

*Could you please tell me are you aware if the current owners approached English Heritage (Historic England) and The National Trust regarding the building and grounds, to see if either of those bodies would be willing to buy the property and land?*

The current owners have not made an approach to these organisations.

We note the following:

We understand that it is extremely rare for Historic England to acquire properties and only if they are donated. Criteria for acquisitions are much higher than the National Trust.

National Trust acquisition criteria are available at:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/our-acquisitions>

We understand that the National Trust not only looks for properties to be donated, but also endowed. This is not a viable proposition for Southleigh Park House which is privately owned as the asset of a pension scheme.

We note the following which is likely to reduce the level of interest in the site by the National Trust or similar:

- Nobody of national interest lived at the house
- The house did not play a pivotal role in the national history
- There are no remaining artefacts belonging to the original owners of the house i.e. no paintings, furniture etc.
- Though the buildings are of fine architectural merit externally, internally there is a low percentage of the rooms which retain high architectural merit. Generally, the buildings' interiors were stripped out in the 1970s by former owner Plessey, although the fabric of the building and some principal architectural features have subsequently been restored by the current owners
- There are remnants of the original landscaping, but the walled garden, glasshouses, water tower, summerhouse etc. were all demolished by Plessey in the 1970s.