

Acorn Bioenergy

Anaerobic Digestion plant at Ashton Keynes

Statement of Community Involvement

March 2023

The purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report details the scope and methods used for the pre-application consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders regarding Acorn Bioenergy's development proposals for an anaerobic digestion plant at Ashton Keynes.
- 1.2. The report also provides details of the outcomes of the consultations and how the proposed development has been influenced through community and stakeholder feedback.

The structure of this report

This report is set out in the following sections:

Page 3 - Section 2 introduces the background of the application;

Page 3 - Section 3 sets out the policy context;

Page 4 - Section 4 describes the approach to community and stakeholder engagement;

Page 7 - Section 5 outlines the community and stakeholder feedback;

Page 8 - Section 6 outlines Acorn Bioenergy's responses to key feedback received;

Page 9 - Section 7 sets out the next steps.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is submitted to Wiltshire Council, on behalf of Acorn Bioenergy as part of a planning application for a new anaerobic digestion plant at Ashton Keynes, on land to the west of Ashton Road, opposite the Aggregate Industries sand and gravel quarry.
- 2.2. The proposals are for the construction of an anaerobic digestion plant. The plant will provide renewable, carbon negative energy for the UK by producing biomethane. The plant will also produce two by-products; digestate, which will be used as fertiliser on local farms and CO₂, which can be used for industrial purposes. The plant will help with the huge need for greener fuel for the UK in its transition to net zero as well as ensuring greater energy security. Anaerobic digestion is a tried and tested technology, centuries old, that can produce green energy to heat homes and power HGVs.

3.0 Policy context

- 3.1. Community and stakeholder engagement is a key aspect of the planning process as set out in current Local Planning Authority policies and guidelines.

Wiltshire Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) required councils to publish a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) detailing how it will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing the Local Plan and determining planning applications.
- 3.3. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how we will involve Wiltshire Council, local residents, businesses and community groups in the preparation of planning documents and the consideration of planning applications.
- 3.4. Wiltshire Council have an SCI, adopted in 2020.
- 3.5. In the SCI, it says the Council “particularly want to ensure that those who may not always be involved have their opportunity to speak” about applications.
- 3.6. When undertaking community engagement, applicants are expected to follow good practice guidelines as outlined in the Wiltshire Council SCI.

An extract from the SCI on best practice pre-application consultation is below:

“We will use a variety of consultation methods, ensuring that those used are proportionate to the scale and impact of the proposal, appropriate to those we need to consult and within available resources.”

4.0 The approach to community and stakeholder engagement

Introduction and background to the consultations

- 4.1. The preparation of this planning application follows a process of statutory and stakeholder consultation as well as public consultation and community engagement.
- 4.2. Acorn is also submitting a pre-consultation application to the Environment Agency as they are a key stakeholder in the project and will be submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the planning application.
- 4.3. An in-person public exhibition was undertaken for the application. This was for local residents, businesses and stakeholders and took place on Monday 12th December at South Cerney Village Hall, School Lane, South Cerney. The timing of the exhibition was designed to encourage maximum attendance; the exhibition started at 4pm and finished at 7pm.
- 4.4. The public exhibition was held on a day that was not a religious or public holiday, to ensure it was open and accessible to all.

Stakeholder engagement

Elected Members

- 4.5. Prior to the public exhibition, elected representatives from Wiltshire Council were briefed on the proposals and throughout the application process over the phone and via email, starting on the 16 November 2022. These included the key political stakeholders, including the ward councillor for the site, relevant senior councillors and the constituency MP. The elected representatives were also offered a face-to-face briefing on the proposals.
- 4.6. A meeting was held on 19 December 2022 with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Nick Botterill. The key themes that were discussed are below.
 - Odour
 - Vehicle movements
 - Impact on local food production – whether it would change the landscape

-
- Biodiversity
 - Flooding
- 4.7. Ward councillors and senior councillors were also briefed on the feedback received during the consultation and the number of people who attended the public exhibition on 12 December 2022. Members were offered follow-up discussions post the public consultation and prior to the submission of the planning application.
- 4.8. Prior to the public exhibition, we also contacted Ashton Keynes Parish Council, which is the parish council covering the site, and South Cerney Parish Council, offering them a meeting with Acorn Bioenergy. Key points discussed at each meeting are below:
- 4.9. **Ashton Keynes Parish Council: (Meeting held on 18th January 2023)**
- Impact on the water table, the local SSSI, flooding
 - Impact on biodiversity and nature in the area, including the reed beds and migrating bird populations
 - Traffic movements through the village and the state of Ashton Road
 - Quantity of feedstock supply concerns
 - Choice of location
- 4.10. **South Cerney Parish Council: (Meeting held on 21st February 2023)**
- Rationale for choice of location
 - Impact on biodiversity and nature in the area and how this is measured
 - Impact on local tourism
 - Location of where feedstocks will be coming from
 - Impact on local road network and how this could be mitigated
 - Definition of biomethane as green energy
- 4.11. **Public Consultation**
- 4.12. A variety of best practice consultation methods have been used to inform local stakeholders and local residents about the consultation and to encourage them to participate in the process.
- 4.13. An invitation letter was sent to residents informing them of the proposals and inviting them to the public exhibition. The invitation letter was sent in the post to 2,576 households and businesses in the surrounding areas. The letter was delivered on 28 November 2022.
- A copy of the invitation letter can be found in Appendix 1 and a map of the full mailing area can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.14. A dedicated project website was set up to provide local residents and businesses information about the proposals and a chance to give feedback if they were not able to attend the exhibition.

Data displayed on the website were predicted values at the time of the public exhibition and may have evolved following further detailed assessments.

The link to the project website is here: <https://www.ashtonkeynesgreenenergy.com/>

The website went live on 28 November 2022. It contains all the information available at the public exhibition, including an introduction to Acorn Bioenergy, information about anaerobic digestion, images of the proposals and an online questionnaire which invited residents to comment directly on the proposals. This can be found in Appendix 6.

Screenshots from the website can be found in Appendix 3.

- 4.15. A drop-in public exhibition for local residents, businesses and stakeholders was organised and took place on the following date:

- Monday 12th December 2022 4pm - 7pm

The public consultation event took place at South Cerney Village Hall, School Lane, South Cerney. 6 display boards, which can be found in Appendix 4, provided details of the development plans. Data displayed on the exhibition boards were predicted values at the time of the public exhibition and may have evolved following further detailed assessments.

Board topics included:

- About Acorn Bioenergy
- What is Anaerobic Digestion?
- The site
- Location
- Next steps
- Key benefits

Overall, 67 people attended the exhibition.

Drop-in attendees were able to examine the display boards and engage with team members from Acorn Bioenergy and Instinctif Partners, who discussed the plans and answered questions.

A bespoke feedback form for the consultation was produced and made available at the drop-in event. The feedback form included a section marked 'Your views on the proposal', offering people the opportunity to leave their comments. The feedback form also publicised the website. This can be found in Appendix 5.

4.16. All attendees were encouraged to complete the feedback forms and either drop them in the ballot box at the event or return them by post or by email before the closing date of 4 January 2023. An online feedback form was also available on the website. A copy of the feedback form can be found in Appendix 5. 67 people signed in, returning 12 feedback forms on the day. As of 27 January 2023, there have also been 7 website responses and 6 emails, as well as one phone call about the plans.

4.17. Post and email

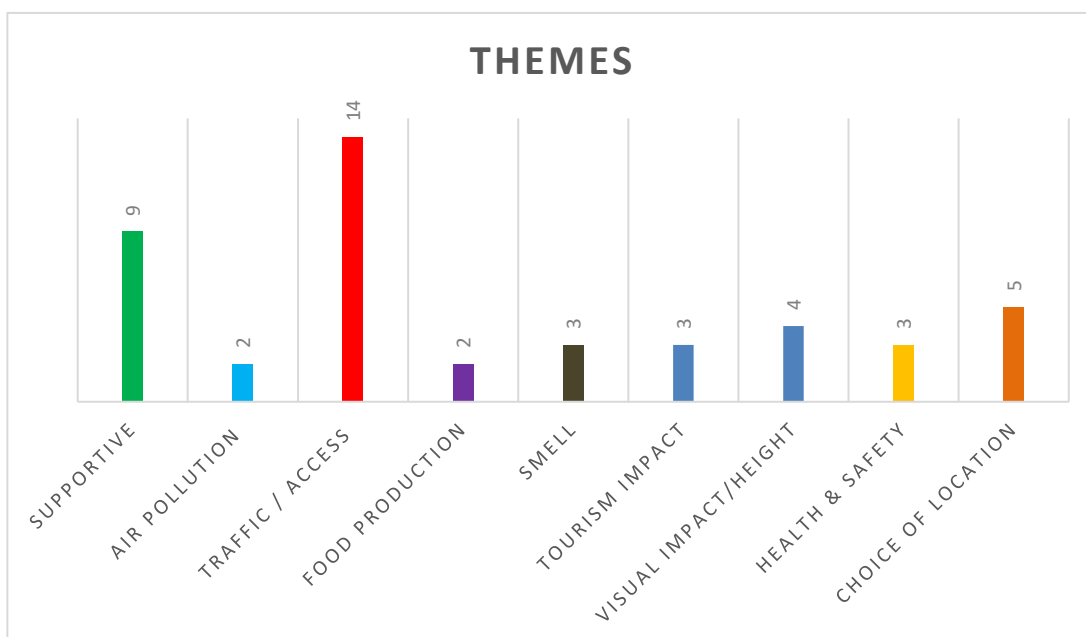
A postal address was provided on the feedback form. Respondents could also make email contact via the consultation website.

5.0 Community and stakeholder engagement feedback

Feedback analysis of comments from local community

5.1. On the feedback form, respondents were asked for their opinions on the proposals, whether they supported renewable energy generation in their area and what their preferred form of energy generation was. Below is a list of key themes raised through feedback received via email, feedback forms and responses on the project website.

5.2. Key themes raised:



Qualitative Analysis of comments from community respondents

- 5.3. Acorn Bioenergy and its project team had detailed conversations with the majority of attendees at the public exhibition. The main feedback related to whether traffic would travel through Ashton Keynes or South Cerney, along with people questioning the choice of location. There has also been a high amount of supportive comments received throughout the consultation.
- 5.4. The feedback analysis identified a number of specific issues of interest or concern, as tabled in frequency order in Table 1 below. Acorn Bioenergy responses to these comments can be found in section 6.
- 5.5. The questions asked by Acorn at the public consultation were:
- “What are your views on our proposals?”
 - “Do you support renewable energy generation in your local area?”
 - “What would your preferred form of energy generation in your local area be?”

Some of the comments received at the exhibition by members of the public are below:

Traffic:

- “The traffic consideration is my main concern. The only route to the proposed site is from the A441 along Spine road”.
- TRAFFIC??. Issues with spine road.”.
- “I am particularly concerned about the traffic management plan for this site”.
- “Concerns over traffic both on site and during construction,”

Beneficial to community/supportive:

- “Overall it's a brilliant way of providing environmentally - friendly energy sources.”
- “I think it's a good proposal.”
- “The process seems great way to support farmers and farming, creating usable domestic gas from farm waste. Added bonus it creates natural fertiliser to improve soil and crop production. Win/win”
- “Seems a good idea no objection.”

Site selection:

- “Inappropriate site setting in a conservationist and tourist area.”
- “Location should take into account prevailing winds and proximity to large inhabited places and schools.”
- “Strongly object to this being located so close to South Cerney.”

6.0 Acorn Bioenergy responses to feedback

6.1 Table of Acorn Bioenergy responses to comments received

The below table outlines Acorn Bioenergy's response to the most common themes raised during the public consultation and in the subsequent online feedback responses.

Theme	Acorn Bioenergy
Traffic congestion/access concerns	Vehicle access will be served off Ashton Road. Traffic levels are likely to average 35 HGV/tractor deliveries per day, predominantly between local farms. This equates to 3-4 arrivals and 3-4 departures per hour, based on a 10 hour day. Vehicles will route to/from local farms and product destinations. This will primarily be to/from the B4696 Spine Road East. No vehicle traffic will need to go through Ashton Keynes unless to serve local fields, as per existing agricultural practices. A Transport Statement has been prepared which will accompany the planning application. This has assessed that the impact on the road network from the proposals in terms of road safety, highway operation and/or network capacity will be negligible and as such the proposal is considered acceptable in highways and transportation terms. For any further information please refer to the Transport Statement that has been submitted alongside the planning application.
Supportive	We are glad that we have received many positive comments from members of the local community. We believe the plant will be beneficial to the local community (and indeed the UK as a whole) as it will produce a green gas that can fuel homes and HGVs, helping to reduce carbon emissions and help the UK meet its net zero targets. It will also produce high quality digestate fertiliser which can be used on local farms and CO2 which can be sold to local businesses, ensuring a security of supply. There will also be positive economic impacts to the area, local contractors will be employed during construction and for ongoing operational aspects of the facility.
Site selection	The site is in the right location for a number of reasons. Firstly, the site has been chosen due to its rural location and close proximity to feedstock that will supply the site. Locating an agricultural plant close to agricultural land will achieve this and ensure Acorn Bioenergy remain carbon-negative. If the site was located on an industrial estate, the movement of feedstocks to the plant would vastly increase agricultural movements through residential areas. Acorn Bioenergy is aiming to minimise traffic through residential areas.

7.0 Next steps

- 7.1. Following submission of the planning application, Wiltshire Council will continue to consult interested parties including local residents by keeping the various consultation channels open and responding to resident emails and phone calls.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – A4 invitation letter sent to 2,576 residential and business addresses

Appendix 2 – Mailing area for invitation letter

Appendix 3 – Screenshot from the website: <https://www.ashtonkeynesgreenenergy.com/>

Appendix 4 – Exhibition boards shown at the drop-in event on 12 December 2022

Appendix 5 – Feedback form

Appendix 6 – Screenshot of the online feedback page from the website

Appendix 7 – Photos from the exhibition

Appendix 1 – Invitation sent to 2,576 local residential and business addresses



28 November 2022

Dear Resident,

Acorn Bioenergy is writing to invite you to a drop-in event to discuss our proposals for an anaerobic digestion plant on land to the west of Ashton Road, opposite the Aggregate Industries sand and gravel quarry.

Acorn Bioenergy is committed to providing renewable, carbon negative energy for the UK by unlocking the full potential of biomethane production. Anaerobic digestion is a process by which organic materials, including agricultural waste, residues and silages are broken down and converted into green gas for heating and transport.

The plant will deliver several key benefits, including:

- Generating enough biomethane annually to meet the heating demand of c.7,000 UK homes or fuel 270 HGVs a year.
- Annual saving of 26,400 tonnes of CO₂e, against standard UK grid emissions, comparable to taking 17,000 cars off the road or planting one million trees.
- Helping farmers by producing digestate, a high-quality fertiliser, which is better for the environment and soil than conventional artificial fertiliser, to be used on local farmland.
- Using agricultural wastes, by-products, crops and residues from local farms and businesses, ensuring income dependability for farmers and making new crop rotations viable which in turn will help farmers increase crop yields.
- As part of the anaerobic digestion process, Acorn will capture and upgrade CO₂ to food grade CO₂. This upgraded CO₂ will be liquified and sold to businesses for industrial use ensuring regional security of CO₂ supply.
- The proposal will help Wiltshire and the country reduce its carbon emissions and meet net zero targets.

We are consulting your community on the proposal to develop an anaerobic digestion plant on land to the west of Ashton Road, opposite the Aggregate Industries sand and gravel quarry. This event will enable residents and the wider community to view the proposals, ask questions about the anaerobic digestion plant to the project team and leave feedback which will be reviewed by the team. Acorn Bioenergy and Instinctif Partners are looking forward to receiving feedback from you about the plans.

The public consultation event will take place in the South Cerney Village Hall, School Lane, South Cerney on:

- 12 December from 4pm-7pm

We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions that you may have. The exhibition boards will be available on the project website shortly after the event. You can view these and send us your feedback on the new project website which is available here: www.ashtonkeynesgreenenergy.com/

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact our community consultant Harry Gilham of Instinctif Partners on 0749 386 7448 or email ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com

Yours faithfully,

Harry Gilham
Instinctif Partners

Appendix 2 – Consultation area for the invitation letter to the exhibition



Appendix 3 –Screenshots from website



Bringing a greener future to Wiltshire

Acorn Bioenergy is consulting on plans to develop an anaerobic digestion plant off Ashton Road in Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire.

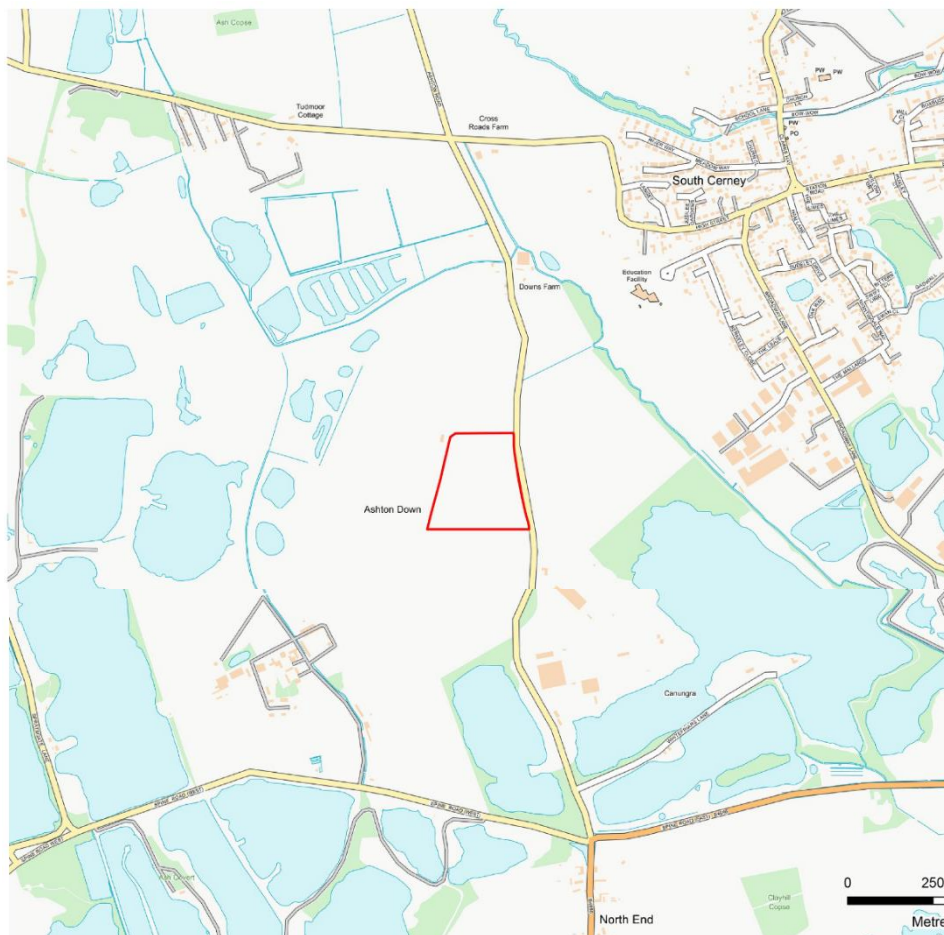
We held a drop-in event from 16:00-19:00 on 12th December at South Cerney Village Hall. This event gave residents and the wider community an opportunity to view the proposals, ask Acorn team members questions about the facility and leave feedback.

Once we have listened to feedback we will be looking to submit a planning application for the anaerobic digestion plant to Wiltshire County Council in the coming months.

Location

The proposed development would be located on agricultural land off Ashton Road to the east, opposite the concrete products works.

The location has been chosen as Acorn Bioenergy prioritise sites with good access to farms that can provide high quality agricultural waste with excellent transport links.



Site location (in red)



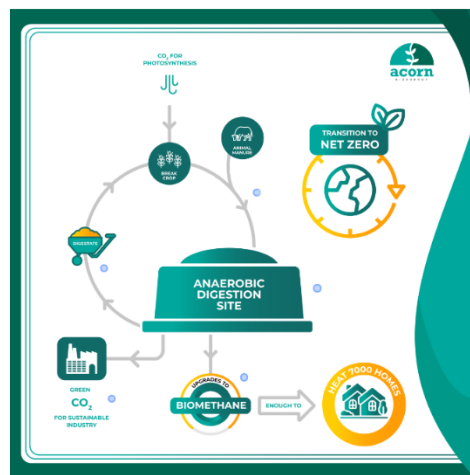
[ANAEROBIC DIGESTION](#)
[THE TEAM](#)
[PERSPECTIVES](#)
[CONTACT](#)

What is Anaerobic Digestion?

Anaerobic digestion is a naturally-occurring biological process carried out by a mixture of microbes breaking down agricultural materials to use as an energy source in an air-tight tank. The 'key' microbes are methanogenic bacteria which produce biogas from the intermediate products. Our anaerobic digestion facilities will then refine the biogas to extract biomethane and green CO₂.

The biomethane we produce is then used as eco-friendly fuel for HGVs or transported and injected into the grid via our virtual pipeline, to be used for heating thousands of homes nationwide each year.







[Introduction](#)
[What is Anaerobic Digestion?](#)
[Key Benefits](#)
[The Site](#)
[The Public Exhibition](#)
[The Next Steps](#)
[FAQs](#)

Key Benefits of Anaerobic Digestion



Delivering Net Zero in Wiltshire by 2050

Generating enough green gas to heat over 7,000 homes every year, Acorn Bioenergy will help decarbonise the UK by producing **biomethane**, delivering 100,000 MWh of energy per site.

The anaerobic digestion process also captures **green CO2** for industry or storage. We are looking at carbon savings of over 1,000,000 trees, ensuring our vision of nationwide carbon neutrality is met.





The Key Benefits of Anaerobic Digestion

00:00 / 00:45

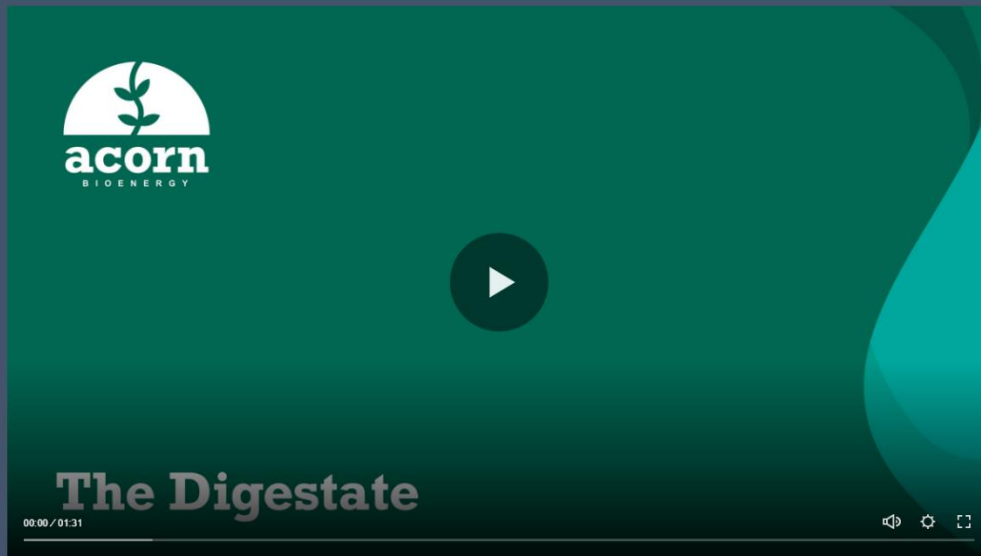
Improving Sustainable Farming

Anaerobic digestion is central to improving agriculture and pivotal to sustainable food production and farming. Aside from biomethane, the process will produce digestate, an organic fertiliser to replace artificial alternatives.

Unlike artificial fertiliser commonly used on farms, the digestate made through anaerobic digestion contains a high quantity of organic matter, restoring soil quality to promote healthy crop growth.



*Note- data displayed on the website were predicted values at the time of the public exhibition and may have evolved following further detailed assessments.



Developing National Energy Security

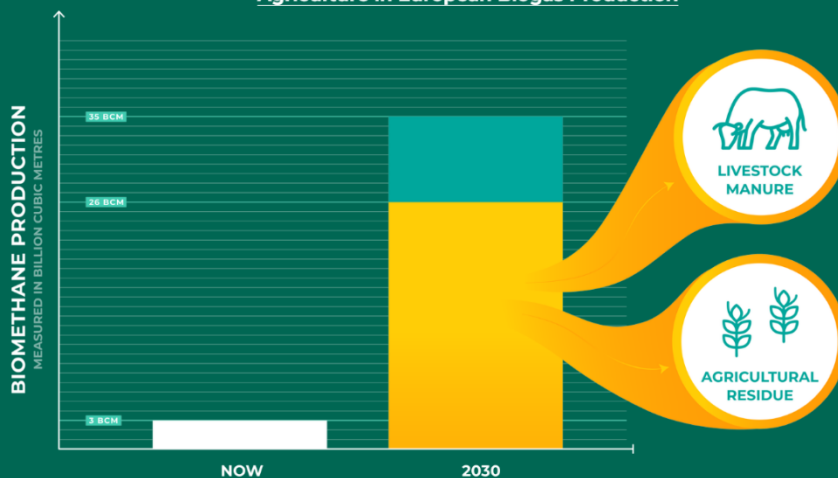
Biomethane has become a notable part of European policy due to gas price volatility and the limited supply of fertiliser and CO₂.

Domestic supply of biomethane, digestate and green CO₂ through anaerobic digestion will decrease our overseas energy dependence and contribute to the UK's national energy security.

Domestic digestate and CO₂ will be cheaper and more sustainable, increasing food security and decreasing dependence on fossil fuels.

It is predicted that the anaerobic digestion process will produce 26 billion cubic metres of biomethane by 2030, made predominately from livestock manure and agriculture residue.

Agriculture in European Biogas Production





[Introduction](#) [What is Anaerobic Digestion?](#) [Key Benefits](#) [The Site](#) [The Public Exhibition](#) [The Next Steps](#) [FAQs](#)

The Anaerobic digestion site in Ashton Keynes

The site area will be approximately 8.3 hectares in total.

The facility will be staffed during the hours 07:00-19:00 Monday to Sunday, except during peak harvest periods when working hours would be extended as deemed necessary.

Digestates and feedstocks will be transported via farm tracks where possible.

The planting of wildflowers, new native trees and hedgerows will result in a significant biodiversity net gain on the site whilst minimising visual impact.

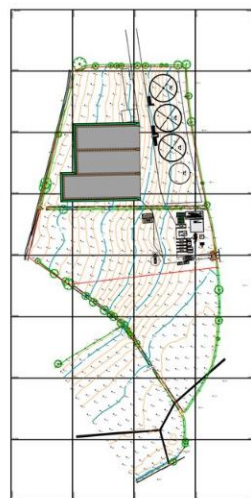
We process agricultural waste, not putrescible food waste hence avoiding issues of odour. We will be strictly monitored to ensure minimal impact on local residents.



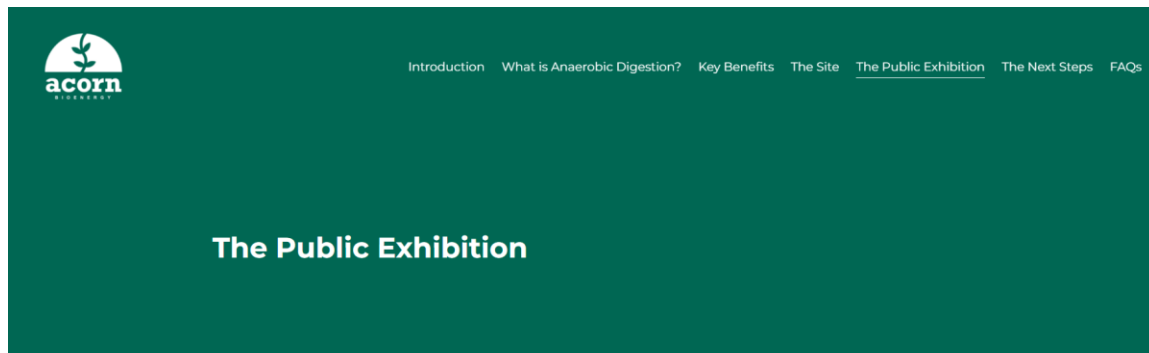
Site Plan

0 10m 20m 30m 40m 50m
Scale 1:1000 @ A1

0 50m 100m 150m 200m 250m
Scale 1:5000 @ A1



Site Location Plan



We held a drop-in event on 12th December at South Cerney Village Hall.

Acorn team members were present at the exhibition to discuss the plans and listen to feedback. There were feedback forms provided at the event.

If you were unable to make this date, please do leave your feedback on [this page](#). The exhibition boards are uploaded below.





[Introduction](#) [What is Anaerobic Digestion?](#) [Key Benefits](#) [The Site](#) [The Public Exhibition](#) [The Next Steps](#) [FAQs](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

+ Who are Acorn Bioenergy Ltd?

+ Why are you proposing this?

+ Are there any local community benefits?

+ Why here?

+ What materials are fed into the anaerobic digester?

+ Would the agricultural land providing the feedstocks replace farmland needed for food?

+ Have local farmers agreed to supply the farm?

+ Will there be any visual impact?

+ When will the vehicle movements occur?

+ Where will the traffic be routed?

+ Will the plant smell?

+ Will there be any light pollution?

+ Will there be any noise pollution?

+ Will the plant be a fire risk?

+ Is there a risk the plant will contaminate local fields and water supplies?

+ Will the plant be a flood risk?

+ When are you submitting a planning application and when will the plant be built?

+ Where is a nearby similar site to the one being proposed?

If you have any other questions about this proposed development, please get in touch with us at:
ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com

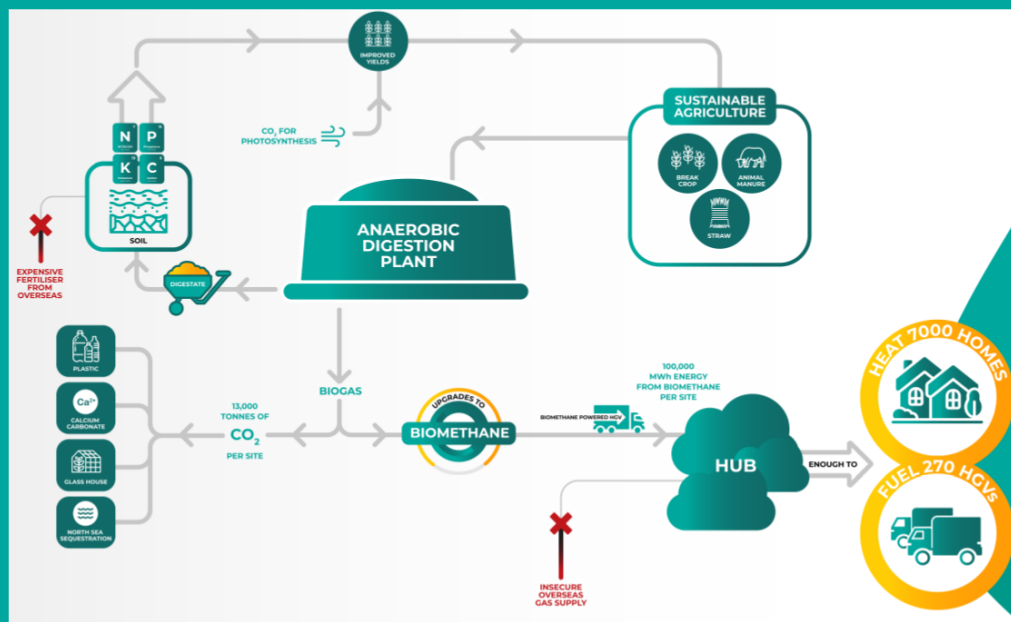
ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com

Appendix 4 – Exhibition boards shown at the drop-in event – 28 November 2022





What is Anaerobic Digestion?



Carbon dioxide is absorbed by our break crop and converted into sugars for the plant. This process is called photosynthesis.

The crop, as part of a sustainable, beneficial rotation, is fed into the digester, alongside other agricultural residues.

Anaerobic digestion is a naturally occurring biological process carried out by a mixture of microbes which break down agricultural materials to use as an energy source in an air-tight tank. The 'key' microbes are methanogenic bacteria which produce biogas from the intermediate products. In this process, gas that would've been emitted from degrading agricultural material is captured for energy.

Our AD facilities will then refine the biogas to extract biomethane and green CO₂.

The biomethane we produce is then used in HGVs, transported and injected into the grid to be used for heating homes. Biomethane will then displace fossil fuel gas in the grid and reduce our international dependency on fossil fuels.

The AD process produces two useful co-products; digestate, which will be used as fertiliser on farms, and green CO₂, which we capture for use in industries. Due to the closure of domestic fertiliser plants, both of these resources are in short supply.

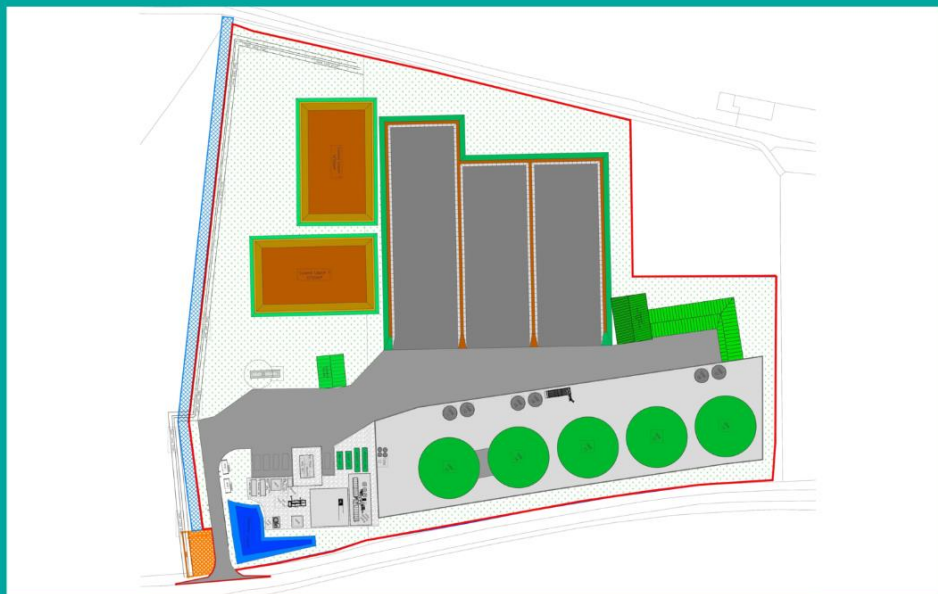
The end-product of this process is digestate. This is the remaining organic material that cannot be further broken down by the microbes. It is a renewable fertiliser which is supplied back to farmers.

Biogas has been used in the UK since 1895, when it was first used to power street lamps across Exeter.



The Site

- **Lighting:** The site will be designed to avoid light spill outside the site, with lighting directed away from hedgerows and trees.
- **Biodiversity net gain:** Visual screening will be added to minimise visual impact by planting of trees and hedgerows along all boundaries, particularly the northern and western boundaries. This will contribute to a biodiversity net gain.
- **Jobs:** This facility will create approximately 15 full-time jobs including 4-5 on-site workers.
- **Flood risk:** Our hydrology experts have confirmed that the site sits entirely within Flood Zone 1, meaning it is at the lowest risk of flooding from rivers and surface water.
- **Inputs and Outputs:** Feedstocks will be delivered to the site and gas and digestate will be exported from the site.
- **Smell:** We process agricultural waste, not food waste hence avoiding issues of smell. We will be strictly monitored to ensure minimal impact on local residents.
- **Size:** The site area will be approximately 8 hectares in total.





Location

The proposed site is located on agricultural land off Ashton Road, south-west of South Cerney. Ashton Road has good connections onto the B4696 which links to the A419 to the north east.

Feedstock and digestate movements occur Monday – Friday from 7:00-18:00 and on Saturday from 7:00-13:00 apart from peak harvest periods, twice a year.

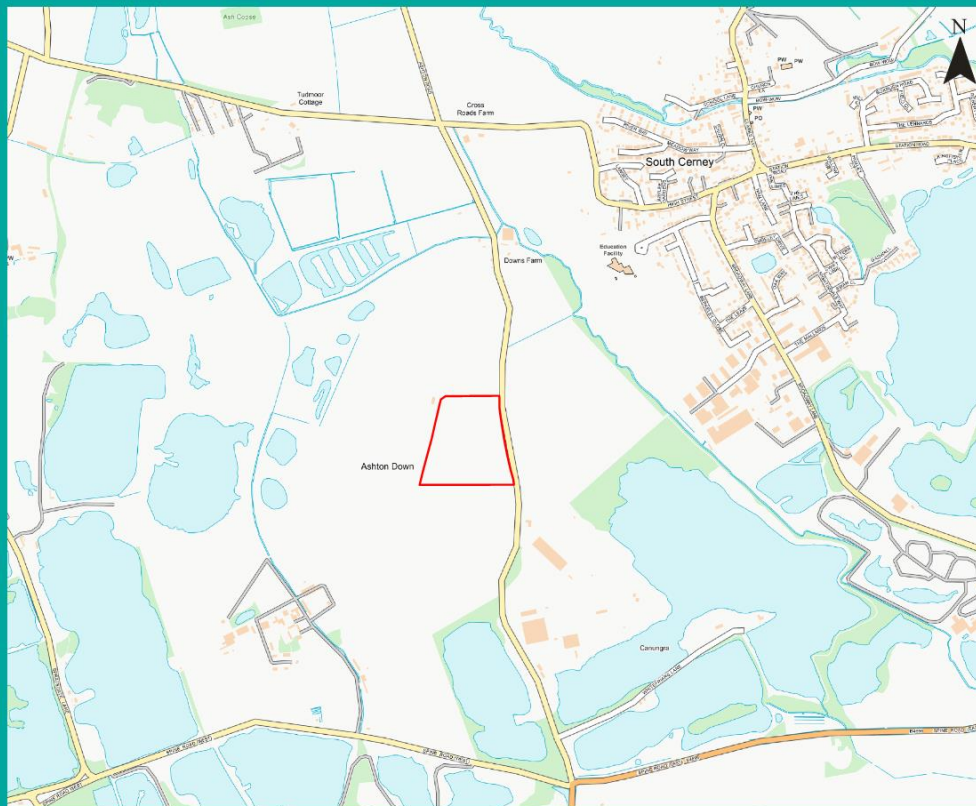
Biomethane/CO₂ offtake will not be time restricted due to the continuous supply of biogas. These make up a minority of movements (3-4 movements per day).

Our current traffic forecast indicates that the proposed agricultural movements (excluding harvest) would be on average, 35-39 trips/70-78 movements per day. This is based on the working hours described. For reference, the A419 itself has an average

traffic flow of 31,641 movements per day.

Feedstock related movements contribute to existing agricultural operations so won't be new to the road network.

Acorn Bioenergy prioritises sites with good agricultural partners that can provide high quality crops and agricultural residues.



Site location in red



Key Benefits of Anaerobic Digestion

DELIVERING NET-ZERO:

AD will play a crucial role in decarbonising the national gas grid. AD is expected to deliver 2.8TWh of renewable heat per year in 2030/31 from biomethane.

At present, agriculture, and rural land-use account for 12% of annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions nationally. By using agricultural waste as a feedstock, gases like CO₂ and methane that would've naturally contributed to atmospheric GHGs are captured for renewable heat energy.

Our biomethane-powered HGVs are an excellent net-zero transport technology.

Green CO₂ will replace alternative energy-intensive sources of CO₂. Usable CO₂ is limited but is an absolute necessity in the medical and, food and beverage industry. Green CO₂ also has huge potential in the future of sustainable materials.

Overall, we are looking at carbon savings equivalent to planting over 1,000,000 trees!

IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE FARMING:

AD is pivotal to sustainable food production and farming.

Digestate contains a high quantity of organic matter, restoring soil quality and NPK nutrients to promote healthy crops whilst reducing the requirement of artificial fertiliser. Digestate makes the soil more resilient to climate change in drought or periods of water logging.

Use of agricultural **break crops**, a viable solution to tackle dwindling crop yields, will diversify farmers' incomes. Crop rotations prevent the

spread of endemic chemical resistant weeds like black grass.

Encouraging the use of break crops, in conjunction with the use of digestate, will increase crop yields and support food security.

DEVELOPING NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY:

With spikes in energy prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a supply of domestically produced biomethane to the grid will decrease dependence on uncertain international supply by securing supply chains and mitigating energy price volatility.

In fact, the UK's full potential of anaerobic digestion is 54.5 TWh which accounts for 11.4% of domestic energy needs.

Supply of fertiliser and CO₂ is limited due to the closure of domestic fertiliser plants and overseas imports being hampered by war. Digestate provides a cheaper, sustainable alternative, helping to reduce food price insecurity dictated by gas and fertiliser supply.



Image: Mineral fertiliser vs digestate applied to grass
Image courtesy of FGS Organics: www.fgsorganics.co.uk/digestate-supply-and-spreading/



Next Steps

Planning Application:

We are currently preparing to submit a planning application, which we anticipate submitting in early 2023.

To this end, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed site has been carried out to assess the potential impacts on the following:

- Air quality
- Archaeology
- Ecology
- Noise
- Ground conditions
- Land Quality
- Visual Impact
- Traffic
- Water quality

Feedback:

Thank you for attending our drop-in event. Your feedback will be invaluable to our project. We are interesting in **delivering a beneficial impact to your community**. Let us know how we can help you.



The Acorn Bioenergy Team



If you can, please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form. We hope you have found this drop-in event useful. If you have any questions, feel free to ask members of the project team here today.

Tell us what you think:

- Complete one of our feedback forms today, or send it back to us FREEPOST
- Call the consultation team: 0749 386 7448
- Email us: ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com
- Visit our website: www.ashtonkeynesgreenenergy.com

Thank you for attending our drop-in event.

*Please note data displayed on the exhibition boards were predicted values at the time of the public exhibition and may have evolved following further detailed assessments.

Appendix 5 – Feedback form from the 12 December 2022 exhibition

Feedback Form Acorn Bioenergy: New Anaerobic Digestion Plant at Ashton Keynes

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Consultation 12 December 2022

Important: Protecting Your Data

Acorn Bioenergy is keen to understand your views to ensure they are properly taken account before any planning application is submitted and subsequently determined by the local authority. In accordance with best practice and data protection law (including GDPR) we need your explicit consent to be able to share your views with the scheme project team and the local authority as part of the public consultation process.

We will not disclose your information onto any unauthorised person or third party other than the scheme project team and the relevant planning authorities and will only use your information for the purposes of the planning process and providing you with subsequent information about the progress of the scheme. We will normally hold your data for a period of up to two years after the planning application has been determined by the authority.

You have the right to withdraw consent to us holding your information at any time and you can do so by sending an email to: ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com

You should be aware that if you withhold (or withdraw) your consent during the public consultation process then we will be unable to reflect your views as part of the consultation.

Please let us know your views by 4 January 2023

- Complete an online questionnaire at ashtonkeynesgreenenergy.com
- You can put your feedback form in the ballot box at the event, or
- Send it by post – using the Freepost envelope, or
- Attach it to an email: ashtonkeynesplans@instinctif.com

For validation purposes please provide your postcode:

Postcode _____

Title _____ Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Are you a member of a community group or residents association?

If yes please state: _____

☐ I consent to Acorn Bioenergy and its project team holding and using (for the purposes of any future planning application) my data including my name, address, contact details and views expressed on this feedback form. I also consent to Acorn Bioenergy and its project team using my data for the purposes of providing me with information about the progress of development scheme.

Your Views

What are your views on the proposals?

Do you support renewable energy generation in your local area?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Unsure ☐

What would your preferred form of energy generation in your local area be? (Put a tick next to the one/s you would prefer)

Wind ☐

Gas ☐

Biogas ☐

Solar ☐

Nuclear ☐

Coal ☐

Fracking ☐



Appendix 6 – Screenshot of the online feedback page from the project website

Have your say

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

Subject *

Are you a member of a community group or residents' association? If yes, please state.

Please tell us your overall views about the proposals.

I consent to Acorn Bioenergy, Instinctif Partners and the project team holding and using (for the purposes of this planning application) my data including my name, address, contact details and views expressed on this feedback form. I also consent to Acorn Bioenergy and Instinctif Partners and the project team using my data for the purposes of providing me with information about the progress of the development scheme *

☐

Submit

Appendix 7 – Photos from the exhibition







