

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 24/R57/01 (2025 release)

A report of a field inspection visit to an experimental genetically modified (GM) crop trial to assess compliance with Part VI of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002.

GMO consent details

Consent reference: 24/R57/01 ('Part B' consent)

Consent holder: University of Oxford

Crop type: Spring wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)

Site details: Church Farm, Bawburgh

OS Reference: TG 150 088

Details of the GMO

The genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are wheat *Triticum aestivum* var. 'Fielder' plants, that have been genetically modified to produce altered levels of a key component (SP1) of the CHLORAD (chloroplast-associated protein degradation) regulatory system of plastid protein import. The altered levels of SP1 leads to a functional stay-green phenotype, associated with prolonged photosynthetic activity and improved crop-yield.

Purpose of the release:

To investigate the agronomic performance of wheat lines that have been gene edited with respect to elements of the CHLORAD system in order to assess this technology as a means to improve yields and stress tolerance.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 05 June 2025

Site reference: UoO-24/R57/01-SITE02-2025-INSP_01.

Staff seen: Consent Holder, Field Experimental Team Leader

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this 2025-sown research trial of GM spring wheat at growth stage 65 (flowering). Checks were made on the location, size and layout of the trial, the measures in place to restrict human access to the site, the dimensions of the non-GM pollen barrier and the isolation distance (20m border). The GMI also reviewed the methods that had been employed for planting the GMOs, the procedures in place for management and monitoring of the release during the growing season, and the Consent Holder's plans for harvest and disposal of plant material. All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in the consent. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

Action required or taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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05 June 2025