

Application Number

SCC/0045/23SE

Location

Land to the north of Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield, Suffolk, CB9 7SW

Proposal

Construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, associated infrastructure and new access road, connecting pipeline and covered digestate lagoons.

Objection

I object to this application on the following points

1. Need. There is no requirement for this plant to be in Haverhill
 - 1.1. The plant will produce methane gas which is a greenhouse gas and will add to global warming. Non carbon alternatives should be pursued.
 - 1.2. The acreage to grow crops for the biodigester will reduce land needed to produce food locally / nationally and therefore increase requirements on foreign food imports
 - 1.3. Only 4-5 jobs in Haverhill will be created which will minimally impact the local economy
 - 1.4. Grade 2 agricultural land will be taken out of use, this too could be used for food crops
2. Location. The Spring Grove Farm site is totally unsuitable
 - 2.1. The A1307 is already very busy and an accident blackspot
 - 2.2. Lorry movements in /out of site will increase traffic/noise and pollution and increase congestion and risk of accidents
 - 2.3. During harvest periods (6 months/year) there will be 24 hour HGV movement to /from site
 - 2.4. Access roads will cut across countryside footpaths and destroy local ecology
 - 2.5. Use of agricultural land (see 1.3)
 - 2.6. Land regularly floods with onward impact on the flood plain
 - 2.7. Location close to local amenities (Epicentre/Flying Shuttle pub/Sainsbury's)
 - 2.8. Located near to housing – Arboretum
3. Health & safety – the plant will be hazardous to the local population and environment
 - 3.1. Risk of fire / explosion from methane – as per recent incident at a similar plant in Cassington, Oxford
 - 3.2. Use of animal/poultry manure in large quantities will produce offensive smell across a large area
 - 3.3. Risk of leakage of digestate into water course and pollution (see 2.6)
 - 3.4. Digestate – smell from decaying crops and digestate will cause significant reduction in health and quality of life for the local population
 - 3.5. Particulate matter produced by plant will be hazardous to health especially with regard to respiratory conditions
 - 3.6. Location near populated areas (see 2.7 & 2.8)

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