

**From:** Vivian Falk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 December 2022 19:49  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Planning Application s62a220005, Canfield Moat, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1TD

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed development of Canfield Moat. I lived there with my family from 1984 until 2006. During that time my late husband did considerable research into the history of the property.

Canfield Moat was built in 1839 by the Rev. Charles Lesingham-Smith, the Rector of Little Canfield. It is an extremely handsome, early Victorian house, but built in Georgian style. Lesingham-Smith was a Victorian polymath; as well as being a clergyman, he was a writer, poet and botanist, who subsequently left his literary collection to Christ's College Cambridge, where there is a Lesingham-Smith library. He also planted many of the trees surrounding the house, as evidenced in the illustrations in his books of poetry. After his death in 1872 the house continued to be used as the village rectory until it was sold by the Church in the mid-1930's. The first owner subsequently was the brother of Earl Alexander of Tunis. It is also believed that it was almost certainly built on the site of a much older property which was encircled by a moat, remnants of which remain.

In addition to the historic interest of the house itself, during our tenure there was talk of a possible Roman settlement in the field to the east of the house. This land has never, to my knowledge, been cultivated, but the proximity of the old Roman Road (now the B1256) would suggest that before any development of the site is allowed, this should be properly investigated.

In conclusion, I feel this application should be rejected on the grounds of historic and cultural vandalism.

Yours faithfully,

Vivian Falk (Mrs)