

**Planning application Ref S.09/1222/FUL
Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield**

Objection by the Cotswolds Conservation Board

1. The Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') was established by Parliament in 2004.

The Board has two statutory purposes¹:

- 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.

2. The Board published the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2008-13 in April 2008.²
3. The statutory Management Plan contains the following policies of relevance to this application:

Landscape Policy LP1: *That the unique character, tranquillity, and special qualities of the Cotswolds landscape are conserved and enhanced.*

Development and Transport Policy DTP1: *That all Local Development Framework documents and planning decision-making processes will use the following criteria to determine the acceptability of a proposed development in the Cotswolds AONB. Development will:*

- *be compatible with the distinctive character of the location as described by the relevant landscape character assessment, strategy and guidelines*
- *incorporate designs and landscaping consistent with the above, respecting the local settlement pattern and building style*
- *be designed to respect local building styles and materials*
- *incorporate appropriate sustainability elements and designs*
- *maintain or improve the existing level of tranquillity*
- *not have an adverse impact on the local community amenities and services and access to these*
- *protect, or where possible enhance, biodiversity*
- *be in accordance with a more sustainable pattern of development, reducing dependence on car travel.*

4. The Council has endorsed the AONB Management Plan as a material consideration in the determining of planning applications.
5. The Board is also mindful of the following policy in the Stroud Local Plan:

POLICY NE8

Within the Cotswolds AONB, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape over other considerations, whilst

¹ Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

² http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/management_plan/conserving.html

also having regard to the economic and social well-being of the AONB. Development within or affecting the setting of the AONB will only be permitted if all the following criteria are met:

1. The nature, siting and scale are sympathetic to the landscape;
2. The design and materials complement the character of the area; and
3. Important landscape features and trees are retained and appropriate landscaping measures are undertaken.

Major development will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated to be in the national interest and that there is a lack of alternative sites.

6. The Board notes that this is an application for a research facility to test a product, not a renewable energy generation project. As such the Board would suggest that criteria set out in the first sentence of the seventh paragraph of the applicant's letter dated 2nd July 2009 could be met in another location which is not within a designated landscape. The Board cannot see why the mast has to be close to the companies headquarters in order for it to be monitored. The Board also notes that the wind resource information at this location is stated to be adequately provided by the existing turbine.
7. The Board would suggest that the installation of another high vertical structure, including stays, at this location will add to the landscape impact of the existing turbine.
8. The Board notes that this is an application for temporary installation. However, the primary purpose of the designation of the AONB is to conserve and enhance its natural beauty, notwithstanding any time limits on the installation of a structure.