

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Submitted on behalf of Scott Eggs Ltd., under the farming partnership of [REDACTED] this application is for a Part A PPC Permit covering the proposed free-range hen shed operations on land at Howden Farm, Gifford, EH41 4JS. As the cumulative capacity onsite exceeds the 40,000 threshold, this application is submitted to SEPA under Schedule 1 Section 6.9 Part A of the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012, which covers the rearing of poultry.

As is detailed throughout the documents attached to this permit application, the installation meets the conditions set out within the Standard Farming Installation Rules (SFIR)¹ and has been designed in accordance with the Best Available Techniques Reference Document².

There is currently an operational hen shed in the field to the west, with the capacity for 30,000 free-range hens, which was consented in 2020. The Operator is now looking to expand their free-range egg business with two additional sheds with 16,000 capacity each, consented adjacent to the existing unit. As such, this application is for both the existing and consented hen sheds, to accommodate a total of 62,000 free-range hens.

An Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) was carried out after initial screening showed that emissions of ammonia and nitrogen from the sheds could affect sensitive habitats nearby. The AQIA, prepared by RSK Environment Ltd, looked at both the proposed sheds and existing nearby poultry units. It found that emissions would remain within acceptable levels when considered together, and that odour from the site is unlikely to cause problems for nearby properties. An Odour Management Plan has also been prepared to set out the steps that will be taken to control smells during daily operations.

A Noise Impact Assessment was completed by Sharps Redmore to examine potential noise from fans, vehicles, egg collection, and waste handling. Noise levels were measured at nearby homes and compared with national guidance. The results showed that, for most activities, noise will stay below levels that could cause disturbance. Although feed deliveries slightly exceed normal background noise levels, they happen only occasionally during daytime hours and are similar to other typical farm activities. Overall, the assessment found no significant impact from noise.

A Drainage Impact Assessment has also been prepared to manage surface and foul water from the site. The design includes permeable surfaces, a pipe system, and a detention basin to slow surface water runoff, following best practice guidance. Wastewater from the sheds will be treated through a small treatment plant and reed bed system before being safely discharged into a nearby watercourse.

This permit application comprises of a series of documents and associated appendices detailing how this installation meets the conditions specified within the SFIR guidance and subsequent BAT regulations for the requirements of the PPC permit.

¹ SEPA, Standard Farming Installation Rules (How to Comply): <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162852/sepa-s-standard-farming-installation-rules-how-to-comply-incorporating-ppc-application-guidance.pdf>

² Best Available Techniques (BREF): <https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/>