

Meikle Geddes FRE Farm Nairn:-

(PPC Application for new permit)

MG. 1 Non- Technical Summary

Free Range hens will be kept in 2 No. Buildings; the original housing 32,000 birds and the proposed additional one housing a further 32,000 birds, making 64,000 in total. Build is scheduled for 2025.

The site lies to the west of the Moray, Aberdeenshire, Banff and Buchan Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and therefore will not require additional land beyond the RSPCA requirements of 1Ha / 2000 birds.

16 week old birds will be introduced onto a littered floor (wood shavings) of a pre-sterilised building and kept for a period up to 65 weeks. On depletion, the birds will be removed to another farm for subsequent introduction into the food chain. Only small amounts of additional wood shavings would be added through the campaign if required.

After depletion there will be an approx. 2 week period during which full cleansing of the house will be undertaken before a new flock is introduced.

Both houses will be well insulated and therefore maintaining temperature is less demanding than say broiler units working at higher operating temperature.

Concrete floors with a DPM ensure there is no ingress of ground water although there are no springs in the area proposed for the new building and therefore build will be above the water table. The adjacent watercourse will determine the ground water level which is relatively constant and the general soil composition is free draining.

Sensors linked to the site computer will ensure the internal air quality conditions are maintained within a narrow band throughout the year, keeping temperatures around 21⁰C and humidity between 50% and 70%.

Ventilation arrangements will comprise roof mounted inlet fans and exhaust fans for air exchange and passively through the 'pop-holes' during daylight hours.

Heat supplied to the house will largely be through the birds themselves so that exhausting heat is the predominant requirement. Insulation of both walls and roof is high, helping retain heat during winter and prevent overheating in summer.

Primary electricity will be through PV panels and augmented by mains electricity.

Water is supplied to birds by way of modern designed nipple drinkers, and daily volume consumed, recorded.

Feed is milled off site and changed in composition throughout the life cycle to ensure the diet meets bird needs at any specific age and that 'waste' is minimised. Feed will be tailored by an accredited bird dietitian.

The principal emissions from the houses will be potentially ammonia from the degradation of faeces and dust. Ammonia however will be minimised by maintain dryness throughout and preventing bio-degradation which could yield ammonia being released.

Tree shelter belts and copses will be planted across the new range. These will act positively in removing and metabolising residual ammonia and dust emissions. This planting will also enhance bird welfare.

Full control of feed and manure will help prevent odours, dust and ammonia generation although all habitation is in excess of 400m from the site. Retaining nitrogen in the litter additionally contributes to its benefit as fertiliser when taken off site. All manure to either the wider farm or others will be calculated to be part of the farm nutrient budgeting scheme.

The system to be used is an 'aviary' system with belts removing manure regularly. This will be transferred to a trailer and removed from site twice / week to farm manure stores (own and neighbours) off the permitted site for subsequent spreading.