
Application Ref: NP/15/0315/FUL

Case Officer	Kate Attrill		
Applicant	Mr M Carey		
Agent	Mr W Harries, Harries Design & Management		
Proposal	Installation of 500kw anaerobic digester in connection with existing farming operation		
Site Location	Coedwynog, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3XW		
Grid Ref	SN09524036		
Date Valid	16-Jul-2015	Target Date	10-Sep-2015

Summary**Purpose of report**

To request that Members visit the application site prior to the consideration of the planning application at a future meeting of the Development Management Committee.

Background

Coedwynog Farm is a working dairy farm extending to approximately 1000 acres (170 owned outright, the remainder on long lease) to the north east of Nevern. It is located within the Cemaes Head Landscape Character Area and a tributary of the Nyfer runs along the eastern boundary of this site.

The nearest non related dwelling is a small traditional cottage which lies to the immediate east of the site boundary, Rhydoferiad from which several objections have been received. The dwelling will be approximately 200m from the CHP plant proposed in this application, on the western side of the application site.

The farm and associated agricultural buildings are located to the north of the B4582, and are partially dug into the landscape. The site is surrounded by mature hedgebanks to the west and south with woodlands strips to the north.

Current Proposal

The proposal is a full application for the installation of an Anaerobic Digester with a 500 Kw generating capacity.

The system is designed to process 20,000 tonnes of waste per year to produce 500Kw of energy. The input comprises 12,000 tonnes of slurry waste and 8000 tonnes of solid waste. The slurry is the natural by-product of the dairy herd (550 cows plus followers) while the solids will be derived from a mixture of silage waste, bedding and green crop from the existing farming enterprise.

The main components of the application are:

- **Digester Tank** - A 25.3 metre diameter silo finished in green sheeting to a height of 8.5 metres, which then extends to 12.8 metres to the top of the gas dome (when at capacity). Anaerobic digestion takes place in this tank
- **Digestate tank** – a 32.6 metres diameter open topped silo in green sheeting with a height of 7.26 metres. This tank stores the liquid digestate after digestion in the digester tank, prior to spreading on the fields.
- **Liquids tank** – a 10 metre diameter silo finished in green with a height of 7.26 metres which stores slurry prior to digestion
- **Solids feeder** – a large open tank that breaks up the solid waste (fodder etc.) and mixes with slurry prior to delivery into the digester. This area is under cover
- **Separator and Fibre clamp** – this will separate the solid fibre elements (post digestion) prior to the liquid entering the digestate tank. The solid fibre elements will be dropped to a storage clamp below the separator.
- **Combined Heat and Power unit (CHP Plant)** – this is a small power generating unit with a flue where the biogas from the digester tank is burned to generate electricity
- **Transformer and substation** – this feeds the electricity to the national grid
- **Boiler house and Control Room** – this is a modest mono-pitched building from where the plant can be operated
- **Surplus gas burner** – this takes the form of a flue/chimney on the edge of the development site to a height of 8.2 metres which acts as a safety valve to allow excess gas to be burnt off
- **Oil tanks** – these are subsidiary fuel storage units to power the plant in the event of the digester failing or being out of operation.

Key Issues

The key issues to be addressed in the determination of this planning application are the principle of the proposed development in this location and the impact of the development on the character of the landscape, environmental health concerns, residential amenity and highway safety.

Recommendation

In light of the complexity and range of issues that have been identified for the proposal; together with the level of response received to the proposed development following consultation, officers would respectfully request that Members undertake a site visit prior to the full consideration of the planning application.

At the time of this summary, the Environmental Health section has not yet made comment on the application and its comments, along with the recommendations of officers on the application, will be available at a further meeting of the Development Management Committee.