

LBE finally publishes the responses to the Local Plan 2021 consultation

Developers are supportive of the proposed release of Green Belt land for housing, but there are some important voices that are less enthusiastic

Andrew Lack

In June the Council released the responses to the 2021 Local Plan consultation in full on its website. In total there are 7,157 documents which were submitted by e-mail (67%) or by post (33%). The Society is carefully going through this very large collection of information in order to present a strong case in the next stage of the Plan, but here we present some initial findings.

The Council has presented the data in a suboptimal format, spread over 144 web pages, with only a basic sort option and no search. The Enfield Society has taken the public data and created a single list, sorted alphabetically by respondent, which you can find at enfieldsociety.org.uk/local-plan-2021-response-index. Each response has a four digit reference, shown [thus] below, which you'll find by using your browser's 'find in page' option.

Other developers use similar arguments. In property agent Knight Frank's submission [3825] on behalf of the London Borough of Enfield, they provide a justification for residential building on the south-west corner of Sloeman's Farm which was otherwise designated for a natural burial ground. Supportive points include "helping to address house price and affordability" and "delivery is achievable". Comer Homes, the present owner of Green Belt Vicarage Farm, [3565 et seq], included in the Local Plan as "Chase Park", open their response by pointing to "the absence of any more sustainable green belt locations within the Borough."

Support from other land owners include Warmerdam Nursery [0045], Wolden's Garden Centre [3828], Fairview Homes [3798] who are promoting building on Green Belt to the south of Enfield Road and the London Diocesan Fund who are promoting release of Green Belt land opposite the Jolly Farmers, Slades Hill [2843].

Interestingly, some developers are less supportive of the Plan. Lindhill [0215] objects to the Council's approach of using Green Belt to achieve housing targets and said "in failing to consider well located brownfield sites within the Borough, has moved directly to release Green Belt land to meet the housing need" Lindhill are promoting the redevelopment of the former Cock Tavern at Palmers



Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

👍 The Trent Park Equestrian centre fully endorses its land being turned over for residential use [0938]

It will not come as a surprise to see that there are several supportive submissions from developers who currently own land in the Borough which the proposed Local Plan seeks to release for housing. Berkeley Homes [0153] lists a number of 'exceptional circumstances' to justify releasing Green Belt around Crews Hill station, including "providing genuine opportunities for sustainable patterns of growth", "creating an exemplar place" and, significantly citing, "compensatory Green Belt improvements". This latter point is of importance as the National Planning Policy Framework, which the Local Plan will eventually be judged against, allows for compensatory improvements to mitigate the effects of development. The Enfield Society has been watching the Enfield Chase Restoration Project carefully as we believe this will become a significant argument in the forthcoming Public Examination.



Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

👎 NEAT, the Colosseum Retail Park developers, don't like the limits contained in the Council's tall buildings proposals [2550]

Green/A406, a brownfield site. Chase New Homes [0825] is very critical, opening their response with "the New Plan is not based on a proper planning assessment of the character of Enfield Borough and the evidence base is not fit for purpose." They are also very critical of the Council's approach to car free development and claims that the Local Plan "goes beyond what is required within the London Plan".

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Dave Cockle

It was good to meet many new Enfield Society members at our recent New Members' Evening held at Jubilee Hall. A slightly different format was followed involving the leaders of our individual groups. Each leader gave a brief speech describing the activities the group was involved with, and their activities were also illustrated with photos and artefacts. The Trees Group even had some potted samples of saplings from the Society's tree nursery! It was a very successful evening, thankfully resulting in some new volunteers.

The street scene can so easily be degraded, a recent example being a cluster of mobile phone company equipment cabinets in Rowantree Road (EN2). The three cabinets are all different colours—green, grey and brown. We have raised this issue at our regular meetings with the Council asking for a standard green colour to be used.

A Society member recently complained to the Council about the inadequate and inconsistent signage for urban footpaths. With walking and cycling being very much on the Council's agenda, clear signage is important. There is a useful footpath route off the Bycullah Estate for those heading towards Chase Farm Hospital or Gordon Hill Station, avoiding walking along the busy Ridgeway. Whilst two cul-de-sacs, Chasewood Avenue and John Gooch Drive are linked by a short footpath they are not signed. After crossing Holtwhites Hill, a further footpath takes one into Hedge Hill and then onwards into Lavender Hill. Only the first section of this path is sign-posted. All the paths mentioned on the Council's Rights of Way map and are allocated a number. These deficiencies have been reported and supporting photographs of evidence have been submitted.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our Enfield Society volunteers who put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring the business of the Society is dealt with swiftly and efficiently. In particular, Janet McQueen and Emma Halstead are worthy of our gratitude as they so competently look after Jubilee Hall, the Society's headquarters.

Society news

AGM, Thursday 21st September

Notice is hereby given that The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 8pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:

- to receive the Report of the Management Committee and the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022;
- to re-elect the Secretary and the Treasurer;
- to re-elect Trustees of the Society who retire by rotation; and
- to re-appoint the Presidents of the Society.

Any member may appoint any other person as his or her proxy to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting.

AGM Documents

All the relevant documents will be available on our website at enfieldsociety.org.uk/agm. There you will find a full agenda for the AGM, the Statutory Reports and Accounts of the Society for 2022, including the Report of the Management Committee, the Minutes of the 2022 AGM and a form of proxy.

You are entitled by law to receive a paper copy of the Statutory Reports and Accounts, and if you wish to do so or receive paper copies of any of the other documents, please write to the Membership Secretary at Jubilee Hall, e-mail info@enfieldsociety.org.uk or leave a message on 020 8363 9495, giving your name and address and the documents you require.

Following the formal business, Martin Paine will give a short talk on the history of Enfield Chase. See page 5 for details.

Richard Stones

Meeting with The Barnet Society

On 14th April four members of the Barnet Society's Committee met with members of the Enfield Society's Committee at Jubilee Hall in Parsonage Lane. This was an opportunity for the two Groups to share experience with local civic matters and to see if there were common areas where cooperation would be helpful.



The Barnet Society

left to right: Robin Bishop, (Barnet Society Planning); Dave Cockle, (Enfield Society Chair); Frances Wilson (Barnet Society Chair); Richard Stones (Enfield Society Secretary)

Enfield Council's proposals for redevelopment of the Green Belt is of serious concern to the Barnet Society as part of the affected land lies close to Barnet at Hadley Wood. The Barnet Society submitted comments to the public consultation in the summer of 2021.

Barnet Society are also unhappy about the proposed redevelopment at Cockfosters Underground station.

Currently, the Barnet Society are looking at proposals to redevelop The Spires in High Barnet, a scheme which appears to have similarities to the proposals for Enfield Town in 2020/21 by DWS/ Deutsche Bank

One immediate example of co-operation between the two Groups is over formal adoption as public rights of way for footpaths across the Sewits Hill nature reserve on the Enfield boundary between Hadley Wood and Hadley Wood Golf Club. (See page 7.)

Andrew Lack

Membership

We would like to welcome the following news members to the Society since April:

R Butcher, J Cully, K Dell, M Distefano, J Duckworth, N & S Duxon, C & N St John, G & T Kelly, A & Z Kourdoullou-Iqbal, G J Magowan, L Mansbridge, S Mansfield, L Meade, R O'Niocail, G Pace, K Powley, L Silva-Clark, T & T Walton and J Wood.

Alec Tyler

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Our last litter pick was on the 1st of July when we tackled a section of Whitewebbs Lane concentrating on the footpath that runs adjacent to the road. The photograph shows some of the chairs found dumped near the entrance to the Toby Carvery. A van driver had already stopped and taken others away— instant recycling!

Our recent litter picks have been characterised by unusual numbers of one item. A surprising amount of number plates and large nitrous oxide canisters were found on our visit to Turkey Street in March, which were duly reported to the Police.

Unusual brands of beer cans and bottles in vast numbers were found on the Salmon's Brook Path in May and lots of clothes and even a duvet were found in the Wetlands at Albany Park in April.



Day, one of our members living in Palmers Green decided that we should address this omission and Heritage Walk Guide No. 8, Palmers Green has now been published. From a small hamlet on Green Lanes to a thriving suburban community, Palmers Green has many nationally Listed Buildings, buildings on the Local Heritage List and a Conservation Area. The guide takes you around the area and highlighting the history and development of the area.

Copies are available from the Society's online bookshop at enfieldsociety.org.uk/product-category/walking

During July, to mark the launch of the leaflet, the Society brought together all the various groups involved in the Palmers Green community at an event in the function room of the newly reopened Fox Public House. Representatives from Broomfield Park, the Palmers Green Action Team, CAPE, Enfield Council's Journeys and Places Team, the Lakes Estate Conservation Area, Palmers Green Community Newsletter and other community and faith representatives all attended providing an opportunity to network and share ideas.

John West

Evening talks organiser

We were very pleased to receive an offer from Joe Studman to organise our talks programme from January 2024 onwards. Joe is very well known to many members as a local history speaker as well as covering elsewhere in London.

The Society would like to thank Carole Todd for her time restarting the talks programme after COVID and offering members a varied, and at times, extremely popular series of talks.

Andrew Lack

A number of bodies are statutory consultees to a Local Plan, meaning their opinion must be obtained, and presumably their views assume a greater importance. With the public release of the responses we can see these. Highly significantly, Historic England [2071] is very critical of the approach within the Plan saying "we are concerned that there has not been adequate assessment of the potential effects on the significance of important designated heritage assets before the principle of the development specified at these locations is established" and continues "it is unclear whether any analysis of these assets and their settings have played a part in determining whether the site is appropriate for such large scale development". The Environment Agency [3670] commented on the flood risk arising from developments "there is work to be done on the place-based strategic policies, relating to those sites being allocated which are partially in flood plains, as these must be informed by the Level 2 SFRA and include any site-specific flood risk recommendations". One such site is Vicarage Farm. The Lee Valley Regional Park [2626] is also critical that it has been left out of the Local Plan saying "the main concern with the current plan is the lack of specific policy support for the Lee Valley Regional Park and the Park Development Framework proposals".

The next stage of the Local Plan is Regulation 19 which is expected in Winter 2023. This will start with the publication of a final draft of the Plan and will be followed by a minimum six week consultation (the Council have said twelve weeks) during which people may submit objections which will need to be based on specific Planning Policy criteria. Following this an Examination in Public will take place. The final outcome could include instructions to remove or change aspects of the Plan before it can be adopted.

The Society believes that the Green Belt has protected the Borough from urban sprawl for over 70 years and it continues to be needed and valued as a green lung for the urban area. With climate change becoming an increasing problem we will continue to press for the protection of the Green Belt.

The Enfield Society is very grateful to Carol Fisk of Enfield RoadWatch for the initial research into the responses which was used in the preparation of this article.

Alison Yates/Enfield Society



Some of the July litter. Chairs were thoughtfully dumped for volunteers to rest in. . .

Future events.

On Saturday 16th September we will be in Ponders End. Please come and join us from 10am–12noon as we litter pick the footpath from Dujardin Mews (near Oasis Academy Hadley) EN3 4FJ to the Charlton Road Park N9 8HJ.

If you are travelling by public transport Ponders End Station is very close or take the 191 bus and alight at the Oasis Academy Hadley stop. Walk between the school and the Ponders End Youth Centre and down Dujardin Mews. Just after the road turns right the start of the footpath is adorned with carvings of an owl and two cats where we will assemble. Participation in these events is at your own risk. All equipment will be provided if requested.

Further details from Alison Yates 07818 682073

Alison Yates

Palmers Green heritage leaflet launch

One of the Society's objectives is to improve the knowledge of our area's history and heritage. The Society has published many books, maps and guides about Enfield including a series of Heritage Walks. These guides allow you to take a self-guided walk around an area and learn about its history and architecture. Until recently Palmers Green had not been covered by this series of guides. Adrian

Planning report

John West

We understand from the Planning Officers at the Council that so far this year there has been a reduction of about 16% in the number of planning applications received by the Council. There are still a significant number of applications for small scale residential work, but the large-scale developers appear to be holding back. The TfL car park site at Arnos Grove has been closed and work is due to start shortly. Significant progress is being made at Meridian Water and the first new homes will be available later this year.

Two major developments include a Trent Park Management Plan and publication by the Council of the Local Plan 2021 consultation responses (see page 1).

Trent Park

At Trent Park landscape consultants appointed by Berkeley Homes have produced a Management Plan for the area. The Society has responded to the consultation as follows;

The Lakes. We commented on the fact that originally the lakes were surrounded by open land, except for a belt of woodland running down from the western side of the mansion to a point between the lakes and the woods at the eastern end of the lakes. This allowed a range of vistas to and from the mansion. At present the western lake is so hemmed in by trees on all sides that it is practically invisible. The northern bank of the eastern lake is also now heavily wooded. This makes it quite difficult to see the mansion from the northern side of the lake. The overall effect is of uncontrolled growth rather than “nature tamed” in an eighteenth century manner. We noted that the Document quotes the approved landscape masterplan as saying that “the re-generated lake edge vegetation shall be removed to open up views through the plant growth to create open lake edges”. We support this suggestion. While it is difficult for ecological reasons to justify the removal of trees, we think that restoring a more open landscape is desirable. We have also suggested that the large areas of brambles should be removed and replaced by mown grass or meadowland.

The Cascade. This is an attractive feature largely overwhelmed by the rampant vegetation. Some clearance of the undergrowth would be desirable. In addition, the very “municipal” railings on either side of the path detract from the scene.

Martin Paine



An important missing link between the Lime Avenue and the Japanese Water Garden could be reinstated here

The bridge. An important aspect of the Sassoon landscape was the axis running down from the Wisteria Walk along the Lime Avenue and across the lake to the water garden. We think that a proper restoration of the Park should include the reinstatement of this link which includes a bridge at the eastern end of the lake.

The Management Proposals quotes the approved landscape master plan as saying that “a new footbridge over the watercourse shall be installed to re-connect the Mansion House with the footpath network in the Country Park to the north”, but in the current draft there is no reference to any practical steps to achieve this. We understand that no funding is currently available and the Society is exploring if Heritage Lottery funding could be secured.

Maintenance. Improved maintenance will be needed if the improvements outlined in the consultation document are to be long-lasting. We noted that a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan is to be produced and we will be interested to see this when it is available. In the Society’s view it is important that the Park is maintained in a way which gives due attention to preserving its historic landscape and structures and that it is not simply regarded as a pleasant open space.

Planning Concerns

We remain concerned that a shortage of planning and enforcement officers is leading to poor decisions. On the Galliard estate a major loft conversion and extension involving lifting the roofline was accepted as permitted development and given a certificate of lawful development. This work does not meet the rules for permitted development and the Council has acknowledged the error. However, it does not believe that it has a strong enough case to take enforcement action. This is disappointing as it encourages other builders and developers to think that they can carry out similar work without risk.

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society



The former Boundary House in Hertford Road

In relation to public houses, there are now planning controls over the change of use and a Pubs Protection Policy set out in the London Plan. In Ponders End at both the Picture Palace (a former Wetherspoons pub) and the Boundary House the Council has failed to follow this policy which is specifically designed to protect community pubs. The Society in partnership with the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has raised these concerns with the Council.

Open House in 2023?

In June the Society was contacted by the Council asking if we would stump up the full cost of Enfield’s entry in this year’s Open House programme—£4,500. The Trustees felt that we could contribute up to £2,500 but that the Council should pay the balance. The Council have since told us that it was unable to contribute to the programme and that *Open City* had kindly offered to cover the remaining cost of entry.

Andrew Lack

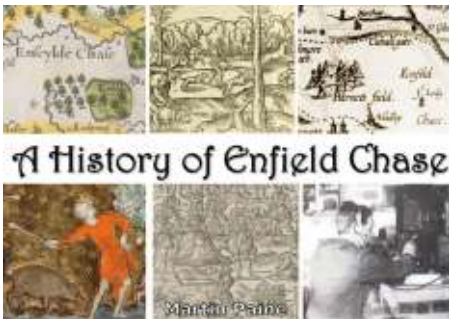
Society talks calendar

Jubilee Hall talks start at 8pm, but please note the All Saints Church Hall talk starts at 7.30pm. Our talks are free to members and there is no need to book. Doors open from 7.15pm. Refreshments and the publications sales table are normally available. Non members are welcome for £1 each per talk.

Tuesday 5th September, 7.30pm, All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton. Joint meeting of The Enfield Society's Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group and Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. Non-members welcome. Free.

Victoria Thompson, Founding Director of Youth Made Place, a Community Interest Company, unveils a visionary project, where the captivating voices of Enfield's youth are poised to take centre stage. Victoria will share her vision to ignite curiosity, spark imagination, and foster a collective passion for preserving our borough's heritage as well as understanding how Enfield is experienced by the younger generations in the borough. You will learn of Youth Made Place's approach to how young people can be given opportunities for co-designing, consultation, and engagement within the built environment.

Thursday 21st September, 8pm. Society AGM followed by a short talk by Martin Paine on Enfield Chase.



Following the publication of the Martin's *A History of Enfield Chase* last year, this is the first of two talks that aim to bring to life the medieval and renaissance worlds of Enfield Chase, drawing on an array of sources including hunting treatises, literature, maps, and archival records. Martin aims to demonstrate why an understanding of Enfield Chase is essential to understanding the history of Enfield, including the grand houses, palaces and lodges that were once so prominent in the local landscape.

Monday 16th October, 8pm, Enfield Chase (continued) by Martin Paine. What is the difference between a Chase

The British Library



and a Forest? What is the Enfield Beast and did it really stalk Enfield Chase? Why was hunting important, who hunted, how and why? Did monks and nuns hunt in Enfield Chase? What was Old Park, where was New Park and how did they both relate to Enfield Chase? What were the game laws and how did they impact on everyday life? What is the visible legacy of the Chase today? To find out the answers to these questions and more, join Martin as he explores the rich history of our local area.

Monday 20th November, 8pm. The Capital Ring by Colin Saunders. London is blessed with literally hundreds of trails for walkers, but one of the best known, longest and surprisingly green is the 78-mile Capital Ring, which encircles the metropolis about halfway to the boundary. Along the way, it passes many places of historical and cultural significance. Though not passing through Enfield Borough, it is easily reached at places like Finsbury Park, Stoke Newington and Hackney Wick. As the author of its best-selling guidebook, and having been its route manager for several years, Colin is well qualified to speak about its route and attractions.

Colin Saunders



The Capital Ring starts and ends here at the Woolwich (south) foot tunnel entrance

Charterhouse visit Tuesday 26th September

Carole Todd, our Evening Talks Organiser, is also a volunteer at Charterhouse which is located between the Barbican and Smithfield in The City. We have arranged for a Brother's Tour of the Charterhouse on Tuesday 26th September at 11am.

Carole Todd



The Charterhouse is a former Carthusian monastery in London, to the north of what is now Charterhouse Square. Since the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century the house has served as private mansion, a boys' school and an almshouse, which it remains to this day.

Places are available on a group tour of the site led by one of the residents of the almshouse. The residents are known as 'Brothers' and this is a purely traditional term for those living in the community. Tours usually last around 90 minutes and are given from the perspective of each individual brother.

Tickets cost £18.00 each which will include tea, coffee and biscuits after the tour. There are 20 spaces available and **the closing date for applications is the Saturday 26th August.**

To book a place, please e-mail visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk and pay by online banking to the Society's account: sort code 20-29-77, account: 5035 3820. Please use your name and postcode for the payment reference. Alternately, send a cheque made payable to *The Enfield Society* to us at 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ. Please mark your envelope *Charterhouse Visit* and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for us to reply. We regret we cannot refund payments made if you are later unable to attend on the day.

The Charterhouse is easily accessed by public transport. Closest tube stations are Barbican or Farringdon.

Carole Todd



Society guided walks

Stuart Mills

Our walks are open to all Society members. Please wear suitable footwear. Travel details are correct at copy date, but with engineering works and strikes, please check with transport operators close to the date. If walks need to be altered or cancelled, and when possible, prior notification will be issued via John West's walkers e-mail list and/or the Society's member e-mail list.

Friday 18th August. Barnet's Green Belt Countryside. **Meet 10.45** near *The Orange Tree* pub on Totteridge Green, Totteridge Lane. Access by 251 bus from Arnos Grove Station with a 12 minutes frequency and 15 minute journey time. Some limited car parking in side roads north of Totteridge Lane, but *please do not use the pub car park*.

About a 6 mile rural walk in attractive countryside linking the Folly and Dollis Brook valleys with the ridges of Totteridge and Old Mill Hill. Notable buildings and views across London. Shorter option from the lunch stop in Mill Hill Village by using bus to Mill Hill East Station (Northern Line) and later when the walk crosses the 251 bus route. Bring lunch or pub food probably available in *The Three Hammers*. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Bank Holiday Monday 28th August. Richmond Park and River Thames. **Depart 11.00** from the entrance foyer of Richmond Station. Either 20 to 30 minutes journey time from Vauxhall mainline station, or about 50 minutes by London Overground from Highbury & Islington. Please note: National Rail engineering works are scheduled this weekend in the King's Cross/Finsbury Park area that may affect Great Northern trains.

A 6 to 7 mile circular walk via the contrasting scenery of Richmond Park and The Thames. Option to finish from the lunch stop near Ham common. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Saturday 9th September. St. Albans Heritage. **Meet 10.35** at St. Albans City Station. Either by Thameslink trains at 09.48 or 09.51 from St. Pancras International Station (platform B), or by 84 bus from Potters Bar Station (currently at 09.38 but check on Intalink).

An interestingly varied 5 mile walk discovering some of the heritage buildings and open spaces in St. Albans. It will include semi-rural and parkland sections and, hopefully, entry into a restored 1300's manorial barn originally built by the Abbey. Shorter option possible. Route ends

in the City centre for the 84 and also other buses to City Station. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Sunday 17 September. Chilterns. **Meet 10.02** at Tring Station (09.25 Birmingham New Street train from London Euston mainline station). Tring Station has a large car park—access via the Tring South exit from A41.

10 to 11 mile circular walk in classic Chilterns scenery via Aldbury Village, Bridgewater Monument, National Trust land and Ivinghoe Beacon. Hilly at times but with great views. Lunch stop in Ivinghoe village—either bring a picnic or pub food probably available.

For those familiar with the area, and with a 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey map, it is possible to shorten the route by omitting Ivinghoe village. Joint walk with Hampstead Ramblers. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

Wednesday 20th September. Hampstead Heath and environs. **Meet 10.30** at Hampstead Heath Station (London Overground from Highbury & Islington Station).

About 5 mile circular walk with a varied mix of architectural and historical features plus parts of the Heath. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.

Thursday 28th September. Hertfordshire scenes. **Meet 10.24** at Bayford Station (10.12 train from Enfield Chase). Car drivers could meet the group in Bayford village at 10.40, but *please park considerately and not in the pub car park*.

The full circular walk from the station is 7 miles via Bayfordbury Estate to Hertford, with an option to finish, and then returning by a different route along field paths and through woodland to Bayford village and station. Bring lunch or food available in Hertford Town. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Wednesday 4th October. Exploring Kensington. **Meet 10.30** at High Street Kensington Station (Circle & District Lines).

A 7 mile linear walk visiting the quiet corners of this historic area with many architectural gems plus Holland Park and Kensington Gardens. Route ends at Notting Hill Gate Station (Circle, District & Central Lines). Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Saturday 14th October. Epping Forest. **Meet 10.30** at Chingford bus station (313

bus from Enfield or by London Overground).

A 6 mile circular walk through the early Autumn colours of the Forest with a lunch stop at High Beach. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food probably available. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Thursday 19th October. Nautical Connections. **Meet at 10.45** in Trinity Square Gardens opposite the exit from Tower Hill Station (Circle & District Lines).

A 5 to 7 mile linear walk along the southern bank of The Thames, via Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. It is an area that featured in London's sea-faring history and had connections with the Pilgrim Fathers. Shorter options, including from the lunch stop in Rotherhithe High Street. Bring lunch or food available. The walk will end at a station. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

Saturday 28th October. Conservation Countryside. **Meet 10.29** at Bayford Station (10.17 train from Enfield Chase). Car drivers could meet the group in Bayford village at 10.40, but *please park considerately and not in the pub car park*.

About 6½ mile circular walk in unspoilt countryside with lunch stop in Little Berkhamsted village. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food available from pub and village shop. Please remove/cover muddy boots before entering the pub. Note: this route is different to Mick's Bayford walk last month. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Friday 3rd November. Forty Hall. **Depart at 10.30** from front door of Forty Hall Mansion.

About 2½ hour circular walk through the parkland and woods of the Forty Hall and Whitewebbs Estate. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Saturday 11th November. Highgate and the Heath. **Meet 10.30** at Lauderdale House café in Waterlow Park off Highgate Hill. 210 bus stops outside and takes about 15 minutes from the Wells Terrace bus station at Finsbury Park Station.

About 5½ to 6 mile walk through some of the lesser known areas of Hampstead Heath. "A country walk within North London". Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Wednesday 15th November. Shakespeare's London. **Meet at 10.30** outside the *Penderel's Oak* Wetherspoon

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Footpath claim at Sewits Hill

Libby Martin, Footpath Secretary for the Herfordshire and North Middlesex Ramblers

Those of you who like to walk in the woods of Monken Hadley Common will be familiar with Sewits Hill, even if you don't know it by name. It is the open area to the west of Jack's Lake and north of the woodland. There has been open access to it via many gaps through the trees, both from the woods to the south and the Covert Way Nature Reserve to the west.

I had always assumed it was a part of Monken Hadley Common and so run by the Trustees. I discovered my error in early September 2019, when I was told that all the paths from the Nature Reserve into the open space had been blocked by piles of logs. As the local Footpath Secretary for Ramblers, I gathered evidence statements from people who had been using the blocked paths for decades, and submitted a claim for public rights of way across the open space. A "Right of Way" can be claimed on usage, if people have used it for a period of 20 years without being given special permission, and without being told they couldn't.

The area known as Sewits Hill in fact belongs to Hadley Wood Golf Club. Before World War II, it was part of the course. During the war, it became grazing land, and when the course was redeveloped after the War, that area was not used. It was rented out to a tenant farmer who took the hay. In the time I have known it, there has always been a very secure boundary between this piece of land and the Golf Course itself—at least since a period over 30 years ago, when joyriders were gaining access via a track beside the golf course and dumping burnt out cars on the edge of Monken Hadley Common. Around that time, Enfield Council created its own secure boundary to protect Covert Way Nature Reserve

from Sewits Hill, with members of the Enfield Society involved in erecting fencing and access gates, the remains of which can still be seen. (Picture, below).

Libby Martin



In 2019, the Golf Club were driven to block the footpaths by a spate of motorcyclists accessing the land. They assumed they were coming through the Nature Reserve, and so blocked the access through from there. In fact, it seems much more likely that they got in from Monken Hadley Common from near Jack's Lake. But the wheels were set in motion, and walkers who have used the land for years realised how easily the amenity could be lost. It was January 2020 by the time I had collected all the paperwork and submitted my claim. We all know what happened then, so I didn't push Enfield Council. But even since the pandemic, rights of way have not been receiving much attention. To my knowledge, Enfield now have their third Rights of Way Officer since submitting the application. The claim was assessed by an outside consultant in July 2022, who says there is a case for rights of way, but still no decision has been made to draw up an Order.

The Society supports the Claim and has used its regular meetings with the Council to push for progress on the matter.

Meanwhile, people are still enjoying the open space. Log piles were removed by walkers within days. I believe the Golf Club have been thinking of potential ways of exploiting that piece of land and so are reluctant to concede, despite clearly having been happy to allow public access for many decades. The land is no longer farmed, so annual cutting has stopped. We are seeing natural regeneration taking place, with many saplings from the two large oak trees becoming established. In another couple of decades, we will have oak woodland. Although it is exciting to see this natural development, I shall miss the open space with its lovely views all around.

Libby Martin



Clear evidence of land used as a footpath has been submitted to Enfield Council

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pub at 283-288 High Holborn, WC1 7HP, about 5 minutes along High Holborn from either Holborn Station (Piccadilly & Central Lines) or from Chancery Lane Station (Central Line).

A 5 to 6 mile linear walk discovering places Shakespeare knew whilst in London, ending at Blackfriars Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Tuesday 21st November. Clerkenwell. **Meet 10.45** outside main entrance to the Elizabeth Line at Farringdon Station (access via multiple rail lines).

Ian's walk of about 2 hours will include social, political and religious history of medieval London and the relationship with the monastic quarter of Clerkenwell. The walk will be longer if he can include a private tour of St John's Gate as the highlight. Leader: Ian McGovern, contact 07815 658 328.

©OpenStreetMap and Contributors



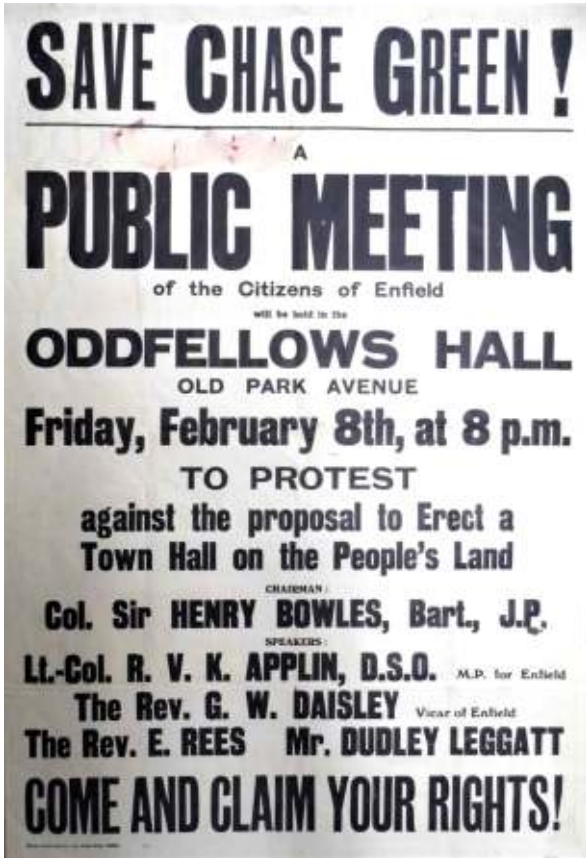
OpenStreetMap shows a number of unofficial paths near Sewits Hill (shown in red on the map) and some of these are the subject of the Claim.

Secrets of the Society's Plan Chest revealed!

Hilary Morris

The Enfield Society has an archive spanning eighty years that documents the work of the society. It provides a link back to our past and is a resource for research and publications. Some of this material has been organised and catalogued, but not all. The

The poster which started the Enfield Preservation Society in 1935, our former name



Records and Research Group meet to look after this collection and several years ago, before COVID, we started to work on an enormous six-drawer map chest that takes up a large amount of floor space, the contents of which were miscellaneous, partly mysterious and completely unrecorded.

Over the past few years, volunteers have been logging, recording and reorganising these large paper and card items in our collection. Lockdown caused a long hiatus in this work as we were unable to meet; however, this year we reached a milestone as we completed the task.

We logged approximately 540 items, nearly 140 items were not relevant to the Society, which left 400 pieces to reorganise.

What did we find?

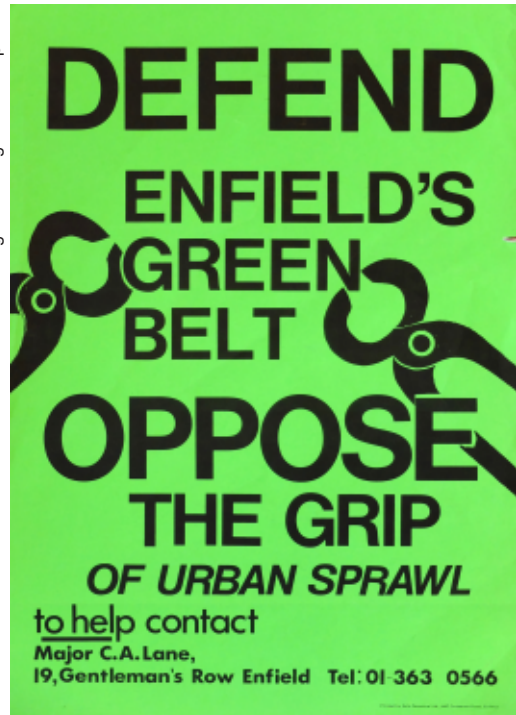
The material fell into the following categories: material relating to our campaigns; publications we published; exhibitions we put on; events we organised; projects we worked on; maps; photographs; and items relating to Jubilee Hall itself.

Highlights of what we have found included the poster calling for a public meeting to save Chase Green from development, the spur to the creation of the Enfield Preservation Society back in the 1930s, various posters defending the Green Belt at different times and



1990 campaign window sticker

Nothing has changed: a 1973 poster



historic buildings that were under threat such as Forty Hall and Broomfield House, the plans for the adaptation of Jubilee Hall to become the base for the Enfield Preservation Society, and papers illustrating projects the Society has taken part in over our history, such as the survey of St Andrews Churchyard in the 1970s and the New River Loop improvements around the turn of the Millennium.

A poster from the long running 1960s battle for the soul of Enfield Town



What we also found were maps from around England, water damaged and mouldy, and random picture posters of native animals and vegetation.

Now we know what we have, we have selected what is relevant to our archive and we are now disposing of the items that have no connection to the Society. Enfield Local Studies have been the recipient of some of this unwanted material.

What remains is relevant to our history and now we have viewed everything we can identify the items that need to be better preserved so they last into the future. Meanwhile we move on to our next project!

Our heritage at risk

John West

Each year Historic England in consultation with the Council, update a list of Listed Buildings that are at risk of deterioration. At the April Environment Forum, the Council gave a presentation about the 'Heritage at Risk' List. The good news is that compared to other London Boroughs, Enfield is well down the list in terms of the number of buildings.

Nevertheless, any deterioration in a heritage site or building is a concern. The majority are in private ownership although some are in Council ownership.

There are 20 sites or buildings on the list, two are Conservation Areas, four are parks and the remainder are buildings. The Conservation Areas are Church Street, Edmonton and Fore Street, Edmonton. In both cases unsympathetic adaptations over many years has impacted on these historic areas. The parks include Broomfield Park, Forty Hall, Grovelands Park and Trent Park. In each case a Conservation Plan is being prepared to address the concerns and ensure that the historic fabric of the landscape is protected. All Saints Church, Edmonton and St Andrew's Enfield are both on the list because of the need for major structural repairs. Short term repairs have been carried out and funding is being sought for more extensive work.

The Society is working with the London Historic Buildings Trust (LHBT) and the Council to try and remove the Charity School Edmonton and the associated schoolhouse from the list.

The Society is also working with the LHBT over the Non-Conformist Chapel in Lavender Hill Cemetery, which has been "at risk" for over 25 years. The Society is hoping it can be renovated for use by the community. The Society has approved making a sizeable financial contribution to the LHBT for an "options appraisal"—the



Lavender Hill Chapel

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

first stage for Lottery funding.

As previously reported, the Council is developing plans to resolve the long running saga of Broomfield House. The stable block at Broomfield House is separately identified on the list. We are not aware of any proposals for that building.

The remaining sites are -

- The timber framed barn at Whitewebbs Farm. In private ownership. Planning approval has been given for restoration and conversion to residential use, but work has not started.
- Enfield Electricity Works, Ladysmith Road, owned by National Grid and includes an active sub-station.
- The terrace at Trent Park House, subject to subsidence, but under repair by Berkeley Homes.
- Holly Hill Farmhouse on the Ridgeway, owned by the Council. We are assured that the fabric of the building will be protected.
- North Lodge on Whitewebbs Road in private ownership, enforcement action is being taken.
- Southgate House, which has recently been sold to new owners and work is being developed to protect the building.
- The site of Elsynge Palace at Forty Hall on the basis that trees and shrub growth intrude on the site, possibly affecting remains below ground.

At all these sites, the Society's Conservation and Heritage Group is monitoring the situation and pressing the Council and other parties to protect these historic buildings.



Enfield Electricity Works in Ladysmith Road

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

Talks from other Societies and Groups

Enfield Archaeological Society

Talks are held at Jubilee Hall starting at 8pm. Non members are welcome for £1.50 each per talk.

Friday 15th September, 8pm, London's Waterfront 1666 to 1800 and London's involvement in Slavery by John Schofield. John was an archaeologist at the Museum of London from 1974 to 2008, working in the City of London. He has published widely on London archaeology, notably on waterfront sites, St Paul's Cathedral, and Holy Trinity Priory Aldgate. He has just finished his latest monograph, London's Waterfront 1666 to 1800, which will be published in October; this is the basis of his talk to the Society.

Friday 13th October, 8pm, Roman road to a dual carriageway—archaeological consultancy on the A66 Northern Transpennine Project by David Lakin. David is a senior heritage consultant at Ove Arup and Partners. During the ten years he has worked for Arup he has been involved in a diverse range of projects for National Highways, HS2, the Environment Agency and other clients.

Friday 10th November, 8pm, Towards a Geoarchaeology of London by Jason Stewart. Jason has been working in various types of commercial archaeology since graduating from the University of Reading with a MSc. in Geoarchaeology in 2008.

Historical Association (North London Branch)

Meetings take place at Jubilee Hall starting at 8pm. Non members are welcome for £2 each per person per talk.

Tuesday 12th September, 8pm, Fighting for Sovereignty: The Ottoman Empire and the First World War by Mustafa Ibrahim. This meeting will be followed by refreshments and the Branch AGM.

Tuesday 10th October, 8pm, The Inedible Middle Ages: Food, Status and Performance in Medieval Society by Professor Andrew Jotischky (Royal Holloway, University of London).

Tuesday 14th November, 8pm, Social Capital; Merchant Capital; Not Enough Capital? Richard Arnold, his Neighbours and the Social Networks of Trade in Late 15th Century London by Dr Justin Colson (Institute of Historical Research, London)

Society's June meeting with the Council

Richard Stones

In June 2023 a delegation from the Society met with Sarah Cary (Executive Director of Place), Cheryl Headon (Interim Director of Parks Culture and Leisure) and Simon Pollock (Interim Director of Customer Experience). They would be sharing some of the responsibilities of the Place Department, with Sarah Cary continuing to deal with the public realm, cycling, heritage and conservation and planning.

Here are some of the issues we discussed. Additional information was subsequently provided by David Taylor, Head of Highways, Traffic and Parking.

Trent Park. We asked if the former bridge from the end of the newly restored Lime Tree Walk to the Japanese Water Garden was to be reinstated. LBE agreed that this was a desirable objective, but it was not something Berkeley Homes had agreed to pay for. If the cost was below £50,000 Sarah Cary thought it might be possible to find the necessary funding and agreed to investigate the cost of a bridge and possible sources of finance. [The cost has subsequently been estimated at £100,000.]

We also mentioned that the various statues and monuments in Trent Park needed care.

Chase Farm Hospital. The Society asked what was happening with the old, locally listed, hospital buildings (the Lodge and the Postgraduate Medical Centre) at The Ridgeway entrance. We were told they remained the responsibility of the Hospital Trust and the Council was not aware of any plans in relation to the buildings.

We raised as a separate issue the possibility of Section 106 funding from the Chase Farm site being used to provide step-free access at Gordon Hill Station. In the Chase Farm planning process the station had been highlighted as an important point of access. (Section 106 funding is funding provided by developers for public realm improvements as a condition for planning consent.)

The Local Plan. Sarah Cary said that the Regulation 19 process (see page 3, column 3) was now expected to start in November. In connection with the Plan, The Society raised questions about the proposed Enfield Chase Restoration project (a joint venture between the Council and Thames 21 with the aim of restoring woodland in the area). We asked if it was the Council's intention to finance the project in part through Section 106 contributions made in relation to development on the Green Belt at Vicarage Farm and south of Enfield Road. Sarah Cary said that it was not part of the Council's strategic plan to expand

the Chase rewilding work through funding from development elsewhere, but there was a need to find a flow of finance for the work.

Holly Hill Farmhouse, The Ridgeway. We asked about this Grade II Listed Building in Council ownership which is on the Historic England Register of "Buildings at Risk". There appeared to be no clear plan for its future. The Council confirmed a recent internal meeting which had agreed a list of short-term repairs which would be funded from insurance.

The Pymmes Brook Trail at Millfield House. We asked about progress on an alternative route to the path through the grounds of Millfield House which had been closed because of antisocial behaviour. LBE said that it had looked at a number of alternative route options: possible funding was being explored, but nothing had yet been confirmed.

Footpaths. We noted a lack of signage of footpaths and mentioned as examples the paths between Chasewood Avenue and John Gooch Drive, and between Holtwhites Hill and Hedge Hill. LBE explained that they had a small budget this financial year for waymarking pedestrian and cycle routes, and asked The Society to send them our top signing requests (prioritised) so that they could consider these when putting together their programme of works.

Dave Cockle/Enfield Society



Unsigned footpath in Chasewood Avenue

Network Rail: Ponders End Loop Project. This project, to increase the capacity of the Lee Valley rail line, had been cancelled. We asked what the money earmarked for the project from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund would be spent on. LBE said it would be spent, subject to Treasury approval, on other infrastructure work—e.g. land remediation, streetworks, paths. It was felt that the rail improvements were not necessary in the short term, but the Government was expected to help with a further application for the works in due course.

Sewits Hill right of way claim (see page 7.) The Council said that the claimant had recently provided some additional witness statements and the landowner had submitted further legal representations. These were currently being considered and LBE had re-engaged their specialist advisor to help determine the next steps.

New River Loop. The Society commented that the stretch off Baker Street was very untidy, with plastic bottles and litter on the banks. Our Cleaner Neighbourhood Group would be prepared to help out if access was provided. The Council agreed to follow this up. More generally we asked about the maintenance routine for the Loop. We were told that there should be a daily inspection, with a weekly walk by a manager. The Council would check on the maintenance schedule.

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society



Lavender Hill Cemetery War Memorial

Lavender Hill Cemetery War Memorial. The Society noted that the memorial was in a poor condition. One solution would be to retain the panels with names and re-erect them on a simpler structure. We believed there was also a need to raise the profile of the Memorial—there was nothing on site to explain its history. We understood that the War Memorial Trust awarded grants for such projects. LBE said that Section 106 funding might cover 20 per cent of the cost. They would look into this.

Whitewebbs Spurs Lease/Nature Reserve: Sarah Cary said that a decision on this would be taken in July. The Lease Agreement/Lease would be available once they had been negotiated with Spurs. She added that Spurs appeared to be making some progress on the Nature Reserve, to judge from applications they had made for various consents needed from the Council.

We also covered Mossop's Creek on the Lee Navigation which needed clearance and where it was unclear which body was responsible and expressed a strong desire to have more discussion about public transport at future meetings of the Council's Environment Forum.

North Lodge, The Ridgeway, Enfield

Stephen Gilbert

In 1728 James Brydges, first Duke of Chandos, petitioned the Crown for permission to build a new lodge near Old Pond and enclose 200 acres plus other land on Enfield Chase totalling a further 250 acres. Although his petition was rejected, North Lodge was built later in the 18th century, after the former royal hunting ground of Enfield Chase had been enclosed in 1777. When the North Lodge estate was sold in 1799 it was valued at £8,000. The building was extended in the 19th and 20th centuries.

North Lodge was at one time occupied by the Marchioness of Ely and was for some years the home of the Gundry family. The 1911 census records it as the residence of Sir William and Lady Gundry.

In the 1930s it was a private preparatory school known as Kilvinton Hall. After the Second World War North Lodge was purchased by Middlesex County Council to become a remand home called St Nicholas House. In 1993 it was sold to become the private St John's Senior School. The photographs were taken in September 2000 when the school was opened to the public as part of the annual Open House London weekend and visitors were shown around by the Headmaster.

For more information see *Treasures of Enfield, Discovering the buildings of a London Borough*, edited by Valerie Carter (EPS, 2000) and *The Story of Enfield Chase* by David Pam (EPS 1984).

All photographs are by the author.



◀ The south entrance front of the original late 18th century rendered brick Grade II listed structure is on the left. It rises two storeys to a balustraded slated roof with dormer windows and has a pediment in the centre. The house has retained its timber framed sash



▲ On the north front is a projecting bay rising to the first floor, with tall sash windows.



windows with glazing bars. The wing on the right was added in the 19th century.



▲ Above the door is an ornate fanlight.

◀ The entrance doorway has a portico with Roman Doric columns and a open pediment.



▶ This fine 18th century fireplace has survived the many changes of use to North Lodge.

◀ The entrance hall and staircase.



Society Directory

Joint Presidents: Colin Pointer, Monica Smith MBE

Vice Presidents: Janet McQueen, Matthew Saunders MBE, Alan Skilton, Leonard Will


Chairman: Dave Cockle


Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones


Hon. Treasurer: Tony Foster


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Conservation & Heritage Group: John West

East Enfield and Edmonton: Dave Cockle

Footpaths and Open Spaces: Stuart Mills

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IT Admin & Newsletter: Andrew Lack

Jubilee Hall bookings: Janet McQueen

Membership Secretary: Alec Tyler

Publications: Alison Parker

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Station Gardens: Enfield Chase: Dave Cockle, *Gordon Hill:* John Cole

Trees: John West

Volunteer Coordinator: Claudia Deutschmann

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Your favourite trees in the Borough?

John West

John West/Enfield Society



Earlier this year H.M. King Charles III highlighted the part that trees and woodland play in the history of the country and their contribution to the environment. The King drew attention to some ancient forests and trees, including Hainault Forest in east London (the subject of a recent Society guided walk); an ancient sycamore at Dumfries House, Ayrshire and Newton's Apple Tree at Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire.

In Enfield we have some wonderful specimen trees. In the Young Explorers Book we mentioned the fine Oak trees in Trent Park, a Red Oak in Town Park, the Cedar of Lebanon on Library Green and the Lime trees and Lombardy Poplars in Jubilee Park. Arnos Park has a number of Swamp Cypresses (pictured above), a native of the south-west USA and which were planted by Enfield Society members about 50 years ago. There are many more.

The Society would love to hear about our members' favourite tree and what it means to you. Send your story to us at trees@enfieldsociety.org.uk We will check to see if the trees are protected by a tree preservation order and give wider publicity to the most attractive or unusual specimens.

Join The Enfield Society

Become a member of the Society from as little as £5 per person. Members receive quarterly newsletters and can participate in walks, talks and other activities. Non-members are welcome to come along to talks for a charge of £1 before deciding whether to join. Why not give membership as a gift? You can join or renew membership via our website enfieldsociety.org.uk/join, or scan the QR code.

