



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,  
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[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-140, please find your question and our response below.

## Request:

Maize has grown on land in Lode from 2012-2022 and taken to Chittering near Stretham.

1. When Mepal plant was built and first used?
2. Feed supplies sugar beet chopped rye
3. Is storage on site yearly
4. Operating site for tracks and machinery?
5. Opening hours of site?
6. Is Chittering site still working maize brought in from Mepal site?
7. I know 25 hectares or acres of greenhouses have been built on land at Chittering by Greenhouse, Sussex, as seen on BBC Look East and poured by water from a lake.
8. I know some maize digestate operations have huge clamps in fields etc. Is this the method used by Pretoria Energy or is the maize stored next to site at Mepal?
9. Are lorries still used for transport?

## Response:

1. The approved Mepal planning history is as follows:

14/00204/FUM	Erection of anaerobic digester plant with maize clamps, involving construction of a new access and formation of a surface water reservoir at land east of greys farm. (This is a duplicate application as part of the site crosses into East Cambs) (Part Retrospective)	Approved	13.08.2015
19/00197/VARM	To vary conditions of previously approved 14/00204/FUM for Erection of anaerobic digester plant with maize clamps, involving construction of a new access and formation of a surface water reservoir at land east of greys farm. (This is a duplicate application as part of the site crosses into East Cambs) (Part Retrospective)	Approved	04.09.2019
20/00393/FUL	Creation of Site Office, ancillary plant, concrete road and vehicle parking at Anaerobic Digestion Plant (Retrospective)	Approved	26.08.2020

2. We are unsure what is being asked here
3. We do not hold this information
4. We are unsure what is being asked here
- 5.

Chittering have the following conditions applied to their most recent consent in relation to working hours:

- The use of plant and machinery and deliveries to the site during the construction phase shall be

limited to 07:00 - 18:00 Monday - Friday and 08:00 - 13:00 on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.

- Other construction activities shall be limited to 07:00 - 22:00 Monday to Saturday. Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.
- Staff working hours on the plant shall only take place between the hours of 07:00-19:00 Monday to Saturday and 07:00-16:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The only activities permitted on the site outside of these hours are for access by employees and contractors for purposes of security and undertaking emergency maintenance and repair. Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.
- Delivery and collection times shall be limited to 07:00-21:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00-19:00 on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays. Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.

Mepal have the following conditions applied in relation to working times to their most recent consent:

- Deliveries and collection times during the general operation of the AD Plant, including digestate handling, equipment and office deliveries shall be limited to: 07:00 - 19:00 each day Monday – Saturday and 08:00 - 13:00 Sundays, Bank Holidays and Public Holidays.
- Deliveries of feedstock to the site shall be permitted 24/7 access but limited to: Maize during September to November, Beet during November to April and Rye in June. Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.

6. We do not hold this information

7. We are unsure what is being asked here

8. We do not hold this information

9. We do not hold this information

We advise you to contact Pretoria Energy for the information that we do not hold.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-140.

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach [foi@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@eastcambs.gov.uk) and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.