

ExQ2.6.3 ICOMOS's comments about the importance of the setting of the WHS as being of Outstanding Universal Value and its integrity and authenticity being at risk are not really answered by the applicant. After all, Blenheim's own strategy review of a few years ago placed a great emphasis on the unspoilt countryside setting of the site beyond the walls. Why the change of heart?

ExQ2.6.9 I agree with Heritage England's assessment that the project would erode the character of the church of St Peter and St Paul within its traditional open agricultural setting and constitute at least "moderate harm". The applicant's premise that it is only the immediate vicinity of the churchyard that is significant is hopelessly wide of the mark.

ExQ2.11.7 Transition to net zero should not come at the cost of our food production. Large scale solar farms should not be built on BMV land, yet such NSIP's are currently disproportionately sited on the best quality land. According to climate projections, BMV land is 38% of the total today, but could fall to 11% by 2050. The UK imports 46% of its food (the world's third largest food importer) and arable land is now at its lowest level since the second world war. 100,000 acres are lost annually, while our population has risen by 10m since 1990. This is a disaster waiting to happen if we do not make wise decisions now.

ExQ2.13.8 Yes, the landscape character is defined by long sweeping views across undulating countryside. No, 3m high hedges will not reinforce landscape character, while maintaining views, as the applicant asserts. Just because some existing PROW's may be flanked by hedgerows doesn't mean the whole massive site can be made to look like that.