

Planning application Ref: 13/04055/FUL

Proposal: Construction of 9.6MW Solar PV Park with Transformer Housings, Security Fencing & Cameras, Landscaping & Other Associated Works

Location: Land East of Manor Farm Wadswick Box Corsham Wiltshire SN13 8JB

Comments of the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

1. The Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') was established by Parliament in 2004.

The Board has two statutory purposes¹:

- a) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB; and
- b) To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

In fulfilling these roles, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of people living in the AONB.

The Board notes the response of the Council's Landscape Officer with respect to this application.

The Board supports the view of the Landscape Officer that the close proximity of the site to the Cotswolds AONB and its visibility from locations within the AONB may contribute to the unacceptability of the proposal on grounds of landscape impact.

The Board would wish to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 15 of the Planning Practice Guidance for renewable and low carbon energy in which the impact of solar farms in close proximity to protected landscapes is considered a material consideration.

The Board would also wish the Council to take account of the Board's Position Statement on developing in the setting of the Cotswolds AONB:

<http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/userfiles/position-statements/setting-revision-2013.pdf>

Malcolm Watt
Planning Officer
Cotswolds Conservation Board

¹ Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.