

Non Technical Summary

Operator at Whin Close Poultry Farm is proposing to increase the installation boundary to accommodate a further two poultry houses and increase bird place numbers to 380,000 for broiler production.

Whin Close Poultry Farm is situated approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the village of Sedgeford in Norfolk. The installation is approximately centred on National Grid Reference TF 73051 36280.

The installation is operated by Newcome-Baker Farms Limited and will comprise ten poultry houses, numbered one to ten, which operate with a capacity of 380,000 broiler places designed for the rearing of chicken for meat production. Chicks are brought in from hatchery at a day old and at 35 days a proportion of the birds are removed for slaughter, with the remaining birds reared for approximately 41-42 days, before being transported off site for processing.

All ten poultry houses are ventilated by roof extraction fans with an emission point higher than 5.5 metres above ground level and an efflux speed at or greater than 11 metres per second, and side wall inlets. All houses also have gable end fans, although these are operated infrequently to maintain temperature, typically in the summer months. The houses are warmed by indirect heating in the form of modern thermostatically controlled hot water heaters fuelled by a biomass boiler with a backup system fuelled by Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG).

At the end of the growing period, all birds are removed from the houses and the litter is exported off site and either spread on land owned by the operator or as a contingency, when there are limitations to spreading such as unsuitable weather conditions, transported to power stations for use as fuel. The empty houses are then washed and disinfected ready for the next crop. The wash water is channelled to underground collection tanks and subsequently the contents are exported off site and spread on land owned by the operator. Roof water from the poultry houses and yard surface water (excluding poultry house clean out periods) drain to French drains running along the sides of the houses acting both as soakaways, and also as drainage pathways to attenuation basins, located to the south of the existing poultry houses, acting as a soakaway at times of heavy rainfall. During clean out operations a diverter valve is used to channel yard surface water to the wash water collection tanks for exporting off site.

The land around the site is used primarily for arable farming, although there are some wooded areas and meadows. The land rises gently towards hills to the north-east and falls towards the Heacham River valley to the south-west. Associated food is stored on the installation in silos adjacent to the poultry houses, positioned away from site traffic. Mortalities are collected daily and stored in locked and sealed containers on site prior to removal and disposal in accordance with the Animal By-Product Regulations.