

Enfield Chase

Statement of heritage significance



May 2024

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HERITAGE AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

On behalf of The Enfield Society

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About acta

acta provides practical services for the conservation of historic landscapes and buildings. Our work includes conservation plans, management plans, heritage assessment and landscape restoration on sites ranging from medieval abbeys to Cold War airfields.

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Services include conservation plans, management plans, heritage impact assessments, survey and planning guidance. Recent statements of significance and heritage impact assessments include Ralph Vaughan Williams' childhood home at Leith Hill in Surrey, the National Trust's Wimpole Estate and the internationally important Stowe Landscape Gardens.

Philip dealt with the historic landscape issues for the Berkeley Homes development at Trent Park and is familiar with the locality and its conservation issues.

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Preface

Chases were tracts of land originally used for hunting. It was a common designation. Well-known examples include Cannock, Kingswood, Knaresborough, Needwood, Purbeck and Rossendale.¹ They were generally large enough to allow full-scale hunting on horseback (*par force avec chiens*). They were unlike forests which exclusively belonged to the king and were governed by a body of acts of parliament and royal ordinances known as forest law.

They could be held by lords, the higher clergy and ecclesiastical institutions but they could also be held by the king either as a royal chase or as one confiscated from an errant lord. They were generally administered through the manorial courts under common law, as opposed to forest courts, but there could be courts with overlapping jurisdictions. It is also not clear whether some aspects of forest law such as the 1270 Charter of the Forest also applied to chases. Enfield Chase, which is held up by the Victoria County History as one of the best examples of a 'manorial' chase, was subject to four courts: the manor, the Duchy of Lancaster, the quarter sessions and the Court of Roundhedges which dealt with the regulation of common grazing and other commoner uses of the chase for the five parishes that surrounded it.² In reality the people and institutions that held chases, at least until the early seventeenth century, were interested in the same thing:

- The preservation of the deer;
- A landscape that provided good sport;
- Prevention of trespass, illegal enclosures, squatter settlements and felling (except when there was a profit to be made);
- Obtaining income from coppice, timber, rabbit warrens and the like.

This statement concentrates on how these points were achieved and how they affected the landscape rather than the finer points of medieval law.

A second issue is that chases had many different and often obscure origins. They are for instance common in the Welsh Marches where they probably date from just after the Norman Conquest but were only recognised by the crown 200 years later under *quo warranto* proceedings. Some of the best-studied examples like Cannock Chase are of interest for themes unconnected with their medieval origins. Many chases became royal forests and noble and gentry parks. They are often better documented once the transition took place. There is no generally accepted approach to evaluating and understanding them so this has to be done from first principles.

¹ J. Langdon (2011), *The Origins and Development of English Forests and Chases, with some Particular Reference to Enfield* Conference paper 2011

<https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/publications/enfield-chase/>

² M. Clark (2011), 'The Gentry, the Commons and the Politics of Common Right in Enfield, c.1558-c.1603' *The Historical Journal*, September 2011, Vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 609-629

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23017265> - An Elizabethan document identifies the site of the court near Camlet Moat and states that it was where the de Mandevilles held their court before the chase was held by the dukes of Lancaster from 1421 onwards

Lastly, the final chapter of David Pam's *The Story of Enfield Chase* describing the 1777 enclosure is entitled 'The End of the Chase'. This is rather misleading. Many chases just faded away in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Waltham Chase for instance was the hunting ground of the bishops of Winchester, but is now just the name of the nearby village. However, Enfield Chase became a new landscape of small fields with hedges, hedgerow trees and small blocks of woodland. It has its own character and serves a wide range of purposes. We think that the enclosure landscape has been undervalued and this is reflected in the following text.

Method

Significance is assessed using the values in current Historic England guidance³. They are historical, evidential, aesthetic and communal.

Historical value derives from the way in which past people, events, and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It can be associative, illustrative or representational value, and encompasses among other things rarity of survival, the extent of associated documentation, the ability to characterize a period, and association with other monuments.

Evidential value derives from the potential of the site to provide evidence of past human activity. The resource and its potential capacity to respond to investigative analysis make the primary contribution to evidential value.

Aesthetic value derives from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. This includes not only formal visual and aesthetic qualities arising from design for a particular purpose but more fortuitous relationships of visual elements arising from the development of the place through time, and aesthetic values associated with the actions of nature.

Communal value is based on the meanings a place may have for contemporary society. Commemorative and symbolic values are founded in collective memory and historical identity. Social value often derives from contemporary uses of a place. Spiritual value can come from the customs and teachings of organised religion as well as less formal beliefs.

The following scale is used.

Very high: elements of the place that are of key national or international significance, being among the best or only surviving examples of an important type of monument or being outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena.

³ Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment, 2008 <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/>

High: elements that constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or that have a particular significance through association (although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale) or that make major contributions to the overall significance of the monument.

Medium: elements that contribute to the character and understanding of the place, or that provide a historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance.

Low: elements that are of low value in general terms, or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the place, without being actually intrusive.

1. Historical

Time depth and continuity

The chase is first mentioned as such in 1250⁴ but is generally agreed to have been in existence by 1136.⁵ Early references are to *parcus extrinsicus* as opposed to the *parcus intrinsicus* of Old Park (**figure 1**). This late recognition is not unusual. It was the case, for instance, with Malvern Chase and may be connected to *quo warranto* proceedings. In the case of Enfield⁶, the chase was held by the king in his right as the Duke of Lancaster from 1421. Like a forest but unlike a park, a chase incorporated land that did not belong for other purposes to its lord. Langton states that a chase was not enclosed by a fence. However, the cutting of timber for them and damage to pales are mentioned in Pam's book.

The origins of the chase can be pushed back even further. Part or all of it was surely the wood on the land of Geoffrey de Mandeville that rendered 2000 swine in 1086. The Domesday Book entry also states that there was a park, which must have been Old Park. De Mandeville's manor in Edmonton also mentioned a render of 2000 pigs.⁷ The Domesday Book figures for pigs are believed to be only the numbers rendered in taxation. The actual numbers using the wood would have been higher than this – at least three times. This was therefore a very large tract of woodland. The place-name Hog Hill shown on the 1658 map (**figure 2**) which is still in use today may be evidence of this. Moreover, it seems quite possible that the site may have been pre-conquest common grazing for the surrounding settlements. This is supported by the interlocking parish boundaries and the outliers of Monken Hadley parish in Enfield, together with the fact that the chase spanned the county boundary with Hertfordshire.

Hog Hill falls at the core of the Archaeological Priority Area as show in Figure 1. The full Historic England description is "*Archaeological priority area surrounding Camlet Moat medieval site (scheduled monument) and open land of Enfield Chase, Hog Hill, Hadley Wood and Trent Country Park., Ass also Monken Hadley Common APA in Barnet.*"

⁴ London Metropolitan Archives ACC/1298 See also ACC/351/660 an inspeximus, 8 July 1566, of decrees in Duchy of Lancaster allowing claim of Lord of Manor of Old Fold to hunt in Enfield Chase, in which the above confirmation is the fifth charter produced in evidence and recited

⁵ D. Pam *The Story of Enfield Chase* 1984, p11

⁶ The removal of the pale on the edge of the park is said to have been a crucial event in the Civil War Battle of Barnet

https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-3872-1/dissemination/pdf/Barnet_Battlefield_Project_2015-2018.pdf

⁷ 'Domesday Survey: Translation of the Text', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 1*, ed. J. S. Cockburn, H. P. F. King and K. G. T. McDonnell (London, 1969), pp. 119-129. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol1/pp119-129>

Enfield Chase Statement of Significance, ACTA May 2024

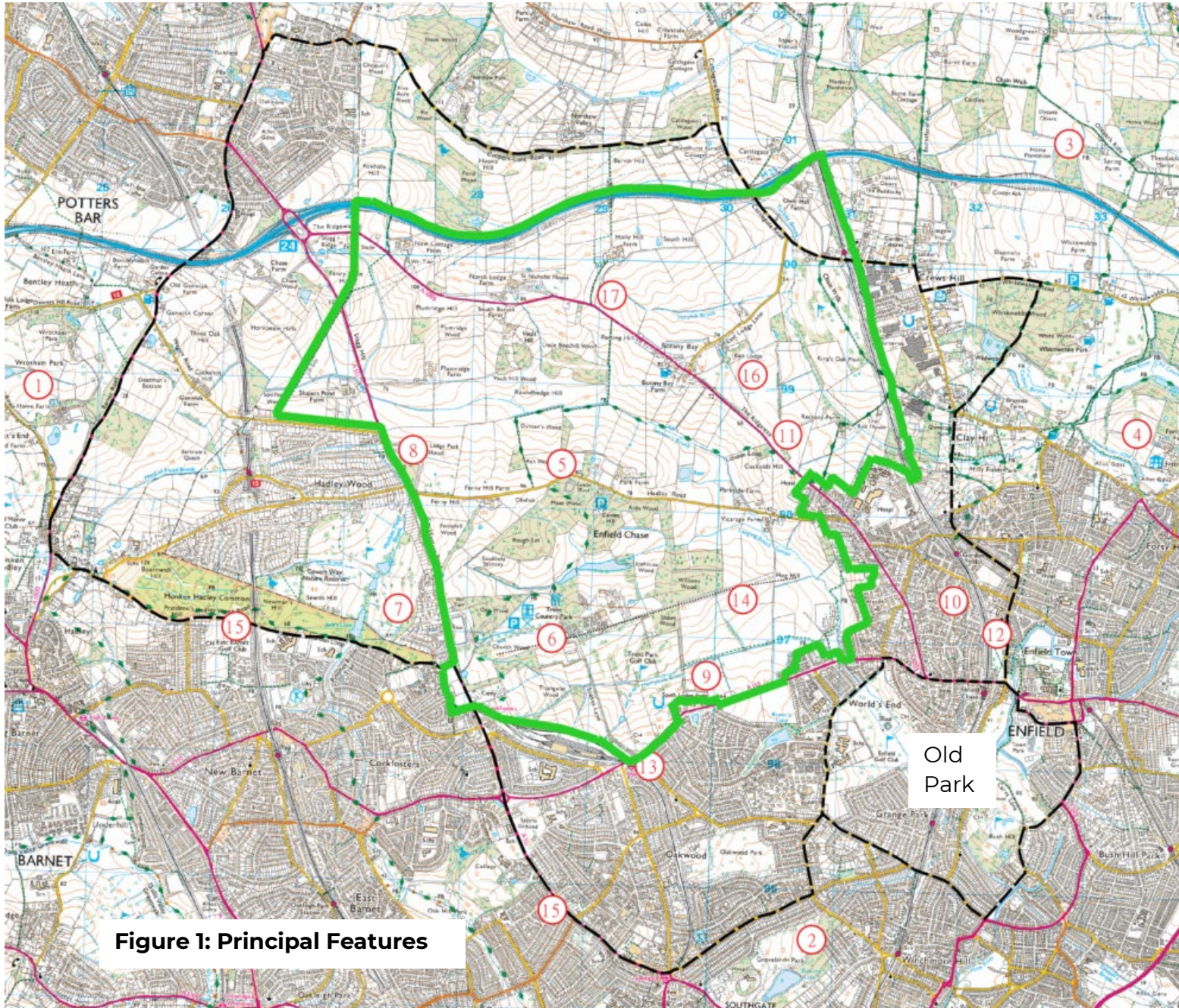
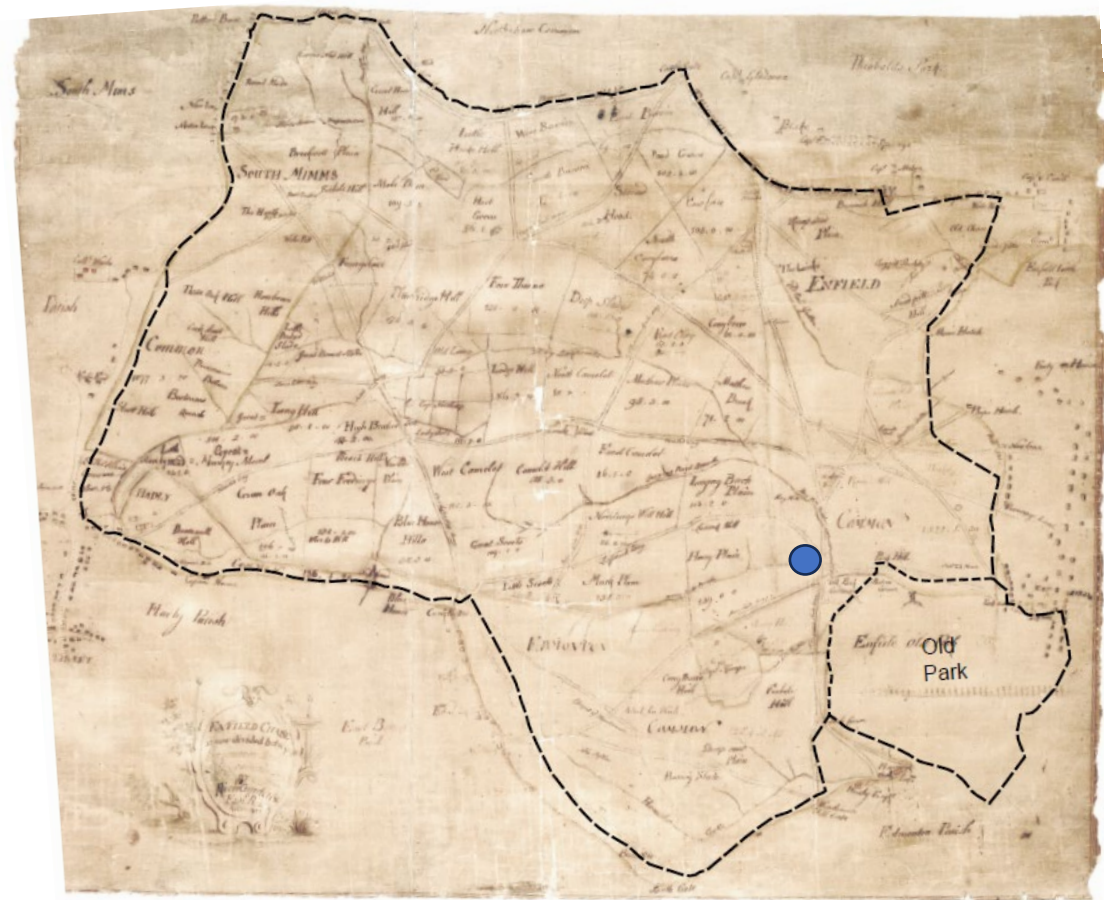


Figure 1: Principal Features

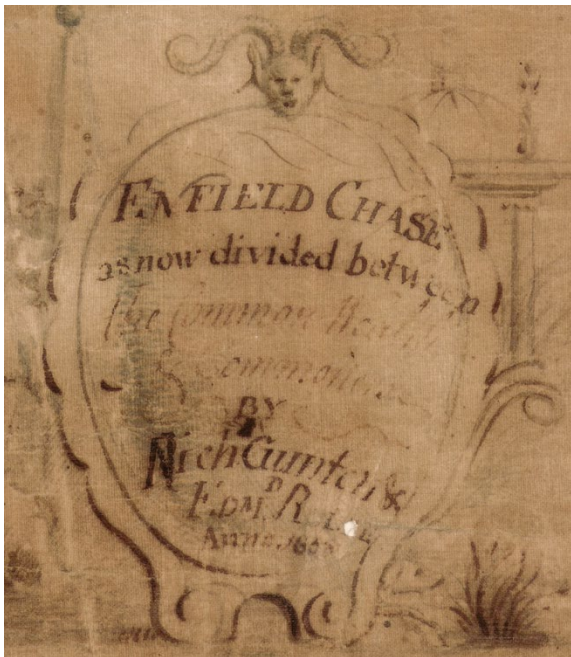
- 1 Wrotham Park
- 2 Grovelands Park
- 3 Theobalds
- 4 Forty Hall
- 5 Camlet Moat
- 6 Trent Park
- 7 Beech Hill
- 8 West Lodge
- 9 South Lodge
- 10 Chase Lodge
- 11 Ridgeway
- 12 Chase Side
- 13 Merry Hill Way (original route)
- 14 Lossick Way
- 15 1777 boundary
- 16 East Lodge
- 17 North Lodge

-  1777 boundary
-  Archaeological Priority Area

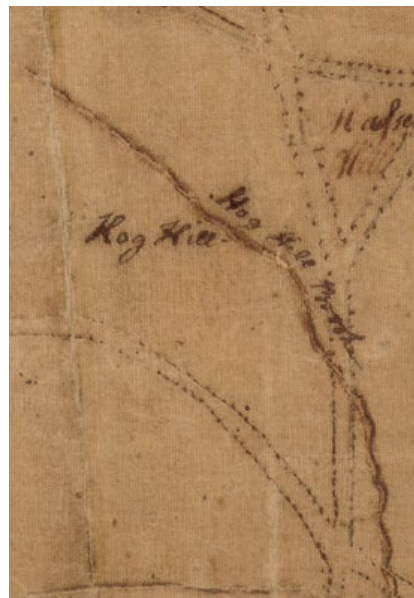
Figure 2: Commonwealth map by Gunton and Rolfe (1658)



Source: national archives MPC 1/50/1



Enlargement of decorative cartouche



Enlargement of area marked with blue dot showing Hog Hill

Pam uses a variety of sources to describe the uses of the chase for hunting, cutting timber and browse and grazing livestock up to the 1420s. With the acquisition of the chase by the Duke of Lancaster in 1421 the estate records become voluminous. Although the chase was enclosed in 1777, as noted above this was the beginning of a new chase landscape and a new pattern of use. The Duchy of Lancaster continued as landlord until 1936 when the freehold was sold to Middlesex County Council. Trinity College Cambridge sold Rectory Farm to the council at the same time. The Duchy is still a landowner in the western part of the chase.

Enfield Chase as an institution has thus spanned a period of at least 800 years, can still be traced on the ground and is exceptionally well documented for 600 years. The same cannot be said for the majority of other chases, so Enfield is of **high** significance in this respect.

Perceptions and status

The chase has been recognised by local people, cartographers, topographers and travellers for its distinctive landscape and land use for centuries. Norden's map of 1593 (**figure 3**) for instance shows the chase and Old Park in an otherwise featureless area of north Middlesex. Speed's map of 1627 (**figure 4**) shows the chase as the last remaining undeveloped area of Edmonton Hundred. A drawing commissioned by Richard Gough, noted antiquarian and author of many books and drawings and regarded as the 'Father of Topography', illustrates a view of the settlement of Enfield from the chase at Windmill Hill in 1790 (**figure 5**).

Figure 3: Norden's map of 1593



Source: John Norden's 'Speculum Britanniae ('Mirror of Britain'): the First Parte: an Historicall, & Chorographicall Discription of Middlesex' (1593)

Figure 4: Speed's map of 1627



Source: John Speed's 1627 atlas *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*

Figure 5: Enfield from the chase, 1790



Source: Bernard Nurse, *London: Prints and Drawings before 1800* (Bodleian Library and the London Topographical Society, 2017)

Today the chase usually means the land enclosed in 1777 but it once extended over a wider area and influenced the land use and placenames. In the area outside the 1777 chase but either formerly part of it or influenced by it there is significant diversity of settlement patterns, such as at Chase Side, around Old Park and within and around the site of Theobalds. There are pockets of greenspace on land outside the 1777 boundary. Further afield the chase influenced the location of settlements such as Monken Hadley and South Mimms (especially the castle). There is a whole host of reminders of the chase in Enfield town conservation area, including Gentleman's Row which formed along the chase boundary path, St Andrews church and the historic pubs the Kings Head and the George Inn where the affairs of the chase were historically debated.

Overall the chase is of **medium** significance for perceptions of it and the way that it has influenced surrounding settlement and land use.

Hunting

Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and James I are known to have hunted in the park and Charles I is said to have used West Lodge for occasional visits. Despite its nearness to London it does not appear to have been used on the scale of places such as Greenwich and Richmond Parks and we have no information on how it was used by royal favourites under warrant. Henry VIII may have created Little Park.⁸ However, we know from court records that it had a good stock of deer in the eighteenth century after they had been eradicated in the Civil War. Westlake's map of 1700 (**figure 6**) was apparently drawn for the management of timber but could equally well have been a hunting layout. More significantly what was probably a late medieval hunting lodge survives at the Camlet Moat scheduled monument at the centre of the chase and the locations of the 1421 West, East and South lodges are known. They substantially demonstrate where the respective walks may have been.

⁸ Martin Dearne (2022), *Monarchs, Courtiers and Technocrats*, p. 85

Figure 7: Map of West Lodge, 1727



Enlargement of scene showing horseback hunting

Enlargement of cartouche



Source: Enfield Local Studies library and archive

Camlet Moat at the centre of the chase is a medieval moated site and scheduled monument (NHLE 1000555) and there are fourteenth-century finds. The opinion of place-name experts is that the name must derive from Camelot.⁹ Moreover, when the building on the site was demolished in 1422x1440 the salvaged material was good enough for it to be taken for the rebuilding of Hertford Castle.¹⁰ At its centre is a large quadrangular site about 69m long by 53m wide. The moat is on average about 10m wide. The building is ideally sited for a keeper's or huntsmen's lodge, looking down a south-facing slope to a watercourse. But there is no explanation for the name unless it was derisory.

West Bailey Lodge became the official residence of the chief ranger. William Stallworth became keeper of the chase and the three walks in 1439 and installed under-keepers in the lodges. There are then reports of their dilapidated state up to the end of the sixteenth century.¹¹ They were demolished and rebuilt in the following century and became homes for high-status residents with no administrative connection with the chase. Nevertheless, the sites remain and have never been the subject of detailed investigation. The point was that the rangership evolved from a fairly lowly job into a sinecure for some of the richest people in the land, who then expected a return on their investment.

The chase is of **medium** significance for its evidence of hunting.

⁹ <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/id/53282a51b47fc407a000005e>

¹⁰ Pam quoting TNA DL 42/18

¹¹ Pam p36

The products of the chase: wood and livestock

Most of our understanding of the harvesting and use of wood products comes from Pam's summaries of court proceedings, although a fifteenth-century list of sales survives. The chase was obviously a significant source of timber for construction, pales, fuel and charcoal. Clay was also dug under licence.¹² It may be that the proximity to London added value to particular products such as the bundles of hornbeam brushwood that were used in baking. Although grazing on the chase was an important resource for commoners, some of whom were significant landowners, and it had its own Court of Roundhedges until the early seventeenth century, we know almost nothing about it and how it shaped the landscape. It is quite possible that new sources of fuel and a decline in grazing were the driving forces behind the eighteenth-century enclosure. The significance of the products of the chase is therefore **unknown**.

Squatters, riots, the Commonwealth and seventeenth-century enclosure

In 1652 John Evelyn described the chase as an unpeopled desert, yet six years later a parliamentary survey identified 200-300 squatter settlements. Many of these may well have arisen in the chaotic occupation of royal land during the period but it is quite likely that there were (usually short-lived) illegal dwellings and enclosures in the remoter parts of the chase. This topic has never been explored.

Under the Commonwealth there were proposals for the sale of the chase and detailed surveys were carried out. Among other things these noted encroachments and squatter sites in the 1658 survey.¹³ In that year a substantial portion of the chase was sold to army officers in lieu of pay. Farmsteads and enclosures were set up which were the frequent target of riots. It is not clear what happened to these at the Restoration. Perhaps they faded away or were forcibly destroyed. They may have been the basis of some of the farms and cottages mapped in 1795 (**figure 10**) but these are more likely to date from the 1777 enclosure. The only enclosures mapped before this time are those east of West Lodge by Rocque in 1754 (**figure 8**).

¹² Pam p 159

¹³ Pam pp 63-76

Figure 8: John Rocque's map of 1754



However, boundaries for some of the land parcels shown on figure 2 approximate to those present today. Equally, some of the land divisions may already have been present in 1658. The map is in at least two different hands and it appears to show parcels that were already in existence or to which the army allocations were added. Overall, the issues are typical of seventeenth-century enclosure by agreement, made unusual by the connection to the Parliamentary army. But one local aspect was the pamphlets of Captain William Covell, who sought to have 500 acres taken out of the chase for the benefit of the poor.¹⁴ This was very much in the spirit of the time comparable with Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers at St George's Hill. There is great scope for further research on this phase of the chase's history and it is of **medium** significance.

¹⁴ Volume 14 Issue 1, October 1944, pp. 45-57 Toronto quarterly journal William Covell and the Troubles at Enfield in 1659 J. Max Patrick

The 1777 enclosure, parks and villas

In contrast to the unrest that accompanied the seventeenth-century changes, in 1777 and in the minor changes early in the following century (**figure 9**) the enclosures happened relatively smoothly. The restrictions of common rights to designated commons was grudgingly accepted. But the landscape changed radically. The main enclosure map shows the overall allocation, but not individual fields. Those shown on the Ordnance Survey Notebook Drawing (**figure 10**) are probably not fully accurate areas, so that the mid-nineteenth-century first edition Ordnance Survey (**figure 11**) is the first full record (the tithes were commuted at enclosure so there is no tithe map). The field boundaries on figure 10 largely correspond with those present today.

Figure 9: 'A Survey and admeasurement of Enfield Chase', 1777



Source: national archives

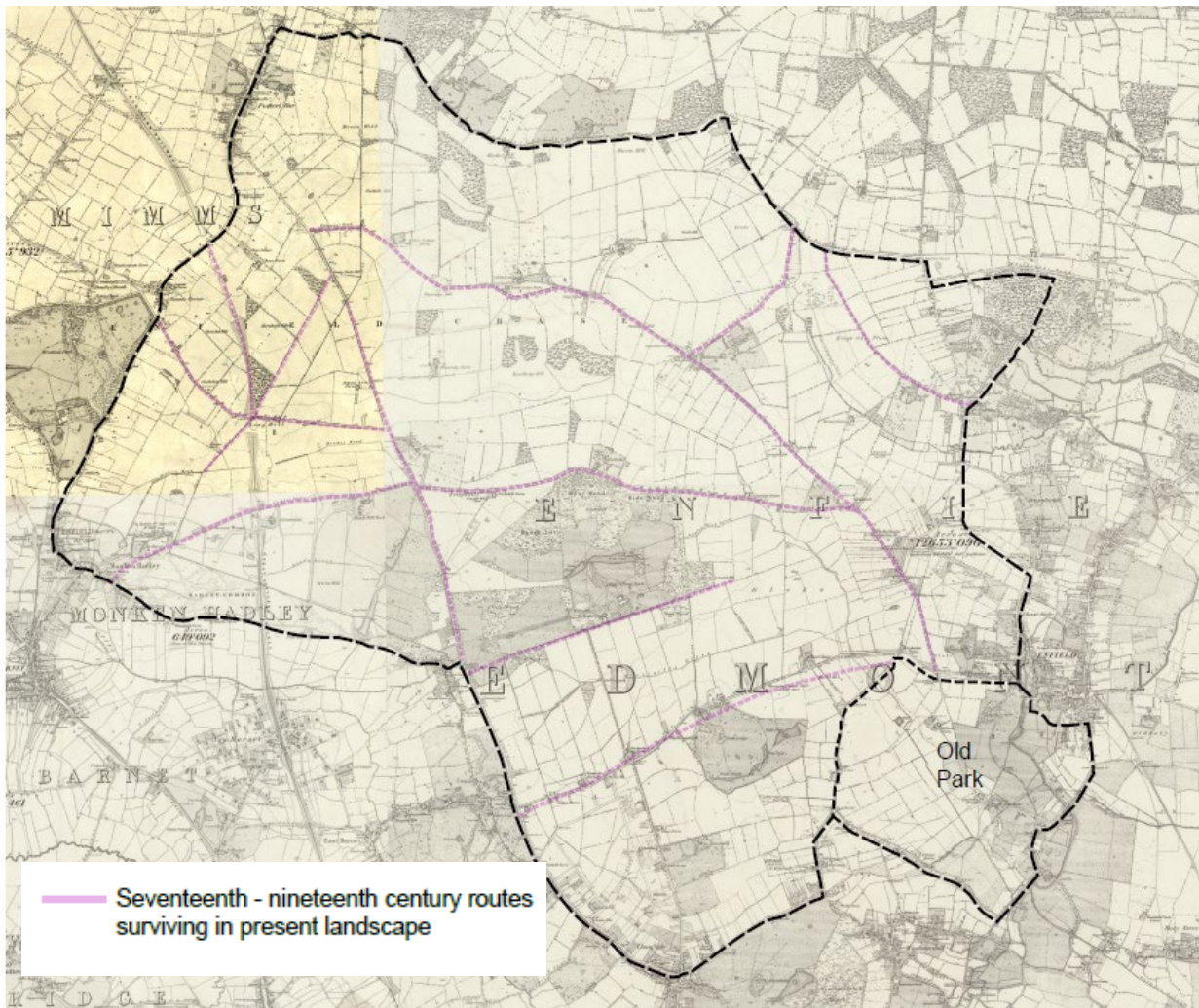
Figure 10: Ordnance Survey notebook drawing 1795 138-1



The enclosure did not completely remove the old landscape. There are fragments of probable ancient woodland around Camlet Moat and Roundhedge Hill. More importantly there are clusters of pre-enclosure trees in Trent Park, embedded within younger woodland in Williams Wood and elsewhere. They are fine well-spaced trees with fully developed crowns indicating that these areas at least were wood pasture.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the original bailey lodges continued to be used by high status occupants like Pitt the Elder and their grounds continued to expand in extent and status. After 1777 they were joined by villa estates and parks at Beech Hill, Trent Park and Oakwood as well as farmsteads. The arrival of the railways in 1849 and 1871 were further foci for development.

Figure 11: First edition Ordnance Survey 1863-6



There are two noteworthy features here. The first is the survival of such a large area of enclosure landscape on the edge of London with a completely different character to its historical one. Chases are a common enough feature in the west and north and are largely in rural areas. A number are now woodlands of nature conservation importance such as Cannock Chase. Others such as Pensett, Needwood and Waltham have been absorbed into the surrounding landscape. Enfield Chase may not be the only example of its type, but it has been difficult to find another. We suggest that it survived because of the many vested interests in the common grazing, its importance as a source of fuel near the capital and the intractability of the clay and gravel soils. By the 1770s there was only poor-quality woodland, the influence of the commoners had declined and enclosure was all the rage. These facts, rather than the possible enforcement of forest law, seem to have been what mattered.

The second is the survival of the idea of the chase in everyday life in Enfield – few if any others have their own railway station. This point is discussed further below. Overall the chase is of **medium** significance for its post-enclosure history and its place in the present-day landscape.

Group value

Old Park is almost certainly the park at Enfield mentioned in Domesday Book where the woodland also mentioned was probably the chase. In later medieval documents the Domesday Book park was *parcus intrinsicus* and the chase was *parcus extrinsicus*. This early relationship between a park and a proto-chase may be unusual: Malvern Chase is one of the few other instances. The park followed a similar history to the chase, being enclosed at the same time and converted to farmland. Subsequently, part of the land became Chase Park Estate as another gentry villa on the same pattern as those within the chase. The Park boundaries can still be traced and it is still remembered in road names, notably Old Park Ridings, Old Park Road and Old Park Avenue. Enfield Town Park and Cheyne Walk Open Space are the only publicly accessible remnants of the open space that was once Enfield Old Park. A moated site, presumed to be the remains of the Park Ranger's Lodge, lies next to Salmon's Brook within Enfield Golf Course (NHLE1001972)¹⁵.

Yet another park and villa was added to the western edge of the chase at Wrotham Park by John Byng in the late eighteenth century (figure 1). The park is on the Historic England register (NHLE 0000257) and the house and outbuildings are listed. To the south there is within the grounds the Repton/Mawson registered park of Grovelands (NHLE1000395). To the northeast there are three much older features. The site of Burleigh's Theobalds survives as a scheduled monument (NHLE 1005250) with listed surviving sections of walls. To the south are the listed and registered Forty Hall (NHLE 1294469, 1001357) with the scheduled sixteenth-century site of Elsyng Palace (NHLE 1002040) within the grounds. Direct evidence of royal hunting at Enfield Chase is sparse in the published sources, but James I is known to have used Theobalds as a base and Elizabeth I to have used Elsyng..

Overall, the chase is of **medium to high** significance for its group value.

Associations

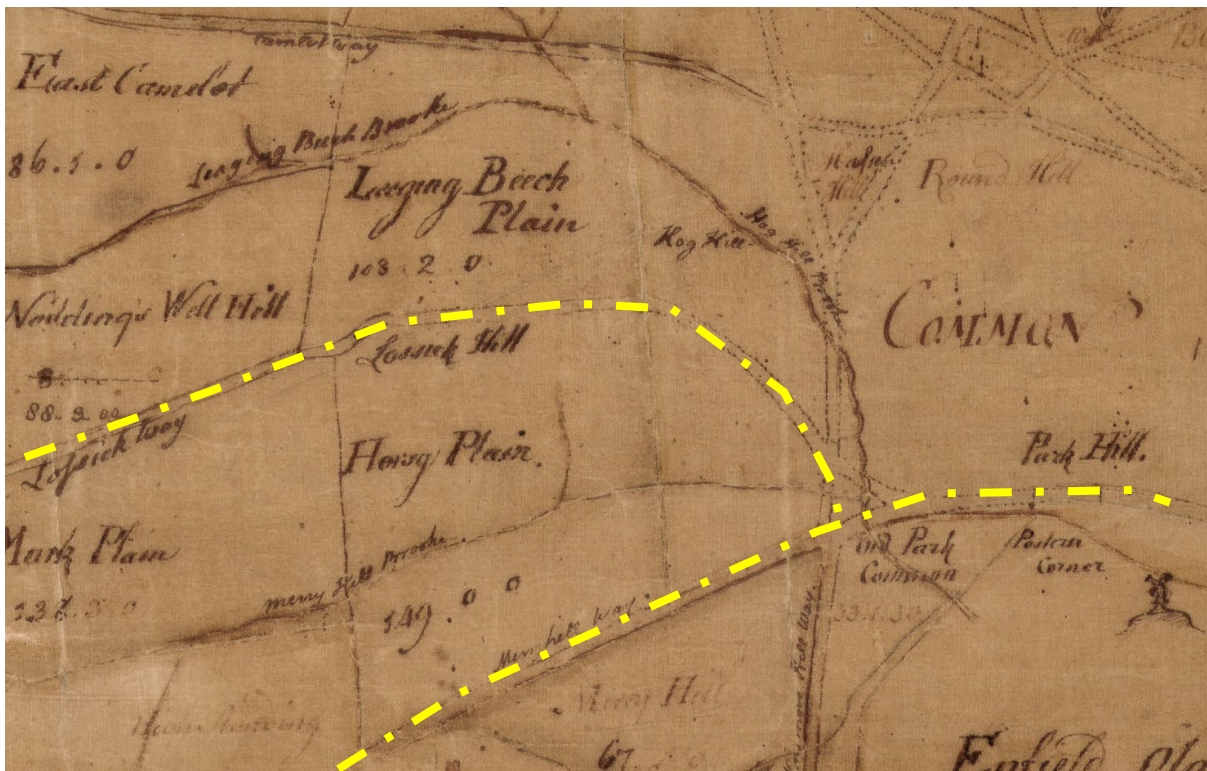
The chase has been associated with the kings of England as dukes of Lancaster since Henry V. Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and James I hunted there and other national figures associated with it include Lord Burleigh and Pitt the Elder. Trent Park is of international significance for its role in the Second World War and at a more trivial level for Sir Philip Sassoon's gatherings of celebrities. Charles and Mary Lamb lived at Chase Side. The Romantic poet John Keats, author of 'Ode to a Nightingale', was educated at Clarke's academy where Enfield town station now stands.

¹⁵ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001972?section=official-list-entry>

Survival

The M25, the railways and twentieth century urban development have left a ‘core’ chase area¹⁶ relatively undisturbed. But the chase landscape has been subject to very little archaeological investigation apart from a small area around the mansion at Trent Park. The boundaries and internal parcel boundaries shown on the 1658 map have not been assessed on the ground, and the GLHER gives only one speculative instance of a possible section of boundary. Camlet Moat is the only certain medieval survival, although another moated site at Old Park may have been a keeper’s lodge. In addition the chase is crossed today by several routes shown in 1658 (figure 2, and in more detail in **figure 12** below) that may be medieval. These include Ridgeway and Lossick Way (along the edge of Trent Park) and the Merry Hill Way (now Enfield Road). The Lossick Way is the last named Way to be preserved as a historic unsurfaced track.

Figure 12: historic routes or ‘ways’ through the chase



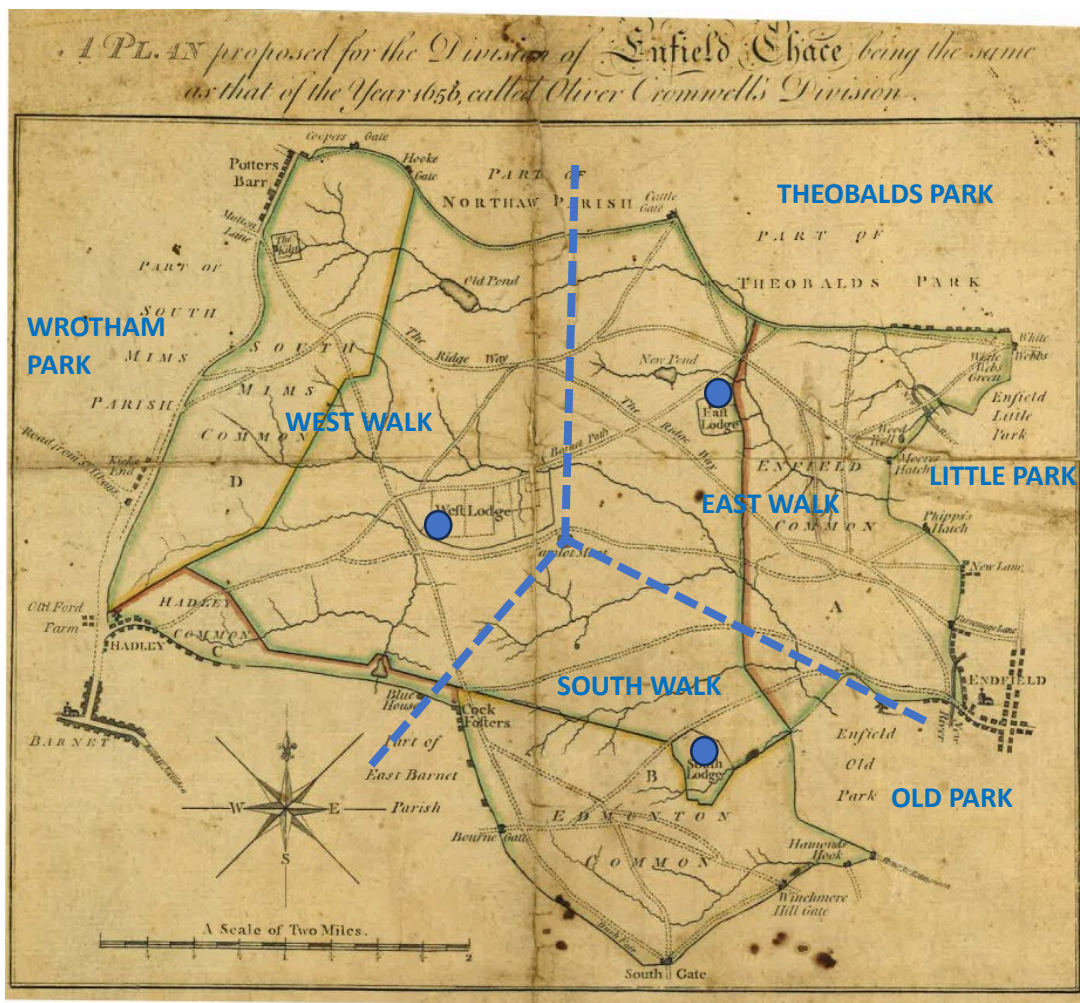
Extract from the Gunton and Rolfe Map, 1658

Camlet Moat lies on the edge of woodland and is partially covered by scrub. The sites of the medieval lodges survive but the earliest evidence of structures and surrounding landscaping is seventeenth-century. At least some seventeenth-century land parcel boundaries appear to be still present.

¹⁶ The core area comprises the main part of the Archaeological Priority Area, in particular the locations named in the description, i.e. Trent Park, Camlet Moat and Hog Hill, as shown on Figure 1

One of the chief survivals of the chase is the pattern of landscapes from different time periods. **Figure 13** below illustrates how the chase was originally greatly extended from the original Old Park, which may have been administered from a central site at Camlet Moat prior to 1419, was divided into three separate 'walks' for the purposes of administration, each focused around a lodge (shown as a blue dot). Later, a deer park was established at Little Park around Elysng house, which became a Tudor royal residence. Theobald's Park, previously owned by the Cecils, was acquired by James I who extended the deer park into Enfield Chase in 1611 and again in 1620¹⁷, and latterly Wrotham Park, and after 1777 the creation of a number of estates in the area.

Figure 13: survival of landscape structure (annotated)



Source: Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive

¹⁷ Anne Rowe *Tudor and Early Stuart Parks of Hertfordshire*, Hertfordshire University Press, 2019 (p88-94)

The completed 1770s enclosure landscape almost entirely survives, although this was after a period of intensive improvement during which some of the 1777 field layout was probably changed. The Enfield Characterisation Study refers to post-enclosure 'geometric field patterns' at the Merryhills Brook valley. 'Post' is slightly confusing since such layouts were very commonly set out at the time of enclosure.

The landscapes around the lodges and the buildings themselves are still present. This is also the case for the villa landscapes of Beech Hill and Trent Park. These appear to be in good condition, and the detracting former university buildings at Trent Park House have recently been removed. There are, however, some locations of concern such as the Go Ape area at the entrance to the country park.

The extent of survival of individual historical features is of **medium** significance. But within the bigger picture the advent of the green belt was a remarkable event that retained enough open land for the chase to remain in a form that is still recognisably in its medieval configuration with the three walks arranged around the historical core

2. **Evidential**

There is an outstanding collection of Duchy of Lancaster documents freely accessible at The National Archives. Some groups have never been fully catalogued. The main publications, such as Pam's book, concentrate on the overall picture and the cast of dubious characters who had a role in the management and use of the chase. The comprehensive duchy sources enable detailed research into specific topics such as: what exactly was the role of Camlet Moat? how important was the common grazing in the farming economy of the area? what was the extent and location of squatter settlements and encroachments? In addition, Sally Williams has made an excellent start on the development of gentlemen's seats after enclosure and there are ample sources to continue this.¹⁸ Another example is the impact of the Second World War on the chase beyond the immediate setting of Trent Park house which has been explored by Dr Helen Fry and for which there is documentation in the War Office records and the archive at Trent Park.

The site is of **high** significance for its documentary sources.

Archaeology presents rather more problems. There has been no chase-wide archaeological survey or lidar assessment so the fragility of any buried features is unknown. Since the clearance and cultivation at enclosure were radical it may be that slight evidence such as that for squatter settlements has been destroyed. The scheduled monument at Camlet Moat is vulnerable to further tree and shrub growth and the high-maintenance designed landscape features are vulnerable to neglect. The main potential loss of evidence, however, lies in the degradation of the enclosure landscape through urban fringe pressures, change in character resulting from adjacent development and direct loss.

¹⁸ S. Williams Notes on the Lodges and Estates of Enfield Chase

3. Aesthetic

Much of the chase is a pleasant but unspectacular rural landscape but there are some fine historic views such as those across towards Enfield town from the old Lossick Way along the southern edge of Trent Park (**figure 14**) and from the mansion across Trent Park.

Figure 14: View east along Lossick Way, Trent Park



The designed park itself has considerable aesthetic quality and is being actively restored. Mature and veteran ornamental trees such as Cedar of Lebanon Monkeypuzzle mark the characteristic sites of designed landscapes like South Lodge and East Lodge which have otherwise been lost¹⁹.

One of the main features of the chase landscape is that it is well ordered and well maintained although potentially vulnerable to urban fringe pressures including persistent damage to livestock and crops and out of character mass planting to screen development adjacent to the chase. A more general threat is that if farming on the chase becomes financially unviable it will mean that alternatives resulting in intrusive new features have to be developed.

¹⁹ S. Williams *Notes on the Lodges and Estates of Enfield Chase*
<https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/publications/enfield-chase/>

4. Communal

Enfield Chase has retained a prominent local identity. It is conspicuous in street and place names such as Chase Side. Public open spaces like Chase Green are recognised as elements of the wider chase and Trent Country Park is promoted as part of it.²⁰ It is in marked contrast to places such as Cranbourne Chase where the idea of the chase has to some extent been reinvented for tourism and countryside management.²¹ It belongs in the category of major open spaces that partially define how a part of London is perceived like Wimbledon Common and Hampstead Heath.

For most residents of north Enfield the experience of the Chase is gained from passing through it along the Enfield Road between Oakwood and Enfield Town. This is an important aspect of daily life and a major contributor to the identity of the area, whereas residents may visit Trent Park or travel along the Ridgeway only occasionally.

A number of local schools take their names from the Chase - Chase Side Primary, Chace Community, De Bohun primary and Enfield Chase railway station. Running clubs use the Chase paths (including the Merryhills Way as well as the London LOOP): The Trent Park Running Club and the Enfield Chasers Running Club. A number of amenity groups use the Chase actively: the Friends of Enfield Chase group undertakes environmental projects with the Thames 21 Charity; the Footpaths Group of the Enfield Society maintains permissive paths across the Chase. The Merryhills Way was established as a Public Right of Way in 2011 through a partnership between the Council and local residents represented by the Enfield Society despite fierce opposition from the landowner. A number of walking groups including the Haringay Ramblers use the Chase footpaths.²²

The coat of arms of the Borough of Enfield (**figure 15**) features the stag (a symbol of hunting in the chase), the heraldic Enfield Beast and the wavy blue and green lines representing the open spaces and waterways of the borough²³.

²⁰ <https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/short-walk/trent-country-park-and-enfield-chase/>
<tps://www.westlodgepark.co.uk/weddings/rooms-and-suites/>

²¹ <https://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/things-to-do/cranborne-chase-and-west-wiltshire-downs-national-landscape-p1596023>; <https://www.westlodgepark.co.uk/weddings/rooms-and-suites/>

²² <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/group-walks/whitewebbs-and-enfield-chase>

²³ Enfield Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy, Enfield Council, 2021, p4

Figure 15: Coat of Arms of the London Borough of Enfield

