

Permitting Decisions Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Rother Valley Abattoir operated by Woolley Bros. (Wholesale Meats) Limited.

The variation is for an amendment to the installation site boundary to accommodate an addition to the abattoir building. The extension will increase capacity for chilling, cutting, preparing, and dispatching of meat products. As a result of increased capacity for processing meats, an additional Scheduled Activity will be added to the permit (Section 6.8 A(1)(d)(i)). See permit introductory note for further details.

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 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. We have assessed the aspects that are changing as part of this variation, we have not revisited any other sections of the permit.

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

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the variation notice.

Decision considerations

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.

Consultation

The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016) and our public participation statement.

The comments and our responses are summarised in the [consultation responses](#) section.

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.

We consulted the following organisations:

- Sheffield City Council Environmental Protection Service
- Yorkshire Water

No responses were received.

The regulated facility

We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility', Appendix 2 of RGN2 'Defining the scope of the installation', and Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1'.

The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.

The site

The operator has provided plans which we consider to be satisfactory.

The revised plan is included in the permit.

Site condition report

The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports and baseline reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive.

Site Management have confirmed that the site condition of additional land to be included within the permit has had no recorded pollution incidents, nor any use of the land which may have led to ground contamination issues that they are aware of.

We are confident that there is a low risk of pollution to soil and groundwater as the site has adequate surfacing and pollution prevention controls.

Nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations

We have checked the location of the application to assess if it is within the screening distances we consider relevant for impacts on nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations. The application is within our screening distances for Local Wildlife Site designations.

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.

We consider that the application will not affect any site of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.

Environmental risk

We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.

The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.

Operating techniques

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

General operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

Compliance with BAT

The new scheduled activity introduced by this variation is required to comply with all relevant BAT conclusions (BATc). The Operator has provided a BAT Assessment with their application. We have reviewed the key measures proposed

by the Operator for this variation and assessed them against the following relevant BAT requirements:

- EPR 6.12: The Red Meat Processing (Cattle, Sheep and Pigs) Sector, March 2009;
- Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in the Slaughterhouse and Animal By-products Industries, May 2005.

We are satisfied the new scheduled activity complies with

Updating permit conditions during consolidation

We have updated permit conditions to those in the current generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The conditions will provide the same level of protection as those in the previous permit.

Emission limits

No emission limits have been added, amended or deleted as a result of this variation.

Management system

We are not aware of any reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.

The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.

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 grant this permit variation.

Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:

“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance

and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.

We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.

Consultation Responses

The following summarises the responses to consultation with other organisations, our notice on GOV.UK for the public, and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received from Sheffield City Council Environmental Protection Service 26/01/2021.

Brief summary of issues raised: The Authority has not investigated any complaints of noise, odours or other relevant amenity issues since 2017. No enforcement action has been taken to date. In light of the above, no further comments to make. Summary of actions taken: No action required.