

From: [REDACTED]
To: [willdp](#)
Subject: Proposal to re-zone Preston Field for Housing
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LINLITHGOW SITE H LL - 12 PRESTON FARM FIELD

I am making this submission as an individual representing my own views. This is my first representation on the proposed plan.

I believe that Preston Field should remain protected from housing developments. Preston Fields is between Preston House and Cockleroy. It is a beautiful piece of land that was recognised as an Area of Great Landscape Value. However, now that Cala Homes have drawn up detailed plans to build 68 large properties on the area West Lothian Council have decided to re-zone this area to allow for housing. The land used to be part of an estate owned by the Seatons and the adjoining Preston House is a grade A listed mansion. As Historic Scotland have said, "Planning authorities must take into account the setting of historic assets or places when drawing up development plans and guidance, when considering various types of environmental and design assessments/ statements, and in determining planning applications." To allow suburban housing in this field would not take into account the historic setting of Preston House.

The field is also an important site for biodiversity, As agricultural land the field has high grade 3.1 crops in it. This would be lost to agriculture as well as to the protected species living in and close by. The field is a central feeding territory for a sett of Badgers living next to it. A British Waterways survey (2011) shows the 'Preston Clan' badgers are active in this field. It is likely that this clan of badgers would be lost if housing developments were allowed on this site. Badgers are a UK protected species. Also the Bat Conservation Trust have observed Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle and Netterer Bats in Preston Fields. Loss of arable fields providing insects and increased lighting from housing would have a negative effect on these bats which are protected in EU law. These protected species should be allowed to remain safe in this field.

68 additional large houses or any housing developments would increase the amount of traffic in the Deanburn Road, Preston Road, Riccarton Road and High Street area. This area is already horribly congested. There are two primary schools and Donaldson's School for the Deaf on Preston Road. At peak times parents park all along Preston Road, Preston Terrace, Preston Crescent and Preston Avenue. At school pick up times many parents returning from work feel the need to park dangerously on single yellow lines, on pavements and across driveways (blocking in or out local residents). Some park in the primary school staff car park and block it. Parents and children crossing Preston Road, to get to the park opposite the school, dodge badly parked cars. Yet to park close to the school grandparents and less mobile parents are forced to park up to 30 minutes before pick up time. I have limited mobility and can not walk up Preston Road to [REDACTED], I used to park 30 mins. before pick up and drop off times just so that I could park near to the school. The school had agreed to let me use

the staff car park but it was always full. Eventually I bought a mobility scooter and now use that to do the school run. Preston Road is a main road into Linlithgow and is used by trucks, lorries, buses and coaches, they share this busy road with locals and parents of school children, the council has installed traffic calming measures on Preston Road and Riccarton Road but they do not address the problem of congestion. It is a dangerous job for lollypop men and women, and despite their efforts an accident seems inevitable. I hope it does not take an accident to happen before planners accept that the roads around these school can not cope with more cars on them. Housing in Preston Fields would inevitably put more cars on these roads.

Linlithgow High Street is already very congested. When plans for the Linlithgow Retail Park at the west end of the town were brought to the public for consultation we were assured that the High Street could cope with the extra traffic. Today everyone in Linlithgow would agree that it can not, the road is badly congested during morning and evening rush hours. The extra traffic causes greater wear and tear on the road and means the council regularly needs to patch and resurface parts of the High Street, as they are currently doing, causing yet more traffic chaos. So when the same council reassures us that they surveys show that the west end of Linlithgow can manage the increased traffic resulting from new housing in Preston Fields I and many other local people do not believe them. Finally back to the schools in Linlithgow. They are already full, most classes are above the recommended class size set by the Scottish Government. Promises of a new academy in Winchburgh sometime in the future will not serve the immediate needs created by additional housing at Preston Fields or help the full primary schools.

So I again, I ask you, please do not re-zone Preston Fields to allow for housing developments. It is a beautiful site, prime agricultural land and home to protected badgers and bats. Housing would increase demands on the nearby roads which are already dangerously congested, and the local schools which are oversubscribed. It would be impossible to improve the roads or open new schools in time to cope with more families and their cars.