Management Systems and Technical Standards

The EMS complies with the Environment Agency (2010); EPR 6.09 Sector Guidance Note; How to comply with your environmental permit for intensive farming; Version 2 and the general conclusions in the Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document for the Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs.

Training

Staff and contractors will have defined roles and responsibilities. Training records will be retained on file.

All staff are suitably qualified to work at the installation and undergo a training regime including on-the-job training.

All staff receive a programme of documented training on health and safety, animal welfare, odour and noise management plans, accident management plan and will be trained on requirements of the environmental permit and measures for pollution prevention. This ensures all staff are suitably qualified to work at the installation. Training may include on-the-job training.

Normal operations

Daily records are kept relating to poultry unit operations. This includes water consumption, litter condition, feed consumption and stock, bird mortalities and signs of disease, poultry house temperature and humidity, and collections of waste and fallen stock.

Animal welfare regulations require at least twice-daily inspections of the poultry. While on-site staff undertake a daily inspection of site infrastructure to ensure all equipment is operating as expected.

Abnormal operations/Emergencies

The installation maintains an Accident Management Plan which will be implemented should an accident occur. Events or failures that could damage the environment have been identified using the H1 Environmental Impact Assessment for accidents. Identified events include:

- Overflow or failure of above ground storage tanks or drainage channels
- Chemical spillage
- Spillages during loading or unloading
- Fire affecting livestock, buildings or chemicals
- Outbreak of serious or notifiable disease
- Severe weather including flooding and wind damage

All incidents and accidents are recorded, even if no impact to the environment has been caused.

Site security

The installation is surrounded by a perimeter fence.

All gates, poultry houses, feed silos, emergency generator and ancillary buildings are securely locked when the site is not occupied.

The generator integrally bunded fuel tank is provided with a lock by the manufacturer, and only unlocked when refuelling.

Maintenance and Records

A programme of planned visual inspection will be carried out on all equipment and plant including ventilation control systems, water and feed systems, standby generator, and the manure removal belt system. Inspections and maintenance schedules will be based on manufacturer's recommendations if available. Otherwise, maintenance will be on a reactive basis, dealing with fan and motor problems as they arise.

The buildings and equipment on site will be regularly inspected and checked for visual signs of leakage, corrosion and structural damage, security and correct operation. A record of all inspections, and corrective actions/maintenance work will be maintained.

The generator is tested weekly under load to ensure it is working properly. Records of testing will be retained. Servicing will be carried out as required.

The above ground dirty water tank will be visually inspected prior to washing out operations.

Waste

Waste is typically limited to used litter, cleaning water, packaging associated with wood shavings or cleaning/pharmaceutical substances, and are segregated for collection by a registered waste carrier. All waste movements are accompanied by waste transfer or consignment notes which are retained on file.

Manure is removed from the poultry houses only when destocking the houses, once every 16 week. This is transferred via excavator to covered trailers which are removed from site when full. The integrity of containers is checked on arrival and leaking containers are rejected.

Carcasses are stored in a freezer and disposed of off-site as part of the National Fallen Stock Scheme, to a licensed rendering plant. Records of transfers are maintained. This storage reduces the risk associated with flies and pests compared to ambient temperature storage bins.

Site Closure Plan

A site closure plan has been prepared detailing the steps required to close the installation and remove all sources of potential pollution. Please refer to the separate document "Site Closure Plan".

Technical standards

The below table indicates how the applicant meets the requirements contained in EPR 6.09 How to comply with your environmental permit for intensive farming – Chapter 2 – Operations.

Sources of Noise		**Mitigation actions**
1	Selection and use of feed	Meets requirements of How to Comply, Chapter 2 – Operations • Feed selection is included within the Housing Review • Feed selection and feeding infrastructure is included within the BAT assessment

		• Feed silos are located to the side of buildings to reduce the likelihood of vehicle collisions
2	Housing design and management	Meets requirements of How to Comply, Chapter 2 – Operations • Refer to Housing Review
3	Livestock numbers and movements	Meets requirements of How to Comply, Chapter 2 – Operations The operator already records animal stocking figures, movements and mortalities as required by Defra
4	Slurry spreading	Meets requirements of How to Comply, Chapter 2 – Operations • Written manure and washwater agreements are in place with contractors, confirming that all manure and washwaters collected from the Stonegate Agriculture Ltd installations are disposed of in accordance with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice or in accordance with a manure management plan for the receiving land, and accompanied by transfer documentation
5	Waste sent off-site	Meets requirements of How to Comply, Chapter 2 – Operations • All wastes are stored inside buildings, or within appropriate storage receptacles to prevent escape of waste or contamination of rainwater. Only licensed waste contractors and authorised treatment sites are used to process waste generated at the installation. All duty of care paperwork will be retained on file.

Emissions to Air

The following sources of emission to air at the installation are listed in the table below:

Air emission points	**Source**
Mechanical ventilation side wall outlets shown on the Site Infrastructure Plan.	Poultry houses 1 & 2
Exhaust vent from diesel backup generator (no tank vent as it is an integrally bunded internal tank)	Backup generator (location adjacent to stable block at north of site)

Emissions to Land

The following sources of emission to land/groundwater at the installation are listed in the table below:

Emission points	Source
Gravel soakaways as shown on the Site Infrastructure Plan and Drainage Report.	Roof water from poultry sheds

Emissions to Water and Foul Sewer

Emission points	Source
Discharge to drainage ditches from interceptors shown on the Site Infrastructure Plan.	Site surface water from uncontaminated hardsurfacing

There are no emissions to foul sewer from the installation.

The installation includes an existing discharge to a septic tank from a single toilet facility at House 2. This septic tank complies with the General Binding Rules, namely:

- The discharge is less than 2,000 litres per day as it is a single toilet and basin.
- The discharge only comprises domestic effluent.
- No visible signs of pollution are evident.
- The installation is not within a SPZ1.
- No borehole, well or spring is present within 50m for domestic or food production purposes.
- Septic tank was installed after the introduction of BS 6297:2007.

Fugitive Emissions

Fugitive emissions are limited to potential emissions of dust and odour which are managed by separate management plans, and effective control of the mechanical ventilation system inlets.

To minimise the potential for fugitive emissions, buildings and infrastructure including drainage systems and hardsurfaced yards are regularly inspected and maintained in good condition.

Roof water should be clean given that the fans are located in the side walls. Roof water is collected in guttering and discharges into gravel soakaways alongside the length of the poultry houses. Soakaways are effective treatment of lightly contaminated roof water.

Disinfectant foot baths are only inside buildings so cannot leak to the environment. When disinfectant foot baths become contaminated with mud/grass etc. the baths will be manually drained to the above ground dirty water tank. Wheels are disinfected through direct spray by an operator so only the required amount is applied directly to the wheels.

The existing above ground dirty water tank is a Permastore Series 1400 above ground tank, installed 10th June 2014. This tank has a nominal capacity of 58.3 m^3 (not including freeboard), far in excess of

that required for a washdown of one shed. The tank conforms with the technical measures detailed in the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010, as amended.

Pest Control

Stonegate Agriculture Ltd maintains contracts with a pest management company to manage pests and vermin, visiting on a monthly basis, alongside operational preventive measures to limit the presence and proliferations of pests and vermin.

The requirement for insecticide use is reduced by the following preventative steps, in line with Environment Agency publication - Fly Management Guidance (Version 3, 15 June 2018):

- Litter and manure within the poultry houses is kept as dry and friable as possible through the following:
    - Controlling ventilation rates. This ensures the litter is not an optimum breeding environment for flies.
    - Building construction preventing water ingress through use of damp proof course.
- Removing fallen stock daily. Fallen stock is stored within a freezer to prevent flies.
- Design of the sealed feed system to minimise spilled feed.
- Training staff in monitoring and treating fly infestations.

Insect screening on the ventilation system is not considered feasible due to negatively impacting ventilation rates.