



Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)

Deadline 2: Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Invitation to complete the ExA`s USI of 26 February 2025, USI 1 (case Ref. ENO10147 EV2-004) in which access was hindered by privacy concerns.

1. An excerpt from EV2-004, Part 2 para 2 stated:

`From here, the ExA drove along Spring Hill Road to observe Hall Farm and reached the private driveway to Spring Hill Farm but did not access the private land.`

2. Through an officer, BYG can permit the ExA Inspectors to proceed by vehicle up the 1km long private driveway and thereby gain access to Spring Hill and its environs. From here, and accessed by public footpath, wide ranging views can be had of the Central Site.

3. At the top of Spring Hill at the end of the vehicular access track is the Grade 2 Listed Farmhouse, Spring Hill House, shown in Land Plan 7 (APP 007, 2.4; and Statutory Historic and Scheduled Sites Plan, APP 012 2.9, p13). A walk of 200 metres from the house along a public footpath then takes the pedestrian to the intersection of four footpaths (OS 463127), one of which is Shakesepeare`s Way (420/14/10, the others being 420/15/10; 420/16/10; and 420/15/30), and to a view westward over the Evenlode Valley and Burleigh Farm (Land Plans 6, 8, 9 and 10).

4. A further 300 metres of public footpath (420/15/30) takes the walker to a closer view of the same, including the spire of Church Hanborough to the west (a distance of 3.5km), the church spire of Cassington to the southwest (2.5km), and the rising ground of the ancient woodland of Bladon Heath to the northwest (1.5km).

5. These two locations are of interest on several fronts:

- they give a unique, elevated view across the Evenlode Valley and the two valley sides that are scheduled for panels in the central section of the BWSF site.
- they provide clear views of the perfectly preserved farmland and village *setting* of the 300-year-old Blenheim working estate, together with its associated

ancient hedgerows, woodlands and historic footpaths that make up part of the value of the Blenheim WHS;

- they show the undulating, wooded, estate farmland of exceptional amenity value to the hundreds of walkers every week who walk these paths;
- they show part of the ring of hills that constitutes a key element in Oxford's historic setting, contributing to the preservation of the City's setting and special character (Cherwell Green Belt Study, LUC, 2017).

Note: Aerial view photo montage showing extent of panels in middle site was submitted with this ASI.

6. This invitation could include vehicular pick-up and return at the point where the ExA reached the private driveway on 26 February.

