

**From:** Eleanor Preston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 May 2026 16:55  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Regulation 19 draft Local Plan consultation (2026)

**--Email From External Account--**

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Whitstable I would like to make the following points in relation to Chapter 3 of the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan consultation as it relates to Whitstable.

I do not believe that the development at Brooklands Farm is sustainable or in the best interests of Whitstable or the urgent need to protect our environment and its diversity and arrest the decline in native species' populations.

I do not believe that the council has taken into sufficient account the alternative site adjacent to Kent University which would be a far more sustainable option.

Policy **W4 Brooklands Farm** does not comply with **NPPF Policy 110** which states *Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes.*

National census data for Chestfield shows that most working residents commute by car, many of them to Canterbury. So, the Brooklands site is much less sustainably-located than, for example, an equivalent development on fields close to the University of Kent (This was site C12 in the draft Local Plan of 2024). The University of Kent is the largest employer in Canterbury District, and the site benefits from relatively good proximity to a good range of schools. There are frequent shuttle buses to/from the centre of Canterbury, and there is also a cycle-route to the City centre.

7. Policy **W4 Brooklands Farm** would be contrary to **NPPF paragraph 135** which states that: *Planning policies.... should ensure that developments: a) will .... add to the overall quality of the area .... b) are visually attractive ..... and c) are sympathetic to local character*

Nor does Policy **W4** comply with **paragraph 187** which states *Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.... (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan) and b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside*

In the not-yet-superseded Canterbury Local Plan (2017), Brooklands Farm, Longtye Wood and Convicts Wood are all part of the **Blean Woods Area of High Landscape Value** (AHLV). This followed extensive evaluation in the 1990s of their role as the *setting* of the Blean Woods, i.e. providing a viewpoint where people can see the wooded upland of The Blean framed by lower lying fields and pasture. These fields have been farmed for thousands of years, ever since the days of the prehistoric people who built the Barrows in Clowes Wood, overlooking Brooklands Farm. Canterbury City Council propose to remove the AHLV protection on the basis of erroneous

comments in a report they commissioned when they decided they wanted to build a housing estate on Brooklands Farm (*Canterbury District Local Landscape Designations Review and Recommendations*, 2021).

The landscape of Brooklands Farm is unique and irreplaceable. It combines Ancient Woodland, traditional hedgerows, traditional cattle-pasture, open wheatfields and a characterful brook, almost all of which can be enjoyed from the two public footpaths that crisscross the farm.

Rather than complying with Policies 135 and 187, the **Local Plan's proposals would severely reduce the overall quality of the area** and would obliterate the unique local character of the landscape as well as harming local biodiversity. The increased population would also increase traffic, further harming the local environment.

Kent is a rural county, including the areas around Whitstable. Please do not allow this development to be case of concreting over nature.

Yours faithfully

Eleanor Preston

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