

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 January 2021 02:08  
**To:** localplan <localplan@scotborders.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** proposal AGALA029 Netherbarns

CAUTION: External Email

I think this email may come too late and will probably count for nothing anyway coming from a foreigner, but I wish to state my objection and dismay at the proposal for building a housing development opposite Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's home. I live in Canada and cannot travel at this time but as a life-long admirer of Scott's works, I have been reading the 7-volume 1838 edition of Lockhart's *Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott*, so I went to the Abbotsford website to better visualize what is described in that wonderful biography. Much to my dismay and even horror did I see a notice of this awful proposal to disfigure the area around his home.

I wonder if any of the planners of the proposal—presumably all Scots—have ever read the Memoirs and thereby gained an acute understanding and appreciation of the vision for the estate borne by one of Scotland's greatest sons? During a visit to the house by American writer Washington Irving, Scott is quoted (v. 4, p. 92) as saying:

“... to my eye, these grey hills, and all this wild border country, have beauties peculiar to themselves. I like the very nakedness of the land; it has something bold, and stern, and solitary about it. When I have been for some time in the rich scenery about Edinburgh, which is like ornamented garden land, I begin to wish myself back again among my own honest grey hills; and if I did not see the heather, at least once a-year, *I think I should die!*”

Well, he is dead now but could you not honour his memory and his vision and preserve as much as possible for future generations the same prospects he saw and loved when alive? Surely the country is big enough to place this housing development elsewhere.

Please, I urge you to reconsider this very short-sighted and harmful proposal.

M. Fransiszyn

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