



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

District: Lincolnshire County Council

Application number: PL/0134/24

Application Type: Full-Major

Proposal: For proposed extension to anaerobic digestion plant for biomethane production and CO2 capture including demolition of glasshouses

Location: Station Farm, Station Road, Sibsey

Response Date: 4 February 2025

This report includes the Substantive response of the Local Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority to a planning consultation received under the Development Management Order and includes details of any planning conditions or informatives that should be attached in the event that permission is granted and any obligations to be secured by way of a S106 agreement.

General Information and Advice

Please note that although the Definitive Map and Statement proves the existence of any recorded rights of way, there may be further or higher rights that are not shown on this document that the County Council is not currently aware of. This would be especially relevant where the public has had informal access to the site or where there are references to routes across this in maps or other historic documents. As the County Council has received no application to recognise further rights of way affecting the site, no more informed guidance can be offered at this stage.

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Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority Report

Substantive Response provided in accordance with article 22(5) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015:

Recommendation: No objection

In 2023, planning permission was granted for an extension to the AD Plant (WPA ref: - PL/0015/23 and LPA ref: - S152/00625/23) to include a new cold store. Due in part to a change in technology provider and the need to add further gas storage on site, this application is to allow for the change to the biomethane production and the additional storage/buffer capacity. The new cold store remains extant by virtue of the 2023 permission.

The proposal will see the erection of an additional secondary digestion tank, which is roughly the same size as the existing tank on the eastern side of the AD Plant, that will be used to produce and store biogas which is then cleaned and the CO₂ stripped out to produce Biomethane. This will then be compressed to produce Compressed Biomethane (CBM) for use in the farming company's fleet of HGVs and farm machinery to replace fossil fuel-based diesel. The CO₂ will also be compressed and sold on the open market for use in a variety of marketplaces such as the food and drinks industry. The new plant and equipment will be located immediately to the west of the existing AD plant. The new tank will be 8m to the top of the vertical concrete sides and 16m to the top of the collapsable dome. The tank has a diameter of 29.8m. 4.2. The remainder of the plant and equipment lies within the existing yard and where the existing large greenhouse is to be demolished.

The production of CBM on site will obviate the need to continue to use fossil fuel derived fuels for the farming company's HGVs and farm vehicles. It is anticipated the CBM produced will be used by the applicant, but, in the unlikely event that not all is used, it can be taken off-site to the nearest gas injection point into the National Gas Grid. In the highly unlikely event that none of the CBM was used by the applicant, there would only be a maximum of one tanker load exported from the site per day. The tanker is typically a 25,000l (25 tonne) tanker, the same size vehicle as the diesel delivery which currently visits the site and the same as a domestic heating oil lorry. There is no change to vehicle access or parking arrangements. The proposal will not have an impact upon highway safety or any capacity issues.

Surface water will be collected and stored in the large surface water lagoon immediately to the south of the application site. The lagoon is traditionally filled each year with water which is abstracted in the winter from surrounding ditches. Collected surface water is a valuable commodity in the farming industry and so it is in the applicant's interest to collect and store as much as possible, thereby reduced the need for costly abstraction. Therefore, the proposal will not increase surface water flood risk to the development site, surrounding properties or land.

No Objections

Having given due regard to the appropriate local and national planning policy guidance (in particular the National Planning Policy Framework), Lincolnshire County Council (as Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority) has concluded that the proposed development would not be expected to have an unacceptable impact upon highway safety or a severe residual cumulative impact upon the local highway network or increase surface water flood risk and therefore does not wish to object to this planning application.

Officer's Name: Dean Whitehead

Officer's Title: Senior Development Management Officer

Date: 4 February 2025