

Appendix I - EIA Screening

PA file no.: TRK 154371

Other reference: EA 00026/15

Project Title: Extension to poultry farm approved by PA 7010/07 and to sanction variations as shown on drawings.

Location: ' Ballut Farm ', Għajn Tuffieħa, Limiti Ta', Mġarr, Malta

Screening date: July 2015

1. Description of Proposal

1.1 Outline of project/development

Tracking application 154371 seeks permission for the extension to poultry farm approved by PA 07010/07 and to sanction variations as shown on drawings at ' Ballut Farm', Għajn Tuffieħa, Limiti Ta', Mġarr, Malta. The Project Description Statement (PDS) indicates that the applicant is proposing to upgrade the breeding capacity of this egg farm from 20,000 to 24,200 laying hens. Apart from this extension, the farm requires other facilities which are necessitated to abide by both the animal welfare standards as well as with the Nitrates Directive (refer to Annex IV, Section 5 of L.N. 321 of 2011). Such facilities include: (i) minor sanctioning (size and structural) of the manure clamp; (ii) sanctioning of ramp that was surfaced to access Block B; (iii) an kitchenette in Block B; and (iv) a water tank adjacent to Block C (Figures 1 and 2).

The site in question has an area of 2,641m², of which 1,361m² is currently built-up. The area for the proposed development is also covered by the following planning application: PA 07010/07 - Construction of manure clamp to service poultry farm and sanctioning of structures.

1.2 Site description and related considerations

The site is located in the area known as Tal-Ballut in the limits of Mġarr, on a north facing slope opposite to Manikata and located on the southern side of il-Wied tal-Pwales. The farm is accessed through an access road and lies within two hundred (200) metres from a main road leading from San Pawl il-Baħar to il-Bajja ta' Għajn Tuffieħa.

The site lies in the Outside Development Zone and falls within the: (i) Wardija Ridge Area of High Landscape Value (Govt. Notice 1137 of 2008); and the (ii) Ballut, Wied ta' San Martin and Surroundings Level 3 Area of Ecological Importance (Govt. Notice 1137 of 2008). The site also lies approximately 130 metres from a Proposed Class B Archaeological Buffer Zone and approximately 800 metres from the closest built up area of Manikata.



Figure 1: Location of proposal. (Source: MEPA Mapserver 2015)

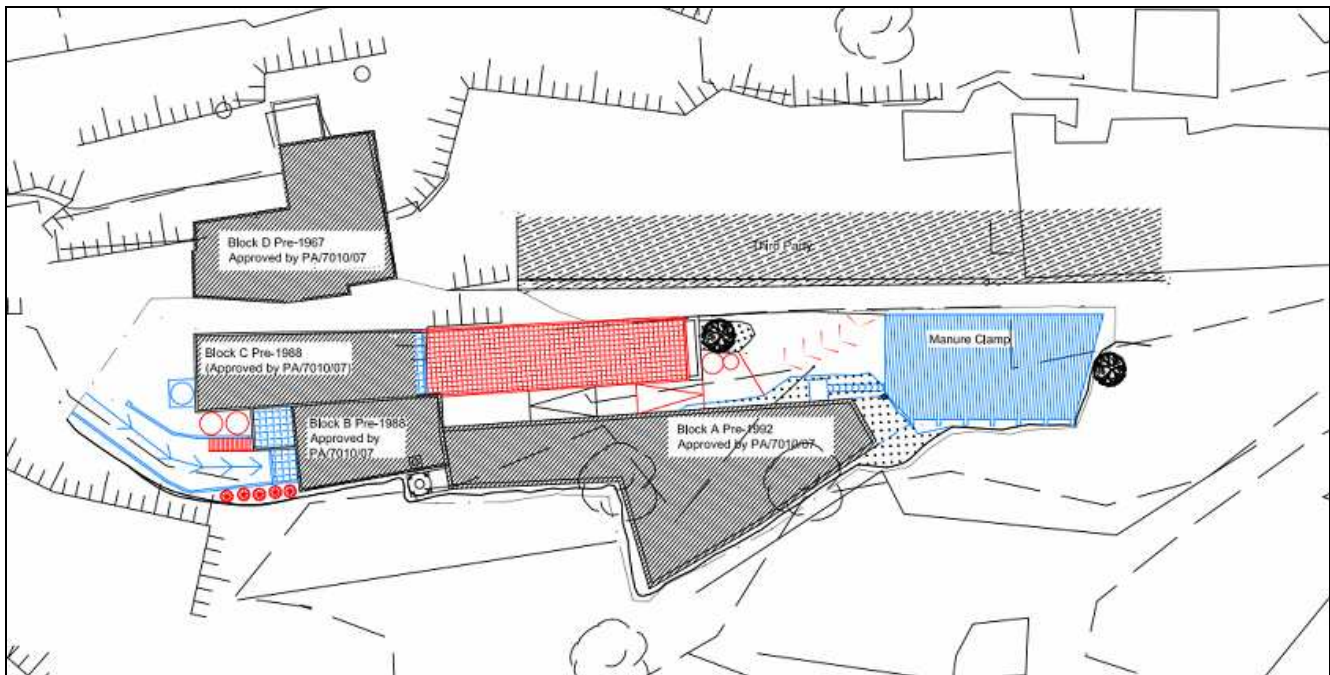


Figure 2: Proposed Block Plan (red indicates to construct while blue to sanction).

2. EIA-relevant history

- 2.1 **Relevant EIA/screening trigger** (citations refer to L.N. 114 of 2007, except where otherwise specified):

Schedule 1A Category II Section 10 (Any change or extension of development which would result in the development listed in Category I or II, already authorized, executed or in the process of being executed which may have significant adverse effects on the environment including: (a) an increase in size greater than 25%; or (b) an amount equivalent to 50% of the appropriate threshold; shall be required to undertake an environmental impact assessment, the scale of which shall be determined by the Director of Environment Protection, taking into consideration the criteria in Schedule 1B).

2.2 Version of documents used for screening:

1. PDS dated 2nd June 2015 (referred to EPD on 10 July 2015).

3. Screening Matrix

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>	Document reference
1	Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, landuse, changes in water bodies, etc)?	Yes. The proposed project is located outside development zone. The project consists of the extension to poultry farm approved by PA 7010/07 and to sanction variations as shown in Figure 2 above. Given previous approved permit, the site is either disturbed or covered with concrete. The farm has a total site area of circa 2,641m ² , (1,361m ² of which is currently built up area). Works include the upgrading of the breeding capacity of this farm from 20,000 to 24,200 laying hens, including: (i) the minor sanctioning (size and structural) of the manure clamp; (ii) sanctioning of ramp that was surfaced to access Block B; (iii) an kitchenette in Block B; and (iv) a water tank adjacent to Block C.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts relative to the already approved farm are envisaged given the scale (minor changes and a 210sqm additional building) and nature (extension to existing farm) of the proposal. The proposed extension is relatively minor and is not expected to cause physical changes in the locality.	PDS Pg. 4, 7
2	Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy,	Yes. The development will make use of natural resources such as local limestone, land, energy and water which are non-renewable. Such resources are neither renewable nor in such short supply as to be markedly	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> The use of such resources for this individual project <i>per se</i> is not likely to have a significant impact given the scale of the proposal.	PDS Pg. 13-14

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	affected by this project per se.		
3	Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials or energy, especially any resources which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	<p>Yes. During operation the farm already handles waste associated with a layer farm, namely manure. The proposed alterations aim at increasing the number of heads by 4,200 layers, consequently increasing the volume of waste.</p> <p>A waste management strategy is already in place and consists in that all solid waste generated by poultry breeding is collected in the purposely constructed manure clamp. This manure clamp was constructed on the eastern side of the site and is being proposed for sanctioning following variations from the structure approved by PA 07010/07. These variations relate with an increase in surface area and a decrease in depth to cater for the increase in the poultry capacity being envisaged (volume of 350m³). The manure clamp includes a settling tank and two cesspits on the sides to increase the capacity and facilitate the flow of liquid wastes and ease of access when emptying.</p> <p>Moreover, another cesspit collects human waste from toilets. A shower and a separate cesspit is used to collect disinfectants. Dead birds are purposely taken for incineration at the Marsa Thermal Treatment Plant.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No significant impacts are envisaged.</p> <p>Generally waste management and mitigation measures can be adequately managed through a combination of relatively standard design specifications and an operational permit rendering the impacts of the operations on human health and the environment insignificant.</p> <p>All operations concerning the management of waste are subject to the legal provisions of the Waste Regulations 2011 (Legal Notice 441 of 2011, as amended) and the Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations, 2007 (Legal Notice 106 of 2007).</p>	PDS pg. 14, 16, 18

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
4	Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction, operation or decommissioning?	<p>Yes. The construction phase is expected to result in small quantities of construction waste, given the scale of the proposed construction works.</p> <p>Wastes arising during the operational phase include wash waters, manure, and animal carcasses.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The waste generated for this individual project <i>per se</i> is not likely to have a significant impact, as long as conditions set by the Environment Protection Directorate are adhered to. Reply to question 3 above also refers.</p>	PDS pg. 14, 16, 18
5	Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	<p>Yes. During the construction phase, the project is envisaged to generate dust.</p> <p><i>Operational</i> The project is likely to release ammonia and hydrogen sulphide through its daily operations.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No significant impacts are envisaged given that the design of the proposed farm extension, its operational waste management practices and emissions during operation, are expected to be kept low. The proposed farm design will ensure adequate ventilation, whereas good farming practices will avoid the stockpiling of farm waste and excessive generation of odours.</p> <p>Waste management and mitigation measures should be managed through an environmental registration.</p>	PDS pg. 17-18
6	Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	<p>Yes. A degree of noise and vibration emissions are expected to occur during both the construction and operation phase.</p> <p>Light emissions are expected to be generated during night-time operation.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No significant noise impacts are envisaged, this however does not exonerate the applicant from adopting mitigation measures that reduce noise emissions, and other requirements stipulated in the Environmental Management Construction Site Regulations (Legal Notice 295 of 2007, as amended).</p> <p>The proposed extension is concealed within the farm cluster and should not create excessive light pollution within the poultry farm. It is recommended to avoid making use of floodlights in the outer farm areas.</p>	PDS pg. 4, 17-18

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
7	Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes. Although the site does not lie within a groundwater protection zone it is situated on the southern side of il-Wied tal-Pwales and may therefore contribute to the contamination of surface water from liquid and solid manure.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged in terms of contamination of water bodies, in view of the scale of the proposal. In addition, contamination of surrounding land can be avoided at source through sound farm management including the efficient use of the proposed cesspit, and the application of standard permitting conditions and an environmental registration.	PDS pg. 14, 16, 18
8	Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	No increase in the risk of accidents is envisaged, other than occupational risks typically associated with construction activity and farm operation.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	/
9	Will the Project result in social changes for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No. The project is not likely to result in social changes in demography, traditional lifestyles, or employment. No negative impacts are envisaged noting that the proposal seeks the change of use and minor alterations of an approved farm.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant negative impacts are envisaged.	/
10	Are there any such factors which should be considered such as the consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	No.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant negative impacts are envisaged.	PDS pg. 17-18
11	Are there any areas on or around the	Yes. The site falls within the: (i) Wardija Ridge Area of High Landscape Value (Govt.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are	Internal Consultation

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	Notice 1137 of 2008); and the (ii) Ballut, Wied ta' San Martin and Surroundings Level 3 Area of Ecological Importance (Govt. Notice 1137 of 2008). There are no other known protected areas in proximity to the site in question.	envisaged. Replies to Question 1 and 7 refer.	
12	Are there any areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	No. Reply to Question 11 refers. The site does not fall within any areas of ecological importance.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	Internal Consultation
13	Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over wintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?	No. The site does not fall within any areas of ecological importance.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	Internal Consultation
14	Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the	Reply to question 7 above refers.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to question 7 above refers.	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	location which could be affected by the project?			
15	Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The site lies in the Outside Development Zone and falls within the Wardija Ridge Area of High Landscape Value (Govt. Notice 1137 of 2008). The proposal is limited to an extension to an already established farm, and is not expected to substantially change the current situation.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> The location of the farm has already been approved through PA 07010/07. Large structures on this site may have an impact on the visual amenity and landscape character, considering that the development is being introduced in a rural landscape, outside development zone, however the proposed extension will be concealed by existing approved farm structures and therefore no significant impacts are expected in this regard.	PDS Pg 4, 7, 17-18
16	Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. Access to the poultry farm units as well as a third party pig farm is through a narrow access road leading from Triq Għajn Tuffieħa (secondary road). This road is shared by both farmers as it is the only access to their farms, respectively.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged, noting that the proposal seeks minor alterations to an approved farm (undertaken within the existing farm cluster which will be concealed by existing farm structures), and hence there are no envisaged additional impacts to those already approved on site.	PDS Pg 4, 7, 17-18
17	Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	No such areas present.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	/
18	Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes. The location is situated in a sensitive area and is likely to be visible to people that frequent the countryside and travelling along Triq Għajn Tuffieħa.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to question 16.	/
19	Are there any areas or features	Yes. Although the site does not fall within any listed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>	Internal Consultatio

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	of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	<p>archeologically sensitive areas it lies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 150 metres (south from site) from (i) Buffer zone for Class B Rock cut features, (ii) Class B Quarrying, (iii) Class B Cistern, (iv) Class B Cart Ruts, (v) Class B Tomb; ▪ 280 metres (south from site) from Class E Bronze age Megaliths and Defensive walls; and ▪ 360 metres (southeast from site) from proposed for scheduling San Martin Battery (British Military). 	No significant impact is expected subject to consultation (through the development permitting process) with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH).	n
20	Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No. The proposed development is located within the limits of an approved farm covered by permit PA 07010/07. Given previous approved permit, the site is either disturbed or covered with concrete. This application seeks also an additional building within the footprint with an area of approximately 210sqm.	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No significant impacts are envisaged relative to the baseline situation.</p>	/
21	Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The proposed development is located within the limits of an approved farm covered by permit PA 07010/07. This application seeks also an additional building within the footprint with an area of approximately 210sqm. The surrounding land use, both on the east and west, is characterised by narrow terraced unused fields all along the steep sloping land.	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No significant impacts are envisaged noting that the site is already committed to animal husbandry, and considering that there are no particular sensitive receptors in the surroundings.</p>	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
22	Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	None that are known of.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	
23	Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built up, which could be affected by the project?	No.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	
24	Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities which could be affected by the project?	No.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	
25	Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	No. Reply to Question 7 refers.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to question 7 refers.	
26	Are there any areas on or around the	No. No such areas are known of.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant environmental constraints, considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	location which have already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?		impacts are envisaged.	
27	Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, or subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Yes – reply to Question 12 refers. However, the issue is of limited significance, considering the scale of the proposal, its location relative to the valley system, and the nature of the surrounding terrain.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> No significant impacts are envisaged.	/