

Notice of request for more information

The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

To: Mrs Julia Whittall

TL Whittall Limited

The Old Rectory

Moccas

Hereford

Herefordshire

HR2 9LA

Application number: EPR/BP3003MP/A001

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the above Regulations, requires you to provide the information detailed in the attached schedule. The information is required in order to determine your application for a permit duly made on 11/04/2022.

Send the information to either the email or postal address below by 13/01/2023. If we do not receive this information by the date specified then we may treat your application as having been withdrawn or it may be refused. If this happens you may lose your application fee.

Email address: [REDACTED]

Postal address:

Permitting Support, NPS Sheffield

Quadrant 2

99 Parkway Avenue

Parkway Business Park

Sheffield

S9 4WF

Name	Date
[REDACTED]	13/12/2022

Authorised on behalf of the Environment Agency

Notes

These notes do not form part of this notice.

Please note that we charge £1,200 where we have to send a third or subsequent information notice in relation to the same issue. We consider this to be the first notice on the issues covered in this notice.

The notes in italics that appear after information requests in the attached schedule do not form part of the notice. The notes are intended to assist you in providing a full response.

Schedule

1. Odour management and contingency measures

There will be an expectation that if a permit were to be issued, and after a set period of time (e.g. twelve months), or sooner if requested in writing by the Environment Agency, there will be a requirement for the Operator to carry out a review of the effectiveness of odour controls to minimise the risk of odour pollution beyond the installation boundary and submit a written report to the Environment Agency for approval. Should this review determine that additional measures are needed, and/or, should the Environment Agency have substantiated any odour complaints received, the operator will implement additional odour control measures above and beyond what is currently present within the Odour Management Plan (OMP). These additional measures should include both short term and longer-term measures, which should consist of, but not be limited to, BAT appropriate abatement (e.g., two-stage or three-stage air cleaning system) measures to reduce odour emissions. The expectation would be to start by actioning short term simpler measures to address specific substantiated odour complaint issues and if not successful move to action longer term measures, including but not limited to infrastructure changes and/or new plant. Timeframes for enaction of these measures should be provided.

Provide details of the proposed odour abatement system which will be fitted on the poultry houses if required by the Environment Agency as a condition of the permit, based on experience of operation of the poultry houses. The following points should be included:

- a) Provide a summary description of a proposed system with key operating techniques to ensure effective odour abatement. The summary should include the following points:
 - b) Confirmation of the air flow rate to be fed to the abatement system (summer and winter) and evidence that the abatement system will be sufficiently sized to handle that flow.
 - c) Evidence that the proposed system will be capable of achieving an odour concentration of no more than 300 ouE/m³ at the outlet, during both summer and winter conditions for the specific bird type relevant for this installation.
 - d) Confirmation as to whether the proposed system will be in operation throughout the full bird cycle and during clean outs, and what downtime for maintenance will be required for effective operation.
 - e) Explanation as to how the impact of odour emissions will be minimised during any downtime for maintenance of the system. Clarify how scheduling of maintenance will achieve this.
 - f) Confirmation that all abatement systems equipment, abatement system liquor storage facilities and pipework could be installed within current installation boundary.
2. Submit a plan, including timeframes, detailing installation of the proposed odour abatement equipment on the poultry houses, should it be required by the Environment Agency.
 3. Explain how the ventilation for the poultry houses will be designed to be abatement ready i.e., able for abatement to be retrofitted without a major redesign of the ventilation system and housing infrastructure.

4. With regards to the overall odour control measures, submit short-term and long-term measures to prevent or minimise odour pollution. Timeframes for enactment of these measures should also be provided.

Please update the OMP, and any other plans you deem necessary, as appropriate. If there are measures present within the current OMP that are considered to be either long-term or short-term measures, please identify these and categorise them as such within the OMP or addendum to the OMP.

5. The Odour Management Plan states that monitoring is carried out weekly, by means of sniff testing at the monitoring points by persons not involved directly with the operations at the Installation and that this monitoring will be carried out at the Installation boundary.

- a) What is the method for identifying the sniff tester? Is there a person already in place carrying out this role?

- b) Please justify why monitoring only at the Installation boundary is an effective way of determining whether the site is causing odour pollution, given that the Installation boundary is approximately only 14m from the poultry buildings?

- c) Please justify why monitoring isn't carried out further away from the Installation (e.g., at nearby receptors), to determine whether there is any odour pollution being generated from the site.

The position of the odour monitoring points should consider the location of sensitive receptors. The odour monitoring procedure needs to refer to consideration of the prevailing wind direction at the time of monitoring. Monitoring should be carried out, but not limited to, the public highway at Arrow View and other properties to the north east of the site.

6. Within the Schedule 5 response titled 'Hergest Camp Farm Schedule 5 Responses' (received 10/08/22) it states that litter is sold to Gamber Logistics. Please incorporate this information in to the OMP.

Please update the OMP, and any other plans you deem necessary, as appropriate.

7. Please confirm the destination of the dirty wash water collected on site and what contingencies are in place should this route be unavailable – the Odour Management Plan (OMP), for example, currently doesn't provide this information in detail. It does discuss agreements in the OMP but doesn't state who these are with and whether they are in place already or to be negotiated. It also isn't clear whether the neighbouring farms referred to in the contingencies section of the OMP are the same as the company referred to earlier on the OMP with respect to dirty water removal.

Please update the OMP, and any other plans you deem necessary, as appropriate.

8. The revised Odour Management Plan (OMP) submitted on 10/08/2022 states: *Carcasses placed into plastic sealed bags, stored in sealed, shaded and vermin proof containers away from sensitive receptors. Containers checked daily for integrity, any damaged containers not used and either repaired or replaced. Carcase collection will be timed to prevent the release of odour, at least twice weekly during crop cycle, frequency increased during summer months and crop age (3 times per week).* The OMP goes on to state within the contingency section: *carcasses removed from store into additional storage bins within 1 hour, should odour be detected during daily monitoring.*

- a) What does the information presented in the contingency section mean? What will moving to additional bins accomplish?

Are you assuming that the integrity of these bins has been compromised and new intact bins will be better?

- b) Where are the bins, referred to in the previous question, located?

They should be sited away from receptors, if possible.

- c) Within the current Odour Management Plan, the following is stated: *The carcass storage will be moved to a purpose-built building within the installation boundary with freezers for the storage of fallen stock which will cease any odour release and reduce the potential for fly nuisance.* This is to be done in the event of significant numbers of substantiated odour complaints being received and cannot be resolved with changes to management systems. However, the Environment Agency believes this proposal should be brought forward. Please provide a plan, with timescales, detailing the construction of a purpose-built building within the Installation boundary, which will have facilities to freeze/refrigerate fallen stock.

Please update the OMP, and any other plans you deem necessary, as appropriate.

9. Noise management and contingency measures

There will be an expectation that if a permit were to be issued, and after a set period of time (e.g. twelve months), or sooner if requested in writing by the Environment Agency, there will be a requirement for the Operator to carry out a review of the effectiveness of noise controls to minimise the risk of noise pollution beyond the Installation boundary and submit a written report to the Environment Agency for approval - control measures upon permit issue, should include a protocol for conducting noise monitoring, should the need arise. Should this review determine that additional measures are needed, and/or, should the Environment Agency have substantiated any noise complaints received, the operator will implement their noise monitoring protocol and any additional noise control measures above and beyond what is currently present within the Noise Management Plan (NMP). Any noise monitoring should be undertaken by an independent, specialist noise consultancy company.

With reference to the requirements outlined in Appendix 5 of How to Comply with your environmental permit for intensive farming [PPC Technical Guidance Note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614247/PPC_Technical_Guidance_Note.pdf), submit a revised NMP addressing the points below:

- a) How often do you maintain the fans to ensure proper performance and design noise levels?
- b) Explain how noise from the standby generator is minimised. Reference to an 'acoustic jacket' is made in the current NMP, please provide more information about this.
- c) In accordance with BAT Conclusion 9 of the BAT Conclusions <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D0302&from=EN>, describe the method and frequency for monitoring noise at the site, including, but not limited to, a protocol for conducting noise monitoring; a protocol for response to identified noise events; a noise reduction programme designed to e.g. identify the source(s), to monitor noise emissions, to characterise the contributions of the sources and to implement elimination and/or reduction measures.

Noise monitoring is required as there are sensitive receptors located within 400m of the installation boundary. As a minimum, we expect the NMP to include provisions for noise monitoring in the event that a complaint is received.

BAT 9 states the following: In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise emissions, BAT is to set up and implement a noise management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes the following elements:

- i. a protocol containing appropriate actions and timelines;
- ii. a protocol for conducting noise monitoring;
- iii. a protocol for response to identified noise events;
- iv. a noise reduction programme designed to e.g. identify the source(s), to monitor noise emissions, to characterise the contributions of the sources and to implement elimination and/or reduction measures;
- v. a review of historical noise incidents and remedies and the dissemination of noise incident knowledge.

10. Drainage

The technical standards states the following with regards to drainage to land and water:

Land	
Clean water drainage routes as identified on the site drainage plan routed to soakaways and French drains.	Roof water from poultry houses and the surrounding yard area.
Water	
Clean water drainage routes as identified on the site drainage plan routed to the settlement pit and further sediment traps with outfall to River Arrow.	Clean yard water.

We interpret the situation as follows, from the information above and from the site layout plan:

Emission point ref. & location	Source
Outlet to French drains adjacent to poultry houses 1-4 and to grassed areas acting as soakaways, to the north of poultry houses 5 and 6 and south west of poultry house 1 as indicated on the drainage plan reference 'Hergest Camp Farm Layout Drainage' in application EPR/BP3003MP/A001	Clean roof water from the poultry houses and clean yard water (from both the yards to the north and south of the houses, and excluding all times yards are contaminated e.g., catching, mucking out or washing, when water from the yard drains to the underground tanks) drain to either French drains, which sit adjacent to poultry houses 1, 2, 3 & 4, and to grassed areas acting as soakaways, which sit to the north east and south west of the houses
Outlet to soakaway north of poultry house 5 and 6 as indicated on the drainage plan reference 'Hergest Camp Farm Layout Drainage' in application EPR/BP3003MP/A001	Clean roof water from houses 5 and 6 is collected via gutters and downpipes and drains via an underground piped to a grassed area acting as a soakaway, to the north of houses 5 & 6
Outlet to River Arrow via a settlement pit and sediment traps, as indicated on the drainage plan reference 'Hergest Camp Farm Layout Drainage' in application EPR/BP3003MP/A001	Clean roof water and clean yard water (excluding all times yards are contaminated e.g., catching, mucking out or washing) from the yard to the north of the houses

- a) Please review the above table and confirm if this is accurate. If it does not represent the situation, please make the necessary changes to the information.
- b) Clarity is required on what is happening to the east of poultry house 1 and to the west of poultry house 2 with regards to roof water run-off. We believe there isn't any guttering on house 2, and assume there isn't any guttering on house 1, so does the roof water flowing off these sides of the roofs, drain directly to concrete areas (as is the case between poultry houses 3 & 4, as this is what the plan looks like?)

From the photographs provided of the site in response to the previous Schedule 5 request for further information (and other information present within the documentation), Picture 7 shows French Drains between Houses 2 & 3 and Picture 8 shows a concrete slope between Houses 3 & 4 with run-off falling into the drain bottom right by house 3.

- c) What is the purpose, if any, of the two outlets through the wall labelled on the revised site layout plan?
- d) Does water that drains through these outlets drain to the soakaway labelled on the revised site layout plan or does it drain to a separate location?

On the revised site layout plan (submitted 10/08/22) there are two outlets through the wall to the north of house 6. There is a soakaway labelled on the layout plan immediately to the west of these two outlets.

- e) Are the soakaways referred to in the application (in the technical standard and the layout plan) grassed areas?
- f) A 'soakaway pond' is labelled on the revised site layout plan, to the south west of poultry house 1, and a 'soakaway' is labelled on the revised site layout plan, to the north of poultry houses 5 and 6. Are there differences between these two soakaways?
- g) The location of the outfall to the river Arrow, as labelled on the revised site layout plan has been given as NGR SO 27557 54782. However, from examining our internal mapping systems, this seems to fall short of the river, in a coppice of trees. Please review this grid reference and amend.

Please amend the site layout plan, and any other plans you deem necessary, as appropriate.

11. Standby generator:

Please confirm for how many hours per year (i.e., is it more or less than 52 hours per year) the standby generator will operate and please confirm the rated thermal input in kilowatts (kWh).

12. Site Photographs

Not all the photographs provided (in document titled 'Photo' of Site – July 2022') in response to the previous Schedule 5 Notice of request for more information have been labelled/annotated. Please provide relevant annotations to the photographs, to explain what each photograph is showing, and its location.