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By email only to: [joan.desmond@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:joan.desmond@westoxon.gov.uk)

05 August 2021

Dear Joan,

**APPLICATION NO:** 21/02473/FUL

**DESCRIPTION:** Installation of a ground mounted solar PV and energy storage system together with associated infrastructure; security fencing, CCTV, access track, cable route and landscaping.

**LOCATION:** Land South Of Ramsden, Akeman Street, Ramsden, Oxfordshire.

The above planning application, which is for a development that would be located in the setting of the Cotswolds National Landscape, has been brought to the attention of the Cotswolds Conservation Board. The proposed development would be located approximately 43m, at its closest point, from the boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape.<sup>1</sup>

Given this relatively close proximity and the type of development being proposed, we recommend that the local planning authority (LPA) should consider potential visual impacts on the National Landscape (including the visual impact in winter conditions).

In reaching its planning decision, the local planning authority (LPA) has a statutory duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.<sup>2</sup> The Board recommends that, in fulfilling this 'duty of regard', the LPA should: (i) ensure that planning decisions are consistent with relevant national and local planning policy and guidance; and (ii) take into account the following Board publications:

- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023 ([link](#));
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to Landscape Character Type (LCT) 9 (High Wild Dip Slope);
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to LCT 9 ([link](#)), including Section 9.4;
- Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change ([link](#));
- Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to the Development in the Setting of the Cotswolds AONB Position Statement ([link](#)); the Renewable Energy Position Statement ([link](#)); and Tranquillity Position Statement ([link](#)) sections 4.4 and 5.2.

We recommend that, if planning permission is granted, the solar farm should not extend into the most westerly field shown on the site location plan (@ GR: SP34741446). This is because this field is in very close proximity to the boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape and the landform in this field slopes towards the National Landscape. Avoiding development in this field would therefore help to reduce any potential adverse visual effects for receptors within (or on the boundary of) the National Landscape.

#### **Cotswolds Conservation Board**

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The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), managed and looked after by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

[cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

*Chairman:*  
**Brendan McCarthy**  
  
*Vice Chair:*  
**Rebecca Charley**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John Mills

Planning & Landscape Lead

[john.mills@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:john.mills@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) | 07808 391227

**NOTES:**

- 1) Cotswolds National Landscape is the new name for the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The new name takes forward one of the proposals of the Government-commissioned 'Landscapes Review' to rename AONBs as 'National Landscapes'. This change reflects the national importance of AONBs and the fact that they are safeguarded, in the national interest, for nature, people, business and culture.
- 2) Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85)
- 3) The documents referred to in our response can be located on the Cotswolds National Landscape website under the following sections
  - a. Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/management-plan](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/management-plan)
  - b. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lca](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lca)
  - c. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lsg](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lsg)
  - d. Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ldlc](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ldlc)
  - e. Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps1](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps1)  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps2](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps2)