

PLANNING REF : 250301
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 8 Hinton Drive
: Crowthorne, Berkshire
: RG45 6JY
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Stuart Shafran
DATE SUBMITTED : 18/02/2025

COMMENTS:

I object to this application on the following grounds:
The two areas designated as woodland should be allowed to grow and be managed as woodland and not be converted into extended gardens. By removing the entire under-storey of the original woodland and replacing it with lawn, the developer has decimated the woodland, destroyed all natural wildlife habitat and continues to be in breach of planning conditions. The woodland should not be laid to lawn as proposed in these documents. By doing so, these areas are no longer woodland.

For clarification on the difference between a garden and a woodland, please see the quote below (pulled from AI generated text but sufficient in its accuracy):

A garden is a cultivated area of land where plants are intentionally grown and maintained, usually with a focus on aesthetics and specific plant varieties, while a woodland is a natural area dominated by

trees, with a less controlled plant composition and often a more wild appearance, typically including a variety of shrubs, ferns, and groundcover plants that thrive in shade; essentially, a garden is actively managed by humans while a woodland is primarily left to grow

naturally.

Key differences:

Management: Gardens are actively managed with planting, weeding, pruning, and other maintenance practices, whereas woodlands are generally left to grow naturally with minimal human intervention.

Plant selection: Gardens often feature a curated selection of specific plant varieties chosen for their appearance and functionality, while woodlands contain a mix of native trees and plants adapted to the local environment. Canopy cover: While some gardens may have a dense canopy, woodlands typically have a more open canopy with spaces between trees allowing light to reach the ground. Purpose: Gardens are primarily designed for aesthetic appeal and human enjoyment, while woodlands are considered a natural ecosystem supporting a diverse

range of wildlife. What is being proposed in this amendment to the planning conditions is to convert the remaining areas of woodland into garden areas i.e with the majority of the area being lawn that is mowed on a regular basis. Installing a few bird and bat boxes does not make this area a woodland or an attractive habitat for wildlife anymore than an ordinary domestic garden.

Permission to build these houses was granted on the proviso that some of the original woodland would be retained and managed properly as woodland. Because the developer decided to ignore this, these houses should be considered as having been built in breach of planning

conditions. The only way to correct this is for the developer to get rid of the lawn he has planted in these areas and plant a proper under-storey of woodland foliage (trees, wild flowers, native

shrubs, ferns etc.) in place of the lawn. Until this is done, no further houses should be allowed to be sold, or if they are sold then the purchasers of these houses must be responsible for correcting this breach of planning conditions. Converting these small areas of 'retained woodland' into mowed grass lawn areas is unacceptable.