

Date: 21 January 2025
Our ref: 493709
Your ref: PL/2023/03359



Olivia Tresise
Wiltshire Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
planning@sf.wiltshire.gov.uk

Customer Services
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Dear Olivia Tresise,

Planning consultation: Additional information dated 8/11/24 - Construction & operation of anaerobic digestion facility, ancillary infrastructure & construction of new access from Ashton Road.
Location: Land W of Ashton Road, Ashton Keynes, Wilts, SN6 6QT

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 11th November 2024, which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IMPACTS ON COTSWOLD WATER PARK SSSI

As submitted, the application could have potential significant effects on Cotswold Water Park SSSI. Natural England requires further information in order to determine the significance of these impacts and the scope for mitigation.

The following information is required:

- Information/ clarification on surface water (quality and quantity) and potential impacts on the Cotswold Water Park SSSI

Without this information, Natural England may need to object to the proposal.

Please re-consult Natural England once this information has been obtained.

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

Natural England notes the further information submitted for this proposal, notably the Drainage Impact Assessment dated 09.09.2024. Having considered the information within this assessment and the application we still have concerns relating to potential impacts on the SSSI specially in

relation to whether this proposal will result in a reduction in water quantity and / or water quality.

Additional Information required

Can the Applicant please provide details of the full retention petrol interceptor and how the waters will be treated by it before they are allowed to be release back to surface water. What parameters will the clean water runoff be sampled for? What is the surface water channel that the water will be discharged into?

Further clarification is sought on the usage of water at the proposal site. It appears that the sites yearly demand is greater than the runoff from the site, does this mean that the development will need to source additional water from abstraction to run the facility? Can the Applicant clarifying the amount of harvested rainwater that will be used at the proposed facility?

Currently some of the surface water from the proposal site will be going to recharging the ground water, some is likely to run off, possibly into ditches, ending up in the SSSI. We do not know how much is currently going to the SSSI. What is the impact of collecting the proposed volume of harvested rainwater to the surrounding area and the SSSI?

Please note that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission contrary to the advice in this letter, you are required under Section 281 (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. You must also allow a further period of 21 days before the operation can commence.

Other advice

Priority habitats and Species

Priority habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and are included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. A list of priority habitats and species can be found on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Natural England does not routinely hold species data, such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land, further information including links to the open mosaic habitats inventory can be found [here](#).

Further general advice on the protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

Should the applicant wish to discuss the further information required and scope for mitigation with Natural England, we would be happy to provide advice through our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

Please consult us again once the information requested above, has been provided.

Yours sincerely

Holly Marlow

Holly Marlow
Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Team.