



Historic England

Ms Hebe Smith
Arun District Council
Civic Centre
1 Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Our ref: L01603002

26 January 2026

Dear Ms Smith

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2021
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**BLAKES COTTAGE 1 BLAKES ROAD FELPHAM PO22 7EB
Application Nos FP/198/25/L & FP/197/25/PL**

Thank you for your letters of 12 January 2026 regarding the above applications for listed building consent and planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the applications.

Historic England Advice

Historic England set out its support for the principle of returning the form of Blake's Cottage to the appearance of when William Blake lived there in our letter dated 10th October 2025. That letter set out the significance of the cottage and our reasons for supporting the removal of some later 19th century fabric.

We explained that the presentation the building to evoke Blake's time at the cottage would be of much greater public interest than maintaining the cottage in its current form. In our view this benefit would outweigh the harm caused by the loss of some later historic fabric that would be necessary to achieve this reconstruction.

These current applications seek to continue this work by removing the 1969 extension. While the 1969 extension incorporates some late 19th century fabric, the form of this fabric has been severely compromised and overall, this element of the building is not of any important historic significance.

Furthermore, the removal of this wing would enable the presentation of the cottage in



4TH FLOOR, CANNON BRIDGE HOUSE, 25 DOWGATE HILL, LONDON EC4R 2YA

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a form more closely akin to how it was when Blake lived there, providing space about the original building and enhancing its setting.

Historic England is therefore supportive of the proposals subject to conditions to control the careful demolition of the extension and the protection of the cottage and garden wall during works.

Following, this phase of work, we are aware that further applications will be submitted for the internal works to the original part of the house including wall, floor and ceiling finishes and decoration along with any altered or internal partitions, staircases, windows, doors and fixtures and fittings.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the applications. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decisions in due course.

Yours sincerely

Alma Howell

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Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
[REDACTED]

cc: Martyn White - Principal Conservation Officer



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Yours sincerely,

Alma Howell
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

Work with us to champion heritage and improve lives. Read our Future Strategy and get involved at [//historicengland.org.uk/strategy](https://historicengland.org.uk/strategy).

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Ensuring our heritage lives on and is loved for longer.

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