

Old Rush Poultry Farm

**Spaldington Road,
Spaldington,
East Yorkshire,
DN14 7GX**

Environmental Permit No.	EPR/KP3206BK
Grid Reference	SE 77233 32179

Introduction

This bespoke Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared to support the overall Environmental Management System in place at Old Rush Poultry Farm. The overriding principle of this NMP is to ensure the day-to-day activities are carried out in accordance with this document to help minimise the overall environmental impact.

A Noise Management Plan (NMP) has therefore been developed for the site. It is also possible that under certain conditions odour could impact on receptors beyond this range unless good management practices outlined in this NMP are being applied.

Installation Background

Old Rush Poultry Farm consists of 4 clear span poultry houses, 1 post and vault beamed house and an administration and storage building, 4 new houses on this facility came into use in 2022 with 1 older house from approx. 1980s.

There is capacity for 240k Broilers in total with 4 houses of 52k in each and 1 house of approx. 32k. Total bird growing area per house (2-5) is approx. 23680 ft² and House 1 is approx. 17438 ft² (Total for site 112,158 ft²).

A further 3 houses are planned to be built like houses 2-5 consisting of a further 3 x 23680 ft² each giving total new farming capacity of 183,198 ft² (or 17020m²). This farm is a Broiler Growing Farm.

The broiler husbandry system involves deep litter on a solid concrete floor with the litter removed on each depletion (Typically 7-8 weeks) and each unit has approx. 6-7 crop cycles each annum.

Ammonia produced by livestock growing is minimised by keeping the litter as dry as possible using forced ventilation with indoor air and regular replenishment to ensure a high dry matter content of the manure.

A layer of approximately 40mm of soft wood shavings spread over the useable floor area provides bedding in the houses prior to bird placement.

Additional shavings are then added as necessary to maintain litter in a clean and dry state throughout the crop cycle.

Following depopulation at the end of the crop cycle, all litter is removed off site, and the houses and equipment are washed, sanitised and disinfected prior to the next cycle. Dirty wash water is channelled to the collection tanks and removed from site.

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The site operates on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis and the normal production cycle is for a flock to be placed as Day Old's and then depopulated for transfer to the processing facility from 5 to 8 weeks.

Purpose of Noise Management Plan

- Establish the likely source of noise arising from the farm
- Set out procedures at the farm to mitigate or minimise the risk of noise
- Formalise an effective method of dealing with any noise complaints quickly and efficiently

Potential Noise Sources

- Vehicles travelling to and from site
- Vehicle activity on site
- Delivery of birds
- Catching and movement of birds off site
- Feed transfers from lorry to storage silos
- Feed transfers from feed silos to feeders inside houses
- Powered extraction fans
- Powered gable end fans
- Operation of side vents
- Personnel
- Bird noise
- Manual washing and cleaning of equipment
- Operation of stand-by generator

Pathways and Receptors

The pathway for all the above sources would be via the atmosphere, with the most sensitive receptors being inhabitants of any nearby residential dwellings. The wind direction will significantly influence how receptors are affected.

There are two sensitive receptors within 400m of the installation boundary, it is not expected given the nature of the type of intensive farming that this would cause an issue.

NOISE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL MEASURES

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Possible Noise Source	Assessment of Potential Noise Risks and Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Vehicles travelling to and from site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicles travelling to and from site will generate road and engine noise and noise from cab doors at the entrance to the sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A code of practice will be issued to all vehicle drivers to advise on how noise can be minimised when arriving at, working on and leaving site. - Collections and deliveries will normal be restricted to the hours of 06.00-18.00 unless circumstances are unavoidable due to bird health/welfare or placement and depletion plans. - Transport managers are to minimise requirements for collections of birds outside of this window where practicable.
Vehicle activity on site:- - Bird, feed, bedding and fuel delivery vehicles - Feed movements on site - Bird movements off site - General waste and ABP collections - General deliveries - Staff Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicle movements on site will generate road and engine noise within the site through reversing warning signals, forklift activity from loading. Vehicles and noises associated with specialist equipment (e.g. Feed Lorry Blowers). - Staff vehicles at the start and finish of working days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A code of practice will be issued to all vehicle drivers, including farm staff, to advise on how noise can be minimised when arriving at, working on and leaving the sites. It will be a requirement that engines are turned off when not in use, vehicles are well maintained and driven slowly within the complex (where appropriate for Health and Safety the 5mph rule will be established) and reversing is kept to a minimum where warning signals are fitted. - Collections and deliveries will normally be restricted to the hours of 06.00-18.00 unless circumstances are unavoidable due to bird health/welfare of birds and movement plans. - Roadways and yard surfaces will be maintained as practicable to negate vehicle noise as much as possible.

<p>Stocking of poultry houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up and bedding houses prior to bird arrival. - Unloading of chicks into poultry houses at the start of the flock cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bedding is spread and equipment introduced inside the houses with the doors closed. - Forklift truck movements with bulk bedding are only carried out during daytime working hours. Reversing movements outside of the sites are kept to a minimum. - Chick delivery lorries will deliver inside a window of 06.00-17.00 usually unless exceptional circumstances require evening deliveries.
<p>De-populating of poultry houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catching and loading of birds at de-population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above livestock collection vehicles will be advised of protocols around sites. - Birds are caught at the front of house and transferred to plastic crates that sit within metal framed modules. - Filled modules are transported to the waiting transport vehicle by means of fork-lift truck. These are moved and placed with care to ensure good bird welfare. - Catching staff are required to work calmly and quietly to ensure good welfare standards. Lights are kept dimmed/switched off during catching to minimise bird stress and activity. This also keeps any bird noise to a minimum. - Livestock movements are scheduled where possible to fall within the 6.00-22.00 window however logistics, processer planning and transport restrictions dictate the practicality of this.

Feed transfers from lorry to storage silos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donkey engines and power take off systems/blowers will generate noise. - Noise from coupling and uncoupling to silo feed tubes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feed transfer lines and feed silo fittings and couplings are maintained in good condition and plastic fittings are used wherever safe and practicable. - Feed deliveries will be scheduled between 06.00-18.00 where possible unless extreme circumstances require a change (e.g. bird welfare)
Feed transfers from silo to feeders inside the houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise from mechanical feed augers and blowers propelling feed to in-house feeders via weighing equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal feed transfer equipment and lines are maintained in good condition and subject to regular maintenance checks. Checks are carried out at the end of each crop cycle as part of the calibration set-up programme. Issues arising are recorded in the equipment maintenance check list. - Feed is only available during dedicated periods with lighting programmes providing extended periods of darkness through the night-time.
Powered ventilation fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-velocity extraction fans within the continuous ventilation system are operated automatically via the buildings management (environmental control system). - Gable end fans may be operated as emergency back-up ventilation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High velocity extraction fans are located down the sides of the poultry houses fitted onto a ventilation programme which considers minimum requirements for livestock. - During warmer periods fans will be operating for longer periods during 24hrs. - Gable end extraction fans are in place should they be required in emergencies e.g. extreme weather (Heatwave). - All fans are maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks. Any problems with fans are

		rectified as soon as possible.
Operation of side inlets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Automatic operation of side air inlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side vents work in conjunction with the extraction fans for continuous ventilation and provision of circulating fresh air. - The whole system is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks. - Any unusual noises from vent movements will be investigated and rectified (smooth and efficient operation of the whole integrated system is key to good bird health, welfare and growth)
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff members playing music. - Shouting and calling on site between members. - Contractors working on exterior features of the buildings, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff, visitors and contractors are required to carry out their work without creating excessive noise. - Staff members are to receive annual training regarding Environmental Permitting Regulations – which will include noise management and any new company procedures. Staff members are required not to play any music through external speakers outside of the poultry houses or associated buildings and not to communicate around the site by shouting. - Contractors working around the site will equally be advised of these requirements and to have due consideration of noise generation if using tools and equipment outside of the buildings.

<p>Bird Noise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural noise from housed birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise from broiler birds is relatively minimal in intensity. - All poultry houses are purpose built and insulated meaning noise escape will be minimised. - The period of most likely increased noise is during population (chicks) and de-population periods. - Catching staff are required to work calmly and quietly to ensure good welfare standards. - Lights are kept dimmed/switched off during de-population periods to minimise stress.
<p>Clean out (Removal of litter from houses and removal from site) Wash down and disinfection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation of mechanical equipment (Forklifts, Bobcats etc) to scrape, lift and tip litter. - Reverse warning signals on handling equipment. Operation of blowers to dislodge dust. - Operation of power washers and disinfectant spray equipment (engine and pump noises). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nature of the tasks in relation to scraping and removing litter and the spraying of chemicals by necessity require that doors of houses be kept open. Activities are however principally occurring within insulated buildings which retain much of the noise generated. - Removal of litter and washing practices is generally kept to within the hours of 06.00-18.00. - All equipment is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks including calibration checks at each washing and set-up.

<p>Manual washing and cleaning of equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise associated with handling and movement of frames and heaters. - Use of power wash machines for equipment washing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washing of equipment is generally restricted to the hours of 06.00-18.00 and normally carried out within the indoor areas. - Equipment is predominantly wood or plastic construction which minimises “clatter” noises. - All equipment is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks including calibration checks at each washing and set-up.
<p>Running and testing the standby generator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diesel powered generator cuts in if mains power fails. - Generator is tested under load on a weekly basis unless otherwise in operation. - Noise associated with fuel combustion and generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The standby generator is located within the confines of a service area within a building adjacent to the poultry houses. - Apart from short weekly 1 hourly test it is only used in emergency situations to maintain emissions control and bird welfare. - The generator is maintained in good condition and in addition to weekly testing, planned maintenance is undertaken every six months. - Any unusual noises or problems will be investigated and rectified with details recorded on the relevant engineering log sheet.

ON FARM & CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

- Equipment maintenance checks, buildings and site conditions reports are carried out in accordance with the site maintenance programmes and internal auditing schedules. Additional measurement and recording will be carried out in response to any issues to support problem solving and ongoing management.
- Weather conditions are monitored and recorded daily.
- The use of mobile monitoring station to include weather conditions and noise levels (if practicable) along with other environmental parameters would be introduced should any continual problems or complaints arise.
- All complaints and any subsequent actions are logged on site using the complaint report format.
- Staff members are to receive annual training regarding Environmental Permitting Regulations – Which will include noise management and any new company procedures. Contractors and drivers are also briefed in relation to noise minimisation.
- Specialist noise monitoring can be carried out during the flock cycle to help gauge and further understand noise in and around the farm. Monitoring will be introduced in response to any substantiated complaints relating to noise.

NOISE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Any noise complaints received in direct relation to the installations shall be recorded on a noise complaints form (**Document Ref. ORPF 010b**)

Noise complaints shall be fully investigated, and the reports will be available at future inspections. Complaints received directly from the public will be notified to the Environment Agency within 5 days without delay.

Investigations shall consider:-

- The activities taking place at the time of the complaint
- The timing of the complaint
- The weather conditions at the time of the complaint
- The possibility of any abnormal operations on any site
- Any changes that may have been made to a standard operational procedure
- The receptor and the impact that may have been caused

Following investigation into a complaint, if the issue is caused by an operation at the complex this will be discussed and reviewed with the Environment Agency. Any practical and proactive measures which can be agreed in response to a complaint will be implemented to help minimise the impact.

The complainant will also be contacted following the investigation into the complaint and kept up to date with progress and any remedial action being taken.

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NOISE MONITORING & REDUCTION PLANS

In the event of prolonged complaints from any source then an independent noise assessment shall be carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency and an appropriate third-party monitoring company.

Monitoring will be undertaken in line with current guidance to identify the root cause of the noise and whether noise from the site correlates with specific times or activities within the flock cycle and within season patterns.

If normal operations are deemed to be the root cause and no further reasonable and financially viable mitigation can be implemented to reduce the noise pollution, then an agreed programme of noise mitigation steps will be put in place to help reduce the levels of noise pollution outside the permitted boundary. Operations will then be maintained at that level until such time as further measures can be put in place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Contact will be made with the local parish council to open lines of communication between the parish council and the operator. Updates regarding the site will be provided to the parish council as and when required.

REVIEW

This NMP will be subject to review following any complaint that has been substantiated by the Environment Agency or every four years, whichever is sooner. Any actions that are implemented in relation to the resolution of complaints will be included within an update of the farm NMP.

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KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Task	Staff Position Responsible	Notes
Noise Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms Area Manager 	<i>Commissioning any independent testing and assessments required in response to noise complaints.</i>
Ventilation Fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockmen Farm Manager Farms Area Manager 	<p><i>Responsible for day-to-day adjustment and monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>Responsible for maintenance of fans.</i></p> <p><i>Responsible for design, selection and replacement of equipment as required.</i></p>
Roadway Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms Area Manager 	<i>Condition is monitored by Farm Manager. Repairs and maintenance agreed and instructed by Farms Area Manager.</i>
Vehicle Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager Farms Area Manager 	<p><i>Responsible for the maintenance of any vehicles permanently located at that site.</i></p> <p><i>Responsible for the maintenance of any vehicles used at the farm but located elsewhere.</i></p>
Daily Inspection of Bin Stocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager 	<i>Inspection daily.</i>
Internal Feeder Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockperson 	<i>Inspection at least 3 times per day. All inspections are recorded</i>
Overseeing of Deliveries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager 	<i>As required.</i>
Overseeing of Bird Catching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager 	<i>As required.</i>
Alarm System/Standby Generator Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager 	<p><i>Tested daily and rotated around all houses (alarms).</i></p> <p><i>Generators tested weekly for 1 hour on load.</i></p>
Complaints Log	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager 	<i>As required.</i>