDENTIAL

Sussex Gardens Trust (SGT) is a member of the Gardens Trust (GT) (a national statutory consultee), and works closely with the GT on planning matters; the GT has brought this application to the SGT's attention. Representatives of SGT have carefully reviewed the documentation submitted with this application. The site is located on land within the boundary of **Herstmonceux Castle and Place**, which is included on the list of registered Parks and Gardens maintained by Historic England (HE) with a Grade II* designation.

Any new residential occupation of an existing building within the boundary of a Park and Garden included on the HE Register risks having an adverse impact of the park's significance. Similarly, a chimney added to a barn, as here, may have an adverse impact. We have not been able to undertake a site visit. The site appears to be well screened, so the harm in this case may be less than substantial. However it is possible there would be glimpsed views of the barn and chimney, or smoke from the chimney, from the centre of the park near the Grade I Registered Castle building, particularly in winter, which is likely to cause substantial harm to the Registered Park and the setting of the Grade I Castle building. Sussex Gardens Trust therefore has reservations and objects. If, nevertheless, the Local Planning Authority is minded to approve the application, the Trust suggests that strict conditions should be attached to limit any approval to the present applicant and for the current use. This would ensure the site couldn't later be lawfully occupied in a more conventional manner.

Yours faithfully
Jim Stockwell
On behalf of the Sussex Gardens Trust.
CC: The Gardens Trust