



Anaerobic Digester Provides Green Energy Self-sufficiency for AGRO Merchants Whitchurch

The Challenge

Over the last 20 years AGRO Merchants Whitchurch has experienced continuing issues connected with securing a consistent and sufficient electricity supply to power the multi-temperature warehouses at its 35-acre site in Whitchurch, Shropshire. The site houses 197,000 pallet spaces of multi-temperature storage.

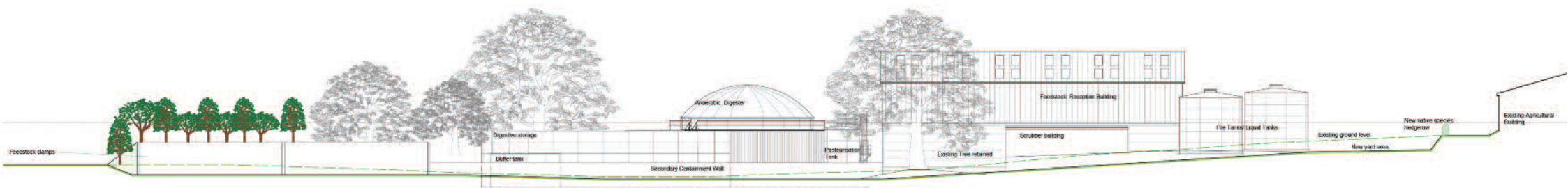
The company has continually negotiated with electricity suppliers and looked at other options for power supply. A large solar panel installation on warehouse roofing went some way to secure an alternative power supply, but with the unpredictable sunshine, this could not be relied on as a long-term solution for the company.

The Directors recognised that to ensure sustainability of the business and to facilitate future growth, securing a reliable and consistent power supply was critical.

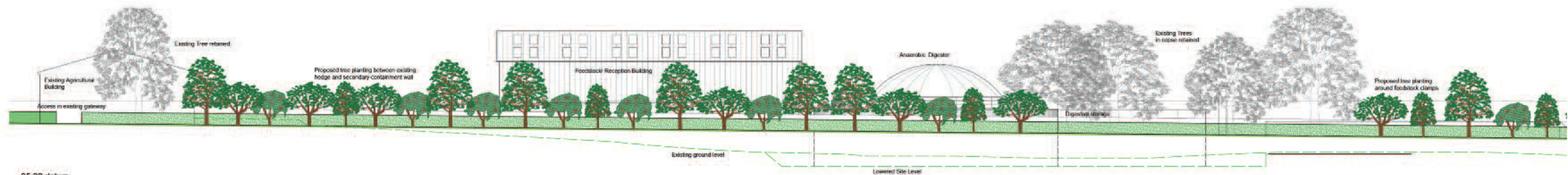
Their plan was to look at the potential of an ambitious green energy solution which would result in self-sufficiency and provide long-term security for the business.

“An ambitious green energy solution which would result in self-sufficiency and provide long-term security for the business”

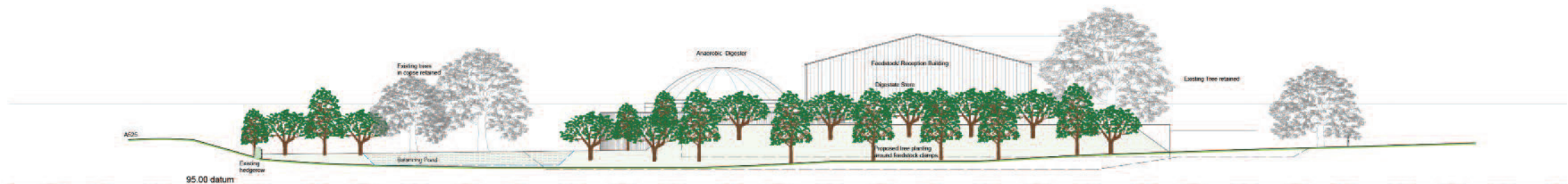




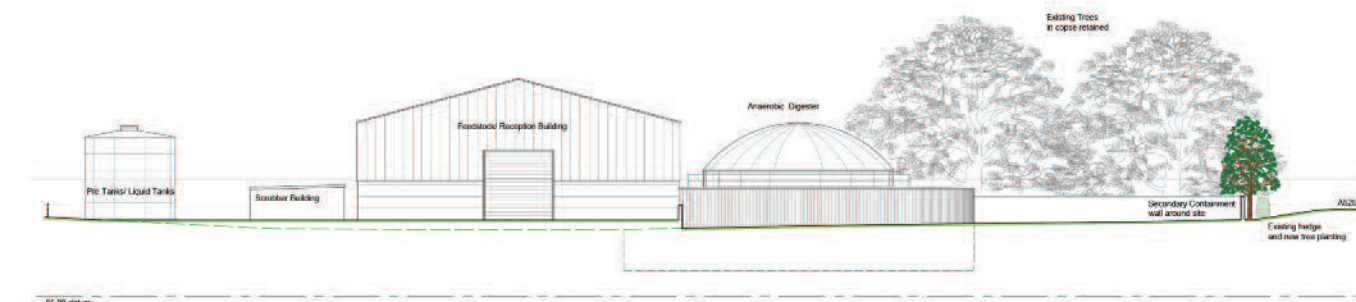
South East Elevation



North West Elevation (along A525)



South West Elevation



North East Elevation

Initial planning application



The completed site

How the project delivered significant benefits

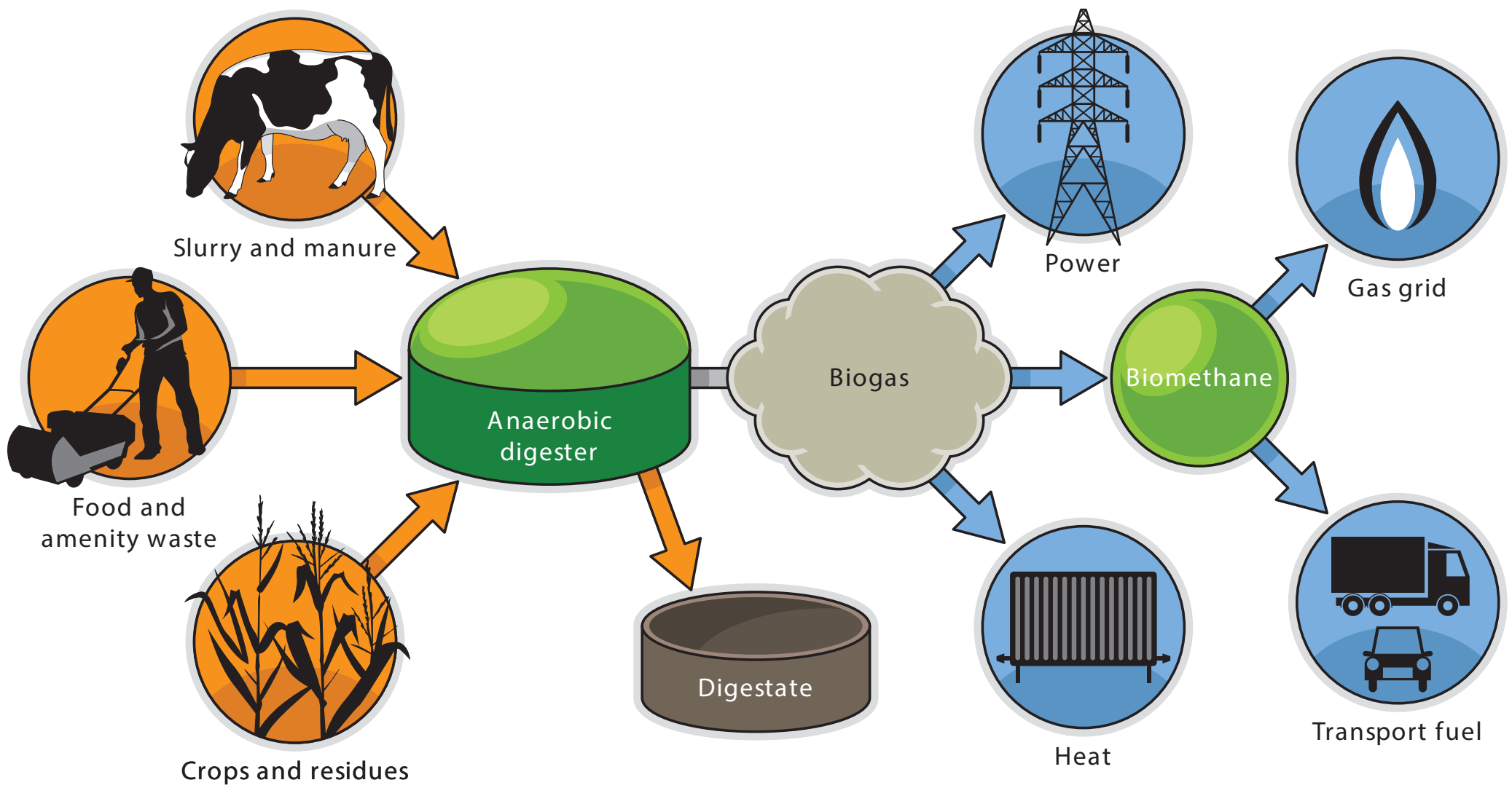


Work underway on the plant

This winter, on most days, the digester's output provided 100% of the energy required by the site. During the warmer summer months, when the warehouses' refrigerators have to work much harder, the output is expected to cover 70% of what's required.

Renewable energy is vital for the future of the company and the new anaerobic digester plant will provide it with a secure supply of green electricity and that will help the business grow and develop over the next decades.

AGRO Whitchurch can tell customers and end consumers that all the products stored by the company, many every day food products, are refrigerated using green energy, including those in their new cheese maturation facility – one of the largest in the UK.



Anaerobic digestion - the process





