

# Save Our Blagrove Countryside - Planning Update

**Berkeley Homes have appealed against the Council's rejection of their planning application to build 350 houses between Evendons Lane and Barkham Road. THIS IS OUR FINAL CHANCE TO OBJECT to this damaging and unwanted development.**

A massive new estate is being proposed that will join Evendons Lane to Barkham Road, with a new road cutting through a long-established woodland containing a Local Wildlife Site. This vast development will be built on green fields and will destroy the rural character of the area. The effect on the existing roads (especially Barkham Road and Evendons Lane), infrastructure, trees, hedgerows and wildlife will be catastrophic.

This development will close the green space between Wokingham and Barkham. There will be years of noise and disruption during construction. The already stretched local services such as GP surgeries will be put under unsustainable pressure.



**Your Voice Matters!  
Submit your objection by  
24th December 2024 at the latest!**

Go directly to the Planning Inspectorate website:  
<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3354667>  
and click on **"Make Representation"**

For more information please go to our website: [www.evendons-area.org.uk/SaveBlagrove](http://www.evendons-area.org.uk/SaveBlagrove)

You can find full details of the application on the Wokingham Planning Portal. Go to: <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/welcome.asp> and search for application **222306**.  
**You can't respond on the Wokingham Planning Portal** – make sure you use the Planning Inspectorate web address above.

Email - [info@evendons-area.org.uk](mailto:info@evendons-area.org.uk)

# ACT NOW!

The developers have deliberately timed the last day for objections to be Christmas Eve in order to minimise public comments so please object NOW before the Christmas rush!

Visit the Planning Inspectorate portal and search for application **3354667**

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3354667>

**The Inspector needs to understand how much local people value this open countryside. This time there are four key areas which will affect whether the development goes ahead:**

- **Natural Environment:** The development will destroy a well-established Local Wildlife Site in pristine ancient woodland. Bottle Copse is a Local Wildlife Site for a reason - it should not have a road driven through the middle of it. The copse is home to bats, badgers and birds which will all suffer because of the road and its street lights. At least **167** mature trees will be felled across the site if this development goes ahead. Ancient hedgerows will be uprooted and fields built over, destroying vital habitats and foraging grounds for the many protected species of animals and birds that live there. Whole ecosystems will be destroyed.
- **Loss of Rural Character:** Once developed, this green space will be gone forever, impacting our community's overall quality of life. It is a huge development which will destroy the open views on the west side of Viking Field, making it feel more like a town park than the edge of the countryside. You will see hundreds of houses instead of green fields and trees. The wild animals which we enjoy seeing on Viking Field will no longer be able to reach it from the surrounding countryside. Blagrove Lane, which is one of the last ancient rural lanes in Wokingham, will be destroyed by a huge increase in traffic from the development.
- **Preserving the Wokingham-Barkham Settlement Gap:** This land has never been designated for housing development and is not in the council's new Local Plan Update as it is seen as inappropriate for housing. It has always been good agricultural land and native woodland. It is crucial for maintaining the distinct characters of Barkham and Wokingham.
- **Road Safety:** The developer proposes closing Blagrove Lane to northbound traffic. All of the traffic from this new estate will still be able to exit south onto Blagrove Lane/Eventons Lane. The developer has proposed a major new, widened road junction outside Eventons School in order to cope with this huge increase in traffic. As well as causing inconvenience for many people, and destroying mature trees, this will be dangerous for children entering and leaving Eventons Primary School. There will also be a major new junction on Barkham Road at a very dangerous point close to a bend and the brow of a hill.

**Please send your objections in NOW - your comments matter!**



We will need to get experts involved in this fight so we need your donations urgently in order to fund this. Please click on the PayPal QR code to donate

