

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RP81-E

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**

Submitted on 2021-01-09 15:14:11

About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Individual

Individual

What is your name?

Individual name:

Michael Tibbetts

What is your email address?

Individual Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your address?

Address line 1:

[REDACTED]

Address line 2 :

Address line 3:

Town / city:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

What is your contact telephone number?

Contact number:

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)

Comment on Sites in Settlements F to H

Which Site are you commenting on?

Settlements F to H:

Galashiels: AGALA029: Netherbarns: Housing

What are your comments regarding this site?:

As a frequent visitor to the Scottish Borders, I object to the development of the Netherbarns site because the associated light, sound and visual intrusions will adversely affect Abbotsford's unique heritage assets, historic setting and the cultural landscape of the Scottish Borders and Tweed Valley. This impact will reduce the enjoyment of visitors to Abbotsford and reduce the huge economic contribution which Abbotsford makes to the region.

The reopening of the Waverley Line to nearby Tweedbank has improved the accessibility and attraction of Abbotsford and its estate. Should the line be extended further south to Hawick and Carlisle in the future, the number of visitors will undoubtedly increase significantly. The tranquillity and surroundings inspired Scott to write some of his most famous works; this ambience will be lost for ever to future visitors who will be flabbergasted by the folly of this development, if it is permitted.

The National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) recognises the contribution made by our cultural heritage to our economy, cultural identity and quality of life. Planning has an important role to play in maintaining and enhancing the distinctive and high-quality, irreplaceable historic places which enrich our lives, contribute to our sense of identity and are an important resource for our tourism and leisure industry.

It is incorrect to state that Abbotsford is closed in winter, and misleading to suggest that visits to Abbotsford in the winter are negligible:

Abbotsford is now open annually in December.

The Visitor Centre has been open all year round since 2014.

Restoration of Scott's paths in 2018 has led to increased visits to Abbotsford's estate all year-round.

A 'people counter' sited on the paths at Abbotsford (from summer 2020) recorded 13,000 visits in December 2020 alone, and 84,000 visits since it was introduced in mid July 2020.

30% of November & December visits are from dusk when lights from Netherbarns would be particularly visible through the thin tree cover.

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)