



Development Delivery
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks RG40 1BN
Planning.enquiries@wokingham.gov.uk

Please reply to BerksGTplanning@gmail.com

27 January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Ref: 232475 - Full application for the proposed installation of a drainage bypass
interceptor/separator**

Land adjacent to Wessex Hall, Whiteknights Road, Earley, Wokingham, RG6 6BQ

Comments from Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT)

Thank you for consulting the Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) which 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 Registered Parks and Gardens within Berkshire.

Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) also takes an interest in non-designated and locally listed parks and gardens, such as Whiteknights, where we encourage development 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 Landscape Park at Whiteknights, University of Reading, Berkshire HER Number: MRM16114.

We note that, although the Heritage Statement refers to the built historic assets, it omits reference to Wokingham's locally listed historic park and garden at Whiteknights within which the site lies. We fully support Wokingham's local listing in recognition of the role played by non-designated sites in accordance with NPPF 202, 207 and 216.

We note that the adjacent trees are in good condition and together play an important role in contributing to the character and significance of the Whiteknights local historic park and garden. Subject to Arboricultural conditions, as specified in the Arboricultural Report, we are happy that harm to these trees can be avoided. We are pleased also that the grass will be reinstated to contribute to the ecological value of the park. It is however important that these requirements are fully met by the contractors on site.

In conclusion, we have no objection to this development but the significance of the park, under local listing, is an important reason for imposing conditions to protect the landscape and mitigate the development.

Yours sincerely,

Bettina Kirkham

Bettina Kirkham DipTP BLD CMLI (Retired)
BGT Chair.

cc: The Gardens Trust and Reading Civic Society