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Reference: Draft Local Plan - Site SA45 – Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in reference to the above Enfield Local Plan which proposes the construction of 160 homes in an area of Green Belt.

I have lived in the area for twenty-three years; I am a member of the Hadley Wood Association and Tennis Club.

The locality appealed to me and my family as it offered an area of green and open space providing it with a unique character and setting it apart from other parts of the metropolis.

The proposal to turn a significant part of this green belt over to housing causes me deep concern, as it would destroy an important and significant zone, one that has been described in Enfield's Characterisation Study as being a 'special area of landscape character which is a major asset for the borough'.

The site is also part of the Hornbeam Hills Area of Special Character, and this fact has not been incorporated into the change of classification being proposed for this site.

Enfield has been described as the 'green lung of London'. Rare butterflies have been documented in Bartrams Lane and their habitat and that of other wildlife would be destroyed in this proposal.

The proposal to build on green belt appears to be a knee-jerk reaction to the requirement for new homes. The council have not set out the exceptional circumstances that would justify the hasty sacrifice of this unique area of Green Belt.

The historic significance of this site also appears to have been overlooked as it borders the location of the 1471 Battle of Barnet. Archaeological opportunities and views of the surroundings that have existed for centuries would be lost if the permitted use of the land were to change.

Alternative options to fully utilise brown field sites such as that of Meridian water and to encourage developers to complete the schemes to which they are already committed should be pursued ahead of this proposal. This in itself would provide the additional housing needed.

The site was not on the list for development in the 2018 consultation document.

While the suggestion to include it has come from the Duchy of Lancaster, this does not appear to have taken into account that the 1989 Conservation area of Crescent West directly abuts the site. The site is also bordered and overlooked by the Hadley Wood Conservation Area, the Monken Hadley Conservation Area and Grade II listed buildings on Camlet Way, and these zones would be irrevocably harmed if the Green Belt was turned over to housing.

Of note, the Duchy of Lancaster has a restrictive covenant relating to the prevention of noise and nuisance to neighbours and the building and habitation of these dwellings would clearly contravene this.

The construction of such a large number of new homes would need to be supported by schools, health services, shops and better transport links which currently do not exist. I fail to see how such large additional costs can be justified for the relatively small number of homes that will be created.

While there is a station in Hadley Wood, the idea that this might justify classing the it as an intensification zone is flawed due to the lack of supporting amenities as outlined above.

High reliance on cars to access the development would be the only realistic option, which goes counter to this being a sustainable proposal. The land is prime agricultural land in class three, the highest level, and such a valuable resource should not be released for development.

Flood risk will inevitably increase with the loss of green open areas. The climate emergency we all face must take priority. Any mitigation provided by 'SUDS' schemes is limited and often inadequate as I have witnessed first-hand during recent flash floods which overwhelmed drains in Crescent East and Crescent West and caused sewage to contaminate the platform at Hadley Wood Station only two weeks ago.

Given all these factors I would urge you to remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the Green Belt status for the land.