

Solway Free Range Eggs Ltd.- Congeith Poultry Farm:- (PPC Application for new permit)

SFRE No. 13 - Non- Technical Summary

Solway Free Range Eggs (Congeith poultry Farm) will have two existing poultry houses/ sheds, end to end) and two new buildings (parallel to each other). The new ones will be designed and equipped for free range egg production from a further 32,000 birds, making the Poultry farm size 64,000 birds in all. All buildings will be operated on an 'aviary' system. The houses will take 16 week old pullets and subsequent egg- laying will be for approx. 13 months, after which the birds are cleared out and a new batch is introduced after thorough cleansing of the poultry houses.

Both existing and new buildings are new and designed for this scale of operation. The concrete floor of both old and new units will be protected from water ingress by the placement of an impermeable damp-course and supported at the west side of the unit (in the free range area) by a culverted drain / watercourse, ensuring the local water table around all the buildings is artificially kept below the natural 'potential' water table level at all times, including winter. This will also be below the concrete level in all buildings.

All walls and roofs are insulated to retain heat but also minimise condensation.

No previous PPC control exists on the farm which has, to date, focussed on sheep and beef rearing and the existing single free range egg unit of 32,000 birds built in recent years.

The houses are served by a manure belt that collects from under the perches and nest boxes and an additional scraper removes some of the litter from the remaining 2/3 floor area. Each of these belt systems will be supported by warm air blowers, helping to dry litter at an early stage.

Sensors around each individual house record climatic conditions which are fed into the unit computer system and this determines operation of fans to create optimal conditions for the hens and keeps litter dry but not dusty. Target level is 60-65% dry matter.

Eggs are conveyed to a central service area where they are packed and go off site for processing.

No food mixing occurs on site. All feed is from accredited sources, the composition of which changes twice over the campaign period. These are adjusted to provide the perfect diet and also minimises waste and especially minimises Nitrogen and Phosphorus loss. In particular, reduced nitrogen loss means ammonia production is also reduced.

Mains water supplies nipple drinkers which are recognised as good for avoiding water loss and wetting of litter. They will be regularly set at the right height for the birds during that 13

months and delivered by a water system that reduces the delivery pressure from that of the public mains..

Manure is removed from the houses regularly and delivered by conveyor to trailers parked just outside the sheds.

Bird mortalities are attended to immediately and carcasses frozen before collection and removal by a registered by-product company (probably rendering.)

At the end of campaigns, the birds will be removed and the houses cleaned physically of manure / litter before being washed, sterilised and recommissioned.

Washings are collected as slurry in a sealed tank and muck / manure / litter retained dry for removal off site and used as part of the farm nutrient budgeting plan.

Roof water and drainage from the scrat area along with access roads will drain to a series of interconnected swales for treatment. Design is for organic matter to be treated / digested on the grass whilst treated water passes slowly through the base and banks. At the outset no overflow to the stream is thought necessary. Monitoring of this practice will be undertaken especially during periods of high rainfall and monitoring of the open (east) section of the site culverted drain and Glaisters Burn itself will be visually monitored on a regular basis.

Beyond the scrat area the free range land will be planted with trees / bushes for birds to spend the daylight hours in. These increase health and animal husbandry as well as reducing loss from predation. In this particular location, given the water retention properties of the peaty soil, this planting will also increase dryness and provide attenuation during storm periods.

All aspects of building design supported by management systems will minimise the impact on the *aerial, land and water environments*.