

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RPR8-F

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

Submitted on **2021-01-14 17:26:00**

About you

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

Group / organisation

Group / organisation

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Group / organisation:

The University of Wyoming in Scotland program

Name:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Contact telephone number :

[REDACTED]

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

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Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Leave a quick comment about the Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan, or planning and development in general.....

Quick Comment:

As a scholar of Walter Scott, and director of the UW in Scotland program, which brings classes and colleagues to stay and work at Abbotsford, I write to register deep concern at the planned housing development AGALA029 Netherbarns.

Others will no doubt express how considering such a development contravenes avowed policies regarding the historic environment, the maintenance of spaces round towns, the preservation of listed buildings, special landscapes and national scenic areas.

I write to communicate the impact such a development will have on a particular program that is building an institutional and international collaborations with Abbotsford and the Borders. Every year (interrupted only by the pandemic), UW in Scotland brings students and faculty to reside and study at Abbotsford. While there, we register the remarkable tourist traffic generated by this unique site and its surroundings.

Abbotsford's allure to tourists and to academics alike includes its very rare ability to manifest a moment as it was experienced in the nineteenth century. Walter Scott took a muddy spot on the banks of the Tweed and transformed it; his granddaughter made Abbotsford into the house we know today. Those who visit find a viewscape not markedly different from that experienced by Scott and bearing numerous records of his agricultural vision—for among his many talents and interests, he counted agricultural improvement.

A housing development across from Abbotsford would severely compromise this site as a historic location. It would severely impact tourism and undermine the site's usefulness for teaching future generations of students. The Scott scholars, day-trippers and international visitors who swarm to Abbotsford do not come to look at a housing estate.

Frankly, it is stunning to hear that such a development is contemplated. And here let me note that no amount of landscaping or sound-baffling across the Tweed will prevent the degradation of what is unique about Abbotsford for its many visitors.

The past slips away from us moment to moment. Walter Scott's Abbotsford is a unique draw to the Scottish Borders; it is a place of beauty, a rich resource for study, and one deeply embedded in the past and present of the local community. Once degraded by a development across the Tweed, its meaning and its draw will be reduced. The Borders will be the poorer.

Do you wish to submit supporting information?

Submissions:

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