

Observation for Greengate Biogas 001 Ltd for permission, for development comprising the construction and operation of Anaerobic Digestion Facility at Powerstown, Milford, County Carlow.

Observations from Deacon Family, Garryhundon, Milford, Carlow R93X290.
The family home and farm is within 500 metres of the proposed site.

The size and scale of the proposed development in an area where there is already 2 quarries - Dan Morrissey Ltd and Kilcarrig Quarry and Carlow County Civic amenity site.

The size and scale of the proposed development will cause significant traffic to the local route network which may not have width alignment and junction capacity or surface condition to accommodate safely this level of traffic. The Garryhundon Cross Roads to the proposed site is narrow and has a railway bridge with a bend and poor visibility which is not suitable for the proposed lorry traffic travelling to and from the proposed site. The safety of local residences, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users is of concern and if the road network cannot safely accommodate the proposed traffic, permission should be refused.

As mentioned above the existing quarries and civic amenity site and a local haulage transport company already generates heavy goods vehicle movement, noise, dust, vibration and pressure on the local road network.

Noise: There is additional noise in an area already where local people have noise pollution from the two quarries. The proposed site would involve continuous noise from compressors, pumps, fans, reversing alarms from vehicles, generators, maintenance. The risk of noise outside the proposed working hours.

Smell: Air quality, health and omissions - vehicles travelling to the proposed site carrying tonnes of farmyard waste - the risk while unloading, storage, processing, leaks, equipment failure and digestate handling - risk of smells, odours are of strong concern to us as persistent smells would affect quality of life, health and working environment and conditions on our farm in the local area.

Odours: A serious concern is for the potential of a persistent odour, flies or other pests. Any increase in flies or pests would lead to a negative effect on our household living conditions, agricultural activities and livestock, causing stress to animals (flies on cattle & fly strike in sheep).

Visual: There is also a visual impact from the family farm and home.

Construction: Construction disruption would involve heavy machinery, traffic disruption, abnormal load, dust, noise, vibration over a prolonged period of time for local residents.

Risks: This development comes with many risks which would have a large effect so close to local homes and agricultural land such as leaks, overflows, tank failures, slurry / digestate spills, gas explosion. The consequences of a large scale spillage or leak would most likely extend beyond the boundaries of the proposed site having an effect on water quality, wells, drains, streams, water courses and surrounding farmland.

There is a further safety concern due to the proximity of Dan Morrissey Ltd quarry, which carries out blasting activity. Quarry blasting, vibration, and ground disturbance, may adversely affect the integrity of gas pipelines, joints, valves, storage tanks, foundations, and other safety-critical infrastructure associated with the proposed biomethane facility. Ongoing quarry excavation, ground movement and any future expansion of quarry operations could affect buried services, drainage infrastructure and plant structures. Damage to biogas or biomethane infrastructure could result in gas leakage, with consequential fire, explosion and public-safety risks.

The applicant should provide an independent engineering assessment of the effects of quarry blasting, this assessment should account for current and reasonably foreseeable future quarry activity. Permission should not be granted unless the applicant demonstrates that quarry operations would not create an unacceptable risk to the proposed development it's workers, local residents, or the wider community.

Supply viability and environmental benefits: While biomethane may provide environmental benefits in principle, those benefits depend on the feedstock's used and transport distances. Without guaranteed local feedstock supply, reliance on materials transported beyond 35km undermines the plants viability and claimed environmental benefit. The applicant refers to letters of intent rather than demonstrated, binding long term supply contracts. Given the proposed annual intake, the board should require independently verifiable evidence that sufficient feedstock is contractually secured within the stated 35km catchment for the full operational lifetime of the development.

Local Benefit and Economic Claims: This development offers no clear, guaranteed or proportionate direct benefit to the immediate local community. In contrast, local residents would bear potential impacts from increased HGV traffic, quarry-related cumulative effects, odour, noise, dust, visual intrusion, road wear, and gas-infrastructure safety concerns. Any claims of local benefit, local procurement, benefit to farmers, road improvement, or community benefit should be supported by clear evidence and binding planning commitments.

In our view, the applicant has not demonstrated that the local route network can safely accommodate the combined traffic generated by two quarries, the civic amenity site, local haulage activity, and the proposed biomethane facility. Nor has it demonstrated that odour, pests, noise, pollution, quarry-blasting risks, gas-infrastructure safety risks, and digestate-management impacts can be adequately controlled.

For these reasons, the Deacon family respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development.

Yours Faithfully,
The Deacon Family
Garryhundon, Milford, County Carlow, R93X290.

Date: 27/08/2026

Signatures: *Derek Deacon, Primrose Deacon, Sara Deacon, Rebecca Deacon, Ben Deacon*