

Matter 5:
Key Diagram, Spatial Strategy and methodology
for selecting site allocations

8/1/2025

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association

Submitted representations

Friends of Trent Country Country Park/Trent Country Park Conservation Committee

ID/Policy	Hyperlink/brief description
PL10 13a 03448-1-1	Tyler Grange suggests SINC harm cannot be mitigated. Strategic habitat connections – Dennis Vickers https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-1-1.pdf
none	About FoTCP and TPCC https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-2-1.pdf
PL10 03448-3-1	Symbiotic relationship between Trent Country Park and Vicarage Farm; Trent Country Park Conservation Area Appraisal; Trent Country Park Equestrian Centre within the Conservation Area and views from Bramley Road. https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-3-1.pdf
PL10 12h 03448-4-1	Setting of Trent Country Park within Enfield Chase; Williams Wood/tranquillity https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-4-1.pdf
PL10 para 13 03448-5-1	London Plan definition of open space https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-5-1.pdf
PL10 para 13c 03448-6-1	Country Park extension net loss – loss of views St Mary’s church; road connection through. https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-6-1.pdf
PL10 para 13d 03448-7-1	Buffer of open space in Fig 13.2, whilst better than building to the edge of the Park, would still result in the loss of the countryside setting that so many Park users and local residents enjoy both from the Merryhills Way and from Trent Country Park. https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-7-1.pdf
SS1 para 11	Historic Lossick Way along the southern edge of Trent Country Park and sweeping views to Epping Forest. Historic and symbiotic relationship between Trent Country Park and the Chase. Williams Wood tranquillity NPPG paragraph 185b https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-8-1.pdf
PL10 para 13f	Explanation of walks map which illustrates the connections between Trent Country Park and the surrounding area, and the way Vicarage Farm functions as a countryside gateway to Trent Country Park. Repeated assertions that development will sensitively integrate” but fails against all the criteria in PL9f, all of which Vicarage Farm currently exhibits. https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/03448-9-1.pdf

Western Enfield Residents Association

ID/Policy	Hyperlink/brief description
SA10.1	Obliteration of Enfield Chase landscape and vistas; loss of the semi-rural character of the area https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email-16-12/02087-3-1.pdf https://www.enfield.gov.uk/file/PDFs/email/02087-2-1.pdf

Issue 5.5: Whether the allocations in the Plan have been selected using an appropriate methodology based on proportionate evidence

Q5.20: Is the approach to the assessment and selection of sites, as set out in the Site Allocations Topic Paper justified? Does the submitted evidence demonstrate that the sites have been selected on a robust, consistent and objective basis?

It is not at all clear that proper efforts were made to understand the contribution of the historic landscape and its importance, despite the huge response to the Regulation 18 consultation in 2021. No effort appears to have been made to apply the findings of the *Enfield Characterisation Study* in terms of the quality of the 'farmland ridges and valleys' landscape.

Q5.24. Were constraints to development, such as transport, flooding, landscape, character, heritage and mineral safeguarding appropriately taken into account as part of the selection process?

No. We feel that the contribution of the landscape, character and history were not appropriately taken into account as part of the site selection process.

In our representations, both at Regulation 18 stage in 2021 and subsequently in 2024, we made very clear the critical role of the countryside in this area to the character of western Enfield.

In summary, Friends of Trent Country Park pointed to:

- the symbiotic relationship between Trent Country Park and Vicarage Farm arising from
 - the network of paths and country walks linking Trent Country Park with existing settlements through Vicarage Farm (see the submitted map, which is missing from the database, in our Matter 1 Statement)
 - views both towards Trent Country Park and from Trent Country Park, providing strong visual connections and rural character
- the contribution of the Trent Park Equestrian Centre to the rural character, both in terms of land use and views from Bramley Road
- This landscape is described in the *Enfield Characterisation Study* as part of the most important landscape character type in the Borough.
- The importance of the tranquillity of Williams Wood

The Council's response to this is that they have responded to character by the provision of open spaces such as green corridors along the Merryhyills Way and in buffers and in the country park extension.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association

As we argued (PL10 para 13 rep [here](#)), this would be ineffective in mitigating the impacts given the loss of rurality.

Demonstrably, this provision would be totally ineffective and demonstrates a lack of understanding of or any sympathy with the historic landscape of Enfield Chase.

The Council's procedure for submission of Regulation 19 representations explicitly prohibited submission of PDFs (and therefore effectively any photographs) and therefore we include a number of important illustrations and photographs on the following pages which serve to illustrate the points made in our representations.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



Sign Board at the outside 'meeting point' at Gordon Hill station shows the critical contribution of the Green Belt to the character of western Enfield.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



Enlargement of the Gordon Hill mural showing the area of Vicarage Farm and the Merryhills Way, which as shown is very popular with joggers including the Trent Park Running Club and the Enfield Chasers Running Club and is important to the mental and physical wellbeing of residents. The map also indicates the location of the popular Trent Park Equestrian Centre with a horseshoe.



The very large new mural at Enfield Chase station (northbound platform) illustrating the critical contribution of hunting in the Chase to the character and identity of the area. The mural was unveiled by the Mayor of Enfield and the Chairman of the Enfield Society in September 2024.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



Watercolour c.1790 commissioned by local antiquarian Richard Gough, showing a view of Enfield from the top of Windmill Hill on the Chase. St Andrew's Church on the left, the 'palace' on the right.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



The views from Trent Country Park across the Chase at Vicarage Farm towards the spire of St Mary's church provide a crucial sense of connection between Enfield and its Chase.

The existing houses do not detract from the overall rural scene but provide a context of place and identity, situating the settlement of Enfield and differentiating it from the urban sprawl that has engulfed the rest of Middlesex.



Glimpses through the trees north across Vicarage Farm ('Chase Park') provide the crucial semi-rural character to western Enfield. We feel that the leadership of the Council, which has a power base in eastern Enfield, do not value this landscape. The 'green gap' formed of countryside on both sides of Enfield Road is critical in terms of the 'green lungs' of the area. This is reflected in the lack of proper consideration of the contribution of the rural area.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



Looking south towards Jubilee Cottage on Enfield Road across the proposed development. The Merryhills Way follows the hedgeline east-west.

This view is described as 'spectacular' in the Local Plan but would be lost if Chase Park were to be developed.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



View east from the southern edge of Trent Park Conservation Area along the medieval Lossick Way track through the Chase. The spire of St Mary's church denotes the location of Enfield Town. The view would be urbanised by 'Chase Park'

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association



The footpath heading north from the bus stop at Lakeside at Enfield Road provides a popular walking path into Trent Country Park from the Oakwood area, avoiding the long tarmac road at Snakes Lane. This landscape would be developed.

The *Enfield Characterisation Study* remarked on the importance of the tree belt to maintaining the countryside character – that role would be lost as a result of development.

Furthermore, the Trent Park Equestrian Centre relies on grazing at the paddocks shown here. If the development at Chase Park goes ahead the Equestrian Centre, which forms a critical part of the rural character of Trent Country Park, will close.

MATTER 5
Friends of Trent Country Park
Trent Park Conservation Committee
Western Enfield Residents Association

Professional landscape consultants working for The Enfield Society have demonstrated conclusively that this is a 'valued landscape' for the purposes of the NPPF. The failure of the Council's leadership over a number of years to attempt to understand this value, despite the efforts of local people and groups to communicate this clearly, indicates their lack of interest, perhaps unsurprisingly given their lack of connection with western Enfield.

The countryside character of western Enfield, the importance of the 'green gap' and the easy access to enjoy the area for exercise and relaxation are valued in more than planning terms by residents, visitors and people just passing through, as evidenced by the thousands of responses to the Regulation 19 consultation. For instance, analysis of the responses shows that more than 2,500 are specifically concerned about the effect of the proposed development on the area's character, history and access.

In conclusion, we believe that despite copious evidence available through the Enfield Characterisation Study and submitted by residents' groups and in particular the compelling evidence submitted by The Enfield Society in 2021 and again in 2024, The Council has failed to engage with evidence of the importance of the Enfield Chase landscapes at Vicarage Farm and South of Enfield Road to the character and identity of the area.

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Total 1493 words.