

Non-Technical Summary

Pitfour Rearing Farm was previously part of the PPC permit PPC/A/1016797 for Briarbanks. The site consists of two sheds which have been empty for many years. Aberdeen & Northern Eggs Limited are applying for an EASR permit for this site to hold rearing pullets.

It is proposed that one existing shed will be retrofitted to house 48,000 pullets and the second shed will be rebuilt to hold 32,000 pullets. The retrofitted shed will be a litter based system as the shed is not suitable to convert to aviary with manure drying. The replaced shed will be an aviary system with manure drying and regular removal. The sheds will house pullets for 15 weeks before they are moved to laying sites or contract producers. A three week turnaround period will follow meaning that the sheds are occupied approximately 83% of the time. Compared with what is currently permitted at Briarbanks, we expect reduced ammonia and PM10 emissions from the unit.

All sheds will have automatically controlled ventilation systems. Sheds 1 and 2 will be ventilated by high velocity roof fans with emergency gable end fans if temperatures require. Ventilation systems are designed to minimise impact on nearby sensitive receptors and has been designed in accordance with BAT in order to reduce ammonia emissions. Diets are formulated to match bird requirements to reduce excess nitrogen waste.

Sheds will have optimised ventilation systems and will be well insulated. They will have low energy LED lights installed. In Shed 1, litter will be removed following each flock. In Shed 2, manure is to be collected, dried on manure belts and removed from the house at least weekly into a covered trailer and sold to a local neighbour. Mains water is used within the sheds and water meters will be regularly monitored. Nipple drinkers with drip cups will be used within the sheds. Each shed has two, 18T feed bins and these are fitted with dust separators.

Estimates of the amount of raw materials, water and energy consumed have been made and will be monitored as part of permit requirements. Similarly, the operator has estimated waste production information.

The location of the unit has been chosen as it previously housed birds as part of the Briarbanks PPC unit. Upgrades will be made to site drainage to ensure collection of wastewater and lightly contaminated runoff. Once emptied, the sheds are deep-cleaned and wastewater is contained in the underground tank at the western edge of the unit. Wastewater is removed off-site as required. Balanced diets with low crude protein levels are used.

The principal emissions from the unit will include ammonia and dust. The ammonia and dust impact of the installation has been evaluated using the SCAIL screening tool and as a result of pre-application discussions with SEPA, ammonia and dust modelling has not been required. Management practices meet BAT and minimise emissions. A set of management plans (including odour, noise, incidents, decommissioning) have been developed to complement this application.