

To support residents in reviewing and responding to the new updates for the proposed Winwick Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility, the following summary highlights the primary grounds for objection. These points are based on the updated technical documents submitted by the applicant and evaluated against national and local planning policies.

1. Green Belt and Strategic Policy Objections

- **Inappropriate Development:** The facility is proposed on land designated as Green Belt, where there is a strong presumption against "inappropriate development" unless "Very Special Circumstances" are proven.
- **Failure of Sequential Testing:** While the applicant claims a "demonstrable unmet need" for 100,000 tonnes of waste capacity per year, this need is regional, not specific to this site.
- **Availability of Allocated Sites:** Residents can object on the basis that other local authorities (such as Sefton, Wigan, and St Helens) have already formally allocated industrial land for waste facilities, meaning this "need" can be met without destroying Warrington's Green Belt.
- **Conflict with Policy ENV1:** Warrington's Local Plan requires waste facilities to be on allocated or industrial land; this speculative site does not meet those criteria.

2. Visual Impact and Residential Amenity Objections

- **Underestimation of Impact:** The applicant's Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) uses a camera height of **1.63m**, which only represents a standing pedestrian. It fails to assess the impact from **two-storey houses** where first-floor views will look directly over 3m boundary hedges at 13.5m tanks.
- **"Moderate Adverse" Effects:** The applicant admits that residents at the north-eastern edge of Winwick will initially suffer a "moderate adverse" visual impact.
- **15-Year Mitigation Delay:** Proposed woodland screening will take **at least 15 years** to reach a height that provides any meaningful reduction in visibility. This is an unacceptable duration for residents to wait for visual relief from industrial structures.

3. Cumulative Traffic and Strategic Road Safety Objections

- **Conflict with Parkside / Proposed SRFI:** The Winwick Link Road (A49) is the approved strategic route for the Parkside development and evidence suggests will be significantly impacted by the proposed SRFI. Residents can object to the danger of mixing high-speed strategic HGVs with slow-moving waste vehicles turning into the AD site.

- **Dangerous "Weaving"**: The interaction between these two major industrial loads will create dangerous traffic "weaving" patterns that have not been cumulative assessed.
- **Unenforceable Mitigation**: The proposed 7.5t weight limit for Highfield Lane is not guaranteed, as it relies on a **Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)** that cannot be secured by a standard planning condition. If the TRO fails, HGVs will inevitably "rat-run" through the village to avoid A49 congestion.

4. Settlement Coalescence (Merging of Towns)

- **Erosion of the Strategic Gap**: The Parkside development and Proposed SRFI is already industrializing the land to the north. Residents can object that adding an AD facility to the south will permanently remove the last remaining green buffer between **Winwick and Newton-le-Willows**.
- **Loss of Village Identity**: This "pincer movement" of development violates NPPF Purpose 2, which explicitly exists to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another.

Summary of Alternative Allocated Sites

Residents can point to these existing industrial allocations as evidence that the Green Belt does not need to be used:

Region	Example of AD-Ready Allocated Land
Liverpool City Region	18 designated sites, including Crowland Street (Sefton)
Greater Manchester	7 allocated sites and 26 "Areas of Search" (e.g., Wigan)
Cheshire West	Protos Energy Hub (Ellesmere Port)
Lancashire	Farington Waste Recovery Park