**Noise Management Plan**

Weavers Meadow Pig Unit

Langford

Cullompton

Devon

EX15 1RQ

Permit Number: ERP/BP3902LE

Grid Reference: ST 02698, 03535

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8. **Introduction**

This bespoke NMP is a live management plan prepared to support the overall Environmental Management System in place at Weavers Meadow Farm and required as part of permitting the site under EPR/BP3902LE. The overriding principle of the NMP is to ensure the day to day activities are carried out in accordance with this document to help minimise the overall environmental impact. The site has four separate sensitive receptors within 400 meters of the permit boundary and one of which is within 100 meters, however, there have been no complaints of noise.

As with any livestock farm there is a risk of noise from “seasonal” handling and spreading of manure and slurry and day to day pig movements.

Measures to control noise emissions are noted in the following tables. It is important to note that this document specifically refers to mitigation and problems on site where noise is the primary emission, many of the on-site management and mitigation to control odour will in part help to reduce noise.

This plan will be reviewed in the event of any building and management changes and on the outcome of investigations into the causes of any future noise complaints should these occur. All management plans will be reviewed at least every year if there are no changes on site.

Any noise complaints will be recorded and investigated using the Noise Complaint Report Form contained within Technical Guidance Note IPPC SRG 6.02 (Farming)Noise Management at Intensive Livestock Installations.

This plan is completed by Harry Edwards of the Farm Consultancy Group with relevant and site-specific information provided by Chris Down, the Operator.

1. **Installation Background**

Weavers Meadow Farm will have a capacity for:

Sows and Farrowers: 1771

Pigs 7-15 kg – 1460

Production Pigs above 30kg – 432

The site is run as a fully slatted or part slatted based system with vacuum slurry removal, the existing housing and the proposed housing to all be operated as per BAT with frequent slurry removal.

A BAT assessment has been carried out for both the existing pig buildings and the proposed new building. This BAT assessment has not identified a need for an improvement program based on the buildings utilising biofilters. As the existing buildings are built to the same specification as the proposed new building both of which are to comply with BAT AELS.

The majority of buildings are ventilated using variable spend roof fans with some buildings operating natural ventilation. Slurry is collected underneath the buildings and pumped out at least every 12 weeks to ensure slurry depth is maintained below 800mm.

The unit operates a mostly dry feed system, the diets fed to all the pigs throughout all stages are balanced nutritionally and formulated in such a way to minimise the production and emissions of ammonia, odours, dust and the overall environmental impact of the farming activities.

Nipple drinkers are used throughout to prevent water wastage. Meter readings will be taken on a regular basis to monitor water consumption and to detect the presence of any leakages, the site utilises borehole water and has mains water as a backup.

All lorries are washed out and disinfected regularly, maintaining cleanliness to a high standard. Each lorry is equipped with a shovel, bag and brush for instant clean up of accidental spillages, thus reducing emissions of both dust and odour. Washings are captured and drain back into the contained slurry system.

These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia odours and to prevent dust and liquids escaping into the environment. The batch system enables the housing to be cleaned out on a regular basis, ensuring all pig housing is as clean as possible. All dead stock will be disposed on via on site incineration. Data sheet in appendix 1.

The site has never received a complaint due to noise.

The unit operates a dry feed system, and all pigs are fed ad lip to help reduce noise.

The measures listed within this document are intended to reduce the production and emission of noise from the site. Given the nature of the unit and its management noise emissions are not expected to cause a nuisance, however due to close proximity to sensitive receptors I high level NMP has been completed.

1. **BAT Summary**

BAT 9 – is only applicable to sites where noise nuisance at sensitive receptors is expected or has been substantiated. The site has received no noise complaints. However due to proximity to sensitive receptors a NMP has been completed.

BAT 10 – compliance with BAT 10 is evidenced on site by the adoption of the correct operation measures as detailed below in this NMP. Equipment location where practically possible has been located as far away from the closest sensitive receptor as possible.

1. **Sensitive Receptors**

There are 4 properties within 400 meters of the installation. These are:

1. Residential properties at Little Cleeves 245 m – 302285, 103790
2. Weavers Meadow Farm Dwelling (owned by operator) 25 m – 302680, 103495
3. Shuffshayles Farm – 118 m – 302731, 103386
4. Tye Farm – 318 m – 3033004, 103528

Potential noise sources include pigs and feeding, feed delivery, pig movements, delivery of materials, slurry removal and ventilation system. The site has never received a complaint relating to noise.

Plan showing nearest sensitive receptors to the site.

Graphical user interface, application, Word, PowerPoint

Description automatically generated

1. **Preventative measure / on site noise control measures**

Measures that help minimise noise impact off-site are summarised in the following table. This plan will be reviewed at least every year or in light of any building and management changes, and on the outcome of investigations into the causes of any future noise complaints, if any occur.

Any noise complaints will be recorded and investigated immediately using the Complaint Report Form contained at the end of this document.

This plan will be reviewed in the light of any building and management changes, and on the outcome of investigations into the causes of any future noise complaints, if any occurs or annually whichever occurs first.

The responsibility for the management actions from this plan fall to Chris Down and will be jointly reviewed by Chris and Harry Edwards of The Farm Consultancy Group. An annual review will be carried out or immediately following a substantiated complaint.

Scale for ranking noise intensity:

1. Little noise difficult to detect

5 – loud noise like to cause a nuisance if for sustained periods.

The rankings below have been given to the separate potential noise sources based on practical experience of running the pig unit and the measures already in place to reduce noise.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No. Ref** | **Potential Noise Problem ? / Noise Intensity (0-10)** | **Actions taken to prevent or minimise noise** | **Completion date** |
| 1 | Feeding pigs (1) | Passive feeding techniques - Pigs are ad lib fed and therefore not noisy at feeding as the feed is always there and the pigs are never hungry. These ad lib feeders reduce noise.  Minimal manual feeding- not time limited and no control due to pig welfare.  Correct stocking as per regulations. | In place. |
| 2. | Feed delivery(4) | Tipping type delivery vehicles and blowers used for bulk dry feed delivery.  Delivery vehicle discharge points are screened by existing buildings.  **Design – and operation** Blower and vacuum type delivery vehicles fitted with low noise units.  **Timing -** Feed deliveries inside of normal working hours (8am to 8pm) Emergency out of hour deliveries will be kept to a minimum.  Feed bins out of sight of nearest receptor and noise screened by building.  Inspection and maintenance – as part on daily walk round inspection of the site by farm manager- all defects identified and repaired as practically possible. | In place.  In place  In place    In place  In place |
| 4. | Pig moving (1) | Minimal pig movements - only moved during the day and maintained in stable batches. No pigs moved around site outside. Normal work hours 8am – 6pm weekdays. | In place. |
| 5. | Pig loading, in and out. (2) | Typically twice per week, short duration. Aim to minimise animal stress.  Pig loading bay out of sight of nearest receptor and noise screened by building. Cannot restrict timing due to transport requirements, slaughterhouse requirements and pig welfare. | In place.  In place |
| 9. | Delivery of supplies and materials (2) | **Operation -** Typically small deliveries during normal working hours by arrangement. Staff to use mobiles for communication on site after 8pm.  **Timing** - Low perceived impact. – inside work hours 8am-6pm weekdays.  **Location –** located as far as practically possible to benefit from noise screening. | Ongoing. |
| 10. | Slurry tanker filling and emptying (3) | **Design –** constructed to prevent noise generation – gravity-based system. No slurry storage on farm all exported off site. Intermittent activity. Engine revs kept low where possible. All equipment regularly serviced and operated to current standards.  Slurry filling point out of sight of nearest receptor and noise screened by building.-  **Timing** - not possible to control if weather conditions are favourable to reduce odour but otherwise normal working hours 8 am – 8 pm | Ongoing.  In place. |
| 11. | Vehicles operating within installation boundaries (1) | **Design** – no scraping all fully slatted system. Pressure washer permanently placed in buildings ready for use.  **Location –** as practically possible where noise screening is available.  **Operation –** all contractors and staff aware of restriction to communicate via mobile after 8pm.  **Timings -** Operations mainly carried out during normal working hours.  Vehicles maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations,  Audible reversing signals required for safety purposes.- cannot guarantee to be able to work within normal work hours as the unit is a farm not an office job. | Ongoing. |
| 12. | Ventilation system (2) | **Design and Location -** Fans well maintained to reduce noise and only operated when needed. Number and size of fans matched to noise reduction efficiency of building and to ensure odour compliance.  Biofilter is not noisy by nature and does not produce a large noise risk.  **Inspection and maintenance –** as part of monthly inspection plan carried out by the farm manager- defects identified and repaired as quickly as practically possible and repairs and maintenance as required to ensure optimal efficiency.  Operational 24hrs a day | In place |
| 13. | Unexpected problems: (0)   * flooding * loss of fuel * staff absences | flooding unlikely to be a problem on the site, as not know to flood, animal safety will be a priority and actions to move the pigs to dryer accommodation on farm ASAP  not time restrictive due to nature of unexpected problems. | In place |
| 14. | Site infrastructure  (0) | **Inspection and maintenance** – part of a monthly inspection carried out by site manager with defects identified and repaired as soon as practically possible. Site infrastructure such as yards and roads maintained in good order to reduce impacts of noise. All equipment services as per manufacturers recommendations. | In place |

All relevant sections from table A5.5.5 on page 48, Appendix 5 of ERP Installation How to Comply V2 have been considered and all are adopted as part of Noise management on farm.

**Key Responsibilities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Staff Position Responsible** | **Comments** |
| Noise monitoring | * Farm Manager (pig stockman to cover holiday and illness) * Permit operator | * Annual review of noise results or sooner following substantiated complaints |
| Overseeing/ monitoring feed deliveries / feed storage and spillages | * Farm Manager | * Major spillages reported to permit operator if caused pollution incident |
| Ventilation and heating system | * Stockman and Farm Manager * Permit operator | * Responsible for day to day adjustments * Responsible for design, selection and upgrade of system. |
| Stock inspections | * Stockman | * All stock inspected twice a day and any issues are recorded. |
| Drinking water systems | * Stockman * Permit operator | * Responsible for day to day adjustments * Responsible for design, selection and upgrade of system. |
| Slurry removal and house washing | * Farm Manager * Stockman | * Farm manager responsible for timing of slurry removal. * Farm manager responsible for washout plan. * Stockman will operate machinery day to day |
| Carcass Disposal | * Farm Manager * Permit operator | * Responsible for day to day adjustments * Responsible for design, selection and upgrade of incineration system. |
| Drainage System | * Farm Manager * Permit operator | * Responsible for day to day adjustments * Responsible for design, selection and upgrade of drainage system. |
| Reviewing annual plans | * Permit operator |  |
| Documenting / reviewing abnormal events | * Farm Manager * Permit operator | * Documenting * Reviewing |
| Complaints Log | * Farm Manager |  |

**7. Complaints Procedure**

When receiving a noise complaint, a ‘Noise Complaint Form’ will be filled out in detail by the person informing the complaint, an example is shown in Appendix 3. Reasons for collecting this information is to;

* Identify source or specific issue
* Minimise the risk of repetition
* Reduce the intensity of noise experienced
* Investigate the complaint and record findings

When a noise complaint has been received from a local resident or Environment Agency officer the following procedures will be followed.

* Report to the Environment Agency within 48 hours of a complaint if they are not already aware, detailing any reason for the complaint. Work along-side the EA to identify and reduce the noise sources.
* The permit operator will undertake an onsite investigation and inform the complainant of the findings of their complaint within 48 hours of completing the investigation to help local resident understand the causes of noise.
* If cause is clearly identified by a specific procedure on farm, then if possible, to stop this procedure or delay until weather conditions are favourable then this will be implemented.
* If the noise is still present after the initial investigation, we will explore ways to reduce or eliminate it immediately
* If the noise is no longer present after the initial investigation we will explore ways to prevent reoccurrence in the future
* If the incident is identified as a ‘one off’ due to circumstances, the complainant will be informed, and procedures will be put in place to prevent reoccurrence.

**8. Contingency Measures**

The below table identifies what happens if the day to day management of the farm has failed to control noise. This occurs when noise complaints have been substantiated.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Noise Contingency** | | | |
| **Source** | **Potential Cause** | **Primary Mitigation Measure** | **Secondary Mitigation Measure** |
| Feeding Pigs | Automatic pig feeding system blocks or fails | **Trigger point**  Alarm or inspection by farm staff identifies feeding system failure  **Mitigation**  Farm staff to immediately begin manual feeding of all pigs with buckets and filled plastic bags.  Farm Manager to contact repairs contractor immediately.  Farm manager to contact local residents within 24 hours to inform them of the current problem and warn that noise levels may be increased during this time.  **Cessation of Action**  Feed delivery system is back up and operational | **Trigger point**  Feed delivery system has not been repaired within 72 hours  **Mitigation**  Farm staff continue to manual feed.  Destock the pig buildings to half stocking rate to keep control of feeding.  **Cessation of Action**  Feed delivery system back up and operational. |
| Pig Movements | Pigs escaping | **Trigger point**  Pigs escape when loading  **Mitigation**  Farm staff immediately block off access to escape from the farm unit.  Immediately all available personnel will herd pigs back to the loading bay.  **Cessation of action**  All escaped pigs are back in the loading bay | **Trigger Point**  Escaped pigs outside the permit boundary  **Mitigation**  All available personal round up pigs back into farm yard.  Farm Manager to contact the operator immediately to send extra staff if required.  **Cessation of action**  All escaped pigs back within unit boundary. |
| Delivery of supplies | Large delivery lorry gets stuck or crashes | **Trigger point**  Lorry broken down or accident caused  **Mitigation**  Farm manager immediately contacts lorry company to arrange pick up and correction.  Farm manager to immediately contact repairs contractor.  **Cessation of action**  Lorry has been removed and any damage has been repaired | **Trigger point**  Lorry still in place after 24 hours  **Mitigation**  If practical farm staff to tow lorry out of the way and allow normal day to day operations to continue.  **Cessation of action**  Lorry has been removed and any damage has been repaired |
| Slurry Handling | Slurry tanker or pumps are operating but creating increased noise than expected | **Trigger point**  Farm staff identify system not running effectively and causing noise  **Mitigation**  Cease all slurry pumping and movement immediately.  Farm Manager to contact repairs contractor immediately to repair.  Use space slurry tanker if available.  **Cessation of action**  Repairs carried out to slurry tanker/pumps and in working order. | **Trigger point**  Slurry pump/ tanker cannot be repaired  **Mitigation**  Farm operator arranges to purchase replacement within one month.  **Cessation of action**  Replacement slurry equipment on farm and working efficiently. |
| Pig Housing and ventilation | Pig bullying or tail biting | **Trigger point**  Daily welfare check by farm staff identifies noise created from tail biting or bullying  **Mitigation**  Separate the aggressor away from other pigs and dispatch is necessary.  Move injured pig to hospital pens.  **Cessation of Action**  No more tail biting and bulling within group and noise levels returned to normal. | **Trigger point**  Daily welfare check by farm staff identifies noise created from tail biting or bullying and primary mitigation has not stopped problem  **Mitigation**  Add additional welfare toys to distract and occupy pigs such as block of wood, old wellies etc.  More regular monitoring of particular group to avoid pigs learning, i, e checked every two hours during working day.  **Cessation of Action**  No more tail biting and bulling within group and noise levels returned to normal. |
| Pig Housing and ventilation | Overstocking in house due to non-collection for slaughter leading to greater numbers of heavier pigs – pigs become uncomfortable and restless therefore creating noise. | **Trigger Point**  Stocking density has exceeded guidelines due to operational failing in movement programme.  **Mitigation**  Site operator to give consent to move excess pig numbers to other sites owned by the operator immediately.  **Cessation of Action**  Pig numbers and stocking density are back down below industry guidelines. | **Trigger Point**  As for primary mitigation but exporting to other sites is not available.  **Mitigation**  Sell pigs to other farmers or market at the next available sale.  **Cessation of Action**  Pig numbers and stocking density are back down below industry guidelines. |
| Pig Housing and ventilation | Failure in house ventilation causing pigs to become too hot and therefore irritable and noisy | **Trigger point**  As part of daily check or computer warning that ventilation system failure.  **Mitigation Techniques**  Farm manager to call repairs contractor immediately to repair  Open up doors and any other potential for manual ventilation  If caused by power failure operate standby generator  **Cessation of Action**  Ventilation system repaired and working and house temperature and environment back to normal and pigs no longer agitated. | **Trigger Point**  The ventilation system cannot be repaired within 72 hours  **Mitigation Techniques**  Farm manager to reduce stocking density to half rate within 72 hours to help to regulate house atmosphere.  **Cessation of action**  Ventilation system repaired and working and house temperature and environment back to normal and pigs no longer agitated. |
| Pig Housing and ventilation | Abnormal climatic conditions impacting on sensitive receptors due to restless pigs creating noise. | **Trigger Point**  Weather condition (e.g. unusual wind direction, very still air, heavy humidity).  **Mitigation Techniques**  Implement additional perimeter / noise testing to monitor for potential problems.  Adjust fan velocities at selected points to address specific conditions in relation to sensitive receptors. Manual over-ride in response to conditions.  Extract also from gable end fans which are furthest from sensitive receptors <400m  Take action as above if forecasts indicate unusually long period of very abnormal weather (e.g. > 2 days).  **Cessation of Action**  Prevailing / normal weather patterns return | No additional emergency actions are identified in this instance. Weather conditions and forecasts are monitored. If extended period of abnormal weather is anticipated contact should be made with potentially impacted receptor sites. |
| Site Infrastructure | Damage to concrete and infrastructure causing excess noise with machinery vibrations etc. | **Trigger**  As part of annual inspection and maintenance report faults have been identified or damage identified when operating the site on day to day basis  **Mitigation**  Farm manager to log and record the damage and call repairs contractor within a month if the damage is not deemed to cause a pollution risk by the farm manager.  **Cessation of action**  Repairs contractor has been on site and repaired the fault. | **Trigger**  Repair has not been carried out at next inspection  **Mitigation**  Farm manager to contact repairs contractor and request repair is completed within 7 days.  **Cessation of action**  Repairs contractor has been on site and repaired the fault. |