

Application Summary

Application Number: 22/00243/FUL

Address: Land North Of Cotgrave Road Cotgrave Road Owthorpe Nottinghamshire NG12 3GE

Proposal: Erection of 4 No. poultry buildings, 8 no. feed bins, 2 no. feed blending rooms, gate house, generator, plant room, water tank, Dirty Water Tank and Gas Tanks. Creation of new access road, car parking and concrete apron as well as new attenuation pond.

Case officer: Leanne Richardson

Standard Consultation Expiry Date: 01 April 2022

To the planning committee

Kindly accept my objection to the above planning application, based on the following reasons:

Local Planning Pressures

There are already **5** intensive classified farms in the Rushcliffe Borough Council area.

Add all those that fall under the EA permit classification and how many more can the county take? Are they necessary?

This proposal states:

The 4 No. poultry buildings each have a capacity of **47,500** birds, with the total capacity of the site extending to **190,000** birds, broilers are reared for approximately **38** days following which the poultry buildings are cleaned out in preparation for the next batch of birds. The proposed unit will operate with up to 7.5 flocks per birds per annum.

That equates to nearly **1.5 million** birds per year!

Local Climate Crisis

The short-term benefits of extra employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact on the local area, which is already facing a climate emergency.

The British Government has announced that local authorities are central to delivering its CO₂ emission targets, yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is vital to recognise the grave impact that just one more factory farm will have on the local, national and global environment.

Local Wildlife & Pollution Problems

Rushcliffe Borough Council has published their commitment to protect biodiversity in its biodiversity action plan strategy. Animal agriculture does not protect wildlife. Quite the opposite, as Defra's *The Future Farming and Environment Evidence Compendium September 2019* report reveals:

“Biodiversity: Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a **reduction in wildlife biodiversity** (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated: “Authorities have a responsibility for controlling zoonoses – diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment. An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of zoonotic nature.”

The more intensive animal farms built, the greater the likelihood of:

More pandemics
Environmental damage
Biodiversity loss
Global food poverty, and UK food insecurity
Cancer and obesity
Antibiotic resistance
Animal mutilations without anaesthetic.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of ALL the cruelties and catastrophes above. *Source: Scrap Factory Farming.*

National and International Threat: Zoonotic Diseases

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>

The number of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian flu as of 20/03/2022 is now **98** (data counted seasonally from 27-10-21)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

(24/11/21):

New housing measures will be introduced to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will come into force from 00:01 on Monday 29 November. This means it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread and to eradicate the disease.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-latest-situation-avian-influenza-prevention-zone-declared-across-great-britain>

National Climate Crisis

Scientists, the IPCC and the UN among many other world-renowned organisations are calling for an urgent reduction in meat and dairy consumption by 2030, saying 2050 will be too late.

This year, the UK Climate Committee declared the urgent need for a 40% reduction in meat consumption.

As far back as 2007 Defra reported: “The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O.”

“Nitrous oxide* (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia [and] contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The **agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3**, respectively, nearly all of which is derived from livestock production.” *Source: Defra, <https://bit.ly/3HxEkFm>*

*Nitrous oxide is nearly 300 times more active as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. *Source: Government of Australia, <https://bit.ly/3x8eDGV>*

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the government sees local authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets?

Deadly Antibiotic Resistance

In 2020 WHO reported: "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today." *Source: WHO, <https://bit.ly/3Hxk6vk>*

“If no action is taken, drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050, and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty.

Currently, at least **700,000 people die each year** due to drug-resistant diseases. More and more common diseases are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious”.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2YVC9dt>

Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating the process.

“Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk.

The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure – before they show signs of illness – to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared **pigs and poultry** account for **79% of UK farming antibiotic use.**” *Source: Soil Association,*

<https://www.soilassociation.org/causes-campaigns/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming>

A 2019 EA report reveals: “Unfortunately farming is still one of the biggest sources of pollution incidents and farm slurry causes more than 1 serious incident of pollution a week. In 2018, farming activities caused 77 serious incidences of pollution in our waterways... we found that **95%** of dairy farms failed to meet water protection standards”.

These facts are deeply concerning. EA responses to some planning applications indicate that its permits are issued for intensively farmed animals on the basis that the staff would rely on the EA, Defra or water boards to respond to breaches *after* the planning application has been approved – rather like closing the door after the horse has bolted.

Meat Kills

The cancer agency of the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), classifies processed red meat as carcinogenic, and non-processed red meat as possibly carcinogenic. Cancer Research UK continues to publish the IARC’s findings on its website.

Abhorrent Animal Abuse

This year a Viva! survey revealed that 85% of the public were against factory farms. And in 2019 Defra reported that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals; 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

As stated above – This site will deal with almost **1.5 Million** birds per year, a total site capacity of **190 Thousand** and **47.5 Thousand** birds per shed.

Although animal welfare protection in UK planning law is very limited, it is immoral to subject sentient being (having the capacity to suffer) to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations, and no chance of a ‘normal’ life. Factory farms result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Additional Comments: the plant-based boom

Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the British population by 2025, with “corporates lining up to declare their commitment to the cause. Tesco has pledged to hike sales of meat alternatives by 300% by 2025, Unilever wants global plant-based sales to hit €1bn a year” [*The Grocer*], while Sainsbury’s reports a 65% increase in sales of plant-based products year-on-year.

Based on all the above I urge you to consider the point: is another factory farm right for this community?

Kind regards,