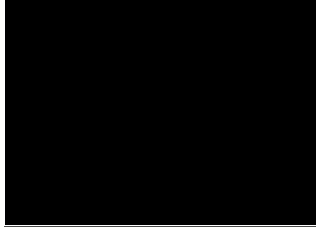

DVH Price & Son

Perdiswell Farm

Woodstock

Mobile



8th July 2025

Project: EN10147

Subject: Update on Northern Land area and soil quality referenced in Blenheim's Submission

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am reviewing the document titled EN010147-001193 - Blenheim Palace – Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) as part of the ongoing examination of the Botley West Solar Farm proposal.

I have farmed a significant area of the Northern Land area for over 20 years and have more experience and data available than anyone else. I would like to update you on farming practices and point out the inadequacies in the response from Blenheim.

Firstly I have significantly improved the productiveness of the land that I farm as it was in a similar state to the land referenced in the central area when we started farming it in 2003. The datasets that they claim aren't available for this land *are* available and the results are not similar as the farming practices that I use are significantly different to those practised in the central area. A farmer does not grow crops by applying "significant intervention through artificial fertiliser" he grows crops by farming well. I have improved soil quality and productivity through regenerative farming practices. These include but are not limited to the use of organic manures, cover crops, livestock integration, direct drilling and crop rotation. Blenheim confirm this where they mention the higher indices to the North of the central area and how these were achieved just with the use of organic manures.

Secondly and with reference to my last sentence above Blenheim contradict themselves with their claim as to what the solar project will achieve. They stated, incorrectly, that the only way to grow crops is with significant intervention of artificial fertiliser but then state that the reason the land has been improved in the northern

central area is through the previous tenants use of anaerobic waste and green compost. This last statement for the northern area is true as I have done the same with the regenerative practices mentioned in the paragraph above and seen fantastic results. This has taken significant investment over a number of years and yet they claim they will achieve similar increases by “resting” the land. It is absurd to suggest that simply leaving land fallow with no interventions other than shading it with solar panels will somehow improve it. The solar panels aren’t connected to the ground, they are connected to the national grid.

Given the importance of these results in supporting Blenheim's argument that the land is agriculturally degraded and not Best and Most Versatile (BMV), it is crucial to understand where their evidence is that “resting” the ground will improve it.

Could you please ask Blenheim to provide this evidence and data that they are using to support their argument?

Thank you for your assistance.

[REDACTED] - Partner

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[REDACTED]