

Clare Brown [REDACTED]	C/O Louise St John Howe (Programme Officer) Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI (Inspector) PO Services, PO Box 10965, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 3BF Tel: 07789-486419 E: louise@poservices.co.uk
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Hearing Matter Statement: Matter 10 - Luton & Cockernhoe - North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031

Nigel Smith's Ex-landfill Methane Leaking Enterprise Zone

East Luton and Wildlife and Habits

East Luton contains Wigmore Valley Park which contains Wigmore Park Country Wildlife Site.

The Reasons for Designation of Wigmore Valley Park as a Wildlife Site were given as:-

Species rich neutral grassland, calcareous grassland and hedgerows all of which are priority habitats. The CWS also includes a length of green lane running south-east along the airport boundary, gappy hedgerows border the lane.

The report also talks about Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.

However Luton Airport has put in a planning application to move 86,100 cubic metres of spoil around the airport as part of its Mass Transit System construction.

Next to the Airport is Wigmore Valley Park. The Luton Borough Council have applied to destroy this park and they want to place four storey hotels and a terminal two on top of it.

This Wigmore Valley Park is on top of an ex-landfill site containing all types of hazardous waste and which leaks methane and has to be constantly monitored!

The NHDC Local Plan fails to mention ANY OF THIS IN ANY WAY!

How can it be claimed that DUTY TO COOPERATE has been fulfilled - when Luton Borough Council and North Herts District Council has relayed this to each other; so that none of it is mentioned inside the Local Plan?!

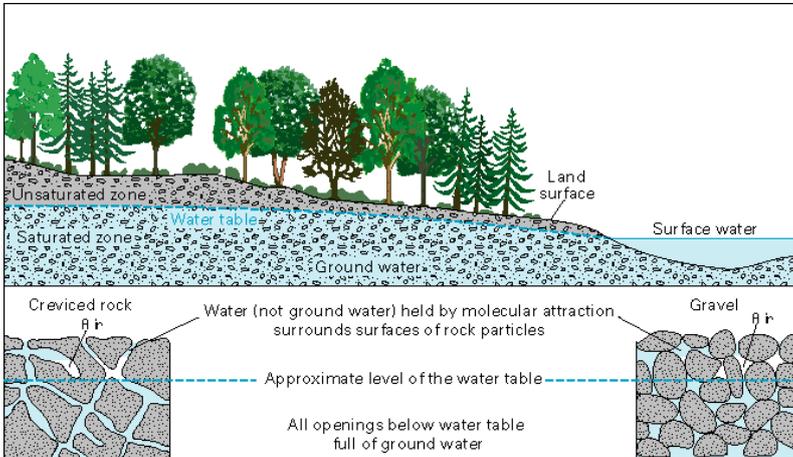


When this was brought up at the Hearing – Nigel Smith muttered something about NCP being “part of the Plan’s Enterprise zone”. But the Plan doesn’t even mention New Century Park – or take into consideration the existence of a methane leaking ex-landfill beneath it, which they want to disturb.

Ask Nigel Smith if he is even aware this his “Enterprise zone” is on top of an untested, unlined, shallowly capped ex-landfill site, containing explosive materials, and every category of waste. It is highly contaminated and leaks methane into the atmosphere which has to be released regularly.

The methane release caps are scattered all over the park.

The unlined landfill also sits on top of a Groundwater Conservation zone stretching as far as Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury.



How can East Luton absorb all of these negative consequences? How can the people living there be healthy? How will the children enjoy long lives if they are deprived of nature and poisoned to death with a 37 million passenger quota's worth of aircraft emissions annually, extra car fumes, drinking contaminated water and exposure to methane gases?!