

Auldhouseburn farm is currently permitted for 128,000 free range egg-laying birds. This includes a recent variation obtained on 20th January 2025 to include an additional 32,000 birds in two houses - Marchwood 1 & 2. These houses have not yet been built, and the operator now plans to move the location of these houses to Greenside which is approximately 2 km from the current permitted unit. The site is currently unused agricultural area and is more than 400m away from residential and other buildings and, importantly, is also further away from boundaries of designated sites.

All birds will be housed in two houses, Greenside 1 & 2, and these will be aviary systems with free access to a ranging area. The houses will be filled with birds at around a week old where they will stay and lay eggs until the shed is emptied approximately 13 months later. Manure is to be collected and dried on manure belts (using forced air) and removed from the houses twice per week. Manure is then taken directly off-site to a field heap. Once emptied, the sheds are deep-cleaned – and all wash water is contained in a tank on-site and removed off-site to be spread to land in accordance with the Prevention of Environmental Pollution From Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) code.

The houses will have an automatically controlled ventilation system. Fresh air will be brought in from roof fans, drawn through the building (over manure to dry it) and out through gable end ventilation fans. These are fitted with louvre systems to deposit any particulate matter on the ground. The gable end areas will be concreted to collect any dust which may run-off during rain events and this is treated by means of a swale which will be designed to meet the requirements of the CREW guidance, considered to be Best Available Technique (BAT).

The main emission from the housing will be ammonia however the impact on nearby sensitive receptors, in particular Muirkirk SSSI which has blanket bog habitat susceptible to ammonia pollution, will be less than the current permitted housing at Marchwood. This has been assessed using the Simple Calculation of Atmospheric Impact Limits (SCAIL) tool and has been discussed with [REDACTED], SEPA prior to submission of this variation. Detailed consideration has been given to the housing location and this, in combination with manure drying and proposed tree planting helps both reduce ammonia emissions and mitigate the environmental impact associated with them.

There are no sensitive receptors (e.g. housing) within 400m of the proposed new house, so dust and odour are not considered to be a concern. Tree planting will also help reduce dust emissions.

The new proposed houses are identical to the originally planned Marchwood 1 & 2 houses so no additional raw materials, water and energy will be used at the permitted unit. As with Marchwood, the houses will have 200kWp solar photovoltaic panels on the roof which will significantly reduce demand on the grid.

The construction of the Greenside housing will require an extension to the permit boundary (and surrender of the area used for Marchwood 1 & 2) so all proposed changes to the site boundary, site plan and drainage arrangements have been included within this application.