Project No: 312192

**Noise Management Plan [SUN\_NMP(TH)]**

Prepared for:

**Stowmarket Skips Ltd T/A Sun Skips**

Alpha 3

The Buntings

Cedar Park

Stowmarket

Suffolk

IP14 5GZ

**Contents Amendment Record**

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Revision | Description | Date | Signed |
| 1.0 | Final | February 2023 | Graeme Kennett |

Acknowledgement

This report has been prepared for the sole and exclusive use of Stowmarket Skips Limited (Sun Skips) in accordance with the scope of work presented in Mabbett & Associates Ltd (Mabbett) Letter Agreement (312192/LA/GK), dated 21 October 2023. This report is based on information and data collected by Mabbett. Should any of the information be incorrect, incomplete or subject to change, Mabbett may wish to revise the report accordingly.

This report has been prepared by the following Mabbett personnel:

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES LTD

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This report has been reviewed and approved by the following Mabbett personnel:

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# Introduction

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been produced to accompany the required bespoke permit application for the permitted site at:

**THETFORD RECYCLING FACILITY**

5C Burrell Way

Thetford

Norfolk

IP24 3RW

Stowmarket Skips Limited (Sun Skips), ‘the operator’ operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure that their operations meet high environmental standards and comply with the legislative requirements applicable to the site.

This NMP has been produced in accordance with the Environment Agency (EA) Noise and vibration management: environmental permits guidance[[1]](#footnote-1) (updated 31st January 2022), and relates to waste materials accepted, stored and treated at the site which have the potential to produce noise emissions.

The NMP is a working document and forms one component of the overall EMS, ensuring that:

* noise impacts are addressed as part of routine site inspections;
* noise is controlled by effective operational practices, comprising physical and management control measures; and
* all practicable measures are taken to prevent or reduce noise impacts from the site at surrounding noise sensitive receptors.

The NMP also addresses the procedures for the management and resolution of complaints.

# Site Operations and Site Noise Sources

## Site Process

Operations at the facility are as follows:

* Inert waste, comprising soil and mixed aggregates, will be delivered to site in sheeted Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs);
* There will be an average of ten fixed-axle and seven articulated HGV deliveries per day, providing 20t and 29t loads, respectively;
* Deliveries will be undertaken between the hours of 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 5pm on Saturdays;
* Materials will be unloaded on-site and stored in designated stockpiles up to 4m in height;
* One excavator will be used to transfer waste from the designated stockpiles to the mobile crusher and crushed to a maximum size of 50mm.
* Material will be transferred from the crushing plant and placed in the hopper to the soil washing plant which will wash the materials and sort them into various sized fractions of secondary aggregates;
* Recycled aggregates will be removed by an excavator and stored in designated concrete storage bays up to 4m in height;

## Operating Hours

Monday – Friday: 07:00 – 18:00; and

Saturday: 07:00 – 17:00.

## Surrounding Area and Receptor Location

Thetford Recycling Site, centred at Ordnance Survey grid reference TL 85370 81893, is located on a busy industrial estate to the south-east of Thetford in Norfolk. Thetford is a market town and civil parish in the Breckland District of Norfolk on the A11 road between Norwich and London, just east of Thetford Forest.

The site is a former skip and compactor manufacturing business and consists of a large clear span portal framed building and an impermeable surface.

The site is bound by various commercial uses to the north, east and south. The site is bordered by forested land to the west. Thetford Heath National Nature Reserve, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), lies to the southwest of the Site. The closest residential dwelling to the site is located off Ash Close to the southeast of the Site.

Table 2.1: Selected Noise Sensitive Receptors

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Identifier** | **Receptor** | **Type** | **Approx. distance to noise producing plant (m)** | **Direction from site** |
| R1 | Residential dwelling on Ash Close | Residential | 400m | SE |
| R2 | Thetford Heath National Nature Reserve (SSSI) | Ecological | <10m | W |



Figure .: Sensitive Receptor Locations

## Sources of Noise

A noise assessment has been undertaken to identify any potentially adverse noise impacts associated with the proposed soil washing facility with crusher and its noise impact upon the closest existing residential dwellings and SSSI. Accordingly, the assessment was completed with due regard to the appropriate British Standards and guidance documents[[2]](#footnote-2) relevant to the assessment of noise impacts. These are detailed in Noise Impact Assessment carried out by Professional Consult Limited.

The noise assessment relied upon a background sound survey completed in a location considered to be representative of the sound climate at the closest residential dwellings to the Site. This Assessment has also relied upon an ambient noise survey completed on the Site boundary with the SSSI to quantify existing levels of commercial noise which any animals close to the Site, within the SSSI may be exposed to.

It also relied upon noise measurements taken at an off-site location in order to measure noise levels associated with an existing soil washing plant and library noise level data for the operation of a stone crusher.

The process involves a number of stages which generate noise. As part of a previous assessment of a similar washing plant, noise measurements were made near each stage of the existing machine as a means of quantifying noise from activities / source for use in the noise modelling assessment. The operation of the machine and the practicalities of the measurements means isolating noise from other aspect of the washing plant was not entirely possible. As such, the measured noise levels detailed include a degree of noise ‘spill’ from other aspects of the machine and noise from conveyors etc.

# Noise Impact

## On-site Impact

Personnel working on site and site visitors are the nearest receptors to noise emissions. Site personnel and visitors are not likely to be a concern relating to nuisance but should be considered in regard to health and safety.

All site personnel and visitors should be made aware any noise issues and understand the site’s Environmental Management Systems and this NMP. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is made available where personnel or visitors are likely to be exposed to high levels of noise.

## Off-Site Impact – BS 4142 Assessment

Professional Consult undertook a background sound survey in a location considered to be representative of the background sound climate at the residential dwelling located to the southeast of the Site off Ash Close over a full weekday and weekend period. The noise impact assessment (NIA) was completed as an assessment in line with the guidance presented in BS4142:2014+A1:2019 and the specific noise criteria of 3dB over background requested by Breckland Council.

Please see Noise Impact Assessment [Proposed Soil Washing Facility – Burrell Way, Thetford] for full details regarding assessment, readings and methodology.

## Baseline Sound Monitoring Locations

Professional Consult completed a background sound survey in a location considered to be representative of the sound climate at the closest existing residential dwellings to the Site, as follows:

### Noise Measurement Position 2:

Located 80m to the west of the residential dwellings on Ash Close between 12:30 on 14th July – 10:30 on 18th July 2022 in free-field conditions thus covering a full weekday and weekend period. Noise sources at the measurement location comprised of noise from road traffic on the distant surrounding road network and intermittent sound of gunfire from Thetford ranges to the west.

### Noise Measurement Position 3:

Located on the western Site boundary between 14:00 on 20th October – 13:00 on 27th October 2022 in order to capture the range of different levels of noise associated with existing operations at the Site.

## Off-Site Impact – Comparison of Absolute Levels

### Calculation of Specific Noise Levels at Residential Receptor R1

A review of the data indicates that for the daytime period at the identified residential dwellings, the rated level of noise falls below the typical background sound level (the criteria noise level). Accordingly, BS4142:2014+A1:2019 provides the following advice for this outcome:

*‘Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.’*

### Calculation of Specific Noise Levels at Fauna Receptor R2

Using the typical measured existing ambient noise level, the data indicates that the change in ambient noise level is +8.6dB which exceeds the maximum permissible change in ambient noise level of +2.9dB and so requires noise mitigation.

## Mitigation Measures

Table 3.1 calculates the change in ambient noise level at the boundary of the Site with the SSSI following installation of an acoustic fence on the Site boundary at a height of 1.8m and indicates that, with a 1.8m high acoustic fence, the change in ambient noise level is +2.8dB which falls below the permissible change in ambient noise level of +2.9dB.

The acoustic fence should be free from holes and have a minimum mass of 15kg/m2.

Table 3.1 Calculation of Change in Ambient Noise Level at R2 – With Acoustic Fence

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Receptor | Typical measured existing ambient noise level LAeq,1hr (dB) | Calculated sound pressure level from development with acoustic fence, LAeq,T (dB) | Combined ambient noise level, LAeq,1hr (dB) | Change in ambient noise level, LAeq,1hr (dB) |
| R2 | 55 | 54.6 | 57.8 | +2.8 |

# Noise Control Measures

## Management Measures

The Site Manager (SM) has overall responsibility to ensure noise from the site is kept to a minimum, at the closest noise sensitive properties.

Management noise control measures will include:

* All plant and machinery to be regularly inspected and maintained (in accordance with the planned maintenance programme), to ensure that no item will produce excessive noise.
* The acoustic fence will be regularly inspected to ensure that it remains free from holes.
* If any defective plant item is creating a noise nuisance, then the SM will undertake to have the issue dealt with within the shortest time possible.
* Regular lubrication of moving parts.
* Regular replacement of wearing parts.
* No routine maintenance work outside of daytime hours to be undertaken and provisions for noise control during maintenance.
* All site staff to be instructed on the importance of noise control and minimising noise emissions from the site during their inductions.
* Horns on vehicles and mobile plant not to be used, unless necessary.
* Engines not to be “revved”, unless necessary.
* Vehicle and mobile plant engines to be switched off when stationary, unless impracticable.
* Vehicle speeds within the site to be restricted.

All staff on the site have a responsibility to be aware of the need to ensure noise generated by the site is kept to a minimum, and to report any potential issues or any potential improvements.

## Liaison with Neighbours

Establishing and maintaining good relationships with sensitive receptors is essential to minimising the potential for noise nuisance.

Stowmarket Skips shall ensure:

* That all the neighbours know how to contact the site if they consider noise to be a problem; and
* That any complaints are recorded and that problems, where possible, are dealt with promptly.

Should complaints be made regarding operations at the site, these will be fully investigated following the complaints procedure given in Section 6.0. Where it is identified that noise mitigation measures may be required, these will be explored further.

## Plant Purchasing Policy

When new plant is to be purchased the relative noise emission of the various options should be taken into consideration as a factor in the decision-making process. Incorporation of specific noise suppression equipment should be considered. Noise emissions for individual items of plant are generally provided as a sound power level (SWL or Lw) in dB(A). The lower the sound power level the quieter the plant.

The above applies equally to hiring of plant.

# Noise Monitoring

## Noise Impact Assessment (NIA)

The Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was undertaken to identify any potentially adverse noise impacts associated with the proposed soil washing facility with crusher and its noise impact upon the closest existing residential dwellings. Accordingly, the NIA was completed with due regard to the appropriate British Standards and guidance documents relevant to the assessment of noise impacts.

The NIA relied upon a background sound survey completed in a location considered to be representative of the sound climate at the closest residential dwellings to the Site and upon an ambient noise survey completed on the Site boundary with the SSSI in order to quantify existing levels of commercial noise which any animals close to the Site, within the SSSI may be exposed to.

It also relied upon noise measurements taken at an off-site location in order to measure noise levels associated with an existing soil washing plant and library noise level data for the operation of a stone crusher.

### Residential Receptors

The NIA shows that the rated level of noise generated by the soil washing plant and crusher does **not** exceed the typical background sound level at the closest residential receptor during the proposed operating hours.

### Ecological Receptors

The NIA shows that, following installation of an acoustic fence on the western Site boundary with the SSSI, the change in ambient noise level will **not** exceed the permissible change of +2.9dB.

### Conclusion

The predicted level of noise from the Site is sufficiently low enough at the closest residential dwelling and at the SSSI to accord with the ‘No Observed Adverse Effect Level’ as detailed in the relevant PPG and as such noise should not be deemed to be a determining factor for the Site.

## Regular Inspection

The SM will carry out regular inspections around the site and at the site boundary. The purpose of the inspection is to identify any unacceptable or unexpected sources of noise and to determine if it is audible at the site boundary.

If the inspection identifies any unacceptable or unexpected noise sources which are clearly audible at residential properties, remedial action to reduce noise levels will be taken as soon as reasonably practicable.

Details of inspections which identify anything unusual or result in remedial action being taken shall be recorded in the site logbook.

# Complaint Management Procedure

Should complaints arise from nearby residents regarding noise from site activities, a log of the complaint will be made, to include the:

* Date and time that the complaint was received by the site;
* Name, address and telephone number of the complainant;
* The time and date when the noise was observed;
* The location where the noise was observed;
* The description of noise. Including, where possible, frequency, duration, intensity and character (e.g., low, high pitch). This information may help identify potential noise sources; and
* Any other information the relating to the complaint.

The Site Manager shall be notified as soon as possible that a complaint has been received, and if required, contact the complainant to obtain further details. The following site information should be recorded:

* Wind speed and direction at the time of complaint;
* Any on-site activities occurring at the time of complaint.

If the complaint relates to an event in the past, then the likely cause of the complaint will be investigated as soon as possible via records of site activities. The complainant will be advised of the results of the investigation and any remedial action taken as a result of the complaint, within 10 working days of the complaint being received.

If the source of the complaint is still ongoing, it will be investigated as soon as reasonably practicable. If initial investigations identify that the site could be the source of the noise complaint, then further investigation will be carried out to understand the scale of the impact. Where complaints cannot be resolved on initial receipt, and further investigations are required, a written response will be made within 10 working days of submission of the complaint, if contact details are provided.

Stowmarket Skips may undertake noise monitoring to provide supporting data or provide additional confirmation of the likely noise levels off-site.

If the source of the complaint relates to normal day to day activities, a review will be undertaken to determine if such works are likely to result in noise nuisance in the future. The results will be discussed with the complainant and explained with regard to the measured noise levels and the influence of other noise sources outside the site.

# Records

Records relating to the management and monitoring of noise shall be maintained, to include:

* results of routine inspections;
* results of any noise monitoring undertaken;
* details of any complaints, to include date, time, location of complainant, prevailing weather conditions and outcome of the complaint investigation;
* details of any remedial action taken in response to issues identified by members of staff or via a complaint, and any subsequent change to normal operating procedures; and
* plant maintenance schedule.

All records will be kept for a minimum of 3 years and be available for inspection by relevant parties upon request. The records will be kept in the main site office or Head Office.

# Review / Update

This NMP is a controlled document, and forms part of the Environmental Management System (EMS). Records relating to the management and monitoring of noise resulting from the implementation of this NMP will also form part of the EMS.

The NMP is intended to be a live document which serves as a reference during day-to-day operations, and as such would be reviewed on an annual basis. The NMP will also be reviewed and updated should any of the following occur:

* significant changes are made to the process or operational practices;
* there is a change to the management structure, designation of responsibility or training provision; and
* complaints are received, which on subsequent investigation result in the identification of further control measures or remedial action, in addition to those set out within this NMP.

Appendix A: Noise Complaint Report Form

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time and date of complaint: | Name and address of complainant: | | | |
| Telephone number of complainant: | | | | |
| Date of noise: | |  | | |
| Time of noise: | |  | | |
| Location of noise, if not at above address: | |  | | |
| Weather conditions (i.e., dry, rain, fog, snow): | |  | | |
| Temperature (very warm, warm, mild, cold or degrees if known): | |  | | |
| Wind strength (none, light, steady, strong, gusting): | |  | | |
| Wind direction (e.g. from NE): | |  | | |
| Complainant's description of noise:   * What does it sound like? | |  | | |
| * Intensity (see below): | |  | | |
| * Duration (time): | |  | | |
| * Constant or intermittent in this period: | |  | | |
| * Does the complainant have any other comments about the noise? | |  | | |
| Are there any other complaints relating to the site, or to that location? (either previously or relating to the same exposure): | |  | | |
| Any other relevant information: | |  | | |
| Do you accept that noise is likely to be from your activities? | |  | | |
| What was happening on site at the time the noise occurred? | |  | | |
| Operating conditions at time the noise occurred (e.g., crushing, screening): | |  | | |
| Actions taken: | | | | |
| Form completed by: | | | Date | Signed |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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1. [Noise and vibration management: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Noise and vibration management: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits#step-3-source-assessment) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)