

# Permitting decisions

## Standard rules permit

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We have decided to grant the permit for Gravel Pit Farm Biogas operated by Gravel Pit Biogas Limited.

The permit number is EPR/XP3232DA.

This application is to operate an installation for an on-farm anaerobic digestion facility using farm wastes and use of the resultant biogas under standard rules SR2012 No9.

The plant consists of two parallel single step digestion tanks which are designed to process 150 tonnes of feedstock per day. The feedstock comprises of locally sourced manures, slurries and energy crops which are loaded into a feed hopper before being fed into the digestion tanks. Feedstock is retained within the digester for an average of 75 days. The resultant biogas is stored in gas bags in the head of the digester then utilised in a 249kW combined heat and power engine (CHP) to produce electricity, some of which is used to power the parasitic load of the plant. The majority of the biogas is treated in a gas upgrading facility and injected directly into the national gas grid. The final digestate is spread to land as an agricultural fertilizer on the operators own farm.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

## Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision making process in the [decision checklist](#) to show how all relevant factors have been taken in to account.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit. The introductory note summarises what the permit covers.

## Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
<b>Receipt of application</b>	
Standard rules criteria check	The application meets the criteria for the standard rules applied for.
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.
<b>Consultation</b>	
Consultation	The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and our public participation statement. The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.
<b>Operator</b>	
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.
<b>The site</b>	
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. The plan is included in the permit.
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports.
<b>Operator competence</b>	
Management system	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.
Technical competence	Technical competence is required for activities permitted. The operator is a member of an agreed scheme. The operator holds the following Technical Compliance qualification for Gavin Clark, who is the technically competent manager for the site: WAMITAB Level 4 Medium Risk Operator Competence for Anaerobic Digestion (601/8581/6) MROC5. We are satisfied that the operator is technically competent.

Aspect considered	Decision
Relevant convictions	<p>The Case Management System has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.</p> <p>No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.</p>
Financial competence	<p>There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.</p>
Growth Duty	<p>We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit. The conditions imposed under the permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution and are based on our risk assessment undertaken at the time the Rules were made.</p> <p>Application of the Rules to this activity promotes economic growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.</p>

## Consultation

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website between 24 April 2017 and 23 May 2017.

No responses were received.