

Dear Planning Officers,

The plans for large housing developments to be placed along the Merryhills Way will endanger wildlife in a way from which it will never fully recover. Once the ecosystem is disturbed, from the local pheasants to butterflies, insects and the wild plants & grasses that naturally exist here will struggle to survive under such concentrated construction.

Aside from the physical destruction of the land (it was designated green belt for a reason), there is the impact from the increased numbers of cars in the proposed new houses. The construction vehicles themselves will cause extra emissions, which will no longer be negated, carbon-wise by the trees and hedgerows in this green, pleasant walking area. Along the Merryhills Way public footpath, there are stables and fields which provide shelter & sustenance for some increasingly rare Shire horses. One of these is currently twenty-one years old and a fine specimen of the breed. The noise alone from any large construction here could disturb her sufficiently to threaten her very existence.

I have been walking these fields and pathways for some time now, more so in times of the pandemic and lockdowns, because of the restorative effects, both physical and mental, that nature brings. I am never alone for long on these walks, as more and more people appreciate the sense of calm and space this unique setting offers for walkers of all ages and capabilities. It is one of the last remains of the hunting sites of Henry VIII, a local historic heritage worth preserving. It is such a shame that the lovely green areas of this part of Enfield, which presumably have the credentials to attract house hunters looking for a country-like environment within reach of London, would be the casualties in this war on the greenbelt.

Groups like the Enfield Society and the Enfield Over 50s Forum, have alternative plans for housing development, in areas where the changes would be nowhere near so negative. Whilst housing is understandably a priority for the borough, please stop and consider the impact this large housing estate would have on a site which is a sanctuary for so many people, as once it is lost, we will never be able to get it back.