

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Inspectorate

By email

21st July 2025

Contact:

Tina Brock (Clerk)

clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk

BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM (BWSF) REF: EN010147

Cumnor Parish Council's Comments for Deadline 3 on submissions received by Deadline 2

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, and its related documents, constitutes Cumnor Parish Council's (CPC) comments on submissions received by Deadline 2.

In particular, it should be read in combination with CPC's own Deadline 2 submission responding to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions. (**EN010147/EN010147-001136-Cumnor Parish Council - Responses to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1).pdf**).

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

Cumnor Parish Council's comments

3. EN010147-001239-Applicant's Change Request 2 Notification (Rev 0).pdf

Given the ExA's 11th July decision (**EN010147-001300-Botley West Solar Farm - Change Request 2 Notification Response.pdf**) to require a consultation on the proposed changes between 23rd July and 22nd August, can the ExA please explain to CPC how that consultation can meaningfully take place without the photomontages requested in **Cumnor Parish Council's Comments for Deadline 3 on responses to Examining Authority's 1st written questions (ExQ1)** being available, as that document is also being submitted for the 22nd July D3 deadline?

CPC also wishes to ask the ExA how can the proposed consultation from 23rd July to 22nd August be truly open and evidence led, when the actual change request from the applicant doesn't have to be made until 12th September?

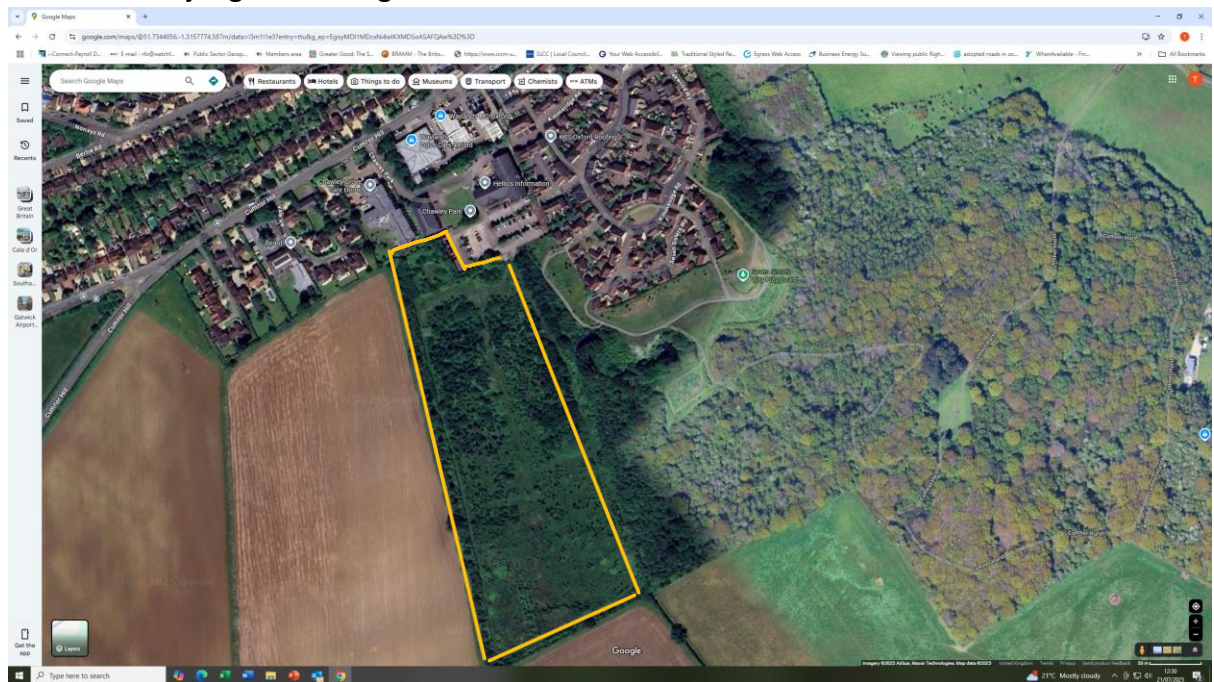
Since the applicant seems to have already judged that (in **EN010147-001239-Applicant's Change Request 2 Notification (Rev 0).pdf**)

- For change 3 *'overall there is unlikely to be any new or materially different significant environmental effects compared to those already reported.'*
- For change 6 *'it is unlikely that this change will lead to new or materially different likely significant environmental effects to those currently reported.'*
- For change 11 *'it is considered that there are no new or materially different likely significant environmental effects that would arise as a result of this change.'*

CPC asks what a 4-week consultation held in the middle of the school summer holidays with incomplete information available, is designed to achieve?

4. REP1-062 - Rebuff. Relevant stakeholders and local authorities submitted extra viewpoints and adversely commented on the number and location chosen by the applicant. CPC and VWHDC have both submitted a request for deadline two asking for a significant number of new viewpoints and photomontages. Project impacts continue to adversely affect the affected landscape, visual resources and receptors. The applicant is incorrect in their statements.
5. REP1-063 – as REP-062.
6. REP1-064 – the applicant continues to ignore the evidence provided in the written representation regarding TVPs response to a neighbouring application. The proposals from the applicant are those that TVP mention as not necessarily delaying an attack for long enough. The applicant is also providing an answer that conflicts with the TVP evidence provided in that the applicant states the perceived crime effects were unlikely. TVP state the opposite. Unfortunately based on the applicant's original misconception they state that they have scoped out these issues from their project assessment.

7. REP1-076 – CPC supports VWHDC regarding the Southern Site’s negative impact on landscape character within the wider setting and to the rural landscape setting of Cumnor Parish. The applicant is mistaken in stating that the landscape area in question is not sensitive to the impact from the project.
8. REP1-092 - Rebuff based on REP1-062 regarding viewpoints.
9. REP1-120 – Rebuff. Cumnor reference in that the change in local landscape character will go from one of visual historic rural views to one of industrialisation including a substation. Refer to REP1-062 answer. The applicant has mis-portrayed the Cumnor landscape and potential project impact. The applicant has stated that Cumnor Parish has “...substantial areas of newly planted woodland” to support the assertion that the local landscape is changing. CPC asks the applicant to identify where these substantial areas are as CPC is only aware of this ‘recent’ additional (image appended below) near to the Hurst SSSI at the top of Cumnor Hill (not in the direct vicinity to the applicant’s proposed installation). As the image shows, whilst a welcome addition of woodland it is not one that could be judged to be significant.



10. REP1-126 – CPC supports Thames Water’s concerns over construction and the lack of communication given the obvious reservoir integrity and safety concerns. CPC supports Thames Water’s requirement to review the drainage strategy. CPC rebuffs the applicant’s assertion that it does not need a bespoke method statement to combat noise and vibration emission to the reservoir and nearby nature reserves. Given the ecological and recreational importance of the site a bespoke statement is required to adjust to the specific issues. CPC supports Thames Water in the applicant improving communications and resolution of issues with it. The applicant has misunderstood TWUL’s query as to whether the applicant should be considered a utility undertaker.
11. REP1-137 Rebuff the wording from the applicant: “...but one of the rules is that people remain on the paths.” regarding Wytham woods. The views would be possible from the woods, including during seasonal change. Two paths themselves go right to the edge of the wood boundary facing the applicant’s direction.

12. REP1-147 – Rebuff based on REP1-062 regarding viewpoints.
13. REP1-174 – Support the need for a full residential amenity assessment on visual, noise, traffic, Socio-economic, health and many other impacts to Cumnor parish.
14. REP1-114 – CPC supports Botley West’s comments. CPC would add Wytham Woods impact with regards to the impact on the heritage significance of the University as part of the Oxford Central Conservation Area.
15. REP1-189 – Rebuff based on REP1-062 regarding viewpoints made in document 12.4
16. Hedgerow document sheet 13 details plan. CPC objects to the removal of historic hedgerows and the impact to site ecology.
17. Oxford University response(Gateley Legal) – CPC endorses the impacts to Wytham woods and Hill End
18. Layla Moran MP response submission ID: 36921 – CPC supports comments made and the request to remove the southern site from the overall scheme.
19. End.

Cumnor Parish Council

21st July 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