

DC Admin

Sent: 02 January 2026 11:29
To: DC Admin
Subject: planning application 2025/93387 objection

Dear sir/madame,

I object to the proposed application for the following reasons with reference to Defra's code of conduct evidence shown but also local knowledge of the area.

The plans show a building with one large door and no concrete base, no plans for bunded area and no water supply apart from roof run off, that is located on a slope uphill from the main community only approximately 60 meters as the crow flies from dwellings.

If there are 1500 chickens (9 per square meter as per Defra recommendation's) there will need provision for the feeding watering cleaning and waste removal of said birds, seems there is no proposal for bunded concrete base or waste storage tanks so waste will be allowed to go to ground where it will find its way to the underground beck which runs across nearly every field including this one and is open in certain places feeding nearly every farm in the area and runs off down to the Wellhouse area where it surfaces in house cellars before making its way down to the river/ canal.

This amount of hens need a large amount of water to feed and clean as per Defra's guideline's unless they are going to be kept in inhumane conditions leading to lots of dead birds and more foul smelling waist (dead carcasses/ infected waste) this water could be brought by tractor along with the food but will mean even more traffic on the road and more possibility's for cross contamination of diseases. The building itself has no small man door which means it is very likely for wild birds to get in and spread decease i.e. avian bird flue this thrives in the damp and will end up in peoples cellars, I know of one house in wellhouse that has turned its cellar into part of the living space with the well as a feature.

Times have changed since the old battery chicken farming days which are reflected by the amount of old unused hen huts around the moor(most of which belong to Mr. Haigh's family) but these old farm buildings could be redesigned to meet modern farming and run properly keep the smell and the decease down also they wouldn't require planning. Defra recommends that new build avian buildings are a minimum of 3km away from dwellings this includes the farm houses and that the building has proper washing facilities for both farmers and the vehicles visiting also the water sources are protected e.g. water and waste not allowed to go to ground and prevention of vermin and wild birds entering buildings. I don't see any of this in the plans, Kirklees planning could choose to ignore Defra's codes of best practice and grant the permission thinking that once permission is granted it is Defra's problem to mange the farmers practices but I am sure that if avian flue or any other decease associated from this type of farming are contracted within the 3km and possibly wider area then they could use this objection as evidence in a claim against Kirklees where Kirklees have a duty of care to the community for granting permission for said building without means to be a water sauce, bunded drains, separate wash area for workers something to keep the chemicals safe, man door and 3km distance from dwellings.
and hen waste out of the drains.

The rest of this objection shows Defra's best codes of practice and you may choose to not read it but if you choose to ignore it, it will be on your head.

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 source, 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

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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 and 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

3 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.