

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Inspectorate

By email

22nd August 2025

Contact:

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BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM (BWSF) REF: EN010147

Cumnor Parish Council's Comments on the applicant's draft Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) itinerary

Introduction

1. Of the 1,418ha of land for the three solar power stations proposed by PVDP, 81ha - comprising the whole of the applicant's southern power station and the applicant's southern part of cable routes between the central and southern power stations - is located in Cumnor Parish, which in turn sits within the administrative area of the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC).
2. This submission constitutes Cumnor Parish Council's (CPC) comments on the applicant's draft Accompanied Site Inspections itinerary (ASI).

It should be read in combination with CPC's own Deadline 2 submission requesting an ASI in the Parish (**EN010147-001137-Cumnor Parish Council - Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B of the Rule 6 documentation, under 'Site Inspections'.pdf**) and Layla Moran MP's responses to the ExA's 1st written questions (**EN010147-001170-Layla Moran MP - Responses to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)**).

CPC documents submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for Deadlines 1, 2 and 3 can be found at the end of this document in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Cumnor Parish Council's comments

3. The following comments refer to the applicant's submission for D3 '*Botley West Solar Farm Applicant's Draft Accompanied Site Inspection Itinerary Submitted at Deadline 3 Document Ref: EN010147/APP/13.5'* (**EN010147-001427-13.5 Draft Accompanied Site Inspection Itinerary Rev 0.pdf**)
4. Para 1.1.9 page 1-2: CPC understands that the applicant, both in this para and verbally in conversation with LPAs, has asserted that the CPC proposed ASI locations '*have already been visited by the ExA*'.

While CPC welcomes and supports the intention to visit Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, the applicant's assertion is inaccurate, being partial in both senses of the word.

5. As evidence CPC refers the applicant and the ExA to its Deadline 2 submission requesting an ASI in the Parish (**EN010147-001137-Cumnor Parish Council - Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B of the Rule 6 documentation, under 'Site Inspections'.pdf**); specifically:
 - 5.1. Its acknowledgement of the ExA's February 2025 unaccompanied site inspection (**EN010147-000671-Botley West Solar Farm Examining Authority's Unaccompanied Site Inspection Note for USI1 on Monday 24 February 2025**)
 - 5.2. its reasons for the ASI request, expressed in four bullet points in para 2 on pages 2-3 of its ASI submission (**EN010147-001137-Cumnor Parish Council - Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B of the Rule 6 documentation, under 'Site Inspections'.pdf**)
6. In addition, and since that document was published, the applicant has:
 - 6.1. asserted the invisibility of the project from the Grade II Upper Whitley Farm (see CPC response to ExA q1.6.29 in para 9 on page 4 of **EN010147-001336-Cumnor Parish Council - Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1).pdf**); and
 - 6.2. launched an unsatisfactory 30-day consultation on three proposed changes in the Parish, including their preferred location for a 93.020m x 16.725m x 14.5m tall building immediately adjacent to three PRoW, including the Oxford Green Belt Way, without providing any new visualisations or photomontages (see the CPC consultation response to the consultation copied to the ExA for Deadline 4 as **Cumnor Parish Council D4 Comments on Submissions received at D3 - Consultation on proposed changes Ref EN010147 v1.pdf**).

7. **Taking these points together, and conscious of the ASI requests also made by individuals in Cumnor Parish which cover many of the same issues, plus VWHDC and Layla Moran MP's support for CPC's proposed ASI, CPC again requests that the ExA undertake an ASI as previously described in 5. above.**
8. **For the avoidance of doubt CPC re-states its willingness to help the ExA; standing by ready to liaise to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the ExA's time in preparing and undertaking any additional USI and/or ASI in this parish.**
9. End

Cumnor Parish Council
22nd August 2025

Appendix 1

List of relevant documents supplied as email attachments to PINS by Deadline 1 (June 4th 2025)

1. This document (Cumnor Parish Council Written Representation Ref EN010147 30th May 2025.pdf)
2. Cumnor Parish Council - Submission to PINS OFH Session 1 Tuesday 13th May 2025.pdf
3. Cumnor-Parish-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan-v7.0-07072021-min.pdf
4. Cumnor-Parish-Neighbourhood-Plan-Important-Views-v1.5-16022021.pdf
5. Cumnor-Parish-Neighbourhood-Plan-Flood-Risk-Assessment-September-2020.pdf
6. 2025-03-28 Response TVP Designing Out Crime Officer.pdf
7. Farmoor-Character-Assessment-Final.pdf
8. Cumnor-Village-Character-Assessments-Final-v2-Jan-2019.pdf
9. Cumnor-Parish-Character-Assessment-September-2020.pdf
10. Cumnor-Neighbourhood-Plan-Landscape-Character-Assessment-September-2020.pdf

Appendix 2

List of relevant documents supplied as email attachments to PINS by Deadline 2 (July 1st 2025)

1. EN010147-001137-Cumnor Parish Council - Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B of the Rule 6 documentation, under 'Site Inspections.pdf
2. EN010147-001136-Cumnor Parish Council - Responses to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1).pdf

Appendix 3

List of relevant documents supplied as email attachments to PINS by Deadline 3 (July 22nd 2025)

1. EN010147-001336-Cumnor Parish Council - Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1).pdf
2. EN010147-001335-Cumnor Parish Council - Comments on any submissions received at D2.pdf
3. EN010147-001334-Cumnor Parish Council - Comments on the suggested locations to be included in any ASI.pdf