

Date: 03 September 2020
Our ref: 322457
Your ref: **20/01069/OUT**



Tewkesbury Borough Council
For the attention of Lucy White

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Lucy

Planning consultation: Development comprising of up to 250 residential dwellings including provision of associated infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping, demolition of existing buildings and formation of new vehicular access from Harp Hill. Approval sought for means of access to site from Harp Hill with all other matters reserved for future consideration. |

Location: Oakley Farm Priors Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL52 5AQ

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 July 2020 which was received by Natural England on the same day. Thank you for allowing us extra time to respond.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

OBJECTION

Natural England objects to this proposal. As submitted we consider it will:

- have a significant impact on the purposes of designation of the Cotswolds AONB.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

We have reached this view for the following reasons:

- *The proposed development comprises a major residential development within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*
- *The proposed development has significant landscape and visual impacts on the AONB.*
- *The application site is not allocated in the adopted local plan.*

Natural England has visited key viewpoints overlooking the application site and has the following advice:

The proposed development is for a site within a nationally designated landscape namely the Cotswolds AONB. The statutory purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. Relevant to this is the duty on public bodies to 'have regard' for that statutory purpose in carrying out their functions (S85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000).