

Olivia Tresise
North Planning Team
Wiltshire Council
Chippenham

24th October 2024

Dear Olivia

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: Ashton Keynes AD PL/2023/03359

Further to our considerable engagement with you, on behalf of the Council, over the summer months, I am now pleased to be able to provide you with a pack of documents that provides additional reporting plus the substitution of selected plans and reporting.

This submission has been prepared to address and respond to the consultation responses issued in relation to the current application by stakeholders and statutory consultees.

Having considered the comments provided by both consultees and the Council's statutory advisors we have taken considerable steps to evaluate our proposal and through a landscape led approach we have successfully reduced the bulk, mass and scale of the proposed structures whilst also enhancing the landscape mitigation. We are pleased to now be able to provide the Council with a suite of documents to either substitute a selection of those already submitted or to supplement the existing documents.

It is noteworthy that the site represents a typical example of intensively managed arable farmland bounded by hedgerows. The agricultural land is not high in value and the site is not located within any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. The site is also well located for accessing the highway network and shares proximity to existing industrial and commercial uses.

As mentioned above we have taken considerable landscape led steps to reduce the bulk, height and scale of the proposed structures. The package of amendments to the application include embedded design measures including a reduction in height of the tanks in combination with the off-set of development from the site boundaries. The revised scheme also includes substantial enhancement to landscaping and further careful consideration of site levels to further reduce slab levels to decrease overall heights and associated visibility of structures from receptors. The proposed enhanced landscaping within the scheme will provide effective landscape screening from the early years of operation.

In addition, we have reviewed the elevational treatments of the proposed building and structures within the proposal to align materials and colours with commercial and agricultural Uses within proximity of the proposed site.

During October 2024 we reviewed the ecological baseline and an extended Phase 1 survey was carried out. This has been reported within the Ecological Technical Note which supplements this submission. The assessment concludes that the site has not significantly changed since the previous survey which forms part of the original application, which therefore continue to be considered valid.

This submission substitutes the existing drainage plans and Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) due to the necessity to review the drainage strategy to align with the amended layout. The substitution DIA report concludes that the proposed drainage system can provide more than sufficient capacity to avoid any exceedance of the permitted discharge rate. In addition, the plant will harvest dirty water to be re-used within the AD process, whilst all run-off within the bunds will be collected and sampled prior to later discharge, or used on site. The report concludes that strict recording, and robust auditing in accordance with Environment Agency permits will ensure the performance of the system for the life of the facility.

We hereby wish to amend the submitted planning application documents as follows:

Document name	Existing Reference	Substitution/ additional Reference
Ecological Technical Note	NA	Technical Note (dated 17 th November 2024)
Drainage Impact Assessment	SLR FRA and Surface water strategy dated March 2023	DIA (Dated 9 th September 2024)
Drainage site layout plan 1of2	NA	29419/P2/103 PO1
Drainage site layout sheet 2of2	NA	29419/P2/103 PO2
Drainage details sheet 3	NA	29419/P2/108 PO1
Attenuation tank sections	NA	29419/P2/104 PO1
Site drainage catchment plan 1of2	NA	29419/P2/105 PO1
Site drainage catchment plan 2of 2	NA	29419/P2/105 Po2
Drainage details sheet 1. Clean water details	NA	29419/P2/106 PO1
Drainage details sheet 2	NA	29419/P2/107 PO1
Proposed section through wetland and weir	NA	29419/P2/109 PO1
Site layout for planning	29419/P/102	29419 F101 Rev A

Site layout sheet 1of 2	29419/P/101 F	29419/P2/101 PO3
Site Layout Sheet 2of2	29419/P/101 F	29419/P2/101 PO3
Site Section as proposed	29419-013 F102 D	29219- F102B
Site elevations as proposed	29419-013 F102 D	29419-F103B
Chicken shed – plans and elevations	29419	29419 F104 Rev A
Chicken shed sections and elevations	29419	29419 F105 Rev A
Fermenter Tank -plans, sections and elevations	29346 1000	-
33m DIA dome fermentor tank. Plans / sections / elevations	NA	29419 F106 Rev A
45m DIA fermenter tank plans and elevations	NA	29419 F107 Rev A
Straw bunker building – plans	29346 1014 Rev A	29419 F108 Rev A
Straw bunker building – elevations	29346 1014 Rev A	29419 F109 Rev A
Separator building – plans	29346 1006	29419 F110 Rev A
Separator building – sections and elevations	29346 1006	29419 F111 Rev A
Liquid storage tanks – plans sections and elevations	29346 1001	29419 F112 Rev A
3D renders as proposed	29419-013 F101 D	29419 F114 Rev A
Hard and soft landscaping plans	29419/P/120 Rev A	29419 120-1 PO1 29419 120-2 PO1
Enclosures plans	NA	29419 150-1 PO1 29419 150-2 PO1
Environmental Statement Ch7 LVIA	Chapter 7	Replacement chapter. V1 dated October 2024
Environmental statement Ch7 Appendices.	Chapter 7 Appendix A to D	Replacement Appendix 7.1-7.5
Environmental statement Ch7 figures.	Ch. 7 LVIA Figures 1-10.3	Replacement Figures 7.1 - 7.8

In conclusion the landscape led package of amendments have been developed to both maximise landscape mitigation whilst also maximising efficiencies in technology to ensure that the proposed biomethane generation facility will continue to deliver equivalent levels of biomethane production as the proposal presently before the Council. The efficiencies in technology ensure that although smaller in built form, this proposed facility can continue to contribute towards national objective of renewable energy production whilst also supporting energy security.

Importantly, this proposed facility will continue to support rural farming economies by providing reception to break crops and agricultural waste. The digestate produced by the facility as part of the anaerobic digestion process will also continue to be exported locally for use by farmers as a natural fertiliser. This in turn also reduces the reliance of farming on synthetic fertilisers which are often imported from abroad.

It is our view that this planning application remains aligned with the broad objectives of national policy and the development plan when considered as a whole with wider material considerations. The proposed package of amendments submitted within this pack take a significant step in further enhancing the merits of this much needed renewable energy generating proposal.

I look forward to receiving confirmation of acceptance of this pack of documents. Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

SMThorpe

Sophia Thorpe MRTPI

Head of Planning

For and on behalf of Acorn Bioenergy Ltd