

Draft Enfield Local Plan: Vicarage Farm Site '(Chase Park)' – consultation response
Submitted by email to **on 24 June 2021**

I have looked at the proposals for 'Chase Park' (Strategic Policy SP: PL10) on pages 81 to 87 of the Draft Local Plan. I have significant concerns about the principle of any development in this location, which is situated in open countryside that was once at the heart of Enfield Chase. I am aware of a campaign of opposition to these proposals and am supportive of that campaign.

For the last thirty years or so I have been researching and writing on the history of England's forests and chases, which were very distinctive features of the countryside owing to their function as hunting grounds within which inhabitants had extensive rights over the natural vegetation that was protected for the purposes of hunting, sheltering and feeding deer. Some of them persisted into and through early-modern times, and still-surviving remnants provide some of the most highly-valued elements of our contemporary landscape as national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, and other public open spaces. Those within the Greater London area include Epping Forest and Bushy and Richmond parks; Enfield is the only surviving example of a chase, within which rights to game and over vegetation varied slightly from those in forests. This is outlined in a paper I gave in Enfield in 2011, which I attach with this letter as part of my submission.

Moreover, as far as I am aware, the only other chase which has survived to the present day is in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Thus, Enfield possesses an extremely rare and very valuable landscape asset. It would be a great pity to lose part of what is left of it to housing development. I do hope that you will reconsider your decision to allow this.