SHANN PITTS CONSULTING

Non-technical Summary for Langstone Poultry Farm Permit Variation

Introduction

This document comprising a Non-technical Summary has been prepared by Shann Pitts Consulting Limited on behalf of Richard Howat, Alan Howat, John Howat, Ian Howat and Christine Howat herein termed 'the Operator' to support an Environmental Permit variation application for an Intensive Agriculture Installation at Langstone Poultry Farm, Langstone, Catbrook, Chepstow, Gwent, NP16 6ND.

On 27th July 2007 the environmental permit for Langstone Poultry Farm was issued with a limit of 49,350 pullet places.

On 26th May 2010 a permit variation was issued to increase the maximum number of bird places to 60,000 laying hens (while also correcting an error on the original permit).

On 14th June 2016 the environmental permit was transferred to the current Operator, detailed above.

On 26th January 2011 a permit variation was issued to show change of company name.

The current permit variation application which this non-technical summary supports is to change from a laying hen unit of 60,000 layers to a pullet rearing unit with a capacity of 135,000 places shared across the four existing buildings.

The variation is also to remove carcass incineration as a Directly Associated Activity as this is no longer carried out on site.

Infrastructure

Refer to accompanying Site Layout Plan.

It is proposed to continue to use the four existing sheds. As such there will be no change to the site footprint and no change to the site boundary.

While the footprint of each of the sheds will remain the same, there will be a change from the old ventilated deep pit to fully littered floors.

The existing ventilation system comprises ridge inlets and side fan ventilation outlets. In response to Odour Impact Assessment work undertaken as part of this permit variation application it is proposed to add stacks to the outlets to aid dispersion of odour.

See Langstone_Poultry_Farm_Odour_Report_sh300317_Rev2 prepared by AS Modelling & Data Ltd.

Sheds 1 and 2 are approximately 24 years old, with concrete floors and a blue tinned design. These will be re-insulated to comply with modern requirements.

Sheds 3 and 4 have recently been re-insulated to meet current standards. These also have concrete floors.

The conversion work has been carried out by Morspan, who are well known poultry house builders.

Rearing Conditions

All poultry are to be reared for Country Fresh Pullets. They own all the birds and pay a rearing fee for each saleable bird produced.

Prior to the chicks arriving on site all of the equipment is set up, a layer of chopped straw is applied to the floor and the sheds pre-heated to 32°C. The chicks arrive at a day old.

Each shed will have two Priva kerosene heaters. The heaters will be controlled via new control panels so that the temperature can be maintained at the optimum for bird growth and health and to maintain dry litter (to reduce potential odour). As the birds grow the temperature inside the sheds will be gradually decreased by 0.5 °C per day over 3 weeks until it reaches 21°C.

Ventilation will be controlled automatically by a state of the art Climatec System to maintain the optimum shed temperature between 19-21°C until the birds are 16 weeks old. The birds are then removed from the sheds to be supplied to free range egg laying units.

All sheds will be fitted with pan feeders, chain feeders and nipple drinkers supplied via Daulton Engineering. All sheds will be fitted with the appropriate number of feeders and drinkers to meet RSPCA and Freedom Foods standards. Each shed will have two16 tonne metal Roxel feed silos supplied by Welfed systems. These will be fitted with crash protection barriers to prevent damage by vehicles.

Waste Management

At the end of each crop all the litter will be removed from the sheds and exported off site in accordance with Duty of Care requirements to a nearby on-farm anaerobic digestion site (Plusterwine Anaerobic Digester Environmental Permit reference. EPR/DB3104LB) for treatment. The sheds are then cleaned and disinfected ready for the next crop of day old chicks and fresh litter. No manure is stored on site.

During clean out all dirty water will be collected in the existing 18,000 litre below ground tank. This has a simple, clearly marked, diverter valve which comprises of two pipes: one for the dirty water marked in Red, and one for rainwater marked in Blue. All rainwater enters the blue pipe and is discharged to the soak-away. All dirty water is and treated in the Plusterwine Anaerobic Digester.

All dead birds are recorded before being stored in a refrigerated container, to reduce the potential for odour, prior to collection by A R Edwards & Son who collect carcasses under the fallen stock scheme (membership number 2002137).

The site plan has been updated to reflect the removal of the existing Directly Associated Activity, a carcass incinerator (which has already been dismantled) and to show the proposed location of the new feed silos. There is no change proposed to the overall site boundary.

Emissions

A mass balance calculation has been carried out to assess the proposed changes under this permit variation application, the results of which are shown in the table below:

Table 1: Ammonia Screening Assessment Information for Current and Proposed Operation

	Category of livestock	Housing System	Ammonia Emission Factor (kg NH_3/animal place/year)	Number of places	Total Estimated Ammonia kg/NH_3 per year
Current Operation	**Layers**	Ventilated deep pit	0.20	60,000	**12,000**
Proposed Operation	**Pullets**	Naturally ventilated or mechanically ventilated, fully littered floor, non-leaking drinkers	0.06	165,000	**8,100**

[1]

This assessment demonstrates that the proposed to change from layers and a deep pit system to pullet rearing on a mechanically ventilated, fully littered floor will result in significantly lower (3,900 kg NH_3) total ammonia emissions per year.

It is understood that during the determination of the last two permit variations that an assessment of the impact of ammonia emissions was carried out and it was concluded that the installation is unlikely to cause damage to local nature conservation sites.

The Odour Management Plan (OMP) has been updated to reflect the changes being proposed and is included as part of this application.

[1] Intensive farming guidance note, Pollution Inventory Reporting, Environment Agency, January 2013, Version 5