

**CHAILEY HERITAGE SCHOOL  
GRACE KIMMINS HOUSE  
NORTH CHAILEY  
EAST SUSSEX**

A Life Skills Centre has been provided for young people over the age of 19 with profound complex physical and health needs to help them learn new skills, engage in new activities and develop leisure pursuits.

Work commenced with the construction of temporary roadways and the protection of the Old House, a listed Grade II building, in



readiness for extensive reconfiguration and refurbishment. Areas which were felt to have limited or no architectural or historical value were removed. Repairs such as the replacement of decayed roof timbers, extensive underpinning and the installation of new ground bearing floors were undertaken. Reconfiguration of the Old House and adjacent buildings included the provision of multi-media ICT and arts and crafts facilities, spa and sauna, and a kitchen with fully flexible rise and fall units and appliances; all accessible for wheelchair users.

The extensions are of steel frame with a mix of traditional and contemporary materials. Roof materials include structural glass, zinc and locally sourced clay plain tiles. Wherever possible bricks and paving from the demolition were reused. The new accommodation provides a specially equipped gym, café/community room, and sun lounge together with a glass panelled lift shaft, with glass lift car. All buildings are linked via internal ramps, incorporating a wheel chair tracking system. All works were carried out in conjunction with an archaeological watching brief.



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STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	Ellis Structures	Lewes
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