



133 Dukes Ride  
Crowthorne  
RG45 6DP

CVAG has read the Local Government Boundary Commission's Draft Recommendations on New electoral arrangements for Bracknell Forest Borough Council, which is referred to here as "The Report". Bracknell Forest Borough Council is referred to as "BFC".

We are strongly in favour of the recommended boundary changes, with two small but important exceptions - Edgbarrow Cottage and Derby Field.

### **Edgbarrow Cottage**

Our first concern is about a single isolated property called "Edgbarrow Cottage" shown in The Report to be just south of the southern boundary of "Crowthorne" and therefore in the ward of "Sandhurst". – see Map 1 below.

We believe that the boundary should be moved south in that area by a small distance to include this one property.

Paragraph 36 of The Report reads: "Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Bracknell Forest. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations."

As it is hard to spot "Edgbarrow Cottage" on maps, CVAG suspects that the property was purely an omission on this "virtual tour".

Though we are conscious that The Report has to do with electoral wards rather than parish boundaries and planning matters we believe that the same considerations should apply to all three.

The space between Crowthorne and Sandhurst is recognised as a Strategic Green Gap of woodland and heathland separating Crowthorne and Sandhurst.

Edgbarrow Cottage is at the very north of this Strategic Gap. Its owner regards his home as part of Crowthorne, being a walk to the village centre and its shops, which are much nearer than it is to the nearest properties in Sandhurst - themselves a long distance from Sandhurst Centre and shops in the main Yorktown Road through Sandhurst. As far as the Royal Mail is concerned, Edgbarrow Cottage falls into postcode area RG45 7, which roughly covers Crowthorne parish and we recommend that the Commission should follow this practice.

It seems perverse to expect a family to vote for a "representative" from whom they are geographically separated and have no real connection, whereas the family is known by the current Crowthorne BFC councillors".

Map 1 below is a snip from the Commission's map shown in BFC's document BracknellForest\_D\_SO.pdf". Edgbarrow Cottage (and surrounding trees) is circled in red. As can be seen, this map is actually very hard to read, and a virtual tour would readily have missed this property, Map 2 shows the immediate area more clearly. We have circled Edgbarrow Cottage in red.

Incidentally, Edgbarrow Cottage is the oldest property in "Crowthorne" as evidenced in the box below.

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### **Derby Field**

The other matter that we wish to raise is the "Derby Field", just to the west of the railway line. This is part of the Wellington College area and as such should be included in Crowthorne as per paragraph 45 of The Report.

This is currently a playing field with no residents, but has been identified in the Bracknell draft local plan as a potential site for 200 houses. If built there will be (about) 400 more voters.

An extensive Green Gap including the Ambarrow Court Nature Reserve also separates Derby Field from Sandhurst. - see Map 2

Probably because it is currently nothing more than a playing field, Derby Field does not feature at all on the Boundary Commission's map. CVAG recommends that the map should be updated to show the area it covers as being in Crowthorne and not in Sandhurst.

We also included this comment in our "response to the Boundary Commission" sent via BFC on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

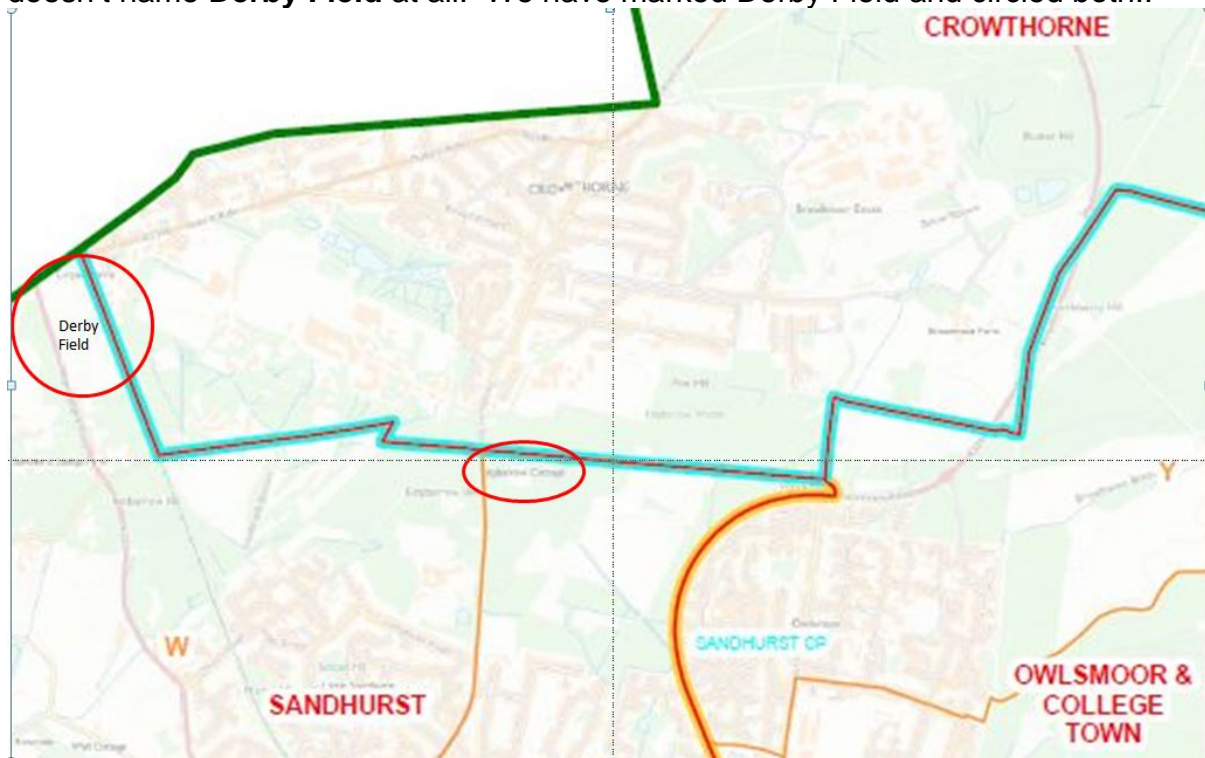
Yours sincerely  
Carole Doran

Secretary.

Crowthorne Village Action Group.

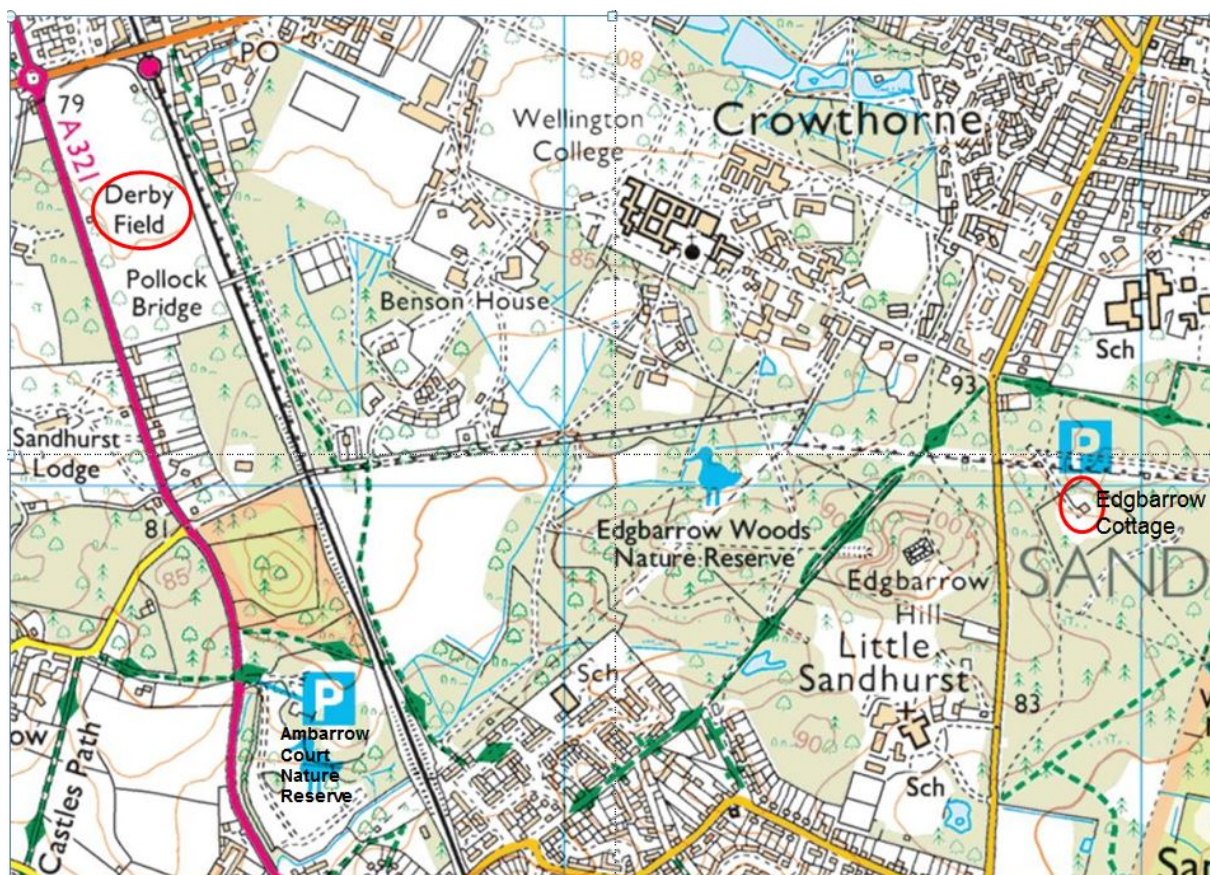
Crowthorne Village Action Group (CVAG) is a non political association of residents who seek to protect the established character of Crowthorne Village and ensure that future developments are in keeping with their surroundings.

**Map 1** – The **Boundary Commission map** shows **Edgbarrow Cottage** very faintly, but doesn't name **Derby Field** at all. We have marked Derby Field and circled both..



**Map 2** – Ordnance Survey

This map gives a clearer idea of the area. **Edgbarrow Cottage** is circled in red at mid right. **Derby field** is circled at top left.



### **Crowthorne's oldset house - evidence**

Plate 54 in a book by Dr David Withers held by the Berkshire Records Office states: " Edgbarrow Cottage lies amid Cox's Wood. There seems little doubt that it was the earliest building in the vicinity, unless White Cottage is earlier which seems unlikely. It was once a Verderer's house, and so more important than a mere forester's, since a verderer was a judicial officer of the Royal Forest ". An "acknowledged expert" ... dated the cottage "very early indeed"

Martin Prescott's widely recognised book "The Crow and the Thorne" on the history of Crowthorne mentions Edgbarrow Cottage on page 39 as follows:-

"The two oldest houses in the village were almost certainly woodman's or foresters' cottages: Edgbarrow Cottage and the White Cottage" (since redeveloped). These two cottages were shown on H Walters' 1823 Map of Windsor Forest"...

"Edgbarrow Cottage lies in what used to be called Cox's wood,.. It is probably to this Cottage that reference was made in J.L. Bevir's book on the making of Wellington College: " There was a sort of tea or grub shop in the Woods, kept by the keepers' wife, which for many generations flourished under the name of "Honey-womans"

Edgbarrow Cottage is clearly shown on the O/S map XLV1 of 1876 held by Berkshire Records Office.