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I strongly object to the proposed site allocation of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

I have lived in Hadley Wood for over 25 years. My daughter went to school in Hadley Wood and I am a member of the Hadley Wood Association. It saddens me that at a time when biodiversity is in existential decline and nature is key to safeguarding our planet, that our valuable Green Belt is under threat. My family and I are avid walkers, cyclists and nature enthusiasts, who value all green spaces within and around Hadley Wood. The Green Belt is one of the main reasons we chose to make Hadley Wood our home; it allows us to spend valuable time in nature and protects the environment and unique character of the area. We have already lost sizable areas of nature to new housing developments, most recently in Trent Park. There are also significant on-going developments to existing properties in the area, causing disrepair to our roads from all the heavy-duty vehicle, and damage to our properties from frequent flooding due to the reduction in permeable ground. Hadley Wood is not an urban area and should not be turned into one.

The proposed site allocation goes against the purpose of the Green Belt policy, which is to prevent urban sprawl, preserve open land and safeguard the countryside from encroachment. Making the green belt truly green, with trees wildlife and recreation, should be central to council plans to tackle the Climate Emergency, restore nature, improve public health and make land in town and country resilient. At a time when we should be doing everything we can to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of the climate change, harmful opportunistic development proposals such as these should be refused in favour of the environment and sustainability in all cases. We must stop destroying nature and protect The Green Belt.

I, therefore, object to the proposed site allocation that would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

Please see as follows for specifics on my objections:

1. Destroys a valued and valuable part of the Green Belt. Enfield's most recent Characterisation Study refers to the area as "A special area of landscape character which is a major asset for the borough. It is of both landscape and historic significance"; and "The existing Green Belt boundary should be retained and protected, and future development and land use changes resisted." We should be protecting and conserving our remaining valuable green spaces.
2. Makes a significant contribution to the purpose and openness of the Green Belt. The Hadley Wood Heritage and Character Assessment notes that the site provides "important views" across three boroughs, and the landscape "acts as a buffer to separate Hadley Wood from other urban areas". No account has been taken of the fact the site forms part of The Horn Beam Hills Area of Special Character.
3. Wildlife and biodiversity will be harmed. Building over 11HA of fields for 160 homes is an inefficient use of valuable land that serves an important purpose. It contradicts Enfield's Green Policies and the declaration by the council of a climate emergency. The ecology of this unique area of rough grazing and wildlife habitat, a relic of the landscape of Enfield Chase, must be protected.
4. Increases flood risk in other parts of Hadley Wood. Parts of the land are flood zone free, and local sewers plus flood defences are already hugely insufficient, resulting in frequent flooding across Hadley Wood and damage to property. The existing foal and surface water sewer infrastructure has not kept up with the pace of development; building housing here is not sustainable.
5. Site is surrounding by conservation areas and grade II listed buildings. The site is bordered and overlooked by the Hadley Wood Conservation Area, the Monkey Hadley Conservation Area and Grade II listed buildings on Camlet Way. The proposed building will adversely impact the setting, character and appearance of those heritage sites.

Please remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land.