

WILDLIFE

# Puma sightings in N2

by Saul Pavill

Local residents' sightings of a puma in Cherry Tree Wood and at the nearby reservoir are causing an influx of tourists to the area this month.

The 12 different sightings during the past six months have not, however, been confirmed by Government experts.

**Cat calls**

Television crews, photographers and reporters were seen knocking on doors of those who had claimed to have seen the puma (felis concolor), leopard (panthera pardus) or panther (panthera nigra).

The Ministry of Agriculture's report just published after a three-month investigation found "No veritable evidence for the presence of a big cat" and concluded that there was no significant threat to pets in the area.

**Pussyfoot**

The team also analysed videos and photographs said to show the beast and looked at plaster casts of unusual footprints.

Their report concluded that:

\*The animal submitted in the videos had the same dimensions as an adult black cat.

\*Of the three plaster casts of footprints taken in the reservoir, two were from a domestic cat and one from a dog.

\* They conclude that it was all a hoax - probably by the same hoaxer who is at work in Bodmin.

**Load of old Tom**

A local resident, Bill Hull, who lives in Lauradale Road, which backs onto the reservoir, agrees with the men from the ministry. Mr. Hull, president of the Aquarius Archery Club, which practises on the reservoir, said: "Local residents are confused. The puma is no more than an alley-cat which lives in this road and is known as the Wildebeest, alias Tom Robson.

"He is certainly big and ferocious and causes passing dogs to leap into their owner's arms...but he is only an ordinary moggy.

Yes, it is official! Barnet Council is promoting the borough as *THE* tourist attraction of North London. What will this mean for East Finchley? David Hobbs speculates...

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# TOURIST ATT EAST FIN

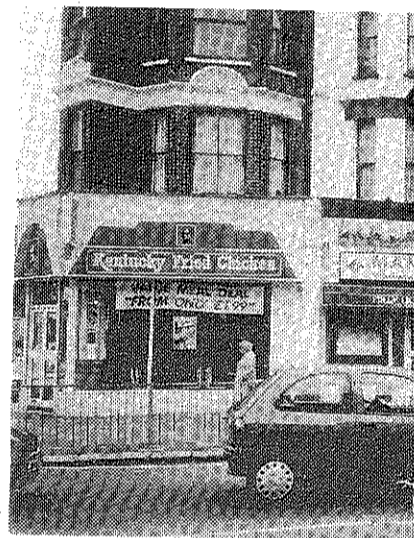


Tourists arriving in the "Jewel of North London"

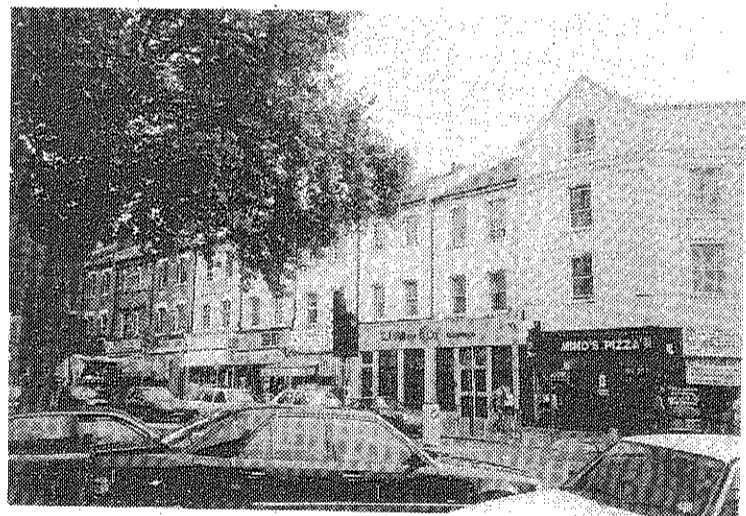
East Finchley, and you will be there in next to no time.

**Shop 'til you drop**

East Finchley has a splendid array of shops, especially along the High Road, enabling those of you who wish to savour the true shopping experience to feel truly at home. Pop into Budgens, a fabulous hypermarket with a wide selection of high quality products to suit all tastes. Visit the traditional butchers, bakers, greengrocers and general stores that serve to make East Finchley High Road a shopping centre to rival Oxford Street. Oxford Street, Watford, that is.



International cuisine par ex



Shops to rival Oxford Street (Watford)

East Finchley is becoming famous as a cemetery for bollards. A macabre sort of fame, but fame none the less.

# Resting Place for Bollards

by Lee Welch

Both locals and tourists come to look at the final resting places of our better-known local concrete and iron bollards, and to pay their last respects.

**A load of bollards!**

Such names as Bertie, his son Arnold, and more recently Jeffrey the lamp-post who, in his capacity as a central island light-pole in the High Road, lost his young life

at the hands of a mystery motorist, are among the better-known bits of bollards.

**Lest we forget**

Do not forget though, that within the N2 cementery there are countless other bollards who, in the line of duty, were ruthlessly slain, callously reversed over, or flattened beyond repair. They quite simply sacrificed themselves so as to make our roads safer.

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