Pre-application Report

To: Jeremy Jagger

Pre-application number: EPR/SP3636MN/V002

Albrighton Poultry Unit
Albrighton Poultry Company Limited
Huffley Farm
Broad Oak
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY4 3AE

Date Completed – 23/11/2020

We have completed an initial ammonia screening assessment for your proposal to identify if you will need to submit a detailed modelling assessment with your application.

The screening assessment is based on your proposal to increase the permitted number of animal places at Albrighton Poultry Unit to 170,000 broiler places.

Summary of the assessment:

The ammonia screening results carried out by the Environment Agency are only intended to apply to any EPR permit application and not for use in local council planning submissions.

Based on the information you have provided you will need to submit detailed modelling with your application. Further information about the screening results is provided in detail in Annex 1.

It will generally be necessary to employ experienced consultants to undertake this work. For more information about consultants you could contact your industry body representative or refer to the ENDs Directory:
http://www.endsdirectory.com/

A useful guide to choosing and using an environmental consultant can be found on the government's online resource for businesses 'Business Link':
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120823131012/http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1079422318&type=RESOURCES

When completed, please include the detailed modelling report and supporting modelling files with your H1 Environmental Risk Assessment and submit these with your completed application form to the address given below.

For an example H1 Environmental Risk Assessment refer to the example Intensive Farming EPR application available on the national archives for Environment Agency Website:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/40057.aspx

The Nature Conservation, Landscape and Heritage Factsheet screening lists all the sites that we currently consider when screening. The table details the supporting legislation and policies and the lead organisations for the protected area / species. Please note not all the sites listed are relevant to the Intensive Farming sector.
It is available on the Environment Agency website:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/geho0612burd-e-e.pdf

Your application should be emailed to:
PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk

or sent to:

Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre
Environmental Permitting Team
Quadrant 2
99 Parkway Avenue
Parkway Business Park
Sheffield
S9 4WF

If you need further information about this screening assessment or applying for your permit please email us at the following address:

preapplicationservice@environment-agency.gov.uk

Pre-application nature conservation data are correct at the time of screening. We will consider all nature conservation sites using best available information at the time of permitting. Our GIS data are updated regularly, and we are occasionally made aware of additional nature conservation sites by other organisations which we will consider when determining a permit.

The Environment Agency takes care to ensure that the conclusions of the screening assessment are correct at the time of preparation but reserves the right to change the basis of the assessment in the light of technical developments or changes in Environment Agency procedures.

Annex 1 Ammonia Screening Results

Screening Input

Grid Reference used for the assessment: SJ 49074 17255 (with a 80m buffer)

Animal numbers and types
Animal numbers and types, housing systems, manure and slurry storage assessed are listed below. The animal numbers and emission factors are based on an interpretation of the information provided by the applicant during the pre-application process and have been used in this initial risk assessment to identify if modelling is necessary.

It is strongly recommended that the numbers of animal places by category, ventilation type and housing system is reviewed and appropriate emission factors are assigned before undertaking the detailed modelling assessment.

Category of livestock	Housing system	Number of animal places	Ammonia Emission Factor (kg NH3/animal place/year)
Broilers	Fan ventilated fully littered floor, non-leaking drinkers Side ventilation, natural or combination ventilation Note this includes tunnel ventilation and cross ventilation	170,000	0.0221*

* a 35% reduction has been applied to the emission factor taking into account the installation of a ground source heat pump on site and the use of heat exchange in the sheds

Manure Storage

No manure storage.

Slurry Storage

No slurry storage.

If you decided to alter your proposal by increasing the number of animal places or by changing the animal housing type or by increasing the manure or slurry storage you should include these changes in your modelling report.

Screening Overview

This screening assessment has considered any Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites within 5km; any Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 5km and also any National Nature Reserves (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), ancient woodlands and local wildlife sites (LWS) within 2km of the farm.

We have used the Environment Agency's Ammonia Screening Tool (AST v4.5) to assess the impact of your proposal at those sites identified within the above distance criteria.

We have applied a two stage screening criteria to the ammonia screening tool results:

For SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSIs the screening assessment has taken into account other intensive farms that could act in combination with the proposal, where applicable.

Where the ammonia screening tool predicts that emissions of ammonia or ammonia deposition (nutrient nitrogen or acid) will be <Y% (see Table 1 below) of the relevant Critical Level or Critical Load, the proposal screens out of the requirement for an ammonia assessment.

Further modelling is required where:

- emissions of ammonia or ammonia deposition (nutrient nitrogen or acid) are in excess of Z% of the relevant Critical Level (ammonia) or Critical Load (nutrient nitrogen or acid) at any particular designated site;

- there is the potential for an in-combination effect with existing farms at a SAC, SPA, Ramsar and/or SSSI if emissions are > Y% of the critical level or critical load;

- the original permit for the installation required an Improvement Condition to reduce ammonia emissions;

- your proposal is within 250m of a nature conservation site.

Table 1 Screening thresholds

Designation	Y%	Z%
SAC, SPA, Ramsar	4	20
SSSI	20	50
NNR, LNR, LWS, ancient woodland	100	100

Screening Results

The nature conservation sites listed in the tables below require detailed modelling as the emissions of ammonia or ammonia deposition (nutrient nitrogen or acid) is predicted to be > Z% of the relevant Critical Level (ammonia) or Critical Load (nutrient nitrogen or acid). Detailed modelling is therefore required to assess the impact of airborne ammonia at the following sites:

Table 1 Assessment of nutrient nitrogen deposition

Site Name	Designation / Status	Nutrient Nitrogen Critical Load (kg N/ha/yr)	Process contribution (PC) (kg N/ha/yr)	PC as % Critical Load
Midland Meres and mosses phase 2/ Hencott pool	Ramsar/ SSSI	10	2.892	28.9

and

The ammonia screening tool predicts that emissions of ammonia or ammonia deposition (nutrient nitrogen or acid) will be between Y and Z% at the nature conservation sites listed in the tables below. We have identified that there are existing farms that could act in-combination with your proposal. Detailed modelling is therefore required to assess the impact of airborne ammonia emissions (arising from your proposal only) at the following sites.

Table 1 Assessment of ammonia emissions

Site Name	Designation / Status	Ammonia Critical Level (µg/m^3)	Process contribution (PC) (µg/m^3)	PC as % Critical Level
Midland Meres and mosses phase 2/ Hencott pool	Ramsar/ SSSI	3	0.557	18.6

How we decided the sensitivity of the nature conservation site

Relevant Critical Loads were obtained from the Air Pollution Information System.

Relevant Critical Levels will be checked with Natural England, but have currently been assigned using the best information available at the time.

Permitting Outcomes

For SAC, SPA, Ramsar a permit may be issued where the ammonia screening tool or detailed modelling demonstrates that either:

- the process contribution is <4% Critical Level and Critical Load; or
- the process contribution plus contributions from other relevant intensive farms is <20% Critical Level and Critical Load; or
- the process contribution plus contributions from other relevant intensive farms plus background is **below** the relevant Critical Level or Critical Load.

and

For SSSI a permit may be issued where the ammonia screening tool or detailed modelling demonstrates that either:

- the process contribution is <20% Critical Level and Critical Load; or
- the process contribution plus contributions from other relevant intensive farms is <50% Critical Level or Critical Load;
- the process contribution plus contributions from other relevant intensive farms plus background is **below** the relevant Critical Level or Critical Load.

Proposing ammonia emission reduction techniques

Where your modelling indicates the predicted process contribution is greater than the allowable thresholds your assessment and application should include ammonia reduction techniques to reduce the contribution to the allowable threshold.

Where these criteria can not be met a detailed assessment of the proposal will be carried out by the Environment Agency. For SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI we will need to consult with Natural England before the determination of the application can be completed.

Factsheets and guidance about ammonia emissions to the atmosphere and nature conservation, the Environment Agency's assessment process and how to model ammonia emissions from intensive farms can be found on our website at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/40071.aspx