NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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New IPPC Permit: Ellerdine Grange Farm Poultry Unit

Prepared for E Agri Ltd

Ellerdine Grange Farm, Ellerdine, Telford, Shropshire, TF6 6QR

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Introduction

This proposal on seeks approval for a new IPPC permit to establish two barn reared egg-laying units, each designed to accommodate 24,000 birds, at Ellerdine Grange Farm.

The Griffiths family began their farming business in 1961, and over the years it has grown into one of the UK's largest egg-producing, packing, and processing operations. Alongside their poultry enterprise, they manage both arable and livestock farming across multiple sites in North Shropshire. The business currently farms over 1,800 hectares, producing a range of crops including potatoes, cereals, and oilseeds.

Site Location and Proposed System

The Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for the site is 360587, 320934. The site is located in Ellerdine, approximately 5.3 miles east of Shawbury.

The design incorporates bird housing based on a multi-tier system, which includes nest boxes, egg conveyors, manure belts, feeders, and drinkers. Ventilation will be provided by gable-end fans that direct air through a tunnel to an acid air scrubbing system designed to reduce ammonia, odour, and dust emissions. The air tunnel will also be used to dry manure produced by the site further reducing the emissions produced.

The proposed buildings will operate on a 70-week laying cycle. Point-of-lay pullets will arrive on site at 16 weeks of age and remain in the unit for 70 weeks. At the end of each cycle, the birds will be removed, the unit will undergo a thorough clean, and new birds will be brought in. This turnaround process is expected to take approximately two weeks.

The proposed buildings will operate a Kipster system. The Kipster system provides carbon neutral eggs. The three promises of Kipster are:

- Better animal welfare – the birds have a natural-like wooded environment with plenty of variety, daylight, fresh air and free-range scurrying space. The runs are fenced and netted off to minimise the chance of predators and bird flu.
- Tackling food waste – over 70% of the world's agricultural land is used for livestock feed. Kipster aims to bypass using agricultural land altogether. The chickens are fed with a newly developed feed made of about 87% residual flows from bakeries and other food producers. By using the up-cycled feed, the feed for the proposed development is close to 50% lower in carbon than conventional chicken feed.
- Carbon neutral eggs – up-cycled feed reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Any remaining emissions are offset through carbon credits.

The greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to as little as possible:

- Through chicken feed – chicken feed is responsible for around 70% of the carbon footprint of an egg. Fertiliser, pesticides and ploughing of land induce greenhouse emissions. The cultivation, harvesting, transportation and processing of feed crops consume fossil fuel. The feed for this proposed unit has a footprint of nearly 50% less

than conventional feed, by using up-cycled feed which bypasses using agricultural land as much as possible.
- With solar panels – any surplus solar energy is exported back to the grid. This surplus energy is used to offset part of the greenhouse gas emissions.
- By drying chicken litter within the unit – the manure is dried and removed off farm.

In addition to producing carbon-neutral eggs, the Kipster system offers several other benefits, including enhanced animal welfare. This is achieved by lower stocking density than a typical UK poultry farm, and by allowing the hens to express natural behaviours through the provision of nest boxes for egg-laying, tree branches and perches for roosting and preening, and opportunities for dustbathing. This is further enhanced by the summer grazing paddock which is open for 4 or 5 hours in June, July and August.

Feed is purchased from a separately-owned feed mill and it is stored on site in fully-enclosed galvanised steel bins which are protected from collision damage. Diets are formulated according to the birds' requirements and the stage of growth. Protein and phosphorus levels are reduced over the growing period. Water is provided via nipple drinkers which are designed to minimise spillage. This, together with good environmental control in the houses helps to maintain good litter condition and hence reduce ammonia and odours. Water use in each house is monitored daily by meters. Low energy lighting systems are used throughout the site.

Bird mortalities are removed each day and the numbers are recorded. The carcasses are held in covered, vermin-proof bins prior to collection by a specialist contractor under the National Fallen Stock Scheme.

In the event of a solar supply failure, mains electricity will act as back up. In the event that this also fails the sheds will rely on natural ventilation. This approach is effective due to the low stocking density, which ensures adequate airflow and maintains bird welfare without mechanical assistance.

The unit will produce 24.5 tonnes of poultry manure each cycle. The manure will be removed via conveyors every 5-7 days set below the nesting and perching areas. The used litter is taken away from the site in covered trailers having been dried in the air tunnel between the extractor fan and acid scrubber, litter will be removed from site every 5-7 days. It is then transported to the manure burner owned and operated by the applicant.

The wash water is collected in an underground dirty water tank, and the contents are collected by a licensed carrier and spread on farmland in accordance the Farming Rules for Water.

These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia, dust and odours and to prevent liquid washings escaping to the environment.

Neighbours

There are ten residential properties with curtilages located within 400 metres of the proposed development, only Ellerdine Grange Farm house is location within 100 metres of the unit.