

## BACKGROUND

Holcombe Brook Farm, is an existing poultry farm, although it has been out of operation for some six years and has just recently been granted planning permission to expand the site. The owners of the farm have been in poultry farming for over 20 years and operate a broiler breeder unit Permitted by the Environment Agency under Permit Number – EPR/XP3337HH in East Devon. The existing farm runs under the Red Tractor scheme and the family and their team are dedicated to animal welfare and care for the environment. Whilst recruitment and retention in farming can be difficult, this family-owned farm has a team with an average of nine years' service, which evidences our commitment to our team, which leads to increased knowledge and care throughout the various operations.

## LOCATION

Holcombe Brook Farm is situated in a rural area, located at National Grid Reference ST 46196, 18437. The property extends to 6.98 acres (2.82 ha) and is situated close to the town of Martock, 6 miles from Yeovil, 8 miles from Crewkerne and approximately 1 mile away from the A 303. Access is gained to the site from an existing entrance off Stoke Road.

## FARM OPERATIONS AND FLOCK SIZES.

Holcombe Brook Farm is applying for a permit to farm commercial layer hens across poultry houses. The intention is to place 60,000 hens within a flatbed system.

## DESIGNATIONS

There are no AONB , Ancient woodlands, Local Nature Reserves or National Nature Reserves within 2km of the site.

## SSSI, RAMSAR, SAC AND SPA SITES

NAME	DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE (APPROX)
Ham Hill	SSSI	2.3km to South East
West Moor	SSSI	4.2km to North West
Somerset Levels & Moors	Ramsar, SAC & SPA	4.2km to North West & 4.9 km North

There is a **Section 106** agreement that commits the operation to remove all litter and waste waters away from the catchment - **see appendix 3**

## STOCK AND HOUSING

Laying stock is brought onto the farm from a specialist supply company.

Pullets are brought to the farm at point of lay. Housing is deep litter flatbed system, comprising wood shavings.

There is an existing poultry house built approximately 30 years ago. The family have planning permission to extend the existing house and erect two further houses in line with BAT standards.

The buildings will be sited on new or existing concrete slabs of approximately 100mm thick (with thickened edge beam footings) and will be of a steel, clear span, framed construction and clad with box profile polyester coated steel sheeting. The building will be insulated to modern standards with glass fibre insulation. Ventilation will be provided by inlets in the bays of the side walls and high-speed roof extraction chimney

Specific details of housing and facilities are included within the buildings inventory – See Technical Standards – **Appendix 9. 8a**

## WASTE PRODUCTS

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### LITTER

The waste bedding will be removed at the end of the crop and taken by tractor and sealed trailer off site. The farm is in a designated Groundwater Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) and whilst there is a closed period for waste spreading, this is not relevant here as all waste is taken off site to third party owned farms.

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### WATER

At the end of the cycle all birds are depleted off site with the buildings being dry cleaned by means of compressed air being used to remove dust build up from the building internals and equipment before litter is removed. The buildings are then washed clean using high pressure water which is collected and removed from site for land spreading. All dirty water is generated solely during the clean down process. To ensure no pollution risks are posed this effluent must be handled appropriately. The new buildings will benefit from power floated level unobstructed concrete floors and 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. Therefore, there is very little

solid matter left to block drains and most of this settles out on the concrete 'en route' and can be swept up separately.

Containment of wash waters in a catchment tank will prevent pollutants being released to the environment.

Clean water runs to an Attenuation Basin.

All movements of litter and wash water off site are recorded in full

All waste is disposed of in accordance with the **Section 106** agreement and waste management plan. **(see appendix 3)**

#### FEED AND WATER

Feed is delivered from a UKAS accredited feed mill and blown into sealed bulk feed bins, with crash barriers, situated at the ends of the houses. From the feed bins the feed is augured into the houses and distributed to the birds via a chain feeding system. All diets are carefully formulated to match the growth stage.

Water is via a nipple drinking system fitted designed to reduce leakage and spills, keeping litter drier. Water consumption is monitored daily.

#### FALLEN STOCK

Fallen stock during the production cycle will be collected and recorded daily. These will be collected by a licensed collection agent under the national fallen stock scheme.

#### IN SUMMARY

These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia odours and dust, and to prevent liquids escaping to the environment. This in turn should reduce the environmental impact of the farming activities.

Additionally, we will comply with all conditions of our **Section 106** and our Environmental Permit. We will manage litter and feed such that our flocks are healthy and productive and any impacts on the environment are minimised. We will train our staff well and ensure that contractors comply with our standards. We will be good neighbours and do our best to create and manage a habitat that encourages wildlife to flourish.