

Anwick Parish Council

Review of the Revised Environmental Statement and Supporting Information

Planning Application PL/0016/25

4/8/2026

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Executive Summary and Recommendation

Purpose of this Response

This response has been prepared by Anwick Parish Council following the submission of revised planning, environmental and technical information by Stream BioEnergy in support of Planning Application **PL/0016/25**.

It addresses one central question:

Do the revised submissions now provide sufficient evidence to justify a different planning conclusion from that previously reached by the Waste Planning Authority?

The Parish Council has reviewed the revised Environmental Statement, amended drawings, supporting technical reports and all other information submitted following the deferral of the application.

Recognising that residential amenity, odour and cumulative environmental effects remain central to the determination of this application, the Parish Council also commissioned an independent review by **Dr Michael Bull of Michael Bull & Associates Ltd**. That review is reproduced in full at **Appendix A** and has been taken fully into account throughout this submission.

Overall Conclusion

The applicant has submitted a substantial volume of additional information following the original officer recommendation of refusal.

The Parish Council acknowledges that additional work has been undertaken and that aspects of the proposal have been amended.

However, the submission of additional information does not, in itself, demonstrate that the proposal has become acceptable in planning terms.

Having reviewed all of the revised material together with the independent technical evidence, **the Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate, through clear and robust evidence, that the principal planning concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority have been overcome.**

In the Parish Council's view, **the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to justify a different planning recommendation.**

The Principal Planning Issues Remain Unresolved

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions **do not demonstrate** that:

1. Residential Amenity

The applicant has failed to demonstrate that nearby residents would be adequately protected from unacceptable odour impacts throughout the operational life of the development.

The independent review by **Dr Michael Bull** concludes that:

- the revised Environmental Statement continues to rely upon substantially the same odour assessment methodology;
- the reduction in tank height is not expected to materially improve odour impacts;
- cumulative odour effects remain inadequately assessed;
- the proposal continues to be assessed largely in isolation rather than in combination with existing odour sources, particularly the adjacent Pilgrim's facility; and
- the revised submissions do not alter his previous conclusion that the development has the potential to worsen the existing odour environment experienced by nearby residents.

2. Site Selection

The applicant has not demonstrated that Anwick is the most appropriate location for a major anaerobic digestion facility.

The revised submissions continue to rely heavily upon operational advantages whilst failing to demonstrate that alternative, potentially less constrained locations have been assessed through a sufficiently transparent and balanced site selection process.

The applicant has also failed to demonstrate that the claimed operational advantages outweigh the significant planning constraints arising from locating a major industrial waste management facility immediately adjacent to an established residential community.

3. Landscape and Visual Impact

Whilst the reduction in tank height is acknowledged, it does not materially alter the fundamental planning issue.

The proposal would remain a substantial industrial development within a predominantly rural landscape immediately adjoining the village of Anwick.

The revised submissions do not demonstrate that the significant landscape and visual concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority have been overcome.

4. Highways and Transport

The applicant has not demonstrated that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the development that could operate throughout the lifetime of the planning permission.

The revised submissions do not adequately demonstrate that cumulative traffic impacts, operational flexibility or future changes in traffic patterns have been fully assessed.

Nor do they demonstrate that the cumulative effect of traffic generated by existing industrial activity, the sewage treatment works, the expanded Parkers operation and the proposed development would remain acceptable.

5. Definition of the Development

The revised submissions introduce a materially different engineering design whilst maintaining the same treatment capacity and environmental conclusions.

The applicant has not demonstrated with sufficient certainty that:

- the revised physical design supports the claimed throughput;
- the changed operational assumptions have been fully reflected within the Environmental Statement; or
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which planning permission is sought.

The Authority should be satisfied that it knows precisely what development it is approving before planning permission is granted.

6. Drainage, Flood Risk and Environmental Protection

The site is known to experience seasonal waterlogging and localised flooding.

The revised submissions continue to rely heavily upon engineered mitigation and long-term management measures.

The applicant has not demonstrated that these measures would provide reliable environmental protection throughout the operational life of the development or under the site conditions known to exist.

The Planning Balance

The Parish Council supports renewable energy generation and recognises the important role that anaerobic digestion can play in sustainable waste management.

Its objection is not to anaerobic digestion as a technology.

Its objection is to the siting of a major industrial waste management facility immediately adjacent to an established residential community where the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the resulting planning impacts would be acceptable.

The Parish Council considers that the principal planning harms identified during the original determination remain substantially unresolved.

Accordingly, the benefits of the proposal do not outweigh those remaining planning harms and the planning balance continues to weigh firmly against the grant of planning permission.

Recommendation

Having considered:

- the revised Environmental Statement;
- the revised technical submissions;
- the independent review by **Dr Michael Bull**;
- the representations received from local residents; and
- all other material planning considerations,

Anwick Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate, through clear, robust and compelling evidence, that the proposal is acceptable in planning terms or that the revised submissions justify departing from the Waste Planning Authority's previous assessment.

The principal planning concerns remain substantially unresolved.

Accordingly, Anwick Parish Council concludes that there is no sound planning basis upon which Planning Application PL/0016/25 should now be approved and respectfully requests that Lincolnshire County Council refuse planning permission.

Planning Context

This response has been prepared to assist Lincolnshire County Council, as Waste Planning Authority, in determining planning application **PL/0016/25**.

In determining the application, the Authority is required to consider the proposal in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Authority must therefore be satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated, through robust and proportionate evidence, that the proposed development complies with the relevant policies of the Development Plan, national planning policy and other material planning considerations.

The issue before the Authority is not whether anaerobic digestion is an appropriate technology, but whether this proposal, in this location, has been demonstrated to comply with the Development Plan and other material planning considerations. The principal question is whether the revised submissions now provide a sufficient evidential basis to conclude that planning permission should be granted.

This response has been prepared within that context.

Guiding Principles Adopted in this Assessment

In preparing this response, Anwick Parish Council has sought to adopt a balanced, objective and evidence-led approach.

Accordingly, this assessment:

- **acknowledges the additional information and amendments submitted by the applicant following the deferral of the application;**
- **distinguishes between the applicant's evidence, independent technical evidence, planning policy and planning judgement;**
- **recognises where matters may appropriately be addressed through planning conditions and where they require resolution before planning permission could properly be granted;**
- **identifies those matters which, in the Parish Council's opinion, remain unresolved following consideration of the revised submissions; and**
- **explains why those matters continue to weigh against the grant of planning permission.**

The Parish Council recognises that the ultimate planning judgement rests with Lincolnshire County Council. This response is intended to assist that judgement by identifying those issues which, in the Parish Council's view, remain material to determining whether the revised submissions justify a different planning conclusion from that previously reached.

Key Questions for Determination

The applicant has submitted a substantial volume of revised planning, environmental and technical information following the original officer recommendation of refusal.

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether further information has been submitted. It is whether the applicant has now demonstrated, through clear, robust and compelling evidence, that the principal planning concerns previously identified have been overcome and that there is a sound planning basis for reaching a different conclusion.

Before determining Planning Application PL/0016/25, the Waste Planning Authority should be satisfied that the applicant can answer each of the following questions in the affirmative. If the answer to any of these questions remains uncertain, the evidential basis for granting planning permission has not been established.

Key Question	Chapter
1. Has the applicant demonstrated, through clear and robust evidence, that the revised submissions justify departing from the Authority's previous assessment and recommendation?	2
2. Has the applicant demonstrated that nearby residents would be adequately protected from unacceptable impacts on residential amenity, including cumulative odour, throughout the operational life of the development?	3
3. Has the applicant demonstrated that Anwick is the most appropriate planning location for a development of this scale and nature, having regard to the Development Plan and all other material considerations?	4
4. Has the applicant demonstrated that the landscape and visual harm arising from this major industrial development would be acceptable throughout its operational life?	5
5. Has the applicant demonstrated that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the development that could lawfully operate throughout the lifetime of the planning permission?	6
6. Has the applicant demonstrated, with sufficient certainty, that the revised physical design, operational assumptions and treatment capacity remain consistent with the Environmental Statement and the development for which planning permission is sought?	7
7. Has the applicant demonstrated that drainage, flood risk and environmental safeguards would provide reliable protection throughout the operational life of the development, having regard to the site's known drainage constraints and seasonal waterlogging?	8
8. Having weighed the remaining planning harms against the claimed benefits, has the applicant demonstrated that there is a sound planning basis for granting planning permission?	9

The remainder of this response examines each of these questions in turn. For the reasons set out in the following chapters, the Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to provide sufficient evidence to answer these questions in the affirmative and has therefore failed to demonstrate that the revised submissions justify a different planning conclusion from that previously reached.

Introduction and Scope of this Response

1.1 Introduction

This document sets out Anwick Parish Council's formal response to the revised planning, environmental and technical information submitted by Stream BioEnergy in support of Planning Application **PL/0016/25** for the construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility on land west of the Pilgrim's food processing facility at Anwick.

The Parish Council has reviewed the revised Environmental Statement, supporting technical reports, amended drawings and associated information submitted following the deferral of the application. This response considers whether those submissions materially alter the evidential basis upon which the Waste Planning Authority should determine the application.

The Parish Council supports the principle of anaerobic digestion as a means of recovering waste and generating renewable energy. Its objection is not to anaerobic digestion as a technology, but to the applicant's failure to demonstrate that this location is suitable for a major industrial waste management facility of the proposed scale, having regard to its proximity to the established residential community of Anwick and the remaining unresolved planning concerns identified in this response.

1.2 Background

The application has been subject to extensive consultation, technical assessment and public scrutiny.

The original officer report recommended refusal of planning permission, identifying significant concerns relating to residential amenity, cumulative odour, drainage, site selection and other environmental effects. Before the application could be determined, the applicant requested a deferral in order to submit further information and amendments.

The revised submissions comprise amended drawings, revised environmental information and additional technical reports across a range of planning disciplines.

The submission of additional information does not, in itself, justify a different planning conclusion. The key issue is whether the revised evidence materially alters the planning assessment of the proposal.

1.3 Purpose and Approach

The purpose of this response is to assess whether the revised submissions satisfactorily address the principal planning concerns identified during the determination of the application.

Each chapter considers:

- the planning issue requiring determination;
- the additional information submitted by the applicant;
- relevant independent technical evidence where appropriate;
- whether the revised submissions materially alter the planning assessment; and
- the resulting planning implications.

Recognising the importance of residential amenity, odour and cumulative effects, the Parish Council commissioned an independent technical review by **Dr Michael Bull of Michael Bull & Associates Ltd**. His report is reproduced in full at **Appendix A** and forms part of the evidence relied upon in this response.

1.4 Assessment Principles

This response distinguishes between:

- factual information contained within the application documents;
- independent technical evidence;

- relevant planning policy and guidance; and
- the planning judgement that ultimately rests with Lincolnshire County Council.

Where the applicant has submitted amendments or additional information, these are acknowledged. Where those submissions do not materially alter the planning assessment of an identified issue, the reasons are explained by reference to the evidence before the Authority.

The Parish Council's objective has been to provide a balanced, evidence-led assessment of the revised submissions while explaining why, in its opinion, the principal planning concerns remain unresolved.

1.5 Structure of this Response

The following chapters examine each of the principal planning issues identified in the **Key Questions for Determination** before concluding with an overall assessment of whether the revised submissions materially alter the planning balance.

Assessment Framework and Principal Issues for Determination

2.1 Purpose of this Chapter

The revised submissions comprise amended drawings, revised environmental information, additional technical reports and further explanation of aspects of the proposed development.

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether additional information has been submitted. The issue is whether the evidence now before the Authority materially alters the planning assessment and provides a sufficiently robust basis for concluding that the proposal is acceptable in planning terms.

This chapter explains the assessment framework adopted by the Parish Council and identifies the principal planning issues considered in the chapters that follow.

2.2 Assessment Framework

The Parish Council has assessed each of the principal planning issues against the following framework:

Outcome	Meaning
Resolved	The additional evidence satisfactorily addresses the original planning concern.
Partially Resolved	The additional evidence provides further information or reduces uncertainty but does not remove the underlying planning concern.
Unresolved	The additional evidence does not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis for the Authority to conclude that the concern has been overcome.

A planning concern is not regarded as resolved simply because additional information has been submitted. The Authority must be satisfied that the evidence demonstrates that the issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

2.3 Principal Planning Issues

The Parish Council considers that the following issues remain fundamental to the determination of this application. The revised submissions must demonstrate, through clear, robust and compelling evidence, that each of these matters has been satisfactorily resolved before planning permission can properly be granted.

Residential Amenity and Odour

Has the applicant demonstrated that the proposed development would not give rise to unacceptable effects on residential amenity, including cumulative odour impacts, throughout its operational life?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 3**, taking account of the independent technical review prepared by **Dr Michael Bull** (Appendix A).

Site Selection

Has the applicant demonstrated that the planning advantages of the proposed location clearly outweigh its environmental and amenity constraints, and that Anwick is an appropriate location for a major industrial waste management facility of this scale?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 4**.

Landscape and Visual Effects

Has the applicant demonstrated that the revised proposal would not result in unacceptable landscape and visual harm throughout the operational life of the development?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 5**.

Highways and Transport

Has the applicant demonstrated that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the full operational envelope likely to be authorised by any planning permission, and that the resulting highway impacts would remain acceptable throughout the life of the development?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 6**.

Definition of the Development

Has the applicant demonstrated, with sufficient certainty, the relationship between the proposed physical infrastructure, treatment capacity and operational parameters for the Authority to conclude that the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which planning permission is sought?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 7**.

Environmental Protection

Has the applicant demonstrated that the proposed drainage, flood risk and environmental protection measures provide a sufficiently robust and reliable basis for concluding that the surrounding environment would remain adequately protected throughout the operational life of the facility?

This issue is examined in **Chapter 8**.

2.4 Overall Assessment

The planning issues identified above cannot be considered in isolation. The Authority must ultimately determine whether the proposal, taken as a whole, is acceptable in planning terms. The final planning judgement requires consideration of:

- the benefits of the proposal;
- the remaining planning harms;
- the effectiveness and reliability of the proposed mitigation; and
- whether the revised submissions materially alter the overall planning balance.

This overall assessment is considered in **Chapter 9**.

2.5 Conclusion

The revised submissions provide additional information across a number of planning disciplines. The key issue, however, is whether that information materially alters the planning assessment of the proposal.

Having reviewed the revised submissions, the Parish Council considers that a number of the principal planning issues remain unresolved. The following chapters explain the reasons for that conclusion.

Protecting the Living Conditions of Anwick Residents

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Has the applicant demonstrated that the proposed development would not result in unacceptable harm to residential amenity, including cumulative odour effects, throughout its operational life?

3.1 The Planning Issue

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is whether the applicant has demonstrated that this facility can be constructed, commissioned and operated throughout its lifetime, under the full range of reasonably foreseeable operating conditions, without giving rise to unacceptable harm to residential amenity. That requires more than predictive modelling or proposed mitigation measures; it requires sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the operational realities of the development have been properly assessed and that the risks to nearby residents are acceptable.

3.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The revised submissions seek to demonstrate that:

- the odour assessment remains valid;
- the proposed odour management measures would be effective;
- predicted odour concentrations would remain within accepted assessment criteria; and
- the development would not result in unacceptable effects on residential amenity.

The applicant has also submitted a further technical review prepared on its behalf.

The issue for the Authority is whether this additional material materially alters the evidential basis upon which residential amenity should be assessed.

3.3 Independent Technical Review

Recognising that odour and residential amenity remain central to the determination of this application, the Parish Council commissioned an independent review by **Dr Michael Bull of Michael Bull & Associates Ltd.** His report is reproduced in full at **Appendix A.**

Having reviewed the revised Environmental Statement and the subsequent technical review submitted on behalf of the applicant, Dr Bull concludes that the revised submissions do not materially alter the previous technical assessment.

In summary, Dr Bull concludes that:

- the revised Environmental Statement adopts substantially the same odour assessment methodology as previous submissions;
- the principal design change, namely the reduction in digester tank height, is not expected to produce any material improvement in predicted odour impacts;
- the revised submissions do not alter the conclusions reached in his previous reviews; and
- the principal concerns relating to residential amenity and cumulative odour remain.
-

Key conclusion from Dr Michael Bull's Independent Technical Review (Appendix A):

" The cumulative impact issues identified in earlier reviews remain relevant and the proposed

development has the potential to worsen the current odour problems experienced in the area. The new material submitted does not change the conclusions I reached on this matter in earlier reviews.”

The Parish Council considers Dr Bull's independent technical review to be of particular significance because it addresses the principal issue that led to the deferral of the application. His conclusion is clear: the revised odour evidence does not materially alter the previous assessment of odour impacts or justify a different planning conclusion on residential amenity.

3.4 Significance of the Revised Assessment

The revised submissions provide further information regarding odour assessment. The key issue, however, is whether that information materially alters the assessment of risk to residential amenity.

Dr Bull concludes that it does not. In his opinion, the revised submissions continue to rely upon the same fundamental modelling approach and assumptions as the previous assessment and do not provide a materially different evidential basis for the Authority's planning judgement.

3.5 Interpretation of the Odour Assessment

Dr Bull also questions the interpretation of the applicant's odour modelling. Whilst predicted concentrations may remain below recognised assessment criteria, he explains that this does not demonstrate an odour-free or acceptable environment. Odour is influenced by short-term peaks, variations in emissions and the way it is experienced by nearby residents.

Compliance with a 98th percentile odour criterion does not equate to an odour-free environment. It allows the assessment threshold to be exceeded for around 30 minutes each day. Those exceedances may occur during periods when residents are most likely to notice them, reinforcing why planning judgement cannot rely on statistical compliance alone

The Parish Council therefore considers that residential amenity should be judged by the likely experience of those living nearby, not by model outputs alone. If the evidence does not demonstrate that odour impacts would be acceptable, that uncertainty should be resolved before planning permission is granted, not left to future management plans or planning conditions.

3.6 Cumulative Odour Effects

The proposed development would not operate within an odour-free environment. It would operate immediately alongside existing industrial sources of odour, most notably the adjacent Pilgrim's facility, in close proximity to the residential community of Anwick.

The critical planning issue is therefore not whether the proposed AD facility can satisfy odour assessment criteria in isolation. It is whether the applicant has demonstrated that the cumulative odour environment experienced by nearby residents would remain acceptable following the introduction of a further major odour-generating facility.

Dr Bull concludes that the revised submissions do not adequately assess the cumulative odour effects arising from the interaction of the proposed development with existing odour sources. His conclusion is that the cumulative impact issues identified in his earlier reviews remain relevant and that the proposed development has the potential to worsen the existing odour environment experienced by nearby residents.

Residents do not experience odour from individual facilities in isolation—they experience the combined effect of all odour sources present at their homes. Unless that cumulative effect has been robustly assessed, the Authority cannot be satisfied that the proposed development would not give rise to unacceptable harm to residential amenity.

3.7 Planning and Environmental Permitting

The applicant relies in part upon operational controls and environmental permitting to manage odour. However, environmental permitting does not remove the Waste Planning Authority's responsibility to determine whether the proposed development is acceptable in planning terms.

As Dr Bull observes, the existence of regulatory controls does not eliminate the need to demonstrate that residential amenity would be adequately protected.

3.8 Planning Judgement

Having considered:

- the revised Environmental Statement;
- the applicant's supporting technical information; and
- the independent technical review reproduced at Appendix A,

the Parish Council concludes that the applicant has not demonstrated that the proposed development can operate throughout its operational life without giving rise to unacceptable harm to residential amenity.

Whilst predictive odour modelling is an important assessment tool, compliance with modelled criteria does not, of itself, demonstrate that nearby residents would be adequately protected. The Authority must also be satisfied that the cumulative odour environment has been properly assessed and that the evidence demonstrates the facility can operate under realistic conditions without unacceptable effects on those living nearby.

For these reasons, the Parish Council considers that the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to justify departing from the previous assessment of odour impacts or reaching a different planning conclusion on residential amenity.

3.9 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions provide further information regarding odour assessment and proposed control measures. However, the independent technical review reproduced at **Appendix A** concludes that they do not materially alter the previous assessment of odour impacts or resolve the principal concerns relating to residential amenity.

The Parish Council therefore remains of the view that the applicant has not demonstrated that the proposed development would avoid unacceptable impacts on the living conditions of nearby residents. Residential amenity remains a significant unresolved planning concern weighing materially against the grant of planning permission.

The Suitability of the Proposed Location and Site Selection Methodology

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Has the applicant demonstrated, through a robust and proportionate site selection process, that Anwick is the most appropriate location for a development of this scale and nature?

4.1 The Planning Issue

The location of a major industrial waste management facility is a fundamental planning consideration. The proposed development would introduce a 120,000 tonnes per annum anaerobic digestion facility immediately adjoining the established residential community of Anwick.

The applicant relies heavily on the site's relationship with existing food processing operations, local feedstocks and claimed transport efficiencies to justify its selection. Whilst these are material considerations, they do not, in themselves, demonstrate that this is an appropriate location for a development of this scale and nature.

The critical issue for the Waste Planning Authority is whether the applicant has demonstrated that these operational advantages clearly outweigh the significant planning constraints arising from the site's proximity to residential properties and the resulting impacts on residential amenity, the environment and the character of the area. The Parish Council does not consider that the revised submissions provide sufficient evidence to support that conclusion.

4.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The revised submissions continue to rely principally on the relationship between the proposed development, nearby food processing operations and locally available feedstocks.

The applicant's case is that the proposal would:

- make efficient use of local feedstocks;
- minimise transport distances;
- achieve co-location benefits; and
- provide a sustainable location for the proposed facility.

The issue for the Authority is whether the revised submissions materially strengthen the planning justification for selecting this location.

4.3 The Appropriate Planning Test

The relevant planning question is not whether the site offers operational advantages to the applicant.

It is whether the applicant has demonstrated that this location is acceptable when all relevant planning considerations are assessed together.

Operational benefits may support a site's selection, but they do not in themselves demonstrate that the location is suitable where significant planning constraints remain.

4.4 Assessment of the Site Selection Methodology

The revised submissions provide further explanation of the applicant's site selection rationale. The key issue, however, is not whether the applicant has explained why Anwick was selected, but whether the site selection exercise demonstrates that Anwick emerged as the most appropriate location following a transparent and balanced assessment of reasonable alternatives.

For a proposal of this scale, the Authority should be satisfied that the preferred site resulted from a balanced assessment of operational requirements, planning policy, environmental constraints, residential amenity, transport implications and cumulative environmental effects.

The Parish Council remains concerned that the revised submissions do not adequately explain why other potentially suitable sites offering similar operational advantages were discounted. In particular, the applicant places considerable reliance upon co-location with the adjacent Pilgrim's facility as a principal justification for selecting Anwick, yet the submissions provide no clear explanation as to why Site 18, which also adjoins a Pilgrim's facility, was not pursued.

The absence of any clear explanation is particularly significant because co-location with an existing food processing operation is presented by the applicant as one of the principal planning justifications for selecting Anwick. If that justification could equally have been achieved elsewhere, the Authority is entitled to understand why that alternative was discounted and why the planning constraints associated with Anwick were preferred.

4.5 Co-location and Planning Constraints

The applicant places considerable reliance on co-location with the adjacent Pilgrim's facility as a principal justification for selecting Anwick. Whilst co-location may be a material planning consideration, it does not, in itself, demonstrate that this is an appropriate location for a major industrial waste management facility.

In this case, the same relationship that is said to provide operational advantages also places the proposed development immediately adjacent to an established residential community and creates the very planning constraints that the Authority must determine.

Furthermore, if co-location is advanced as a principal justification for selecting Anwick, the applicant should explain why other co-located opportunities, including Site 18, were not pursued. Until that question is satisfactorily addressed, the Authority cannot be satisfied that the planning advantages relied upon by the applicant are unique to Anwick or that the significant planning constraints associated with this site are justified.

4.6 Alternatives

The Parish Council does not suggest that the applicant was required to identify a perfect alternative site. However, where a proposal gives rise to significant impacts on residential amenity and the local environment, the Authority is entitled to expect a clear and transparent explanation of why this location was selected in preference to other sites offering similar operational advantages.

The absence of any meaningful explanation as to why Site 18—also adjoining a Pilgrim's facility—was not pursued significantly weakens the applicant's reliance on co-location as the principal justification for selecting Anwick. Without that explanation, the Authority cannot be satisfied that the site selection exercise was sufficiently robust or that Anwick represents the most appropriate location for the proposed development.

4.7 Relationship to Other Planning Issues

The suitability of the site cannot be considered in isolation.

It directly influences:

- residential amenity;
- cumulative odour;
- landscape and visual effects;
- highways and transport;
- environmental resilience; and
- planning certainty.

A location giving rise to additional sensitivity in these areas requires correspondingly robust justification.

4.8 Planning Judgement

The applicant has sought to reinforce its justification for selecting Anwick. The issue for the Waste Planning Authority, however, is not whether that justification has been expanded, but whether the applicant has demonstrated, through clear and robust evidence, that Anwick is the most appropriate location for a major industrial waste management facility of this scale and nature.

Whilst site selection is rarely an exact science, the applicant must demonstrate that the planning advantages of the chosen site clearly outweigh its environmental and amenity constraints. In this case, the revised submissions fail to explain why alternative sites offering similar operational advantages, including co-location with a Pilgrim's facility, were not pursued, or why the significant planning constraints associated with Anwick should be preferred.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the planning advantages relied upon to justify the selection of Anwick outweigh the significant impacts arising from its proximity to the established residential community. Until that evidential burden is discharged, the Authority cannot properly conclude that this is an appropriate location for the proposed development.

4.9 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions do not demonstrate that Anwick emerged from a transparent and robust site selection process as the most appropriate location for a development of this scale and nature. In particular, they fail to explain why alternative sites offering similar operational advantages, including co-location with a Pilgrim's facility, were discounted in favour of a site immediately adjoining an established residential community.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the claimed operational advantages of the site clearly outweigh the significant planning constraints associated with its location, including its impacts on residential amenity, the environment and the character of the area.

Accordingly, the applicant has not discharged the burden of demonstrating that Anwick is an appropriate location for the proposed development. The suitability of the site therefore remains a fundamental unresolved planning issue and continues to weigh heavily against the grant of planning permission.

Landscape and Rural Setting

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Do the revised design proposals and proposed mitigation measures demonstrate that the landscape and visual effects of the development would be acceptable throughout its operational life?

5.1 The Planning Issue

The proposed development would introduce a substantial industrial facility into an open rural landscape immediately adjoining the village of Anwick.

The revised submissions include design changes intended to reduce visual impact, including a reduction in the height of the principal digester tanks and additional landscape information. The issue for the Authority, however, is whether those changes materially alter the overall landscape assessment and demonstrate that the development would integrate acceptably into its surroundings.

5.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The applicant's case is that the revised design:

- reduces the visual prominence of the development;
- would be effectively screened by proposed planting;
- would become less visually intrusive as landscaping matures; and
- would result in acceptable residual landscape effects.

The issue for the Authority is whether the revised submissions provide sufficient evidence to support those conclusions.

5.3 Nature and Scale of the Development

The proposal would introduce a substantial concentration of industrial infrastructure into a rural landscape, including large digester tanks, process equipment, operational buildings, lighting and associated infrastructure.

The Authority must therefore consider the overall scale, character and visual presence of the development rather than the effectiveness of screening alone.

5.4 Effect of the Revised Design

Whilst the reduction in tank height is acknowledged, it does not change the fundamental planning issue. The proposal would remain a substantial industrial waste management facility within a predominantly rural landscape immediately adjoining the village of Anwick.

The Parish Council does not consider that this amendment materially alters the landscape and visual assessment or demonstrates that the significant concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority have been overcome. The revised submissions therefore do not justify a different planning conclusion on landscape and visual impact.

5.5 Landscape Mitigation

The applicant places significant reliance on structural planting to reduce the visual impact of the development over time. Whilst landscape mitigation is an established planning tool, it should not be relied upon to demonstrate the fundamental acceptability of a development that would otherwise give rise to unacceptable landscape and visual harm.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the development would be acceptable from the point it first becomes operational, taking account of:

- its appearance before planting has matured;
- seasonal variations in the effectiveness of screening;

- the long-term management and maintenance of the proposed planting; and
- the consequences should the mitigation fail to establish or perform as anticipated.

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions continue to rely heavily on the successful establishment and long-term effectiveness of landscape mitigation to reduce impacts that would otherwise remain significant. That is not, in the Parish Council's view, a sufficient basis for concluding that the landscape and visual effects of the development would be acceptable throughout its operational life.

5.6 Seasonal and Operational Effects

The effectiveness of landscape screening will vary during the establishment period and with seasonal changes in vegetation cover.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the landscape assessment remains representative throughout the operational life of the development, including periods when screening is reduced.

The Parish Council does not consider that the revised submissions demonstrate that the development would cease to be a prominent industrial feature within the landscape during these periods.

5.7 Relationship with Anwick

The proposal would be experienced not only from distant viewpoints but by residents, road users and visitors approaching the village.

The Parish Council remains concerned that the development would introduce an industrial presence that would materially alter the rural approach to Anwick and its immediate setting.

5.8 Planning Judgement

The revised submissions seek to reduce the visual impact of the proposal through design amendments and landscape mitigation. **However, the applicant has not demonstrated that these changes overcome the fundamental planning objection to introducing a major industrial waste management facility into a prominent rural location immediately adjoining the village of Anwick.**

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis for departing from the previous assessment of landscape and visual harm. The original concerns remain substantially unresolved and continue to weigh materially against the grant of planning permission.

5.9 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions do not demonstrate that the proposal would integrate satisfactorily into its rural setting or that the significant landscape and visual concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority have been overcome.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the applicant has failed to justify a different planning conclusion on landscape and visual impact. The original concerns remain substantially unresolved and continue to weigh heavily against the grant of planning permission.

Traffic, Access and Daily Operation

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Has the applicant demonstrated that the proposed access arrangements and Transport Assessment provide a robust and representative assessment of the transport impacts likely to arise throughout the operational life of the development?

6.1 The Planning Issue

The proposed development would generate substantial HGV and other vehicle movements throughout its operational life, associated with feedstock deliveries, digestate exports, operational supplies and (dangerous) chemicals, maintenance activities and staff travel.

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not simply whether these movements can be accommodated under the operating assumptions presented by the applicant. It is whether the applicant has demonstrated that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the development that would actually operate throughout the lifetime of the planning permission.

6.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The revised submissions maintain that:

- the proposed access arrangements are suitable;
- vehicle movements can be accommodated on the local highway network;
- traffic can be managed through routing arrangements and operational controls; and
- the development would not give rise to unacceptable highway impacts.

The applicant therefore invites the Authority to conclude that the highway impacts of the development would remain acceptable throughout its operational life. The issue for the Authority is whether the revised evidence demonstrates that conclusion.

6.3 Operational Flexibility

A planning permission would authorise the operation of a major commercial waste management facility for many years. During that time, feedstocks, operating practices and commercial requirements may change within the limits of the permission.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the full operational envelope that could lawfully occur, rather than the initial operating assumptions presented in support of the application.

The applicant cannot rely on operational flexibility as a justification for uncertainty within the Transport Assessment. If planning permission is sought for a development capable of operating under a range of lawful conditions, the Authority is entitled to expect evidence that the highway impacts have been assessed across that full operational envelope. The Parish Council does not consider that the revised submissions provide that assurance.

6.4 Feedstock and Traffic Movements

The revised submissions identify local sources of feedstock that may reduce transport distances.

However, the Authority should also consider whether the Transport Assessment would remain representative if, within the limits of the planning permission:

- the proportion of authorised feedstocks changed;
- operational requirements evolved;
- digestate management arrangements altered; or
- traffic patterns varied over time.

Planning permission would authorise a long-term industrial operation rather than a single fixed operating scenario. The Transport Assessment should therefore demonstrate that the highway impacts remain acceptable across the operational envelope authorised by the permission, not simply the applicant's preferred operating assumptions.

6.5 Cumulative Highway Effects

The proposed development would not operate in isolation. It would introduce additional HGV and vehicle movements into an established industrial and commercial corridor already accommodating significant traffic associated with existing operations, including the Pilgrim's facility, Anglian Water's sewage treatment works and other commercial activities in the surrounding area.

The cumulative highway environment is also subject to change over time. Existing operations have expanded, including increased activity associated with Parkers' garden centre and mail order operations, generating additional HGV movements and increased car traffic. In addition, the sewage treatment works operates tanker movements which can occur throughout the day and night, contributing to the existing pattern of commercial vehicle activity experienced locally.

The relevant planning question is therefore not whether the traffic generated by the proposed development can be accommodated in isolation, but whether the cumulative effect of existing, expanded and proposed commercial traffic has been properly assessed and demonstrated to be acceptable.

Residents experience the combined effects of all vehicle movements using the local highway network, including HGV activity, tanker movements and increased commercial traffic, rather than the impacts of individual operations considered separately. The Parish Council does not consider that the revised submissions demonstrate that this cumulative highway environment has been fully assessed or that the additional impacts arising from the proposed development would remain acceptable.

6.6 Traffic Management

The applicant relies upon routing arrangements and operational controls to manage vehicle movements. Whilst such measures may assist in reducing impacts, they do not remove the need to demonstrate that the development is acceptable in planning terms.

Planning conditions and operational controls should regulate an acceptable development; they should not be relied upon to establish its acceptability.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the Transport Assessment demonstrates that the highway impacts would remain acceptable before reliance is placed upon future management arrangements, monitoring or enforcement.

6.7 Construction and Operational Effects

Construction traffic would be temporary but would nevertheless contribute to the cumulative impacts experienced by nearby residents.

The Parish Council considers that both the construction and operational phases should be taken into account when assessing the overall transport effects of the development.

6.8 Planning Judgement

The revised submissions provide additional information regarding access arrangements, routing and operational management. However, the issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether further information has been provided, but whether the applicant has demonstrated that the Transport Assessment remains a reliable and representative assessment of the development that could operate under the permission being sought.

The proposed facility would operate over many years and would require a degree of commercial and operational flexibility. That flexibility means that the Authority must be satisfied that the highway impacts have been assessed across the full operational envelope of the development, including changes in feedstock sources, traffic patterns, vehicle movements and operational requirements.

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions continue to rely heavily upon the applicant's stated operating assumptions and proposed management measures, rather than

demonstrating that the full range of potential operational scenarios has been robustly assessed.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to demonstrate that the transport impacts of the development have been fully assessed, that cumulative highway effects have been adequately addressed, or that the previous concerns regarding highways and transport have been overcome.

6.9 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions provide further information regarding access arrangements, routing and traffic management. However, they do not demonstrate that the Transport Assessment remains representative of the full operational envelope that would be authorised by any planning permission.

The applicant has not demonstrated that the cumulative effects of the proposed development, existing industrial activity and future operational changes would remain acceptable throughout the lifetime of the development.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the applicant has failed to provide the level of certainty required for the grant of planning permission that the highway impacts of the proposed development would be acceptable in practice, rather than simply under the assumptions presented within the assessment.

Accordingly, the revised submissions do not provide a sufficient basis for reaching a different planning conclusion on highways and transport. The original concerns remain substantially unresolved and continue to weigh materially against the grant of planning permission.

Planning Certainty and Defining the Development

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Has the applicant demonstrated, with sufficient certainty, that the revised physical design, claimed treatment capacity and operational assumptions remain consistent with the Environmental Statement and the development for which planning permission is sought?

7.1 The Planning Issue

Planning permission authorises a specific development and its associated environmental effects. The Waste Planning Authority must therefore be satisfied that the proposal has been clearly defined and that the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development that would actually be constructed and operated.

This issue is particularly important for a major anaerobic digestion facility because its environmental effects are not determined solely by the appearance of the plant. They depend upon the relationship between:

- the physical infrastructure provided;
- the treatment capacity claimed;
- the operational regime required to achieve that capacity; and
- the assumptions relied upon within the Environmental Statement.

The issue for the Authority is therefore not whether the applicant has provided an explanation of how the facility is intended to operate. The issue is whether the evidence demonstrates, with sufficient certainty, that the development being assessed is the development that would actually be authorised.

7.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The revised submissions introduce changes to the physical design of the facility, including a reduction in the height of the principal digestion tanks, together with further explanation of the proposed operational approach.

The applicant maintains that:

- the revised tank configuration would continue to provide the required digestion capacity;
- the reduction in tank height would not alter the maximum throughput of 120,000 tonnes per annum;
- improved mixing, revised operational arrangements and increased process efficiency would maintain performance; and
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the revised proposal.

The Parish Council acknowledges that the applicant has provided further explanation of its approach.

However, the key issue is whether the revised evidence demonstrates that a materially changed physical design and operational basis can properly support the same claimed throughput and environmental conclusions relied upon within the Environmental Statement.

7.3 Reduced Tank Volume and Claimed Capacity

The revised proposal reduces the height, and therefore the internal volume, of the principal digestion tanks whilst maintaining the same stated throughput. This represents a material change to the physical characteristics of the development.

The applicant explains that the reduction in physical capacity would be compensated for through improved mixing, higher dry matter content, reduced retention times and revised operational arrangements.

The Parish Council does not suggest that such an approach is necessarily impossible. However, the issue for the Authority is whether the applicant has demonstrated, with sufficient evidence, the relationship between:

- reduced tank volume;
- revised process efficiency;
- treatment capacity; and
- environmental performance.

The Authority should not be required to assume that improved efficiency will achieve the same outcome as the previous design. That relationship must be demonstrated.

7.4 Operational Assumptions and Environmental Effects

The performance of an anaerobic digestion facility depends upon a range of operational parameters, including:

- feedstock characteristics;
- hydraulic retention time;
- organic loading rate;
- mixing regime;
- gas production assumptions;
- storage requirements; and
- operational controls.

The Parish Council accepts that not every engineering parameter needs to be fixed through planning permission.

However, where those parameters underpin the assessment of environmental effects, they must be sufficiently defined for the Authority to have confidence that the Environmental Statement remains representative of the approved development.

Changes to operational assumptions may affect matters including:

- odour generation;
- emissions;
- digestate characteristics;
- storage requirements; and
- operational resilience.

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions provide additional explanation, but do not fully demonstrate that the changed operational basis has been adequately reflected in the environmental assessment.

7.5 Defining the Operational Envelope

The applicant continues to describe the proposal as a facility with a maximum throughput of 120,000 tonnes per annum.

The Parish Council does not suggest that the applicant intends to exceed that stated limit.

The issue is whether the Authority can be satisfied that the development is clearly defined and that:

- the physical infrastructure corresponds with the assessed throughput;
- the operational assumptions supporting that throughput are robust;
- the environmental effects assessed remain representative of the development authorised; and

- the permission clearly identifies the limits of the approved activity.

A planning permission should authorise a defined development, not a range of future operational possibilities whose environmental consequences have not been fully demonstrated.

7.6 Engineering Flexibility

Operational flexibility is an inherent feature of anaerobic digestion facilities and is not, in itself, objectionable.

However, flexibility increases the need for planning certainty.

The Authority must be satisfied that the permission clearly distinguishes between:

- changes that remain within the approved development;
- changes that would alter the environmental effects assessed; and
- changes that would require further planning consideration.

The Parish Council considers that the greater the reliance placed upon operational flexibility and efficiency improvements, the greater the need for the applicant to clearly demonstrate the environmental implications of that flexibility.

7.7 Relationship with the Environmental Statement

The Environmental Statement assesses the likely significant effects of the development for which planning permission is sought.

Where the physical design, operational assumptions or performance parameters change, the Authority must be satisfied that the conclusions of the Environmental Statement continue to apply to the revised proposal.

The concern is not that every engineering detail must be predetermined. The concern is that the Authority must know precisely what development it is approving and have confidence that the environmental effects of that development have been properly assessed.

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions have not fully removed the risk that the Environmental Statement may not represent the full operational envelope capable of being delivered under the permission sought.

7.8 Planning Judgement

The revised submissions provide additional technical explanation regarding the proposed engineering approach.

However, the critical planning question is whether that explanation provides sufficient certainty that:

- the revised physical design can deliver the claimed throughput;
- the changed operational assumptions are properly reflected in the environmental assessment; and
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which permission is sought.

The Authority should not be required to rely upon future operational management, process optimisation or subsequent interpretation of the design to establish the acceptability of the development after permission has been granted.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to demonstrate that the uncertainty surrounding the definition and environmental assessment of the proposed development has been resolved.

7.9 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions introduce a changed physical design, including a reduction in the volume of the principal digestion tanks, whilst maintaining the same stated throughput and environmental conclusions.

The applicant relies upon improved process efficiency and revised operational arrangements to demonstrate that the revised design remains capable of delivering the proposed capacity. However, the Parish Council considers that the evidence does not sufficiently demonstrate the relationship between the revised infrastructure, operational assumptions and environmental effects assessed.

The applicant has therefore not demonstrated with sufficient certainty that:

- the revised physical design supports the claimed treatment capacity;
- the changed operational assumptions have been fully reflected in the Environmental Statement; and
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which planning permission is sought.

Accordingly, the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to justify a different planning conclusion. The issue of planning certainty and definition of the development remains unresolved and continues to weigh materially against the grant of planning permission.

Protecting the Local Environment and Environmental Resilience

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Have the revised submissions demonstrated that the proposed development can operate without unacceptable environmental risks, having regard to drainage, flood risk, ground conditions and long-term environmental resilience?

8.1 The Planning Issue

The proposed development would be located within a rural setting close to environmentally sensitive features, including the River Slea, agricultural land and existing water management infrastructure.

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether environmental risks can be managed through engineering measures. It is whether the evidence demonstrates that those measures would remain effective throughout the operational life of the development and provide a sufficiently robust basis for concluding that unacceptable environmental effects are unlikely.

8.2 The Applicant's Revised Position

The revised submissions maintain that:

- the site can be developed safely;
- drainage and flood risk can be managed through engineering design;
- operational areas can be adequately protected; and
- environmental effects can be controlled through mitigation measures.

The issue for the Authority is whether the revised submissions provide sufficient evidence that these measures would remain effective throughout the operational life of the development.

8.3 Drainage and Surface Water Management

The proposed development would introduce extensive hardstanding, large containment structures, operational yards and vehicle circulation areas.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the proposed drainage strategy would remain effective throughout the lifetime of the development, including during reasonably foreseeable extreme weather events and following many years of operation.

The Parish Council considers that the assessment should address not only normal operating conditions but also long-term maintenance, system performance and the consequences should mitigation not perform as intended.

8.4 Ground Conditions and Environmental Resilience

The site is known to experience seasonal waterlogging, with areas of the site, particularly towards the lower part of the development area, subject to surface water accumulation and flooding. Photographic evidence demonstrates that these conditions are not merely theoretical risks but have occurred at the site in practice.

The Parish Council does not suggest that development is necessarily impossible at this location. However, the presence of existing water management constraints increases the importance of demonstrating that the proposed engineering solutions are sufficiently robust to withstand the conditions that the development will encounter throughout its operational life.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the proposed measures provide sufficient confidence that foundations, containment systems, drainage infrastructure and associated operational areas would remain effective and resilient under foreseeable ground and weather conditions.

This is particularly important given that the proposal involves substantial permanent structures, containment systems and areas of hardstanding whose long-term integrity depends upon effective management of groundwater, surface water and ground conditions.

8.5 Long-Term Environmental Protection

The proposed facility would operate alongside existing industrial development within a sensitive rural environment.

The Authority should therefore be satisfied that the proposed environmental safeguards provide sufficient confidence that unacceptable effects on surrounding land, water management, nearby receptors and the wider environment are unlikely.

The Parish Council does not suggest that engineered mitigation is incapable of managing environmental risk. Rather, the issue is whether the revised submissions demonstrate that those measures can be relied upon throughout the life of the development.

Where the acceptability of a proposal depends upon the continuing effectiveness of mitigation, the Authority should be satisfied that this has been demonstrated before planning permission is granted, rather than relying upon future implementation and management to establish that acceptability.

8.6 Planning Judgement

The revised submissions provide additional information regarding drainage, flood risk and environmental protection measures. However, the issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether further information has been submitted or additional mitigation proposed. It is whether the applicant has demonstrated, through clear and robust evidence, that those measures would provide effective and reliable protection throughout the operational life of the development, taking account of the site's known drainage constraints and seasonal waterlogging.

The Parish Council considers that the revised submissions continue to rely heavily upon the long-term performance of engineered mitigation and management measures, without providing sufficient evidence that they would remain effective under the range of conditions likely to be encountered at the site.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to demonstrate that the previous concerns relating to drainage, flood risk and long-term environmental resilience have been overcome or that a different planning conclusion is justified.

8.7 Chapter Conclusion

The revised submissions provide further information regarding drainage, flood risk and environmental protection.

However, the Parish Council remains of the view that the applicant has not demonstrated, to the degree of confidence required for the grant of planning permission, that the proposed environmental safeguards would remain effective throughout the operational life of the development.

Accordingly, environmental resilience remains an unresolved planning consideration which continues to weigh against the grant of planning permission.

Planning Balance and Resident Representations

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

When the benefits of the proposal are weighed against the remaining planning harms, has the applicant demonstrated that the development is acceptable in this location and that planning permission should be granted?

9.1 The Planning Balance

The determination of this application requires the Waste Planning Authority to weigh the benefits of the proposal against its adverse planning impacts.

The Parish Council supports the principle of anaerobic digestion as a means of recovering waste and generating renewable energy. Its objection is not to the technology itself, but to the siting of a development of this scale and nature immediately adjacent to the established residential community of Anwick.

The issue is not whether anaerobic digestion can deliver environmental benefits. The issue is whether the applicant has demonstrated that those benefits outweigh the planning harm arising from this particular proposal in this particular location.

9.2 Benefits of the Proposal

The Parish Council recognises that the proposal has the potential to deliver a number of public benefits, including:

- renewable biomethane production;
- recovery of organic waste;
- contribution towards carbon reduction;
- reduced reliance on fossil fuels; and
- wider economic and circular economy benefits.

These are material planning considerations.

However, they cannot outweigh planning harm unless the applicant has first demonstrated that the proposal itself is acceptable in planning terms.

9.3 Remaining Planning Harm

For the reasons set out in the preceding chapters, the Parish Council considers that the revised submissions have not demonstrated that:

- residential amenity would be adequately protected, particularly in relation to cumulative odour;
- Anwick is the most appropriate location for a development of this scale and nature;
- the landscape and visual effects would be acceptable throughout the life of the development;
- the Transport Assessment remains representative of the development that could operate under the permission sought;
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which planning permission is sought; or
- the proposed drainage, flood risk and environmental safeguards provide sufficient confidence that environmental risks would remain adequately controlled throughout the operational life of the facility.

These are not minor or technical matters. They are fundamental planning considerations which remain unresolved.

9.4 Resident Representations

The Parish Council has also considered the representations submitted by residents living closest to the proposed development (Appendix B).

Whilst these representations are not relied upon as technical evidence, they provide important local context regarding existing odour, traffic, cumulative industrial activity and the likely effects of introducing a further major industrial process immediately adjoining established residential properties.

The concerns expressed by residents are consistent with the planning issues and independent technical evidence considered throughout this response.

9.5 Mitigation and Planning Conditions

The applicant places considerable reliance upon mitigation measures, operational controls and future management arrangements.

Such measures may assist in reducing impacts. However, planning conditions should regulate an acceptable development; they should not be relied upon to establish its fundamental acceptability.

Before planning permission is granted, the Authority should be satisfied that the principal planning issues have been resolved through robust evidence, rather than relying upon future mitigation or operational management to achieve that outcome.

9.6 Overall Planning Judgement

The Parish Council has carefully considered both the benefits of the proposal and the additional information submitted following the deferral of the application.

However, the revised submissions do not materially alter the evidential basis upon which the application should be determined. They do not demonstrate that the principal planning concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority have been overcome, nor do they provide a sufficiently robust basis for reaching a different planning conclusion.

The Parish Council therefore concludes that the remaining planning harms continue to outweigh the benefits of the proposal at this location.

9.7 Conclusion

The revised submissions provide additional information and further explanation across a number of planning disciplines. However, they do not demonstrate that the principal planning concerns identified during the determination of the application have been satisfactorily resolved.

The applicant has not demonstrated that the proposed development is acceptable in this location or that the evidence now justifies departing from the previous planning assessment.

Accordingly, the Parish Council concludes that the planning balance remains firmly against the grant of planning permission.

Conclusions and Overall Recommendation to the Waste Planning Authority

Key Question for the Waste Planning Authority

Having considered the revised submissions, the independent technical evidence and the representations received, has the applicant demonstrated, through clear and robust evidence, that the proposed development is acceptable in this location and that planning permission should be granted?

10.1 Overall Conclusion

This response has considered whether the revised submissions made by Stream BioEnergy materially alter the planning assessment of Planning Application PL/0016/25.

The applicant has submitted amended drawings, revised environmental information and additional technical material across a number of planning disciplines in response to the original officer recommendation of refusal.

The issue for the Waste Planning Authority is not whether further information has been submitted. It is whether the applicant has demonstrated that the principal planning concerns previously identified have been overcome and that there is now a sufficiently robust evidential basis for reaching a different planning conclusion.

Having carefully reviewed the revised submissions, together with the independent technical review prepared by Dr Michael Bull (Appendix A) and the representations received from local residents (Appendix B), the Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to do so.

10.2 Principal Planning Issues Remaining Unresolved

For the reasons set out throughout this response, the Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that:

- residential amenity, particularly in relation to cumulative odour, would be adequately protected throughout the operational life of the development;
- Anwick is the most appropriate location for a development of this scale and nature;
- the landscape and visual impacts would be acceptable within this rural setting;
- the Transport Assessment remains representative of the development that could operate under the permission sought;
- the Environmental Statement remains representative of the development for which planning permission is sought; or
- the proposed drainage, flood risk and environmental safeguards provide sufficient confidence that environmental risks would remain adequately controlled throughout the lifetime of the facility.

These are not matters of detail. They are fundamental planning considerations that go to the heart of whether the proposed development is acceptable in this location. In the Parish Council's view, they remain substantially unresolved.

10.3 Planning Balance

The Parish Council recognises that the proposal has the potential to contribute towards renewable energy generation, sustainable waste management and carbon reduction.

Its objection is not to anaerobic digestion as a technology.

Its objection is to the siting of a major industrial waste management facility immediately adjacent to an established residential community, where the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the resulting planning harms would be acceptable.

The revised submissions do not materially alter that conclusion.

The Parish Council considers that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the benefits of the proposal outweigh the remaining planning harms or that the planning balance has changed since the Authority previously concluded that planning permission should be refused.

10.4 Recommendation

The Parish Council has carefully considered:

- the revised Environmental Statement;
- the supporting technical information;
- the independent technical review prepared by Dr Michael Bull (Appendix A);
- the representations received from local residents (Appendix B); and
- all other material planning considerations.

The Parish Council recognises that the determination of this application rests with Lincolnshire County Council as Waste Planning Authority.

However, in the Parish Council's considered opinion, the applicant has failed to demonstrate, through clear, robust and compelling evidence, that the principal planning concerns identified during the determination of the application have been overcome.

The revised submissions do not provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to justify departing from the Authority's previous assessment or reaching a different planning conclusion.

For all of the reasons set out in this submission, Anwick Parish Council concludes that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed development complies with the Development Plan or that the revised submissions overcome the fundamental planning concerns previously identified by the Waste Planning Authority. The Parish Council therefore considers that there is no sound planning basis upon which planning permission could properly be granted and respectfully requests that Lincolnshire County Council refuse Planning Application PL/0016/25.

Appendix A

Anwick Biogas Plant - PL/0016/25 Review of Updated ES and Associated Documents – Odour Issues

1. Introduction

Michael Bull and Associates Ltd (MBAL) was commissioned by Anwick Parish Council to review the air quality and odour assessments submitted with a planning application for a proposed Biogas Plant in the village of Anwick (application reference: PL/0016/25 to Lincolnshire County Council). MBAL produced a report on the findings in June 2025. A further review was provided examining material submitted in response to a Regulation 25 request in November 2025.

Further material has since been submitted that is relevant to air quality and odour including an update to the Environmental Statement dated June 2026 (Environmental Statement 2nd Amendment) and a review note prepared by Fitchner dated 19 June 2026. This note examines these document and comments on air quality and odour issues where relevant.

2. Review

2.1 Environmental Statement 2nd Addendum

This document contains an updated air quality and odour assessment prepared by Redmore Environmental Ltd. This report states that ***“the same methodology and approach adopted in the previous assessments was adopted, with the only change to the modelling inputs being in relation to the height of the eight digester tanks”***. In air quality assessment terms this is a minor change and the expectation would be that the reduction in height of the tanks would result in a very slight decrease in pollutant concentrations for any source where the tanks would have resulted in building downwash effects.

The results of the assessment are therefore largely unchanged from the previous version and no further information is provided that addresses any of the previous points raised by MBAL. Therefore, nothing has changed in terms of the methodology used that would change the conclusions reached in earlier reports prepared by MBAL.

2.2 Fitchner review

Fitchner has provided a review of the Redmore Environmental Ltd assessment and some commentary on the predicted outcomes. Part of this commentary discusses the predicted odour concentrations of 0.5 ouE/m³ or lower. It notes that for 98% of the time, the predicted one hour average concentrations will be lower than 0.5 ouE/m³. While this is true, this ignores the fact that in odour modelling, it is only the worst 2% of the year that is considered and this determines whether an odour nuisance exists. It is the relatively infrequent higher odour incidents that give rise to odours.

There is some further explanation that acknowledges within a 1-hour period, odour levels will

fluctuate and higher concentrations will be present for shorter periods. However, there does appear to be an argument presented that the predicted level of 0.5 ouE/m³ as a one hour average represents undetectable odours to an observer.

However, within any hourly period, there is a considerable fluctuation in odour concentrations largely due to changes in atmospheric turbulence and wind speed and direction. Changes in emissions at source can add to the level of fluctuation but the major cause is from changes in meteorological conditions. This is evident to any observer as wind speeds are rarely constant for an hour. Odour concentrations over a short period of a few seconds can reach levels that are significantly higher than the hourly average, in some cases up to 10 or more times higher (and equally, odour concentrations can be significantly lower than the hourly average for parts of the hourly period). So, even where the predicted hourly average concentration is 0.5 ouE/m³, there can potentially be short periods within that hour when the concentration is 5 ouE/m³ or above and detectable.

This is one reason why the modelled 98th percentile value based on hourly averages cannot be compared with odour concentrations measured by sniff testing over a period of a few seconds. In many reports and some planning inquiry decisions, it is often claimed that the EA guideline of 3 ouE/m³ as a 98th percentile value represents a faint odour.

It should also be noted that for 2% of the year, the odour concentrations as hourly averages will be higher than 0.5 ouE/m³, modelling by MBAL shows that the maximum hourly average can reach ten times the 98th percentile value (i.e. 5 ouE/m³) and adding in the fluctuations, there would be short periods where odour levels reached around 50 ouE/m³.

MBAL is not suggesting that the resulting levels breach the EA benchmarks used for odour assessment, rather it should be noted that a predicted level of 0.5 ouE/m³ as a 98th percentile does not represent an odour free environment which appears to be suggested in the Fitchner review.

The Fitchner review examines cumulative impacts in section 3.1. This has been addressed in previous MBAL reviews where concern has been expressed regarding the potential for increased high odour effects and odours from Moy Park and the proposed development adding together to result in higher concentrations of odour. None of these possibilities have been addressed in the Fitchner review which appears to be based mainly on the impact of the proposed plant in isolation.

The Fitchner review acknowledges that there have been complaints made attributed to both Moy Park and the sewage works. It then notes that both sites have an environmental permit in place. This is not strictly true, the sewage works does not have an Environmental Permit, it does have permits to discharge water but these do not cover odour emissions. In any event, the existence of a permit does not guarantee that no adverse environmental effects occur. The Environment Agency's own advice to local authorities is provided in Appendix A, this notes that planning authorities must satisfy themselves that in land use planning terms, the proposed development is suitable for the location. It is entirely appropriate for the planning authority to consider potential odour issues and that odour control measures may result in adverse impacts to local residents.

3. Summary and Conclusions

The revised Environmental Statement confirms that the modelling methodology remains unchanged, with the only substantive amendment being a reduction in the height of the digester tanks. This is not considered likely to result in any significant change to the

predicted odour impacts and no further material is provided that addresses the technical issues identified in previous reviews.

The Fichtner review places considerable emphasis on the fact that predicted odour concentrations are below 0.5 ouE/m³ for 98% of the time. However, a predicted 98th percentile concentration of 0.5 ouE/m³ should not be interpreted as representing an odour-free environment.

The Fitchner review also does not address the potential cumulative effects arising from the interaction of odours from the proposed development with existing sources, particularly Moy Park. This remains a matter of concern previously identified by MBAL. In addition, the Fitchner review places undue reliance on the existence of environmental permits, whereas Environment Agency guidance makes clear that the planning authority must independently satisfy itself that a development is suitable for its location and that unacceptable impacts on local amenity will not occur.

The cumulative impact issues identified in earlier reviews remain relevant and the proposed development has the potential to worsen the current odour problems experienced in the area. The new material submitted does not change the conclusions I reached on this matter in earlier reviews.

Dr Michael Bull – Michael Bull and Associates Ltd 07729 272715

Appendix A – Environment Agency Advice Note PPSG2

■ **PPSG2: Advice to LPA: Installations and Amenity**

■ The proposed development is within 500m of one or more industrial or waste management site that is regulated by the Environment Agency through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The location of this site(s) can be found on Defra's Data Services Platform, available at - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information#environmental> ...

■ The Environment Agency issues Environmental Permits for installations or waste management operations. A permit will require that operators demonstrate they have taken all reasonable measures to prevent pollution of the environment and harm to human health. Pollution can include air quality impacts, odours, noise, pests water quality and ground water impacts. If prevention is not possible, the operator must take steps to minimise the impact from pollution instead. In some cases, this is unlikely to eliminate all emissions and there could be impacts to the environment which may cause local residents some concern. When a new development is built near to an existing permitted facility this does not automatically trigger a review of the Environmental Permit and we will regulate this in line with our [Environment Agency enforcement and sanctions policy - GOV.UK](#).

■ Planning authorities must satisfy themselves that in land use terms the proposed development is suitable for this location given the proximity to a regulated site/s as described above and the scope of the permit as granted.

■ Planning policy requirements (paragraph 200 of the NPPF) state that new development should integrate effectively with existing businesses and not place unreasonable restrictions upon them.

■ Please note that in accordance with national planning policy (paragraph 201 of the NPPF), planning decisions should assume that permitting regimes will operate effectively. Applicants should be advised to consider our 'Environmental Permitting Guidance' which can be found at: [Check if you need an environmental permit - GOV.UK](#).

Appendix B

Resident Representations

B1 Introduction

The following representations were submitted to Anwick Parish Council in response to its invitation for comments on the revised submissions relating to Planning Application **PL/0016/25**.

The representations are reproduced substantially as received. The views expressed are those of the individual residents and should not be interpreted as the technical conclusions of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has considered these representations alongside the planning evidence, technical assessments and the independent review by **Dr Michael Bull (Appendix A)**.

The number of representations received is not, in itself, determinative of the planning decision. However, many have been submitted by residents living closest to the proposed development, including the Anwick Drive and Foreman's Lane areas. As such, they provide relevant local context regarding existing amenity conditions and the potential effects of the proposed development on those most likely to experience its impacts.

B2 Summary of Resident Representations

Theme raised	Residents identifying issue	Planning relevance
Existing odour from nearby industrial activity	Residents living closest to the site, including Anwick Drive and Foreman's Lane	Relevant to baseline conditions, cumulative odour and residential amenity
Concern that the proposed AD facility would introduce an additional odour source	Multiple residents	Relevant to the need for assessment of combined effects rather than isolated assessment
Existing industrial character of the village and concern regarding further industrialisation	Multiple residents	Relevant to site suitability, landscape character and planning balance
Additional traffic and HGV movements	Multiple residents	Relevant to highway impacts and operational activity
Wastewater infrastructure, drainage and environmental capacity	Multiple residents	Relevant to environmental resilience
Safety concerns associated with biogas infrastructure	David and Elizabeth Doe and others	Relevant to risk assessment, emergency planning and operational controls
Questioning the choice of Anwick as the location	Multiple residents	Relevant to site selection and alternatives
Cumulative effects arising from Moy Park, Anglian Water and the proposed AD facility	Multiple residents	Relevant to cumulative impact assessment

B3 Resident Representations

The Clerk of
The Parish Council
Anwick
Lincolnshire

Barbara Hughes
11 Golden Close
Anwick
Sleaford
Lincs NG34 9TZ

REF: **Stream Bioenergy PL/0016/25**

26 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Proposed Stream Bioenergy Anaerobic Digestion Plant

There are several issues on which I objected originally and still object to the building of the AD plant in Anwick.

I do not believe that Stream Energy have satisfactorily demonstrated that there would not be an issue with bad odour from the plant. We already have a problem with the odour from Moy Park to the point that we cannot use our garden or even have windows open on some days. The AD plant can only make this worse.

As an older resident I have health concerns regarding the emissions from this plant and the emissions from the HGV delivery lorries to the plant. On days that the bad odour from Moy Park is in evidence it definitely affects lung function where I am trying to avoid breathing in the malodorous air. As mentioned above the AD plant can only make this worse as I have seen no evidence that the plant would not produce odorous emissions.

Residents' living conditions will not be adequately protected. This plant would be far too close to existing residential properties. There is a risk of explosion from 8 very large tanks containing methane etc., situated so close to residential properties.

I do not believe that Stream Energy have given serious consideration or assessment to alternative sites on which they could build their plant a suitable distance from a residential village.

The AD plant would completely over-industrialise the village and the planting of a few trees will not protect the village or its residents.

Finally, the extra HGV traffic that would be generated by this plant is unacceptable. The A153 is not suitable for the existing HGV traffic generated by Moy Park. The road surface is constantly breaking down and requires patch repairs every few weeks.

Kind regards

Barbara Hughes

clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk

From: David Forrest [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2026 07:47
To: clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk
Subject: STREAM BIO ENERGY PL/0016/25

Hi

I am a resident of Anwick

I still have concerns about the proposed building of the bio energy plant being built in this field as in the 10 years that i have been hear, I have seen the field flood more that once which would if the plant is built then contaminate the river. We already have Moy park on one side, this would then be basically be behind us with the intended road to go through to Moy park and with the mass of traffic to the front of the house we will have no respite as we already have smells coming from Moy park and light pollution and a lot of noise throughout the night. The smells flies and bacteria which will come from this site will make it impossible for us to keep using our garden for growing food, the prevailing wind comes from that direction and if you have seen or heard about any of there sites is that they don't do what they say. why did they get shut down in Scotland? This will also have a detrimental affect on the village as it would be over industrialised and very unpleasant place to live. Moy park has just kept on expanding and if these people get in this is what will happen. This is why they keep scaling back its just a tactic to get a foot hold then they can expand later. This plant is not suitable for this location it should be built on an industrial estate and not near residential areas. The traffic on the A153 is already very heavy and has had lot of accidents on it this will only add to the problem. I also don't believe that the screening will be sufficient as it will take a lot of years before it will be able to block out the and screen us from the plant they make a lot promises which i don't believe they can fulfill as they have not done so with there other sites where people are still complaining years later. I am also unhappy about this planning process which allows these people to keep on resubmitting plan after plan just to try and get a foot hold in an obviously unsuitable location.

Kind regards

David Forrest
Paws n Claws Cottage

From: David Hirst <davi[REDACTED]>
Sent: 17 July 2026 19:22
To: clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk
Subject: Planning Application PL/0016/25

To The Clerk at Anwick Parish Council,

This is the first time in my life, I'm 77 years old, where I have had any involvement in a planning application affecting the area where I reside. I fully support Anwick Parish Council who, like all the residents who live here, are extremely concerned about the development proposed by the Stream Bioenergy for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant literally on the doorstep of Anwick Village.

First of all, I would implore the Lincolnshire Planning Committee to carefully read the submissions forwarded by Anwick Parish Council who have expressed genuine concerns about the unsuitability of erecting such an odious, dangerous and potentially explosive development within 250 yards of the residential area where the people who live here are made up of an elderly retired majority within the village. To think that this development will be good for the health of the residents is quite frankly absurd. Finally on this point is that no other village in the UK would be safe from this type of hideous development so close to a residential area once a president has been established.

Stream Bioenergy appear to have submitted proposals that have not come close to being honest about the effects upon Anwick Village life and at every concern Anwick Parish Council have, when brought up, have been 'papered over' and re-arranged by Stream Bioenergy to look like they are a kind, thoughtful and diligent company who, compassionately, have the best interests of the people who live here.

Finally, other points of concern to me include:

Information of all of the other sites that Bioenergy have assessed and why Anwick was chosen as the most appropriate location as I do not believe other appropriate sites have been investigated?

The obvious question about the amount of extra HGV traffic that will congest the already inadequate 'so called' main road in, through and out of Anwick Village.

The effect of the prevailing winds, everybody who lives in Anwick Village will tell you that any odour that is emitted by such a plant, will predominantly penetrate all over the

village. This was brought up by a lady who asked the question at the North Kesteven District Council meeting at Sleaford. The answer from the chair was words to the effect that there isn't any reason to go into all the ins and outs of everything. I will never forget that dismissive reply.

I am totally against this project that has been proposed by Stream Bioenergy and will object to it as it stinks.

Mr David Hirst.
25 Anwick Drive
Sleaford
NG34 9TU

clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk

From: debra blount [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2026 08:45
To: clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk
Cc: dforrestelectrical@yahoo.co.uk; Rob Xx
Subject: Fw: Streams proposed application PL/0016/25

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

— Forwarded message —

From: "debra blount" [REDACTED]
To: "clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk" <clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk>
[REDACTED] "Rob Xx"

Sent: Wed, 29 Jul 2026 at 8:01
Subject: Streams proposed application PL/0016/25

To the Parish council

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed site that Stream has put an application in for. This has been going on for a while now and as residents of Greyhound Cottage, this has been a very stressfull time from the start. This has greatly affected our health mentally and physically. We hardly ever sleep and this project is on your mind when you wake, all day and when your trying to sleep. Its scary not knowing what will happen and that this will impact our lives even more than we can ever imagine now. The site isnt even there, but its constantly causing absolute fear and every new application just heightens this fear and anxiety.

How ever many revised plans they put in, it will never calm our fears.

We already have enough pollution, noise and heavy vehicle presence, coming from Moy Park. With the awful smell which means windows cant be opened and things are tainted by the smell, noise of lorries turning, unloading and staff talking, even cars entering and leaving the carpark with doors slamming etc is a daily reminder they are there.

We were aware of moy Park when we bought Greyhound Cottage, but didnt realise the impact that the site would cause on a daily basis. They now seem to have upped the noise levels with their expansion and now bright lights pointing at the house all night. We NEVER Saw or heard anything of this expansion happening.

If Stream gets permission where will it stop? They can make the tanks as small as they want, as far away from us as they want, but as long as they have that site, what is stopping them from expanding to their original size plant in the future?

Giving them permission for a revised smaller plant is just giving them permission for the site they originally planned.

Why as residents at Greyhound Cottage, would we be expected to live like this wether its a smaller plant or especially the original plan?

We would be a small house on an enormous industrial site along with Moy Park.

There is so much evidence as to why their plans wouldnt work at Anwick, surely this cannot be accepted.

This site would not only swamp Greyhound Cottage but also the village.

This just constantly keeps our fears alive. This will not only have a detremental impact on our health and wellbeing but that as a village as well.

This proposed site will kill us as a village not only from the aesthetics of it but physically and mentally daily.

Kind regard
Debbie Forrest

8 Forman's Lane

ANWICK

Sleaford

Lincs NG34 9SR

29th July 2026

The Clerk of Anwick Parish Council

Re: PROPOSED ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT

I am writing to air my extreme concerns above the above plant. As you are aware this has been ongoing for about 2 ½ years and us villagers are really unhappy that Stream Bioenergy would choose our village to build their massive plant on. We already have Moy Park which is growing all the time and also we have to endure the smell and the amount of seagulls who fly around the village making an awful noise and dropping their waste everywhere. So if this plant was given the permission to proceed have you thought what Anwick would be like and how it would impact the health of the residents both physically and mentally. It is already has been a vast drain on us in many ways and would only increase that loads.

We already have a huge increase in lorries to and from Pilgrims Europe and now that the Garden Centre has expanded we get huge lorries trying to get in and out of Church Lane pretty much impossible.

If this plant gets the go ahead the village will be full of lorries, tankers and smells from Pilgrims Europe, the Sewage Treatment Works, that has tankers up and down River Lane as it too small to cope at present. Then if this plant goes ahead even more lorries, tankers and vehicles coming and going all hours of day through Anwick and smells.

Please take the village and its residents of Anwick into very serious consideration when dealing with this VERY MUCH UNWANTED PLANT IN OUR VILLAGE. ANWICK DO NOT WANT IT FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BUILD IT AWAY FROM RESIDENTS.

E Bradley



6 Forman's Lane

ANWICK

Sleaford

Lincs NG34 9SR

29th July 2026

The Clerk of Anwick Parish Council

Re: PROPOSED ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT

For the past 2 ½ years us residents of Anwick village have to endure the possibility/non possibility of having this in our small village. The village has about 300/350 residents who feel very strongly about not having this huge plant in our village. We already have Pilgrims Europe which when we first moved here was a small factory, it is now a huge one and expanding all the time. We also have a garden centre which in the past few years has expanded. So now a proposed another huge development in our village which would spoil and over industrialise our village, with the constant stream of lorries and tankers night and day.

Our village would also have to endure lorries, tankers etc which we already have too many with Pilgrims Europe and the Water/sewage plant which is struggling to meet the requirements, so what would it be like if this plant was built.!!!

Having to cope with temperatures exceeding 30 degrees can you imagine the stink it will cause, which on occasions we have from Pilgrims Europe and the Sewage Treatment plant. Anwick will be know as 'SMELLY ANWICK' and who would want to live here – no-one.

Please take the village and its residents of Anwick into very serious consideration when dealing with this VERY MUCH UNWANTED PLANT IN OUR VILLAGE. ANWICK DO NOT WANT IT FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BUILD IT AWAY FROM RESIDENTS.



J Flanagan

Mr. J.R. MITCHELL
9, FORMOUS LANE
Anwick
Stearford
NG34 9SR.

To The Clerk of Anwick Parish Council,

Dear Sirs

I am writing to object to the proposal of the
Bioenergy Anaerobic Digestion Plant,
Application No PL/0016/25.

This project is a massive undertaking and will make Anwick
not a village but a few houses in an industrial area which
will impact everybody in the village.

We already have a very large Chicken processing plant
and a garden center in the village along with a large
Sewage works.

The main road is a way so busy and the traffic to and
from Pigeon Processing plant is large HGV. Vehicles
in and out all day long this plant will make the traffic
in the village untenable.

We get odour from the sewage works sometimes worse
than others having to shut doors and windows at times.
Can the company 100% guarantee that there will be no
odour, and also no pollution in the area apart from
the hundreds of extra HGV vehicles visiting the plant.

The products for this plant will not be 100% from Pilgrim Foods in fact only a small amount which will be needed to keep this plant going, so this to me seems the most unsuitable place for it.

Surely a better site away from a small village with better access to it would be better for the village and also the company developing it as better access would make it more efficient and for less impact on the environment.

Has a full impact of the services e.g. water, power and other things been looked at as the village would I am sure be affected.

I hope you will take note of the impact on the village and people who live near.

Yours Sincerely



J. R. MITCHELL

clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk

From: Stephanie Dickinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2026 19:30
To: clerk@anwick-pc.gov.uk
Subject: Planning Application PL/0016/25 Bioenergy Anaerobic Digestion Plant

To add to our previous long list of issues as to why this planning application must not be granted permission is our current weather situation. We have been advised that going forward this is what we can expect every summer, temperatures up to and exceeding 30 degrees. Consider the impact of unsealed lorries transporting disgusting stinking waste from all over the place into our village in incredible heat. It will stink. We already have a big odour issue with Moy Park. It stinks. We will be inundated with flies.

We are having an increasing issue with the number of scavenging seagulls, which will get worse. This starts at 4am, the noise they make is intolerable, this is totally unacceptable at that time in the morning. We have video evidence of this.

All the other issues reported still remain, how can this application possibly go ahead so close to a residential village. No one will want to buy a property in Anwick. Homes will be worthless.

John and Stephanie Dickinson
2 Formans Lane
Anwick
Sent from my iPhone

8 Forman's Lane

ANWICK

Sleaford

Lincs NG34 9SR

29th July 2026

The Clerk of Anwick Parish Council

Re: PROPOSED ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT

I am writing to air my extreme concerns above the above plant. As you are aware this has been ongoing for about 2 ½ years and us villagers are really unhappy that Stream Bioenergy would choose our village to build their massive plant on. We already have Moy Park which is growing all the time and also we have to endure the smell and the amount of seagulls who fly around the village making an awful noise and dropping their waste everywhere. So if this plant was given the permission to proceed have you thought what Anwick would be like and how it would impact the health of the residents both physically and mentally. It is already has been a vast drain on us in many ways and would only increase that loads.

We already have a huge increase in lorries to and from Pilgrims Europe and now that the Garden Centre has expanded we get huge lorries trying to get in and out of Church Lane pretty much impossible.

If this plant gets the go ahead the village will be full of lorries, tankers and smells from Pilgrims Europe, the Sewage Treatment Works, that has tankers up and down River Lane as it too small to cope at present. Then if this plant goes ahead even more lorries, tankers and vehicles coming and going all hours of day through Anwick and smells.

Please take the village and its residents of Anwick into very serious consideration when dealing with this VERY MUCH UNWANTED PLANT IN OUR VILLAGE. ANWICK DO NOT WANT IT FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BUILD IT AWAY FROM RESIDENTS.

P Bradley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bradley', with a horizontal line underneath.

12 Forman's Lane
Anwick
SLEAFORD
NG34 9SR
17 July 2026

To The Clerk.

Thank you for the update.

Our village is slowly being turned into an industrial estate, we already have three industries operating. Anglia Water, Pilgrim (formally Moy Park) and Parkers, between them they take up a very large area of the village.

Anglia Water. The treatment plant is running at almost at peak capacity, and with more houses being built in its catchment area. We frequently get bad odours from the site. Any overload of the site ends up in the River Slea. At the moment heavy tankers are frequently up and down River Lane, which is not suitable for this kind of traffic. Also in heavy rain the site frequently gets flooded. Now add the outfall from the Biogas plant, it's going make matters a lot worse.

Pilgrim, this chicken processing factory occasionally admits bad odours. The outfall for this is proposed to go via the biogas plant, then excess water ends up going via the Anglia Water treatment plant.

Both these plants are up wind of the village, the prevailing winds for most of the year are West or South West.

Parker's. Tho not a problem it takes up a big area of the village.

If this Plant is going to be built a major upgrade to the Anglia Water facility will be required, and there is nowhere to expand it.

If built this will be the third industry up wind of the village, and none of these industries can guarantee clean air 24/7/365 days.

Regards

Stuart Regler

BELINDA WOOD
7 GOLDON CLOSE
ANWICK
30-07-26.

Re PLANNING REFERENCE PL0016/25.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I still have grave concerns over the proposed erection and operation of the Biogen Plant

① AIR QUALITY AND ODOUR.

Dismissed as not significant

② NOISE LEVELS from extra vehicles.

③ The site is still to be within less than the minimum of 200-250 meters to nearest residential housing or sensitive receptors. This reasoning is that larger industrial facilities require wider setbacks to manage potential odours, noise, heavy traffic and bio aerosol emissions

④ The site selection is not in the most appropriate planning location. It will have a great impact on the QUALITY OF LIFE of all Anwick residents and others close by. It will change the CHARACTER OF THE VILLAGE and surrounding countryside

Blwood

9 Golden Close
Anwick
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9TZ

27/07/2026

Planning Application PL/0016/25

The Clerk Anwick Parish Council.

Dear Sir/Madam.

With reference to your letter, What concern us most is.

The village is small and if odour escapes the whole village will be effected and if there is a problem will they notify the village?? The applicant has not demonstrated why this site is the most appropriate and what about the other sites they want to build on?? Anwick was mentioned in the Domesday book and we think that by building this site that that will be the end of Anwick. As for the traffic impact on the village, Anwick has the highest Speeding fines in Lincolnshire. We have enough problems with traffic now, Police cars are always going down the road. Also speeding motorbikes are always speeding down the road. The revised planning does not think about the impact of the people that live in the village. A lot of use are Pensioners Living in fear for over 2 Years now of this biogas plant being built. The effects on other sites such as Hemswell Cliff, which we understand is effected by the working Plant near them. Environmental conditions, example Extreme heat, wild fires, Flooding and noise from the site that is carried on the Prevailing winds from the west would cover the whole village. We have enough noise from Moy Park now from Lorries reversing all day long.

Also we have odours from Moy Park and you cannot sit outside and you have to keep windows closed.

The bridge crossing the railway line is not wide enough, I have queried this at the meeting but have not heard anything about it. We have a lot of low flying planes and the Air ambulance across Anwick. For example on the 21/05/2026 we had a very very Low RAF cargo plane fly over Anwick in the morning. Are we to live in fear of a plane crashing into the Biogas Chimney. Lincolnshire used to be the county that feed the UK now all the want to do is build Solar Farms, Biogas Plants and Pylons across Lincolnshire.

As we have seen from the fires across Europe , most of the food we eat is imported and the crops in Spain and France are being destroyed.

It seems to us that this area of Lincolnshire is being overtaken by Industrial sites.

If the River Floods what about the wildlife that is on and in the river Swans,Ducks, Deer will they die when it floods into the biogas plant as were they want to build it floods.

We hope that the planning application will be rejected and Lincolnshire County Council we stand up for the People of Anwick that have lived in fear for 2 Years now.. And not let Companies that are not from the UK.take over Lincolnshire. PUT THE PEOPLE OF ANWICK BEFORE PROFIT.

Also what Material are they going to build this plant with if it is metal in this heat is the metal going to expand.

I have enclosed some articles about Biogas plants.

Thank You for reading this Letter.

Regards.

MR David Doe

MRS Elizabeth Doe.



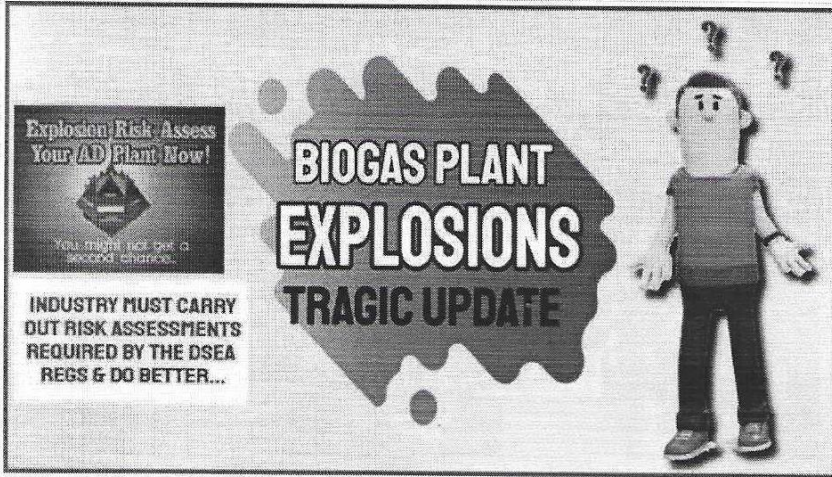
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BIOGAS PLANT EXPLOSIONS TRAGIC UPDATE

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Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions – Explosive Risk at Biogas Facilities

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 ANAEROBIC DIGESTION, METHANE 12 COMMENTS

Spread the love

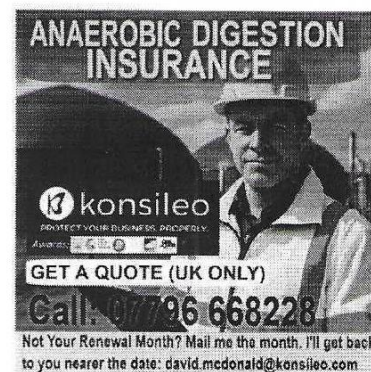
Any **anaerobic digester plant explosion** is one too many. Read on to **discover a number of incidents that have shown the explosive potential of methane in AD plants can be unleashed** when least expected.

Nobody was hurt in the biogas digester plant explosions reported in the media in the UK until 2020. In December 2020, that changed with four tragic deaths in the UK in one incident.

Now again, in September 2023, we have updated this article to include two explosions in as many months. The **most recent anaerobic digestion plant explosions happened at two biogas facilities, one near Nottingham and the other in Oxfordshire.**

[boomdevs_toc]

The following news serves to emphasize that **very real risks exist** in anaerobic digestion and biogas production:



ANAEROBIC DIGESTION INSURANCE

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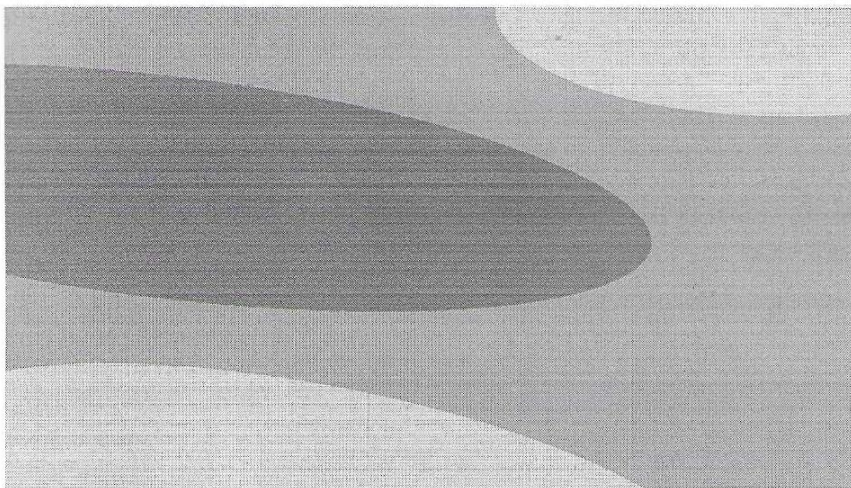
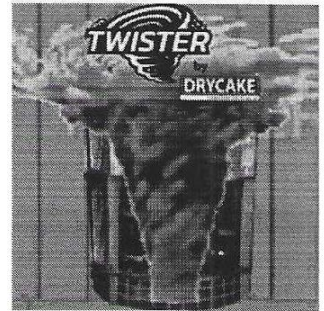
Facts to Remember About Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions

A little bit of gas in the air will burn and not explode, equally a methane-filled space containing no oxygen will not explode, rather it will put out a flame.

But, between these concentrations, there is the danger of an explosive zone. An explosion can easily cause death.

In Europe a set of regulations known as the ATEX Regs. applies to assess and manage explosion risks of this sort.

In the UK the ATEX Regs. are applied under the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres (DSEA) Regulations*. In addition, most site owners/operators should also be applying the COMAH regulations. All biogas plants must comply with those regulations. (* Equivalent Regs apply in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland)



Updated October 2023:

STOP PRESS – October 3, 2023:

Lightning Strike Sparks Biogas Tank Explosion and Fire at Oxfordshire Recycling Plant

Incident Overview

An unexpected lightning strike at the Severn Trent Green Power Plant in Cassington, Oxfordshire resulted in a massive explosion on 2nd October 2023. The blast was caused by the ignition of biogas in the gas collection domes above the tanks, leading to an enormous fireball visible from afar. Fortunately, no injuries were reported despite this dramatic event.

Recent Posts

HomeBiogas vs. Puxin: Which Home Biogas Digester Is Best for the Price?

How Anaerobic Digestion Reduced Farm Fertiliser Costs to One Third

Immediate Impact and Emergency Response

Severn Trent Green Power has worked closely with emergency services to secure the site and address any issues following an explosion that caused widespread power outages across several communities including Witney, Burford, Chipping Norton and Milton under Wychwood. The company is committed to resolving this situation as quickly as possible while ensuring safety remains a top priority for all involved parties.

Safety Measures and Local Advisories

Thames Valley Police issued a statement following the explosion that no injuries had occurred and precautionary measures were being taken. The A40 was closed between Wolvercote and Eynsham while residents were advised to stay indoors with windows and doors shut tightly.

A number of reports suggest that no lightning rods had been installed that if present may have diverted the strike directly conducting the thunderbolt and safely earthing it into the ground.

The anaerobic digestion facility processes source-separated food waste and there would have been procedures in place to guard against such an event through the application of the UK's ATEX and DSEAR Regulations, and in addition, a COMAH assessment would have been undertaken.

Biogas – The Risks and Benefits

The Cassington plant explosion has highlighted the dangers associated with biogas, a renewable energy source derived from decomposing organic waste. While typically safe it serves as an important reminder that robust safety protocols are necessary for preventing accidents like this one in future.

Severn Trent Green Power has emphasized its dedication to safety following the explosion by working alongside emergency services in managing and mitigating its effects. They continue to prioritize this commitment as they move forward.

Uk Update on Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions – Conclusion

The Oxfordshire recycling plant explosion highlights the significance of emergency preparedness in renewable energy operations. Thankfully due to efficient response measures and existing safety protocols, no injuries resulted from this unexpected lightning strike. The incident serves as a reminder for all those involved with green power generation about the importance of being ready at all times.

Ultrasonic Pretreatment for Higher Biogas Yields

Precision Machining and Metal Fabrication for Anaerobic Digestion Pumps

UASB Reactors vs. CSTR Digesters: Which Is Better for Industrial Wastewater Treatment?

Landfill Gas to RNG Project Timeline: From Feasibility to First Gas Delivery

Starch Wastewater Treatment Processes Guide: Anaerobic Digestion & Alternatives



December 2020 Update:

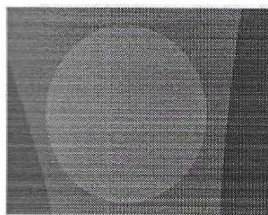
Avonmouth explosion: Investigation after four killed in blast

A tragic accident occurred at a wastewater treatment works on 4 December 2020 at a Wessex Water sewage sludge treatment facility near Avonmouth.

Investigations are continuing into what caused an explosion at a wastewater treatment works that killed four people.

[Permission to use the BBC image of the damaged biogas digester tank has been requested.]

Three employees of Wessex Water and a contractor were killed in the blast at a water recycling centre in Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, on Thursday.



This news is **particularly distressing** given that for **more than 15 years now the DSEA Regulations have been in force**. The **risks are well-known** and the **regulations should, if correctly applied and enforced by the HSE**, ensure that all those operating any facility of this type carry out a formal risk assessment (RA).

Once the RA has been done, **procedures must be put in place and responsible staff allocated the duty of ensuring that only those people fully informed and trained in these risks are allowed to gain access to the Risk Assessed areas.**

The BBC Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions News article can be viewed [here](#).

Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions May 2020 Update: There have been some notable biomass digester explosions recently in the US, which we have updated this page to cover. In the case of the first, it is not clear what caused the explosion, and whether the incident involved methane gas in some way, this being the number one cause of anaerobic digestion plant explosions.

Dry Fermentation vs. Wet Anaerobic Digestion: Which Works Best for Municipal Solid Waste?

Popular Posts

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Concrete vs Steel Biogas Tanks for Anaerobic Digestion Plants

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Anaerobic Digestion vs Composting

Major Gas Explosion Injures Two at Nottingham AD Plant

September 2017:

A significant gas explosion has left **two individuals seriously injured at an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant in Nottinghamshire, UK**. The incident unfolded at Bio Dynamic, a facility that specializes in converting food waste into renewable energy and fertilizers.

Collapse of a gas tanker

According to reports, **the explosion occurred at the Colwick Industrial Estate in Nottingham**, with witnesses describing the **collapse of a gas tanker and a 30-foot gas tank lying across the road**. The emergency response was swift, with paramedics from the Hazardous Area Response Team providing **critical care to the injured individuals**.

Food Waste Processing Facility Explosion Incident

Bio Dynamic processes around 50,000 cubic meters of food waste annually, including expired food from retail and hospitality businesses, as well as organic waste from food processing plants. The East Midlands Biogas Centre plays a crucial role in converting this waste into energy, powering the plant's Combined Heat and power (CHP) units with the produced biogas.

While the investigation is ongoing, authorities have ruled out terrorism as a potential cause for the explosion. Both the Nottinghamshire Police and

<https://blog.anaerobic-digestion.com/anaerobic-digester-plant-explosion-blamed-on-gas-storage-epdm-failure/>

7/27/26, 10:15 AM

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue are actively involved in determining the exact circumstances of the incident.

Bio Dynamic has not yet issued an official statement regarding the explosion.

This incident underscores the importance of safety measures and protocols in waste-to-energy operations, and it serves as a reminder of the potential risks associated with such processes.

Tags: *Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosions, Nottingham, Gas Explosion, AD Plant, Bio Dynamic, Hazardous Area Response Team, Renewable Energy, Safety Measures*

The cause of the above Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosion will not be known until investigations have been completed. But a UK Anaerobic Digestion Plant (so-called) explosion has already been reported at the following UK agricultural university:

Harper Adams Anaerobic Digester Plant Explosion

JUNE 2014: An eco-friendly power station suddenly exploded this morning showering the surrounding area with hundreds of tonnes of stinking cow dung.

The blowout in a slurry processing tank happened in the early hours at the plant outside Harper Adams University near Newport in Shropshire.

Onlookers said one side of the 30-foot-tall corrugated metal building was completely torn off while the roof and supporting wall collapsed.

Thousands of gallons of slurry spilled into a nearby farm flooding one road and leaving several fields waterlogged.

Fire crews and police arrived at the scene at 10 a.m. and sealed off the scene with tape while the buildings were inspected.

Environment Agency officials spent the day at the site assessing the damage and working to minimise the effect on the environment. via www.dailymail.co.uk

Again, thankfully, nobody was injured, and the author of this article believes that this was not correctly described as an explosion. It was an implosion caused by a pump system operational error.

Digester Explosion Pensacola

As International Paper's Cantonment mill resumed full operations this week, the company has released more details about the 22 January 2017 explosion.

Spokeswoman Janice Holmes said Tuesday that the mill experienced a power failure the day before the explosion because of an electrical fault in the power distribution system. The power failure forced the mill out of operation, which caused gas to build up in an on-site pulp digester. That is what officials believe ultimately caused the explosion.

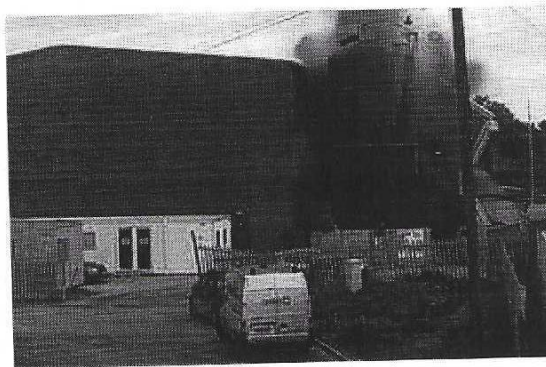
News story

Company fined after an explosion seriously injured two employees

The Nottingham company which produces electricity from food waste by anaerobic digestion has been fined more than £300,000.

From: [Environment Agency \(/government/organisations/environment-agency\)](#)

Published: 28 November 2024



- Environment Agency in joint prosecution of Nottingham's Bio Dynamic Ltd
- Company fined £304,500 and ordered to pay costs of £229,988
- Court hearing ends seven-year complex investigation alongside Health and Safety Executive

A company which produces electricity from food waste by anaerobic digestion, has been fined more than £300,000 after an explosion caused two employees to suffer life changing injuries.

The metal tank the two men were working on was projected high into the air before crashing to the ground nine seconds later.

Footage of the blast has been released.

How to watch this YouTube video

There's a YouTube video on this page. You can't access it because of your cookie settings.

You can [change your cookie settings \(/help/cookies\)](#) or watch the video on YouTube instead:

Prosecution- Bio Dynamic(UK) Limited
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nICTMb2ABmU&t=33s>)

On 20 September 2017, two employees of Bio Dynamic (UK) Limited were using a grinder to cut and replace pipework.

The men were at the top of an 11-metre high metal tank containing waste slurry. They were not using harnesses. Sparks from the grinder ignited flammable gasses causing the tank to explode.

Tomasz Patek was flung out of the mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) into the air and landed on the ground in the slurry around the tank.

He suffered serious injuries to his back, head and torso and was in hospital for two months. His injuries were so severe that he was not able to work for more than two years.

Tomasz suffers from pre and post-traumatic amnesia and has no specific recollection of the events.

In a statement, he reveals the psychological scars from the incident:

“After the accident, I was unable to recover emotionally.

“I did not realise what had happened and was in deep shock. I could not cope with the pain. I could not accept an accident had happened to me.”

Robert Tyrko was thrown into the air and landed back in the basket of the MEWP. Following the incident, Robert's leg was amputated and he remains wheelchair bound as treatment is still ongoing to receive a prosthesis. Also, he sustained a fractured skull and a piece of metal in his elbow that continues to affect his daily life.

In his statement, Robert explains how the explosion has affected his day-to-day life:

"This whole situation is having a huge impact on my relationship. I can't help my wife in anything like I used to be able to. Magda is both wife and husband because all my responsibilities fell on her; along with the kids.

"Also my personality is explosive. I lose my patience very quickly. I attended appointments with a psychologist because I had nightmares that I was still having this accident."

A joint investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency found that the company had failed to ensure the health and safety of its employees and others nearby.

The company had kept and treated waste in a manner likely to cause pollution to the environment. The explosion was caused by multiple failures in the company's management system and exacerbated by multiple breaches of the company's environmental permit.

At a hearing at Nottingham Crown Court on 22 November 2024, Bio Dynamic (UK) Limited, of Colwick Industrial Estate, Nottingham:

- pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 38(2) of the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR), and s.33(1)(c) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA).
- They were fined a total of £304,500 and ordered to pay £229,988 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Richenda Dixon said:

"It's remarkable that Robert and Tomasz weren't killed.

"This incident resulted from fundamental and multiple failings by the company to properly manage its health and safety risks.

"These included failing to ensure that the design, installation and use of the tanks were safe; failing to carry out risk assessments; failing to put in place a safe system of work; and failing to train and supervise employees."

Senior Environmental Crime Officer for the Environment Agency Iain Regan said:

"This was a lengthy and technically complex investigation by the Environment Agency and the HSE.

"During the investigation we found that the company's attitude towards environmental compliance was largely cosmetic.

“Although the site had an environmental permit, the company was not complying with the conditions of the permit or with their own management system and procedures.

“The site had unauthorised gaseous emissions points and undertook modifications to their process which were not risk assessed or notified to the Environment Agency.

“The company did not recognise or understand the impact that these changes had on the safety of the plant. They failed to take action, when warned, which could have prevented the incident.

“These factors, and a failure to implement permit to work procedures, including appropriate risk assessment, created all the necessary conditions on 20 September 2017 for the explosion which occurred.

“Sites which receive, treat or dispose of waste must be permitted to ensure that they minimise the risk to the environment or human health.

“Incidents such as the explosion at Bio Dynamic show why it is essential that such sites strictly comply with all the conditions of their environmental permit and take their environmental responsibilities seriously.

“The consequences of the company’s failure to comply with its environmental permit could have been fatal.

“As it is, two employees have been left with life changing physical and mental injuries which continue to devastate their lives seven years on from this incident.”

Further information

The Environment Agency is the principal body in England with responsibility for the regulation of waste management facilities, the investigation of environmental crime and the prosecution of environmental offences.

Guidance from the Environment Agency on anaerobic digestion can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/biological-waste-treatment-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities (<http://www.gov.uk/guidance/biological-waste-treatment-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities>)

Guidance on anaerobic digestion can be found here: [Disposal and energy recovery \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/disposal.htm#anaerobic) (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/disposal.htm#anaerobic>), [Dangerous Substances And Explosive Atmospheres, L138: Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002. Approved Code of Practice and Guidance, L138](#) ([https://www.hse.gov.uk/l138/](#))

L/Dangerous-Substances-and-Explosive-Atmospheres-Regulations-2002-approved-code-of-practice-and)

The Health and Safety Executive (https://www.hse.gov.uk/?utm_source=press.hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=notes-to-editors) (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We are dedicated to protecting people and places, and helping everyone lead safer and healthier lives.

More information about the legislation (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/?utm_source=press.hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=notes-to-editors) referred to in this case is available.

Further details on the latest HSE news releases (https://press.hse.gov.uk/?utm_source=press.hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=notes-to-editors) is available.

HSE does not pass sentences, set guidelines or collect any fines imposed.

Relevant sentencing guidelines must be followed unless the court is satisfied that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

The sentencing guidelines for health and safety offences can be found [here](https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/sentencing-and-the-council/about-sentencing-guidelines/about-published-guidelines/health-and-safety-offences-corporate-manslaughter-and-food-safety-and-hygiene-offences/) (<https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/sentencing-and-the-council/about-sentencing-guidelines/about-published-guidelines/health-and-safety-offences-corporate-manslaughter-and-food-safety-and-hygiene-offences/>).

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