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13.1 This ES provides a detailed and objective analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed AD facility at Spring Grove Farm. Each technical assessment which supports the planning application and chapter of this ES has been undertaken in accordance with up-to-date guidance and standards. The conclusion of the planning application and the EIA is that there is no single issue or combination of issues that should prevent the proposed development from proceeding.

13.2 The ES presents information to Suffolk County Council and other consultees, to help them consider the benefits and amenity effects of the proposed development. All developments result in some level of environmental impact and the purpose of national and local planning policy is to ensure that these impacts are within acceptable limits. The conclusions of the technical assessments which support the proposed development is that subject to the mitigation measures identified in the assessments, the proposed development could operate with no significant adverse impacts on environment.

13.3 The ES sets out the results of very careful, detailed and systematic research into each of the potential environmental effects of the development and, where relevant, sets out modern and well-designed methods of mitigating the effects. These, along with the conclusions of the technical assessments which support the planning application, include measures which have been incorporated into the design of the AD facility as in-built mitigation measures, relating in particular to the measures to minimise the landscape and visual effects of the development; traffic and air quality. The ES also describes the details of the landscaping scheme which would be implemented and would lead to biodiversity net gain of 12.13%.

13.4 Planning policy issues are explored further in the Planning Statement. The key conclusions from this analysis are that there is wide support for the developments which provide a sustainable means of generating low carbon, renewable energy. The development would provide employment during construction and operation, which in turn returns money into the local economy.

13.5 The proposed AD facility would produce biomethane which could be used directly to heat homes and fuel vehicles. The proposed development would provide enough green gas to meet the heating demand of 7,650 UK households. In comparison with standard UK grid emissions, the biomethane produced by the AD facility would have an equivalent saving of 31,000 tonnes of CO2e each year, equivalent to taking 21,000 cars off the road. Subsistence in power is increasingly important in these times of rapidly rising fuel prices and uncertainty over imported energy.

13.6 The production of biomethane would be in line with local and national targets for reducing CO2 emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, whilst also contributing to fuel self-sufficiency. In addition, the solid and liquid digestate would be spread on surrounding farmland in place of artificial fertilisers, thereby reducing the reliance on imported fertiliser.

13.7 In summary, the proposed development would provide a range of environmental benefits and could proceed in a way which minimises environmental effects, and the effects from operations could be maintained within acceptable limits.