

Noise Management Plan for Friars Farm

The Environmental Risk Assessment submitted to apply to vary permitted activities from rearing of ducks to rearing broilers identified sources of noise with moderate potential to cause annoyance, although no significant increase in noise is to be expected result of the change. Created 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 sensitive receptors within 400m of the installation boundary (excluding four dwellings occupied by owners and farmworkers in control of the installation) from a desk top study shown in Table 1 and Figure 1: -

Table 1. Friars Farm sensitive receptors within 400m

Nº	Receptor	Address	NGR	Direction	Distance from boundary metres
1	Residential	1 New Cottages, Edge's Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QH	TM 21638 92758	N	226
2	Residential	2 New Cottages, Edge's Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QH	TM 21636 92757	N	224
3	Residential	Threeways, Brick Kiln Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QJ	TM 21750 92899	N	390
4	Residential	The Old Rectory, Brick Kiln Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QJ	TM 21775 92816	N	317
5	Residential	1 Rectory Bungalows, Brick Kiln Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QJ	TM 21827 92878	NNE	393
6	Residential	2 Rectory Bungalows, Brick Kiln Lane, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QJ	TM 21841 92876	NNE	398
7	PROW	Public right of way (footpath)	TM 21822 92679	NE	220
8	Residential	Church Cottage, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21836 92609	NE	192
9	Residential	Little Friars, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21772 92590	NE	128
10	POW	St John The Baptist Church, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21828 92558	ENE	167
11	PROW	Public right of way (footpath)	TM 21797 92549	ENE	134
12	Residential	Manor Bungalow, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21802 92517	ENE	135
13	Residential	Friars Farm Farmhouse, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21751 92545	ENE	89

14	Residential	Morningthorpe Manor, Morningthorpe, NR15 2QL	TM 21773 92421	E	128
15	Residential	Blacksmith's Cottage, The Green, Morningthorpe, NR15 2RZ	TM 21578 92008	S	388
16	PROW	Public right of way (footpath)	TM 21515 92418	W	12

NGR and distance from government website at magic.defra.gov.uk

Fig 1. Friars Farm location of sensitive receptors within 400m



Residential dwellings have high sensitivity and 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. Public rights of way (footpaths) 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 Friars Farm to prevent or minimise noise levels
- Contingency actions to limit exposure to elevated noise emissions beyond the installation boundary.

Table 2. Summary of responsibilities at Friars Farm

No.	Routine action	Responsible
1	Driving on and offsite including for deliveries	Farmworkers and drivers
2	Use macerator and pressure washer inside a trailer	Farmworkers
3	Checking feed levels in silos and schedule deliveries	Farmworkers
4	Monitoring feed deliveries	Drivers
5	Inspecting feeding equipment inside and outside the poultry houses	Farmworkers
6	Inspecting ventilation fans and switching on and off	Farmworkers
7	Inspecting gable end fans and switching on and off	Farmworkers
8	Destocking the poultry houses end of the rearing period	Catchers and drivers
9	Use vehicles for removing litter from inside the poultry houses	Contractors
10	Use pressure washers to washout inside and outside the poultry houses	Contractors
11	Spreading new litter and setting up	Contractors
12	Planned preventive maintenance	Farmworkers, electricians and contractors
13	Testing emergency back-up generator weekly	Farmworkers
14	Repairs to equipment and housing	Farmworkers, electricians and contractors
15	Monitoring for noise issues and inform sensitive receptors	Farm Manager
16	Investigating and recording complaints	Farm Manager
17	Review and update the noise management plan	Environment Manager

Table 3. Routine actions and contingency actions to minimise noise and noise risks at Friars Farm

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 large delivery vehicles travelling to & from farm Mobile sources	• HGVs • tractors & trailers • Release of air brakes • Revving engines • Reversing signals for safety • Empty trailer rattle • Loud-very loud & intrusive	• Deliveries limited to normal daytime 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 road & 5mph onsite. • Drivers made aware of driving slowly on and offsite, in forward gear to minimise noise, and engines to be switched off when vehicles not in use. • White noise reversing signals fitted on most HGVs. • Planned preventive maintenance onsite by operator or contractors including concrete apron and roadway for cracking and potholes to minimise trailer noise and keeping records of work.	
Noise from small vehicles travelling to & from farm Mobile source	• Farm workers, visitor's cars, courier van deliveries all considered to be low risk	• Deliveries limited to normal daytime 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. Farmworkers can arrive sooner especially in warm weather. • Speed restriction on approach road & 5mph onsite. • Everyone instructed to drive cars, vans into parking areas without excessive noise.	

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Noise from automatic feeding equipment Fixed source	• Low noise feed equipment • Blowers have very loud noise	• Package silos, pipes, augers outside and feeding equipment inside houses produce low noise in normal operation, unlikely to be perceived offsite. • Much screening effect of buildings provides a barrier, and most equipment in between the houses or inside. • Electric motors with flexible augers in tubes run only intermittently for a few seconds each time, day & night to transfer feed into houses. Frequency and duration increase during rearing period as chickens eat more. • Farmworkers checking feed level in silos weekly for ordering & planning deliveries to avoid running out. • Blowers on trailers are noisy, but each delivery takes only 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. • Large capacity trailers minimise number of deliveries. • Blow feed in over as short a distance as possible. • Drivers must 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 farmworkers at least once per day to check there is no defect, these will be rectified immediately. • Planned preventive maintenance of equipment by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and keep records of work.	<u>Trigger</u> • No feed in silos and augers running continuously. • Defect in feeding equipment. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> • Immediate, same day. <u>Contingency action</u> • 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. • Equipment defects must be rectified immediately, same day by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors. <u>Duration of action</u> • Normally achievable same day. <u>Cessation of action</u> • Feed delivered and resumed normal operation. • Farmworkers inspect contingency actions have been successful and all equipment is working correctly.

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Noise from ventilation fans	- Faint-moderate audible tonal noise fans running continuously especially in warm weather. - Noisy, out of balance or worn fans.	- Ventilation system designed with package fans and installed by professional contractors. - Fans considered to be low noise relative to typical rural background noise to minimise noise for chickens and sensitive receptors - Installed with package fan inlets, attic sections, lead through and plastic outlet cones to minimise vibration and 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 will be inspected by farmworkers at least once per day to check there is no defect, these will be rectified immediately. Check for any faulty, noisy fans. Plus, farmworkers will inspect the birds at least twice per day, three times for young birds. - Farmworkers switch off fans in empty houses after drying out following washout and disinfection. - Planned preventive maintenance of equipment by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and keep records of work.	<u>Trigger</u> - Alarm - Noisy, out of balance & worn fans produce high noise with annoying frequencies or tones. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> - Immediately/same day/next day. <u>Contingency action</u> - Alarm system via mobile phones warns farmworkers of ventilation system failings, so any noise will not exceed the level required to alert farmworkers onsite. - Farmworkers switch off Individual fans if faults occur. - Equipment defects must be rectified immediately, same day by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors. <u>Duration of action</u> - Achievable same day/next day. <u>Cessation of action</u> - Faulty fan successfully repaired or replaced. - Farmworkers inspect contingency actions have been successful and equipment is working correctly.
Noise from gable fans	Faint-moderate audible tonal noise fans running continuously	Gable end fans installed in house No. 5 only, to be used infrequently in warm weather. Not at other times for example for brooding chicks or young birds which could be chilled or during litter removal and washout.	<u>Trigger</u> - Warm weather - Chickens are nearly fully feathered & start exhibiting uncomfortable feeling hot behaviours e.g. lifting their

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	especially in warmer weather. - Running fans continually day & night - Expect frequency & duration of use in the future will increase owing to climate change.	- Automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the birds will be inspected by farmworkers at least once per day to check there is no defect, these will be rectified immediately. Check for any faulty, noisy fans. Plus, farmworkers inspect the birds at least twice per day. - Planned preventive maintenance of equipment by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and keep records of work.	wings and exposing more of their bodies to get rid of excess heat, and panting. - Noisy, out of balance & worn fans produce high noise with annoying frequencies or tones. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> - Immediate/same day. <u>Contingency action</u> - Farmworkers switch on one or more gable fans in warm weather, most likely in June, July & August and in a heat wave (Met Office definition for a UK heat wave is an extended period of hot weather for three consecutive days with daily maximum temperatures meeting or exceeding the heat wave temperature threshold of 27°C for Norfolk). - Farmworkers switch off individual fans if faults occur. - Equipment defects must be rectified immediately, same day by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors. <u>Duration of action</u> - Gable fans could be in use for approx. seven days before thinning and seven days near the end of a rearing period. Based on seven-week rearing periods the gable end fans might be used near the end of two periods – total of twenty-one days or more per year. <u>Cessation of action</u> - Farmworkers switch off fans immediately as soon as not needed - when daytime outside temperature goes down and the chickens stop exhibiting uncomfortable feeling hot behaviours or have been destocked.

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			Faulty fan has been successfully repaired or replaced without excessive noise.
Vehicles & machinery onsite Mobile & fixed sources	- Design - Location - Operation - Timing of operations - Inspection and maintenance - Ordinarily not considered probable cause for annoyance.	- Using machinery and work onsite limited to normal daytime 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. - Workers can start sooner especially in warm weather. - Access to any vehicles restricted to qualified workers. - Contractors will use compressors and pressure washers during blowdown and washout inside the houses to minimise noise. - Revvng engines and idling equipment between work periods will be avoided. - Planned preventive maintenance of equipment by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and keep records of work. - Repairs normally carried out during the working day.	<u>Trigger</u> - Abnormally noisy work e.g. repairs outside - Noisy work outside normal working daytime. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> - Immediate/same day. <u>Contingency action</u> - In the likelihood of sensitive receptors being seriously affected they will be notified by the Farm Manager by a phone call or a note explaining any elevated noise and expected start and finish times. <u>Duration of action</u> - Further notice if later finish expected. <u>Cessation of action</u> - Repairs complete - Noise levels across the site return to normal - Farmworkers inspect contingency actions have been successful and equipment is working correctly.
Macerator Mobile source	Ordinarily not considered a probable cause for annoyance.	- Package mobile macerator, pressure washer and equipment enclosed in a trailer and farmworkers all arrive same day to collect-up the dead-in-shell and non-viable eggs after the hatching. - Operation limited to normal daytime 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	

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		only in event of extraordinary circumstances - delays, breakdowns, availability, etc. • Macerator is fast, in use only a few minutes in each hour after collections from inside the houses. • Likely to be in use less than an hour at Friars Farm then washed down and disinfected by farmworkers and moved on to next farm same day or returned to the hatchery.	
People noise	• Faint-moderate noise	• Farmworkers, drivers, electricians, contractors and visitors will be instructed to avoid raised voices or playing radios unnecessarily loud.	
Destocking Mobile source	• Forklift trucks • Noise from the chickens is not considered to be a probable cause for annoyance	• Expect to destock houses not less than 14 days every year. Abattoir can take the smaller and larger birds in as little as a single day. • Destocking in normal daytime 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 nighttime, 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 HGV and FLT movements to minimise rattle and scraping. • FLT drivers and catchers will be trained and have appropriate qualifications. • Vehicle access will be restricted to qualified workers.	

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		- Catching will be organised to minimise unnecessary manoeuvring. FLT's move transport modules in and out of houses carefully and load them on to trailers as smoothly as possible to avoid impacts and scraping and causing unnecessary stress for birds. - Doors open on to the waiting trailers parked outside and as close as possible. - Loaded trailers will be promptly moved offsite. - Engines will be switched off when vehicles not in use.	
Removing litter Mobile source	- Engine noise - Moderate-loud noise	- Remove litter after destocking must never be reused. - Expect to be removing litter not less than seven times every year and from all the houses in less than a day. - Remove the litter in normal daytime 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. - Contractors will use front end or skid-steer loaders to push bulk of litter into a large heap the length of house to avoid double handling and minimise time loading into trailers. - Doors will be open on to waiting trailers parked outside and as close as possible. - Engines to be switched off when vehicles not in use.	
Noise from emergency back-up generator	Faint-moderate noise	- Package emergency back-up generator in place, low noise and comes with integral acoustic enclosure. - Farmworkers test generator for not more than one hour every week in normal working daytime 09.00-	<u>Trigger</u> - UK Power Network advise electricity outage is likely. - Unexpected electricity outage. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u>

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Fixed source		17.00 hours in working week Monday to Friday but exclusive of public and bank holidays. - Planned preventive maintenance of equipment by qualified farmworkers, electricians or contractors in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and keep records of work. - Grid electricity outages rarely happen.	- Immediate <u>Contingency action</u> - Emergency back-up generator started. - Farmworkers to check online when supply expected to resume. <u>Duration of action</u> - Farmworkers continue to check information online. - Generator maybe required for hours or days. - Keep checking diesel levels. <u>Cessation of action</u> - Normal grid electricity supply restored. - Schedule a diesel delivery if required.
Monitoring	- Monitoring can help identify any increase in noise levels with time so remedial action can be taken to avoid risk of causing annoyance. - Sensitivity likely to increase in warm weather when people want to enjoy the amenity of their gardens and	Farm Manager is responsible for site tour every day including perimeter check for any abnormal elevated noise level, especially any with the potential to cause annoyance at sensitive receptors.	<u>Trigger</u> - Abnormal, extraordinary, elevated noise level. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> - Immediate, same day. <u>Contingency action</u> - Farm Manager will check routine actions to minimise noise are being adhered to. - Will inform people at sensitive receptors 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. - Decibel meters are inexpensive & easy to use for monitoring especially if there are complaints. <u>Duration of action</u> - Normally achievable same day, next day. <u>Cessation of action</u>

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	have windows open.		• Farm Manager will continue checking at perimeter, until noise reduced and back to normal levels • Record events and actions in the farm diary.
Complaint	• Elevated level of annoyance • Slow response	• Farm Manager is responsible for investigating any complaint.	<u>Trigger</u> • Complaint reported by the public, the Environment Agency or local authority. • Complaint reported on Saturday or Sunday by email from the Agency or local authority, not considered likely from anywhere else. <u>Timeframe for implementation</u> • Immediate, as soon as possible on opening email. <u>Contingency action</u> • Farm Manager to investigate if alleged noise can be substantiated. Even if no longer apparent investigation must still be carried out and recorded same day. Use noise complaint report and establish:- • Time event occurred, duration, description of noise. • Activities taking place onsite at time of complaint. • Any noisy activities taking place offsite in the vicinity. • Check actions, contingency actions being adhered to and any change to standard operating procedure. • Record details of investigation and action taken on the noise complaint report. • A copy must be sent to the Agricultural Manager, Environment Manager immediately • Must be retained onsite and available for future reference, or inspection with the Agency. <u>Duration of action</u> • Investigation likely achievable same day, next day.

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			<u>Cessation of action</u> Farm Manager to notify the complainant and anyone else likely to be seriously affected, and the Environment Agency or local authority as required, same day or as soon as possible of the result of the investigation and corrective action or what still needs to be done with timescales.
Review	- New noise issues - New actions	Environment Manager is required to review the NMP annually and/or after a complaint is received and/or after any changes to operations, whichever is the sooner and update the OMP as required.	

Change history	Date	Name
Last updated	20/07/26	Karl Collett
Last review	20/07/26	Karl Collett
Next review	-	Twelve months after bringing first house into operation
20/07/26 Created NMP to apply to vary permitted activities from rearing of ducks to broilers.		

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