

**Archived:** 25 January 2021 09:41:19

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 22 Jan 2021 11:57:16

**To:**

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: AGALA029 Netherbarns Letter of Objection

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**  
[REDACTED]

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**CAUTION:** External Email

Sent on behalf of John Sanders:

Please find attached a letter of objection for the proposal AGALA029 Netherbarns.

Regards,

John

John Sanders, Partner

*for*

Simpson & Brown

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Simpson & Brown is monitoring the developments of the Coronavirus outbreak. We will continue to operate as close to normal as possible whilst following advice from the UK and Scottish Governments. Most of our staff are working remotely, but we can be contacted on our usual email addresses or phone number.



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Forward Planning  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Scottish Borders,  
TD6 0SA

AGALA029 Netherbarns

Dear Sir

I object in the strongest terms to the proposal to develop an area on the north-west axis of Abbotsford House for housing.

The cultural heritage of Walter Scott is of world significance and so Abbotsford House and landscape which is the embodiment of so much of Walter Scott's ideas is also of international importance. Due to this literary connection but also its groundbreaking use of Baronial style architecture, Abbotsford could claim to be the most important house of its date in Scotland and one of the most important in Britain. Walter Scott always considered the house and landscape to be a single architectural aesthetic and management entity. Abbotsford House would be very considerably damaged if the quality of its landscape setting is eroded.

A key part of the setting of Abbotsford House is its views. These are important both towards the house where the north-west side of the house is seen in the context of the River Tweed, open parkland and tree cover, but also from the house. The view from the house remains the view that Walter Scott would have seen and treasured. This view would have been Scott's view as he was writing his novels. It seems extraordinary that in Scott's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year that Borders Council would risk being so careless with Scotland's cultural identity. These views should not change. They should be preserved and conserved for the future. Damage to these views by development would be irreversible. It is bizarre to suggest that the outstanding significance of the context of Abbotsford is somehow more or less important at different seasons of the year. It is also obvious that to change the landscape by planting a band of screening trees would also damage it. These suggestions by the applicant betray a fundamental lack of understanding about conservation of heritage assets by the applicant.

John Sanders  
*Diploma in Heritage Conservation*  
*Heriot- Watt University*

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**Locations**

Edinburgh, London, Peebles, York



