

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

ERECTION OF 2 No. ADDITIONAL BROILER REARING UNITS INCLUDING AIR SCRUBBERS, INSTALLATION OF AIR SCRUBBING UNITS TO THE EXISTING TWO POULTRY HOUSES, TOGETHER WITH 4 No. FEED BINS, 3 No. DIRTY WATER TANKS, AND AN EXTENSION TO THE CONCRETE APRON AT WERN HALOG POULTRY UNIT, LLANFARRED, BUILTH WELLS, POWYS, LD2 3TE

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Page No.
1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	4
3.	DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	9
4.	ALTERNATIVE SITES	12
5.	PLANNING AND POLICY FRAMEWORK	13
6.	POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECTS	14
7.	ECOLOGY AND AMMONIA DEPOSITION	16
8.	LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT	19
9.	ODOUR, NOISE AND DUST	21
10.	DETAILS OF CONSULTATION	28
	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	29

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1	LOCATION PLAN
APPENDIX 2	GP BIOTEC LETTER
APPENDIX 3	ECOLOGY SURVEY
APPENDIX 4	GREAT CRESTED NEWT MITIGATION STRATEGY
APPENDIX 5	AIR SCRUBBER TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
APPENDIX 6	AMMONIA ASSESSMENT
APPENDIX 7	LVIA
APPENDIX 8	NOISE ASSESSMENT
APPENDIX 9	ODOUR ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Environmental Statement has been commissioned by W D & K J Davies of Wern Halog, Llanfarred, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3TE
- 1.2 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 provide for the submission of an environmental statement for certain types of development. In terms of intensive livestock units involving poultry, Schedule 1, Para 17a of the 2017 Regulations require an Environmental Statement to be submitted with any planning application which exceeds a guideline number of 85000 places for broilers.
- 1.3 This report has been prepared by Ian Pick. Ian Pick is a specialist agricultural and rural planning consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours Degree in Rural Enterprise and Land Management and is a Professional Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, being qualified in the Rural Practice Division of the Institution.
- 1.4 Ian Pick has 23 years experience specialising in agricultural and rural planning whilst employed by MAFF, ADAS, Acorus and most recently, Ian Pick Associates Limited.
- 1.5 Copies of this Environmental Statement are available from the agents, Ian Pick Associates Ltd at a cost of £50 for a paper copy of £10 for a CD copy.

CHAPTER 2

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Regulatory Context

- 2.1 The requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment are provided within the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. These are referred to as the EIA regulations within this document. The EIA regulations require that any development which is listed in Schedule 1 be subject to EIA.
- 2.2 The proposed development falls within the definition of Schedule 1, ‘Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs’ as it exceeds the threshold of 85000 broilers and therefore EIA is mandatory.

Assessment and Reporting Methodology

- 2.3 Following identification of environmental effects, technical assessments were carried out in order to predict potential effects associated with the development and where necessary proposed measures to mitigate the effects. These assessments are contained within the Environmental Statement.

The Environmental Statement

- 2.4 The Environmental Statement has been prepared to accompany an application for planning permission for the erection of 2 No. additional broiler units. The application has been submitted to Powys County Council under the terms of the Town and County Planning Act 1990.
- 2.5 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 require that an Environmental Statement should include at least the following information:
- A description of the development including:
 - A description of the location of the development
 - A description of the main characteristics of the whole development and the land use requirements during the construction and operational phases.
 - A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process)
 - An estimate by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions.
 - A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reason for selecting the chosen option.
 - A description of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario)
 - A description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development.
 - A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from
 - The construction and existence of the development

- The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity.
- The emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste.
- The risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment
- The accumulation of effects with other existing and / or approved projects.
- The impact of the project on the climate and and vulnerability of the project to climate change
- The technologies and substances used
- A description of the forecasting methods or evidence used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment including any difficulties encountered compiling the required information.
- A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment. That description should explain the extent to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.
- A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and / or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.
- A non-technical summary of the above.

Scoping

2.6 A formal scoping opinion has not been requested from the Local Planning Authority. The scope of the Environmental Statement has been based on the scoping of the Environmental Statement in relation to application reference 18/0475/FUL.

- Ecological Assessment including Phase 1 Habitat Assessment and Ammonia Impact Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Noise Assessment to BS4142.
- Odour Assessment including dispersal modelling
- Dust Assessment

Subjects Scoped Out

Climate Change

- 2.7 UK farms presently amount to 45.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent a year – about one-tenth of UK GHG emissions. But in stark contrast to the rest of the economy only 10 per cent of this is CO₂. Around 40% is nitrous dioxide (N₂O) and 50% is methane (CH₄).
- 2.8 Current poultry production in the UK is responsible for a fraction of the Greenhouse Gas emissions associated with red meat production, because of the methane emitted as a consequence of ruminant production systems. Compared to other meat production systems, poultry produce approximately half the GHG emissions per kilo of pork and approximately a fifth the Greenhouse Gas emissions per kilo of red meat, with substantially higher feed conversion figures than cattle or pigs for both intensive and extensive systems.
- 2.9 Methane emissions are nearly all associated with manure storage (poultry digestion does release some methane but it is relatively negligible). The revised proposals involve the removal of the of the manure from the site to an Anaerobic Digester Plant with no manure storage proposed.
- 2.10 The proposals are for a small-scale poultry unit and as such climate change impacts are negligible and have been scoped out.

Cumulative Impacts

- 2.11 The majority of environmental impacts of intensive livestock units, for example, odour, noise and dust are very localised, and limited an area extending up to no more than 400m from the site boundary.
- 2.12 Cumulative impacts, such as ammonia and nitrogen deposition, are required to be considered in certain bespoke circumstances if a development is not classed as insignificant alone. In terms of ammonia and nitrogen deposition, this development represents a substantial reduction to ammonia emissions from the site due to the technology being utilised in terms of air scrubbing on the existing and proposed poultry units. Therefore in combination ammonia assessment with this project is not required.
- 2.13 A review of the databases of Environmental Permitting and Planning have revealed 3 intensive livestock units within a 5km search radius of the application site. A radius of 5km has been used in order to provide a robust assessment, notwithstanding the fact that the impacts of the development are far more localised.
- Tramaen Farm, Llanfarred – 0.75km South South West of the site – 1 No. free range egg unit.
 - Gwernfach, Bettws Disserth – 4.3km North East of the site – 1 No. free range egg unit.
 - Penarth Farm, Cregrina – 4.4km East of the site – 1 No. free range egg unit.

- 2.14 The existing and proposed intensive livestock units listed above have been considered in combination with the proposals at Wern Halog Poultry Unit within this Environmental Statement.

Contributors to the Environmental Statement

- 2.15 The team of consultants involved in the EIA are listed in table 2.1 below. Each was selected for their technical services and expertise in their respective fields.

Table 2.1

Chapter	Consultants
1. Introduction	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
2. EIA Process	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
3. Description of Development	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
4. Alternatives	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
5. Planning Policy Context	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
6. Potential Environmental Effects	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
7. Ecology and Ammonia Deposition	Craig Emms; David Clements Ecology; AS Modelling and Data
8. Landscape and Visual Impacts	LVIA Ltd
9. Noise, Odour and Dust	Matrix Acoustics; AS Modelling and Data.
10. Details of Consultation	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
Non Technical Summary	Ian Pick Associates Ltd

Forecasting Methods

- 2.16 The forecasting methods used within this assessment are detailed within the individual chapters and assessments.
- Ecology Issues are assessed using the methodology contained within Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010) and the current guidance on survey methods from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. CIEEM, 2012). The Habitat Suitability Index was calculated following ARG UK advice note 5 (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010).
 - Off Site Ecological issues associated with ammonia and nitrogen deposition have been assessed in accordance with obtained from the Environment Agency's horizontal guidance, H1 Environmental Risks Assessment, H1 Annex B - Intensive Farming.
 - Landscape and Visual Impacts are assessed using GLVIA3.
 - Noise is forecast using BS4142:2014.
 - Odour Assessment is forecast based on Environment Agency IPPC permitting guidance for odour modelling - Environment Agency H4 Odour Management Guidance 2011
 - Air Quality and Dust is forecast based on DEFRA Project: AC0104 and DEFRA LAQM (TG16).

Assessment of Significance of Environmental Effects

- 2.17 In terms of the potential environmental effects, these have been assessed in accordance with the significance criterion outlined below. The assessment of significance within each subject chapter of the Environmental Statement has been informed corresponding technical assessment within the Appendices.

None	The development will not produce any effects beyond those which may be experienced within the current farming regime.
Low	There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses (e.g. distance too far)
Medium	There will be an effect which will impact on environmental features, but not significantly.
High	A significant effect.
Positive	Has a benefit.

CHAPTER 3

3. DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

Project Description

- 3.1 The applicants have submitted a planning application to Powys County Council for the erection of 2 No. additional poultry buildings and associated infrastructure at Wern Halog Poultry Unit (see location plan at **Appendix 1**). The elements of the development are shown within the table below.

Table 3.1.

Element	Description
New Poultry Houses 3 & 4	Erection of 2 No. new poultry houses measuring 99.19m x 24.684m with an eaves height of 3m and a ridge height of 6.403m, including air scrubbers attached to the east elevation.
Addition of Air Scrubbers to Poultry Houses 1 & 2	Erection of extensions on the east elevation of poultry houses 1 & 2 measuring 7.5m x 24.684m with an eaves height of 4.142m and a ridge height of 7.438m to incorporate air scrubbers.
Feed Bins	Installation of 4 No. Feed Bins with a diameter of 3.5m and a height of 3.6m.
Dirty Water Tanks	Installation of 3 No. additional SSAFO certified dirty water tanks to contain washout water and waste water from the air scrubbers.
Extension to Concrete Apron	An extension to the concrete apron measuring 785 sq m.

- 3.2 The proposed buildings will be clad with a polyester coated profile sheeting for the walls and roof. The finished colour of the walls and roof will be olive green.
- 3.3 The proposed additional buildings are both identical and will have pan feeders, nipple drinkers and ground source heating. The buildings will be ventilated with gable fans which expel air through the proposed air scrubbing system, prior to release into the atmosphere. The air scrubbing system reduces ammonia and odour emissions.
- 3.4 The ventilation, heating and feeding systems are all fully automated and controlled by a computer system within each poultry house. The system is alarmed for high and low temperature, feeding system failure and power failure.
- 3.5 The proposed buildings will operate as a broiler rearing unit, rearing chicks from day old top finished table weight.

- 3.6 The proposed broiler units will operate on an all-in all-out basis, with 45,000 birds per building, per crop, on a 48 day growing cycle, including a 10 day cleanout period. Thinning is undertaken with each crop from day 30 which provides the remaining birds with further space. The buildings are cleared of birds at day 38.
- 3.7 During the growing cycle temperature is controlled within the buildings. The temperature starts at 32°C on day 1 of the cycle reducing to 18°C over the growing cycle. The temperature is controlled by the heating and the ventilation system.
- 3.8 At the end of each flock cycle, the buildings are cleaned out and the manure removed using bobcat type machines and loaded directly in waiting vehicles, which are sheeted and the manure removed from the site for disposal via an Anaerobic Digester Plant (see letter at Appendix 2).
- 3.9 Following manure removal, the building are washed out with high pressure power-washers and prepared for the incoming flock.

External Lighting

- 3.10 The development does not require 24 hour external lighting. There are 2 days over each flock cycle, being days 30 and day 38 when night time catching operations will be undertaken and lighting on the site will be required in the form of directional flood lighting above the catching doors. Outside of the catching periods, 24 hour lighting is not required. Motion sensor trigger lighting will be provided for any staff needing to visit the site during hours of darkness.

Mitigation within the Project Design

- 3.11 Mitigation is inherent within the project design. The proposal is for the development of a poultry unit and requires an Environmental Permit in order to operate which is issued by NRW. The requirements of the Environmental Permit insist on the site being designed to Best Available Techniques (BAT). The proposed buildings are also required by the EP to be sealed and drained into a SSAFO certified dirty water containment system which essentially removes any potential for contaminated water escaping from the site.

Climate Change

- 3.13 Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations requires at 5(f) requires the ES to include a description of the likely significant effects of the development on climate and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. Climate change has been scoped out for detailed assessment.

Construction Phase

- 3.14 The construction phase of the proposed development will extend to approximately 26 weeks. This phase involves the following elements.
- Stripping of the topsoil and levelling of the subsoil to create a level development area using a tracked dozer.
 - Importation of stone, levelling and compacting to create a sub-base.
 - Preparation of concrete foundation pads for steelwork
 - Erection of steelwork and cladding
 - Concreting of the building floors and concrete aprons.
 - Fitting of the buildings and installation of equipment.
- 3.15 The construction materials will be delivered into the site using HGV vehicles. Stone will be delivered using 8 wheel rigid quarry lorries; Concrete using 6 wheel rigid ready mix concrete lorries; and steel framework and sheeting using articulated lorries with flatbed trailers.
- 3.16 The proposal is a permanent development and the estimated design life of the buildings is in excess of 50 years.

Characteristics and Production Processes

- 3.17 The use of the proposed buildings is for the rearing of day old broiler chickens through to finished table weight.

Expected Residues and Emissions

- 3.18 The proposed broiler farm requires a permit under the Environment Agencies Environmental permitting regime.
- 3.19 Expected residues and emissions from the site are limited to:
- Airbourn emissions in the form of odour, ammonia and nitrogen
 - Noise emission from mechanical plant
 - Production of waste in the form of poultry manure and dirty water.

CHAPTER 4

4. CHOICE OF LOCATION / ALTERNATIVE SITES

- 4.1 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 require an Environmental Statement to cover alternatives studied by the applicants.
- 4.2 This proposal is for the expansion of an existing poultry unit on the site. The existing poultry site is bounded to the south by an existing stream, precluding expansion to the south. The western boundary of the site is also the applicants boundary of ownership, precluding development to the west. The land to the east of the existing poultry unit is adjacent to ponds utilised by great crested newts, thereby precluding development to the east. The proposed location of the additional poultry houses to the north of the existing units is the only option available to the applicants, due to the constraints of the site.
- 4.3 The proposed development utilises technology in the form of air scrubbers to be fitted to the existing and proposed poultry houses which will result in the ammonia emissions from the expanded site being reduced from current levels by around 50%. Air scrubbing is the best technology available for emissions reductions from poultry houses.

CHAPTER 5

5. PLANNING AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Introduction

- 5.1 This chapter identifies planning policy relevant to the proposed development and the application site, together with an assessment of the development proposal against the planning policy and guidance.
- 5.2 The proposed development has been prepared having regard to national and local policy and guidance.
- 5.3 At a national level, planning policy is provided by Planning Policy Wales, 11th Edition 2021.
- 5.4 At a local level, planning policy is provided in the form of the Adopted Powys Local Development Plan (2018).

Powys Local Development Plan 2018

- Policy DM2 The Natural Environment
- Policy DM4 Landscape
- Policy DM6 Flood Prevention and Land Drainage
- Policy DM13 Design and Resources
- Policy DM14 Air Quality Management
- Policy E2 Employment Proposals on Non-Allocated Employment Sites.
- Policy E6 Farm Diversification
- Policy T1 Travel, Traffic and Transport Infrastructure

Planning Policy Wales

- Planning Policy Wales (11th Edition 2021)
- Technical Advice Note 5 – Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)
- Technical Advice Note 6 – Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)
- Technical Advice Note 11 – Noise (1997)
- Technical Advice Note 12 – Design (2016)
- Technical Advice Note 18 – Transport (2007)
- Technical Advice Note 23 – Economic Development (2014)
- Technical Advice Note 24 – The Historic Environment (2017)

CHAPTER 6.

6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECTS

6.1 The following potential environmental affects have been considered.

- Ecological Assessment including Phase 1 Habitat Assessment and Ammonia Impact Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Noise Assessment to BS4142.
- Odour Assessment including dispersal modelling
- Dust Assessment

Ecology & Ammonia Deposition

6.2 Ecology is assessed within the Chapter 7, and the associated Phase 1 Habitat Survey at **Appendix 3**, the Great Crested Newt Strategy at **Appendix 4** and the Ammonia Impact Assessment at **Appendix 6**.

6.3 The scope of the ecological assessment relates to the full development described in Chapter 3. The site was surveyed following the methodology contained in the Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010) and the current guidance on survey methods from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. CIEEM, 2012). The Habitat Suitability Index was calculated following ARG UK advice note 5 (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010).

6.4 The Ammonia dispersal and deposition report is based on the emissions from the proposed poultry houses and has been conducted in accordance with the Environment Agency's "horizontal" guidance, "H1" Environmental Risks" Assessment, "H1" Annex "B" ;" Intensive" Farming."

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

6.5 Landscape and Visual Impact is assessed in Chapter 8, and the associated LVIA report at **Appendix 7**. The scope of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was to provide an assessment of the entire development described in Chapter 3, in accordance with the Guidance set out in GLVIA 3.

Noise and Odour

6.6 Noise is assessed in Chapter 9, and within the Noise Impact Assessment at **Appendix 8**. The scope of the noise assessment includes all potential noise sources arising from the operation of the proposed development described in Chapter 3. The assessment has been prepared in accordance with BS4142:2014.

6.7 Odour is assessed in Chapter 9, and within the Odour Impact Assessment at **Appendix 7**. The odour assessment is based on the impacts of the poultry buildings throughout the duration of the flock cycle, and during the cleanout

process. The odour impact assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Environment Agency H4 Odour Management Guidance 2011.

Manure Disposal Activities

- 6.8 Manure disposal is assessed in Chapter 9. Manure management proposals are through export of the manure to a licensed Anaerobic Digester facility.

Dust

- 6.9 Dust is assessed in Chapter 9. The proposals are assessed against the results of DEFRA project AC0104 and DEFRA LAQM TG16.

CHAPTER 7.

7. ECOLOGY AND AMMONIA DEPOSITION

Baseline Conditions

- 7.1 A phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken on the site to determine baseline ecological conditions on the site. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey relates to the full development as described in Chapter 3. The full Phase 1 assessment is contained at **Appendix 3**.
- 7.2 The site was surveyed following the methodology contained in the Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey (Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC, Peterborough, UK) and the current guidance on survey methods from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM. 2012. *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. CIEEM, Winchester, UK). The Habitat Suitability Index for great crested newts was calculated following ARG UK advice note 5 (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010).
- 7.3 The Phase 1 Habitat Survey provides evidence that the site is not as a whole of sufficient ecological value to warrant whole-scale protection from the development. The sites habitats which will be affected by the works are common and widespread and are considered to be of low intrinsic biodiversity value.
- 7.4 There are four ponds within 500m of the application site (3 existing ponds and 1 newly constructed attenuation pond form part of application reference 18/0475/FUL). The three ponds on site were surveyed in 2018 and 2019 and found to host a breeding population of Great Crested Newts. The construction works undertaken under planning permission reference 18/0475/FUL were undertaken with a Great Crested Newt license, issued by Natural Resources Wales. The proposed expansion of the poultry unit will require a Great Crested Newt License, and the Draft Conservation Strategy and Mitigation for Great Crested Newt is attached at **Appendix 4**.

The Development Proposal

- 7.5 The development proposal will introduce an intensive poultry farming operation onto the site. The ecological assessment provided at **Appendix 3** confirms that the application site itself is of low intrinsic biodiversity value.
- 7.6 Intensive poultry farming enterprises have the potential to create increased levels of ammonia and nitrogen within the atmosphere in the locality, which can in turn create negative impacts on sites of nature conservation importance, for example, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ancient Woodlands and Local Wildlife Sites.
- 7.7 An assessment of potential impacts of ammonia and nitrogen deposition to protected ecological sites is required, if there are Ancient Woodlands or Local Wildlife Sites within 2km, SSSI's within 5km or SAC sites within 10km. It is

important to note that the original poultry unit application at Wern Halog Poultry Unit (18/0475/FUL) was considered under the old NRW thresholds for ammonia deposition, which allowed up to 20% process contribution for ammonia and nitrogen deposition to SSSI sites and 4% process contribution to SAC sites. Since the original poultry unit proposal, the ammonia and nitrogen deposition thresholds which NRW apply have been significantly reduced.

7.8 This proposal has been designed with new technology for ammonia abatement in the form of air scrubbing systems. The proposals include for the installation of air scrubbing on the existing poultry houses 1 and 2, together with air scrubbing on the proposed poultry houses 3 & 4. A copy of the specification for the air scrubbing system is enclosed at **Appendix 5**.

7.9 Detailed modelling of the existing and proposed scenarios has been undertaken within the modelling report at **Appendix 6**. The images below shows the results of the existing versus proposed ammonia modelling.

Table 5b. Maximum annual mean ammonia at the discrete receptors - Existing houses only with regulatory emissions

Receptor number	X(m)	Y(m)	Designation	Site Parameters			Maximum annual ammonia concentration		Maximum annual nitrogen deposition rate	
				Deposition Velocity	Critical Level ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Critical Load (kg/ha)	Process Contribution ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	%age of Critical Level	Process Contribution (kg/ha)	%age of Critical Load
25	307296	253606	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.024	2.4	0.19	1.9
26	307207	253933	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.014	1.4	0.11	1.1
27	307811	253919	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.029	2.9	0.23	2.3
28	307669	253968	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.019	1.9	0.15	1.5
29	307781	254080	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.018	1.8	0.14	1.4
40	308485	253703	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.195	19.5	1.01	10.1
41	308575	254132	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.059	5.9	0.31	3.1
42	309045	253819	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.072	7.2	0.38	3.8
44	310142	255027	Banc Hirllwyn SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.021	2.1	0.11	1.1
47	305685	252605	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.008	0.8	0.04	0.8
48	305458	253006	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.006	0.6	0.03	0.6
49	305536	251906	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.019	1.9	0.10	1.9
57	308599	253863	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.137	13.7	1.07	10.7
58	308365	254689	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.024	2.4	0.19	1.9
59	309313	253897	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.049	4.9	0.38	3.8
60	310356	253969	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.019	1.9	0.14	1.4

Table 5a. Maximum annual mean ammonia at the discrete receptors - Existing and Proposed poultry houses with Inno+ ammonia scrubbers

Receptor number	X(m)	Y(m)	Designation	Site Parameters			Maximum annual ammonia concentration		Maximum annual nitrogen deposition rate	
				Deposition Velocity	Critical Level ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Critical Load (kg/ha)	Process Contribution ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	%age of Critical Level	Process Contribution (kg/ha)	%age of Critical Load
25	307296	253606	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.014	1.4	0.11	1.1
26	307207	253933	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.007	0.7	0.05	0.5
27	307811	253919	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.018	1.8	0.14	1.4
28	307669	253968	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.012	1.2	0.10	1.0
29	307781	254080	Ammonia sensitive AW	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.011	1.1	0.08	0.8
40	308485	253703	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.097	9.7	0.50	5.0
41	308575	254132	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.031	3.1	0.16	1.6
42	309045	253819	Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.032	3.2	0.17	1.7
44	310142	255027	Banc Hirllwyn SSSI	0.02	1.0	10.0	0.008	0.8	0.04	0.4
47	305685	252605	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.003	0.3	0.02	0.3
48	305458	253006	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.003	0.3	0.01	0.3
49	305536	251906	Llanelwedd Rocks SSSI	0.02	1.0	5.0	0.008	0.8	0.04	0.8
57	308599	253863	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.064	6.4	0.50	5.0
58	308365	254689	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.014	1.4	0.11	1.1
59	309313	253897	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.022	2.2	0.17	1.7
60	310356	253969	River Wye SAC	0.03	1.0	10.0	0.008	0.8	0.06	0.6

7.10 Table 5b above shows the ammonia and nitrogen deposition from the existing poultry farm. Table 5a above shows the ammonia and nitrogen deposition as a result of the new houses with air scrubbing, together with retrofitting air scrubbing to the existing poultry houses. The results show that the ammonia

and nitrogen deposition to nearby sites of ecological importance has a marked reduction due to the air scrubbers, even with the expansion of the site.

Cumulative Impacts

- 7.11 Cumulative ammonia impacts of this proposal are not required to be considered as the proposals represent an improvement / betterment scenario, when compared with the existing poultry farm.

Summary

- 7.12 The Phase 1 Habitat Survey provides evidence that the site is not as a whole of sufficient ecological value to warrant whole-scale protection from the development. The sites habitats which will be affected by the works are common and widespread and are considered to be of low intrinsic biodiversity value, subject to the development being undertaken with a Great Crested Newt License from Natural Resources Wales.
- 7.13 The ammonia modelling, with abatement offered by the Inno+ scrubbing system confirms that the proposals represent an improvement in ammonia and nitrogen deposition rates to protected sites in the surrounding area.

Assessment Level Assuming Mitigation

- 7.14 Mitigation is designed into the scheme through the use of the proposed air scrubbing system which is effective for scrubbing 90% of ammonia emissions from the proposed buildings. The overall assessment level based on the criteria outlined in section 2.17 of this report is **Positive – The proposal have a benefit.**

CHAPTER 8

8. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACTS

Baseline Conditions

- 8.1 The site is currently a field in agricultural use which is defined by hedgerows with trees field boundaries and pockets of woodland in the local landscape. The site sits adjacent to two existing poultry buildings. The site sits in an undulating landform on the south facing slope of a valley that follows the A481.
- 8.2 The proposed development has been subject to a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The full assessment is shown at **Appendix 7** to this report.

LVIA Summary

- 8.3 LVIA Ltd were instructed to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment for two chicken sheds located at Wern Halog, Llanfaredd, Builth Wells by Ian Pick Associates Ltd in January 2021. The site and its surrounding landscape were assessed and a total of five viewpoints were selected to represent a variety of receptors in the surrounding area.
- 8.4 The aim of this report is to provide an assessment of the potential landscape and visual effects of a proposed development upon the receiving landscape, in line with current legislation and guidance. It comprises two main assessments, the first for landscape and the second for visual effects.
- 8.5 The assessment has been conducted in line with published best practice guidelines and includes a desk study; (review of local plan policies, published landscape character assessment and production of a computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)) and onsite observations.
- 8.6 The site is currently a field in agricultural use which is defined by hedgerows with trees field boundaries and pockets of woodland in the local landscape. The site sits adjacent to two existing poultry buildings. The site sits in an undulating landform on the south facing slope of a valley that follows the A481.
- 8.7 Due to the existing local area, the proposed scheme would not be out of character with its surroundings when considered as part of the wider landscape.
- 8.8 Mitigation measures have been suggested to aid the schemes visual blending with the existing environs.
- 8.9 Five viewpoints were considered and of these none were considered to have material visual impacts.

- 8.10 With the implementation of a successful mitigation strategy, the overall impact on the landscape is considered to have a minor/negligible overall effect on the surrounding landscape character and a minor visual effect. It should be considered that this type of development is not out of character within the receiving landscape.

Summary

- 8.11 The proposed development has been assessed within the LVIA as having a minor/negligible impact on landscape character and a minor effect on visual impact.

Assessment Level Assuming Mitigation

- 8.12 Landscape Mitigation is proposed within the project design in the form of the retention, maintenance and management of the existing mature trees on the northern and southern site boundaries, together with gapping up and planting of hedgerow trees in the hedgerow on the western boundary. A new boundary hedgerow with hedgerow trees is also proposed on the eastern side boundary. The proposed mitigation measure will filter view of the development. The overall assessment level based on the criteria outlined in section 2.17 of this report is **Low - There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses.**

Residual Impacts

- 8.13 The development will result in a perceptible change in the landscape, which will be reduced over time as the landscape mitigation planting matures.

CHAPTER 9.

9. NOISE, ODOUR & DUST

Noise

Scope of the Assessment

- 9.1 A detailed noise assessment has been prepared by Matrix Acoustic Design Consultants to review plant noise generated from the proposed development. The full detailed analysis, which includes the results of a noise survey and acoustic calculations, are provided at **Appendix 8**. The Acoustic Assessment has been undertaken to BS4142:2014.

Baseline Conditions

- 9.2 A noise survey has been conducted to determine the typical background noise levels at the nearest dwellings to the proposed broiler units.

Assessment Summary

- 9.3 The extract fan and air scrubber noise emissions as a result of the proposed upgraded existing and proposed additional poultry units at Wern Halog, Llanfaredd, Powys has been assessed in accordance with BS4142:2014 at the two nearest dwellings; Figure 1.
- 9.4 For the assessment the mitigation measure of attenuators fitted to the three roof extract fans on Shed 1 that achieve the insertion losses given in Table 1 has been included.
- 9.5 The initial minimum ventilation for the poultry units will be provided by the ridge fans only. Once the units start to produce ammonia the ventilation system reverts to air scrubber system.
- 9.6 Via calculation (Appendix B) it has been demonstrated that the Rating Levels of the roof extract fans and air scrubber will both be below the typical background noise level during both the day and evening, indicating a BS4142 low noise impact.
- 9.7 As a precautionary measure the simultaneous operation of both the roof extract fans and air scrubber has also been reviewed. This scenario would only potentially occur during periods of extreme hot weather during the day. With both ventilation systems running at 100% capacity (worst-case scenario) the highest Rating Level has been determined to be 2dB above the typical background noise level. This is considered acceptable when taking into account the context of the infrequency of occurrence, a 2dB change in noise imperceptible (i.e., perceptually it would equate to a low noise impact), the absolute noise levels are low and that an adverse noise impact is not identified.
- 9.8 Due to the very low Rating Levels and typical background noise levels during the night the absolute noise emission levels have been assessed to review acceptability; this is in accordance with guidance given in BS4142.

- 9.9 During the night the aggregate ambient noise ingress via an open window of the ridge extract fans and air scrubber system have been established to be significantly below the existing underlying noise environment and >10dB below BS8233's noise ingress limits for bedrooms (note the limits are applicable to road traffic and continuous operating plant). On this basis we conclude that the noise impact of either the roof extract fans or air scrubber system will be negligible.
- 9.10 On the basis that the proposed scheme will not result in an adverse noise impact at the nearest dwellings, we conclude that on noise grounds it is acceptable.

Cumulative Impacts

- 9.11 The Noise Impact Assessment is based on a background noise survey with noise meters positioned on close to the site to record the existing background noise levels in the locality. The noise assessment is therefore takes account cumulatively of all existing noise generating activity in the locality.

Noise Summary

- 9.12 The proposed development will result in a permanent effect, as the noise impacts of the development arise from the operation of plant throughout the lifespan of the development. The noise assessment is based on BS4142: 2014 and the associated rating levels in accordance with BS4142:2014 for noise is low to negligible.

Assessment Level Assuming Mitigation

- 9.13 The overall assessment level based on the criteria outlined in section 2.17 of this report is **Low - There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses.**

Residual Impacts

- 9.14 The development will have a low impact on noise conditions and will be inaudible at nearby receptors at most times.

Odour Assessment

Baseline Conditions

- 9.15 The application site currently comprises an existing poultry farm which extends to 2 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure, and accommodates up to 90,000 birds.
- 9.16 The proposals will double the capacity of the site, adding two additional poultry houses, extending the site to 180,000 birds. The proposals include air scrubbing on the new poultry houses, and retrofitting air scrubbing onto the existing poultry houses. The air scrubbing technology removes an element of odour, in addition to ammonia. The odour modelling report at **Appendix 9**

provides a full assessment of the whole expanded poultry unit with the mitigation offered by the air scrubber units.

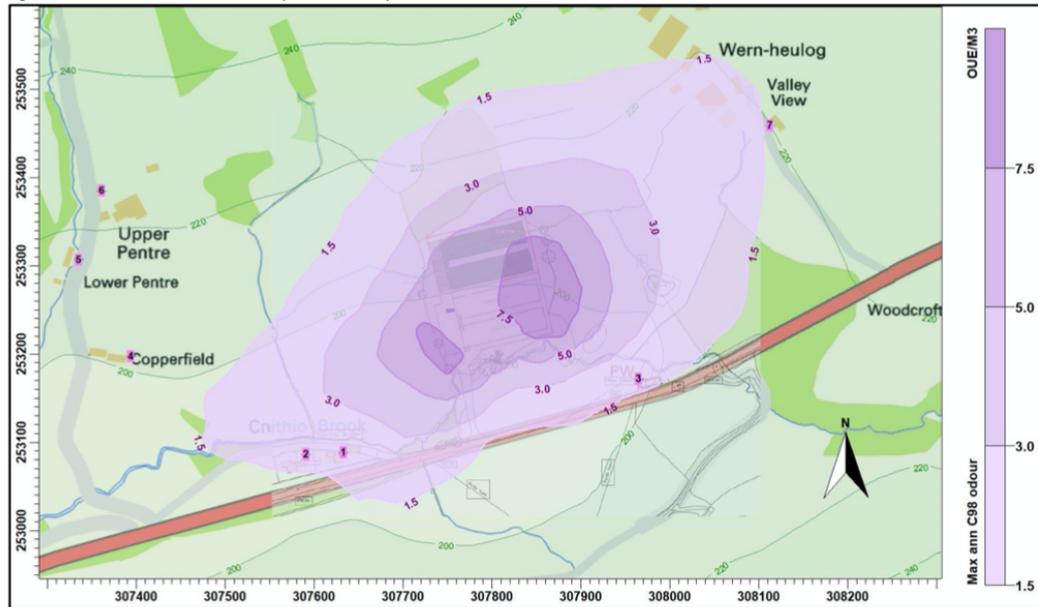
Scope of the Assessment

- 9.16 AS Modelling & Data Ltd. has been instructed by Mr. Ian Pick of Ian Pick Associates Ltd., on behalf of W. D. & K. J. Davies, to use computer modelling to assess the impact of odour emissions from the existing and proposed broiler chicken rearing houses at Wern Halog Farm, Llanfaredd, Builth Wells, Powys. LD2 3TE.
- 9.17 Odour emission rates from the existing and proposed poultry houses have been assessed and quantified based upon an emissions model that takes into account the likely internal odour concentrations and ventilation rates of the poultry houses and the effects of the Inno+ air scrubbing equipment that would be fitted to the poultry houses. The odour emission rates so obtained have then been used as inputs to an atmospheric dispersion model which calculates odour exposure levels in the surrounding area.
- 9.18 The modelling predicts that at all residential receptors considered, odour exposures would be below the Environment Agency's benchmark for moderately offensive odours, which is a maximum annual 98th percentile hourly mean concentration of 3.0 ouE/m .

Cumulative Impacts

- 9.19 The Odour Impact Assessment at Appendix 9 predicts the impacts of the existing and proposed development at Wern Halog in isolation. The potential for cumulative impacts with the other existing and proposed intensive livestock units listed in 2.13 of this Environmental Statement have been considered.
- 9.20 Odour impacts from poultry units are very localised impacts and limited to impacts within a few hundred meters of the poultry buildings. There is accepted modelling methodology available for robust assessment. The odour impact assessment at Appendix 9 models the odour impacts from the existing and proposed poultry houses at Wern Halog Poultry Unit. The image below shows the odour plume associated with proposed development taken from figure 6 of the odour impact assessment at **Appendix 9**.

Figure 6. Predicted maximum annual 98th percentile hourly mean odour concentration



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19

- 9.21 The odour plume above shows the predicted impact of the proposed expanded poultry unit at Wern Halog.
- 9.22 Turning to further in combination impacts, the odour plume above shows that the 3 Odour Unit contour extends a maximum of 150m from the proposed buildings, depending on the wind direction, and the 1.5 odour unit contour extends to approximately 200m from the proposed buildings. Therefore, in order for any other existing or proposed intensive livestock unit to have an in-combination odour impact with the proposed development, they would need to be in sufficiently close proximity for the 1.5 odour unit contours to overlap. It is therefore estimated that there would need to be a neighbouring intensive livestock unit of a similar scale within 400m of the site to act in combination from an odour perspective. The existing and proposed intensive livestock units in the locality are shown in paragraphs 2.13 of this statement, with the closest being a small free range egg unit at Tramean Farm, which is located 0.75km to the south south west. This level of separation is well beyond the estimated 400m distance where in combination impacts could occur.
- 9.23 It is concluded that there are no other schemes acting in combination with the proposed development from an odour perspective.

Odour Summary

- 9.24 The modelling predicts that, should the proposed development of the poultry unit expansion at Wern Halog proceed, the odour exposure would be below the Environment Agency/Natural Resources Wales benchmark for moderately offensive odours, which is a maximum annual 98th percentile hourly mean concentration of 3.0 ouE/m³, at all nearby residential receptors considered. The maximum predicted odour exposure is 2.26 ouE/m, at dwellings unconnected with the farm.

- 9.25 The odour impacts of the development relate to its operation for the design life of the project, and therefore represent a permanent effect.

Assessment Level Assuming Mitigation

- 9.26 Mitigation is designed into the scheme through the use of the proposed air scrubbing system. The overall assessment level based on the criteria outlined in section 2.17 of this report is **Low - There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses.**

Residual Impacts

- 9.27 The modelling shows that land within the immediate vicinity of the poultry unit will be subject to perceptible odours, however, there are no sensitive receptors (dwellings or occupied buildings) likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

Dust

- 9.28 The assessment of dust from poultry farms formed part of a DEFRA research project. DEFRA project AC0104. The summary of the DEFRA research project is shown in the text below.

“This work represents one of the most comprehensive studies to quantify PM emissions from poultry housing to date, comparing a total of eight farms. Large variations between farm management practises, lighting regimes, litter conditions, and meteorology contributed to variability in emissions, even for the same type of farm. However, the measurements undertaken as part of this study were also able to identify differences in concentrations and emissions of particles between different farm types. The broiler installations were associated with the largest indoor air PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations (655 µg m⁻³ and 2990 µg m⁻³, respectively) and the highest bacterial fungal counts. Concentrations for particulate matter and bioaerosols were the lowest at battery farms. In general, indoor particle concentrations increased during winter time and light periods, reflecting ventilation rate and bird activity as the dominant influences. On the other hand, emission factors increased slightly during light-time in the summer months, due to the increase in ventilation rate.

Chemical speciation measurements indicated that (i) NH₄NO₄ was not forming within the shed, (ii) the dominant inorganic species sourced from poultry material are Ca²⁺, K⁺ and Mg²⁺, and (iii) the key metals in the poultry sheds include Al, As, Ba, Cu (light only), Cr, Mn, Rb, Sr and Ti. We here derived, to our knowledge for the first time, poultry emission factors for aerosol chemical components (metals and major inorganic ions) and when compared against the NAEI suggest that between 0.1 – 4% (depending on compound) of the UK metal and inorganic ion emissions are derived from poultry house emissions.

Bioaerosol concentrations in the building represent a risk to poultry workers in terms of respiratory allergy or disease, but the levels emitted are sufficiently diluted over a short distance from the building so as not to pose a risk to those living in the vicinity of poultry operations. PM₁₀ particulate levels were reduced to background levels by 100m downwind of even the highest emitting

poultry houses, therefore are unlikely to pose a risk to those living in the vicinity of poultry operations.”

- 9.29 The results of the DEFRA research project demonstrated that emissions from poultry units in terms of particulate matter reduced to background levels by 100m downwind of the even the highest emitting poultry houses. The research shows that levels of particulate matter are sufficiently diluted over a short distance so as not to pose a risk to those living in the vicinity of poultry operations. The closest emission point within the application site is 200m from the closest residential receptor unconnected with the farm and therefore beyond the distance where dust issues can occur. The scrubbing system is also accredited for additional dust filtration.

Human Health

- 9.30 Dust impacts of poultry units are well researched by DEFRA. DEFRA Project AC0104 confirms that dust levels reduce to background levels at 100m from the highest emitting poultry houses. DEFRA Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 16 (Feb 2018) provides screening criteria of where dust assessment is required for a poultry unit as follows:

“Poultry farms housing in excess of 400,000 birds (if mechanically ventilated) / 200,000 birds (if naturally ventilated) / 100,000 birds (if turkey unit) - Exposure within 100m from the poultry units”

- 9.31 The above screening criteria confirms that air quality assessment is required for poultry units, if the development exceeds 400,000 birds and there is a receptor within 100m. In this instance, the development falls well below the threshold for dust assessment.

Cumulative Impacts

- 9.32 DEFRA Guidance provided in LAQM TG16 (2018) and DEFRA Project AC0104 confirm that dust impacts from even the highest emitting poultry units are reduced to background levels at 100m from the installation boundary. As shown in paragraphs 2.13 of this statement, the nearby intensive livestock unit which could act in combination is at Tramaen Farm, 0.75km to the south south west, therefore, there are no in combination dust impacts.

Dust Summary

- 9.33 The application site is located 200m from the closest sensitive receptor. The results of DEFRA project AC0104 confirmed with research that dust was diluted over short distances of 100m to normal background levels and therefore the proposal does not pose a risk of public health issues. This conclusion is further reinforced by DEFRA Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 16 (Feb 2018).

Assessment Level Assuming Mitigation

- 9.34 Dust mitigation is designed into the scheme through the use of the proposed air scrubbing system. The overall assessment level based on the criteria

outlined in section 2.17 of this report is **Low - There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses.**

Residual Impacts

- 9.35 None. The separation distance is beyond the 100m screening distance.

Manure Management

- 9.36 All manures and dirty water arising from the operation of the proposed development will be disposed of via export from the site to a licensed Anaerobic Digester Plant. See **Appendix 2**. The removal of the waste to a licensed AD plant removed any potential environmental impacts.

CHAPTER 10.

10. DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11.1 As part of the preparation of the Environmental Statement, consultation has been undertaken with the following:

Powys County Council – Local Planning Authority

Natural Resources Wales – Planning and Environmental Permitting

CADW

Welsh Water

Powys County Council Highways

Community Council

Local Residents

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This non-technical summary has been produced to summarise the issues, mitigation measures and effects relating to the proposed development of additional poultry buildings and associated infrastructure at Wern Halog Poultry Unit.
- 1.2 The proposed development is for the erection of 2 No. additional poultry buildings and associated infrastructure, as detailed in the table below.

Element	Description
New Poultry Houses 3 & 4	Erection of 2 No. new poultry houses measuring 99.19m x 24.684m with an eaves height of 3m and a ridge height of 6.403m, including air scrubbers attached to the east elevation.
Addition of Air Scrubbers to Poultry Houses 1 & 2	Erection of extensions on the east elevation of poultry houses 1 & 2 measuring 7.5m x 24.684m with an eaves height of 4.142m and a ridge height of 7.438m to incorporate air scrubbers.
Feed Bins	Installation of 4 No. Feed Bins with a diameter of 3.5m and a height of 3.6m.
Dirty Water Tanks	Installation of 3 No. additional SSAFO certified dirty water tanks to contain washout water and waste water from the air scrubbers.
Extension to Concrete Apron	An extension to the concrete apron measuring 785 sq m.

- 1.3 Each proposed poultry building will house 45,000 birds, with 90,000 additional birds proposed on the site, taking the total size of the poultry farm to 180,000 birds.

Assessment of Significance of Environmental Effects

1.4 In terms of the potential environmental effects, these have been assessed in accordance with the significance criterion outlined below.

- None** **The development will not produce any effects beyond those which may be experienced within the current farming regime.**
- Low** **There will be an effect, however this will be localised and will not impact on environmental and other features to their detriment when relating to existing uses (e.g. distance too far)**
- Medium** **There will be an effect which will impact on environmental features, but not significantly.**
- High** **A significant effect.**
- Positive** **Has a benefit.**

1.5 The scheme has been designed to take into account the potential environmental effects, with mitigation inherent in the project design. The scope of assessment included within the Environmental Impact Assessment includes the following:

- Ecological Assessment including Phase 1 Habitat Assessment and Ammonia Impact Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Noise Assessment to BS4142.
- Odour Assessment including dispersal modelling
- Dust Assessment

1.6 The impact relating to these issues is summarised in the following sections.

Environmental Impact

Issue	Mitigation Measures	Affect Assuming Mitigation
Ecology & Ammonia Deposition	NRW Great Crested Newt License Requirement.	Low / Positive (not significant) The sites habitats which will be affected by the works are common and widespread and are considered to be of low intrinsic biodiversity value.

	<p>The ammonia report demonstrates with the addition of air scrubbers, compliance with the appropriate NRW thresholds.</p>	<p>The proposals have been assessed for ammonia impacts to sites of nature conservation importance. The ammonia impacts of the development represent an improvement to current emissions.</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual Impact.</p>	<p>Native tree and hedgerow planting to the site boundaries;</p> <p>Management and maintenance of existing surrounding hedgerow and trees;</p> <p>The use of materials for the external envelope of the buildings which minimise potential visual intrusion and follow the local vernacular to aid visual blending, for example, olive green metal sheeting.</p>	<p>Low (not significant) The assessment level provided within the LVIA is based on the guidance within GLVIA 3 with a resulting negligible/minor impact on landscape character and minor effect on visual impact. This is a permanent effect as the assessment relates to the presence of the development within the landscape.</p>
<p>Noise</p> <p>Odour</p> <p>Dust</p>	<p>Installation of Air Scrubbers to the existing and proposed poultry houses.</p>	<p>Low (not significant) The noise assessment concludes that the noise impacts of the development are low to negligible.</p> <p>Low (not significant) The proposal is compliant with NRW odour thresholds</p> <p>None The proposal is beyond the distance where dust issues can arise.</p>

- 1.7 In conclusion, the proposed poultry unit expansion at Wern Halog, Llanfarred, will not produce any significant Environmental Impacts. From the information appraised through the Environmental Impact Assessment process, it is clear that the proposed redevelopment will have low impact on the environment taking into account the migration measures proposed.
- 1.8 No technical difficulties were encountered in preparing this Environmental Statement or assessing the impacts of the proposed development. The preparation of the Environmental Assessment has taken into account the results of UK environmental assessments.

**Ian Pick BSc (Hons) MRICS,
March 2021.**