
Focused Consultation on changes to the draft Local Plan (September 2025)

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To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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This submission to the Focused Consultation on changes to the draft Local Plan (September 2025) is from the Save The Blean group which represented local communities and local residents in their opposition to Policy C12 for a development of 2000 houses on Land North of the University of Kent. We worked with 1500 local residents who submitted responses to Policy C12, and coordinated an online petition which was signed by about 25,000 people calling for this landscape to be protected against development.

We wholeheartedly welcome the decision to delete Policy C12 from the new draft of the Local Plan. We concur with the reasons given for the deletion.

- There would have been no suitable access to the proposed site.
- The costs of the demolition and relocation of Blean Primary School would have been abnormal and unacceptable.
- The development would have had an entirely unacceptable impact on the highways network.
- It would have had an extremely harmful impact on local ecology and the natural environment, including the loss of ancient woodland.

In connection with that last point we are pleased to note the recognition that the woodland in question is indeed ancient woodland, despite the claims to the contrary which were at one stage made by the site promoter.

These reasons for deleting the proposal are endemic to the site and would also be insuperable objections to any future proposal for large-scale development in this location. We hope that Canterbury City Council will, in the future, support the positive proposals which our group has made to the University for more environmentally friendly use of the land which would protect its ecological value at the heart of the Blean Woodland Complex.

Richard Norman - for 'Save The Blean'