

From: [REDACTED]
To: [wldp](#)
Subject: Objection to part of LDP - urgent
Date: 21 November 2015 16:42:12

Proposed release for housing development of Land east of Manse Road and south of Oatlands Park, Linlithgow

This proposal is unsound on both technical and aesthetic grounds and my objections may be tabulated as follows:

1. This is a **greenfield site which is outside the current settlement boundary.**
2. Extraordinarily, the land is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value ("AGLV") and this is a high priority designation, but see also 3. below.
3. The field is "**Prime Agricultural Land**" carrying the highest designation and is part of the 8% of land of this quality in the whole of Scotland. The current Local Plan states that this farmland merits general protection from development. There is simply no point in having these vital designations and distinctions if they are to be ignored - this proposal represents the antithesis of "planning"
4. **Protected species** such as bats and badgers have their homes on this site - they too need protection, in fact more so, as humans owe them regard of the highest order.
5. There would be **significant adverse impact on the approach to Linlithgow from the south.** Houses would obtrude upon the skyline, breaching the Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Local Development Plan. The land is an integral part of the AGLV (see 2. above). Development here would erode the boundary and Linlithgow would start to "bulge" in this direction where there is no precedent.

This is land beside which I walk on several days per week. Put simply, it is agricultural land of great beauty. Future generations would look at houses here and say "how on earth could this have happened?" We owe our successors better than this and housing development should not and indeed ought not to be considered on this site.

Finally, before moving permanently here to live three years ago, I lived in [REDACTED] for over 40 years. It is the most wooded county in the UK and has large areas of AGLVs, indeed, I lived next to one in [REDACTED]. I can confidently say that a proposal like this would never have been countenanced there. I was confident that Scotland, of all great places, would maintain similar standards. I sincerely hope this is true.

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