

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Salford Lodge Poultry Unit operated by P.Hughes Limited.

The variation number is EPR/YP3737MP/V004.

This was applied for and determined as a normal variation.

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
- Annex 2 the consultation and web publicising responses

Key issues of the decision

Ammonia emissions

There are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within 5 km of the installation. There are also eight Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and three Ancient Woodlands (AW) located within 2 km of the installation.

River Avon LWS was not considered in this assessment as it is designated as a Local Wildlife site for aquatic features.

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. Where this threshold is exceeded an in combination assessment and/or detailed modelling may be required.

Initial screening using ammonia screening tool (version 4.4) has indicated that emissions from Salford Lodge Poultry Unit will only have a potential impact on SSSI sites with a precautionary critical level of $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ if they are within 2313 metres of the emission source.

Initial screening indicates that beyond 2313 m the PC is less than $0.2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (i.e. less than 20% of the precautionary $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ critical level) and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. The SSSI sites are beyond this distance (see table below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

Where the precautionary level of $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is used, and the process contribution is assessed to be less than 20% the site automatically screens out as insignificant and no further assessment of critical load is necessary. In this case the $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ level used has not been confirmed by Natural England, but it is precautionary. It is therefore possible to conclude no likely damage to these sites.

Table 1 – SSSI Assessment

Name of SSSI	Distance from site (m)
Highclere	4254
Tunnel Hill Meadow	4022
Windmill Hill	3951
Broom Railway Cutting	4603

No further assessment is required.

Ammonia assessment - LWS/AW

There are eight Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and three Ancient Woodlands (AW) within 2 km of Salford Lodge Poultry Unit. 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.

For the following sites this farm has been screened out at stage 1, as set out above, using results of the ammonia screening tool (version 4.4).

Screening using ammonia screening tool (version 4.4) has indicated that emissions from Salford Lodge 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 956 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 the LWS and AW listed in below table are beyond this distance.

Table 2 – distance from source

Site	Distance (m)
Church Lench Ponds LWS	1768
Franklins Lane Verge, King Edward Plantation and Longwood LWS	1797
River Arrow LWS	1306
Rough Hill (North) Wood LWS	1351
Whitsun Brook LWS	1622
Handgate Wood AW	1474

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.

For the following sites Atch Lench Wood LWS/AW and Salford Coppice LWS/AW this farm has been screened out, as set out above, using results of the detailed modelling supplied by the applicant as part of the application (Document reference: *A Report on the modelling of the dispersion and deposition of ammonia from the existing and proposed poultry units at Salford Lodge Poultry Farm, Salford Lodge, Pitchill, Evesham in Worcestershire, 27/10/2013*).

Detailed modelling provided by the applicant has been audited in detail by our Air Quality Modelling and Assessment Unit (AQMAU) and we have confidence that we can agree with the report conclusions.

Atch Lench Wood has screened out at CLe $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ therefore no further assessment for nitrogen and acid deposition is required.

Acid deposition figures in Table 5 below for Salford Coppice LWS/AW were taken from screening using ammonia screening tool (version 4.4).

Table 3 - Ammonia emissions

Site	Critical level ammonia $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Predicted PC $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	PC % of critical level
Atch Lench Wood LWS/AW	1*	0.50	50
Salford Coppice LWS/AW	3**	0.74	24.66

*A precautionary critical level of $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ has been assigned to this site. Where the precautionary level of $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is used, and the PC is assessed to be less than the 4% insignificance threshold in this circumstance it is not necessary to further consider nitrogen deposition or acid deposition critical load values.

** CLe 3 applied as no protected lichen or bryophytes species were found when checking easimap layer

Table 4 – Nitrogen deposition

Site	Critical load kg N/ha/yr [1]	Predicted PC kg N/ha/yr	PC % of critical load
Salford Coppice LWS/AW	10	5.76	57.64

Note [1] Critical load values taken from APIS website (www.apis.ac.uk) – 29/10/15

Table 5 – Acid deposition

Site	Critical load keq/ha/yr [1]	Predicted PC keq/ha/yr	PC % of critical load
Salford Coppice LWS/AW	2.82	1.361	48.262

Note [1] Critical load values taken from APIS website (www.apis.ac.uk) – 29/10/15

No further assessment for these sites 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
Receipt of submission		
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.	✓
Consultation		
Scope of consultation	The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 6 High Profile Sites, our Public Participation Statement and our Working Together Agreements.	✓
Responses to consultation and web publicising	The web publicising and consultation responses (Annex 2) were taken into account in the decision. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.	✓
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	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat . 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 sites. We have not formally consulted on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance. See Key Issues section above for more details.	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory. The assessment shows that, applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on Environmental Risk	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	Assessment all emissions may be categorised as environmentally insignificant.	
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the SGN EPR6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs and BAT Conclusions, and ELVs deliver compliance with BAT-AELs.	✓
The permit conditions		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation.	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 permits. The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.	✓
Incorporating the application	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. These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.	✓
Operator Competence		
Environment management system	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.	✓

Annex 2: Consultation and web publicising responses

Summary of responses to consultation and web publication and the way in which we have taken these into account in the determination process.

Response received from
Environmental Health of Stratford-on-Avon District Council received on 19/10/15
Brief summary of issues raised
No concerns relating to noise or other amenity issues.
Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered
No action required.

Health and Safety Executive and Planning Department of Stratford-on-Avon District Council were consulted. There were no responses received.

This proposal was also publicised on our website between 15/10/15 and 11/11/15 and no representations were received.