

4.4.2016

16/00591/FUL Windmill Hill Plantation Barton-on-the-Heath.

Change of use of land to enable the siting of 6 No. timber lodges for holiday use with parking area.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board wishes to raise an objection for the following reasons:

The site is in a remote, unsustainable and undeveloped countryside location within the nationally protected Cotswolds AONB. Development of this site with timber lodges and a parking area will result in a negative change of character and visual impact on the AONB. There will be negative change through the addition of new accessways, bin stores, parking, lighting and the inevitable domestication that goes with residential occupation even for holiday use. Tourism within a nationally protected landscape is reliant on the quality of that landscape being "conserved and enhanced" (CRoW Act 2000). Development that harms that landscape and is unsustainably located and car reliant will be harmful to the original purposes of designation. The NPPF (Paragraph 115) affords the AONB "the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty" accordingly "great weight" is given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty.

The Board therefore requests that the Council refuse this planning application as it is contrary to policy as it does not represent sustainable development and it will impact negatively on the nationally protected AONB.