

Planning objections

1. Spurs make much of the fact that this land was used as a golf course and that they intend changing it from one sporting use to another.

It was a Public golf course, open to all at a modest fee. The Golf Club was private but this had no part in managing the golf course or in its ownership.

In 1931 it was envisaged that the course would be a temporary measure to help offset the cost of maintaining the park. If it closed (like the cricket pitch) the land reverted to open space.

2. Landscape Change. Spurs intend using half of the open area of the park as an enclosed area exclusively for the use as a private training ground for elite footballers. The land will be extensively remodelled for pitches, altering the shape of the land. The pitch area will be surrounded (working outwards) by high laurel hedges, a 6 foot metal fence, dense bush planting and then a thick band of trees. The areas of meadowland will be used as attenuation ponds to assist rapid pitch drainage.

The Northern boundary will, additionally, have a bund topped by trees. The present ground has a bund (earth barrier).

The effect of this is to create a fortress for football. An industrial estate for sport surrounded by vegetation.

Spurs argue that as the pitch area will not be visible it is not a significant change to the landscape.

3. Buildings. The Stable Block (former golf offices) will be greatly extended to create the changing rooms and other facilities. This is building in the Green Belt. The storage barn will be moved from the car park to the playing area and extended.

4. Views

The views from Whitewebbs Lane south across the park are listed as important in the Local Plan. These views are visible only from Dickenson Meadow to the King and Tinker. Spurs describe these views as “glimpses” but as you will see from the walk they are extensive from parts of the footpath and the bridleway. As we have access to the former golf course (and always have had) these views are also available and more extensive from within the boundary fence.

The bridleway / footpath on the eastern side of the park offers extensive views across the area Spurs wants to develop.

We should also consider the views from within the park e.g. along the central roadway from the café up to the Stable Block

5. Openness The openness of the Green Belt is protected, or should be. The present park offers the openness of 19th century parkland. The Spurs plan will destroy this constructing their football fortress and by large scale tree planting, infilling the gaps in the long vistas. (see their artists impression)

6. Character Their claim to be restoring the 19th century parkland, based on the 1842 map cannot be taken seriously. The map shows very few trees and indicates a concern with openness and extensive vistas. The present landscape has an open character with groupings of mature trees. In just three years Nature has reclaimed the character of the park. It should be added that Spurs is taking a significant part of the original parkland and transforming it into the sports fortress.

The Lake will be seriously affected by the Spurs Plan. It will cease to be a tranquil area when the North Gate becomes the entrance for the Carvery.

In its desperation to be seen to be doing some “heritage” work it claims to be restoring an “historic” carriageway. The carriageway is a drive and has no “historic” significance whatsoever