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Response to draft New London Plan

I am particularly concerned about the preservation of green space within the built up environment as a means of reducing pollution and improving the health and well being of residents’.

I note that there is the intention to preserve the Green Belt but am concerned that all the new housing will require hospitals, schools and sports space which I understand can be exempted as ‘special circumstances’. My concern is that should history repeat itself and, as happened in the past, when the birth rate dropped, a local school was closed and houses were built on the site. Later a new school had to be built on a green recreational space. So, if a school is allowed on current Green Belt then, should it no longer be required, the site should be returned to Green Belt otherwise this is the thin edge of the wedge to the loss of Green Belt.

I am also concerned that using small spaces to infill with housing may unwittingly cause a loss of green corridors.

Finally I would like to ask for better protection for ancient woodland, which I understand can be cut down to provide work access to infrastructure projects, as it is not possible to replace it once the work is completed and so is lost forever.

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