

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RAWS-Z

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

Submitted on **2021-01-25 23:59:22**

About you

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

Group / organisation

Group / organisation

Group / organisation

Group / organisation:

Scottish Civic Trust

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:

The Scottish Civic Trust objects strongly to the designed rural setting setting of Abbotsford house being compromised by designating the site on the other side of the Tweed River for residential development, at Netherbarnes.

It is important that it is not only the House but also the Gardens that create the heritage site's magical atmosphere.

Claims that Abbotsford House and Gardens would benefit from screening of this development by use of trees are not convincing. This would not be effective even during summer, and much less so in winter after leaf fall, especially given that Abbotsford House and gardens are now open in December, to visitors. The associated light, sound and visual intrusions of a residential development will impact adversely on Abbotsford's unique heritage assets, historic setting and the cultural landscape of the Scottish Borders and Tweed Valley.

Scottish Borders Council must of course seek to release sufficient land supply for residential development within its boundaries - but surely there must be alternatives available which do not compromise the setting of an important heritage asset in this way.

Scottish Borders Council has to play its part here, in protecting a key national asset for Scotland's tourist economy.

We now quote from the Abbotsford House Gardens description:

"The garden at Abbotsford is distinct in character; taken together, the layout forms three outdoor 'rooms' designed to offer picturesque settings for the main house. The gardens we see today are still fundamentally Scott's work, though with certain alterations carried out by his descendants to adapt the space for the changing needs of the family.

The garden is compact, fragrant, colourful and detailed. It is contained within high walls, with the facades of the house setting a scene which could be straight out of one of Scott's historical romances. You can look up to Scott's 'Juliette' balcony sited at his bedroom window, see across to a 'Rapunzel' tower which overlooks the river, and explore the gothic staircase leading to the meadow beyond. Find Scott's greenhouse based on a medieval jousting tent, and spot the heritage vegetables and fruit growing in the kitchen garden. Sit back and enjoy the heady scents of the herbaceous borders, or take a stroll to the river.

The garden was designed by Sir Walter Scott with advice from artists, architects and friends. It is a rare surviving example of a Regency garden layout – and completely different from the English Landscape Garden which 'Capability' Brown made his own in the previous decades. Abbotsford's garden aims to provide a harmonious transition between the luxury and comfort of the interiors of the house with wonders of nature in the wider estate through a series of secluded, richly detailed and sheltered 'rooms'. It would have showcased the latest plants discovered from around the globe, both in its borders and 'stove houses', and was

tended by William Bogie, a Frenchman trained by one of the most celebrated gardeners of the day."

We urge the Local Authority to preserve this unique site.

Do you wish to submit supporting information?

Submissions:

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Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)

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Which Site are you commenting on?

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