



LATROBE HERITAGE TRUST
upholding the legacy of benjamin henry latrobe.

Historic England
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To whom it may concern

Ashdown House is one of only two buildings in Europe by Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764–1820), and one of the earliest Greek Revival buildings in Britain.

Its recessed Ionic temple, with its uniquely elaborate, structural use of Coade stone; its splendid interiors; and its domes – described by scholars as ‘miniature prototypes’ for Latrobe’s later work at the US Capitol Building – have been carefully preserved for almost 230 years. Ashdown is the best-preserved Latrobe building in the world. Pevsner called it ‘very perfect indeed’, and we immensely regret that it is now under threat from dereliction and adverse development.

Ashdown’s exceptional architectural merit renders it deserving of the highest level of statutory protection available. This extraordinary building must be properly conserved and appreciated, now and for future generations.

Consequently, we wholeheartedly support the Latrobe Heritage Trust’s call for Ashdown to be urgently upgraded to Grade I in the National Heritage List for England.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Pinnegar, on behalf of the
Trustees of the Latrobe Heritage Trust
and

Prof. Mary Baker, professor emerita and
former Bennett-Hartwood Professor of
History, Goucher College, author of
*Building America: the life of Benjamin
Henry Latrobe* (Oxford University Press,
2019)

Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBE, chairman,
Victoria & Albert Museum

Thomas Del Mar, author, *Ashdown House:
Sussex, the Fuller family and the work of
Benjamin Henry Latrobe* (University of
East Anglia, 1994)

Prof. James Stevens Curl MRIA FSA FSA
Scot FRIAS, author of *Georgian
Architecture* (David & Charles, 1993) and
*The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture.
Third Edition* (Oxford University Press,
2015)

C. Edward Hill RIBA, former partner, Hill
Mitchell Berry, undertook extensive
restoration work at Ashdown, 1981–85

Prof. Patrick Snadon, School of
Architecture and Interior Design, University
of Cincinnati, co-author of *The Domestic
Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*
(Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

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The Latrobe Heritage Trust (LHT) was established in 1987.
It is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 327409.