

## **Planning application Ref: 14/03084/FUL**

**Proposal:** Construction of 6.3MW Solar PV Park with Transformer Housings, Security Fencing & Cameras, Landscaping & Other Associated Works (Resubmission of 13/04055/FUL)

**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 purposes<sup>1</sup>:

- 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 supported the response of the Council's Landscape Officer with respect to the previous similar application.

The Board supported 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 to draw to the attention of the Council the contents of the letter from the Minister for Energy and Climate Change to local authorities dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 regarding the Soar PV Strategy.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.