

Planning application comment was submitted on the **14 November 2024 09:50 AM**

The following is a comment on application **P222728/N** by **Bella Johnson**

Nature of feedback: Objecting to the application

Comment: I am objecting to the Whitwick Manor AD planning application for the following reasons:

It proposes to use untested technologies to strip the phosphates, with no evidence they will work at this scale. Despite treatments, there will be significant phosphate discharges to local water courses. Discharges to water courses must have zero phosphate levels to meet the Natural England phosphate moratorium. It is not clear where or how the phosphate (and nitrogen) containing material removed from the digestate will be utilised. If this material is spread in the Wye catchment, the phosphate and nitrogen will make their way back into the river, meaning that there is no improvement and a great deal of exacerbation of the problem. I am deeply concerned that this application may actually make pollution significantly worse especially if the technologies do not work as claimed.

Proposed onsite management is minimal, with possibly only one or two people at any one time. This is not enough to adequately supervise the monitoring technology as well as site safety.

Siting industrial-scale waste disposal in open countryside is entirely contrary to local and national planning policy. Furthermore the MWLP declares all new anaerobic digesters should only use feedstock from the farm they are on.

The site is likely to become the AD facility for non-local IPUs, and is likely to maximise operating capacity by inviting 'fuels' from a wide area, thus 'importing' pollution and increasing local pollution levels. This contravenes the MWLP and as well as waste from IPUs, would encourage the environmentally damaging proliferation of mono-culture crops such as maize.

Significantly increased traffic is a major impact of this application. It is anticipated that there will be an additional lorry movement every 10 mins, 6 days a week , 12 hrs a day.

There will be increased air pollution centred on, but not exclusive to, the site. Atmospheric nitrogen will present health risks to the area which includes primary and nursery schools. Research has shown damage to local biodiversity near ADs caused by atmospheric pollution.

Noise pollution will be significant, both within site: traffic movements, flares, operational machinery; and off site road: road traffic noise.

Light pollution associated with this degree of development will impact local biodiversity, and cause a public health nuisance.

Attachment:

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Infrastructure from section 106 to consider: Improved active travel infrastructure

Link ID: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=222728

Form reference: FS-Case-662288643