

15/01923/FUL

Full Application for Proposed development of solar photovoltaic modules including access, temporary construction compound; single and double inverter platforms; transfer

station; collecting station; security fencing; CCTV cameras and poles; landscaping; and associated works and infrastructure including underground cable along London Road

verge and Witpit Lane verge and related equipment to allow connection to the electricity distribution network at Land Parcel East Of Witpit Lane Preston Gloucestershire.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board wish to make the following comments in relation to this application having been consulted via Natural England.

The site is referred to within the application as lying approximately 1.64 km outside the nationally protected landscape of the Cotswolds AONB. Given the scale of the development and proximity to the AONB there is potential for harmful effects on the setting of the AONB. However, the Board agrees with the comments made within the application that due to the distance from the AONB boundary, topography and the nature of the mature woodland and hedge planting between the AONB and this site, the level of visibility to/from the AONB of this site is minimal. There will be a change in the landscape from an agricultural use to the industrialising impact of a very large solar farm, outside the AONB. However, given the context of the site, it will not as such result in any material harm to those seeking to enjoy the Cotswolds AONB within the nationally protected landscape and the development will not have a material impact on the setting of the Cotswolds AONB, or result in any of the significant adverse impacts as identified within the Cotswolds' AONB Position Statement on Setting (see attached).