

- 10.25.4 This aspiration of improvement and accessibility can be achieved through appropriate development in Green Belt or MOL (as supported by the NPPF and the London Plan. Development adjacent to areas of Green Belt/MOL needs to comply with Policy ECC05 and should respect the character of its surroundings and the visual amenity of these areas. When assessing the likely impact on the openness of the Green Belt the Council will have regard to the visual impact of a development, its duration and prospects for remediation as well as the degree of activity such as traffic that is likely to be generated.

**Policy ECC05 - Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land**

**a) Green Belt**

- i. Any proposals for development in Green Belt will be considered in accordance with NPPF paras 133 to 147.
- ii. Development adjacent to Green Belt should not have a significant detrimental effect on the openness of the Green Belt and respect the character of its surroundings.

**b: Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)**

- i. In accordance with London Plan Policy G3, Metropolitan Open Land is to be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national planning policy tests that apply to the Green Belt.

**10.26 Biodiversity**

- 10.26.1 Barnet has a wide range of different habitats that have been recognised as Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs) including
- Woodland
  - Grassland/Acid Grassland/ Pastures and Meadows
  - Streams, lakes and ponds
  - Wetlands and Bogs;
  - Ancient Hedgerows and Trees; and
  - Veteran Trees
- 10.26.2 The Welsh Harp (Brent Reservoir) is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as it is an important refuge and breeding site for waterfowl and other birds.