



14th January 2021

Dear Sirs

Objection to AGALA029 Netherbarns in the Local Development Plan

“Breathes there the man with soul so dead” (The Lay of the Last Minstrel, Walter Scott 1805) that he or she can view with equanimity the proposed alteration to the view of the Tweed from Abbotsford, home of Sir Walter, which is a legend in itself. We are told how, in his last days, Scott would be taken to lie in the room from which he had an uninterrupted view of the river and countryside he loved. It was his favourite view. What could be more incongruous in such a historic pastoral prospect than a modern housing development? The insensitivity of such a plan must be resisted.

Abbotsford is probably the most famous literary site in our land, and the most devotedly tended. It must be treasured and preserved. It is in its setting that Abbotsford is most beautiful. The ruination of this must not be countenanced.

As one who loves my native land and reveres the great author who created not only Scottish literary classics but also a great house on the loveliest site imaginable, I protest.

After visiting Scott at home Charlotte Bronte wrote a letter, saying: "Abbotsford, the very name possesses music and magic". Let there be no discordant note, no banal modern folly to spoil the magic.

Steps should be taken to keep this view inviolate forever, for the nation and the world.

Yours faithfully



Mary Davidson
Lady Davidson OBE