



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

**TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING (ENGLAND) 1990**

Mr Andrew Beard
Andrew Beard Planning
Spindrift
83 Main Road
Portskewett
Caldicot
NP26 5UG

NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

Application Number: 250702
Applicant Name: Mr. Murray Lindsell
Site Address: 19 Grovelands Road, Spencers Wood, Wokingham, RG7 1DP
Proposal: Full application for the proposed erection of new church building (Use Class F1), construction of front wall and gates along with associated landscaping and car parking following demolition of existing buildings.
Date of Decision: 5 September 2025

Wokingham Borough Council in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations hereby **grants permission** for the above development to be carried out as stated in the application and the accompanying plans submitted to the Council subject to compliance with the following conditions, the reasons for which are specified hereunder.

Conditions and Reasons

1. Timescale - The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In pursuance of s.91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by s.51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

2. Approved details - This permission is in respect of the submitted application plans and drawings numbered (Location Plan), (853-01), (853-02 RevA), received by the local planning authority on 21/03/2025. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details unless other minor variations are agreed in writing after the date of this permission and before implementation with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the application form and associated details hereby approved.

3. External materials - Except where stated otherwise on the approved drawings and application form, the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the extension hereby permitted shall be of similar appearance to those used in the existing building, unless other minor variations are agreed in writing after the date of this permission and before implementation with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the external appearance of the building is satisfactory.

Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP1 and CP3.

4. Mitigation Strategies - No development or other operation (including any tree pruning, roof covering/tile removal, storage of materials or machinery, or site set-up) shall commence on site until final Mitigation Strategies detailing avoidance mitigation compensation and enhancement measures affecting potential roosting features and any bat roosts on or adjacent to the site, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Mitigation Strategies shall include all the recommendations given in Section 4 Preliminary Roost Assessment (Ecology Partnership, October 2023).

The Mitigation Strategies will address:

- Timing and methods of re-survey and/or pre-commencement checks as necessary.
- Timing and methods of activities.
- Provision of new bat roosting.
- Impact on and replacement of existing roosts within the Zone of Influence.
- Biodiversity-sensitive external lighting and boundary habitat protection.
- Bat-friendly nectar and protein-rich flowering plants. And retention and protection of trees, shrubs and hedges growing in accordance with BS5837:2012.

The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

Reason: To ensure that bats, a protected and priority species (as per the NPPF), are not adversely affected by the proposals. Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP3 and CP7 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB23.

5. Ecological Measures - If the development hereby approved does not commence (or, having commenced, is suspended for more than 6 months) within 12 months from the date of the planning consent, the approved ecological measures secured through Condition 4 shall be reviewed and, where necessary, amended and updated. The review shall be informed by further ecological surveys commissioned to:

i) Establish if there have been any changes in the presence and/or abundance of bats; and

ii) Identify any likely new ecological impacts that might arise from any changes.

Where the survey results indicate that changes have occurred that will result in ecological impacts not previously addressed in the approved scheme, the original approved ecological measures will be revised and new or amended measure, and a timetable for their implementation, will be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of development. Works will then be carried out and thereafter protected, retained and maintained in accordance with the proposed new approved ecological measures and timetable.

Reason: To ensure that bats, a protected and priority species (as per the NPPF), are not adversely affected by the proposals. Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP3 and CP7 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB23.

6. Construction Phase Emergency Plan - No works shall commence on site until a Construction Phase Emergency Plan(s) for the development hereby approved has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Construction Phase Emergency Plan(s) shall plan to accommodate the maximum average number of customers, visitors and staff and include a range of emergency scenarios.

The Construction Phase Emergency Plan(s) shall include (where applicable):

- Triggers for activation of the plan;
- Means and location of sheltering for a period of no less than 48 hours;
- Means of support for residents, customers, visitors and staff whilst in sheltering conditions;
- Means of evacuation and recovery;
- Method of frequency and review.

Upon construction beginning or whenever the use hereby approved first commences, the approved Emergency Plan(s) shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approved details for the duration of the construction.

Thereafter, the Wokingham Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer shall be notified of any changes made to the approved Emergency Plan(s).

Before construction begins, the final contact details and names for those responsible for the monitoring, review and activation of the plan (e.g. business unit operator and management/owners), shall be submitted to the Wokingham Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer.

Reason: As insufficient information is contained within the application submission and in order to provide assurance that an effective Construction Phase Emergency Plan(s) will be put in place to protect occupants should there be an incident at AWE Burghfield in accordance with MDD Local Plan policy TB04 (Development in vicinity of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Burghfield) and Core Strategy Policy CP3 (General Principles for Development).

7. End User Emergency Plan - No works shall commence on site until an End user Emergency Plan(s) for the development hereby approved has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The End User Emergency Plan(s) shall plan to accommodate the maximum average number of customers, visitors and staff and include a range of emergency scenarios.

The End User Emergency Plan(s) shall include (where applicable): - Triggers for activation of the plan;

- Means and location of sheltering for a period of no less than 48 hours;
- Means of support for residents, customers, visitors and staff whilst in sheltering conditions;
- Means of evacuation and recovery;
- Method of frequency and review.

Upon first occupation or whenever the use hereby approved first commence, the approved Emergency Plan(s) shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approved details for the lifetime of the development. Thereafter, the Wokingham Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer shall be notified of any changes made to the approved Emergency Plan(s).

Within 3 months of first occupation of the development hereby approved, the final contact details and names for those responsible for the monitoring, review and activation of the plan (e.g. business unit operator and management/owners), shall be submitted to the Wokingham Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer.

Reason: As insufficient information is contained within the application submission and in order to provide assurance that an effective End User Emergency Plan will be put in place to protect occupant should there be an incident at AWE Burghfield in accordance with MDD Local Plan policy TB04 (Development in vicinity of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Burghfield) and Core Strategy policy CP3 (General Principles for Development).

8. Number and Length of Meetings - For the use hereby approved, there shall be no more than 4 services per week at the church meeting room, and the services are to last no longer than 1 hour. The maximum attendance at the hall shall not exceed 50 persons at any one time.

Reason: To ensure the protection of any occupants should there be an incident at AWE Burghfield and as no other alternative meeting numbers, hours and maximum attendance levels have been provided for assessment, in accordance with MDD Local Plan policy TB04 (Development in vicinity of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Burghfield) and Core Strategy policy CP3 (General Principles for Development).

9. Protection of trees - a) No development or other operation shall commence on site until an Arboricultural Method Statement and Scheme of Works which provides for the retention and protection of trees, shrubs and hedges growing on or adjacent to the site in accordance with BS5837: 2012 has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No development or other operations shall take place except in complete accordance with the details as so-approved (hereinafter referred to as the Approved Scheme).

b) No operations shall commence on site in connection with development hereby approved (including any tree felling, tree pruning, demolition works, soil moving, temporary access construction and or widening or any other operation involving use of motorised vehicles or construction machinery) until the tree protection works required by the Approved Scheme are in place on site.

c) No excavations for services, storage of materials or machinery, parking of vehicles, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble, lighting of fires or disposal of liquids shall take place within an area designated as being fenced off or otherwise protected in the Approved Scheme.

d) The fencing or other works which are part of the Approved Scheme shall not be moved or removed, temporarily or otherwise, until all works including external works have been completed and all equipment, machinery and surplus materials removed from the site, unless the prior approval in writing of the local planning authority has first been sought and obtained.

Reason: To secure the protection throughout the time that the development is being carried out of trees shrubs or hedges growing within or adjacent to the site which are of amenity value to the area, and to allow for verification by the local planning authority that the necessary measures are in place before development and other works commence Relevant policy: Core Strategy policy CP3 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policies CC03 and TB21.

10. Drainage Details - No development shall take place until full details of the drainage system for the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. The details shall include: 1. Calculations indicating the existing runoff rate from

the site. 2. BRE 365 test results demonstrating whether infiltration is achievable or not.

3. Use of SuDS following the SuDS hierarchy, preferably infiltration. 4. Calculation demonstrating that there will be no flooding of pipes for events up to and including the 1 in 100-year flood event with a 40% allowance for climate change.

5. If connection to an existing surface water sewer is proposed, we need to understand why other methods of the SuDS hierarchy cannot be implemented and see confirmation from the utilities supplier that their system has got capacity and the connection is acceptable. 6. Groundwater monitoring confirming seasonal high groundwater levels in the area.

7. A drainage strategy plan indicating the location and sizing of SuDS features, with the base of and SuDS features located at least 1m above the seasonal high water table level.

8. Details demonstrating how any SuDS for this development would be managed throughout the lifespan of the development and who will be responsible for maintenance.

The approved scheme shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the development and shall be maintained in the approved form for as long as the development remains on the site.

Reason: This is to prevent increased flood risk from surface water run-off. Relevant policy: NPPF (2023) Section 14 (Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change), Core Strategy policy CP1 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policies CC09 and CC10.

11. Parking to be provided - No part of any building(s) hereby permitted shall be occupied or used until the vehicle parking space has been provided in accordance with the approved plans. The vehicle parking space shall be permanently maintained and remain available for the parking of vehicles at all times.

Reason: To ensure adequate on-site parking provision in the interests of highway safety, convenience and amenity. Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP3 & CP6 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy CC07.

12. Cycle parking to be provided - No building shall be occupied until secure and covered parking for cycles has been provided in accordance with the approved drawing (s)/details. The cycle parking/ storage shall be permanently so- retained for the parking of bicycles and used for no other purpose.

Reason: In order to ensure that secure weather-proof bicycle parking facilities are provided so as to encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel. Relevant policy: NPPF Section 9 (Sustainable Transport) and Core Strategy policies CP1, CP3 & CP6 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy CC07.

13. Access to be stopped up - The existing vehicular access(es) to the site shall be stopped up and abandoned, and the footway and/or verge crossings shall be re-instated within one month of the completion of the new access(es) in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety and convenience. Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP3 & CP6.

14. Construction method statement - No development shall take place, including any works of demolition, until a Construction Method Statement has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The approved Statement

shall be adhered to throughout the construction period. The Statement shall provide for:

- i) the parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors,
- ii) loading and unloading of plant and materials,
- iii) storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development,
- iv) the erection and maintenance of security hoarding including decorative displays and facilities for public viewing, where appropriate,
- v) wheel washing facilities,
- vi) measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction,
- vii) a scheme for recycling/disposing of waste resulting from demolition and construction works.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety & convenience and neighbour amenities.

Relevant policy: Core Strategy policies CP3 & CP6.

Informatives

1. Please note that if the works carried out depart from the scope of this planning permission and a retrospective application under Section 73A is subsequently required, there may be CIL liability implications. The scope of any retrospective planning application will cover the chargeable development for the purposes of CIL, this will include past works that are unauthorised and any additional future works included within the planning permission. If the total floorspace of these works is over 100sqm, they will be liable to pay CIL. In such cases, no CIL exemption can be claimed, and payment will become due immediately as development for which planning permission is granted under a subsequent Section 73A or Section 177(1) application must be treated as commencing on the day any such planning permission is granted. Any demolished floorspace will not be able to be considered for offsetting if the relevant building is not on the land on the day that the permission is granted.

2. The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received and subsequently determining to grant planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF.

3. The applicant is reminded that should there be any change from the approved drawings during the build of the development this may require a fresh planning application if the changes differ materially from the approved details. Non-material changes may be formalised by way of an application under s.96A Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

4. The application site falls within the Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) and the Conditions above have been imposed to secure emergency plans to protect the wellbeing of construction workers, staff and the public in the event of an incident at AWE. The applicant should be aware that the Wokingham Borough Council's Emergency Planning Officer, in co-ordination with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the 4 authority EP group

are responsible for monitoring the implementation of emergency plans and undertake audits on approved developments.

5. The Head of Highways at the Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham [0118 9746000] should be contacted for the approval of the access construction details before any work is carried out within the highway (including verges and footways). This planning permission does NOT authorise the construction of such an access or works.

6. Any works/ events carried out by or on behalf of the developer affecting either a public highway or a prospectively maintainable highway (as defined under s.87 New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA)), shall be co-ordinated and licensed as required under NRSWA and the Traffic Management Act 2004 in order to minimise disruption to both pedestrian and vehicular users of the highway.

Any such works or events, and particularly those involving the connection of any utility to the site must be co-ordinated by the developer in liaison with the Borough's Street Works team (0118 974 6302). This must take place AT LEAST three months in advance of the intended works to ensure effective co-ordination with other works so as to minimise disruption.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JT', is placed over a light green rectangular background.

Justin Turvey

Head of Development Management - Place & Growth

Date: 5 September 2025

PLEASE READ THE NOTES ISSUED WITH THIS DECISION NOTICE BELOW



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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENGLAND) 1990

Other statutory legislation: This decision notice relates to the above stated acts and regulations only and does not constitute approval under any other legislation.

The Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order: This decision has been made in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in the requirement to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner.

Officer Report: An officer report explaining the decision will be available to view online.

Purchase notices: If either the local planning authority or the Secretary of State refuses permission to develop land or grants it subject to conditions, the owner may claim that the owner can neither put the land to a reasonably beneficial use in its existing state nor render the land capable of a reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted. In these circumstances, the owner may serve a purchase notice on the Council which will require the Council to purchase the owner's interest in the land in accordance with the provisions of Chapter I of Part VI of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Appeals to the Secretary of State: If your application has been **refused** by the Borough Council or **granted subject to conditions** that you are not happy with, you have the right to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate (under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). This must be within the timeframes set out below. Please note an extension of time for lodging an appeal is unlikely to be granted except in special circumstances.

12 weeks from the decision date above in the case of a refusal of a 'householder' application:
Being the refusal of an application for planning permission to alter or extend a house, or for works within the curtilage of a house; or,
Being the refusal to approve details submitted as required by a condition imposed on a permission granted for a householder application.

12 weeks from the decision date above in the case of a refusal of a 'minor commercial' application:
Being the refusal of an application for development of an existing building or part of a building currently in use for purposes in Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5

where the proposal does not include a change of use, a change to the number of units, development that is not wholly at ground floor level and/or does not increase the gross internal area of the building.

6 months from the decision date above in the case of all other appeals made under s78(1) or s20 of the above Acts relating to a decision on a planning application or listed building/conservation area consent application.

6 months from the decision date above in the case of any appeal made under s78 (2) of the Act in respect of a failure to give a decision within the statutory period.

The Planning Inspectorate is an Executive Agency reporting to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Inspectorate has an online appeals service with information and guidance about the process. You can submit [full application appeals](#) and [householder application appeals](#) with the new appeals service. [Other application types](#) should be submitted on the current appeal service. Alternatively, you can obtain a form from the Planning Inspectorate at Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN, 0303 444 5000 or through the [Inspectorate's website](#). Please note all documents will be published online by the Planning Inspectorate and therefore you should not include personal information you do not wish to be displayed in this way. This includes personal information of third parties.

In the event of a grant of planning permission, please note the following:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): When planning permission is granted for a development that is CIL the Council will issue a liability notice as soon as practicable after the day on which the planning permission first permits development. Completing 'Form 2', the assumption of liability notice, is a statutory requirement for the liable party(ies) to be completed for all CIL liable applications. Advice on how the Regulations may impact you and how you can properly discharge the relevant legal requirements including paying any relevant CIL charge that may be due is available on our [Community Infrastructure Levy advice \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](http://wokingham.gov.uk) website pages.

Discharge of Conditions: This consent may contain conditions that require further approval by submission of an application for approval of details reserved by condition and the appropriate fee. Application forms can be obtained for this purpose by visiting the [Planning Portal](#).

Street Naming and Numbering for new dwellings: If this notice relates to approval of new dwellings, please ensure that you contact the Council at least 16 weeks before the commencement on site to arrange for an address and post code to be allocated. Details can be obtained from streetnamingandnumbering@wokingham.gov.uk. Failure to contact the street naming and numbering department at least 16 weeks before commencement on site will result in the addressing and post code for the development being delayed.

Access to privately owned land: The applicant is reminded that this permission does not give right of entry to land not in the ownership of the applicant. Permission must be sought from any other landowner(s) if access is required.

Gas Mains and Services: Building over a gas main or service that is located within your site could cause damage to pipework or potential gas leaks within buildings. You should check for information relating to services within your site at [Home - LinesearchbeforeUdig \(lsbud.co.uk\)](http://Home-LinesearchbeforeUdig.lsbud.co.uk) and contact the Plant Protection Team at SGN on 0800 912 1722 or plantlocation@sgn.co.uk.

Building Regulations: The development subject to this permission may also require Building Regulation approval to ensure it is built to national safety, design, and environmental standards. The Council's Local Authority Building Control (LABC) service offers a full range of plan approval, inspection, and associated services through an ISO9001 nationally accredited team of qualified building surveyors. These surveyors work closely with the Council's planning department to ensure the appropriate construction of your build. To find out more visit the Council's [Building Control website](#) or call 0300 790 0580 to speak to a member of the team.

Fire Regulations: In accordance with the Berkshire Act 1986, when Building Regulation applications are submitted for building(s) or extensions, the Local Authority will reject the plans unless, after consultation with the fire authority, they are satisfied that the plans show the following:

- i) That there will be adequate means of access for the fire brigade to the building(s) or the extended building(s); and,
- ii) That the building(s) or extension(s) will not render inadequate any existing means of access for the fire brigade to a neighbouring building.

Biodiversity Net Gain: The effect of paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is that planning permission granted for the development of land in England is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition “(the biodiversity gain condition)” that development may not begin unless:

- a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and
- b) the planning authority has approved the plan.

The planning authority, for the purposes of determining whether to approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan if one is required in respect of this permission would be Wokingham Borough Council.

Biodiversity Net Gain Exemptions and Transitional Arrangements: There are statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements which mean that the biodiversity gain condition does not always apply. These are set out in [paragraph 17 of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) the [Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Exemptions\) Regulations 2024](#), and [The Environment Act 2021 \(Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2024](#).

Biodiversity Net Gain Irreplaceable Habitat: If the onsite habitat includes irreplaceable habitat (within the meaning of [The Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Irreplaceable Habitat\) Regulations 2024](#)) there are additional requirements. The Biodiversity Gain Plan must include, in addition to information about steps taken or to be taken to minimise any adverse effect of the development on the habitat, information on arrangements for compensation for any impact the development has on the biodiversity of the irreplaceable habitat.

The planning authority can only approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan if satisfied that the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the irreplaceable habitat is minimised and appropriate arrangements have been made for the purpose of compensating for any impact which do not include the use of biodiversity credits.

Biodiversity Net Gain Section 73(2D): If planning permission is granted on an application made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (application to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached) and a Biodiversity Gain Plan was approved in relation to the previous planning permission (“the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan”) there are circumstances when the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan is regarded as approved for the purpose of discharging the biodiversity gain condition subject to which the section 73 planning permission is granted. Those circumstances are that the conditions subject to which the section 73 permission is granted:

- i. do not affect the post-development value of the onsite habitat as specified in the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan, and
- ii. in the case of planning permission for a development where all or any part of the onsite habitat is irreplaceable habitat the conditions do not change the effect of the development on the biodiversity of that onsite habitat (including any arrangements made to compensate for any such effect) as specified in the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain Phase Development: If the permission which has been granted has the effect of requiring or permitting the development to proceed in phases, the modifications in respect of the biodiversity gain condition which are set out in Part 2 of [The Biodiversity Gain \(Town and Country Planning\) \(Modifications and Amendments\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#) apply. In summary: Biodiversity gain plans are required to be submitted to, and approved by, the planning authority before development may be begun (the overall plan), and before each phase of development may be begun (phase plans).