



## **Parish Council**

**Re: EXQ2 Question 2.5.5 and Applicant's Response**

**Re: Land retention at Church Hanborough and Long Hanborough for "community food growing" by PVDP or associates.**

**Re: Oral representations made in the Open Floor Hearing on 10/10/2025 (OFH1).**

This Note is the written response to the ExA for deadline 6 of 20/10/2025, noting what was said at the OFH3 on 10/10/2025.

I am Richard Devereux-Cooke, Chair of Hanborough Parish Council ("HPC"), and I submit this Note on behalf of HPC in support of what I said in the OFH3 for the record in this examination.

1. The parish of Hanborough includes the community of Church Hanborough. There is no separate parish council of "Church Hanborough".
2. HPC very strongly objects to the suggestion by the Applicant that land immediately to the east of Church Hanborough could be used for "community food growing" as some form of "community benefit" or in some way helping to achieve the biodiversity net gain ("BNG") which the Applicant ("PVDP on behalf of SolarFive UK Limited") claims for the overall BWSF project in the fields numbered 2.116 and 2.115 (*see our REP5-093*).
3. It is difficult to see how the use of this land in the way asserted can add any value to the application put forward by the Applicant. It has been said that the use of the land will be for the growing of onions under the umbrella of the OxFarmToFork scheme. Nothing has been presented to the Examination to show what, if any, additional BNG will be provided by growing onions, as

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opposed to simply continuing to use the land for the conventional agricultural use to which it has been put for many years.

4. It seems to us that this is simply exchanging one form of crop production for another. There is no history of any commercial growing of onions in the vicinity of Church Hanborough. In the absence of any more detailed information at all from the Applicant, HPC has to conclude that there is no particular benefit to either the local community or to local biodiversity to justify keeping this particular land within the Application red line boundary. We believe that it should be removed from the BWSF application.
5. We note the questions now being asked of the Applicant by way of the Rule 17 letter dated 14/10/2025. In respect of question 3, no formal consultation about the or any community food growing areas took place in respect of any of the land within the footprint of Hanborough Parish, including Church Hanborough.
6. In relation to question 4, HPC cannot see that any benefit would accrue to any part of the community within Hanborough Parish if the obviously commercial enterprise of the OxFarmtoFork were to be established within the ambit of the BWSF application. If Blenheim Estate, as by far the majority landowner of the land proposed to be committed to the BWSF project, wishes to provide some part of its overall landholding to such organisations as the Cherwell Collective or Sustainable Woodstock, then it does not need to do so within the red line boundary of the BWSF proposal or in any way under the aegis of the Applicant's project.
7. As to question 5, HPC, as the parish council, is not aware of any relationship with Cherwell Collective so far as the Hanborough community is concerned. Individual residents within the parish of Hanborough may be involved with the Cherwell Collective, but that would then presumably be as individuals and not in any more formal or established sense. HPC is not involved in any way with Cherwell Collective.

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8. We therefore submit these additional points in addition to those made at the OFH3 on 10/10/2025.

**For Hanborough Parish Council**

**20 October 2025**