

From: [REDACTED]@opvl.co.uk>
Sent: 26 October 2025 10:57
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: Historic England and new ICOMOS Report

Importance: High

Dear Simon,

I hope all goes well with you.

I thought I would write to you about something we spotted in Historic England`s Deadline 6 submission (para 2.2); that ICOMOS international is producing another report for the Examination.

There is no indication from HE as to what this additional report is going to cover. It would be surprising if HE does not know this as it is likely to have been involved in the discussions which led to it being commissioned.

No indication is given, either, as to when it will be produced, other than "before the end of the Examination". Again, it seems likely that HE would have discussed this with the ICOMOS staff doing the drafting. They would certainly have been able to do that.

The report will probably contain information that will be relevant to those IPs, such as BYG, who would like to cover the setting of the WHS in their Closing Statements. However, if the normal process for putting documents into the Examination is followed, the report would - at best - become an annex to a Deadline 7 representation from HE. That would of course mean that no other party would be able to comment on it before the end of the Examination, or to deal with it in their Closing Statements.

Given the importance of the issue to consideration of the BWSF project, this would be extremely unsatisfactory.

We think it would help if ExA could clarify how this new ICOMOS report is going to be dealt with. If we are not going to see it before D7 we will have to produce our Closing Statements without it. Clearly, no responsibility would attach to the ExA for that, but it would be an unfair breach of the reciprocation enjoyed so far by all participants in the Examination.

We respectfully suggest that the situation could be improved if the ExA were first to ask HE to clarify immediately what brief ICOMOS is working to, and what issues the report will address; then to confirm the report will be submitted to the ExA by, say, 3rd November. It could then be published in reasonable time for all parties to make representations about it at D7 and in their Closing Statements.

With our best wishes,

[REDACTED]
for BYG.

Raywood, Simon

From: [REDACTED]@opvl.co.uk>
Sent: 03 November 2025 15:34
To: Botley West Solar Farm
Subject: RE: Blenheim Palace WHS

Importance: High

Thank you for your email, Simon.

Re your last paragraph; yes, we are happy for you to enter our email into the Examination and for it thereby to be published should the ExA accept it.

We understand that you are unable to keep the content of the email confidential, though we would expect you to honour the two redactions regarding the addressee that we have made on the ICOMOS email.

Please do get back to me if you have any queries. For instance, in case you think it would it be appropriate for me to re-submit our email without the Post Script regarding confidentiality?

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 November 2025 13:45
To: [REDACTED]@opvl.co.uk>; Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Blenheim Palace WHS

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I appreciate the concerns that the Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt have on this matter. Thank you for your time on the phone and for understanding that this would be a decision for the Examining Authority. I have realised I did not mention the likely necessity to amend the timetable should the Examining Authority request information to be provided prior to Deadline 7 as suggested by the group. As I said on the phone, it is possible for post-examination submissions to be made, although we do not promote this, which although not seen by the Examining Authority would be passed to the Department for consideration whether they wished to take such as submission into consideration.

If I were to show the email below to the Examining Authority, it would have to be entered into the examination and be published. Therefore, I cannot keep the content of your email confidential. Are you content for your email to be published, if shown and accepted into examination by the Examining Authority?

Kind regards,

Simon



Planning
Inspectorate

Simon Raywood (He/His)
Case Manager – National Infrastructure
Planning Inspectorate

www.gov.uk/pins

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From: [REDACTED]@opvl.co.uk>

Sent: 29 October 2025 15:58

To: Botley West Solar Farm <BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Blenheim Palace WHS

Dear Simon,

Thank you for responding to my email of 26 October about the additional, impending ICOMOS Report. I do now understand ExA`s position on the timing of this in relation to the Examination process.

As you know, we have naturally been concerned about not being able to respond to the Report`s contents in time to affect (or not!) ExA`s thinking. I`m sure you will understand that we remained so after our telephone conversation (which was nevertheless much appreciated).

However, since we spoke, we are relieved to have seen the email below sent to one of our team today (redacted), which in general terms goes some way to alleviate our anxieties.

This may be helpful to ExA too, as they may also be concerned about not seeing the Report before making their Recommendation.

I would therefore ask if you could very kindly show the email to ExA.

Thank you, and best wishes,

[REDACTED]
for BYG.

PS. As far as we are concerned, our communication on this issue will be in confidence.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site

Date:Wed, 29 Oct 2025 14:24:25 +0100

From: [REDACTED]@icomos.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

■■■■ has asked me to thank you for the additional information and assure you that her World Heritage Monitoring Unit at ICOMOS Head Quarters continues to follow the situation, and that no weakening of the ICOMOS position is envisaged.

Yours sincerely

■■■■

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■■■■

Director of the International Secretariat / Directrice du Secrétariat international

ICOMOS

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