

FAQs Astmans Farm Poultry Unit

March 2022

What is an Environmental Permit?

Certain specific activities that could be harmful to the environment need an environmental permit to operate. A permit gives the holder permission to carry out certain types of activities at a specific location. For example the rearing of poultry intensively in an installation with more than 40,000 places; the permit sets conditions which will protect the environment and people's health.

If we grant a permit we carry out periodic inspections to check compliance with the permit. We review permit conditions and can change them at any time. We may take enforcement action if we consider that the permit holder has breached one or more conditions of their permit.

We must decide whether to grant or refuse an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. We will only grant a permit if the operator applying has shown that the proposed facility meets the requirements of UK and European laws in how it will be designed and run. We will not grant a permit if we believe it is likely to cause significant pollution to the environment or harm people's health.

Is an Environmental Permit the same as planning permission?

Our decision whether to grant an environmental permit is separate from the planning process. The Environment Agency determines environmental permits and the local authority determines planning application.

Planning permission allows a new site to be built or an existing site to be extended or modified. The planning process determines whether the development is an acceptable use of land and considers a broad range of matters such as visual impact, traffic and access, which do not form part of our decision-making process.

An environmental permit allows the operator to undertake the activity once the site has been built and regulates the ongoing activities. A new development will need to have both planning permission and an environmental permit before it can operate. We will only issue a permit if we believe the facility will be designed, constructed and operated in a manner that will not cause significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

It is possible for a site to be granted planning permission and not granted an environmental permit or vice versa. The two processes are completely separate.

Background to Astmans permit applications

On 23/6/21 the Operator of Astmans Farm Poultry Unit submitted an application to the Environment Agency to vary an existing environmental permit. The application was then *duly made on 15/1/22. A public consultation on this permit variation will be held from 3/3/22 to 31/3/22 where we will gather comments for review.

The application is to install two additional poultry houses at the site which will allow the Operator to increase broiler bird places to a maximum of 200,000. The installation boundary will be increased to accommodate the new poultry houses. The two new poultry houses will be fitted with air scrubbers to reduce emissions of both ammonia and odour.

Summarised timeline of the application set out below:

Action	Date
Application submitted to us to vary exiting environmental permit.	23/6/21
Application was duly made <i>* 'Duly making' is a process of checking that we have sufficient information to enable us to commence a full determination of the application, ie make a thorough assessment of the information provided in the application to decide whether or not we are able to grant the permit variation.</i>	15/1/22
Public consultation on duly made variation application	3/3/22 – 31/3/22
Determination period <i>le taking into account comments from duly made consultation and other relevant information, as part of our thorough review.</i>	n/a
Public consultation on our draft decision whereby we are 'minded to grant the variation'	n/a
Determination period <i>le taking into account comments from draft decision consultation and other relevant information, as part of our thorough review.</i>	n/a
Reopening of the draft decision consultation following feedback from the first draft decision consultation which ended on 10 July 2020.	n/a
Final decision on whether to grant the variation	Once all comments and information has been gathered and taken into account

How to make comments during the consultation

All relevant information regarding this application can be found at the following website and will be accessible from 3 March 2022:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/gl2-8hr-mr-ion-smith-mrs-josephine-smith-and-mr-th/>

There is more information regarding this application on the Gov.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/environmental-permitting-notice-of-applications-made>

where you can search by either postcode or EPR reference as of 3 March 2022.

Alternatively, you can return consultation comments:

By post to: PSC - EP Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF

By e-mail to: PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

How long is the consultation period?

Consultations run for 20 working days. The consultation period on the permit application runs from 3/3/22 to 31/3/22.

Consultations for Sites of High Public Interest

Occasionally during consultations for applications at high profile sites, campaign groups have encouraged individuals to submit multiple objections or responses repeating the same concerns or issues. Please be aware that, as we follow a strict legal process when assessing permit applications, the number of times a comment or concern is raised can have no impact on the outcome of an Environmental Permit application.

Once consultations close

Once consultations close you will no longer be able to submit comments but you can still view the documentation relating to the application.

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses publicly available after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to share your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response is kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Further information

Should you wish to discuss the application in more detail, arrange a visit to speak to one of our staff or you wish to receive copies of Public Register information relating to the variation application, in the first instance please contact our Customers & Engagement Team on tel: 02030 251 583 or by e-mail: enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk