

APPENDIX 16. 8G – SLURRY STORAGE

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is intended to address the question of slurry storage at Holcombe Brook Poultry Farm, Martock, Somerset - Grid Reference: ST46291834 (346296, 118343)

KEY POINTS

Planning Permission was granted to re-develop this Poultry Unit in 2024. Permission was subject to a Section 106 agreement being signed by **Holcombe Manor Farm Ltd**, (owner of Holcombe Brook Farm), **Tone Valley Services** (Waste Contractor) & **Somerset Council**.

This agreement (**Appendix 3.4a**) covers the removal from site and spreading of any slurry materials.

Other than 'dirty water' which is contained throughout processing and directed to a sealed **catchment tank**, there is no storage of manures or litter on site.

The catchment tank, which will be new will conform with the technical measures detailed in the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010 and as amended 2013 (SSAFO)

All dirty water is generated solely during the clean down process.

All waste water removed from site is recorded, as is the destination of the waste.

The Farm is in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) & the tank installed will have a 6 months storage capacity. However, under normal operating conditions the tank will be emptied during the closed period.

THE SLURRY TANK

All the buildings will have a link to an underground dirty water catchment tank on site.

Built to SSAFO Regulations, the collection system will comprise 1no. 20,000 litre Klargest environmental storage tank wrapped in 225mm of concrete and underneath a reinforced concrete slab. The tank will be emptied as required and whilst the farm is empty, and taken away by Tone Valley Services (the registered contractor) in accordance with the **Section 106 agreement**.

THE PROCESS

During the clean out period (annually) the outside service area will be treated as fouled with wash water being diverted to a containment tank, using Changeover Valves.

Following removal of waste, the buildings will be pressure washed and disinfected prior to a new batch of hens entering the facility.

During depletion and cleanout, a valve located at the collection point is manually changed over and all surface water and shed washing water is directed to the dirty water catchment tank which will be closely monitored throughout the process.

Water will be directed to the catchment tanks via drainage points located within the concrete service apron with all external waters being picked up via the same system. Changeover valves will be used to control the direction of clean and dirty waters.

As soon as a section of yard becomes clean this part can then be diverted into the clean water system, so avoiding catching unnecessary rainwater. Outside of the clean down period all surface water will be treated as clean and will be directed accordingly.

The new buildings will benefit from power floated, unobstructed concrete floors, with a fall of approximately 200mm-300mm to allow wash water to fall to the dirty water drain. As the brushing down of the floor after clearing out, the litter will be carried out & there will be very little solid matter to be carried away with the washing water. This will run to the manholes/sumps and into the catchment tanks. Therefore, there is very little solid matter left to block drains

The drainage system is solely on land owned by the farm; hence there will be no delays or permissions needed to attend to any issues. There are no pumps to go wrong or fail. The dirty water system of drains and tank are connected all the time and separated from the outside yard areas so they cannot become overloaded with rainfall. The northern yards and pads at the southern end will be clean all the time.

The recipients of the waste are required to spread in accordance with the NVZ legislation (where applicable) otherwise the Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP). In addition is the requirement for farmers to comply with the Farming Rules for Water (FRfW) introduced in April 2018 to fulfil obligations on diffuse pollution under the Water Framework Directive, particularly in regard to reducing phosphorus (P) losses to water from agriculture.