



15th January 2021

Dear Sirs,

Local Development Plan Consultation. NETHERBARNES

I write to object to the inclusion of Netherbarns as a site for forty-odd houses in the Local Plan. This is far too many, and would result, however well the houses might be screened at certain times of year, in Abbotsford House looking onto a suburban extension of Galashiels.

But it is not just about views from Abbotsford House. Every summer we enjoy the "Gala Ride" passing our house as literally hundreds of people, young and old, ride out from Galashiels on horses, up the road towards Cauldshiels Loch; then they gallop over the hill to "Abbotts Lea Bank", the section of the ride which many people say is the best bit. This hill is the highest point in the Abbotsford Designed Landscape and affords the riders (and others) a view across the Tweed valley and on to Galashiels and beyond. I enclose a map.

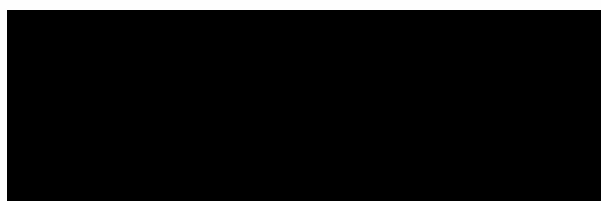
The present view is somewhat spoiled by the suburban spread of Galashiels into the Tweed valley (and into Abbotsford's full view). The Netherbarns site can be clearly made out from here. If the site were to be planted with lots of trees, (and a handful of small houses could fitted in there as well), then this spread of Galashiels could be halted, and the unfortunate effect of recent developments near Brunswickhill and Kingsknowes would be reduced.

The rather poor photograph enclosed was taken a few years ago, for a previous objection. Trees on the site have grown since then, which illustrates how useful it would be to plant a great number of trees there.

Galashiels, as well as Melrose and Selkirk, enjoys strong ties to Scott and Abbotsford, and the Gala Ride includes a ceremonial stop at Abbotsford House.

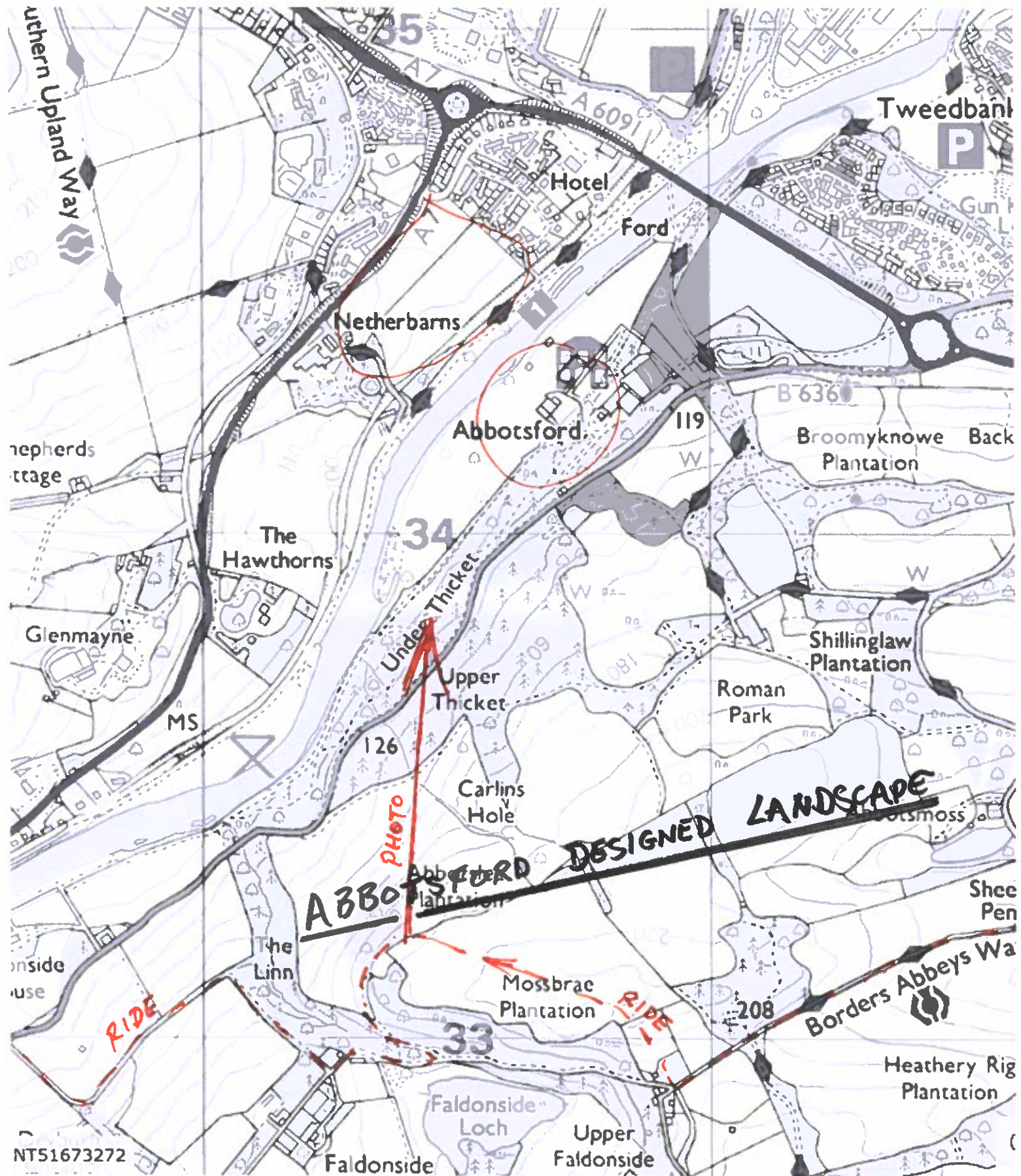
I very much hope that the SBC proposals will not be allowed, but I would be happy to see a woodland scheme as described above. I think this would be a good long-term solution.

*Your sincerely,*



P.S. The lovely view over the Tweed from the woodland walk south of Abbotford, extensively used by walkers from Tweedbank & Galashiels, would be ruined by a large development at Nettleburns.





Northern Upland Way

Tweedbank

Hotel

Ford

Netherbarns

Abbotsford

B 636

Broomyknowe Back Plantation

The Hawthorns

34

119

Glenmayne

MS

Under Thicket

Upper Thicket

Shillinglaw Plantation

Roman Park

126

Carlins Hole

DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

PHOTO

ABBOTSFORD

Abbotsford Plantation

Shee Pen

inside house

The Linn

Mossbrae Plantation

RIDE

Borders Abbeys Way

RIDE

33

208

Heathery Rig Plantation

NT51673272

Faldonside

Faldonside Loch

Upper Faldonside