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**From:** Mat Hughes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 27 February 2015 18:54  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Reference: Irvine Road Orchard

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am registering my opposition to any change in status by removal of protection and change in designation from a Local Wildlife Site in the existing Local Development Plan to the orchard in Irvine Road, Colchester.

In my view any residential housing development undertaken on this land would result in a significant loss of important wildlife habitat and irrecoverably change the area, taking away it's value to the local community as a Private Open Space and potential future use as a forest learning resource for local schools.

The area is currently recognised and accordingly protected as a designated Wildlife Site because of it's uniqueness; it is such a rare example of an area of ancient orchard woodland and hedgerows with significant and diverse wildlife biodiversity. The trees and hedgerows growing there have preservation orders that the local community campaigned to have put in place. The local community cares immensely about the orchard and the wildlife it sustains.

We now know the orchard has been found to be one of only seven remaining traditional urban orchards left intact in Essex. Notwithstanding that a wildlife survey carried out by the orchard's previous owner's advised against development; therefore any reversal or change in designation of the orchard allowing future residential housing development would threaten the destruction of the orchard as it is today.

Building housing on the land would in my opinion do little to make any difference to the current housing need. The area is not designated as residential development land in the Local Development Plan [LDP] and as a concerned local resident and voter, I ask that the planning policy and land designation not be changed to include the orchard land within the LDP.

On the balance of it's value to the community remaining as a green Private Open Space and unique area as a designated Local Wildlife Site against it's potential as a residential housing development site - surely it must remain recognised for the importance of what it currently is and it's protection as such upheld and maintained?

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Hughes  
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