



*Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign (BYG)*

**Deadline 6, BYG: ADDENDUM, to BYG D6 Comment on tor&co's D5 representation on behalf of BE (REP5-063)**

Following submission of our **D6 Comment on tor&co's D5 representation** a further, relevant, document was posted on 2 October on the Cherwell DC planning portal. It deals with the application by Blenheim Estates for housing on land to the South of Perdiswell Farm (25/0150/OUT).

- 1.The document is a letter dated 17 September from the Director of UNESCO to the Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the UK to UNESCO. It deals with this planning application and also makes specific reference to BWSF.
- 2.The letter is attached for convenience. In it, UNESCO confirms its agreement with Historic England's view that the planning application contains "*insufficient information*" and asks for further assessments to be undertaken.
- 3.It also references the ICOMOS Technical Review of February 2024 and its relevance to the application and indicates that the cumulative impacts of developments around Blenheim, including BWSF, need to be assessed.
- 4.Our understanding of this letter is that it seeks that decisions on all development proposals around the WHS be delayed until there is a better understanding of their impact. The level of seniority at which it was written - and received - emphasises the global significance of the WHS.
- 5.As we conclude in our original representation on this matter (receipt ref. 37741), the work undertaken by tor&co on this planning application for housing has been seriously criticised by the relevant authorities on the issue. By extension, tor&co would appear not to have the relevant expertise to comment authoritatively on the impact of BWSF.

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unesco

[REDACTED]  
Ambassador  
Permanent Delegate of the United  
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland to UNESCO  
35 rue du Faubourg St Honore  
75008 Paris

17 September 2025 **Culture**

**Sector**  
**World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CLT /WHC/ENA/25/15409

Dear Ambassador,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of the letter from the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) dated 22 August 2024 concerning the state of conservation of the World Heritage property '**Blenheim Palace**'.

I have taken note of the proposal for a new development of up to 500 homes at Land South of Perdiswell Farm, within the wider setting of the property, which includes 35% affordable housing and additional woodland planting. I further note that this revised scheme provides an extra 0.41 hectares of woodland planting to the south, compared with the previously withdrawn proposal.

I acknowledge Historic England's concerns regarding insufficient information to assess the impacts on the 'Blenheim Palace' World Heritage property, and their request for further visualisations and an updated Heritage Impact Assessment. I welcome the fact that, in its advice to the local planning authority, Historic England referred to ICOMOS' Technical Review of February 2024, which addressed the broader issue of urban expansion in the setting of the property. I further welcome that both this ICOMOS review and Historic England's position were submitted to the Secretary of State for the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the context of the examination of the Local Plan Review 2042 draft Site Allocation (Cherwell District Council's draft Plan).

I would like to inform you that ICOMOS concurs with Historic England's position on this development proposal and no additional Technical Review will be provided at this point. As already communicated to your competent authorities by email, ICOMOS has, however, noted the existence of other ongoing applications in the wider setting of Blenheim, such as the Land North of Banbury Road, which should be considered in assessing cumulative impacts in addition to those of the Botley West Solar Farm.

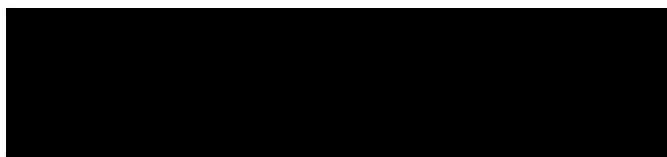
The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS would appreciate receiving the updated assessment in due course, in order to provide comments and further guidance to the State Party.

.../...

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
7, Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP France

I thank you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Lazare Eloundou Assomo  
Director

cc: United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO  
National Focal Points for the implementation of the Convention  
ICOMOS International