DCAdmin

From:
Sent: 16 June 2024 17:20
To: DCAdmin
Subject: 2024/62/91484/W planning objection

Dear sir/madame,

I have referenced the Uk government code of practice for Code of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets my comments are in yellow.
Updated 25 January 2024

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-on-farm-welfare/poultry-welfare-recommendations

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

4 (1) Those parts of buildings, equipment or utensils which are in contact with the hens must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected regularly and, in any case, every time depopulation is carried out and before a new batch of hens is brought in.

(2) While the cages are occupied:

(a) the surfaces and all equipment must be kept satisfactorily clean;

(b) droppings must be removed; and

(c) dead hens must be removed every day

This means that there needs to be a water sauce, drains and something to keep the chemicals and hen waste out of the drains.

21. Biosecurity applies to flocks of any size, from smallholdings with one or two birds to commercial farm units.

22. Good biosecurity measures should result in:

a) farm units/smallholdings being more secure from the introduction of infectious diseases

b) the spread of any diseases within the unit, specifically from flock to flock, being kept to a minimum

c) a reduced risk of spread of disease from the farm to other farms or elsewhere

23. Good biosecurity can be achieved through:

a) limiting external vehicle or equipment movement onto farm and instigating appropriate cleansing and disinfection procedures where this occurs

b) good management and husbandry procedures on site. These include:

i) where possible, “all in – all out” management of sites, by site or by accommodation block

ii) clear biosecurity protocols when moving between different flocks on site, particularly where the site has different aged flocks
iii) disinfection points on entry and exit from each accommodation or rearing section

This means there needs to be a cattle grid with vehicle wash off area again drainage to keep waste out of the drains in an area before entering the farm

24. One way by which notifiable avian disease may spread to poultry is through contact with infected wild birds. It is not possible to prevent all airborne infections from entering a unit but, when planning new sites, consideration should be given to providing the maximum possible distance between the proposed site and existing sites as well as areas where migrating wild birds congregate, to improve biosecurity. A useful guide is the 3 km distance that defines the radius of a Protection Zone in the control of notifiable diseases, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza. The distance between houses on a site should also be considered. Ponds on site should be avoided but, where this is not possible, the hens should not be able to access them. Similarly, wild birds congregating on ponds, or otherwise, should not be able to access the hens’ feed and water, nor nest and roost in poultry buildings. A vermin control system should be in place to limit rodents and pests accessing and contaminating feed.

This means new builds would be preferred to be 3km away from houses not the 5m stated in the planning at also implies there will be vermin around the poultry.

27. Loading facilities and, where possible, feed bins and dead stock collection points should be sited at the unit perimeter. If used, isolation buildings for new stock should be as near as possible to the farm entrance and away from other buildings/ranges for disease monitoring to take place. Vehicles which visit other poultry units should be kept off the unit wherever possible but, where entry is essential, wheels and footwear should be cleansed and disinfected thoroughly on entry and exit.
28. Once emptied, bird housing should be thoroughly cleaned to remove organic material; where appropriate, washed with detergent; and then disinfected. Used litter should be removed from the house and the site before re-stocking to reduce the risk of carry-over of disease.
Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

3. Where animals are kept in a building, adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) must be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
40. Housing and equipment must be designed so that all the laying hens can be clearly seen. Light levels during inspection must be sufficient to ensure that the birds are clearly visible. See also paragraph 34
72. The ventilation system and facilities for storing and handling litter and manure should be designed, maintained and managed to prevent the exposure of birds to gases such as ammonia and carbon dioxide, in concentrations which cause discomfort to the birds or which are detrimental to their health. People vary

in their ability to smell ammonia, however, if ammonia can be smelt, it is likely to be too high and suggests monitoring and action is required. Certain activities (for example, topping up litter and manure removal) within the layer house can increase dust and pathogen levels and clear protocols should be in place to reduce frequency of exposure to birds and staff to elevated levels

106. Birds should come from balanced breeding programmes promoting and protecting health, welfare and productivity goals simultaneously. Identification of birds should be encouraged, to enable future feedback of information within the breeding pyramid and better application of breeding for welfare, based on data from the supply chain.

107. The presence of males in a layer breeder flock should reduce stress and fear responses due to the natural instinct for males to protect their females. However, too high a number of males in the flock can lead to sexual aggression and increased stress in the flock which can have negative impacts on welfare and health, including egg production. When producing hatching eggs from breeding birds, different bird strains will require a different cockerel to hen ratio. This is due to genetic differences in docility and sexual activity. Breeder suppliers should ensure they provide guidance on appropriate sex ratios, which ensure the production of sufficient fertilised eggs whilst minimising aggressive breeding behaviour

This means there will be a certain percentage of cockerels and a very real raised noise level and also a raised lighting pollution level, also the proposal shows a midding close by will usually be wet in the form of a small pond where advice states should not be in close proximity.

I calculate that at the advised 9 hens per square meter including the actual building itself that you can only get 1511 hens on the proposed site so I would say this is already to high a figure(1500), is this a sign of things to come we have all seen overcrowded chickens on the tv

As a result of the popularity of bolster moor farm shop and that the workers there are made to park on the main road, bolster moor road has become an accident waiting to happen it is barely wide enough to now get more than one car through the entire length from its start at the bottom, now a very dangerous blind corner junction up to Drummer lane the route which you now propose will have increased farm traffic between hen hut to farm.it is that bad that locals cannot park within 100m of their own homes a once quiet area full of the elderly and infirm who are now not safe to cross the roads or even walk up the roads which are lacking in parking zones and pavements, most of which is governed by the nation speed limit. Also the is a water course that runs extremely close if not under the proposal site it provide water to various farms along the way and continues down to the river.