



## Runnymede Green Belt Review Part 2

The Egham Residents' Association was dismayed by the report from Arup submitted to Runnymede Council in its Green Belt Review Part 2.

Our objection to it is a matter of principle because we take the view – which is nominally also the Government's – that the Green Belt is sacrosanct. It follows that we believe not an inch of it should be surrendered unless there is compensation in the form of land of at least the same quality being added to the Green Belt.

The Arup recommendations are that much of the land in a 'buffer-zone' immediately around the designated Egham urban area should be considered for release from the Green Belt. This land includes that belonging to Royal Holloway College south east of the A30 (area 99) – including Nobles Field (area 97); Mrs Caddey's Field (area 98); and the land of the Egham Leisure Centre (area 108).

Were their Green Belt designation removed, these sites would obviously be made very vulnerable to development sooner or later, and the character of the landscape around Egham could be greatly changed for the worse.

Nobles Field and the Sports Centre land are used for sport and recreation, and their loss would be a particular regret.

We are especially irritated by the attitude shown to Mrs Caddey's Field in the Arup report. It actually received quite a good score of 6 in the ratings given for meeting Green Belt purposes. But the report argued that it had to be considered in combination with the old Procter and Gamble site (area 92).

Why? The two sites have radically different characters, and the attempt to tie their fates together seems quite contrived. We very strongly oppose the idea.

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