

The Cotswolds Conservation Board understands the need for storage buildings on this holding, and that by necessity such buildings are of significant size. In general, such buildings are usually associated with the farmstead itself, rather than at an isolated location. The site chosen is relatively exposed. The existing roadside hedgerow will do little to mitigate the visual impact of these buildings, neither will the proposed bund. The Board is concerned that the revised access drawing appears to show that the existing hedgerow will require some removal or reduction in order to maintain visibility on this narrow road. However, the drawing 1009-800-00 is not particularly clear on this point.

The Board would suggest that the buildings be located in the north west corner of the "Thirty Three Acres" field, rather than the south west corners as is proposed. There would then be scope to use the existing off site vegetation at the crossroads adjacent the electricity substation to provide some more substantial screening in the short term. Bringing the proposed buildings closer to the substation reduces their isolation in the landscape. This could be further improved by a more substantial landscaping scheme, including screening from the adjoining bridleway.

The Board welcomes the proposed installation of renewable energy generation on the buildings. Careful consideration needs to be given to the colour of any materials used for the buildings themselves.

In short, the site does lie within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and therefore great weight needs to be given to the consideration of visual impact, notwithstanding the fact that this is a development to meet an agricultural need.