

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Red Barn Poultry Unit operated by Moy Park Limited.

The variation number is [EPR/YP3737UK/V006](#)

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Purpose of this document

This decision document:

- explains how the application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit other than those in our generic permit template.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Key issues of the decision

Odour emissions

The operator has applied to install high velocity roof fans (4 per building) in order to address local concerns regarding odour emissions at the site.

High velocity roof ventilation provides more effective dispersion and will therefore assist in the reduction of odour emissions. This is in line with best practice for reduction odour emissions as outlined in our H4 odour guidance and the good practice guidance for the poultry industry. We are therefore satisfied the change in ventilation will have a positive impact in reducing odour emissions from the site.

Ammonia emissions

As a result of the change in ventilation we have reassessed the impact of ammonia emissions to ensure there is no significant impact on ecological receptors. We are satisfied the change in ventilation will have no significant impact.

There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within 5 km of the installation and one Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 2 km of the installation.

Ammonia assessment – SSSIs

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for assessment of SSSIs. If the process contribution (PC) is below 20% of the relevant critical level (CLe) or critical load (CLo) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.

Screening using ammonia screening tool (version 4.4) has indicated that emissions from Red Barn Poultry Unit will only have a potential impact on sites with a critical level of $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ if they are within 1491 metres of the emission source. Screening indicates that beyond this distance, the PC at conservation sites is less than $0.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. $0.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is 20% of the $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ CLe and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all SSSI's are beyond this distance.

Table 1 – distance from source

Site	Distance (m)
Bardney Limewoods, Lincolnshire	2600

The PC at these sites has been screened as insignificant. It is possible to conclude no significant pollution will occur at these sites and no further assessment is required.

Ammonia assessment - LWS

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for assessment local wildlife sites (LWS). The following trigger thresholds have been applied for the assessment of these sites.

1. If PC is <100% of relevant critical level or load, then the farm can be permitted (H1 or ammonia screening tool)
2. If further modelling shows PC <100%, then the farm can be permitted.

Screening using ammonia screening tool (version 4.4) has indicated that emissions from Red Barn Poultry Unit will only have a potential impact on sites with a critical level of $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ if they are within 511 metres of the emission source. Screening indicates that beyond this distance, the PC at conservation sites is less than $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is 100% of the $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ CLe and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all LWS are beyond this distance.

Table 2 – distance from source

Site	Distance (m)
Watt's Wood (LWS)	1300

The PC at these sites has been screened as insignificant. It is possible to conclude no significant pollution will occur at these sites and no further assessment is required.

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist, the application and supporting information and permit/notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	<p>The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility</p> <p>A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.</p>	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	<p>The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat.</p> <p>A full assessment of the application and its potential to affect the sites has been carried out as part of the permitting process. We consider that the application will not affect the features of the site.</p>	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	<p>We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.</p> <p>We have carried out a risk assessment on behalf of the operator. The operator considers this risk assessment is satisfactory – see Key Issues section for further explanation.</p>	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.	✓
The permit conditions		
Updating permit conditions during	We have updated previous permit conditions to those in the new generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The new conditions have the same meaning as those in the previous permit(s).	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
consolidation.		
Incorporating the application	<p>We have specified that the applicant must operate the permit in accordance with descriptions in the application, including all additional information received as part of the determination process.</p> <p>These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.</p>	✓
Operator Competence		
Environment management system	<p>There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management systems to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.</p>	✓