

Noise Management Plan for Great Westwick Farm Poultry Unit

The Environmental Risk Assessment submitted with the application to vary permit for change of use to rearing broiler chickens from pullets and include a mobile macerator as a directly associated activity identified sources of noise with minor potential to cause annoyance, although no significant increase in noise is expected result of changing to rearing broilers. Created and updated this noise management plan (NMP) to support the overall environmental management system in place. The overriding principle is to ensure day-to-day activities are carried out in accordance with the plan so there is no reasonable cause for annoyance to people outside the installation boundary. No cause for annoyance is expected, the operator has no record or recollections of any noise concerns or complaints and will continue to foster good relations with neighbours.

Actions and contingency actions in this NMP are best available techniques (BAT) in accordance with Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document 2017, Environment Agency (2005) Technical Guidance Note IPPC SRG 6.02 (Farming); Noise Management at Intensive Livestock Installations, Environment Agency (2021) Guidance - Noise & vibration management: environmental permits, and DEFRA (2018) Code of practice for the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens, updated 25 January 2024.

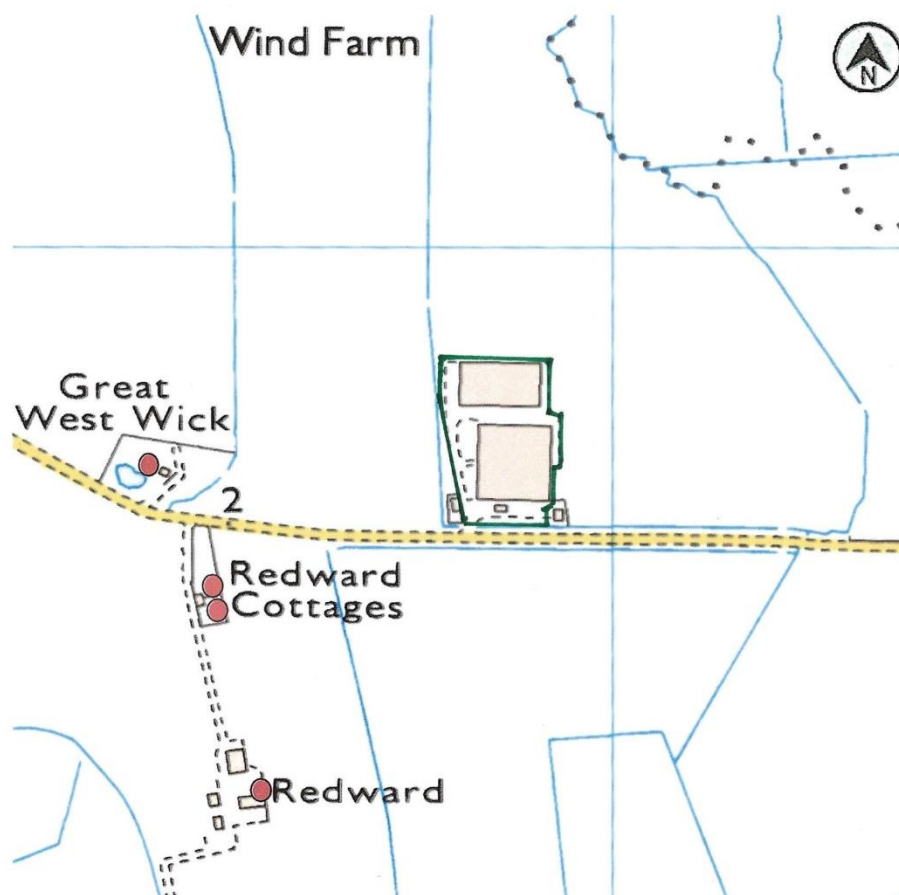
Identified noise sensitive receptors within 400m of the installation boundary (excluding residential dwellings for farm workers) from a desk top study shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1. Great Westwick Farm Poultry Unit sensitive receptors within 400m

Nº.	Receptor	NGR	Direction	Distance from boundary
1	Agricultural premises, Redward, Marshes, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8NE	TQ 9857 9636	SSW	380
2	Redward Cottages, Marshes, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8NE	TQ 9853 9656	WSW	305
3	Redward Cottages, Marshes, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8NE	TQ 9854 9655	WSW	305
4	Great West Wick Farm House, Marshes, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8NE	TQ 9849 9672	W	315

Distances measured on government website at magic.defra.gov.uk

Fig 1. Great Westwick Farm Poultry Unit sensitive receptors within 400m



Residential dwellings likely have high sensitivity – reasonably expect enjoyment of a high level of amenity, and where people would reasonably be expected to be present continuously, or at least regularly for extended periods.

Agricultural premises likely to have low sensitivity – where the enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected, or there is transient exposure, where people would reasonably be expected to be present only for limited periods of time as part of the normal pattern of use.

The following table sets out:-

- Likely sources of noise from a typical intensive poultry unit
- Actions taken at Great Westwick Farm Poultry Unit to prevent or minimise noise levels
- Contingency actions to limit exposure to elevated noise emissions beyond the installation boundary.

Table 2. Routine actions and contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks at Great Westwick Farm Poultry Unit

Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
<p>Noise from large delivery vehicles travelling to & from the farm</p> <p>Mobile source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HGVs, tractors & trailers • Release of air brakes • Revving engines • Empty trailer rattle • Reversing signals for safety • Loud-very loud & intrusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliveries limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public & bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances, delays, breakdowns, availability, etc. • Speed restriction on approach roads & 5mph onsite. • Drivers made aware of driving slowly on and offsite, in forward gear to minimise noise, and engines to be switched off when vehicle not in use. • White noise reversing signals on most HGVs. • Planned preventive maintenance for buildings and equipment by company engineers or professional contractors in accordance with any manufacturer's instructions and keeping records of the work. • PPM includes the concrete apron and roadways for cracking and potholes to minimise trailer noise. 	
<p>Noise from small vehicles travelling to & from farm</p> <p>Mobile source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm workers, visitor's cars, courier van deliveries all considered to be low risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliveries limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public & bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances for example delays, breakdowns, availability, etc. • Farm workers can arrive sooner especially in warm weather. • Everyone instructed to drive cars, vans into parking areas without excessive noise. • 5mph speed restriction onsite. 	

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Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
<p>Noise from automatic feeding equipment</p> <p>Fixed source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augers have faint noise • Blowers have very loud noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package silos, pipes, augers and feeding equipment produce only slight noise in normal operation, unlikely to be perceived offsite. • Much screening effect of buildings provides a barrier to noise, most equipment in between the houses. • Electric motors with flexible augers in tubes run only intermittently for a few seconds each time day & night to transfer feed into house. Frequency & duration of increase during rearing period as chickens eat more. • Regularly checking feed level in silos for ordering & planning deliveries to avoid running out. • Large capacity trailers minimise number of deliveries. • Blowing feed over as short a distance as possible. • Blowers on trailers are noisy, but each delivery only for a short duration less than an hour, although there maybe multiple deliveries on a particular day and frequency of deliveries increase as birds eat more. • Drivers switch off blowers when not in use, in between each delivery point and as soon as finished. • Automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the birds must be inspected by farm workers at least once per day to check there is no defect in it.. • Planned preventive maintenance for buildings and equipment by company engineers or professional contractors in accordance with any manufacturer's instructions and keeping records of the work. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No feed in silos and augers continuously running. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate, same day. <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmworkers switch off auger and arrange a delivery. • Might have to manually transfer feed from one house to another to keep birds fed in the interim, but no noise issues. • Defects must be rectified by farmworkers, company engineers or professional contractors <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally achievable same day. <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <p>Feed delivered and resumed normal operation.</p>

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Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
Noise from ventilation fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faint-moderate audible tonal noise fans running continuously especially in warmer weather. Noisy, out of balance or worn fans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation system designed and installed by professional contractor, to cause the least possible amount of noise for chickens and sensitive receptors. Fans considered to be low noise relative to typical rural background noise. Package fan inlets, attic sections, lead through and plastic outlet cones to minimise vibration, fan noise. Computer controlled automatic ventilation, uses small number of fans running continually at high-speed rather than more fans switching on and off. Automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the birds must be inspected by farm workers at least once per day to check there is no defect in it. Check for faulty, noisy fans during the systematic bird inspections at least twice per day. Three times per day for young birds. Planned preventive maintenance for buildings and equipment by company engineers or professional contractors in accordance with any manufacturer's instructions and keeping records of the work. Ventilation system switched off in empty houses, and after drying out after washout and disinfection. No gable end fans at Great Westwick Farm. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarm Noisy, out of balance & worn fans produce high noise with annoying frequencies or tones. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately/same day/next day. <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarm system warns of failure of the ventilation system, via mobile phones, so any noise will not exceed level required to alert persons onsite. Individual fans can be switched off when faults occur. Defects must be rectified by farmworkers, company engineers or professional contractors. <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievable same day/next day. <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faulty fan successfully repaired or replaced no high noise.

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Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
<p>Vehicles & machinery onsite</p> <p>Mobile & fixed sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design • Location • Operation • Timing of operations • Inspection and maintenance • Ordinarily not considered probable cause for annoyance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliveries, use of machinery and works limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public & bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances, for example delays, breakdowns, availability. • Farm workers can start sooner especially in warm weather. • Access to any vehicles restricted to qualified workers • Compressors, pressure washers used inside houses where practicable during blowdown and washout to keep noise enclosed and idling equipment between work periods & revving engines will be avoided. • Package mobile macerator equipment and pressure washer enclosed inside a trailer provides much noise attenuation. Arrives onsite with workers same day the dead-in-shell and non-viable eggs are collected up after hatching. Macerator is fast, in use for only a few minutes for each collections from inside houses. Onsite less than a few hours then moved on. • Planned preventive maintenance for buildings and equipment by company engineers or professional contractors in accordance with any manufacturer's instructions and keeping records of the work. • Repairs normally carried out during the working day. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormally noisy work e.g. repairs • Noisy work outside normal working times. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance notice of works. <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the likelihood of sensitive receptors being seriously affected they will be notified by a phone call or a note explaining the elevated noise and the expected start and finish time. <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further notice if later finish expected. <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs complete • Noise levels across the site return to normal.
People noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faint-moderate noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmworkers, contractors, visitors instructed to avoid raised voices or playing radios unnecessarily loud. 	

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Destocking Mobile source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fork lift trucks Noise from the chickens not considered to be a probable cause for annoyance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destocking in normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public & bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. However, to meet factory requirements destocking can often start before 07.00 at night time, but more exception than rule, and very occasionally destocking on public and bank holidays, but latter will rarely happen here. Concrete apron provides smooth surface for the HGV and FLT movements minimising noise. Access to any vehicles restricted to qualified workers. Chicken catchers and FLT drivers are trained and have appropriate qualifications. Catching will be organised to minimise unnecessary manoeuvring. FLT's move the birds carefully, and load transport modules as smoothly as possible to minimise scraping and impact noise and minimise stress for chickens. Loaded trailers promptly moved offsite. 	
Removing litter Mobile source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engine noise Moderate-loud noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must remove litter after destocking. Expect to be removing litter not less than seven times every year and to be removed from all houses in less than a day. Contract service established to remove litter as soon as possible, normally within a day of destocking, not more than 3 days, e.g., destocking on Friday and cleanout on Monday. Remove litter in normal daytime 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday 	

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Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
		<p>morning but exclusive of public & bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use front end or skid-steer loader to push bulk of litter into a large heap the length of house to avoid double handling and minimise time loading into trailers. • Doors open on the concrete apron where the waiting trailers will be parked so not in close proximity to any sensitive receptors. • Engines to be switched off when vehicles not in use. 	
<p>Noise from emergency back-up generator</p> <p>Fixed source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faint-moderate noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid electricity outages rarely happen. • Package generator in place, low noise and comes with integral acoustic enclosure. • Test every week in the normal working time 09.00-17.00 hours in working week Monday to Friday but exclusive of public and bank holidays, limit duration of test to one hour. • Planned preventive maintenance by professional contractors in accordance with any manufacturer's instructions and keeping records of the work. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Power Network advise electricity outage is likely. • Unexpected electricity outage. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking online, time supply expected to return. • Schedule delivery of additional fuel if required. <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue checking for information online. • Generator maybe required for hours or days. <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal grid electricity supply restored.

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Noise related issue	Potential risks and problems	Routine actions to minimise noise and noise risks	Contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks
Monitoring noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring can help identify any increase in noise levels with time so remedial action can be taken to avoid risk of causing annoyance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager responsible for site tour every day including perimeter check for abnormal elevated noise level, specifically any level with potential to cause annoyance at sensitive receptors. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal, extraordinary, elevated noise level. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate, same day. <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check routine and contingency actions to minimise noise and risks are being adhered to. Inform people at receptor locations and anyone else likely to be seriously affected, what has been done or still needs to be done to reduce noise levels and duration with timescales. Continue checking at perimeter, until noise reduced and back to normal level. Decibel meters are inexpensive & easy to use for monitoring especially if there are complaints. <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normally achievable same day, next day. <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise levels reduced, back to normal on and offsite. Record events and actions in farm diary.
Complaint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise sensitivity likely to increase in warm weather when people want to enjoy their gardens and have windows open more. Slow response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager, Environmental Manager responsible for investigating any complaint reported by Agency, local authority, or the public. Investigate if alleged noise can be substantiated. Even if no longer apparent investigation must still be carried out and recorded same day. Establish:- Time noise occurred, duration, description of odour. Activities taking place onsite at time of complaint. Any noisy activities taking place offsite in vicinity. 	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaint reported on Saturday or Sunday by email from Agency, local authority, not considered likely from anywhere else. <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as possible on opening email. <p><u>Contingency action</u></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated level of annoyance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record details of investigation and action taken on noise complaint report. A copy must be sent to the Agricultural Director immediately and must be retained onsite & available for future reference, or inspection with Agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate if alleged noise can be substantiated. Even if no longer apparent investigation must still be carried out and recorded same day, next day. Continue monitoring for noise offsite. <u>Duration of action</u> Investigation likely achievable same day, next day. <u>Cessation of action</u> Notify Agency, local authority, complainant, anyone else likely to be seriously affected, same day as soon as possible result of investigation and corrective action or what still needs to be done with timescales.
Management plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update with new issues, actions & contingency actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Manager responsible for annual review of this NMP, updated sooner where a substantiated complaint results in making changes to related issues procedures, or any routine or contingency actions. 	

Change history	Date	Name
Last updated	11 April 2025	Karl Collett
Last review	-	-
Next review	-	-
	Updated for variation application V004 for change to rearing broiler chickens from pullets and include a mobile macerator as a directly associated activity.	

Noise Complaint Report

Date	
Reference number	
Name and address of complainant	
Telephone number of complainant	

Time and date of complaint	
Date, time, and duration of offending noise	
Weather conditions (e.g., dry, rain, fog, snow)	
Wind strength and direction (e.g., light, steady, strong, gusting)	
Callers' description of noise (e.g., hiss, hum, rumble, continuous, intermittent)	
Has the caller any other comments about the offending noise?	
Any other previous known complaints relating to the installation (all aspects, not just noise)	
Any other relevant information	
Potential noise sources that could give rise to the complaint	
Operating conditions at the time offending noise occurred	
Actions taken	

Final outcome		
Complainant visited		
Complainant contacted with explanation Yes/No Date By whom		
Form completed by	Date:	Signed:

Environment Agency (2004): Horizontal Guidance Note; IPPC H3 (Part 2) – Noise assessment and control