

RE: S.15/1523/FUL Land at Actress Farm Heathfield, Alkington – PV development.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board would like to make the following comments in respect of the development.

The site is outside the AONB but is visible from a number of well used publically accessible viewpoints on high ground within the AONB. In this particular case the railway embankment and associated mature landscaping does perform a vital screening roll in that only part of the site will be visible from the AONB. Therefore, although the Board does not raise an objection it does ask the Council to (a) carefully consider the impact of the development on the wider landscape and in particular the growing cumulative impact from a number of solar farms in the area and (b) to ensure any proposed landscaping on site provides for long term screening of this site (as the site is currently reliant on screening from the AONB from landscaping located on the adjacent land owned by Network Rail). The photomontage at year 5 still shows the “proposed” site as exposed to views in from the AONB (Viewpoint 6) apparently despite the existing/proposed landscaping and proposed management regime. Therefore, the Council should ensure the level of proposed landscaping is enhanced yet further to ensure this site is suitably screened from the AONB.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board’s Position Statement on Setting is attached which provides additional information.