

Application No:

2013/4475/P

Site Address:

Witanhurst
41 Highgate West Hill
N6 6LS

Case Officer:

Gideon Whittingham



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Comment: OBJ

Response:

Having become aware of the problems that the existing Witanhurst basement has caused to surrounding houses I would like to add my own objection to this application for a basement extension.

I have looked through the documents online and it seems that the developers are relying on their previous hydrological and geological surveys. Given the problems which have arisen, these appear to be flawed and have not correctly assessed the site.

If ground water is now being blocked at the top of the hill, the water table level will no longer be as previously monitored anyway and the shape of the proposed extension looks as if it could make the situation much worse, by trapping water under the front courtyard and around the roots of the Copper Beech (which could suffer badly as a result).

I am aware that the go ahead was given to the Witanhurst project because the house was so badly run down, but the houses in The Grove are also part of Highgate's architectural heritage, are considerably older and are therefore at least as important.

I am sure that if the developers have any sense of responsibility they would wish to ensure the damage to all surrounding houses is remedied and the reasons for these problems fully investigated, before even considering any further basement excavations.

I hope you will be able to assist them along this road by refusing this application.
