

**Client:** Henry Adams LLP

**Location:** West Sussex

**Sectors:** Residential

**Services:** Water Neutrality

**Project overview**: Demonstrating water neutrality was key to a positive planning outcome for the sensitive conversion of a Grade II listed country house, into 21 luxury homes.

## Added value:

- Restored and repurposed national heritage asset
- Enhanced use of land

## The Wispers Estate, Stedham

Full consent has been granted for proposals to convert the late 19th-century manor and outbuildings known as Wispers into 21 luxury homes with woodland and kitchen gardens, tennis courts and club house, swimming pool and co-working spaces. Demonstrating water neutrality was key to the successful planning outcome.

The estate was most recently used as an independent residential school but had been empty for several years. It is located in the Sussex North Water Resource Zone, where water neutrality statements need to accompany planning applications. Baseline calculations of previous water usage were needed for forecasting additional demand after occupation.

Motion provided evidence to challenge assumptions on baseline water use. The estate could have been brought back into use as a school. On this basis, historic data for previous water consumption could be applied, setting a precedent for future schemes.

It was concluded that the proposed development would not result in an increase in water demand and no offsite offsetting was required. New and restored buildings will have water-efficient fixtures and fittings and a mitigation strategy for the swimming pool and club house will further restrict water demand.



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