

---

**HMH.858      HIGHGATE & MUSWELL HILL 'ERUV'**

**PROPOSED CLEFT PALING TO INTERNAL FACE OF HAMPSTEAD LANE  
HEDGEROW IN LOCAL AREAS**

---

**Origin**

The origin of this request is the imminent planning application for the poles and connecting wires required to establish an *eruv* for the Highgate and Muswell Hill area; this will link with the existing *eruv*s in Woodside Park and in Finchley/Golders Green/Hendon.

**Definition**

An *eruv* is a term in Jewish law to describe a notionally 'enclosed' area, as defined in Jewish law (originating from ancient walled cities), in which a fundamental rule of Sabbath observance, viz. the prohibition of carrying or moving of objects from one property to another, may be relaxed. This permits wheelchair-bound persons, very young children and their carers to leave their house on the Sabbath thus vastly improving the quality of their lives, enabling participation in social, community, leisure and religious activities. There are about ten *eruv*s in existence within London and the UK and in cities throughout the world.

**Detail**

'Enclosure' for an *eruv* is achieved by using existing buildings, walls, fences and dense hedges at least 1 metre in height; where a hedge is sparse it requires some upgrading.

The hedge between Athlone House Gardens and Hampstead Lane is too sparse in a few local areas, principally under trees and it is felt that the proposed cleft chestnut panels, located behind the hedge in these local areas will be a sympathetic and visually unobtrusive means of overcoming the *eruv* problem.

**Statutory and planning and social cohesion**

An *eruv* is a 'relevant protected characteristic' (as defined in the Equality Act 2010, S149) of Jewish religious law.

In addition, installation work required to achieve an *eruv* finds general support in relevant local authority UDP and planning policy guidelines.

Existing *eruv*s demonstrate that there is no effect whatever on the social cohesion of the local population.