

Further comments - OBJECTION to planning submission APP/19/01048

We submit the following representations following the applicant's amendments and other comments:

1. UK law, national and statutory local policy give a very high level of protection to listed buildings and their settings. The Council acknowledges the application affects the setting of a listed building. The Council should issue a written assurance that the regulatory and ethical processes outlined in Mr. Warshaw's report will be fully implemented, including reference of the application to be considered in public at Committee. Any failure will be a clear breach of duty, referable to the Planning Ombudsman and actionable in law.
2. Without a rigorous heritage assessment any assertion that painting or screen planting would avoid or adequately mitigate harm to the historic asset is of no value in determination. Likewise the Heritage Team Leader's assertions in that regard as he has not visited the site.
3. The development as-built cannot be diminished by painting. It's prominence in relation to the listed building is significantly greater than the existing, more distant farm building, or the now replaced timber maize clamp. Any effective screen planting would be at least equally high, visually intrusive, and create an harmful increased sense of enclosure. Evergreen species are non-native to the area and additionally harmful as an alien feature in close proximity to the boundary and existing deciduous planting within North Farmhouse.
4. The NEHRA planning committee, of which we are members, comments appropriately of 'Northney Farm's importance to the character of the area. Bizarrely however their comments avoid any reference to the flouting of statutory process by the applicant, the importance of the listed building's setting or the failure of the council's management structure to respond either expeditiously to unauthorised development or at all to the listed building setting issue until 15 January. More bizarrely, NEHRA claim no expertise in making heritage judgements, yet do seem to do just that, associating feeding cattle with addressing climate change, despite compelling evidence that the earth's expanding cattle population and feed production is a primary contributor to the present climate emergency. <https://academic.oup.com/af/article/9/1/69/5173494>