Heritage, Design, Impact and Access Statement: Sheepwash Farm, Copsale Road, Maplehurst.

Description of Heritage Assets:

Sheepwash farm is a listed building of historical importance. The building is constructed of timber-frame and brick noggin elevations beneath a Horsham stone roof.

There is documentary evidence indicating that site has been occupied since medieval times, the earliest record referring the Sheepwash Farm states that in 1332 "Philip atte Shepewash" paid 2/0 under West Grinstead Manor. Given the historical status of the building it is essential to safe-guard it for future generations.

Over the course of the building's history there is evidence of several phases of reconstruction and extension. Dr Annabelle Hughes performed a thorough analysis of the building in 1991 and stated in her report:

> *"The ground-plan could easily be of a 1450-1500 open-hall house. However, there are such fragmentary remnants of medieval timbering that the conclusion must be that there was some catastrophe – probably fire – which necessitated a considerable re-build, at a time when three storeys had become possible and desirable…"*

Dr Hughes identified that the proportions of the re-built structure and the roof style were that of a c.1550 house and the face-wing was likely a later addition some 50-60 years thereafter.

In the early 1970s a significantly large extension comprising of brick elevations beneath a Horsham stone roof was added to the south-west aspect of the property. Renovations to the existing timber-frame were also carried out in the 1970s; these include the part replacement of the cil beam with modern brickwork – specifically on the east and south elevations of the face wing – and extensive 'patch' repairs. Many of these historic 'patch' repairs to the timber frame have been executed using cementitious mortar and other unsuitable building materials such as mastic and expanding foam.

Assessment of Design, Access and Impact:

The current building is occupied as a family home and the preservation of this historically important dwelling is dependent on it being occupied and well-maintained to ensure this ancient building continues to be desirable as a residence. Therefore, it is important to recognise that periodical adaptations will be required throughout the building's lifespan.

The proposed adaptation has been carefully considered to take into account the overall impact on the structure and appreciation of the heritage asset. Careful consideration has been given on how best to minimise the overall impact of the adaptation on the ancient building. In particular, the proposed work intends to ensure the adaptation has a low impact on the building's material structure, is of minimal visual impact and sympathetic to the aesthetic of the building, and can be potentially reversible if required.