Non technical summary

Proposed changes to PPC permit MacLean eggs wish to vary their existing PPC permit to increase the number of free-range hens on their farm from the currently permitted 128,000 birds to 192,000 birds. The Company proposes to do this by adding a fifth and sixth shed to house an additional 32,000 birds each. The additional sheds will be located to the southeast of shed four on the site (see site location in Appendix 1) and will be identical in their design and use as the sheds already on the site.

The Farm

Free-range hens will be kept in six buildings at Hutton Hall Barns Farm, Hutton, Berwick Upon Tweed, TD15 1TT. Each shed will house two separate flocks of 16,000 free-range laying hens giving a total for the site of 192,000 birds in twelve flocks. The site is located at Ordnance Survey grid reference NT 8868 5422 (gate into main site). The site is located in fields to the west and south of Hutton Hall Barns. Shed one was built in 2016 and is located at the southern end of the field and the second shed, constructed in 2017 is located at the northern end of the field. The third shed, built in 2018 is located in a field 400 metres to the southeast of sheds number one and two. The fourth shed is located to the south of and across the Cabby burn from shed number three. Shed five and shed six have recently gained planning approval and are located in an agricultural field to the southeast of the existing sheds. The surrounding land is predominantly agricultural, arable land.

The production system in the sheds is an aviary system where birds are able to rest on perches in addition to having access to scratching and foraging areas that are bedded with wood shavings. Concrete scratch areas are the length and width of the shed, teram lining is under the rubble which is under the concrete floor. Nest boxes are provided along the length of the shed for birds to lay their eggs. Eggs are collected from the nest boxes by an egg conveyor belt that runs the length of the shed to an egg packing area located at one end of the buildings. Manure is collected on conveyor belts located below the perches. This arrangement allows a degree of drying of the manure on the belts and this in turn reduces emissions from the building. Manure is not stored in the sheds. The manure belts are emptied twice a week directly into lorries or farm trailers and removed from the site where it is utilised by other farmers as a fertiliser.

Birds are introduced into the shed as point of lay pullets at around 16-17 weeks old. A maximum of 32,000 birds will be housed in two separate flocks of 16,000 Page 4 Maclean Eggs PPC variation supporting information birds in each of the six sheds. As soon as they have settled in the birds will be given access to range outdoors. Birds will remain in the sheds producing eggs until the end of their economic egg laying life at approximately 76 weeks old. The sheds will then be emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected ready for the next flock. The buildings are ventilated by means of a computer controlled mechanical ventilation system - Big Dutchman Natura aviary systems. Air is drawn in either through the pop-holes or vents in the roofs and expelled by roof mounted fans. Controls for the ventilation system continually monitor parameters such as temperature and humidity to ensure the optimum conditions for birds in all weather conditions. A base ventilation rate is always maintained and this is increased as temperature or humidity rises by switching on additional fans to increase the ventilation rate as required.

Shed one is 118 metres long by 24.5 metres wide by 6 metres high at the roof ridge. Shed two and three are 120 metres long by 24.5 metres wide by 6 metres to the roof ridge. Shed four is 148 metres by 29.35 metres by 6 metres with 26 metres of the length being the egg grading and packing area. Sheds five and six are approximately the same dimensions as shed four,

both being 149.45 metres by 29.35 metres by 7 metres and also incorporate a packing room within them, taking up approximately 12 metres of the total length. The buildings are steel framed with roof and side walls clad in composite insulated panels. Additional equipment includes two feed bins per shed.

Electrical power is provided by means of mains electricity and a small diesel generator per shed is used for back-up electricity. Maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity are monitored and recorded daily and adjustments made as necessary to ensure that birds are in the optimum environment for their age. Nipple drinkers are used to reduce wastage of water. Water consumption is monitored and recorded daily. Feed from a UFAS accredited mill is delivered and stored on-site in two sealed bins per shed. Any mortalities are removed from the sheds daily and the numbers recorded. Mortalities are collected under the Fallen Stock Scheme.

These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia, odours and dust from the sheds, and prevent liquid washings escaping to the environment. This in turn should reduce the environmental impact of the farming activities. Primary responsibility for running the site rests with the Operators.