



*Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)*

Deadline 2: BYG WRITTEN REPRESENTATION 5

**Comments on the written question 1.6.9 by the ExA to HE and ICOMOS**

1. In written question 1.6.9 the ExA has asked Historic England and ICOMOS to advise on whether aerial views of the BWSF site should be taken into account in terms of the assessment of the setting.
2. Given the considerable aeroplane, helicopter, and drone activity over the site, BYG considers that this question is effectively rhetorical and that the value of attaching an importance to the views of the site from above is indisputable. There is a high level of activity in and out of London Oxford Airport, and Brize Norton is frequently used by visiting dignitaries. Blenheim is also on the flight path of planes using Birmingham airport.
3. To illustrate the impact on the setting that BWSF would have on the WHS, BYG has prepared the attached marked-up Google Earth image showing panel locations as set out in the Illustrative Masterplan (APP-062). Although not professionally done, BYG considers that the panel location portrayed is accurate; and that the image provides a reliable indication of how the site might appear from above after its completion.

4. This image makes it very clear that, when seen from above, BWSF would be harmful to the overall setting of the WHS. The impact would be even more dramatic when sunlight is glinting on the panels.
5. The image is also a good illustration of the disjointed nature of the site arising from the haphazard location of the various fields that have been made available. This reinforces the view that decisions on site selection have been made following agreement with a landlord rather than a careful review of possible sites which would have resulted in reduced impacts, been less harmful for local inhabitants, and would not have been sited on Green Belt land.

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Following: a photo montage showing the solar panels that would surround Blenheim Palace if BWSF is developed.

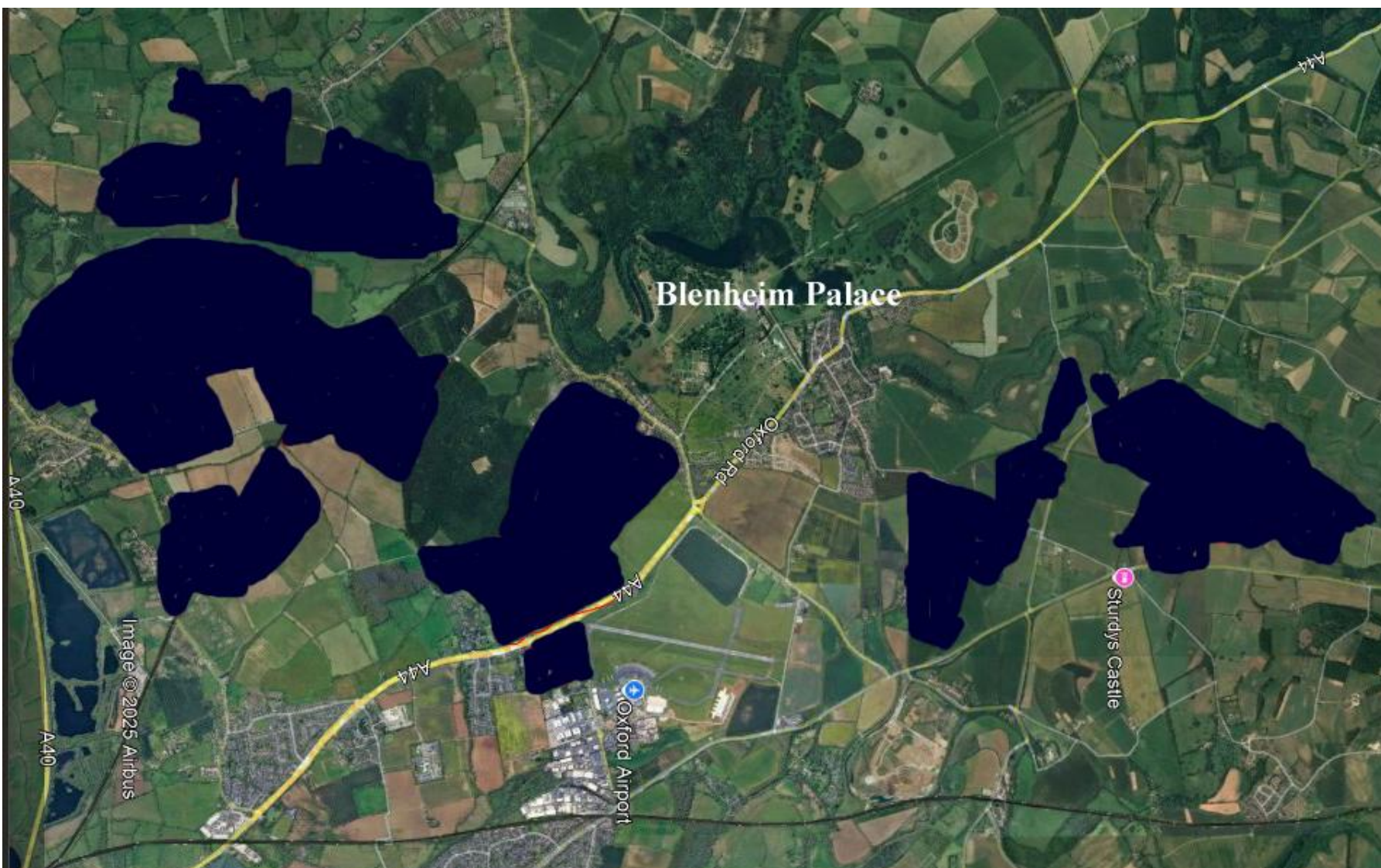


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