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Proposed New Steel Portal Framed Building and Drying Unit at Willcross Farm

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1 Introduction

This is a Planning Statement written in support of a Planning Application at Willcross Farm for the construction of a new steel portal frame building and the installation of a drying unit. The site address is Willcross Farm, where an anaerobic digestion plant has been installed which the proposed development is linked to.

2 Use

The purpose of the proposed development is to process the anaerobic digestate from a liquid to a solid form. The liquid digestate will be fed from the anaerobic digestion plant into the drying unit where the liquid fraction of the product will be removed. The end product is a solid organic matter which will be fed into the proposed new building where it will be stored until the optimum time for spreading on the land.

3 Scale

The proposed building is 14.0m wide x 13.72m long x 9.0m to the eaves. The building will match the adjacent silo buildings in height and design.

The drying unit has a total floor area of 80.75m² and a maximum height of 3.30m.

4 Layout

The layout of the proposed development has been considered in great depth and the applicant believes that the proposed location is most practical and suitable. The proposed building will be entirely open plan to allow maximum storage facility of the dried organic matter. The drying unit has been strategically located to allow effective delivery of the digestate from the main plant and delivery of the dried organic matter to the building.

5 Appearance

The proposed building is directly adjacent to the existing steel portal frame silo buildings. The north and west elevations will comprise concrete panels to 4.5m and box profile tin sheets to the eaves. The south elevation adjoins the existing buildings. The east elevation will be entirely open to allow delivery and removal of the dried organic matter.

6 Access

The proposed development will be accessed from the existing farmyard and no altered or new access arrangements will be required.

7 Need

At present the liquid digestate is fed into a digestate lagoon which can be seen on the enclosed site plan. This product is either stored here or transported to Watt Close Farm where another lagoon is located to allow flexible storage. The digestate is then spread on farmland used to grow crops for the anaerobic digestion plant.

The proposed development is a progression in sustainability and environmental awareness. Due to the nature of the liquid digestate it is bulky and difficult to store and spread on the land. As such, the applicant is proposing to process the liquid digestate into a solid form. This will reduce the environmental pollution risk of storing, moving and spreading high quantities of liquid digestate. The creation of a solid organic product allows the applicant more flexibility over the timing and location of spreading.

The dried solid organic matter is a valuable product which contains high levels of essential plant nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphate. It is therefore essential that this product is handled with care and utilised to the best of the Applicants ability.

8 Conclusion

The proposed development is the next step in increasing the sustainability and environmental credentials of this existing renewable energy production system. It allows the Applicant more flexibility over the storage, transport and spreading of the valuable product that is dried anaerobic digestate. The development represents a viable and sustainable contribution to this rural business that will respect the character and appearance of the local area.



Annex 1

Annex 2



Annex 3

