

Comments on the submission by the Applicant at D2: Notification of Intention to Submit a Request to Change the Application 2.

I look forward to seeing detailed information about the proposed 'community' food growing initiative and education facility when the Change Request is submitted. At this point I have the following comments.

The Applicant intends to remove the solar installation area, fence, maintenance roads and gates from the fields to the south-east of Bladon in order to preserve the visual setting of the Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, as advised by Historic England. At the same time the Applicant proposes to construct an educational facility building on the same area of land. Surely the rationale for refraining from installing solar infrastructure should preclude the construction of an education facility building?

The proposals for so-called 'community' food growing and for the education facility have not been informed by consultation or dialogue with the local community (as I outlined in my comments on the Applicant's responses to Q1.16.8 and Q1.16.21). A locally-informed and more locally-appropriate plan for the use of land that will not be used for solar panels and other infrastructure could be achieved if the proposals were submitted through the Local Planning Authority process. Surely proposals for initiatives that are not an integral part of the solar farm should be subject to the usual Local Planning Authority process rather than being subsumed in the DCO application for the solar farm?