

Cumnor Parish Council Submission to PINS re 28th March Rule 6 letter

As an interested party, and the location of the proposed southern site Botley West power station, along with a proposed permanent National Grid substation; the two constituting the 3rd and 4th solar power station planning proposals in this Parish, Cumnor Parish Council wishes to ask the following 5 process questions at the sessions planned between 13th-15th May in Oxford.

Having no prior experience of participating in an NSIP application, the Parish Council is unsure in which session(s) (preliminary and/or open floor) these questions should be raised, and so has provided only indicative agenda labels below. Council is happy to engage with PINS further on agreeing the most appropriate agenda slots for its questions.

Preliminary Session Agenda Item 3

1. How will cumulative impacts of Botley West power station, Red House Farm power station (an immediately adjacent site with a current planning application to Vale of White Horse District Council under the Town and Country Planning Act) and the National Grid substation proposals be assessed?
2. How will PINS take account of how many people will be affected by the project, where, for example in Cumnor Parish, virtually the whole population of 7,000 people live within 1.5km of the southern power station site?

Open Floor Hearing Sessions

1. How will flood risk (not just cumulative flood risk) be assessed, when the more detailed flood risk assessment commissioned by the Parish Council and forming part of its made Neighbourhood Plan (and its Flood Risk Policies) seems to have been ignored by PVDP?
2. By reference to Thames Valley Police's response to the Red House Farm power station application with its warnings about solar power stations acting as a 'magnet' for organised crime gangs, Council can find no reference to 'designing out crime' in the Botley West documents, and so want to understand what the PINS process for examining this will be, by reference to NPPF policies 96(b) and 135(f)?
3. How will PINS assess the proposed permanent (not 40+ years) National Grid substation – again not just cumulative impacts but the fact that National Grid has said, in effect, we need to build it 'here' because of Botley West, and Botley West has said we need to build the power station 'here' because of the location of the National Grid substation? In other words, a circular argument.

Cumnor Parish Council

14th April 2025