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# DETAILED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Erection of a 55,000 Bird Broiler Unit  
At  
Llwyngwilym,  
Rhayader  
Powys  
LD6 5NS

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Prepared for H & E Powell

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This Management Plan shall detail how the erection of a 55,000 bird broiler unit at Llwyngwilym, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5NS shall operate.

## **2 OPERATION OF THE BROILER UNIT**

### **2.1 BROILERS – THE BUILDING**

As above the proposal is for an erection of a Broiler Unit at Llwyngwilym that will accommodate 55,000 birds. The new unit is to be located to the south west of Llwyngwilym farmstead adjacent to the B4158 highway and will be surrounded by existing hedgerow boundaries and woodland which will provide screening to the development.

The proposed building shall be 115.8 metres long by 24.4 metres wide with a roof pitch of 15°, eaves height of 2.5 metres. The proposed building shall house 55,000 birds. The total footprint of the building is 2,825.52 square metres. The size of the proposed building is in line with the land availability surrounding the development.

There is no maximum stocking density for intensive chicken meat production currently set down in UK domestic law, the law covering the welfare of broiler chickens is covered by general animal welfare law and farmers are expected to comply with the relevant DEFRA Code of Practice. It is not however an offence to fail to keep to the DEFRA Code.

In 2010 EU legislation (Directive 2007/43/EC) came into force that sets new limits on stocking densities. The legislation is expected to be transposed into UK law and members of parliament are considering, when bringing forward secondary legislation to transpose the EU Broiler Chicken Directive into EU law, setting the UK maximum stocking density at 30kg per square metre. The Directive sets as a limit a figure of 33kg per square metre but lays down requirements where derogation up to a maximum of 42kgs per square metre could be implemented.

Despite the potential derogations from the standard stocking density applied by the Directive the commercial reality is that the industry as a whole is decreasing stocking rates in response to higher welfare expectations of consumers.

In order to supply the retail trade, all farmers must as a minimum, be members of the independently audited Assured Chicken Production (ACP) Scheme. The scheme requires farmers to comply with strict management requirements such as stocking at a maximum of 38kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Many retailers now require the supply of 'Higher Welfare Chicken' (HWC), which includes those endorsed by the RSPCA Freedom Foods Scheme, and these farms are stocked at a lower rate of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

A summary of the production cycle will follow the same basic procedure as follows:

- Chick placement on day one following pre-warming of the houses by propane space heaters and covering of the floor with wood shavings
- Feed arrives for birds during growing cycle. Volume of feed consumed increases during the growing period.
- Removal of Pullets on day forty one and day forty two.

- Remove all manure from sheds and move to fields in the management control of Messrs Powell either to be stored in heaps prior to land spreading or to be land spread on days forty three to forty six.
- All sheds power washed, disinfected and dried out prior to chick placement on days forty seven and forty eight.

The turnaround period between crops will be 7 days on average; the length of time taken to clear the site will depend on many factors such as when the date on which the crop cycle ends, e.g. if the cycle completes before a bank holiday weekend the clear-out may take an additional day to avoid disturbance over the holiday. For the purpose of this report a seven-day turnaround period has been used, this would result in producing 7.4 crop cycles per year or an 87.5% occupancy rate.

The building shall be constructed using steel box profile sheeting in juniper green colour to assist in assimilating the building into the local landscape. The unit will have three feed bins located on the south – west elevation of the building. The feed will be automatically conveyed to the unit.



The proposed building shall be accessed using a new access track leading off from the B4518 highway which will require approval from Powys County Council.

## **2.2 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.

The manure will be removed from the broiler unit following each crop cycle and will then be directly applied to the land weather permitting. If the weather does not allow immediate application of manure, it shall be stored in the existing manure store on farm. 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 weeks to clean and sterilise

the building in preparation for the new flock. The land available for manure application is shown at Appendix 1 of this Management Plan.

Those dead birds from the broiler unit need to be carefully disposed of, it is an important part of the management of the broiler 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 broiler 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.

### **2.3 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 building 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 the unit limits 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.

### **2.4 RODENTS AND PREDATORS**

Rodent problems must not occur in a Broiler Unit, as the manure is removed on a regular basis rodents should not be a problem and the situation is carefully monitored by the farming business. 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 Broiler Farms" April 2009.

As all birds are housed permanently, predators such as stoats, foxes and badgers to name a few would not be able to access the birds.

### **2.5 LIGHTING**

The building's gable ends will be lit externally with a single low-wattage fitting of low intensity lighting during normal working hours in winter months. All external lighting will be downward facing and protected with a cowl to reduce light spill to outside the unit.

During the clear out and thinning periods the site will be lit by low wattage lighting while birds are being removed from the buildings, this operation will be carried out in low light conditions to minimise stress to the birds. There will be no round the clock external lighting of the site and no use of high intensity security lighting.

During hours of darkness the broiler sheds will be illuminated internally to 0.4 lux. The buildings will be clad with high density metal profile sheeting and therefore no light will escape to the outside. Regular tests will be conducted to check the effectiveness of the light proofing. The windows will be shuttered to avoid light escaping to the outside.

## **2.6 VEHICLE MOVEMENTS AND ROUTING**

The proposed building shall be accessed via a new track leading off the B4518 which will require approval from Powys County Council. The access shall lead directly to the north-western elevation of the proposed building.

The proposed unit is approached through the market town of Rhayader, a right turning onto the B4518 is taken through the centre of the town and you continue on this road until you reach the new entrance of the proposed unit on your left.

It is not considered necessary to propose a routing plan for the broiler unit, given the good access and low volume of additional vehicle movements to the proposed unit near Llwyngwilym Farm.

Due to the nature of the broiler enterprise it is not possible to give an accurate daily average as the movements are concentrated around certain activities during the cycle. Feed movements increase during the crop cycle as bird weights increase. Manure removal takes place in a short period between bird removal and chick placement and the direction of the movements will vary. Bird removals take place in two waves each lasting two days during the crop cycle. On 23 days of the 48-day crop cycle there will be no movements and on a further 15 days of the crop cycle there will only be one vehicle visiting the site.

Bird removal at the close of the crop represents peak movements in any given 24 hour period. Bird removal may take place during night time, due to the factory opening times. Crop clearance / thinning will take place over a two day period. The maximum number of movements per hour during the night time is estimated at 2. The maximum number of movements in a twenty four hour period associated with bird removal will be 14.

## **2.7 STANDARDS**

There is no maximum stocking density for intensive chicken meat production currently set down in UK domestic law, the law covering the welfare of broiler chickens is covered by general animal welfare law and farmers are expected to comply with the relevant DEFRA Code of Practice. It is not however an offence to fail to keep to the DEFRA Code.

In 2010 EU legislation (Directive 2007/43/EC) came into force that sets new limits on stocking densities. The legislation is expected to be transposed into UK law and members of parliament are considering, when bringing forward secondary legislation to transpose the EU Broiler Chicken Directive into EU law, setting the UK maximum stocking density at 30kg per square metre. The Directive sets as a limit a figure of 33kg per square metre but lays down requirements where derogation up to a maximum of 42kgs per square metre could be implemented.

The applicants will endeavour to ensure high standards of welfare are maintained.

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.

## **2.8 CONTINGENCY PLAN**

In the event that no manure can be applied to the land at Llwyngwilym, or in the event that the existing manure store on farm is full the contingency plan will be that all manure will be transported to the local Anaerobic Digestion Plants and the applicants have already approved this with the owner of the plant, who has expressed an interest in also securing the manure on a regular basis.

## **2.9 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 broiler 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 soil 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. The measures proposed for the concrete and cement mixing and washing area are to be implemented as follows:

- They are to be sited a minimum of 10m from any watercourse or surface water drain to minimise the risk of run off.
- Have a re-circulation system for water reuse to minimise the risk of pollution.
- Any wash water from this process will be collected and contained in order for it to be disposed off-site.

#### 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 Powys 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 Powell 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.

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 and 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**