



Planning Application TP/ED/26/0104

I wish to formally **object** to the proposed erection of a secondary school at Whitegates Park on the following grounds.

Loss of Community Open Space

Whitegates Park is a designated Protected Open Space in the Local Development Plan. The proposed development would mean the permanent loss of a much needed greenspace, well utilised by the local community. This currently includes:

- Sports and recreation facilities, including a football pitch
- A network of paths including a core path and public rights of way
- Significant biodiversity, including mature trees and wetland habitat, an extensive area of vegetation providing a wildlife corridor as well as roosts for bats which are legally protected
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This is contrary to NPF4 Policy 9, which requires the protection and enhancement of community open spaces.

Breach of NPF4 Policy 5: Peatland

This site includes significant deposits of deep peat (up to 4.8m). Carbon-rich soils are strictly protected under National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 5 and the proposed development would disturb this vital carbon sink.

Impact on pedestrian safety and traffic congestion

The proposed development will significantly increase traffic congestion on the quiet and established residential areas surrounding the site. Such an increase in road traffic will increase carbon emissions and jeopardise pedestrian safety.

For the reasons above, I would ask that the Planning Department recommend **refusal** of this application.

