**Odour Management Plan**

**Farm name:** Whittons Farm

**Operator:** LJ Fairburn and Son Ltd

**Permit number:**

**Date:** April 2025

**Prepared by:** E Marshall

**Introduction**

This bespoke Odour Management Plan (OMP) has been prepared to support the overall Environmental Management System in place at Whittons Farm. The plan has been prepared in accordance with Appendix 4 of guidance IPPC Technical Guidance Note (publishing.service.gov.uk), NFU Poultry industry good practice checklist and H4 Odour Management, The overriding principle of this plan is to ensure the day-to-day activities are carried out in accordance with this document to help minimise the overall environmental impact. The overriding principle of this OMP is to ensure the day-to-day activities are carried out in accordance with this document to help minimise the overall environmental impact.

There are three sensitive receptor within 100m distance of the installation boundary one of which is a farmhouse residence and agricultural buildings which are owned by the operators of the site. There are also 4 other sensitive receptors within 400m distance of the installation boundary which are a combination of farm and residential properties.

There have been no previous issues relating to odour, dust, noise or flies in relation to the farm.

**Setting**

The surrounding area is mainly large arable fields with field boundary hedgerows. The landscape is relatively flat to gently undulating. The village of Farlesthorpe is located approximately 280m to the south-east of the installation, Bilsby is located approximately 530m to the west of the installation.

Figure 1 shows the location of the installation and of the receptors within 400m which have been considered in this odour management plan.

Figure 1: Sensitive receptors



Table 1: Sensitive Rectors and distance of Sensitive Receptors from Installation Boundary to nearest point of domestic curtilage

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Description | Address | National Grid Reference | Orientation from installation | Distance (m) to nearest point of domestic curtilage |
| 1 | Ivy House Farmhouse (operator occupied) | Farlesthorpe Road, Bilsby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9PL | TF 46636 74749 | SW | 17m |
| 2 | North Cottage | Farlesthorpe Road, Bilsby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9PL | TF 47260 74642 | SE | 45m |
| 3 | Kindesella House/North Farm | Farlesthorpe Road, Bilsby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9PL | TF 47151 74436 | SE | 89m |
| 4 | Property at Ancroft Fen (School House?) | Thurlby Road, Bilsby East, Lincolnshire, LN13 9JJ | TF 47716 75752 | N | 230m |
| 5 | Home Farm/ North Farm Cottages | Farlesthorpe Road, Bilsby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9PH | TF 47348 74323 | SE | 280m |
| 6 | Glebe Farm residence | Farlesthorpe Road, Bilsby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9PL | TF 46322 75178 | W | 290m |
| 7 | Property at Junction of Ancroft Fen Lane and Back Lane (The Grange) | Back Lane, Bilsby East Lincolnshire LN13 9PT | TF 47012 75902 | NW | 360m |

The purpose of this Odour Management Plan is to:

* Establish the likely source of odours arising from the farm
* Set out procedures at the farm in order to mitigate or minimise the risk of odour
* Formalise an effective method of dealing with any odour complaints quickly and efficiently.

**Potential odour sources**

In accordance with Section 3 of H4 guidance, a risk assessment of odour pollution was performed (Appendix 5).

As a result, the following sources have been identified as contributing to a potential *medium risk* odour source:

* • Odour emissions from the birds
* • Odour emissions from feed selection
* • Odour emissions from feed delivery and storage
* • Odour emissions from poultry litter storage and removal
* • Odour emissions from housing and ventilation
* • Odour from drinking water systems
* • Odour emissions from bird depletion
* • Odour from dirty water generation and storage (washout)
* • Odour from yard areas
* • Odour emissions from carcase storage and disposal
* • Odour emissions from dirty water/litter spreading
* • Odour emissions from dust build up

**Pathways and receptors**

The pathway for all of the above sources is via the atmosphere. The wind direction will significantly influence how receptors are affected. We have not received any complaints from neighbours relating to odour from the farm.

**Poultry Odour management**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Odour related issues** | Actions taken to minimise odour emissions | **Completion date** |
| Effects of diet on dust, odour and ammonia emissions (feed selection) | * Feed composition is closely matched to the chickens’ requirements * Feed specifications are prepared by the feed compounder’s nutrition specialist. The nutritionist ensures that protein and phosphorous content is reduced as the rations change throughout the flock cycle. * Feed is only supplied by our own UKAS accredited feed mill, so that only approved raw materials are utilised in production. * A feed sample for every load of feed delivered to the site is left and documented for both quality assessment and traceability. Samples are kept on site for a minimum of 3 months. * Records of crude protein levels and diet formulation are kept in the site office. * Soya oil content reduces risk of dust emissions from feed, binding ingredients | On-going |
| Feed delivery and storage | * Dry feeds are stored in silos. No liquid feed storage. * Diets are ad-lib fed, via sealed systems, reducing potential for dust release to the atmosphere * Cyclone dust catchment systems will be in place on all silos * Any and all spillages are cleaned up immediately. We have our own vehicle for feed deliveries, so moving feed to another silo is within our control. For any major spillage greater than 500kg that is unfit for animal consumption the spillage will be cleared up in to skips and removed from site for disposal via the appointed waste contractor within 24 hours of the incident. For any spillage less than 500kg, feed would be cleared up using bags and placed in the onsite general waste container for disposal. * Internally, the feed never falls any great distance which reduces the dust plume effect. Any leaks are repaired quickly and any spillage cleaned up * Open surface of troughs/feeders kept to a minimum consistent with purpose in order to minimise exposed feed surface. * Waste feed removed and not allowed to accumulate. Feed protected from birds, flies and rodents. * The feed storage is checked by the site manager in accordance with the site’s maintenance schedule. * Feed deliveries are an internal process, using own feed and vehicles. There is a weighbridge log recording every delivery and bins are on weigh scales to monitor quantities. | On-going |
| Ventilation techniques | * The ventilation system is computer controlled and regularly adjusted to aid optimum internal environmental conditions. * The ventilation system is designed to efficiently control and, when required, remove humidity from within the buildings. * Automated monitoring in real-time of in-house air conditions. Alarmed system if problem detected. If the issue was power, there is a standby generator as emergency back-up to keep the ventilation system running until the mains power problem can be rectified. This generator would kick in automatically and there would be an emergency call-out of an electrician, or contact made with the power company to report the problem and highlight that there were livestock buildings reliant on electricity. If a problem occurred with an individual fan, the fact that the houses are open spaces (not divided in to smaller rooms) means that there are not air spaces reliant only on a single fan. Faulty equipment would be repaired or replaced as quickly as possible but, depending on the stage within the cycle, this may be more practical between depops and repops when ventilation fans are routinely accessed for cleaning and routine maintenance. * Maintenance schedules are in place and are carried out in line with manufacturers’ recommendation and guidance. This minimises the risk of any breakdowns during the flock cycle. * There is no exhaust out of the roof and they act as inlets only with fans that push air into the shed. All extraction fans are on the gables and sides of the building as per the attached drawing. A tree belt to the North, East and South of the poultry buildings intercepts air flow from the side and gable vents, buffering effect on receptors downwind of the installation. * This will assist in the creation of a dry internal environment with a litter moisture content below 40%, thereby ensuring low odour/ ammonia emissions and conditions unsuitable for fly breeding. * As the roof fans are inlets, this results in no deposits of dust being made on the roofs. Roof water is therefore not contaminated. * Exhaust vents are cleaned so as to avoid a release of dust to air or water. They are cleaned at every turnaround between de-pops and re-pops. They are blown down before buildings are washed and disinfected. * Risk of dust accumulating on yard areas below side and gable end fans is managed to prevent releases of dust to air or water. Inspections are made monthly and any dust cleaned up and removed along with poultry litter from the manure belt. |  |
| Litter conditions and management | * Controls on feed and ventilation help maintain litter quality * Bedding applied internally and at low level to reduce dust creation. * Use of nipple drinkers with drip trays to minimise spillage * Use of a veterinary health plan, with specialist veterinary input used as necessary, to mitigate risks of disease outbreak leading to poorly conditioned birds and excessive dropping. * All walls and ceiling voids have been insulated to prevent condensation and cold bridging. Continual Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) is laid under the concrete floors to prevent moisture being drawn up from the ground. * Water, feed and the controlled environment are monitored and recorded by computer control to maintain dry litter conditions, which minimizes ammonia, odour and bioaerosol levels. |  |
| Carcass Disposal | * Any mortalities are collected several times every day and recorded. The carcasses are then sprayed with blue stock marker spray and placed into a lockable bin. These bins are emptied weekly and the carcasses removed from the site by an approved contractor weekly to fortnightly, who incinerate the dead stock at correctly licensed premises. * Carcass bins are cleaned by the contractor (deadstock collector) bi-monthly with the effluent waste water being disposed of in waste water 10,000ltr tank at the front of the site. The tank is cleaned on turnaround and monitored weekly. If required to empty, this is performed on an ad-hoc basis to prevent anaerobic conditions build up. |  |
| Destocking of livestock | * Ventilation controls to be used to control the release of odours and bioaerosols while still maintaining optimum temperature control throughout the depletion process. * Machinery movements to be kept to a minimum to help avoid the churning up of damp litter * Replenishment of fresh bedding before depletion takes place. |  |
| Clean out (litter removal) | * The poultry house has manure belts, and the manure will be collected from the farm every 3-4 days by tractor and trailer. No manure is stored on site. * At the end of the laying cycle the birds are removed from the shed and the manure is taken away in covered trailers by L J Fairburn. The shed is then blown down to remove any dry matter before being washed and then disinfected with Lion Code/ APHA approved chemicals. The dirty wash water that is generated in this process is collected in a waste water tank; the contents of which are spread on separately owned land in accordance with the Defra Codes of Good Agricultural Practice. * All internal areas are blown down using high pressure air lances to remove areas of trapped dust which, in turn, helps reduce the amount of dirty water generated. * Litter is removed efficiently and ventilation rate is minimised but is required throughout to ensure H&S of workers. Buildings are otherwise sealed throughout clean out. Once all the litter is removed and the floors mechanically swept, the ventilation system is powered down. * Only Defra approved disinfectants and detergents are used on site and are applied by trained personnel, in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidance. * After destocking, clean out commences 1-2 days after de-pop and C&D takes 3-4 weeks to complete. |  |
| Dirty water storage | * Areas around the houses are concreted and kept clean at all times throughout the flock cycle. * All dirty water is stored in underground sealed tanks, compliant with SSAFO regulations. * Dirty water is removed from site using vacuum tankers as the wash water is collected during clean out, with all removals documented and in accordance with a Manure Management Plan. * Unnecessary running of vacuum pumps avoided. * Diverter valves ensure tanks are only used for occasions when contaminated water requires capture and no wash water is left long term in the tank, being removed on the same day as wash water is collected. No vehicle washing occurs on the installation. Deadstock bin cleaning occurs on site and effluent from this is captured in the wash water tanks, along with used footbath contents. The 10,000 litre tank is cleaned on turnaround and monitored weekly. If required to empty, this is performed on an ad-hoc basis. This prevents anaerobic conditions from creating and odour build up. * Sealed system reduces bio-aerosol/odour creation. | On-going |
| Cleanliness of yard areas | * Yard surfaces are properly maintained * The drainage system works effectively to prevent ponding of water. This is achieved by gradient and type of yard surface, ensuring effective drainage. Inspection and maintenance in the long term will ensure that this remains the case. * Housing, yards and equipment cleaned regularly to prevent dust build-up. In the unlikely event that litter or feed was spilled, this would be cleaned up immediately to prevent contamination of clean water pathways and to prevent dust and odour emissions. | On-going as part of the inspection and maintenance programme |
| All housing and management | * Buildings are in line with BAT requirements, as will any future refurbishments be * All housing and stock are checked for cleanliness as part of daily welfare checks * All housing is cleaned out in accordance with written cleaning plan * Potentially odorous/dusty spillages (e.g. feed ingredients) are cleaned up promptly * Stocking density maintained at or below levels set out in Defra Welfare Regulations * Temperature and ventilation corresponds to animals’ requirements to optimise the housed environment for the birds and air quality conditions. Humidity and temperature are checked in the houses daily, by automated monitoring system. * Build-up of waste feed in front of feeders is prevented and waste feed is removed * Feeders and drinkers have been designed to prevent wastage and leaks * Water lines are inspected daily and water use monitored. The internal maintenance team would be able to deal with most maintenance/repair work or a plumber would be called for emergency call out.  Floor and wall surfaces are constructed from non-porous smooth surfaces * Clean water from the site leaves the site via an attenuation soakaway | On-going |
| Popholes | * Areas around pop-holes are kept clean and pop-holes are protected to prevent rain from entering housing. * There is chalk around popholes, which is replaced on bird turnaround. * Overhang prevents ingress from driving rain and stepped access to the pophole prevents surface flow from entering the housing. |  |
| Spreading litter/dirty water | * Applied to land in the locality owned and managed by the operator * Spreading is co-ordinated with local weather forecasts and follows regulations and Defra Code of Good Agricultural Practice. * Application techniques designed to reduce creation of bioaerosols and odour | On-going |
| Odour monitoring | * Monitoring is an integral part of an OMP and is in line with the current NFU Poultry Industry Good Practice Checklist. BAT conclusion 26 of the IRRP BAT Conclusions document states that such monitoring is only applicable to cases where an odour nuisance at sensitive receptors is expected and/or has been substantiated. Although the site does not have a history of odour complaints, BAT conclusion 26 is applicable as there are sensitive receptors within 400 metres of the installation boundary. We will conduct regular monitoring and will undertake monitoring at higher frequencies in the event of odours arising and until such time as they are resolved. * The operators or their delegates manage the poultry day to day, so they are able and responsible for checking odour emissions daily; checking for any abnormal levels or potential for increased odour production. Sniff testing at the boundary must be undertaken at least weekly. Where there is potential for abnormal elevated odour emission, control measures will be put in place to mitigate the risk. * The road to the farm passes the closest receptors enabling staff/operators to also notice if there is an elevated odour emission at those points. Staff know to report promptly any such occasions. * If an odour problem arises, monitoring will be carried out to establish what needs to be done. If a complaint arises, it may be helpful to ask a neighbour/community to keep odour diaries; to monitor a larger area and avoid the potential issue of “nose blindness” in someone who lives and works on the site and may be less sensitive to the odours detectible by others. * If we have put a solution in place, we will monitor to confirm that it has resolved the problem. |  |
| Dealing with complaints | * Any odour complaints will be reported to the operators who will log and investigate causes of all odour complaints; identifying the source of the odour issue and monitoring odour levels at the site boundary as part of the investigation * The complaint details and subsequent investigation will be recorded on the site complaint form (see Appendix 1 to this OMP) and a copy will be kept in the site office. * The complaints procedure will follow the requirements set out in the Environment Agency’s H4 Odour management guidance  1. We will keep auditable records of any investigations we carry out. These records will be invaluable to us in analysing incidents and stopping them from happening again, as well as being a requirement of this OMP and to meet permit conditions. |  |
| General comments | * Neighbours will be informed (where necessary) prior to activities which may cause odour * Odour levels will be monitored on site by all staff. The source of abnormal odours will be identified and appropriate action will be taken to reduce levels back to normal * The effectiveness of control measures will be reviewed at least once a year or sooner in the event of any complaint or relevant changes to operations. * The permit operators or their delegate are able and responsible for checking odour emissions daily; checking for any abnormal levels or potential for increased odour production. Site tours will be undertaken daily by the operators or their representative to ensure risks of odours are assessed. Where there is potential for abnormal elevated odour emission, control measures will be put in place to mitigate the risk. |  |

**Contingency Plan**

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| **Abnormal Scenario** | **Remedial Action** | **Time Limit** |
| Damage to building | Damage to be repaired and, depending on nature of damage, area made safe and covered/contained in the meantime to prevent increased odour emissions and/or destocked in the immediate area if necessary. | Depends on severity of damage and whether environment or animals are at risk.  Immediate action required to make safe.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records.  At the very latest (so long as area can be made safe and covered/contained in the meantime), repairs would be made in the next turnaround period, while the building was destocked. If more considerable damage, destock within 24 hours may be necessary in order to enable repairs. |
| Dirty water store damage or overflow | Significant contingency margin across more than one store. Only wash water collected, which is removed as and when filling, so overflow risk very low.  If risk of leak/overflow identified and a) can’t be made safe immediately or b) can’t be applied to land due to weather, ground conditions or other factors; then the dirty water will be removed by tanker and exported to nearest alternative store. | If any risk of pollution, immediate action must be taken to remove risk.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired/situation remedied and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Pipework damage | Stop or prevent flow of contaminated water and repair/replace damaged pipe.  Contain any leak as far as possible.  Contact the Environment Agency if there is any risk of pollution identified. | Immediately stop potential for leak.  Replace/repair pipe asap. Time frame depends on dependency on pipe.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Livestock illness | Veterinary advice and treatment plan would be referred to and additional measures taken where necessary. A decision making protocol is also in place regarding acceptable treatment windows and when to make the decision to euthanise. In the case of a notifiable disease outbreak, the site is designed for accommodating the birds as adults so the feed, water and space requirements are correct for an extended housing period if required. The nature of the muck management system means that the building can be cleaned regularly throughout the batch. We would not expect an increased daily odour output for these reasons. In the instance that it is not possible to remove muck from the site at all, alternative provision will be accommodated – either on concrete draining to a suitable containment store, or to temporary field heaps if the dry matter content is sufficiently high and the land conditions allow. A tanker would be deployed to increase the dirty water holding capacity on the site if necessary. Advice from the EA and APHA would be sought. | Immediate referral to veterinary advice for prompt treatment and management plans.  Assess the risk for increased odour production, and adjust muck removal schedules accordingly.  Mitigation measures will continue until the situation is under control and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the animal management records and/or incident records as applicable. |
| Fire | Control the fire as quickly as possible.  If the fire is not immediately possible to extinguish and is spreading, contact fire brigade immediately and remove at-risk animals if safely possible, also remove animals from nearby buildings. Unless there is sufficient, and safe, accommodation available on site at the correct stocking densities - arrange for removal of these animals from the site within 8 hours maximum.  All firewater will be draining to the dirty water tank, so this will need frequent emptying and appropriate disposal/removal to other storage tanks/tankers. Contact Environment Agency for advice on disposal.  Follow fire brigade advice regarding creation of fire breaks/protection and removal of flammable materials.  Once the fire is under control and it is safe to do so, remove all burnt material within 24 hours and thoroughly clean and decontaminate the area. | Ring fire brigade immediately  Refer to Emergency Action Plan – Fire section  Ring vet and haulier (see Emergency Contacts) to arrange for movement of stock, if necessary. It may be necessary to ring deadstock collector if high mortality possible.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired/situation remedied and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Ventilation failure | Ring the service engineer or electric company immediately. If the problem is a single fan, the problem should be fixed ideally within 1 week to allow for ordering of parts if applicable. If the problem is widespread, the engineer/electrician/other should aim to have the ventilation system back to full working order within 24 hours. A diesel driven generator is available on the site should a temporary power source be required. | Ring the service engineer or electric company immediately  Run the back-up generator immediately if power failure is the cause.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired/situation remedied and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Diet problems | In the case of a diet issue (e.g. where feed quality was below standard or feed type was incorrect), we have the capacity to remove and replace feed in the bins.  Diets are continually reviewed by a professional nutritionist and feedback on feed quality and requirements given. | Contact mill (and vet if applicable).  Mitigation measures will continue until the situation is remedied. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Failure of containment of food | In the case that a feed pipe leaks within the buildings, the system should be stopped and leaked feed cleared up promptly. No potential for contamination of clean water system.  In the case that the feed bin leaks or the blow pipe fails and feed is spilled on to an outdoor area, the surface water drainage point should be immediately protected to prevent contamination of clean water systems. Any and all spillages should be cleaned up immediately. For uncontaminated feed fit for animal consumption, it can be blown in to another silo by the feed vehicle (dependent on biosecurity risk). For any major spillage greater than 500kg that is unfit for animal consumption the spillage will be cleared up in to skips and removed from site for disposal via the appointed waste contractor within 24 hours of the incident. For any spillage less than 500kg, feed would be cleared up using bags and placed in the onsite general waste container for disposal. | Stop the potential for leaks immediately.  Protect clean water inlet immediately by shutting it off or containing the spillage area through use of e.g. straw/sandbags. Protect from rainfall and pests if it is not possible to remove the spilled feed, or feed from a damaged bin, within a few hours. The affected area/feedbin should be free of feed within 24 hours.  Mitigation measures will continue until the damage is repaired/situation remedied and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records and/or incident records. |
| Carcass disposal route failure | In the case of increased mortality or/and culling of large numbers, the deadstock collector must be able to collect all deadstock immediately or within short timescale. Where immediate collection is not possible, all carcases must be stored in sealed, locked containers capable of retaining all effluents and of reducing risk of odours.  In the case of normal contracted deadstock collector being unable to collect the carcases within the required timeframe, there are multiple other collectors used within the wider supply chain which can be called on. | Immediate communication with deadstock collector(s).  Mitigation measures will continue until the situation is concluded/remedied and it is assessed as safe to revert to normal practice. This will be recorded in the animal management records and/or incident records as appropriate. |
| Temporary storage and disposal of any wastes arising from incidents | Used sand, straw bales, and other waste materials arising from containing pollutants should be stored on an impermeable surface protected from drainage routes. | Where applicable, the waste contractor (see emergency contacts) should be contacted within 24 hours of an incident and arrangements made for safe disposal.  Mitigation measures will continue until the situation is remedied. This will be recorded in the incident records. |

**Summary**

Odours are assessed daily by operators or their representatives. Air quality within the buildings is also assessed (sensory assessment). Weather monitoring/forecasting, also help to assess the risks and take additional actions to mitigate them if necessary.

We have always worked hard to minimise our impact on our closest receptors. We continually assess management techniques to improve our control of emissions.

n accordance with guidance, we will review the effectiveness of our control measures **at least once a year** and in the light of any building and management changes and on the outcome of investigations into the causes of any future substantiated complaints, if any occur.

Any complaints will be recorded and investigated using the guidance from EPR 6.09 3.1 and 3.2 odour and emissions management on intensive livestock installations.

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Appendix 1

