

Vistry appeal 24/00004/REF (CDC), Inspectorate code
3338211

15.3.24

To the planning inspector:

I have nothing either to add to, or retract from, the detailed points made in my letter to Cherwell District Council on 9.5.23 concerning the original submission of this grotesque proposal (CDC application number 23/00853/OUT) and remain implacably opposed to this intended green-field intrusion into the open countryside surrounding Hanwell village.

In more general terms, the last paragraph of that earlier letter summarizes the essence of the situation:

“In short, as the Council well knows, the absolute prevention of the coalescence of settlements, and in particular that of Banbury and Hanwell, has been a fundamental principle of local planning policy from at least the 1980s down to the present. Now must be the occasion for an emphatic restatement by Cherwell of that central principle as it applies to the remaining Banbury-Hanwell gap. This is crucial for the avoidance of misunderstanding among those outside interests intent on milking our North Oxfordshire countryside for their own personal profit regardless of the destructive effect of their actions on the local environment and on local residents’ quality of life. Those outside interests clearly believe that they only need to keep up the pressure by repeatedly lodging vexatious planning applications in order, sooner or later, to get their way: it is high time to put a stop to this once and for all.”

On that occasion, Cherwell’s Planning Committee unanimously rejected the application on unanswerably cogent planning grounds, following nearly 500 letters of objection. To overturn that decision now would be a travesty both of local democracy and of the most fundamental principles of the British planning system.

Christopher Taylor

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Hanwell Castle (since 1984)