



Friends of Wolds End Orchard
c/o White House
Aston Road
Chipping Camden
Gloucestershire
GL55 6HR

24 September 2020

Dear Vanessa Rigg,

Wolds End Community Orchard

The Cotswolds Conservation Board supports the Friends of the Wolds End Orchard in their goal of purchasing Wolds End Orchard, a 3-acre traditional orchard near the centre of Chipping Campden, situated within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The key reasons for support are:

1. Traditional orchards are a UK Priority Habitat (S41 NERC Act 2006) important for saproxylic invertebrates, bats, birds and pollinators.
2. The statutory Cotswolds Area of Outstanding National Beauty Management Plan Policy CE7 identifies 'Wood Pasture, parkland and veteran trees' as a priority habitat which are either characteristic of the Cotswolds AONB or for which the Cotswolds AONB is a stronghold. Although not specified, this includes traditional orchards.
3. The site is located in Landscape Character Type (LCT) 15 – Farmed Slopes. The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), in its description of LCT 15, states:
Orchards, at one time much more extensive along the Farmed Slopes, are now few in number. Where present, they ... make an important contribution to landscape character with their regular rows of trees and fruit bushes.
4. The site would provide a wonderful opportunity to provide rural skills training to students from the local schools and people from the wider community. Indeed, our own rural skills programme would be interested in using the site to undertake a range of training and engagement events, including apple pressing, tree care, including pruning and grafting, and a range of other educational options and experiences.

We wish the Friends of the Wolds End Community Orchard the very best of luck as they seek funding to realise their ambition and ask that we are kept informed of progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. A. Connelly".

Mark Connelly
Land Management Officer

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

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