DETAILED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Erection of an 8,000 Bird Extension to the existing Free Range Poultry Unit at
Gwynfaes
Rhandirmwyn
Llandovery
Carmarthenshire
SA20 0NG

Prepared for AS, S & ME Reah

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan shall detail how the proposed 8,000 bird extension to the existing free range poultry unit at Gwynfaes, Rhandirmwyn, SA20 0NG will operate.

2 OPERATION OF THE POULTRY UNIT

2.1 FREE RANGE EGGS – THE BUILDING

As above the proposal is for the erection of an extension to the existing free-range poultry unit at Gwynfaes, to provide accommodation for a further 8,000 free range birds. The new Poultry unit is to be located to the South west of the existing poultry unit on farm, as close as possible to the farm yard. The poultry unit is positioned in this position to;

1) Satisfy Planning Policy being as close as possible to the existing farm complex.
2) Additional landscaping planting will be undertaken in front of the poultry unit to screen the development from the wider landscaping. A native species hedgerow will be planted as has taken place in front of the existing unit on farm.

The proposed building shall be 109.8 metres long by 15.25 metres wide with a roof pitch of 15°, eaves height of 2.1 metres.

The size of the proposed building is in line with the land availability surrounding the development, at a ratio of 2000 birds for every hectare of land. The maximum ranging distance associate with the building is 350 metres from building to the external perimeter of associated land.

The birds shall have access to the land lying to the north west and east of the proposed building which shall be dedicated pasture for the enterprise. The land will be fenced using fenced to keep predators out. Birds will be inspected at least once a day.

The building proposed operates a single tier system within the unit removing manure at the end of the production cycle. When manure is removed from the unit at the end of cycle it will go to one of two covered manure stores already in situ on farm.

The birds are Free Range and have an opportunity each day to exit the building and enter onto the designated ranging ground. The birds will exit the building using pop holes which are included in the design of the building.

The maximum stocking density for the unit is nine birds per square metre, and there must be 250cm square of litter area per bird. The perches internally for the birds shall allow a depth of 8 cm per hen and there must be a minimum of 10cm of feeders per bird and one drinker per ten birds.

Feed for the 8,000 birds is proposed to be stored in two external feed bins. The feed bins shall be a juniper green colour. The feed will be automatically conveyed to the unit. The steel bins shall be located adjacent to the proposed building as per the submitted layout plans for the poultry unit.

Free Range Birds are brought into the enterprise as young laying stock and remain in the unit for a fourteen-month period. Following the end of the cycle for the laying stock all birds are removed and the building is thoroughly cleaned internally, and the next flock introduced to restart the cycle.

The proposed building shall be accessed directly off an adjoining minor Council road adjoining Gwynfaes and utilise the same access as the current poultry unit upon farm.

2.2 THE RANGING AREA AND FENCING

The birds within the free-range unit will graze the designated land in a rotational field system. The birds will step out of the building through the pop holes provided and onto concrete, which shall ensure that the ground is not poached and compacted by the birds. The concrete shall also ensure that the feet of the birds are cleaned prior to entering the building and it shall be regularly be cleaned by staff on farm. The birds will be then directed to those fields available for grazing in rotation to prevent over stocking of the ground and ensure the fertility of soil. Good pasture management is essential, and it is paramount the problems of parasitic intestinal worms and coccidian oocysts are avoided. Using the above systems of management shall result in less bacteria build up, a cleaner environment for the birds and shall lower the risk of disease.

Fencing shall surround the ground used as part of the enterprise to prevent predators entering onto the land.

An 8,000-free range bird unit is anticipated to produce 200 tonnes of manure within each 14 month cycle requiring circa 20 ha of land for manure application. The manure is to be removed at the end of the production cycle and then over a course of two to three weeks the unit will be cleaned down. The manure will then be stored in a covered manure store on farm and excess manure will be sold off farm to an adjoining neighbour as per the agreement submitted in support of this application. Manure will be applied to the land as and when the nutrients are required and when weather conditions permit. The manure produced shall have a low moisture content thus meaning it can be easily stored if required, however, this is not preferred by the business. At the end of the cycle it would take approximately two to three weeks to clean and sterilise the building in preparation for the new flock.

2.3 MANURE

All manure applied to the land will be done so in accordance with regulations for Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions regarding soil and water. The manure shall be applied in accordance with the Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Regulations in line with the businesses' manure management plan.

Manure is removed at the end of the cycle and if the land requires nutrients will be applied to the land, otherwise the manure will be stored in one of the two existing manure stores on farm which has sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional manure. The land available for manure application is shown at Appendix 1 of this Management Plan.

Dead birds from the poultry unit need to be carefully disposed of, it is an important part of the management of the poultry unit because;

- It reduces the likelihood of carcasses being removed from the unit by predators, which can as a result transmit disease;
- Reduces the risk of Blow Flies which can transmit disease;
- Reduces the risk of disease to the rest of the Poultry flock.

The dead birds from the unit shall be collected by an approved contractor under the National Fallen Stock Disposal Scheme. Whilst they are awaiting collection they shall be stored in a secure container.

2.4 DUST

It is paramount that dust is kept to a minimum in the unit to protect the welfare of the Birds and also those working within the unit. All feed is stored in purpose-built buildings outside the main unit to reduce the dust particles in the atmosphere. Fans will be used inside the buildings to prevent the build-up of dust. The open design of a free-range unit limit the emission of any significant dust particles into the atmosphere.

Automated feeding using the internal conveyor with augers direct from the sealed external feed bins will minimise dust creation.

2.5 FLIES, RODENTS AND PREDATORS

Rodent problems must not occur in a Poultry Unit as the droppings from rodents can taint the eggs and if found mean that those eggs produced in the unit are rejected. On side rodents are monitored and controlled should the unit experience problems, Specialist Pest Control Agents, would be used immediately if a problem were to occur. The Unit would be run in accordance with the DEFRA "Code of Practice for the Prevention of Rodent Infestations on Poultry Farms" April 2009.

As the manure is removed at the end of the cycle from the unit and the unit cleaned down, flies should not inhibit the unit. The manure standing for four days in the unit will be relatively dry and friable.

As all birds are housed during the evening predators such as stoats, foxes and badgers to name a few would not be able to access the birds. Whilst out on the designated land the birds would be protected by fencing from all predators.

2.6 LIGHTING

The development shall not use perimeter lighting, as birds shall be trained to find their own way back to the building prior to darkness. The building will then be in complete darkness. A small light will be used outside the egg collection unit for use in the winter months when staff enter the building to collect eggs in the morning and evening, this is for health and safety reasons.

2.7 VEHICLE MOVEMENTS AND ROUTING

All vehicles attending the poultry unit at Gwynfaes will utilise the same access to the farm as detailed within the Design and Access statement.

2.8 STANDARDS

All eggs produced at Gwynfaes will be done so in a Free Range System, thereby meaning the eggs and chickens are managed to comply with the RSPCA Freedom Food Standards which are appended to this statement (Appendix 2).

The applicants will endeavour to ensure high standards of welfare are maintained as in all of their other enterprises.

The Unit will adhere to the Codes of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Cross Compliance Regulations of the Welsh Government. During application of manure to the land the Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Regulations will be adhered to.

3. DEAD BIRD MANAGEMENT AND PEST CONTROL

There are several reasons why the careful disposal of dead birds is an important part of the health management of systems:

Reduces the risk of disease spread back to the flock and other species.

Reduces the likelihood of carcases being removed by scavengers, which can transmit disease.

Reduces the risk of blow flies (Caliphora sp.), which can also transmit disease.

NFS contractor Registered firm Douglas Bros are used.

The dead birds will be collected by an approved contractor of the National Fallen Stock Disposal Scheme prior to this they will be stored in a secure container in line with the animal by-products Regulations 2003. Pest control for rats will be carried out by an approved agency.

4. CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event that no manure can be applied to the land, or in the event that the proposed manure store on farm is full the contingency plan will be that all manure transported off farm to the purchaser detailed in the submitted supporting letter or stored in one of two covered manure stores on farm.

5. POLLUTION

The construction and site operation of the development will implement reasonable avoidance measures and controls to ensure the development does not create any unacceptable adverse impact on the immediate environment.

The pollution plan has been written with regard to national legislation and especially that of the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG5 & PPG6 – 2007).

Potential Pollutants

There are several potential pollutants that could arise from the construction and operation of a free range poultry unit, and therefore it is important to identify these elements prior to works commencing, in order to put some safeguarding measures in place, to reduce and minimise any potential pollution to the immediate and surrounding environment.

The main potential pollutants for this scheme are identified below:

- Silt
- Cement and Concrete
- Fuel/chemical spills
- Foul water drainage

Each potential pollutant will be considered separately, and the appropriate measures will be set out to minimise any potential pollution each activity might create.

Silt

Silt is a common potential issue in any development, as groundworks have the ability to implicate the existing surface water systems.

- During construction, we will minimise the amount of soul stripping in order to minimise the volume of contaminated surface water run-off.
- We will only remove vegetation from areas that need to be exposed in the near future.
- Plant and wheel washing facilities will be implemented during construction works, of which will be:

o on a hard standing area at least 10 metres from any watercourse,

o The run off from this area will be collected in a sump, of which will be disposed via a tanker off site.

- The site access road will be brushed and scraped regularly to reduce dust and mud deposits.
- Preventative measures such as silt fences/bales will be placed on top of slopes to reduce the risk of silt contamination.

Cement and concrete

It is acknowledged that concrete and cement are very alkaline and corrosive and can cause pollution. Given that the development includes both elements to construct the building and hardstanding, it is important to put some measures in place to minimise the risk of pollution.

Readymix shall be utilised within the development.

Fuel and Chemical spills

Given the limited amount of time any machinery will be on site, it is highly unlikely that any fuel or chemical spills will occur. However, if refuelling takes place, the following steps will be taken:

• refuel mobile plant in a designated area, on an impermeable base away from drains or watercourses

• use a bunded bowser

• supervise all refuelling and bulk deliveries

• check the available capacity in the tank before refuelling

• don't jam open a delivery valve

• check hoses and valves regularly for signs of wear

• turn off valves after refuelling and lock them when not in use

• position drip trays under pumps to catch minor spills

• keep a spill kit with sand, earth or commercial products for containment of spillages

• provide incident response training to the staff and contractors

If any fuel or chemical spill does occur during construction or operation, a spill kit containing sand/earth will be used immediately.

Foul water drainage

A dirty water tank will be installed underground to retain all contaminated water and wash out water. The dirty water will then be collected and taken off site by a sealed tanker and disposed of whenever it is full.

The drainage system implemented will ensure that the foul water and clean water are kept separate and therefore no clean water will be contaminated.

Manure

A Manure Management Plan with supporting maps has been submitted in support of this application to Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Manure Management Plan has been prepared in line with the Codes of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition, the Water Code and indeed the cross-compliance regulations of the Welsh Government.

The plans provided will be updated on an annual basis and the plans highlight all water courses in red and any springs thus ensuring that no manure is applied within 10 metres and 50 metres respectively.

It is of paramount concern to the applicants that they avoid pollution to any watercourses on farm and indeed any harm to semi-natural habitats. As farmers Messrs Reah have for many years applied manure to the land and this is always done so in accordance with regulations, the applicants do not want excessive application of manure to their land as they wish to ensure soil fertility which is vital to the businesses run upon farm.

All manure will be applied at a rate not exceeding the recommended upper limit of 250kg/ha or 150kg/ha where appropriate. The aim shall be to apply the manure at a rate of 250kg of N per ha, circa 10.4 tonne/ha of manure.

No manure shall be applied in the following circumstances;

1) Within 50m of a borehole, well or spring

2) Within 10m of any watercourse, which shall include ditches, stream and rivers

3) When weather conditions do not permit, for example during wet weather, on waterlogged fields, frozen land, snow covered land or on steeply sloping ground.

All open watercourses with running water have been marked on the submitted manure management plans. It is confirmed that the applicants will fence out any watercourses within the ranging area. The applicants will ensure a stock proof boundary thus meaning that no birds will be able to gain access to the watercourse or indeed the embankments of the watercourse. Natural vegetation will be allowed to develop along the edges of the watercourse.

Incident response

If any pollution incident occurs, the developer and applicant will report the incident immediately to NRW. The potential incidents include any spillage, contaminated run-off, flooding, damage to habitats. Staff will be informed of their duty to report such incidents and carry out the work to minimise the risk of any pollution incidents occurring.

IN THE EVENT OF ANY POLLUTION INCIDENT OR TO PREVENT POTENTIAL POLLUTION CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES WALES 03000 653 000