

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of Alkham Parish Council, I write to formally submit the enclosed *Request for Information* in relation to planning application 25/01246 (Ref: 25/2170/FH) at Great Cauldham Farm.

The Parish Council submits this request in its role as the first tier of local government, representing the interests of the Alkham community and acting as a liaison with District and County authorities on matters including planning, highways, environmental protection, and community safety.

Given the sensitivity of Alkham Valley Road as an unclassified rural route within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the long-standing concerns regarding HGV traffic, the Parish Council considers it essential that the basis of the highway and traffic assessment is fully understood, clearly documented, and available to Members prior to determination of the application.

We respectfully request that the information sought is provided in writing, placed on the public planning file, and taken into account by Members when considering this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Dennis Barnard

Chair

Alkham Parish Council

# Request for Information

Submitted by Alkham Parish Council

To: Dover District Council – Planning Officers

From: Alkham Parish Council

Date: 28 January 2026

Application: 25/01246

Proposal: Construction of an Anaerobic Digestion Plant and Associated Infrastructure

Location: Great Cauldham Farm, CT18 7HQ

## Purpose of Request

Alkham Parish Council submits this request in its role as the first tier of local government, representing the interests of the Alkham community and acting as a liaison with District and County authorities on matters including planning, highways, environmental protection, and community safety.

The Parish Council seeks clarification on the assessment of traffic and highway impacts associated with this application, particularly in relation to Alkham Valley Road, an unclassified rural road within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which has long-standing safety, heritage, and environmental sensitivities.

## Information Requested

1. Highway Authority Responsibility
  - Please confirm that Kent County Council (Kent Highways) is the statutory consultee responsible for assessing traffic impacts on Alkham Valley Road, and that this responsibility is not displaced by responses from National Highways or other statutory consultees.
2. Scope of the Highway Assessment
  - Please clarify whether Kent Highways' conclusion that traffic impacts are "not severe" is based solely on traffic volume and junction capacity thresholds, or whether it includes a specific assessment of:
    - Road classification and physical constraints;
    - Suitability of Alkham Valley Road for HGV traffic;
    - Existing safety, pedestrian, and heritage risks within Alkham Village;
    - Cumulative impacts in a sensitive rural and AONB context.
  - If such an assessment has been undertaken, please identify where it is documented.
3. Consistency with HGV Restriction Signage
  - Kent Highways has installed "Not Suitable for HGVs" signage throughout the Alkham Valley.
  - Please explain how a "no objection" response to a development generating regular HGV movements is consistent with the purpose and policy intent of this signage.

4. Alignment with Kent Local Transport Policy
  - Please clarify how Kent Highways' response aligns with Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan, particularly the objective to direct strategic and HGV traffic between Dover and Folkestone via the A20, rather than through rural valley routes such as Alkham Valley Road.
5. HGV Routing and Enforceability
  - The applicant's Transport Statement acknowledges that HGVs should not pass through local villages.
  - Please explain why enforceable HGV routing conditions have not been required, and whether advisory routing or signage alone is considered sufficient mitigation on an unclassified rural road.
6. Cumulative Impact on the Community
  - Please confirm whether a cumulative assessment has been undertaken that considers:
    - Existing traffic speeds and volumes;
    - Recorded heritage damage and highway safety concerns within Alkham Village;
    - Additional HGV movements associated with the proposed development.
    - Additional anticipated traffic volume emanating from the Whitfield urban expansion.
  - If so, please indicate where this assessment is set out.
7. Kent Downs AONB Considerations
  - Please clarify how the highway assessment has taken account of Alkham Valley Road's location within the Kent Downs AONB, including impacts on tranquillity, landscape sensitivity, and historic features.
8. Scope of Other Consultees' Responses
  - For clarity, please confirm that:
    - National Highways' response relates solely to the Strategic Road Network and does not assess impacts on Alkham Valley Road; and
    - Natural England's response does not address traffic, access, or highway safety impacts.
9. Precedent and Policy Consistency
  - Please explain what consideration has been given to the precedent effect of permitting regular HGV movements on Alkham Valley Road, given its unclassified status and existing HGV restriction signage.
10. Assurance to the Local Community
  - Finally, please confirm whether officers are able to provide a clear and enforceable assurance that this development will not increase or legitimise HGV traffic through Alkham Village via Alkham Valley Road, and explain how such assurance would be secured and enforced in practice.

## Requested Outcome

Alkham Parish Council respectfully requests that the above information is provided in writing, placed on the public planning file, and taken into account by Members when considering this application, to ensure that local highway, safety, and environmental concerns are properly addressed.