

Whitsome Laws (Organic) FRE Farm Whitsome, Duns:-

(PPC Application for new permit)

WL 4. Non- technical Summary

The development into free range eggs represents a natural progression to diversify and add to the primary business of arable farming and pig and sheep rearing.

All of the farm requires fertilising specific for crop and soil needs and the addition of a poultry unit will have the overall environmental benefit of making fertiliser ('organic' and non- organic) readily available and the consequent reduction in need for bought in inorganic products. Further the production of a balanced organic manure will contribute significantly to the partnership ethos of reducing further, its carbon footprint.

The first phase of laying hens will be free range and housed in single story 'aviary system' with pop holes to the range and this particular venture will be organic putting additional demands on production but also added value on the manure by-product. The second phase of development at Blackadder Bank site will again be for free range eggs but contributing to the non –organic FR egg sector or the market.

Exhaust from the organic buildings will be directed primarily through roof fans. Exhaust from the unit at Blackadder farm will exhaust through fans along each side, directing exhausted air primarily to the north and south. Auxiliary gable end fans at the end of each building will also provide additional ventilation for use during hot periods of the year.

48,000 birds will be housed in the four houses at the Whitsome Laws site and 64,000 birds in 2 buildings at the Blackadder Bank site. All buildings will have a concrete base with a litter bed of wood shavings.

Birds will be received at approx. 16 weeks old as laying pullets and retained for approx. 65 weeks before depletion and forwarding on to another farm for ultimate use in the food chain.

Depletion will therefore be less frequent than once / year.

Ventilation will be computer controlled to create a stable climate at around 21^oC and the air also improved in quality as it enters the building through modern inlet ports.

Air inlets will be predominantly from on the roofs.

Drinking water supply to the birds will be to the latest design to minimise leakage / spillage and feed will be tailored to the birds' needs throughout the egg production cycle.

The principal emissions managed through the PPC permitting process are ammonia, and dust to the air, both managed to minimise the risk of adversely impacting neighbouring habitation or the wider environment.

Water will not have a direct discharge to the environment except for a small domestic septic tank where effluent will discharge to a conventional soakaway.

Waste water is only accumulated when the poultry houses are cleaned out at 'depletion' and contained in sealed tanks and disposed of onto farm land, outside of the permitted site and compliant with good farming practice.

Extensive tree planting at the gable ends will contribute to air quality and tree / shrub planting in the range will contribute to both air quality and overall bird welfare.

Tailoring the protein in feedstuffs during the cycle will additionally reduce the potential for ammonia generation.

When removed from the houses, the old litter / dried manure on the floor will also be used as a valuable organic nutrient source on local farmland and applied using appropriate methods equipment and timing.