Project details	Environmental Permit Variation Application – EPR BB3103MJ/A002 Grundon Sand and Gravel Limited – Kennetholme Quarry Recycling Facility
Applicant details	Grundon Sand and Gravel Limited Thames House Oxford Road Benson Wallingford Oxfordshire OX10 6LX
Report details	**EP Variation Application – Appendix 10: Noise Management Plan** **Document reference: GR_2021.02/05_v1**
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Author	Rebecca Hodkinson EHS Consultant
Signature	

Reva Environmental Ltd

Tel: [+44] 07949 178558 www.revaenvironmental.co.uk
Company Registered in England No. 11506654

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1. INTRODUCTION

Grundon Sand and Gravel Limited (the 'applicant') has requested that Reva Environmental Ltd (the 'agent') prepares an Environmental Permit (EP) variation application, for its Kennetholme Quarry Recycling Facility on Colthrop Lane, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 4NT. The centre of the site is as NGR SU 54098 66170.

The facility is located immediately south of the Kennet and Avon Canal on the former Water and Effluent Treatment Plant site, approximately 2.5 km east of the town Thatcham, within the West Berkshire Council administrative area.

The existing EP boundary is limited to an area in the centre of the site as shown on Figure NMP1. The move into the unpermitted area requires an increase to the existing EP boundary. The proposed amended EP boundary is shown on Figure NMP1 below, alongside the site ownership boundary.

Figure NMP1: Site Location and EP Boundary

The facility currently operates in accordance with a Tier 2 bespoke EP (a Waste Operation) for the treatment of inert waste (glass, and C&D waste) to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate up to 15,000 tonnes per year.

The area to the east is currently used to process virgin aggregate excavated from the adjacent Kennetholme Quarry. This does not require an EP and has planning permission (and the capability) to process up to 200,000 tonnes per year. The quarry is approaching the end of its life; hence the EP variation application is being made to utilise (and augment) the existing processing plant to treat waste materials to produce a secondary aggregate. The proposal is to process up to 120,000 tonnes of waste per year under the varied EP; within the existing processing capacity of the plant.

Post variation, the EP facility will comprise the existing glass and C&D Waste Operation, the proposed secondary aggregate Waste Operation which is the screening, wash plant and WTP, and areas for the storage of waste pending processing and secondary aggregate/soil substitute (product) following treatment.

Access to the facility is from Colthrop Lane to the north; this is the current access route for existing operations.

The latest planning permission for the site, which reflects the additional plant items and operations, was granted by West Berkshire Council on 4 April 2025 (24/02827/MINMAJ). Within this, Condition 4 requires noise levels at the Colthrop Cottage to noise exceed the background noise level by more than 10 dB(A) or an absolute limit of 55 dB(A). Both apply to the 1 hour freefield measurement at 1.2 – 1.5 m above ground level and between the approved hours of operations (0700 – 1800 Monday to Friday, and 0700 – 1300 Saturday).

A Noise Impact Assessment has been produced for the application and is provided alongside this NMP in Appendix 10 (ref. WBM 5439_v1 dated 3 July 2025).

This noise management plan (NMP) supports the NIA and forms part of the site EMS. The NMP, in the same way as for other procedures, will be reviewed on a regular basis in accordance with the EP and also updated as required following any substantiated complaints, emission events, changes to process, or to reflect changes in legislation or best practice. It seeks to outline the procedures that are in place to ensure that noise is managed at the site. Grundon acknowledges that the permitted operations should prevent or minimise noise pollution, and that noise impact should be regularly assessed.

All employees have a stake in emission control at the site, and training is therefore provided to all staff. A copy of the NMP will be made available at the site in both hard copy and electronically.

1.1 Sensitive Receptors

The potential impact on noise sensitive receptors depends on various factors including:

- The time of day the noise occurs
- The level of noise
- The type of noise i.e. what it sounds like
- Whether it is continuous or intermittent
- If intermittent, how often it occurs and the pattern of occurrence
- The local topography, any man-made or natural features that can influence noise emissions

The site is located within a mixed rural and commercial/industrial area that comprises a number of facilities that operate 24/7. There is also a concrete plant within the ownership boundary of the Kenentholme site but that is operated by a third party (the operating hours are the same as for the Grundon site). These other sources of dust are considered to be relevant when considering the potential impact from the Kennetholme facility.

Noise sensitive receptors are considered to be those within 1 km of the site. This list reflects that some receptors are more sensitive than others, for example a residential area, school, or park is likely to be more sensitive than an industrial estate which is itself a potentially significant noise source.

For clarity, the closest of these have been summarised in Table NMP1.

Table NMP1: Sensitive Receptors

Receptor Ref	Location	Receptor Name and Type	Distance at closest point (m)
NSR1	Northwest	No. 11 to 22 Colthrop Cottages (residential)	60
NSR2	North	Colthrop Industrial Estate	120
NSR3	North	Kennet and Avon Canal	Immediately adjacent
NSR4	South	River Kennet	200

Receptor Ref	Location	Receptor Name and Type	Distance at closest point (m)
NSR5	Southwest	Crookham Manor (residential)	400

These features are shown on Figure NMP2.

Note that the NIA assesses the closest NSR, NSR1, only as compliance at the other NSRs is assumed provided compliance is demonstrated at the closest NSR.

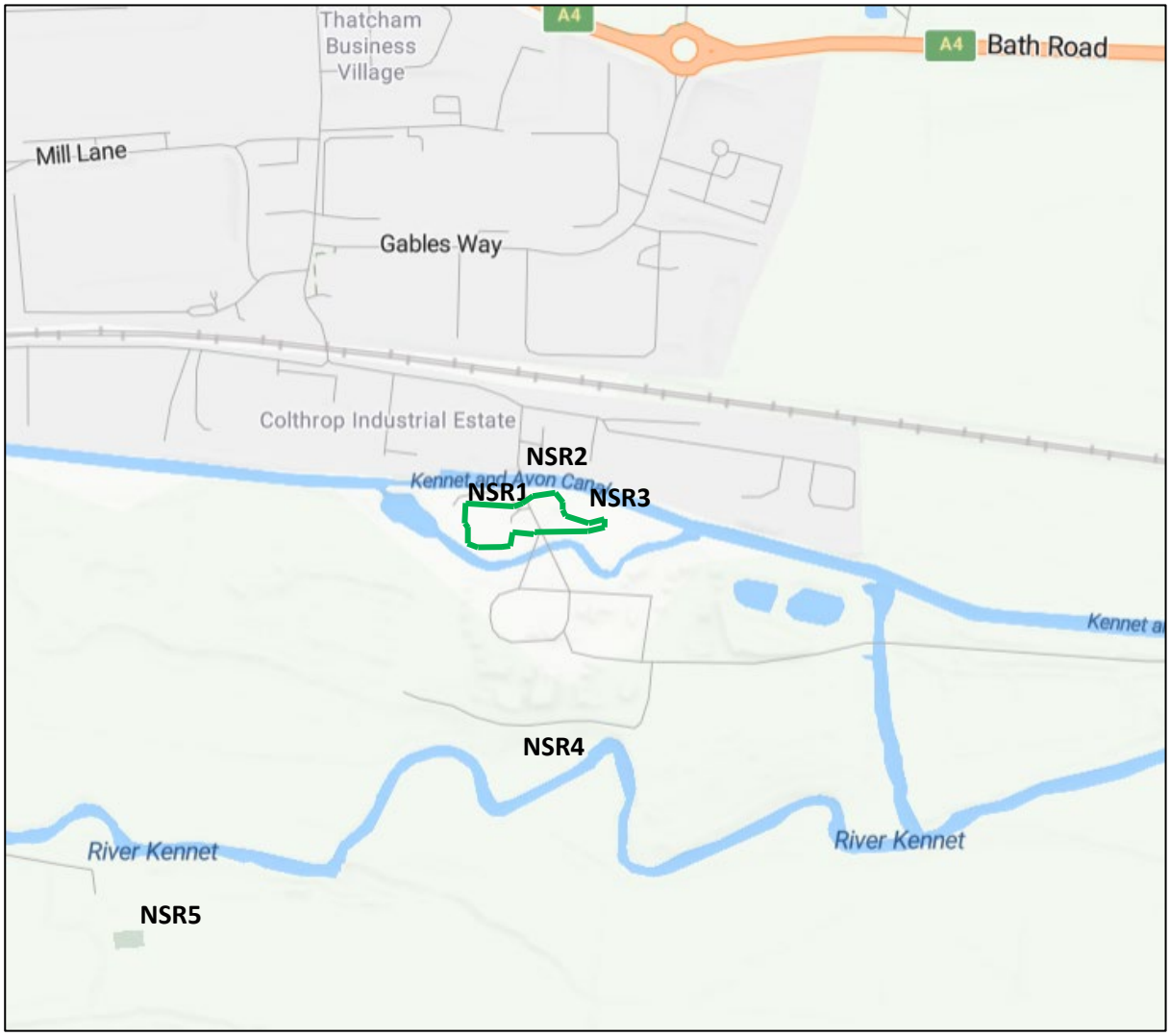

Figure NMP2: Sensitive Receptor Locations

Figure NMP3 presents the wind rose for the area. This is from a meteorological station located at RAF Benson located approximately 26.3 km north of the site and is based on data for a 5 year period, 2017 - 2022. This is the most local weather station and conditions at the site can be considered to be a fair reflection of the data received at it.

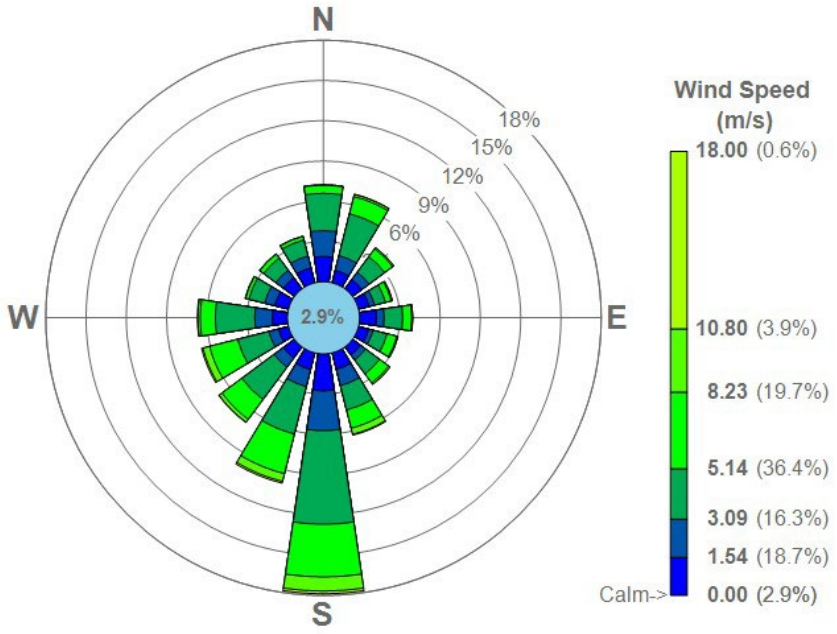

Figure NMP3: Wind Rose

The site is located within a commercial/industrial area that comprises a number of manufacturing facilities, many of which operate 24/7. These other sources of noise are considered to be relevant when considering the potential impact from the Grundon facility and are considered in the NIA which includes them in the modelling of the background noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptor.

2. SITE OPERATIONS

Access to the site is to the north, off Colthrop Lane. Waste is primarily delivered via Colthrop Lane, in rigid tipper trucks. These are not owned or operated by Grundon, but the applicant will ensure that all vehicles entering and leaving the site are netted.

Transport of waste will be between the approved hours of operations (0700 – 1800 Monday to Friday, and 0700 – 1300 Saturday).

Waste destined for Waste Operation 1 (glass and C&D waste) is unloaded into a stockpile in that processing area, pending treatment. It is then moved to the screening equipment for processing.

Waste destined for Waste Operation 2 is unloaded into the feedstock storage area to the east of the processing plant, at the eastern boundary of the EP area. Waste is moved to the smaller feedstock storage area on a continuous basis to ensure there is material in place ready for processing during operational hours. The layout and process flow avoids any unnecessary double handling of materials.

Mobile plant is parked in a designated area in front of the weighbridge office when not in use. Speed restrictions apply on site to avoid unnecessary noise and vibration through vehicle movements and vehicles (and plant) are subject to routine service and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. The proposed treatment of waste through the existing virgin aggregated processing plant includes the use of a wash plant. The wash water from this plant is processed through a waste treatment plant, which includes a filter press. This has been identified as being a primary source of noise.

The site layout is presented on a set of drawings provided in Appendix 5 of the variation application; a simplified operational layout plan is reproduced in Figure NMP4 below.

Potential noise sources are shown on this figure as S1 to S6 and are described in Table NMP3.

Figure NMP4: Noise Source Locations

3. NOISE & VIBRATION MANAGEMENT

3.1 Responsibilities

The site is operated in accordance with the EMS, the implementation of which is the responsibility of, and led by, the management team. It is their responsibility to ensure that the system is understood and complied with at all levels of the organisation. The Site Manager and Team Leaders / Supervisors all have responsibility for emissions management at the site; this includes consideration of, compliance with, and implementation of this NMP. All employees have a stake in emissions control at the site and training is therefore provided to all staff via safe systems of work / tool box talks. Refresher training is provided if assessed as being required and/or in light of any changes made to this document.

As for all EMS documents, this is considered a 'live' document and is reviewed on a regular basis (annually). Circumstances that would initiate an extraordinary review would include a significant change to operations, the introduction of any new control measures, the introduction of a new noise source, a change to the site layout or changes to the sensitive receptors.

3.2 Sources and Control of Noise

The potential noise sources are shown on Figure NMP4 above and set out in **Table NMP2**.

Table NMP2: Source-Pathway-Receptor Routes

Source	Pathway	Type of Impact	Control Measures
S1: Vehicle Movements – materials in and out of the access road	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent – short duration	Deliveries at the site are scheduled so arrival at site is immediately acknowledged and vehicles are directed to the appropriate unloading location. Deliveries are only permitted during normal operating hours. Vehicles are not permitted to idle on the haul road. A 2.5m high acoustic fence runs adjacent to the access road close to Colthrop Cottages. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors. The site has a speed limit that helps to minimise noise. The roads under Grundon control will be regularly checked to ensure that the roads is even with no potholes, so minimising any noise generated by vehicles accessing the site.
S2: Vehicle Movements and Waste Processing – Waste Operation 1	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent	Vehicles are not permitted to idle once in location. Loading shovels/tippers move the waste into the screening plant; vehicles and machinery/plant are serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and daily operational checks carried out. Operations are only permitted during normal operating hours. Double handling of waste is avoided – wastes are placed directly in the storage area pending treatment and remain there until processed. A 2.5m high acoustic fence runs adjacent to the access road close to Colthrop Cottages. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors. The site has a speed limit that helps to minimise noise. The roads under Grundon control will be regularly checked to ensure that the roads is even with no potholes, so minimising any noise generated by vehicles accessing the site. Once in position, the tracked excavator will be static for long periods without the need to move it.
S3: WTP – Filter Press	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent	WTP is serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and daily operational checks carried out. If the Press is making excess noise, above it's normal working levels then the activities will be ceased until the issue is resolved. Operations are only permitted during normal operating hours. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors.

Source	Pathway	Type of Impact	Control Measures
S4: Vehicle Movements and Waste Processing – Waste Operation 2	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent	Vehicles are not permitted to idle once in location. Loading shovels/tippers move the waste into the screening plant; vehicles and machinery are serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and daily operational checks carried out. If the mobile plant being used within the facility has a maintenance issue leading to excessive noise, such as an exhaust failure then it will be stood down until the matter is resolved. Operations are only permitted during normal operating hours. The floor of the processing area will be kept level and free of potholes to help minimise any noise when vehicles move across the area. A speed limit will be in place in this area. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors.
S5: Aggregate Storage	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent – short duration	Vehicles are not permitted to idle; when not moving, they are turned off. Loading shovels/tippers move the aggregate (processed materials) to the aggregate storage area for stockpiling; vehicles are serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and daily operational checks carried out. Operations are only permitted during normal operating hours. Double handling of material is avoided – processed aggregates are placed directly in the storage area and remain there until taken off site. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors.
S6: Storage of Waste pre-processing in Waste Operation 2	Propagation through air; vibration through ground	Intermittent – short duration	Vehicles are not permitted to idle; when not moving, they are turned off. Excavators/tippers move the waste (pre-processing) to the feedstock storage area; vehicles are serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and daily operational checks carried out. Operations are only permitted during normal operating hours. The site is surrounded by trees and other vegetation which provides acoustic screening for receptors.

In the event that any of the standard control measures in place to prevent fugitive emissions from the site fail; the EA will be informed within 24 hours and, if needed, part or all of the operations will cease until the problem is remediated.

4. NOISE MONITORING

As detailed in the ERA submitted with the EP application, and Tables NMP1 and NMP2 above, the proposed operations have the potential to have an impact on noise sensitive receptors. The reason for this is a combination of the nature of the operations when considered in the context of the proximity of sensitive receptors.

Noise monitoring has been carried out for the NIA provided in Appendix 10. This provides a reasonable representation of the noise profile of the site, taking into account the existing noise landscape (background) and land features (i.e. planting/screening) that lie between the site and receptors. The outcome of the NIA is that the ongoing and proposed site operations have/will have no adverse impact at the nearest sensitive receptor.

No ongoing noise monitoring is proposed once the site is operational. Should it be required, it will be carried out in accordance with EA guidance, specifically regarding British Standards for monitoring and assessment, and details will be provided to the EA for agreement prior to undertaking monitoring.

5. REPORTING AND COMPLAINTS RESPONSE

The site is operated in accordance with an MS. Included in the EMS is a process for managing non-conformances and incidents; this also includes management of complaints. Complaints will include those made my members of the public who may perceive there to be an emission from the site; a regulatory body either as the complainant or following receipt of a complaint from a third party that could relate to the site; or contractors/visitors to site who may perceive there to be an emission from the site.

Complaints may be received in person, by telephone, email or letter. Upon receipt of a complaint of perceived noise from the site, an incident report is completed. This records details of the complaint, time and date of perceived impact, and contact details for the complainant (including address, and location of the complaint if that is different). Whilst all complaints received are recorded, not all will be substantiated as relating to activities at the site.

In order to identify if a complaint is substantiated, an investigation is carried out. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The activities that were being undertaken at the time of the complaint/perceived emission (e.g. any machinery in use, vehicle movements);
- The relevant weather conditions at the time of the complaint/perceived emission (e.g. wind direction and speed);
- The location of the complainant/perceived emission; and
- Whether other complaints of a similar nature have been received or whether it is an isolated incident.

The completed incident reporting form is kept alongside any other supporting information relating to the complaint for example photographs, copies of emails/letters, print outs of weather conditions at the time of the suggested emission etc. This facilitates the investigation stage of the complaints process.

Findings of the investigation are provided to the complainant within 2 working days.

Complaint records sit within the MS and are therefore subject to regular review by Top Management as part of the biannual management review process and performance assessment.

It is noted that the permitted site has not received any noise or environmental complaints since the

operations commenced.

5.1 Community Engagement

Communication lines are maintained between Grundon and its neighbouring businesses; this ensures that pertinent information is shared. This includes notifying those premises of any potential or actual issues that could have an environmental impact on them and may require them to take action to prevent or minimise impact.

It is also important to engage with other interested parties; this raises their awareness of the activities being carried out and provides comfort to them that the site can be approached if there are any concerns.

5.2 Management Responsibilities

The site is operated in accordance with the MS, the implementation of which is the responsibility of, and led by, the management team. It is their responsibility to ensure that the system is understood and complied with at all levels of the organisation. All employees have a stake in emissions control at the site and training in the NMP is therefore provided to all staff. Any member of staff may receive a complaint and is trained to record the correct details on the incident reporting form; this is then given to the Site Manager for follow up and investigation.

5.3 Summary

This NMP identifies potential noise sources at the site, key noise sensitive receptors and defines control measures that must be implemented, and remain operational, in order to appropriately control noise emissions.

It has been written in support of the EP application for the site; at the request of the EA.

As for all EMS documents, it is considered a 'live' document and is reviewed on a regular (at least annual) basis. Circumstances that would initiate an extraordinary review would include a significant change to operations, the introduction of any new control measures, the introduction of a new noise source, a change to the site layout, receipt of a substantiated complaint, or changes to the sensitive receptors.