

## Noise Management Plan for Methwold (Breckland) Farm Poultry Unit

The H1 Environmental Risk Assessment submitted with an application to vary the permit to extend the installation boundary and demolish all existing buildings to erect 20no new houses for rearing poultry identified sources of noise with moderate and minor potential to cause annoyance. Created and updated this noise management plan (NMP) to support the overall environmental management system in place at Methwold (Breckland) Fm. 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. Significant pollution outside the boundary is not expected, operator has no record or recollections of 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.

Identified sensitive receptors within 400m of the installation boundary from a site walkover and desk top study (excluding 4no. proposed residential dwellings for farm workers at Methwold (Breckland) Fm. **The residential dwellings at Feltwell Fm are not owned by the operator or occupied by workers at Airfield, Feltwell or Methwold (Breckland) Fm.** The receptors are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1:-

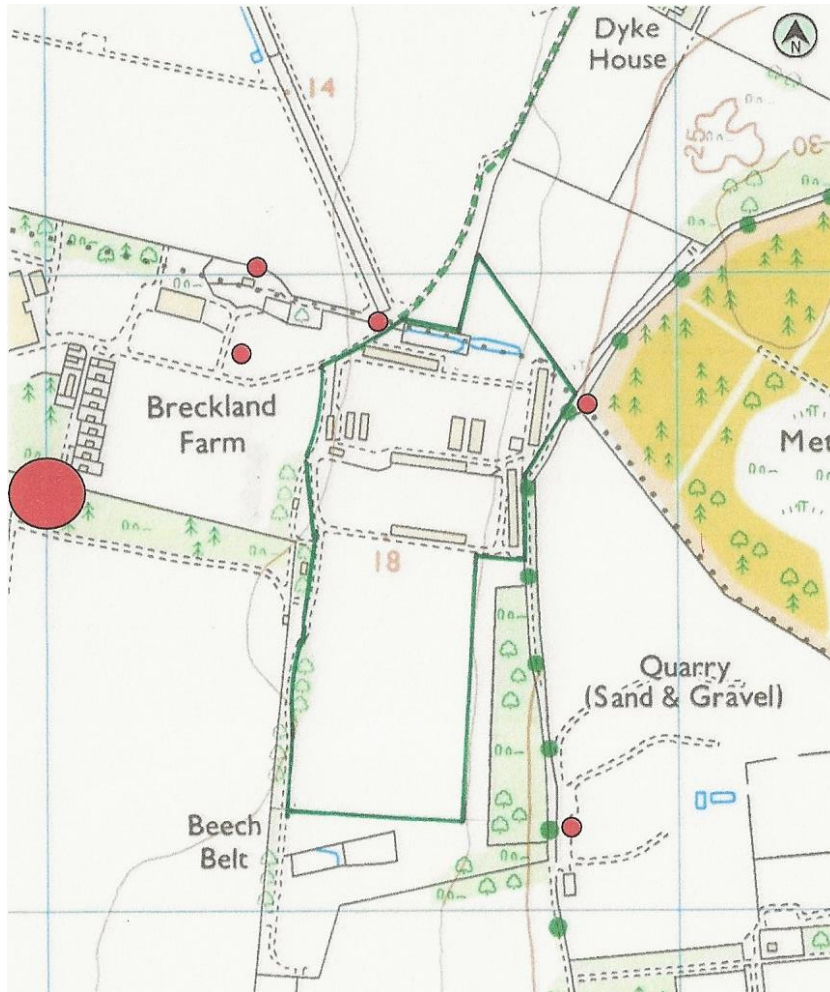
Table 1. Methwold Fm Poultry Unit receptor locations within 400m

Nº.	Receptor	NGR	Direction	Distance from boundary
1	Public right of way - Brandon Road, Methwold, Thetford	TL 73852 92803	N	0m
2	Other public access - Brandon Road, Methwold, Thetford	TL 73558 92926	NE	0m
3	Industrial - Feltwell Landfill, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford	TL 73806 92068	SW	200m
4	Industrial - Warren Energy Ltd, Brandon Road, Methwold, Thetford, IP26 4RJ	TL73300 92866	W	160m
5	Residential - Brandon Road, Methwold, Thetford, IP26 4RJ	TL 73362 92998	W	150m
6	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73100 92855	W	365m
7	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73090 92833	W	370m
8	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73087 92815	W	375m
9	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73082 92798	W	375m
10	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73079 92778	W	370m

11	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73083 92757	W	355m
12	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73079 92738	W	360m
13	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73075 92719	W	360m
14	Residential - Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road, Feltwell, Thetford, <b>IP26 4DU</b>	TL 73071 92699	W	365m

*Distances measured on government website at [magic.defra.gov.uk](http://magic.defra.gov.uk)*

Fig 1. Methwold (Breckland) Fm Poultry Unit receptor locations 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.

Industrial premises and public right of way likely have low sensitivity – where the enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected, or there is transient exposure, where the 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 Methwold (Breckland) Fm 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 Methwold (Breckland) Fm 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 &amp; from the farm</p> <p>Mobile source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HGVs, tractors &amp; trailers</li> <li>• Release of air brakes</li> <li>• Revving engines</li> <li>• Rattling empty trailers</li> <li>• Reversing signals</li> <li>• Loud-very loud &amp; intrusive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances, delays, breakdowns, availability.</li> <li>• Speed restriction on approach roads &amp; onsite 5mph.</li> <li>• Drivers made aware of driving slowly on and offsite in forward gear, to minimise noise, engines to be switched off when vehicle not in use.</li> <li>• Audible 'reversing' signals for safety.</li> <li>• Well maintained units, tractors, bulk, livestock trailers expected of haulage contractors to minimise noise.</li> <li>• Preventive maintenance programme includes regular inspection of access roads &amp; apron in front of poultry houses. Cracking, potholes reported and repaired by maintenance team or a building contractor.</li> </ul>	
<p>Noise from small vehicles travelling to &amp; from farm</p> <p>Mobile source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmworkers, visitor's cars, courier van deliveries all considered to be low risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances for example delays, breakdowns, availability. Farmworkers can arrive sooner to start work especially in warm weather.</li> <li>• Everyone instructed to drive cars, vans into parking areas without excessive noise.</li> <li>• Speed restriction onsite 5mph.</li> </ul>	

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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 feed, fuel &amp; other deliveries</p> <p>Mobile source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engine noise from vehicle &amp; feed blower</li> <li>• Loud-very loud &amp; intrusive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances, for example delays, breakdowns, availability.</li> <li>• Vehicles will be fitted with audible ‘vehicle reversing’ warning systems and will only be onsite in daytime.</li> <li>• Blow feed from tip-up trailers is noisy, short duration typically less than an hour .</li> <li>• Delivery monitored by driver and blower switched off in between each delivery point and soon as empty.</li> <li>• Large capacity trailers minimise number of deliveries.</li> <li>• Silos installed in pairs in between poultry houses so delivery movements and handling onsite is reduced.</li> <li>• Blowing feed over as short a distance as possible.</li> <li>• Feed delivery into and distribution out of silos benefit from screening effect of buildings and provide noise barrier between delivery points, augers, and location of receptors.</li> </ul>	
<p>Noise from automatic feeding equipment</p> <p>Fixed source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of silos</li> <li>• Feed distribution</li> <li>• Very faint-faint noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good package feed distribution system installed, storage silos, sealed flexible pipes with augers and automatic, continual supply into feeders inside house.</li> <li>• Low-noise activity with electric motors and flexible augers in tubes. Running intermittently only for a few seconds each time day &amp; night to transfer feed into houses. Frequency and duration of transfers increase as chickens eat more during the growing period.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of feedstuffs in silo</li> <li>• Abnormal noisy auger running continuously.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate, same day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmworkers switch off auger</li> <li>• Farm manager to order a feed delivery</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></p>

Table 2. Routine actions and contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks at Methwold (Breckland) Fm 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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockman inspecting automatic equipment on which chickens depend not less than once per day to check there are no defects. Any defects will be repaired immediately by the stockman, maintenance team or professional contractors.</li> <li>• Stockman check feed level in silos every day to avoid hungry chickens, empty augers will run continuously, and maybe noticeable offsite, especially at night time.</li> <li>• Feed transfer equipment benefits from screening effect of buildings and provide noise barrier between augers, and location of receptors.</li> <li>• Preventive maintenance programme includes stockman repair minor faults or callout maintenance team, or electrical contractor. Inspect and maintain equipment with maintenance team or contractors in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions and keep records.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normally achievable same day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cessation of action</u> Feed delivered and resumed normal operation.</p>
Noise from ventilation fans on roof and gable fans (if fitted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noisy, out of balance or worn fans</li> <li>• Faint-moderate audible tonal noise fans running continuously especially in warm weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good package high velocity ventilation system designed and installed by professional contractor &amp; minimised number of fans required.</li> <li>• Package fan inlets, attic sections, lead through and plastic outlet cones minimise fan noise.</li> <li>• Fans on roof considered to be low noise relative to typical rural background noise.</li> <li>• Computer controlled automatic ventilation, uses small number of fans running continually at high-speed rather than more fans switching on and off.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noisy, out of balance &amp; worn fans produce high noise with annoying frequencies or tones.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately/same day/next day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual fans can be switched off when faults occur.</li> <li>• Fault to be repaired by stockman, maintenance team or professional contractor.</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievable same day/next day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockman inspecting automatic equipment on which chickens depend not less than once per day to check there are no defects.</li> <li>• Preventive maintenance programme includes farm workers check fan settings, and for faulty noisy fans, during walk-through checks start of every day. Repair minor faults or callout maintenance team, or electrical contractor. Inspected &amp; maintained by maintenance team or contractor in accordance with manufacturers or suppliers' instructions and keep records.</li> <li>• Any alarm system installed gives warning of failure high temperature via mobile phones, noise will not exceed level required to alert persons onsite.</li> <li>• Fans switched off when house is empty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faulty fan successfully repaired or replaced no high noise.</li> </ul>
<p>Vehicles &amp; machinery onsite</p> <p>Mobile &amp; fixed sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Operation</li> <li>• Timing of operations</li> <li>• Inspection and maintenance</li> <li>• Ordinarily not considered probable cause for annoyance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. Outside these times only in event of extraordinary circumstances, for example delays, breakdowns, availability.</li> <li>• Access to vehicles restricted to qualified workers.</li> <li>• Idling of machines between work periods and revving of engines will be avoided.</li> <li>• Preventive maintenance programme for any farm vehicles. Farmworkers carry out pre-start safety checks, working properly, repair minor faults or callout maintenance team, or vehicle engineers</li> <li>• Inspect and maintain any farm vehicles with professional engineers in accordance with</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary noisy work, vehicles onsite.</li> <li>• Noisy work outside normal working times.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance notice of works.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receptors likely to be seriously affected to be notified in event of any extraordinary noisy work, including expected start, finish time.</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further notice if later finish expected.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairs complete, vehicles removed offsite.</li> </ul>

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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>manufacturer's instructions especially exhaust systems and silencers and keep records.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compressors and pressure washers placed inside poultry houses during blowdown and washout.</li> <li>• Maintaining a preventive maintenance programme &amp; record keeping for buildings and equipment with stockman, maintenance team or contractors.</li> <li>• Concrete roadway and apron in front of the poultry houses will be kept in good repair and as smooth as practical, and any cracking and potholes repaired as soon as possible to minimise vehicular noise.</li> <li>• When repairs are required, works will be undertaken during the normal working day, and in event works likely to cause significant noise, neighbouring residents will be notified in advance.</li> <li>• Package mobile macerator equipment and pressure washer installed in an enclosed trailer arrives onsite 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 each hour after each collection from inside poultry houses. Enclosed trailer provides attenuation so low noise outside. Onsite less than a day and then moves on.</li> </ul>	
People noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faint-moderate noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm workers, contractors, visitors instructed to avoid raised voices playing radios unnecessarily loud.</li> </ul>	



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Destocking  Mobile source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise from chickens not considered to be a probable cause for annoyance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal day time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply. However, to meet factory requirements destocking can start before 07.00 at night time, but more exception than rule, and very occasionally destocking on public and bank holiday, however, latter rarely happens.</li> <li>Catching will be organised to minimise manoeuvring of diesel FLT's outside. Unnecessary movements of trailers, FLT's, and loaders to be avoided.</li> <li>Trained and qualified catchers &amp; drivers responsible for catching and loading. FLT drivers move stock carefully &amp; load modules as smoothly as practical to minimise excitement and stress in chickens and impact avoid unnecessary scraping.</li> <li>Smooth concrete apron provides smooth surface for vehicle movements lessening vehicular noise.</li> <li>Loaded trailers promptly moved offsite.</li> <li>Keep doors of houses closed when not in use.</li> </ul>	
Removing litter  Mobile source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engine noise</li> <li>Moderate-loud noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing litter after destocking occurs 6/7 times every year. Contractor uses two teams to empty 3 houses each per day so expect all houses emptied in approx. 4 days. Expect to be removing &amp; loading litter not less than 28 days every year.</li> <li>Professional contractors remove litter as soon as possible, normally within a day of destocking, not more than 3 days, for example destocking on a Friday and cleanout on Monday. Cleanout in normal day</li> </ul>	

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		<p>time 07.00-23.00hrs in working week (Monday to Friday and Saturday morning but exclusive of public &amp; bank holidays), in accordance with How to comply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use front end or skid-steer loader to push bulk of litter into a large heap the length of the house and load directly into waiting trailers positioned outside the doors to avoid double handling and minimise time spent loading and unnecessary trailer movements.</li> <li>• Doors open on the concrete apron where trailers will be parked so not in close proximity to receptors.</li> <li>• Idling machines and revving engines to be avoided in between work periods.</li> </ul>	
<p>Noise from back-up generators</p> <p>Fixed source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engine noise</li> <li>• Faint-moderate noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary electricity outage events rarely happen.</li> <li>• Rental package low noise generators come with integral acoustic enclosure.</li> <li>• Alarms &amp; generators tested weekly in normal working time 09.00-17.00 hours in working week Monday to Friday but exclusive of public and bank holidays.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Power Network advise electricity outage is likely.</li> <li>• Unexpected electricity outage.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate, same day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checking online, time supply expects to return.</li> <li>• Schedule delivery of additional fuel if required.</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generator required if outage predicted to be hours, days, weeks to supply water, ventilation, lighting.</li> <li>• Continue checking for information online.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal grid electricity supply restored.</li> </ul>

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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"> <li>Monitoring can help identify any increase in noise levels with time so remedial action can be taken to avoid risk of causing annoyance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm Manager responsible for site tour every day including perimeter, check for any abnormal elevated noise level with potential to cause annoyance offsite.</li> <li>Check routine and contingency actions to minimise noise and risks being adhered to.</li> <li>Environmental Manager at Crown Chicken Ltd monitoring noise levels and recording after complaint, until abnormal elevated noise levels minimised, back to normal.</li> <li>Calibrated digital decibel meter for monitoring is available from head office, if required.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abnormal, extraordinary, elevated noise level.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate, same day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check routine and contingency actions to minimise noise and risks being adhered to.</li> <li>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 level and duration with timescales.</li> <li>Continue monitoring at perimeter until noise level reduced back to normal level.</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normally achievable same day, next day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cessation of action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise levels reduced, back to normal on and offsite.</li> <li>Record events and actions in farm diary.</li> </ul>
Complaint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise sensitivity likely to increase in warm weather when people want to enjoy their gardens and have windows open more.</li> <li>Slow response</li> <li>Elevated level of annoyance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm Manager, Environmental Manager responsible for investigating any complaint reported by Agency, local authority, or the public.</li> <li>Investigate if alleged noise can be substantiated. Even if no longer apparent investigation must still be carried out and recorded same day. Establish:-</li> <li>Time noise occurred, duration, description of odour.</li> <li>Activities taking place onsite at time of complaint.</li> <li>Any noisy activities taking place offsite in vicinity.</li> <li>Record details of investigation and action taken on noise complaint report. A copy must be sent to the Agricultural Director immediately and must be</li> </ul>	<p><u>Trigger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaint reported on Saturday or Sunday by email from Agency, local authority, not considered likely from anywhere else.</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeframe for implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As soon as possible on opening email.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contingency action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate if alleged noise can be substantiated. Even if no longer apparent investigation must still be carried out and recorded same day, next day.</li> <li>Continue monitoring for noise offsite.</li> </ul> <p><u>Duration of action</u></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
		retained onsite & available for future reference, or inspection with Agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation likely achievable same day, next day.</li> <li><u>Cessation of action</u></li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Management plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update with new issues, actions &amp; contingency actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Manager responsible for review annually. Updated sooner where a substantiated complaint results in making changes to related issues change in operating procedures, or any routine and contingency actions.</li> </ul>	

Change history	Date	Name
Last updated	31 May 2024	
Last review	26 May 2023	
Next review	-	12 months from date of bringing poultry houses into use.
<p>31/05/24 Added a reference to the dwelling houses at Feltwell Fm are not owned by the operator or occupied by workers at Airfield, Feltwell or Methwold (Breckland) Fm. Corrected the post codes for all the dwelling houses at Feltwell Fm.</p> <p>26/05/23 Created for rearing poultry at Methwold (Breckland) Fm in accordance with How t//o comply.</p>		

### 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 <i>(e.g., dry, rain, fog, snow)</i>	
Wind strength and direction <i>(e.g., light, steady, strong, gusting)</i>	
Callers' description of noise <i>(e.g., hiss, hum, rumble, continuous, intermittent)</i>	
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*