

# Permitting decisions

## Bespoke permit

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We have decided to grant the permit for Greenacre Farm operated by K Fresh Ltd.

The permit number is EPR/CP3837YV

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

### Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision making process in the decision checklist to show how all relevant factors have been taken in to account.

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- highlights [key issues](#) in the determination
- summarises the decision making process in the [decision checklist](#) to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- shows how we have considered the [consultation responses](#).

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit. The introductory note summarises what the permit covers.

## Key issues of the decision

**New Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs BAT Conclusions document** The new Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document (BREF) for the Intensive Rearing of poultry or pigs (IRPP) was published on the 21st February 2017. There is now a separate BAT Conclusions document which will set out the standards that permitted farms will have to meet.

The BAT Conclusions document is as per the following link

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D0302&from=EN>

Now the BAT Conclusions are published all new installation farming permits issued after the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 must be compliant in full from the first day of operation.

There are some new requirements for permit holders. The conclusions include BAT Associated Emission Levels for ammonia emissions which will apply to the majority of permits, as well as BAT associated levels for nitrogen and phosphorous excretion.

For some types of rearing practices stricter standards will apply to farms and housing permitted after the new BAT Conclusions are published.

### New BAT conclusions review

There are 33 BAT conclusion measures in total within the BAT conclusion document dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

The Applicant has confirmed their compliance with all BAT conditions for the new installation (housing) in their document reference Appendix 7: Housing Review (Greenacre Farm) and dated 23/04/18. The applicant has confirmed their compliance with all other relevant BAT conditions in their email received 14/05/18.

The following is a more specific review of the measures the Applicant has applied to ensure compliance with the above key BAT measures

BAT measure	Applicant compliance measure
BAT 3 - Nutritional management Nitrogen excretion	<p>The Applicant has confirmed it will demonstrate it achieves levels of Nitrogen excretion below the required BAT-AEL of 0.8 kg N/animal place/year by an estimation using manure analysis for total Nitrogen content.</p> <p>This confirmation was in response to Request for Further Information, received 14/05/18, which has been referenced in Table S1.2 Operating Techniques of the Permit.</p> <p>Table S3.3 of the Permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions.</p>
BAT 4 Nutritional management Phosphorous excretion	<p>The Applicant has confirmed it will demonstrate it achieves levels of Phosphorous excretion below the required BAT-AEL of 0.45 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> animal place/year by an estimation using manure analysis for total Phosphorous content.</p> <p>This confirmation was in response to Request for Further Information, received 14/05/18, which has been referenced in Table S1.2 Operating Techniques of the Permit.</p> <p>Table S3.3 of the Permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions.</p>

BAT measure	Applicant compliance measure
BAT 24 Monitoring of emissions and process parameters - Total nitrogen and phosphorous excretion	Table S3.3 Process monitoring requires the operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT conclusions
BAT 25 Monitoring of emissions and process parameters - Ammonia emissions	Table S3.3 of the Permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions.
BAT 27 Monitoring of emissions and process parameters -Dust emissions	Table S3.3 Process monitoring requires the operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT conclusions.  The Applicant has confirmed they will report the dust emissions to the Environment Agency annually by multiplying the dust emissions factor for laying hens by the number of birds on site.  This confirmation was in response to the Not Duly Made Request for Further Information/Schedule 5 Notice request for further information, received 14/05/18 which has been referenced in Table S1.2 Operating techniques of the Permit.
BAT 31 Ammonia emissions from poultry houses -Laying hens	The BAT-AEL to be complied with is 0.2 – 0.13 kg NH3/animal place/year.  The Applicant will meet this as the emission factor for layers with aviary type housing is 0.8 kg NH3/animal place/year.  The Installation does not include an air abatement treatment facility, hence the standard emission factor complies with the BAT AEL.

### **More detailed assessment of specific BAT measures**

#### **Ammonia emission controls – BAT conclusion 31**

The new BAT conclusions include a set of BAT-AEL's for ammonia emissions to air from animal housing for laying hens.

'New plant' is defined as plant first permitted at the site of the farm following the publication of the BAT conclusions.

All new bespoke applications issued after the 21<sup>st</sup> February, including those where there is a mixture of old and new housing, will now need to meet the BAT-AEL.

### **Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)**

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were made on the 20 February and came into force on 27 February 2013. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the IED.

This permit implements the requirements of the European Union Directive on Industrial Emissions.

## Groundwater and soil monitoring

As a result of the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive, all permits are now required to contain a condition relating to protection of soil, groundwater and groundwater monitoring. However, the Environment Agency's H5 Guidance states **that it is only necessary for the operator to take samples** of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where there is evidence that there is, or could be existing contamination and:

- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a particular hazard; or
- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a hazard and the risk assessment has identified a possible pathway to land or groundwater.

H5 Guidance further states that it is **not essential for the Operator** to take samples of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where:

- The environmental risk assessment identifies no hazards to land or groundwater; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies only limited hazards to land and groundwater and there is no reason to believe that there could be historic contamination by those substances that present the hazard; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies hazards to land and groundwater but there is evidence that there is no historic contamination by those substances that pose the hazard.

The site condition report (SCR) for Greenacre Farm (dated 23/04/18) demonstrates that there are no hazards or likely pathway to land or groundwater and no historic contamination on site that may present a hazard from the same contaminants. **Therefore, on the basis of the risk assessment presented in the SCR, we accept that they have not provided base line reference data for the soil and groundwater at the site at this stage and although condition 3.1.3 is included in the permit no groundwater monitoring will be required.**

## Ammonia

The applicant has demonstrated that the housing will meet the relevant NH<sub>3</sub> BAT-AEL.

There is 1 Special Protection Areas- (SPA) and 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within 5 km of the installation. There is also 1 Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 2 km of the installation.

### Ammonia assessment – SAC/SPA/Ramsar

The following trigger thresholds have been designated for the assessment of European sites:

- If the process contribution (PC) is below 4% of the relevant critical level (CL<sub>e</sub>) or critical load (CL<sub>o</sub>) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.
- Where this threshold is exceeded an assessment alone and in combination is required.
- An in combination assessment will be completed to establish the combined PC for all existing farms identified within 5 km of the SPA

Initial screening using ammonia screening tool version 4.5 has indicated that emissions from Greenacre Farm will only have a potential impact on the SPA site with a precautionary critical level of 1µg/m<sup>3</sup> if they are within 2530 metres of the emission source.

Beyond 2530m the PC is less than 0.04µg/m<sup>3</sup> (i.e. less than 4% of the precautionary 1µg/m<sup>3</sup> critical level) and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all SAC/SPA/Ramsars are beyond this distance (see table below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

Where the precautionary level of  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  is used, and the process contribution is assessed to be less than 4% the site automatically screens out as insignificant and no further assessment of critical load is necessary. In this case the  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  level used has not been confirmed by Natural England, but it is precautionary. It is therefore possible to conclude no likely significant effect

**Table 1 – SAC/SPA/Ramsar Assessment**

Name of SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Distance from site (m)
Greater Wash (SPA)	3569

**Ammonia assessment – SSSI**

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for assessment of SSSIs:

- If the process contribution (PC) is below 20% of the relevant critical level (CLe) or critical load (CLo) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.
- Where this threshold is exceeded an assessment alone and in combination is required. An in combination assessment will be completed to establish the combined PC for all existing farms identified within 5 km of the SSSI.

Initial screening using the ammonia screening tool version 4.5 has indicated that emissions from Greenacre Farm will only have a potential impact on SSSI sites with a precautionary critical level of  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  if they are within 868 metres of the emission source.

Beyond 868m the PC is less than  $0.2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (i.e. less than 20% of the precautionary  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  critical level) and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all SSSIs are beyond this distance (see table below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

Where the precautionary level of  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  is used, and the process contribution is assessed to be less than 20% the site automatically screens out as insignificant and no further assessment of critical load is necessary. In this case the  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  level used has not been confirmed by Natural England, but it is precautionary. It is therefore possible to conclude no likely damage to these sites.

**Table 2 – SSSI Assessment**

Name of SSSI	Distance from site (m)
Kelsey Hill Gravel Pits	4956
Roos Bog	1940

**Ammonia assessment - LWS**

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for the assessment of these sites:

- If the process contribution (PC) is below 100% of the relevant critical level (CLe) or critical load (CLo) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.

Initial screening using ammonia screening tool version 4.5 has indicated that emissions from Greenacre Farm will only have a potential impact on the LWS site with a precautionary critical level of  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  if they are within 297 metres of the emission source.

Beyond 297m the PC is less than  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case the LWS is beyond this distance (see table below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

**Table 3 – LWS Assessment**

Name of SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Distance from site (m)
Woods Plantation	598

## Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
<b>Receipt of application</b>	
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.
<b>Consultation</b>	
Consultation	The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and our public participation statement. The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website. We consulted the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Executive</li> <li>• Public Health England (Nottingham)</li> <li>• Director of Public Health</li> <li>• Local Authority (Hull)</li> </ul> The comments and our responses are summarised in the <a href="#">consultation section</a> .
<b>Operator</b>	
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.
<b>The facility</b>	
The regulated facility	We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility', Appendix 2 of RGN 2 'Defining the scope of the installation', Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1', guidance on waste recovery plans and permits. The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.
<b>The site</b>	
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site. The plan is included in the permit.
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on

Aspect considered	Decision
	site condition reports and baseline reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive.
Biodiversity, heritage, landscape and nature conservation	<p>The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat.</p> <p>We have assessed the application and its potential to affect all known sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage and/or protected species or habitats identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.</p> <p>We consider that the application will not affect any sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.</p> <p>We have not consulted Natural England on the application, but we have completed and submitted (04/05/18) an Appendix 11 to Natural England for information only. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p>
<b>Environmental risk assessment</b>	
Environmental risk	<p>We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.</p> <p>The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p>
<b>Operating techniques</b>	
General operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.</p> <p>The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.</p> <p>The operating techniques are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with responses to Parts B3.5 of the application form and referenced supporting documents (received 23/04/18).</li> <li>• Birds to be brought onto the installation at approximately 16 weeks old. Birds to leave the installation at approximately 76 weeks old. Average cycle length to be approximately 14 months. All litter to be exported from site. Wash water to be exported from site.</li> </ul>
<b>Permit conditions</b>	
Emission limits	We have decided that emission limits are required in the permit. BAT AEL's have been added in line with the Intensive Farming sector BAT conclusions document dated 21/02/17. These limits are included in permit table S3.4.
Monitoring	<p>We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified.</p> <p>These monitoring requirements have been imposed in order to ensure compliance</p>

Aspect considered	Decision
	with Intensive Farming BAT conclusions document dated 21/02/17.
Reporting	<p>We have specified reporting in the permit.</p> <p>We made these decisions in order to ensure compliance with Intensive Farming BAT conclusions document dated 21/02/17</p>
<b>Operator competence</b>	
Management system	<p>There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.</p> <p>The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.</p>
Relevant convictions	<p>The Case Management System and National Enforcement Database have been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.</p> <p>No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.</p>
Financial competence	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.
<b>Growth Duty</b>	
Section 108 Deregulation Act 2015 – Growth duty	<p>We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to vary this permit.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:</p> <p>“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”</p> <p>We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.</p> <p>We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.</p>

## Consultation

The following summarises the responses to consultation with other organisations, our notice on GOV.UK for the public and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

### Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

<b>Response received from</b>
Environmental Health
<b>Brief summary of issues raised</b>
N/A – responses states that “I can advise that I have no comments to make.”
<b>Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered</b>
N/A