

gardenscape



Noise Management Plan

Gardenscape Direct Ltd
Newenden Bridge Depot
Station Road
Northiam
East Sussex
TN31 6QA
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 GardenscapeDirect Ltd proposes to operate a Waste Transfer Station (WTS), ancillary to the main operation of the storage and processing of horticultural / aggregate products in their yard in Northiam, East Sussex. This Noise Management Plan (NMP) outlines not only the noise management / mitigation measures and controls for operation of the ancillary WTS, but also for other operations undertaken in the yard;
- 1.2 This NMP forms part of the Environmental Management System for the site. It outlines the methods by which Gardenscape will assess and minimise the potential impacts of noise generated at the site. These mitigation measures are in line with recommendations contained in an independent Noise Impact Assessment conducted by RF Environmental in October 2018. A copy of this assessment is contained in Appendix 1.

2. Site description

- 2.1 The site is located on Station Road, Northiam. The site is bordered on three sides by a well established line of leylandii trees. To the south of the site is a campsite, to the south west the A268 and to the west the Rover Rother;
- 2.2 The site is currently used for the storage, processing and sale of natural horticultural products such as soils, composts and barks. Aggregates are also kept in concrete bays on the site. There currently exist some buildings on the site used to store the horticultural products;
- 2.3 As part of the proposal an area of the site will be used for waste transfer as an ancillary activity. An additional building will be erected along with 2 sealed concrete bays (in accordance with Planning Permission RR/2018/3144/P). All DIY/construction waste (entering the site via hiab lorry in bulk bags) will be deposited and separated inside the building;
- 2.4 Bays will be located on site to take separated waste, ready for disposal or recycling off site;
- 2.5 Manure and green waste will be stored outside in sealed concrete bays;
- 2.6 The site has previously been used for brick crushing activity but this has now ceased and will not recommence for the foreseeable future. This has a significant impact on the conclusions of the Noise Impact Assessment and subsequent mitigation measures adopted. This will be addressed elsewhere in the NMP;
- 2.7 The site layout is shown in Drawing 1 attached to the NMP.

3. Meteorology

- 3.1 The prevailing wind is from a south westerly direction. The sensitive receptors are to the north, north west and south of the site.

4. Potentially sensitive receptors

- 4.1 The site is located on the edge of a small village over 125m away from the main residential area. There is a campsite and café to the south of the site. To the west is the River Rother, and across the river are the offices of The Bourne Group (of which Gardenscape is a part);
- 4.2 The receptors considered potentially sensitive for noise are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Receptors in proximity of the site		
Name of Receptor	Type of Receptor	Approx distance from site
Lime Wharf Café/ Bodiam Boating Station	Commercial	40m+
Campsite	Commercial	40m
Bourne Group Offices	Commercial (offices)	100m
Residence at Lime Wharf Café	Residential dwelling	100m
Residential Properties on Lossenham Lane	Residential Dwellings	125m+

5. Context

- 5.1 The site sits on the main A268 which runs from the coast up towards the M25. This creates consistent background noise from lorries and other vehicles;
- 5.2 The campsite adjacent to the site, which shares the entrance road from the A268, was established some 8 years ago whilst the yard was already in operation. The campsite might typically, on an average day, expect to contribute around 100-120 vehicle movements to the general activity around the site consisting both of visitors to the campsite and, to a lesser extent, deliveries and bin collection etc;
- 5.3 The site has always operated within strict hours during the working day, and never on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or Bank Holidays. Going forward, in accordance with Condition 10 of Planning Permission RR/2018/3144/P the site shall only operate between the hours of 0700 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1300 Saturdays. Further, in accordance with the same Planning Permission, under Condition 11 the loading of aggregate will not be undertaken before 0730 Monday to Friday, and not before 0800 on a Saturday.

6. Cessation of Brick Crushing Activity

- 6.1 At the time of the Noise Impact Assessment the site was running a brick crusher. This was operating outside, not undercover;
- 6.2 The Assessment found that the noise from the crusher, running outside, had a 'Significantly Adverse Impact' on the nearest noise sensitive receptors (see 5.17 Table 5.1 of the Assessment). The recommendation was that the crusher be housed in an enclosure. The Assessment found that by operating the brick crusher in the enclosure, the impact would be reduced to 'low' for all sensitive receptors save for the adjacent campsite;
- 6.3 During the assessment, when brick crushing was not being undertaken, other yard noise such as loading and lorry movements, was found to only significantly affect the adjacent campsite. Impact at all other receptors was 'low';
- 6.4 Brick crushing has now ceased on the site and will not recommence for the foreseeable future, and even then would be the subject of an Environmental Permit and updated NMP. Therefore, the remainder of this report shall ignore any reference to the brick crusher, or mitigation measures recommended in regards the same, as this is no longer a factor.

7 Noise Sources, receptors and impacts

Sources

- 7.1 The noise sources include:
- The loading and unloading of horticultural products, aggregates and waste;
 - The separating of waste within the WTS;
 - The mixing, processing and bagging of horticultural products and aggregates;
 - The handling of product / waste on site by mobile plant such as loading shovels;
 - Diesel generator on site;
 - The movement of vehicles in and out of the site

Receptors

- 7.2 Receptors are as detailed in the accompanying Noise Impact Assessment.

Impact on Personnel

- 7.3 Personnel on site are the closest receptors to any noise produced on site, however due to the consistent working conditions it may be unlikely that they would be particularly sensitive to noise. All operatives have been made aware of the issue of noise on site and will be made fully aware of the contents of the NMP, Environmental Management System and other relevant documents. All personnel are issued with appropriate PPE.

Impact on Neighbouring businesses / residences

- 7.4 There is potential for noise to impact local residential and business receptors. Without the operation of the brick crusher the Noise Impact Assessment found the only receptor to experience 'significant adverse impact' of noise from site, taking into account the background noise, is the campsite adjacent to the site;
- 7.5 The campsite was established next to the site in question some 8 years ago. Visitors to the campsite stay for relatively short periods of time and it is assessed that the implementation of strict site operating hours, and other mitigation measures, should limit the impact of noise from the site on this receptor.

8. Noise mitigation/management

- 8.1 The Noise Impact Assessment indicates that, without the brick crusher in operation (or with it enclosed), the noise ratings levels can be reduced to 'low impact' at residential receptors. However, the Operator is committed to reducing noise levels emanating from the site as far as is practical by way of a number of mitigating measures;
- 8.2 The site is bordered on 3 sides by an established leylandii hedge which serves to reduce noise emissions;
- 8.3 Site hours are limited to 0700 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1300 on Saturdays, with no activity taking place on Sundays or Bank Holidays. Further no aggregate is loaded before 0730 on weekdays or 0800 on Saturdays;
- 8.4 Any activities considered to be particularly noisy are limited to as infrequently as is practically possible;
- 8.5 No plant, machinery, lorry or vehicles are permitted to idle whilst waiting on site;
- 8.6 All plant and machinery are serviced and maintained regularly;
- 8.7 All staff will be made aware of noise management requirements and the importance of noise control. This NMP will be circulated to all staff working on site and a copy available in the site office;
- 8.8 No routine noise monitoring is planned for the site given that the impact on the majority of the potentially sensitive receptors has been assessed as 'low'. However, should complaints alleging a noise nuisance be received, investigations will be conducted to ensure that all of the measures put in place to mitigate the noise emissions are still being implemented;
- 8.9 There will be routine weather monitoring undertaken on an ongoing basis which will provide baseline data to assist assessment of noise complaints should they be received.

9. Complaints

- 9.1 Any complaints received from either members of the public, or the local authority, will be investigated by the Site Manager;
- 9.2 The Site Manager will try to establish the source of the noise emission, as well as identifying the weather patterns at that particular time. If the noise is more than a 'one – off' event and is likely to be ongoing in nature the Site Manager will try to establish if anything can be done, as far as is practically possible, to reduce that particular noise emission;
- 9.3 Further to investigations the Site Manager will communicate with the complainant within a reasonable period of time to advise as to whether the source of the noise has been identified and what, if anything, has been done to reduce or stop that particular noise emission;
- 9.4 Details of the complaint including date, time, weather conditions and action taken, including how and when the complainant was informed, will be recorded in the Environmental Logbook on site. A copy of the Noise Complaint form is shown in Appendix 2.

10. Review and Responsibility

10.1 The NMP will be reviewed by the Site Manager annually. New versions of the NMP will be issued as and when necessary with the mitigation and/or operational changes highlighted;

10.2 It is the responsibility of the Site Operator and Site Manager to ensure that the NMP is enforced and that all employees are suitably trained.

Appendix 1 – Noise Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Noise Complaint Form

Noise Complaint Form	
Date complaint reported	
Name and address of complainant (if obtained)	
Time and duration time heard	
Duration of offending noise	
Description of noise (eg hiss, hum, bang, intermittent etc)	
Any other comments about the noise	
Weather conditions at time of complaint	
Wind direction if known	
Details of any other complaints relating to same noise	
Any other relevant information	
Operation at time of complaint (ie what was going on – mixing, loading etc)	
Potential source of noise (on or off site – could be neighbor?)	
Follow up actions taken	
Date and time complainant was contacted and reaction of complainant	
Any follow up or further comment	