

✓ YES to Nature Preservation

Gondar Gardens reservoir is a valuable green space in the heart of West Hampstead. It is protected by Camden's planning policy but a developer has bought the land and applied for planning permission to build houses.

You can make a difference.

Just e-mail env.devcon@camden.gov.uk with 2011/0395/P in the subject line. Say "I am writing to object ..." and mention the key points below. **Do it by 28th March 2011.**

If you cc: info.gara@googlemail.com then we'll keep you up to date with the latest news. You can also write to: London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team, FREEPOST LON14608, London WC1H 8BR.



See www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk for more details and a link to the planning application.

✗ NO to Destruction of Habitat

Ten things you should know about Gondar Gardens Reservoir

1. The reservoir (decommissioned in 2001) is below ground level, with wonderful Victorian brick arches supporting a grassed-over roof.
2. The site plays host to Camden's only endangered population of slow worms and is home to many of the "under threat" species in Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan.
3. It is one of Camden's few undisturbed sites, providing additional biodiversity value.
4. Over 90% of the site is designated as Private Open Space and a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. Camden's policy is against development of such sites.
5. Camden's planning inspector stated that the many private views over the site amount to a public amenity. Camden policy recognises the importance of public views.
6. The reservoir was previously owned by Thames Water who tried and failed to alter planning policy to allow development.
7. Linden Homes and Wates Developments bought the site in January 2010 and within one week had cut down all the trees on the street frontage.
8. The need for (minimal) maintenance of the site is not a reason for development; it is the developer's liability, having bought the site gambling that they can make a profit.
9. Even a "small, sensitive" development will destroy the Open Space.
10. Recent experience shows that a "small, sensitive" initial concept can easily become a major development – don't be fooled by a slick presentation.

Help Camden keep its nerve. Help protect this valuable space.