

Bury End Farm – Existing Operations Note

Description of site and buildings, floor areas etc.

The site is used for the rearing of turkeys of multi age; from day old chicks to mature slaughter weight at an average of 20 weeks of age.

The floor areas of the buildings are split as follows:

- Brooding 1094 m² Insulated timber frame. Mechanised ventilation, concrete floors
- Rearing 9388 m² Timber frame, corrugated tin cladding and dirt floor.
- Stores 1174 m² Range of timber buildings and steel and concrete portal frame buildings

Description of processes

The birds arrive as day old chicks. For the first six weeks they are housed in the brooder units. The environment requires high levels of management where light and temperature are controlled. At six weeks the birds are moved to the rearing units.

History of the site

The site has been a turkey farm for in excess of 60 years. Rearing capacity has been expanded significantly over the years.

Investment made / required

The age of the buildings has meant that investment levels have been relatively low. In order to improve the efficiency of the operation and open up new markets, then significant investment is required in the business.

Neighbourliness aspects

The site creates a significant level of odour, which is intensified during the warmer months, and when manure needs to be removed. It is unfortunate, but flies can be a significant problem at the site from May to September.

Access movements – type, frequency, duration and seasonal variations.

The annual transport movements associated with the operation are as follows:

- 472 live bird movements by van and tractor/trailer, comprising of intake of chick to collection of birds for slaughter. The movements are greater in the later six months of the year, but are continuous throughout the year.
- 150 movements by tractor/trailer and articulated lorry to deliver straw which is stored on the site. The movements occur between June and September.
- 900 movements to remove manure from the site by tractor/trailer and articulated lorry. The movements occur throughout the year, but mainly between January and April.
- 272 feed deliveries by articulated lorry year, with 2 per week between January and July and 8 per week between August and December.
- 9390 staff movements by tractor, car and van.

Noise and odour

The operation creates typical noise levels associated with a poultry rearing farm. The mechanised ventilation systems for the brooder sheds do create high levels of noise. The odours from the operation are present and intensified during the warmer months and during manure removal.

Aspiration for alternate location and what this would comprise in principle

It is considered that the site does not provide the standards of a modern day efficient poultry rearing unit. The current multi age site adds constraints to the overall management of the site and ultimately profitability of the business. A single age site is considered the norm to improve bio security and overall welfare of the birds, which will require a significant level of investment.

The close proximity of the site to the village and residential properties, and the level of investment required and the increased production levels required to provide a return on investment, it is considered that alternative single age sites would provide a more logical strategy for the business.

Timing given need for investment

It is considered that the age of the existing buildings means that investment is overdue. In addition, investment will be required to meet the increased requirements for higher welfare units for accreditation standards e.g. 'Red Tractor' standards. If the business is to remain competitive then significant investment will be required in the next two years.