

Appendix 8

02 December 2021

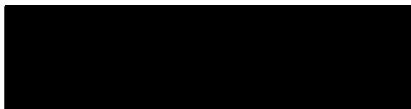
Dear Mr Danks

I confirm British Sugar PLC have a sugar beet refining plant at Bury St Edmunds Suffolk which processes around 2.5m tonnes of Sugar Beet per annum, grown on approximately 77,250 acres of land. The majority of the crop is grown within an average milage radius of 28 miles from the factory. Our growers are contracted to supply sugar beet, and we as a company rent land and grow our own sugar beet to also supply the factory. Our intent is to increase this area over the coming seasons to satisfy our customer requirements.

We confirm the area to the west of Bury St Edmunds and north of Newmarket is an important growing area for the supply of sugar beet to the factory. Not only is it close to our processing facility at Bury St Edmunds but also the soil in this area continually provides high yielding crops of beet with good sugar content. Sugar beet is not only profitable to growers in the area but is also good for the farms cropping rotation and does not require the use of irrigation to produce high yields. The soils are of excellent quality and allow for later harvesting, which is an advantage to us, as it spreads the intake of sugar beet arriving into the factory allowing us flexibility when planning our production but also allows the growers to maximise their yield and financial return.

In the summer of 2016, we completed the construction of a brand new £15m Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant as part of an exciting new renewable energy business project at Bury St Edmunds. Now fully operational, the plant produces energy in the form of electricity. While a small proportion is used to power the AD Plant, making it self-sufficient, the majority (up to 5MW) is being exported to the National Grid as clean renewable electricity and therefore we would not be keen to see a reduction in the land so close to our AD plant.

Regards



Peter Watson
Agriculture Director



At Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Peterborough, Peterborough