

From: Campaign to Protect Old Woodstock C-POW <contact@c-pow.org.uk>
Sent: 02 September 2025 09:02
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: Land South of Perdiswell Farm 25/01510/OUT

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For the attention of Mr Jason Traves, Senior Planning Officer

Dear Mr Traves,

As you will know, C-POW has objected to this Application and to the allocation KID H1 in the Regulation 19 Draft of your 2042 Local Plan. As is clear from our objections, we contend that Woodstock would suffer significant and unacceptable impacts if the land South of Perdiswell Farm were to be developed for 450/500 dwellings.

As Woodstock residents, our elected representatives sit on WODC. We, of course, have no representatives on CDC and so have no one to communicate to us the Council's evolving views on this Application as representations are received.

We are therefore writing directly to ask what CDC is doing or intends to do in response to the advice given in relation to the Application by your consultee Historic England (HE). This advice is dated 31 July 2025 and appeared on your planning portal on 19 August 2025. In their advice, HE state that the Application documents do not contain sufficient analysis of the impact of the proposed development on the Blenheim Palace World Heritage site (WHS), that further work needs to be done and that, once it is done, HE wishes to review it before reaching a decision about the acceptability of the Application. HE also recommends that any decision on the Application is deferred until a notification response has been received from the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and/or advice has been received from the World Heritage Committee's Advisory Bodies (WHCAB).

Despite HE's comments, your planning portal still shows your Target Decision Date as 29 September 2025. Clearly, the requirements set out by HE are not going to be fulfilled by that date. Indeed, it is likely to take some months before the further work is done, reviewed by HE, WHC and WHCAB and their advice received.

In this context, CDC will also be aware that HE has recently supplied to the Botley West Solar Farm (BWSF) Examination a Technical Review of that scheme by ICOMOS dated August 2025 (Examination document REP4 0-56). This recommends (p9) that no further decisions be taken on the approval or implementation in respect of BWSF until various measures are completed and reviewed, specifically a cumulative impact assessment of all the development proposals on the fringes of the Blenheim Palace WHS. That includes this Application Site/KID H1, Land South of Perdiswell Farm. It is clear that ICOMOS is concerned about the risk to the integrity and authenticity of the WHS from all the developments proposed on its fringes, all of which are on Blenheim Estate land and promoted or supported by the Estate.

We believe that CDC should, in the light of the recommendations of these national and international bodies, review its approach and timetable for this Application. To ignore those recommendations would be wholly unreasonable and, according to ICOMOS, would put at risk the Outstanding Universal Value of a globally important heritage asset.

With this background, we would be grateful for confirmation that you intend to comply with the recommendations of HE and ICOMOS. Could you also please let us also know how complying with those recommendations will affect the decision making process for this Application.

Best wishes,

Andrew Rein

Treasurer

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C-POW

Campaign to Protect Old Woodstock