



Wokingham Borough Council
16 Broad Street
Wokingham
Berks RG40 1AA
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Please reply to BerksGTplanning@gmail.com

25 April 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref : 250839

Woodlands House, The Burrow Site, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, RG9 2LT

Full application for subterranean ground strengthening works adjacent to the access track and installation of permeable hardstanding and temporary structures to facilitate the change of use of the area east of the existing building to temporary storage in connection with estate-wide activities. (Retrospective)

Comments from Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT)

Thank you for reconsulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee with regard to development affecting sites listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. The Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) is a member organisation of the GT and works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of historic sites, and is authorised by the GT to respond on GT's behalf in respect of such consultations within Berkshire.

One of the key activities of the Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) is therefore to help conserve, protect and enhance designed landscapes within Berkshire. We are therefore grateful for the opportunity to comment on this planning application within the Grade II* Park Place.

We note that this is a retrospective application and make the following comments.

1. We see no merit in redisturbing the ground next to the road by digging up the ground reinforcement but are very pleased that this area is no longer required for parking which would have had an adverse impact on the significance of the Registered Park and Garden.
2. Nor do we have any objection to the retention of the widening next to the timber store. Some form of new hedging is welcomed to screen the timber store but it should of a mixture species native to Park Place. We request that details of this planting be submitted.

However, we see that the entrance off Wargrave Road has also been sub-urbanised with close boarded fencing, iron gates, and railings along the driveway. Although the housing opposite is similar (it is not in the Registered Park), the north side of Wargrave Road remains strongly rural in character and in keeping with the Registered Park.

Conclusion

We are concerned that incremental developments within the grounds of Woodlands House and eroding this section of Park Place. We request that details of the hedge planting be submitted and further changes be resisted if they adversely affect this rural part of Park Place.

Yours sincerely,

Bettina Kirkham

Bettina Kirkham DipTP BLD CMLI (Retired)
BGT Chair.

cc: The Gardens Trust