



Richard Dimon  
Energy Crops Scheme  
Natural England  
Units 2&3  
Northallerton Business Park  
Standard Way  
NORTHALLERTON  
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DL6 2XQ

13<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Dear Richard,

**ENERGY CROP SCHEME PROPOSAL – GR & S Fawdry, Village Farm, Salford, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 5YP.**

Thank you for inviting the Cotswolds Conservation Board to comment on the above proposal. Our main concern centres on the loss of permanent pasture.

The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment identifies 19 different Landscape Character Types, each with a range of key characteristics. Consequently, the Landscape Character Assessment and in particular the Boards Landscape Strategy and Guidelines identified 8 Principal Elements that occur across the whole AONB. These are valued elements that contribute either singly or in combination to the unique character and quality of the Cotswold landscape and include permanent pasture

The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment identified the three fields as lying within Landscape Type (LCT) 17, Pastoral Lowland Vale and LCT 15, Farmed Slopes. One of the Key Characteristics for these LCTs is permanent pasture.

Consequently, the Boards Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCT 17 and 15 clearly states that Miscanthus should not be planted on permanent pasture. This is also clearly stated in the Boards Preliminary Position Statement on Criteria for the Planting of Miscanthus adopted in September 2006.

To summarise, the Cotswolds Conservation Board does not support the proposal on the grounds that it has a negative impact on the landscape.

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If, however, Natural England decide to proceed with the proposal under the Energy Crop Scheme, we would ask that the well used public right of way that crosses through the northern part of field number 28 is given a particularly wide margin to avoid a feeling of enclosure and to protect the stunning view westwards overlooking Salford. Ideally the margin should be splayed, being wider at the bottom of the slope.

I have enclosed as supporting information an extract from the Cotswolds Landscape Character Assessment, the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCT 17 and LCT 15 and the Boards Preliminary Position Statement on Criteria for the Planting of Miscanthus.

If you have any questions on our response or on the supporting information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. A. Connelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Mark Connelly  
Land Management Officer