



Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)

Deadline 4: BYG Comments on Applicant's Draft Accompanied Site Inspection Itinerary REP3-067

These comments refer specifically to the ASI listed in the Applicant's para **REP3-067**, para 1.1.6, as Springhill Road, also shown as Location 5 in para 2.1.

This site is of particular relevance to BYG's constituency. It is the subject of BYG's Deadline 2 submission (**REP2-063**) inviting ExA to complete its USI of 26 February 2025 (USI 1, case Ref. **ENO10147 EV2-004**) during which access was hindered by privacy concerns. The Fig. 2 map below gives an overview of the relevant section of the overall BWSF site.

The characteristics of the site portion to be inspected from Location 5 are also described in detail in the RR from BYG chair Giles Lewis (**RR-0356**).

1. Through his residence on Hall Farm land, BYG chair Lewis has full access to, and familiarity with, the land proposed for the Inspection visit. He is proposing to act as the Attendee indicated in para 2.1.4 (4) of the Applicant's ASI Draft Itinerary.
2. Location 5 in Table 2.1 is indicated by the Applicant as the stopping point in Springhill Road where the ASI will start. The Applicant's map in **REP3-067.13.5** also shows the Applicant's stopping point 5 in this position. This is the point where the planned USI was terminated through privacy concerns.

However, this location does not provide any visual coverage of the landscape views in question. It is necessary to drive up the (moderately potholed) track to its end at Springhill House, recommended by BYG as the 'required stopping point'. The Attendants can de-bus there before walking on public footpaths to two viewing points which *do* achieve a wide-ranging view of much of the Middle Section, as recommended in BYG's **REP2-063**.
3. These two viewing points are shown on the extract made by BYG from the Applicant's map (see Fig. 1). These points, particularly viewpoint 2, will give a panoramic view over the fields south of Bladon to the east-facing hillsides across the valley below the church of St Peter and St Paul, Church Hanborough; and to those running south from there to St Peter's, Cassington.

4. Observation of these views is recommended by Historic England in their **REP1-086 7.1-7.2** and their **REP2-055**:

‘Historic England recommends the ExA walk the Public Rights of Ways through the agricultural fields (part of the application site) to the south and southwest of Bladon and observe the visual connection and contribution these fields make as part of the setting of the WHS, Blenheim Palace, Blenheim RPG and the churches of St Peter and St Paul, Church Hanborough, St Peter’s, Cassington and St Michael’s in Begbroke

5. The two viewing points in question must be reached by public footpath across fields from the required stopping point. The additional time needed to reach the *required* stopping point by minibus, then walk to and from the viewing points before returning to the required stopping point and thence by minibus to the Applicant’s stopping point, means that the time estimates suggested by the Applicant are significantly understated.

5. BYG has driven and walked the necessary distances from the Applicant’s stopping point to reach the required stopping point by minibus and the two viewpoints (there and back) on the track and by public footpath. Time taken was as follows:

Stopping Point to Required Stopping Point (drive)	5 min
De-bus RSP, walk to Viewpoint 1	3 min
Viewing 1	5 min
Walk to Viewpoint 2	5 min
Viewing 2	8 min
Return by foot to RSP	8 min
Em-bus & return to SP	7 min
TOTAL	41 min

6. These comments should provide an itinerary in sufficient detail for visiting the Springhill Road site. BYG recommends it for adoption on Tuesday 7th October.

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Fig. 1a. below: an extract from the Applicant’s map - Figure 1 in REP3-067 - showing the recommended stopping and two viewing points for Springhill Road ASI. This indicates the fields to be crossed on foot to reach the viewing points.

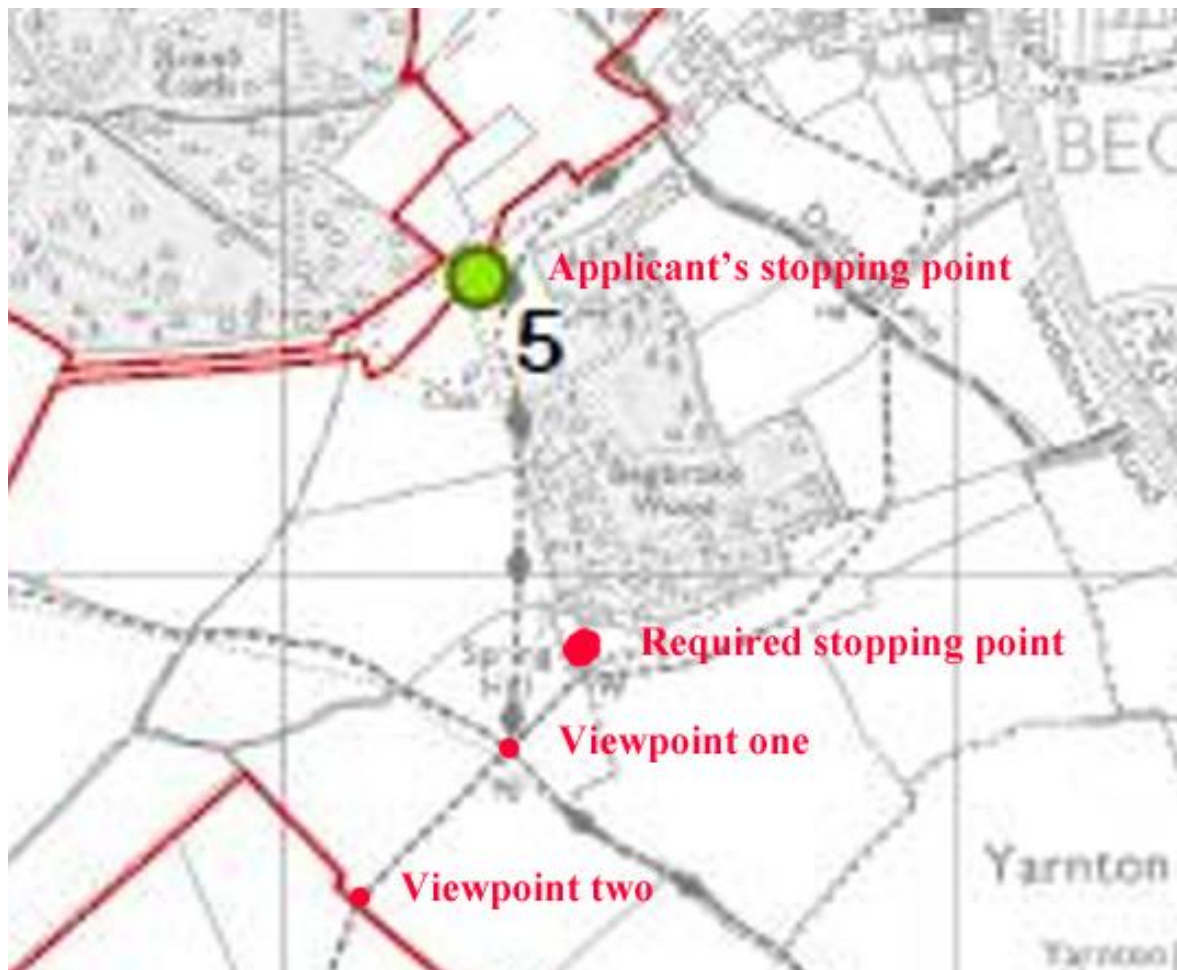


Fig. 2. below: overview of BWSF from the Springhill Road ASI, with viewing points in red, as recommended by BYG.

