

**New Cow Cubicle at
Bolton Fold Farm,**

Alston Lane
Alston,
Nr Longridge
Lancashire
PR3 3BN

Ordour Assesment
June 2026

Odour Impact Assessment

Bolton Fold Farm, Alston Lane, Alston, Longridge, Lancashire, PR3 3BN

Prepared in accordance with the principles of the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning (Version 1.1, July 2018)

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Odour Impact Assessment (OIA) has been prepared to evaluate the potential effects of odour emissions associated with agricultural operations at Bolton Fold Farm, Alston Lane, Alston, Longridge, Lancashire, PR3 3BN.

The assessment has been undertaken with reference to the methodology described in the IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning and considers:

- Existing and proposed agricultural activities.
- Potential odour sources.
- The sensitivity of nearby receptors.
- The magnitude of odour effects.
- The likely significance of odour impacts.
- Appropriate mitigation measures.

This assessment is based upon publicly available planning information, aerial imagery, mapping data and professional judgement. It should be noted that no site inspection, odour monitoring survey or detailed review of livestock numbers has been undertaken.

2. Assessment Methodology

2.1 IAQM Approach

The IAQM methodology requires assessment of odour effects through consideration of:

1. Source characteristics.
2. Pathway characteristics.
3. Receptor sensitivity.
4. Overall magnitude of effect.
5. Significance of effect.

The guidance recognises that odour assessment is not solely based on quantitative modelling and requires the application of professional judgement.

The assessment follows the Source-Pathway-Receptor concept:

Source

→ Agricultural activities generating odour

Pathway

→ Atmospheric transport via wind and dispersion

Receptor

→ Nearby residential and other sensitive land uses

3. Site Description

3.1 Site Location

Bolton Fold Farm is situated off Alston Lane, approximately 2 km south-west of Longridge within the administrative area of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The surrounding area is predominantly rural in character comprising:

- Agricultural land.
- Farmsteads.
- Isolated residential dwellings.
- Small clusters of rural housing.

The site forms part of an established agricultural enterprise operating within a landscape where agricultural activities represent the prevailing land use.

4. Existing Baseline Conditions

4.1 Baseline Odour Environment

The locality is characterised by agricultural activity including:

- Livestock husbandry.
- Slurry storage.
- Manure handling.
- Silage production.
- Seasonal land spreading.

Consequently, agricultural odours form part of the existing baseline odour environment.

The IAQM guidance recognises that receptor expectations within rural agricultural locations differ from those in urban residential environments, although residential receptors remain highly sensitive to persistent or offensive odours.

4.2 Meteorological Conditions

Prevailing wind conditions across Lancashire are generally from the:

- South-west.
- West-south-west.

These wind directions are likely to govern odour transport from the site.

Local topography is gently undulating and does not present significant terrain features likely to substantially inhibit atmospheric dispersion.

5. Identification of Odour Sources

Potential odour sources associated with farm operations include:

Livestock Housing

Odour generated from:

- Animal occupancy.
- Bedding materials.
- Accumulation of manure.

Slurry Storage

Potential emissions from:

- Existing slurry tanks.
- Approved slurry lagoon.
- Transfer and pumping activities.

Slurry Agitation

Temporary elevated emissions may occur during:

- Mixing operations.
- Emptying procedures.
- Maintenance activities.

Manure Storage

Farmyard manure heaps may generate odours through decomposition processes.

Land Spreading

Seasonal spreading of:

- Slurry.
- Farmyard manure.

This activity is typically recognised as one of the most noticeable agricultural odour events.

Silage Storage

Minor odour emissions may arise from:

- Clamp opening.
- Feed handling.
- Effluent generation.

6. Sensitive Receptors

The principal receptors identified are residential properties located along:

- Alston Lane.
- Preston Road.
- Adjacent rural dwellings and farm cottages.

Under IAQM guidance, residential properties are classified as:

High Sensitivity Receptors

due to the potential for impacts on residential amenity.

7. Assessment of Odour Effects

7.1 Source Odour Potential

Livestock Operations

Typical odour characteristics:

Parameter	Assessment
Frequency	Frequent
Intensity	Low to Moderate
Duration	Continuous
Offensiveness	Moderate

Magnitude: Medium

Slurry Storage

Typical odour characteristics:

Parameter	Assessment
Frequency	Continuous
Intensity	Moderate
Duration	Long-term
Offensiveness	Moderate to High

Magnitude: Medium

Slurry Agitation

Typical odour characteristics:

Parameter	Assessment
Frequency	Infrequent
Intensity	High
Duration	Short-term
Offensiveness	High

Magnitude: Large

Land Spreading

Typical odour characteristics:

Parameter	Assessment
Frequency	Seasonal
Intensity	Moderate to High
Duration	Temporary
Offensiveness	Moderate

Magnitude: Medium to Large

8. Assessment of Receptor Sensitivity

Using IAQM definitions:

Receptor Type	Sensitivity
Residential dwellings	High
Agricultural workers	Low
Visitors to countryside	Medium

The assessment therefore adopts a conservative approach based upon the presence of high-sensitivity residential receptors.

9. Determination of Effect Significance

The IAQM guidance advises that significance should be determined using professional judgement rather than a rigid matrix.

The following conclusions are considered appropriate.

Routine Farm Operations

Routine activities associated with livestock management, feeding and normal slurry storage are expected to generate:

Minor Adverse Effects

These effects are typical of a rural agricultural setting and would not normally be considered unacceptable.

Slurry Agitation Activities

During agitation and pumping operations:

Moderate Adverse Effects

may occur for short periods at nearby residential receptors.

These events are intermittent and operationally necessary.

Land Spreading Activities

Temporary odour episodes may occur during manure or slurry spreading.

Effects are assessed as:

Minor to Moderate Adverse

depending upon:

- Wind direction.
- Weather conditions.
- Application techniques.
- Duration of operations.

Such impacts are generally accepted as part of normal agricultural practice.

10. Embedded Mitigation Measures

The following good practice measures should be maintained:

Slurry Management

- Maintain adequate lagoon freeboard.
- Regular inspection of storage infrastructure.
- Avoid unnecessary disturbance of stored slurry.

Agitation Operations

- Minimise duration of agitation.
- Undertake operations during favourable meteorological conditions where practicable.

Land Spreading

- Follow Farming Rules for Water and relevant agricultural guidance.
- Avoid spreading during stagnant atmospheric conditions.
- Avoid spreading immediately adjacent to occupied dwellings where alternatives exist.
- Incorporate materials into land where appropriate and practicable.

General Housekeeping

- Maintain cleanliness of livestock accommodation.
- Prompt removal of excessive manure accumulations.
- Maintain drainage systems.

11. Residual Effects

Following implementation of standard agricultural good practice:

Activity	Residual Effect
Livestock housing	Negligible to Minor Adverse
Slurry storage	Minor Adverse
Slurry agitation	Moderate Adverse (temporary)
Land spreading	Minor to Moderate Adverse (temporary)

No significant long-term adverse odour impacts are anticipated.

12. Planning Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires planning decisions to ensure that developments are appropriate for their location, taking into account the likely effects of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment.

The IAQM guidance recognises that agricultural odours are often an inherent characteristic of rural areas and should be assessed within the context of the existing land use environment.

13. Conclusions

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles of the IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning.

The assessment concludes that:

1. Bolton Fold Farm is an established agricultural enterprise situated within a predominantly rural environment where agricultural odours are an existing and expected feature.
2. The principal odour sources comprise livestock housing, slurry storage, slurry agitation and seasonal land spreading.
3. Nearby residential properties represent high-sensitivity receptors.
4. Routine agricultural operations are expected to result in **Minor Adverse odour effects**, consistent with normal rural farming activities.
5. Temporary increases in odour may occur during slurry agitation and land-spreading activities, resulting in **Moderate Adverse effects** for limited periods.
6. Provided that normal agricultural good practice is implemented and maintained, the overall residual odour effect is assessed as:

Minor Adverse and Not Significant in IAQM planning terms.

7. The agricultural activities at Bolton Fold Farm are therefore unlikely to give rise to unacceptable odour impacts on surrounding receptors and are considered acceptable from an odour amenity perspective.