

19/01154/FUL - Land North of Betton

## **MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The proposed development involves the erection of a 32,000 bird free range egg laying unit at Land North of Betton, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

The manure management protocol of the development is that all manure will be exported to Ercall Park at High Ercall for storage and land spreading as a sustainable agricultural fertilizer.

Exporting of manure is a normal and lawful practice and is subject to the NVZ rules. The NVZ rules have the following requirement for record keeping.

### **“Records of imports/exports of livestock manure**

If you bring livestock manure onto your farm, or send it off, you will need to keep the following records:

- the type and amount of livestock manure;
- the total nitrogen content of that manure, either from standard figures (Table 35) or sampling and analysis;
- the date it was brought onto/sent off your farm; and
- the name and address of the supplier/recipient.

You will also need to keep details of a contingency plan to be used if an agreement to send the manure off your farm fails”.

The Walker family who are the owners of Ercall Park, High Ercall have agreed to accept all of the manure arising from the development. The mechanism for securing this agreement is a section 106 agreement to which the Walker family are party.

The NVZ risk map for Ercall Park is attached to this document and shows the land available for spreading of the manure hatched in green.

The proposed section 106 agreement includes provisions requiring the manure arising from the development at Betton to be managed in accordance with the DEFRA Code of Good Agricultural Practice – Protecting Our Water, Air and Soil (CoGAP). The requirements of CoGAP include mitigation measures to minimize the dust and odour emissions and impacts on amenity.

The manure is also required to be stored and spread in accordance with the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 (NVZ Regulations). These regulations offer a high degree of protection for the environment. The NVZ regulations place restrictions on where the manure can be spread, the time of year it can be spread, and the amount per hectare that can be spread.

The manure will be stored at Ercall Park in field heaps, as is current practice on the farm. The location of the field heaps is required by the NVZ regulations to alternate

The manure will be spread in the spring onto land to be used for potatoes or spring cropping, and in the late summer onto stubbles on land to be used for winter cropping and will be incorporated within 24 hours of spreading.

The Walker Family currently import hen manure to the farm from other sources for storage and spreading, and as a result, the impact of this proposal is that there is no change in the management of manure at Ercall Park, but simply a change in the source of the manure.

## **Amenity Impacts on the Storage and Spreading of Manure**

### **Introduction**

This statement has been prepared following the decision of the Court of Appeal to quash planning permission for the erection of four broiler sheds and associated infrastructure at Footbridge Farm, Tasley in Shropshire - (2019) EWCA Civ 888.

The above appeal was allowed and the planning permission quashed due to a lack of meaningful assessment of the impacts of odour and dust from manure disposal activities.

### **Technical Difficulties**

The emissions associated with manure spreading are an acute emission and it is not possible to predict when the spreading will be undertaken, and the weather conditions and wind direction at the time of spreading.

Additionally, research and benchmarks suppose chronic emissions and therefore have little relevance to acute emissions.

There is significant research and guidance on the assessment of odour and dust emissions from livestock buildings, but no guidance available on the assessment of odour and dust from spreading activities.

*As a result, meaningful assessment of the odour and dust impacts of manure spreading is essentially impossible to provide.*

The odour and dust impacts of the proposed development cannot be meaningfully quantified as there are too many variables involved. All that can be done is to follow the mitigation measures set out by DEFRA within CoGAP in order to reduce the impacts.

### **Management Plan - Mitigation Measures for Manure Storage and Spreading Operations**

This management plan has been prepared in order to minimise the impacts on neighbouring residents from the storage and spreading of poultry manure as an agricultural fertiliser.

Field Heaps should not be sited within 200m of residential properties.

Spreading manure to land is a lawful and acceptable practice. The process is controlled through legislation, being the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 (the NVZ Regulations) and the DEFRA Code of Good Agricultural Practice – Protecting our Soil, Water and Air.

The following techniques will be used in order to minimise the impacts of the manure spreading operations.

## **Timing of Application**

Apply livestock manures when grass and crops can make efficient use of nitrogen. Spring applications on all soil types make best use of nitrogen in the manures.

Do not apply livestock manures and dirty water when:

- the soil is waterlogged; or
- the soil is frozen hard; or
- the field is snow covered; or
- the soil is cracked down to field drains or backfill; or
- the field has been pipe or mole drained or subsoiled over drains in the last 12 months; or
- heavy rain is forecast within the next 48 hours.

Use a weather forecast to help choose suitable conditions for spreading. The best conditions are where air mixes to a great height above the ground, which are typically sunny, windy days, followed by cloudy, windy nights. These conditions cause odours to be diluted quickly. Check wind direction in relation to nearby housing before spreading.

Avoid spreading at weekends, bank holidays, or in the evening. Only spreading if the manure can be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours.

If land is within in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, do not spread slurry or poultry manures (materials that have a high readily available nitrogen content) during the closed periods (1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> January).

## **Restrictions on certain areas**

Do not not apply livestock manures and dirty water:

- within 10 metres of any ditch, pond or surface water; or
- within 50 metres of any spring, well, borehole or reservoir that supplies water for human consumption or for farm dairies; or
- on very steep slopes where run-off is a high risk throughout the year; or
- on any areas where you are not allowed to because of specific management agreements.

Check all equipment is in good working order well before field activity starts. Carry out repairs as necessary. Set up spreaders according to manufacturers' instructions, and adjust to an appropriate application rate and uniformity of spread for the type of manure. Keep to an appropriate bout width. Avoid spilling slurry while filling and moving equipment around the farm; spillages on the road may be an offence, and run-off can enter surface waters via highway drainage.

21<sup>st</sup> July 2019



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DWG. TITLE

Location Plan for Manure  
Spreading Operations at Ercall  
Park Farm, High Ercall, TF6 6AU

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_ DFN \_\_\_\_\_  
NTS \_\_\_\_\_ IP \_\_\_\_\_  
DWG. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
IP/MCF/20

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ REV \_\_\_\_\_  
July 19 \_\_\_\_\_

