

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 January 2021 17:49  
**To:** localplan  
**Subject:** Netherbarns housing development

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this as an objection to the **AGALA029 Netherbarns Building Proposal** as set out in the Local Development Plan.

Abbotsford House is one of Scotland's greatest treasures. The setting is paramount to the continued success of this tourist attraction.

Residing beside the Tweed, in a beautiful unspoiled countryside, is a delight to all visitors and an important part of the attraction.

The proposal to build homes on the Netherbarns site will spoil the setting, and therefore ruin one of the most important tourist attractions in Scotland.

Planting more trees between the proposed housing and the Tweed will not create a complete screen because Abbotsford and its grounds are in use, in various ways, all year round. The proposed housing would thus be visible for much of the year. If, however the screen were to be of such density as to hide the housing and its 'services', it would no doubt spoil the attractive landscape which has always faced Abbotsford from across the Tweed.

Past similar proposals to build homes at the same Netherbarns site were rejected and for good reason. What conditions have changed so much as to merit a change in policy? The statistics provided by your study indicate that the local population is only forecast to grow by an insignificant amount. It makes no sense. Are there not other sites that can accommodate the housing development without spoiling an historic Scottish treasure?

Abbotsford is one of The Borders unique tourist businesses. If the Netherbarns Building Proposal is allowed to go ahead it will be an irreversible degradation to Abbotsford's unique appeal. When a tourist business such as Abbotsford exists for cultural and historic reasons I would point out that the aesthetic and commercial elements are inextricably conjoined.

Sir Walter Scott believed that "his oaks would outlive his laurels". Please ensure that there is truth in this.

Sincerely,

Sheila van der Merwe  
[REDACTED]