# Concerns grow as White Rose Park plans threaten nearly 200 mature trees in Hellesdon



# Environmental Concerns Mount Over White Rose Park Development in Hellesdon

Amid widespread resident unease, the future of the White Rose Park housing development in Hellesdon hangs in the balance as local councillors and community members voice their objections to plans that could see nearly 200 mature trees felled. This significant environmental impact arises during the third phase of an ambitious project initiated by Persimmon Homes, which aims to create a total of 1,000 new homes on the site of the former Royal Norwich Golf Club.

The latest plans involve constructing 138 homes behind Hercules Road, which forms part of a broader development strategy intricately linked to local infrastructure, green space preservation, and community wellbeing. Critics of the project argue that the removal of 194 trees poses not only an ecological threat but also threatens the visual and recreational landscape of Hellesdon. Kayleigh Stubbs, a resident whose home backs onto the treeline, expressed her concerns, stating, "While we understand new homes need to be built, we don't agree with the changes in the new plan for phase three." Stubbs highlighted a worrying loss of habitat for protected species, including bats, buzzards, and owls, among others.

Local councillor Lacey Douglass further emphasised the ramifications of this tree loss. "The entire skyscape of the area will be changed forever," she said, noting that Hellesdon has less green space and canopy cover compared to many areas in greater Norwich. Douglass urged Persimmon to reconsider their plans, arguing that community welfare should take precedence over profit-driven motives.

The project’s history is fraught with contention. Earlier phases have already raised concerns; during phase two, for instance, the initial plan to remove 149 trees sparked backlash among locals. These ecological concerns are not isolated. Broadland District Council recently implemented a tree preservation order on select mature trees at the site due to community complaints about excessive tree removal. Despite this intervention, the threat to local biodiversity remains.

Concerns extend beyond just tree felling; many residents fear the repercussions on local infrastructure. The project could exacerbate existing strains on services such as healthcare, especially as the population increases. Some residents fear that the addition of so many homes will exacerbate traffic congestion and increase the demand for local amenities. Shelagh Gurney, a local councillor, points out the urgent need for increased support services, including NHS dentists, to accommodate the changing demographic landscape.

In addition to immediate neighbourhood impacts, the Greater Norwich Local Plan outlines the necessity of balancing development with environmental preservation. It stresses sustainable development practices that should integrate seamlessly into the community while considering ecological factors, such as the protection of local biodiversity and green spaces.

As plans move forward, the developers are poised to build additional phases that will see the construction of a further 400 homes and a community centre. However, local sentiment underscores the necessity for responsible planning that prioritises environmental conservation alongside housing growth. Residents like John Frost articulate a broader concern, stating, "Everyone is worried about the destruction of trees... it’s criminal. The loss of woodland will result in inevitable loss of wildlife."

The ongoing debate encapsulates a larger conversation about housing developments across the country. Striking a balance between the need for new housing and the preservation of local environments will continue to be a pressing challenge.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25143838.white-rose-park-housing-development-risking-nearly-200-trees/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/housing/22330349.infrastructure-fears-housing-tree-felling-project-continues/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25143838.white-rose-park-housing-development-risking-nearly-200-trees/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24522650.debate-housing-development-hellesdon-heats/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/22349923.former-golf-course-trees-saved-despite-developer-objections/), [[5]](https://oc2connect.gnlp.org.uk/document/43/10112)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/housing/22330349.infrastructure-fears-housing-tree-felling-project-continues/), [[5]](https://oc2connect.gnlp.org.uk/document/43/10112)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://oc2connect.gnlp.org.uk/document/41/8555)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25143838.white-rose-park-housing-development-risking-nearly-200-trees/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/22349923.former-golf-course-trees-saved-despite-developer-objections/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25143838.white-rose-park-housing-development-risking-nearly-200-trees/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/housing/22330349.infrastructure-fears-housing-tree-felling-project-continues/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25143838.white-rose-park-housing-development-risking-nearly-200-trees/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/housing/22330349.infrastructure-fears-housing-tree-felling-project-continues/> - Residents in Hellesdon express concerns over the Persimmon Homes development on the former Royal Norwich Golf Club site, fearing increased strain on local services and infrastructure. The project involves significant tree felling along Drayton High Road to accommodate road widening and a bus lane. Local councillor Shelagh Gurney highlights the need for more amenities, such as NHS dentists, to support the growing population. The parish council seeks reassurances from Persimmon Homes regarding environmental impact and developer contributions to the community.
3. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24522650.debate-housing-development-hellesdon-heats/> - A proposed 50-home development in Hellesdon has sparked debate among residents concerned about increased traffic and insufficient infrastructure. The site, previously occupied by the Jarrold Sports and Social Club, is near the airport, raising fears of congestion. Residents also worry about the height of affordable housing potentially overlooking existing homes. The council plans further discussions, emphasizing the need for high-quality play equipment and accessible green spaces if the development proceeds.
4. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/22349923.former-golf-course-trees-saved-despite-developer-objections/> - Broadland District Council has confirmed a tree preservation order (TPO) on mature trees at the former Royal Norwich Golf Club, despite objections from Persimmon Homes. The TPO was implemented after local complaints about unnecessary tree removal. Persimmon Homes plans to build 1,000 properties on the site, with a 157-home second phase approved. The council's decision aims to protect the trees amid ongoing development concerns.
5. <https://oc2connect.gnlp.org.uk/document/43/10112> - The Greater Norwich Local Plan outlines development allocations for Hellesdon, including the Royal Norwich Golf Club site for approximately 1,000 homes. The plan addresses infrastructure requirements, such as traffic improvements and educational provisions. It also highlights environmental considerations, including the safeguarding of mineral resources and the protection of biodiversity. The plan emphasizes the need for sustainable development that integrates with the existing community and environment.
6. <https://oc2connect.gnlp.org.uk/document/41/8555> - The Greater Norwich Local Plan discusses various development sites in Hellesdon, including residential and commercial proposals. It highlights constraints such as the Airport Safety Zone, noise implications, and environmental designations associated with the River Wensum. The plan emphasizes the importance of addressing these constraints to ensure sustainable development that aligns with the community's needs and environmental considerations.
7. <https://www.worningtontrees.com/resident-objections-to-phase-3.html> - Residents of Wornington Green have raised objections to the felling of 32 mature trees for a housing development. They express concerns about biodiversity loss and the impact on the local environment. The community emphasizes the importance of these trees for health and well-being, especially in a socially deprived and polluted area. They urge the council to hold the developer accountable and ensure adherence to planning conditions.