

Non-Technical Summary

Stonegate Agriculture Ltd is a leading nationwide producer of eggs and egg products. This application is required due to the expansion of the Shaws Farm egg laying facility.

Shaws Farm egg laying facility is situated in a rural area approximately 1 kilometre west of Walcott in Lincolnshire. The installation is approximately centred on National Grid Reference TF 11400 56655. There is one sensitive receptor located within 100 metres of the installation boundary; a proposed agricultural dwelling which is currently undergoing planning determination with North Kesteven Borough Council. This dwelling is owned and will be occupied by the applicant as an agricultural worker dwelling.

Three existing poultry houses will provide production capacity for 48,000 laying hens. Hens approximately 15-16 weeks old will be brought on to the farm and will remain until approximately 76 weeks old. The existing houses will be extended by approximately 19m and a new mechanical ventilation system installed to replace the current natural ventilation system. The houses and extensions will be vented via side inlets on both sides and the air removed using high velocity fans with open exhaust outlet cones on top of the roofs.

Manure from beneath the multi-tiered aviary system will be removed weekly by manure belts into covered containers (roll-on roll-off trailers) and removed from site every 7-10 days for landspreading.

Roof water will be channelled into soakaway, or potentially be channelled into nearby drainage ditches. Run-off from the open hardstanding areas (excluding during periods of litter removal and washout) will be channelled into nearby drainage ditches following treatment in an interceptor. This drainage and release rates will be agreed with the local drainage board.

Milled feed will be delivered to the site and stored in silos. There will be one stand-by generator with integrated integrally-bunded diesel storage tank.

Mortalities are removed daily and stored in secure containers for removal under the Fallen Stock Scheme.

At the end of the production period the houses are depopulated, the litter and manure is removed, the houses and equipment washed and disinfected before being restocked. Litter is exported in covered trailers for landspreading and wash water is conveyed to underground storage tanks for temporary storage before being exported off-site for landspreading. The underground storage tanks will be purpose built and meet current legal and best practice requirements with a certified life of at least 20 years.

The new and existing poultry houses will meet Best Available Techniques for housing design and management.

The applicant has no known dust, odour or noise complaints from previous poultry operations at the site, but has in place noise, odour and dust & bioaerosol management plans.

The development has already secured planning consent from North Kesteven District Council through Prior Approval for Agricultural Purposes (20-0588-PNAGR, 20-0590-PNAGR & 20-0591-PNAGR). No Environmental Impact Assessment was required.