

For and On Behalf of the
Undersigned **1683 Residents**
of Long Crendon, Chilton,
Oakley and Surrounding Villages

9th June 2026

Adam Smith

Principal Development Management Officer
Major Developments Team
Directorate For Planning, Growth And Sustainability
Buckinghamshire Council
Walton Street
Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

Dear Mr Smith,

Planning Application Ref: CM/0022/22

Land to the Southeast of Hornage Farm, Bicester Road, Chilton, HP18 9SE
Erection of Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Comprising Silage Clamps, Digester Tanks,
Lagoons, Administrative Buildings, Ancillary Development Including Gas Grid
Connection, Landscaping and Access

OBJECTS

This objection has been prepared by, and submitted on behalf of, the communities of Chilton, Chearsley, Long Crendon, Oakley, Shabbington and Worminghall, collectively referred to as the Hornage Anaerobic Digester Objection (HADO) group.

We are writing in response to your letter of 12th May 2026, inviting further comments on the amended plans and additional information associated with the above application.

HADO maintains its strong objection to the planning application and stands by all of the grounds set out in its earlier submissions, namely objections to:

- a. The principle of development at the site;
- b. Siting, design, form and landscape impact;
- c. Traffic impact; and
- d. Heritage impact.

In this representation, HADO is raising a number of material matters that require;

1. further action be undertaken by the determining authority and statutory stakeholders; and
2. further information and clarifications be submitted by the applicant.

Failure to remedy these matters prior to determination will, unless the application is refused, result in clear reasons for judicial challenge on these grounds.

For your convenience, we have set these out below, but firstly HADO would like to comment on the broad progress of the application since it was registered in September 2022.

Progress of Application

HADO believes that Buckinghamshire Council has long-since passed the point of efficient consideration of the application. It is self-evident that it should have been rejected years ago, and that it is a waste of both the Council's much stretched resources and the time of local residents, to continue providing Acorn with objective planning-based concerns that are then ignored, either by the Applicant or statutory consultees.

- a. Acorn has submitted 168 documents, and Consultees have responded 65 times.
- b. There have been over 1,000 objections from individual members of the public and 1,651 signatories to this and previous objections by HADO.
- c. There have been 192 comments in support of the development. However, the vast majority of these, were generated by responses to a social media campaign, funded by the applicant, which was headlined "Amersham [or Beaconsfield, or High Wycombe, or Buckinghamshire]: we need your support to help our local farmers". Comments were therefore received from largely outside the planning area, and provided general support for farmers rather than specific, relevant support for the Acorn's industrialscale Anaerobic Digester application. We do not therefore consider these comments to be credible and they should be discounted (see Appendix A).
- d. The application has been managed for Buckinghamshire Council by two different case officers.

Having said that, HADO fully supports an expert, complete, totally transparent and truthful process, such that all parties fully understand the holistic impacts of this application and it can be judged accordingly.

1.0 Actions Required by the Determining Authority and Statutory Consultees

- 1.1 These points represent omissions and errors in the current statutory consultee advice, where material planning matters have either not been adequately assessed by the consultee, or material circumstances may have changed, and the relevant consultee has not amended their original advice.

- 1.2 **Aging of data and regulations.** All consultees should be invited to comment on the continued relevance of data and analysis provided by the Applicant, where the relevant assessment relies on baseline data and evidence dating from 2022 and earlier. It is approaching four years since the application was made and many of the data sets, assumptions and regulatory guidelines may have changed in that time.
- 1.3 **Junction of Chearlsey Road and B4011.** Highways Development Management should provide detailed comment on the capacity of the junction between Chearsley Road and the B4011, which is consistent with advice given by Highways in PL/25/6024/OA and PL/24/5099/OA. . In relation to these schemes, officers have identified that the mini roundabout (and indeed other local roundabouts) are modelled to be at capacity now and over-capacity in future year scenarios, even without taking into account cumulative impacts of other schemes. Consistency in decision making is an important legal principle and is not being applied here. Given the evidenced peak hour congestion that already arises in this location, there surely needs to be an understanding of the cumulative impact on this junction arising from these three 'live' schemes. It is not acceptable to ignore the potential cumulative effect on the basis that the three applications are not 'committed development', with the residential schemes highly likely to secure planning permission given the Council's inability to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply. You will be aware also that we also object on the basis that the mini roundabout is unsafe/impracticable for use by large numbers of HGVs due to the physical constraints.
- 1.4 **Opposing HGVs meeting on single-track roads.** Highways Development Management should provide detailed comment on the risk to safety and operation of the highway arising from opposing HGV's on single-track rural roads. It has already been pointed out by Oakley Parish Council that two HGV or large vehicles passing each other within the village have to mount the pavements. It is self-evident that opposing HGV's meeting on a single-track rural lane would present an unacceptable impact on the safety and operation of the highway. It is therefore wholly unacceptable that this concern, raised by HADO and others in response to Acorn's Traffic Statement dated Dec 2024, was dismissed on the basis of professional opinion by Andrew Cooper, the Principal Highways Development Management Officer.



ATC 03 +32 HGVs per day in peak



ATC 01 +32 HGVs per day in peak

- 1.5 **Tractor/Trailers are wider than HGVs.** Acorn has stated that farm tractors and trailers will be used to deliver feedstocks to the proposed plant. These are recorded as HGVs for the purpose of the assessing highway capacity. However, a tractor and trailer is much wider than a standard HGV. It is up to 3.5 m wide with wide tyres compared with 2.5m for a normal "lorry". Therefore, it is much more likely to come into conflict with other vehicles when passing on narrow rural roads or where there are parked vehicles.
- 1.6 **Pedestrian and Cycle Connectivity.** Highways Management at both Buckinghamshire Council and Oxfordshire County Council should be required to comment on the risks to pedestrian and cycle connectivity arising from the proposed development. In response to the outline planning application for 97 dwellings at Madges Farm in Long Crendon (PL/25/6024/OA), Buckinghamshire Council's Highways Development Officer concluded, *"A whole-route assessment is required to identify and upgrade deficient pedestrian and cycle links between the site and key village amenities, including delivery of LTN 1/20-compliant shared-use infrastructure along Chearsley Road and detailed proposals for the link to Long Crendon School"*. This same logic should clearly be applied to the significant increase in HGV traffic that would be generated through Long Crendon and surrounding villages, if the anaerobic digester (CM/0022/22) is approved.



B4011 at The Square, adjacent bus stop



Chearsley Road, adjacent Recreation Ground

We understand that Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for the footpath between Thame and the roundabout at the B4011 and Drakes Drive. These footpaths are particularly narrow and wing mirrors from HGVs overhang them at head height, presenting a clear and present danger. HADO notes that this is the only pedestrian access from Long Crendon to Thame. Hence, we presume that Oxfordshire County Council should also be consulted (see also Cross Border Considerations, below).



Footpath approaching roundabout at B4011 and Drakes Drive (Oxfordshire)

- 1.7 **Bucks Local Plan 2045.** Highways Development Management should provide detailed comment on additional traffic anticipated in Long Crendon and surrounding villages arising from the Buckinghamshire Local Plan to 2045. In March 2026, the Reg 18 consultation for development of the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire to 2045 allocated 418 new dwellings to Long Crendon. The additional weight of traffic arising from this plan should definitely be considered in the Highways report as it coincides with the lifetime of the proposed anaerobic digester plant.
- 1.8 **Community amenity.** Highways Development Management and other relevant officers should provide detailed assessment on the impact of the HGV traffic on the amenity of our communities throughout the year and especially during peak periods. Specific consideration should be given to the weight of HGV traffic and the impact of HGVs idling at junctions in residential areas (eg Chearsley Road, adjacent to Recreation Ground). Noise, vibration and odour should be considered. The use of average noise estimates does not adequately take account of the impact of loud intermittent noises and vibrations on houses close to the roads and pedestrians. The application material only assesses the amenity impacts of the development on its immediate setting and not those impacts on the roads and streets in the surrounding villages.
- 1.9 **Air Quality Assessments.** All relevant consultees should provide detailed assessments of the impact of air quality on human receptors. Acorn have only submitted qualitative assessments of dust and odour in their AQA. In addition, Acorn's air quality assessment does not consider human receptors in Long Crendon,

Chilton, or Oakley, the nearest areas of high residential density. Hence, no assessment has been made for the impact of NO₂, SO₂, or NH₃ in the closest areas of high human population. The AQA should include assessments on R11 and R12, plus additional human receptors within Long Crendon village. It is essential that the LPA is satisfied that Acorn, if granted permission, would be able to comply with the emissions parameters set out in the EA's guidance for anaerobic digesters at **Section 3 of SR2021 No 6**. Specifically, Acorn have not demonstrated in any of their submissions the requirements at 3.3.1 to ensure emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency.

- 1.10 **Decommissioning.** The Environment Agency should include planning condition recommendations, relating to decommissioning the site at the end of the proposed lifetime of the plant. The proposed facility has an expected lifespan of 25 years and covers the site with 4.63ha of impermeable hard standing. The applicant makes no undertaking to decommission the plant and remove the hardstanding at the end of the plant's lifetime. As the commercial feasibility of the plant is underpinned by time limited funding through the Green Gas Support Scheme (quarterly funding is available for 15 years), plant decommissioning recommendations should be included as a condition of approval.
- 1.11 **Visual Impact.** All relevant consultees should respond in detail to images and comments submitted previously on behalf of HADO. Buckinghamshire Council's Landscape Officer (April 2025), the Planning Officer (March 2026), and the Applicant (May 2026) have consistently failed to acknowledge and respond to HADO's images, and comments on the use of incorrect methodology in their ES Chapter 5. Given the Council's failure to address such matters to date, including matters relating to methodological flaws covered in detail below, it would be prudent for the Council to commission an independent review of the LVIA by a third party expert to ensure the Council makes its assessment on valid grounds that give no rise for challenge.
- 1.11.1 **Assessment of Photomontages.** The Applicant should prepare and all relevant consultees should assess photomontages at A2 size. The presentation of visual impacts using photomontages only meets the Landscape Institute guidelines when viewed at A2 size. The use of A3 and A4 size images gives a misleading appreciation of the proposals ie they appear much smaller than they would if viewed at the correct scale.
- 1.11.2 **Effectiveness of Proposed Landscape Mitigation.** Proposed mitigation (planting of trees and hedgerows) will take longer to establish and create an effective buffer/screen than the expected life of the plant. Acorn should comment on the effectiveness of their proposed landscape mitigation at 1 year, 3 years and 5 years, in both summer and winter. Relevant consultees should consider whether the proposed mitigation that provides immediate, year-round effect.

- 1.11.3 **Errors in Landscape Character assessment methodology.** The Applicant should revise all submissions to align with Landscape Institute Guidelines. All consultees should then comment and assess the impact of the proposed development using Landscape Institute Guidance. Errors in the assessment methodology to-date have caused Acorn to underestimate the impact of the proposed facility on landscape character and views. For Hornage Farm, it is evident that, by relating the magnitude of effects on landscape character to the overall geographical size of large character areas, the ES has understated the impact of the proposals on the local landscape.
- 1.11.4 **Landscape Alignment with Policy.** All relevant consultees should comment on the alignment of the proposed development with landscape and planning policies. The proposed anaerobic digester consists of a substantial modern, large scale industrial development in a rural landscape, adjacent to an Area of Attractive Landscape, where industrial land uses are identified by Buckinghamshire Council as detractors. It would have a significant effect and urbanising impact on the surrounding landscape and an adverse impact on its character and distinctiveness. The proposed development is an industrial scale waste management facility, that is not remotely agricultural in form, nature or scale and is wholly alien to the local character. The proposed mitigation would not be effective in reducing the harmful effects of the proposals on landscape character and views. The substantial long term adverse effects of the proposals on landscape character and views would be significant in planning terms and contrary to the relevant VALP policies, and the proposals should therefore be rejected
- 1.11.5 **Impact of Lightning Arrestors.** All relevant consultees should consider the dominant scale of lightning arrestors in response to Acorn's visual impact assessment.
- 1.12 **Direct Injection to the National Gas Grid.** Acorn's TMP is predicated on the ability to inject on-site directly to the National Gas grid. However, no evidence has been provided that Acorn will receive the necessary permit/licence to do so. While not strictly a planning topic, the LPA should consider whether Acorn are likely to receive relevant operating permissions as this has a direct bearing on the validity of their Traffic Management Plan

2.0 Further information and clarifications to be submitted by the Applicant.

- 2.1 These points highlight planning considerations that require further comment, clarification and information from the Applicant. They arise directly from the May 2026 relocation of the plant outside of Flood Risk Zone 3.
- 2.2 **Storage Clamp Capacity.** The calculated storage capacity (Length x Breadth x Depth) of the storage clamps, using dimensions taken from Acorn's site layout (Fig 6

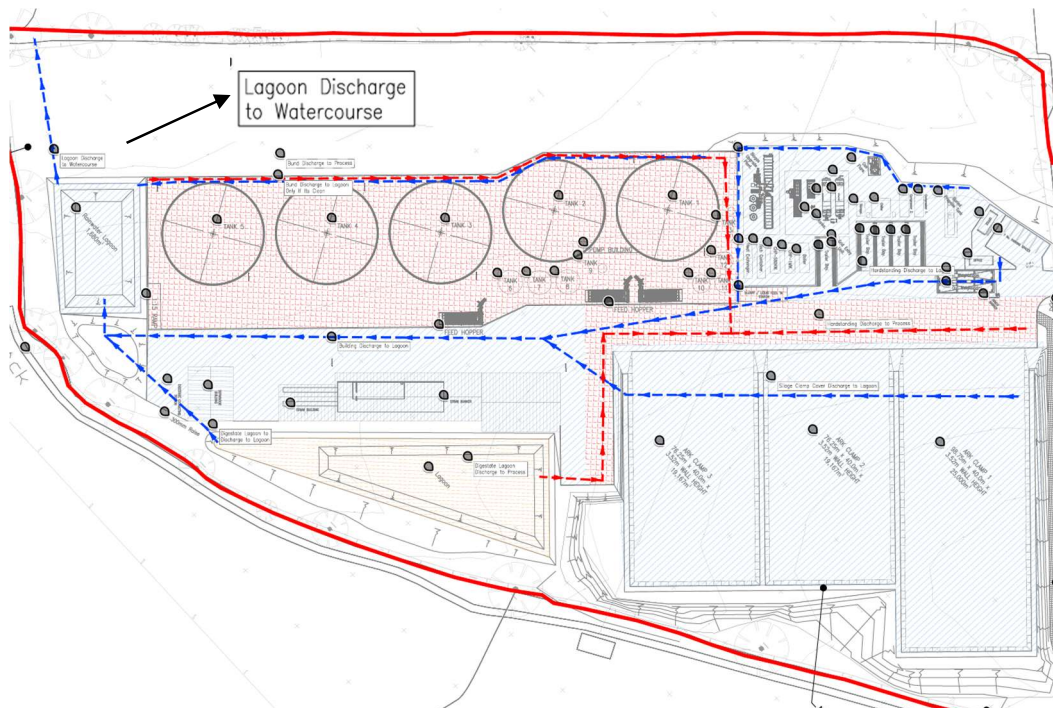
Rev 08) is 44% below the total volume declared on the same drawing and in the ES Addendum. Acorn should correct this gross inconsistency across all relevant submissions. It is vitally important for the LPA and Consultees to be presented with factually correct and consistent information before any planning decision is made, particularly since this application involves handling hazardous waste adjacent to a Flood Risk Zone 3.

	Length	Breadth	Height	Calculated	Declared
Clamp 1	98.75	40.00	3.52	13,904	25,000
Clamp 2	76.25	40.00	3.52	10,736	19,167
Clamp 3	76.25	40.00	3.52	10,736	19,167
TOTAL				35,376	63,334

If the smaller (calculated) smaller storage clamp capacity is confirmed, then presumably more frequent HGV trips would be required, and this should be reflected in an updated operational Traffic Management Plan

- 2.3 **Impact of Reduced Digestate Lagoon Capacity on TMP.** Acorn should assess the impact of the 54.6% reduction in digestate lagoon volume on vehicle trips and highway capacity. Given that Acorn propose to keep the plant capacity at 98,000 tonnes per annum, it stands to reason that twice the amount of export trips will be required to export digestate from the site following more than halving its onsite storage capacity. The TA currently fails to robustly assess the highway impacts of this significant reduction in storage capacity.
- 2.4 **Impact of Reduced Digestate Lagoon on Health and Safety,** Acorn should assess how excess digestate would be managed during winter months, to avoid the risk of overflow into the sensitive water course within adjacent flood zone 3. Acorn advised that the previous lagoon (23,650 M3) was sized to accumulate digestate for up to three months, explaining that this was the length of time where they anticipated no demand for digestate and when land was too wet for its application as a fertiliser. The revised lagoon is 54.6% smaller (10,738 M3). Hence, as Acorn have also stated that there is expected to be no reduction in total throughput, we can assume that the maximum storage capacity is now only 5.9 weeks. This will undoubtedly generate additional HGV trips to clear excess digestate, with such impacts not having been assessed.
- 2.5 **Impact of Reduced Digestate Lagoon on Hornage Brook.** The Applicant's Amended Proposed System Catchment Plan clearly shows that excess liquid from the storage clamps and digestate lagoon will flow to the rainwater lagoon (1680 M3). Any excess from the rainwater lagoon will be discharged into Hornage Brook, which is in Flood Risk Zone 3. The risk of overflow from the Digestate Lagoon is

presumably increased due to the 55% reduction in capacity from prior plans. As mentioned above, the capacity of the storage clamps, based on Acorn's own measurements is potentially 44% below prior plans. Taken together, we have to assume that **the likelihood of digestate/pollutants being discharged into Hornage Brook (Flood Risk Zone 3) has actually been increased** by Acorn's decision to move the plant 40 Metres to the south and out of Flood Risk Zone 3



- 2.6 **Restriction Required on HGV Movements Associated with Bio-Methane Collection/Export.** The Acorn submission in the Covering Letter (dated 5th May 2026) proposes a condition on Page 5 (italic text) to restrict the HGV movements generated by the site. Part (d) of this draft condition wording allows HGV movements for the collection/export of bio-methane only to operate 24 hours a day, totally unfettered. This is wholly unacceptable and should not be supported by the Council. Such flexibility would breach parts (b) and (c) of the condition when read as a whole and would allow for HGV vehicles to both access / egress the site and drive through surrounding villages 24 hours a day. This would cause untold noise and disturbance impacts on residents in the vicinity. There should be no further flexibility for HGV movements associated with the collection/export of bio-methane and such movements should be restricted as per all other HGV movements to the site, as set out in parts (b) and (c) of the condition.
- 2.7 **Proximity to Hornage Farm.** Acorn should comment on the impact of odour, noise, and vibration on Hornage Farm, which is less than 250M from the site boundary. Section 2.2.4 (b) of the updated statutory guidance from the EA (SR2021 No 6) provides that the site shall not be within 250 metres of the nearest sensitive receptor where any treatment by composting of digestate fibre is in the open.

- 2.8 **Impact of Farm Track Use on Hornage Copse.** Acorn should assess and all relevant consultees should comment on the impact to Hornage Copse arising from the plan to source 10% of feedstock volume via a farm track. Natural England raised no objections to the proposed anaerobic digester. However, Air Quality Assessments, on which their opinion was based, pre-date Acorn's decision to source 10% of feedstock volume via a farm track. The proposed farm track runs immediately adjacent to Hornage Copse (Ancient Replanted Woodland), so Natural England should clearly consider the increased volume of traffic passing Hornage Copse in their revised opinion. The proposed facility would handle 98,000 tonnes of feedstock. 10% of this amount is 9,800 tonnes. Assuming a load size of 3.5 tonnes, this makes 2,800 trips of silage/slurry (both of which emit NO₂, NH₃ and SO₂), passing adjacent to a protected ancient woodland. In addition, the pollution from tractor/trailers must also be considered (5600 trips in total once the return trips are included).
- 2.9 **Cross Boundary Considerations (Highways).** Oxfordshire County Council should be formally consulted on the highways impact from CM/0022/22. In response to the outline planning application for 97 dwellings at Madges Farm in Long Crendon (PL/25/6024/OA), Buckinghamshire Council's Highways Development Officer concluded, "As the Thame Road / Tythrop Way roundabout lies within Oxfordshire, the applicant must ensure that Oxfordshire County Council is formally consulted and any required cross-boundary assessment is provided". This same logic should clearly be applied to the significant increase in HGV traffic that would use this roundabout if the anaerobic digester (CM/0022/22) is approved. Given the current TMP fails to robustly assess the highway impacts of the significant reduction in storage capacity according to the latest information submitted by Acorn, Oxfordshire County Council should also be questioning this.
- 2.10 **Water Requirements to Operate an Anaerobic Digester.** The Applicant has made no reference to the amount of water required to run a 98,000 Tonne per annum anaerobic digester. The feedstock mix proposed by Acorn comprises 42% dry solids, and while estimates vary, a modern commercial plant could be expected to source 80% of water required to operate the plant from re-circulated digestate. Hence, the proposed anaerobic digester might need an external supply of 7.8 Million Litres of water per year. This is equivalent to over 153 households consuming 140 litres of water per day. Given that Thames Water said they could not supply water for 97 households at Madges Farm in Long Crendon (PL/25/6024/OA), the LPA should seek advice from Thames Water on their ability to service the proposed anaerobic digester. There is no evidence on the planning portal that Thames Water have been consulted. Under a Freedom of Information request, Thames Water have confirmed they have not received any requests to supply water at the proposed location

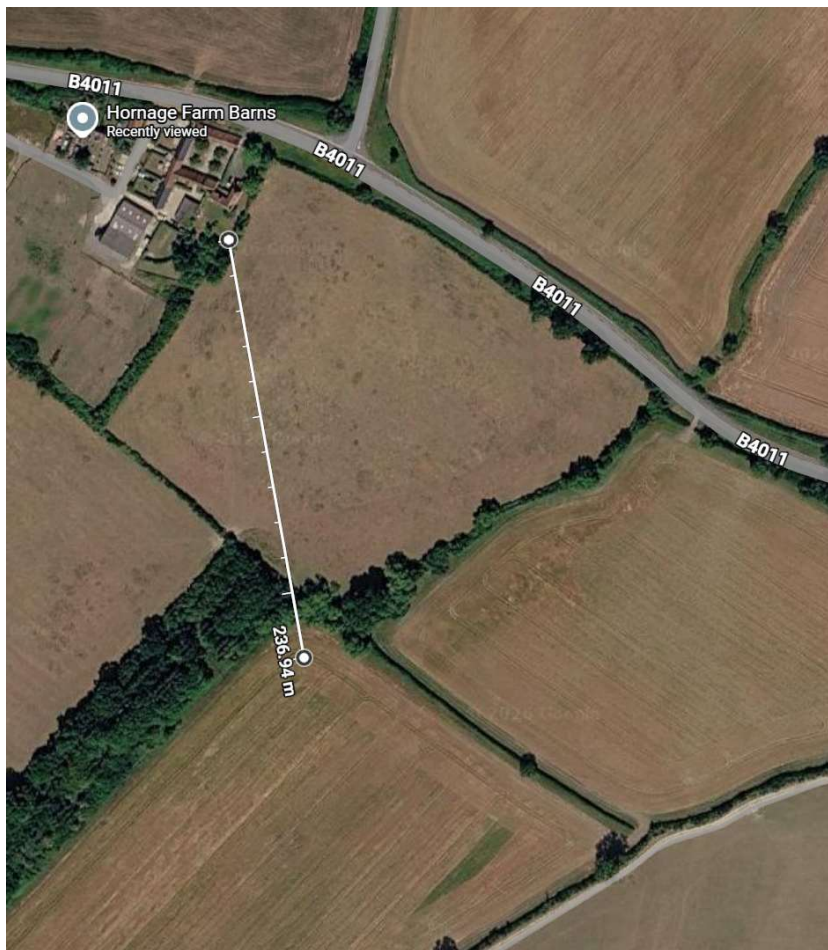
	Target	Water Tonnes p.a	Solids Tonnes p.a	Total Tonnes p.a
Annual Feedstock Capacity	98,000			
Feedstock Dry Solids	42%	56,840 58%	41,160 42%	98,000 100%
Target Digester Water Content	30%	96,040 70%	41,160 30%	137,200 100%
Additional Water Required		39,200 100%		
* Recycled from digestate	80%	31,360 80%		
* From External Sources		7,840 20%		
Average Annual Household Consumption	140 Litres/Day	51		
Water from External Sources as Household Equivalent		153 Households		

2.11 Impact of sewage treatment facility at Kirtland Farm, (51.77778, -1.061484).

Acorn should assess and all relevant consultees should comment on the cumulative impact of the existing sewage treatment facility at Kirtland Farm, alongside the application proposals, on air quality and heritage assets in the EIA. The cumulative impact of emissions from this facility and the proposed anaerobic digester should be included in the applicant's Air Quality Assessment and reviewed by Natural England and the Environment Agency before any planning decisions are made. Currently, none of the Air Quality Assessments provided by Acorn or conducted on behalf of the LPA recognise the impact of an existing waste treatment facility about 2.9 KM southwest of Hornage Copse on background emissions.



- 2.12 **Proximity to Private Airfield.** Acorn should show that they have mitigated the safety risks arising from locating the proposed anaerobic digester 1.23KM north of Bailey's private airfield (51°46'49.0"N 1°01'11.8"W).



- 2.13 **Noise and Vibration Issues.** Acorn should assess the noise and vibration impact of the proposed development using the average of the fifteen loudest events for both the benchmark and test scenarios. The potential for cumulative impacts of the proposed machinery (resonant frequency) should be assessed. All results (pre and post development) should be made available split into frequency bands.

In their covering note to the revised plans dated 5th May 2026, the Applicant states that their Noise Team, who prepared the 2022 ES Noise Chapter and the additional noise report in March 2024 have reviewed the proposed amendments and confirmed that the conclusions of the previous noise work are still valid and that no further noise assessment work is required. The only noise sensitive receptor (Hornage Farm, Cottages and Barns) is located approximately 220m to the north of the Site, therefore, the proposed amendments, which locates some items of plant further away from the receptor, would not have a significant effect on the conclusions of the noise assessment.

HADO refutes this assertion as follows...

- a. The proposal includes 2x Combined Heat and Power plants, and 28x tank mixers, all of which are proposed to run continuously to heat and rotate feedstock in the digester tanks. Acorn should assess the potential for amplification of noise from these machines if the resonant frequency is achieved between their location and Hornage Farmhouse (similar to the booming effect of when singing a particular note in the shower).
- b. The noise and vibration impact arising from the proposed development have been assessed against a three-day average of background noise (07:00-23:00 and 23:00-07:00) before the plant is built. The applicant should reconsider their analysis to benchmark against the average of the 15 loudest events. Given that low frequencies are considered most intrusive, this analysis should be split by frequency band.

This objection is submitted on behalf of HADO (Hornage Anaerobic Digester Objection), an objection group representing the communities of Chilton, Chearsley, Long Crendon, Oakley, Worminghall and Shabbington, and other surrounding villages. This document should be considered as an objection in its own right.

Each of the 1683 names in **Appendix B** below should also be recorded as individual objections.

Appendix A

Credibility of Comments in Support of Application Email to Adam Smith February 12th 2025

Dear Mr Smith,

In case you are not already aware, please can I draw your attention to an advertising campaign that has been run on Meta (Facebook, Instagram, Threads) by Meeting Place Communications on behalf of their client Acorn BioEnergy, between Jan 15th 2025 and Feb 6th 2025.

Acorn BioEnergy is the Applicant for planning permission CM/0022/22 currently pending review by the Strategic Sites Committee

For your ease of reference, please find below a link to each advertisement in this campaign.

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=2382782512055957>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=969749827866357>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=2577072129152868>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=463131133510322>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=491991873523812>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=621779140306036>

<https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?id=3991322964446687>



The campaign strategy is to recruit people to “support farmers” by leaving a positive comment to a questionnaire. The questionnaire is reached by clicking “support now” on each of the advertisements in the campaign. These responses are then automatically uploaded to the Public Comments section about CM/0022/22 of the Bucks Planning Portal. These responses are often easy to identify as they have no basis in the planning application, and/or because they include “/n”, where coding on the Meta platforms indicates a new line has been input by the respondent.

For example...

Fri 07 Feb 2025. “We don't want our farmers lose their land due to IHT. We all know the land will end up belonging to the likes of Bill Gates”

Thu 23 Jan 2025. "Farmers are our lifeline, without them, we have nothing.
\nFarmers do an incredible job that is often overlooked.\nOur future for this planet depends on our farmers, we rely on them and they rely on our support.\nPlease don't take away what has always been the backbone of life!!

Unfortunately, the information that is provided by Meeting Place when respondents click on their advertisement is highly misleading.

For example...

Acorn claim: No objections from any of the Council's independent technical advisors, including the Highways Authority, Environment Agency and Natural England.

HADO rebuttal: 'independent technical advisers' isn't a recognised category for planning purposes. Statutory Consultees is a category and that includes Chilton Parish Council who did object. The remaining Statutory consultees have not yet responded to the new information contained in Acorn's Dec 2024 submissions.

Acorn claim: Creating a renewable source of green energy.

HADO rebuttal: Sadly, the Applicant has not provided a full life cycle analysis of their proposal. Inclusion of the concrete used in the construction phase and diesel used to transport feedstocks means the proposed plant has negligible benefit to the environment.

Acorn claim: Providing a secure, reliable and affordable source of green energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuel gas imported from Russia and elsewhere.

HADO rebuttal: The UK imports no gas from Russia whatsoever having cut off gas imports from Russia after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Without taxpayer subsidies the plant couldn't operate, so it's not the affordable solution they claim.

Meanwhile, Joseph Baum is Director South East at Meeting Place Communications, where he is "responsible for providing strategic advice and support to a range of different clients within the built environment... as a senior member of the London & the South East team [he] draws on the support of a number of different consultants to set the right strategy and deliver results".

[Joseph Baum • Meet the team • Meeting Place](#)

Joseph Baum is also a Councillor at Buckinghamshire Council.

[Councillor details - Councillor Joseph Baum - Modern Council](#)

While his [Business](#) interest with PP Comms Ltd (trading as Meeting Place) is declared, his [Personal](#) interest does not appear to have been declared. The [Buckinghamshire Council Code of Conduct for Councillors](#) 2020, states in part... ... "You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where [your interest] relates to or is likely to affect any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and... one of its principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy.

Taken collectively, this gives two causes for concern...

1. Councillor Baum is in a position of authority at a PR firm that is seeking to influence public opinion on planning application
2. The PR agency is making false and misleading statements in an advertising campaign that is designed to gain support for the planning application CM/0022/22

Please could you ensure that the Cllr Baum's association with Meeting Place Communications and his position of authority over n the misleading nature of their advertising campaign to influence the Strategic Sites Committee's assessment of CM/0022/22 is included in your report to the Committee and considered in your recommendation.

Response from Monitoring Officer

From: Monitoring Officer Mailbox <monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2025 15:51
Cc: Monitoring Officer Mailbox <monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: New Case for Your Attention - CM/0022/22 ERECTION OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTER AT LAND SOUTH OF HORNAME FARM

Thank you for your email on 4th March regarding the Code of Conduct complaint against Cllr Joseph Baum. We have conducted an initial assessment on behalf of the Monitoring Officer which is as follows:

Register of interests

Councillor Baum's register of interest gives transparency to his employment at the PR firm involved in the application. Additionally, Cllr Baum does not have any decision-making power, aside from his general membership of the Full Council, and is not a member of a Planning

Committee. Furthermore, any allegations of misconduct of the PR firm do not engage the Code of Conduct due to the company operating independently and not through Cllr Baum's role as a councillor.

Planning application

It would not be within the scope of the officer report on the application to include reference to Cllr Baum's involvement in the PR firm as the planning decision may come down to Members at the relevant Planning Committee (of which Cllr Baum is not a member on any). I would suggest raising your concerns with the social media page with the Planning Officers.

Given the above, we are satisfied that the Code of Conduct has not been engaged and therefore will not progress the complaint any further.

Chris Ward Senior Member Services & Governance Officer

Appendix B

Names of 1683 local residents objecting to this letter dated 09.06.2026

This objection is submitted on behalf of HADO (Hornage Anaerobic Digester Objection), an objection group representing the communities of Chilton, Chearsley, Long Crendon, Oakley, Worminghall and Shabbington, and other surrounding villages.

This document should be considered as an objection in its own right. Each of the 1708 names below should also be recorded as individual objections.