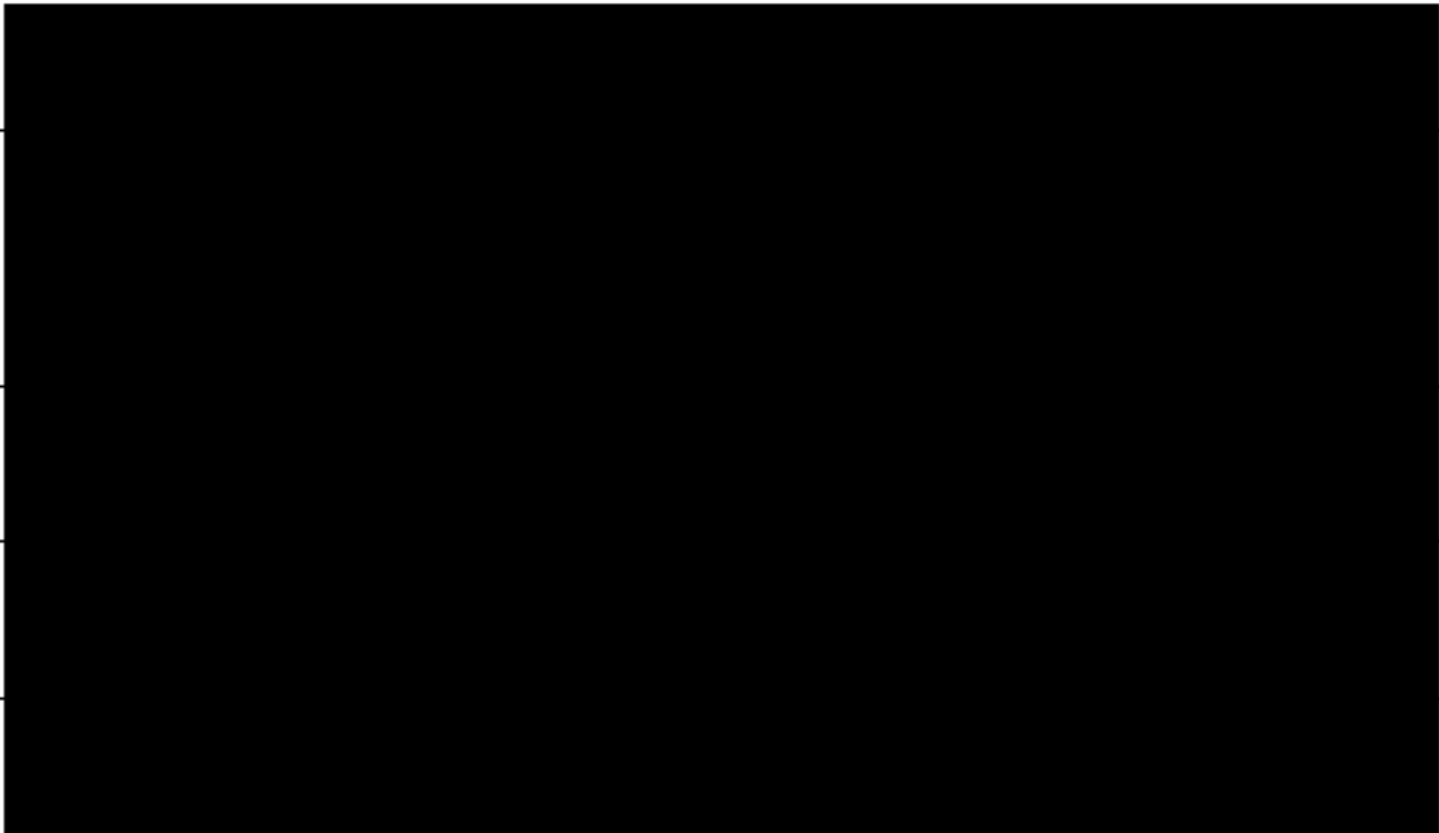


# TWBC Draft Local Plan, August 2019

## Response to Policy AL/CRS10 Cranbrook School (CfS Reference: Site 128)

More specifically Scott Field, southern part of Site 128

<b>Your details (please give full contact details)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Dr Nick Vinall
<b>Company/organisation (if relevant)</b>	Cranbrook Windmill Association
<b>Are you responding as an individual or organisation, or as an agent on behalf of somebody else?</b>	As an organisation
<b>If you are an <u>agent</u>, please specify who you are representing</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Postal address</b>	
<b>Town</b>	
<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	

## TWBC Local Plan response

### Policy AL/CRS10 Cranbrook School (CfS Reference: Site 128)

#### Our background

Cranbrook Windmill Association (CWA) is commissioned by Kent County Council to open the windmill for public access and to operate it on a non-commercial basis as circumstances allow over the summer months. The windmill is owned by Kent County Council. It is situated 25m to the south of Site 128.

CWA is anxious to ensure that any developments on Scott Field (part of Site 128 just to the north of the windmill) do not have a significantly adverse impact on:

- **views of the windmill** from the surrounding countryside
- the windmill's **access to wind**

These issues are highlighted in the **Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Plan, Draft July 2019**

*“Cranbrook Windmill is an iconic landmark within the town. Visitors and residents alike love to see it ‘come alive’ with the sails (sweeps) turning by wind power, which is a rare sight in modern day.*

*Furthermore, access to the wind is a vital part of the windmill's heritage value. Protecting the windmill and its surrounding area is essential for the local identity of the parish.”*

#### Views of the windmill

Cranbrook's iconic windmill is Grade 1 Listed. It is the tallest and arguably the finest smock mill in England. As such it was chosen by the Science Museum to be the model for this type of windmill on its educational poster.

Sited on high ground at the top of The Hill the windmill is visible from many parts of Cranbrook and is frequently used in publicity material for the town.

The **Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Plan** fully recognises the visual importance of the windmill and other historic buildings. The **Protection of Key Views** policy states:

- *Views of key buildings, roofscapes and landscapes should be protected and not harmed by new development.*
- *Opportunities to improve vistas and views of significant buildings within the parish will be encouraged within any new developments.*
- *Planning applications should consider and demonstrate the effect of the development on views of any one of the key buildings listed below and provide detailed intention within the planning application to sustain the visual prominence of these key buildings.*

The windmill is second in the list of historic Cranbrook buildings that follows the above statement.

#### Summary

Cranbrook Windmill Association would object strongly to developments on Scott Field that are higher than two-storeys and which would contravene the **Key Views** policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**We would not object to possible low level (two storeys maximum) development on Scott Field.**

## Access to wind

Cranbrook windmill is one of a small number of windmills in England that are in full working order and with much of its original drive machinery still in use. It has been featured by the Science Museum as a working example of the ability to harness wind power upon which the country depended for 700 years.

Access to the wind is a vital part of the windmill's heritage value. Without sufficient wind the windmill simply will not work. There is also an emotional element in that people, especially children, love to see it 'come alive' with the sails turning. Visitor numbers shoot up when the sails start turning.

## Impact of possible development on wind flow

It is not easy for lay people to assess the impact that a particular development will have on the flow of wind reaching the windmill. But wind engineers in Holland have developed a mathematical model which is used there. The Dutch title 'Molen Biotoop' translates as 'Windmill Living Space'. The English version is at: <https://translate.google.co.uk/translate?hl=en&sl=nl&u=http://www.molenbiotoop.nl/&prev=search>

**The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), Mills Division**, have also promoted this model to ensure that the small number of surviving working windmills continue to have access to the wind.

**The Neighbourhood Plan** highlights that the Molen Biotoop Model implies that:

- In practice no development within 100m of the windmill shall be higher than the existing or adjacent buildings. **This means that two storey developments would be fine.**
- At distances between 100m – 400m from the windmill development should not be allowed if it affects the wind speed at the windmill by more than 5% in any direction, as calculated by the Molen Biotoop Model. **Again, two storey developments would be fine. Larger ones would depend on their size and distance away.**

## Summary

**If the above principles are adhered to then Cranbrook Windmill Association will not object to developments on Scott Field.**

For convenience the aerial view shows the approximate areas affected.

Dr Nick Vinall  
Chair, Cranbrook Windmill Association  
12 November 2019

