



# Noise Management Plan

Sheerness Recycling Facility, Ashford

Sheerness Recycling Ltd

Prepared by:

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## Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorized By
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## 1.0 Introduction

Sheerness Recycling Ltd has appointed SLR Consulting Ltd. (SLR) to produce a Noise Management Plan (NMP) for Sheerness Recycling Facility located at Units 1 & 2 Cobbs Wood Trading Estate, Brunswick Road, Ashford, TN23 1EL (the Site). The noise management plan (NMP) is required to accompany the updated noise assessment in order to vary the existing environmental permit (EPR/HB3700TW) at the Site.

The NMP should be undertaken in accordance with the EA guidance document *Noise and vibration management: environmental permits* (NVM).

This NMP is supported by a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) report (SLR Noise Assessment report reference 403.065223.00001\_V1, December 2023) which provided an assessment of the Site, inclusive of noise from general activities, the screener and the crusher. The NIA was undertaken in accordance with the guidance contained within BS 4142:2014+A1:2019, *Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound*. This standard is intended to be used to assess the potential impact of noise (of an industrial or commercial nature) at noise-sensitive receptors within the context of the existing noise environment.

The NIA found the following:

- During the daytime, the rating level of general site activities would be 5dB(A) above the background sound level which gives an indication of adverse impact, depending on the context.
- During the daytime, the rating level of general site activities with screener operations would be 12dB(A) above the background sound level which gives an indication of significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- During the daytime, the rating level of general site activities with screener and crusher operations exceed the representative background sound level at Atherfield Drive by 15 dB at the measurement location and a maximum of 14 dB at the nearest receptors, which gives an indication of significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- The context assessment showed that the permit variation does not propose any changes to existing activities at the Site and operations would remain in-line with what is currently permitted. Taking this into account, it is considered the Site is having and will have a 'low' impact at the nearest NSRs in conjunction with BS4142:2014+A1:2019.

Whilst reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the NIA and this NMP are easy to understand, it is necessarily technical in nature. To assist the reader, a glossary of terminology is provided in Appendix A.



## 2.0 Site Description

The site is located within the Cobbs Wood Trading Estate which comprises a mix of commercial, light industrial and logistic tenants.

The Site is bordered:

- To the North by a wooded corridor with railway lines.
- To the East by a wooded corridor with residential estate.
- To the South by light industrial and railway line.
- To the West by industrial/commercial use.

The nearest NSRs to the Site are the residential properties located to the north-east across the railway line, along Atherfield Drive. Figure 2-1 shows the location of the Site and the closest NSRs.

Figure 2-1: Site Location



## 2.1 Permit Variation and Site Operations

The permit variation application seeks to increase the permitted allowance of inert waste to 150,000 tpa of construction, demolition and excavation waste materials arising from local developments to produce recovered secondary aggregates and to increase storage capacity to 5,000 tonnes at any one time.

The proposed activities at the Site will remain unchanged and comprise the storage and physical treatment of waste by sorting, separation, blending, screening and crushing of waste into different components for recovery with no changes to existing site activities proposed. Consequently, it is considered that the proposed permit variation would not materially change the noise levels currently being generated by the Site.





SLR understands that the following items of plant currently operate at the Site:

- CAT 966m loading shovel;
- Powerscreen Warrior 1400x screener;
- Doppstat SM620 tracked trommel;
- Kobelco SK210LC-10-2 excavator;
- Komatsu FG15ST2 forklift; and
- Sandvik QJ341 mobile jaw crusher (only on site on a campaign basis).

With regards to operations at the site, it is understood the following process currently take place:

- Topsoil production using trommel (usually only occurs during the summer months);
- Crushing every 4 to 6 weeks for 3-4 days;
- Screening (occurs most days);
- 360 loading screener (used all day most days);
- Loading shovel on-site full time which typically moves material from the screener / crusher to storage bays and loading HGVs; and
- General HGV/plant noise such as tailgates and reversing beepers.

The operational hours of the Site will not be altered as part of the permit variation and are currently from Monday to Friday 07:00 to 17:00 and from 07:00 to 12:00 on a Saturday.

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### 3.0 Objectives and Status

NMPs are developed and employed to principally:

- Identify and employ '*all appropriate measures*' to minimise the generation and noise and subsequent exposure / impact;
- Prevent exposure of people outside the site to levels of noise which would result in complaints; and
- Minimise the risk of unplanned '*noisy*' events which have the potential to result in off-site noise complaints.

This NMP serves to aid the decision-making process on the choice of controls, general site design, and operational practice in line with current industry best practice. The NMP is a working document with the specific aims of ensuring:

- Noise impact is considered as part of routine operations;
- The minimisation of the risk of unplanned '*noisy*' events that could result in off-site complaints;
- Noise is primarily controlled at source by good operational practices, the correct use and maintenance of plant, and operator training; and
- '*All appropriate measures*' are taken to prevent or, where that is not reasonably practicable, to minimise noise emanating from the Site.

### 3.1 Status

This NMP is a controlled document, and forms part of the Site' Management System.

The specification for the periodic review and update of this plan will be set out within the Site's Management System and will be on an annual basis, as a minimum.

However, this NMP is intended to be a live document which serves as a reference during daily operations, and as such would be updated on a more frequent basis should the following occur:

- Significant changes are made to the plant or operational practices;
- The Local Planning Authority requests that the NMP is updated, in their role as regulator; or
- 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.

The Site's management team have overall responsibility for the implementation and administration of this NMP. The NMP will be issued to all contractors on the site, and they will be required to read and adhere to the NMP for the duration of their contract.



## 4.0 Guidance

### 4.1 Noise and Vibration Management: Environmental Permits

The Environment Agency (EA) released the guidance document *Noise and vibration management: environmental permits* (NVM) in July 2021 (updated in January 2022), replacing the previous guidance presented in *Horizontal Guidance for Noise (H3) parts 1 and 2*. The NVM details when a noise assessment is required, the competency required to undertake an assessment and how to carry out a noise impact assessment.

The guidance includes the section *Noise management plans (NMP)* and describes the following considerations that should be included as a minimum:

- A clear statement that you understand and accept your responsibilities for controlling noise impact, and that you will regularly review the effectiveness of your NMP
- A commitment that either you, or your contractors or subcontractors, will make sure that any noise control equipment is designed, operated and maintained appropriately so it controls noise effectively at all times
- A risk assessment of noise problems from normal and abnormal situations, including worst case scenarios due to, example, weather, temperature, breakdowns and accidents
- Details of the appropriate controls (both physical and management) needed to manage the identified risks
- Confirmation of the level of monitoring that should be in place
- Details of the actions you will take, contingencies, and responsibilities, when problems arise (it is particularly important that you include expected actions resulting from exceptional circumstances or where serious pollution may occur)
- Confirmation of the procedures in place to consider reducing or stopping operations to avoid serious noise pollution
- A procedure for engaging with neighbours to minimise their concerns and respond to complaints.





## 5.0 Noise Management and Controls

This Section details the management and control measures that will be put in place to minimise noise impact at NSRs.

Installations should be operated in such a way that all appropriate preventative measures are taken against pollution, in particular through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).

Overall, the Site is operated as practicably as possible in terms of reducing noise emissions, through operational practices, the regular servicing and maintenance of plant and operator training.

Noise is and will be considered as part of all operations and processes, including where future expansion is required and/or where plant is required to be replaced.

### 5.1 Noise Control Measures

#### 5.1.1 Management

Within the constraints of efficient site operations and safety<sup>1</sup>, the following measures are specifically implemented with respect to the management and control of noise levels within the Site:

- Daily audits of all plant and full daily site inspections, undertaken by the designated responsible person, documented (via the use of logs) and stored on file;
- Team leader in place for each working shift;
- Daily (visual and aural) inspections and checks of all plant and equipment, to ensure that any interim maintenance is identified, and repairs are undertaken by a qualified engineer as soon as possible, i.e. a 'stop and fix' policy, utilising spare parts held on Site in the event of required maintenance;
- Routine maintenance of all plant and equipment, including vehicles, will identify equipment operating at elevated noise levels and work will be undertaken to repair the defect;
- Service contracts with locally-based contractors, e.g. for breakdowns; and
- All site operatives are responsible for carrying out the procedures as detailed in Section 5.0. Any changes required are the responsibility of the Site Manager to update and re-issue the amended procedure.

#### 5.1.2 Noise Control and Minimisation Strategies

- All waste management operations on the site shall be conducted so as to prevent or reduce noise nuisance off site. Noise shall be limited to such levels that are unlikely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health or serious detriment to the amenity of the locality outside the site boundary.
- Sheerness Recycling will adhere to the mitigation methods outlined in the Environmental Risk Assessment undertaken for each site to ensure noise levels do not exceed unacceptable levels.
- All site operations shall be conducted in such a manner that noise from operations do not give rise to unacceptably high levels of noise.
- The main sources of noise are considered to be as follows:
  - o Noise from vehicular movements (site access road and internal site movements);
  - o Noise from operation of site plant, predominantly the screener and the crusher.

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<sup>1</sup> Noise control measures should not impede any emergency releases or exits where this would have safety implications.



### 5.1.3 Specific Site Practices and Management Measures

Within the constraints of efficient site operations and the requirements of the relevant British Standards, the following will be implemented:

- The site layout has been designed as far as practicable to provide screening (using stockpiles) between the proposed development and NSRs. There is currently a 3m high stockpile located along the site boundary to the north of the crusher location. The provision of screening which ensures no line of sight to receptors can be expected to provide approximately a 10 dB reduction in specific sound levels and rating levels at the NSRs.
- Limit the number of plant items in use at any one time;
- Plant maintenance operations should be undertaken as far away from noise-sensitive receptors as possible;
- Speed limits will be implemented for vehicles using the site;
- Ensure that tailgates are shut and locked before leaving the tipping area;
- Ensure that operations are designed to be undertaken with any directional noise emissions pointing away from noise-sensitive receptors where practicable;
- Where practicable, the selection and use of quieter equipment or alternative working methods is adopted by the Site Manager to minimise the generation of noise at acceptable levels. Inspection and repairs are noted on service maintenance reports or in the site diary;
- Care will be taken during the unloading and loading of wastes. For example, drop heights will be kept to a minimum;
- Site operations will be restricted to hours specified in the planning consent; and
- Site access and operational areas will be maintained and repaired to minimise emissions of noise due to uneven and poor surfacing.

Vehicles using the site will travel across designated routes that have been designed and located so as to minimise nuisance and hazard to both internal site users and also receptors located outside the site boundary.

### 5.1.4 Servicing and Maintenance

Inspections of plant shall ensure that:

- Any plant found to be requiring interim maintenance should be identified by the operator and repairs undertaken by a qualified engineer as soon as possible;
- Regular and effective maintenance of plant can play an important part in keeping noise levels under control; and
- Always ensure that doors fitted to acoustic enclosures around fixed plant remain closed; the fitting of self-closing mechanisms is advisable.

Where maintenance is required, this will be undertaken as far away from receptors as possible, and where there is a requirement to replace plant completely, the quietest plant available will be considered wherever possible. In addition, noise will be considered if and when changes are made to site operations, including the purchase of new or replacement plant and/or equipment, i.e. capital projects.

Ultimately, all plant, vehicles and equipment will be maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and specifications. Regular and planned maintenance and checks will ensure that the Site remains in good working order to meet manufacturer's noise emission levels.

### 5.1.5 Training

The Site induction program and Site rules include good working practice instructions for Site staff, managers and contractors to help minimise noise within the Site. All operators are trained and



experienced for the plant and equipment they use, and certification is held on Site and available for inspection.

Site staff will be advised of the following in relation to noise:

- The proper use and maintenance of plant and equipment to minimise noise;
- The positioning of any mobile machinery to reduce noise emissions; and
- Avoidance of unnecessary noise when operating plant and equipment.

### 5.1.6 Public Relations

It is essential to maintain good public relations with local residents at nearby noise-sensitive receptor locations:

- Endeavour to be good neighbours, i.e.:
  - Get to know the neighbours; be concerned about them and try to understand their problems; encourage them to know the site personnel; listen as well as talk,
  - Hold regular liaison meetings and provide information as freely as possible,
  - Create a good impression by running a tidy and efficient site,
- Ensure there are lines of communication, e.g.:
  - Nominate a point of contact for issues relating to the site,
  - Support a liaison committee,
  - Give advance notice and explanation of activities that might cause complaint,
  - Keep systematic records of complaints and the remedial actions taken,
  - Follow up complaints with correspondence and action,
- Ensure that site staff are environmentally aware and are trained to cope with issues;
- Do not rely on the letter of the law where there are obvious problems, but culpability cannot be easily proved;
- Be prepared to be flexible, and
- Try to co-operate and avoid being adversarial.

### 5.1.7 Monitoring

If a noise problem is noticed or a complaint is received by site personnel, it will be immediately reported to the Site Manager. The source of the problem will then be investigated, and appropriate corrective action will be taken.

In the event that noise derived from the site is detected beyond the site boundary by the Site Manager which in their opinion could give rise to complaints, investigation action will be taken without delay. The nature of the investigation will take into consideration the meteorological conditions prevailing at the time and any operational issues together with the nature of the receptors. The following remedial action may be appropriate:

- Relocate plant and equipment to less sensitive locations;
- Construct or erect acoustic bunds, barriers or screens if deemed necessary;
- Replace noisy plant and equipment with quieter models;
- Undertake maintenance on equipment that will reduce noise levels; and
- Modify plant to incorporate noise suppression equipment.





## 7.0 Conclusion

Sheerness Recycling Ltd has appointed SLR Consulting Ltd. (SLR) to produce a Noise Management Plan (NMP) for Sheerness Recycling Facility located at Units 1 & 2 Cobbs Wood Trading Estate, Brunswick Road, Ashford, TN23 1EL (the Site). The noise management plan (NMP) is required to accompany the updated noise assessment in order to vary the existing environmental permit (EPR/HB3700TW) at the Site.

This Noise Management Plan details the methods by which noise emissions from the Site will be minimised to avoid adverse impact at noise sensitive receptors.

This Noise Management Plan has detailed the methods by which the Site operator will systematically assess, reduce and prevent noise emissions from the Site.

Best practice measures for the control of noise levels within the site will be implemented, with the specific aims of ensuring:

- Noise impact is considered as part of all operations;
- The minimisation of the risk of unplanned 'noisy' events that could result in off-site complaints;
- Noise is primarily controlled at source by good operational practices, the correct use and maintenance of plant and operator training; and
- All appropriate measures are taken to prevent or, where that is not reasonably practicable, to minimise noise emanating from the site.

The NMP is intended as a live, working document and will form part of the Site's Management Systems. The specification for the periodic review and update of this plan will be set out within the Site's Management Systems but will be on an annual basis as a minimum. The management teams of each Unit will have overall responsibility for the implementation and administration of this NMP.



# Appendix A Glossary of Terminology

## Noise Management Plan

Sheerness Recycling Facility, Ashford

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In order to assist the understanding of acoustic terminology and the relative change in noise, the following background information is provided.

The human ear can detect a very wide range of pressure fluctuations, which are perceived as sound. In order to express these fluctuations in a manageable way, a logarithmic scale called the decibel, or dB scale is used. The decibel scale typically ranges from 0dB (the threshold of hearing) to over 120dB. An indication of the range of sound levels commonly found in the environment is given in the following table.

**Table 1: Sound Levels Commonly Found in the Environment**

Sound Level	Location
0dB(A)	Threshold of hearing
20 to 30dB(A)	Quiet bedroom at night
30 to 40dB(A)	Living room during the day
40 to 50dB(A)	Typical office
50 to 60dB(A)	Inside a car
60 to 70dB(A)	Typical high street
70 to 90dB(A)	Inside factory
100 to 110dB(A)	Burglar alarm at 1m away
110 to 130dB(A)	Jet aircraft on take off
140dB(A)	Threshold of Pain

### A.1.1 Acoustic Terminology

dB (decibel)	The scale on which sound pressure level is expressed. It is defined as 20 times the logarithm of the ratio between the root-mean-square pressure of the sound field and a reference pressure (2x10 <sup>-5</sup> Pa).
dB(A)	A-weighted decibel. This is a measure of the overall level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (i.e. 'A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies.
L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub> is defined as the notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the A - weighted fluctuating sound measured over that period.
L <sub>10</sub> & L <sub>90</sub>	If a non-steady noise is to be described it is necessary to know both its level and the degree of fluctuation. The L <sub>n</sub> indices are used for this purpose, and the term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time. Hence L <sub>10</sub> is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as the 'average maximum level'. Similarly, L <sub>90</sub> is the 'average minimum level' and is often used to describe the background noise. It is common practice to use the L <sub>10</sub> index to describe traffic noise.
L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub> is the maximum A - weighted sound pressure level recorded over the period stated. L <sub>Amax</sub> is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise where occasional loud noises occur, which may have little effect on the overall L <sub>eq</sub> noise level but will still affect the noise environment. Unless described otherwise, it is measured using the 'fast' sound level meter response



# Appendix B Complaint Form

## Noise Management Plan

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Item		Date Recorded:	Reference No:
Name and address of caller			
Telephone			
Location of caller in relation to site			
Time and date of complaint			
Date, time and duration of offending noise			
Callers description of noise			
Has the caller any other comments on noise?			
Weather conditions			
Wind strength and direction			
Any previous complaints relating to this noise?			
Any other relevant information?			
Potential sources that could give rise to the complaint			
Operating conditions at the time of the offending noise			
Follow up – date and time caller contacted			
Action taken			
Amendment requirement to Noise Management Plan			
Form completed by (print)		Signed and date	



