

Mr Matthew Miller
ET Planning
200 Dukes Ride
Crowthorne
RG45 6DS

Dear Matthew

October 10, 2025

354 Barkham Road, Barkham RG41 4DE (Application Reference 251540) – Ecology Officer Comments

Further to the comments provided by Louise Aparo (Ecology Officer at Wokingham Borough Council) regarding the requirement for additional information on the site's ecology, our response is set out below:

Biodiversity Net Gain

Baseline Habitats – It is accepted that there has been woodland lost within the site since 2020, and this has been considered and accounted for in the biodiversity metric. Specifically, this land has been allocated as 'Felled Woodland', because although it was likely it was 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' previously, we cannot be certain of the pre-clearance habitat, and in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide in this situation, the use of the 'Felled Woodland' category automatically assumes that this was high distinctiveness woodland habitat in good condition i.e. the equivalent of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland in good condition with the same number of baseline units applied i.e. 2.76.

Trees - Trees T9 and T10 have been classified as being in 'good' condition, i.e. the highest possible condition assessment for these trees. The condition assessment applied for these trees has been detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments spreadsheet (R2890_PEA_a) submitted with the application – a copy of that is enclosed.

Mitigation Hierarchy

The proposed development plot has been assigned as built development (Developed land, sealed surface) and garden habitat (Unvegetated and Vegetated Garden). This is in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Statutory Metric User Guide for assigning onsite habitats within private residential plots. Therefore, there is no scope to avoid or mitigate impacts on woodland within the currently proposed layout, as such, the compensation for the loss will need to be provided offsite – efforts are underway to identify an offsite provider that deliver high distinctiveness woodland units. T

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely



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