

Alexander Gunyon

From: Gill [REDACTED]
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I am responding as former employee of the University of Kent at Canterbury, now a frequent visitor to the Canterbury area.

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 strongly oppose the proposal to construct a new town of 2000 residences on land to the north of the University of Kent at Canterbury as this land 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.

Blean, Tyler Hill, the Sarre Penn Valley and their surroundings are steeped in history and heritage, rendering them truly special places. The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, positioned along the route of the ancient Roman Salt Road, stands as a prominent local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a nationally renowned cycling path, consistently attracts tourists to this region.

Unearthed artefacts shed light on implements wielded by Mesolithic hunters, while a succession of Bronze Age burial mounds dot the field adjacent to the church. Moreover, a colossal medieval enclosure ditch, linked to the neighbouring Blean Manor House, referenced in the Domesday Book, exists. Numerous heritage sites and conservation zones encompass and border the entire development area. These are safeguarded by National Planning Regulations. It's bewildering how the Council could even contemplate permitting construction in this locale.

The land plot chosen as the main access point to the envisioned community currently encompasses the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Astronomical Observatory, and newt ponds. This area hosts a significant concentration of Great Crested newts in Southern England, continuously studied since 1994. The development's commencement will lead to their permanent eradication.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Woodhams

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