

Justification for seeking to remove Planning Condition 1 from N/09/00444/PPM

The purpose of this application is to remove, by way of a Section 42 application, planning condition 1 of N/09/00444/PPM at the Barkip Biogas Plant, North Ayrshire, KA24 4JJ.

The condition restricts Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) from entering or leaving the site outwith the hours of 07:30 – 18:30 Monday to Friday; 08:00 – 15:00 on a Saturday; and at no time on a Sunday or a local public holiday, unless otherwise agreed in writing by North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.

This condition was formulated in 2009, when there was an uncertainty about how site traffic may impact on the local amenity value of the area.

Over 11 years on, it is clear that HGV vehicular movements to/from the site have not impacted on the local amenity value of the area.

In order to maintain this minimal impact, it is company policy to ensure that drivers accessing the site are inducted on the policy to use the main A737 trunk road and this is reinforced with appropriate site signage (see Figure 1, below). Road/junction improvements that are poised to commence on the A737, Beith, as detailed on the Transport Scotland website, will help to improve traffic flow and help to enhance the road system around the town of Beith, and will also bring additional road safety facilitating the safe and unobtrusive use of this road, by HGVs both during normal working hours, and beyond.

Further information can be gleaned through the following link:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a737-improvements-at-beith/a737-improvements-at-beith/#>



Figure 1: Road Signage to reinforce routing, at exit of the site

Barkip Biogas has appointed four additional staff members (since December 2020) and has capacity to increase its throughputs (and hence its creation of renewable energy) under its SEPA-regulated PPC permit. In December 2020, several loads had to be routed elsewhere as a result of the current time restriction for vehicular access. Equivalent anaerobic digestion facilities across Scotland do not have restrictions on delivery times/vehicular access and the facility's PPC permit offers no such restrictions.

Vehicular access to the nearby DSM Nutritional Products facility and the MoD is allowed on an unlimited basis.

We therefore seek to remove Condition 1 of N/09/00444/PPM so that the facility can operate without commercial disadvantage to its competitor sites; without the need for rerouting of vehicles many miles away to alternative facilities, and to increase the renewable energy created by this installation.

With 11 years of operation in which HGV vehicle movements have not created a statutory nuisance or impacted on the amenity value of the local area – and measures in place to ensure appropriate routing of vehicles to and from the site – it is considered entirely justified to remove Condition 1 of this planning consent.