

Decision document surrender - Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Purfleet Sourcing Unit operated by Upfield Foods UK Limited.

The permit number is EPR/NP3930QG.

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching this decision that we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision-making process to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account.

This decision document provides a record of the decision-making process. It:

- highlights [key issues](#) in the determination
- summarises the decision-making process in the [decisions considerations](#) section to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit.

Key issues of the decision

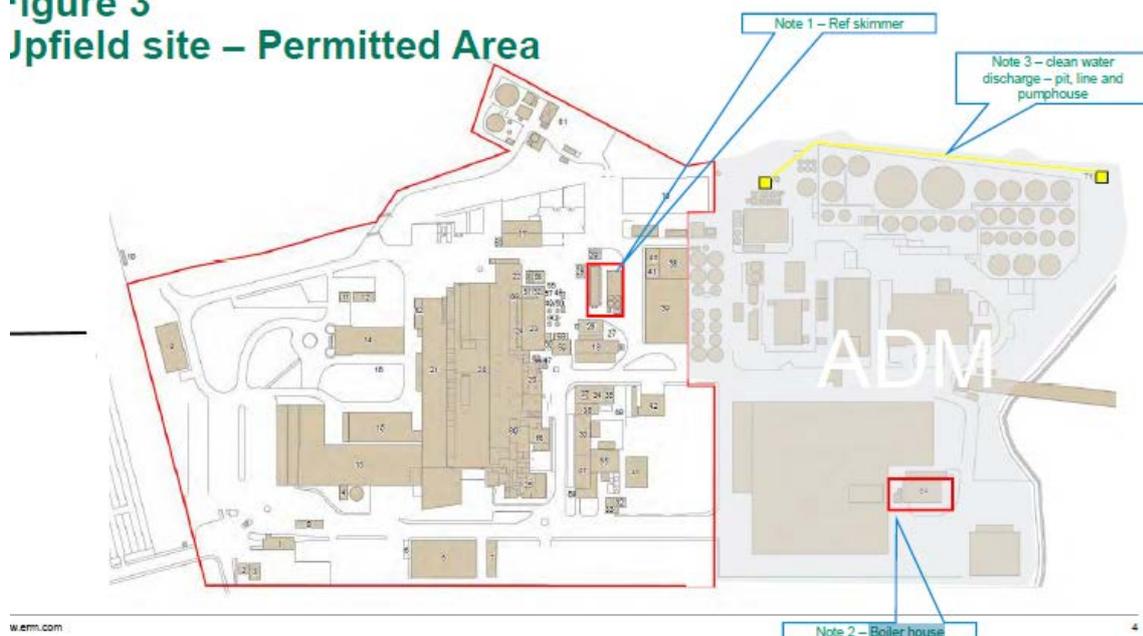
This site is located on the Northern Banks of the river Thames in Purfleet, Essex below the Dartford M25 crossing. It has been a margarine factory since the 1930s and was previously operated by Unilever before the permit was transferred to Upfield Foods UK Limited in June 2018. Food production ceased at the site in 2019 and a partial surrender was issued in May 2020. This application relates to the full surrender of the site following decommissioning activities carried out in August/September 2020. The adjacent site operated by ADM/Pura foods remains in operation and shares a couple of discrete areas as shown in the plan below. These have all been addressed in the surrender application.

The skimmer area (note 1) has been decommissioned by ADM and we accept that it is in a satisfactory state (CAR inspection NP3930QG/0371973 dated 24/08/2020 with reference to our inspection on 28/08/2020) and removed by a partial surrender notice issued on 16/10/2020 (permit ref: EPR/BU7677IZ/S007)

The boiler house (note 2) activity was removed from the permit in 2018, and decommissioned on 24/07/2020 as part of this surrender application.

The clean water discharge (note 3) was shared with the adjoining ADM site. It has been investigated as in a satisfactory state and will remain in operation under the ADM permit.

Figure 3
Upfield site – Permitted Area



Decision considerations

Please refer to SECRET_Template FINAL Jan 2021 for more information.

Baseline reports were produced in 2016 when the site permit was transferred to Upfield Foods UK Limited and previously accepted by ourselves, as no baseline report was originally produced on permit issue in 2006. A site condition report was submitted in September 2020, following pre-application advice given in May 2020. An additional report was submitted in October 2020 to confirm all groundwater monitoring boreholes installed in 2016 and 2020 to support the previous site investigation surveys and site condition report have been fully decommissioned to prevent them being a preferential pollution pathway to groundwater. A final site inspection was also carried out on 24 August 2020 which confirmed the permitted activities had ceased and decommissioning works were complete.

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Extent of the surrender application

The operator has provided a plan showing the extent of the site of the facility that is to be surrendered. We consider this plan to be satisfactory.

Pollution risk

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.

Satisfactory state

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state, having regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.

Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to accept this permit surrender.