

Alexander Gunyon

From: Peter Klappa [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: Comment on Canterbury City Council Draft Local Plan 2040

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Madam/Sir,

I am responding as a frequent visitor to the Canterbury District.

My comments are in relation to Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Draft Local Plan and in particular to policy C12 of Chapter 2.

I am resolutely opposed to the suggestion to construct a new town of 2000 houses on prime agricultural land that is essential for local biodiversity and borders ancient forests. The Council's actions contradict their own policies, hastily pushing forward a flimsy case instead of seeking an exemption due to Canterbury's exceptional circumstances. Developments of such magnitude should prioritize the numerous brownfield sites before even considering paving over the countryside.

The areas of Blean, Tyler Hill, and the Sarre Penn Valley are renowned for their rich historical and cultural heritage, rendering them truly exceptional places. The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, situated along the route of the ancient Roman Salt Road, stands as a prominent local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a nationally significant cycling path, consistently attracts tourists to this region.

Discoveries from archaeological digs uncovered implements employed by Mesolithic hunters, while a sequence of Bronze Age burial mounds resides in the field close to the church. Additionally, a vast medieval enclosure ditch, related to the neighbouring Blean Manor House, recorded in the Domesday Book, exists. Numerous heritage sites and conservation zones are located in and bordering the entire area slated for development. These are all safeguarded by National Planning Regulations. It is bewildering how the Council could even contemplate permitting building in this locale.

The tract designated as the main access point to the proposed community currently houses the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Astronomical Observatory, and newt-inhabited ponds. This area hosts a substantial concentration of Great Crested newts in Southern England, continuously monitored since 1994. The commencement of the development will result in their irreversible loss.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Klappa, PhD

Name: Dr Peter Klappa
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