

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ryedale Poultry Farm

Ryedale Farm
Melbourne
York
YO42 4ST

Environmental Permit No.	EPR/ EP3736JQ
Grid Reference	476061, 443021

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INTRODUCTION

This bespoke Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared to support the overall Environmental Management System in place at Ryedale Poultry Farm. The overriding principle of this NMP is to ensure the day to day activities are carried in accordance with this document to help minimise the overall environmental impact.

PROXIMITY to SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

There is one sensitive receptor within 400m of the installation boundary. This is the detached farm dwelling of Ryedale Farm which is approximately 138m south-east from the poultry farm boundary and is within the installation boundary of the adjacent Ryedale Farm Organics installation. The dwelling is owned and occupied by the owners of Ryedale Poultry Farm and owners and operators of the adjacent Ryedale Farm Organics Recycling Facility.

PURPOSE of NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Establish the likely source of noise arising from the farm
- Set out procedures at the farm in order to mitigate or minimise the risk of noise
- Formalise an effect method of dealing with any noise complaints quickly and efficiently

POTENTIAL NOISE SOURCES

The following sources have been identified as contributing to a potential medium - high risk noise source: -

- Vehicles travelling to and from the site
- Vehicle activity on site
- Delivery of birds
- Catching and movement of birds off site and within site
- Feed & biomass fuel transfers from lorry to storage silos
- Feed transfers from silo to feeders inside houses.
- Powered high-velocity roof fans
- Powered gable end fans
- Operation of side vents

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- Personnel
- Bird noise.
- Manual washing and cleaning of equipment
- Operation of “stand-by” diesel generator.
- Operation of the biomass boiler

PATHWAYS & RECEPTORS

The pathway for all of the above sources would be via the atmosphere, with the most sensitive receptors being inhabitants and users of nearby dwellings.

The wind direction will significantly influence how receptors are affected.

There is one sensitive receptor within 400m of the installation boundary and this is not in the direction of the prevailing wind.

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NOISE MANAGEMENT & CONTROL MEASURES

Possible Noise Source	Potential Noise Risks & Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Vehicles travelling to and from the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Vehicles travelling to and from the site will generate road and engine noise and noise from cab doors at the entrance to the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ A code of practice will be issued to all vehicle drivers to advise on how noise can be minimised when arriving at, working on and leaving the site. ▫ Collections and deliveries will normally be restricted to the hours of 06.00AM – 20.00PM unless circumstances are unavoidable due to bird health / welfare or processing plans. ▫ Production planners are to minimise requirements for collections outside of this window.
Vehicle activity on site: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Bird, feed, bedding and fuel delivery vehicles ▫ Feed movements on site. ▫ Bird movements on site. ▫ General waste & ABP collections ▫ General Deliveries ▫ Staff Vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Vehicle movements on site will generate road and engine noise within the site, reversing warning signal noise, forklift activity from loading and unloading vehicles and noise associated with specialist transfer equipment (e.g. LPG gas transfer, feed blowing (see below). ▫ Staff vehicles at start and finish of day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ A code of practice will be issued to all vehicle drivers, including farm staff, to advise on how noise can be minimised when arriving at, working on and leaving the site. In particular it will be required that engines are turned off when not in use, vehicles are well maintained and driven slowly within the site (where appropriate a 5mph rule will be established for H&S reasons) and reversing is kept to a minimum where warning signals are fitted. ▫ Collections and deliveries will normally be restricted to the hours of 06.00AM – 20.00PM unless circumstances are unavoidable due to bird health / welfare or processing plans. ▫ Roadways will be maintained to eliminate or minimise potholes and uneven surfaces which can exacerbate vehicle road noises. This is also beneficial in relation to bird welfare during livestock transport movements. The condition of all road surfaces will be audited at least annually as part of the internal farm audit process.
Stocking of poultry houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Setting up & bedding houses prior to bird arrival. ▫ Unloading of day-old chicks into poultry houses ▫ Unloading of “grower birds” into free-range poly-tunnels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Bedding is spread and equipment introduced inside the houses with doors closed. ▫ Forklift truck movements with bulk bedding are only carried out during day time working hours. Reversing movements outside of the houses are kept to a minimum. ▫ As above livestock delivery vehicles will be subject to CoP advice on movements in and around the site. ▫ Delivery of newly hatched birds (1-2 days old) are in cardboard cases or plastic trays on pallets. These are moved with care to ensure good welfare and are manually carried into pre-bedded houses and placed inside cardboard brood rings. ▫ Livestock deliveries and movements are scheduled between 06.00AM – 20.00PM on weekdays.

Possible Noise Source	Potential Noise Risks & Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Destocking of poultry houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Catching and loading of birds at de-population ▫ Catching and loading of birds to move within the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ As above livestock collection vehicles will be subject to CoP advice on movements in and around the site. ▫ Birds are caught at the front of the house (within the building) and transferred into plastic crates that sit within metal framed modules. Metal transport crates will not be used. ▫ Filled modules are transported to the waiting transport vehicle by means of a fork-lift truck. These are moved and placed with care to ensure good bird welfare. ▫ Catching staff are required to work calmly and quietly to ensure good welfare standards. Lights are kept dimmed during catching to minimise bird stress & activity. This also keeps any bird noise minimised. ▫ Livestock collections will be scheduled between 06.00AM – 20.00PM wherever possible (see above for movements within site). However, since processing plants are frequently 24-hour operations, then exceptions may arise for birds moving to slaughter although planners will be required to minimise these occasions.
Feed and biomass fuel transfers from lorry to storage silos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Donkey engines and power take off systems / blowers will generate noise. ▫ Noise from coupling and uncoupling to silo feed tubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ As above feed and biomass fuel delivery vehicles will be subject to CoP advice on movements in and around the site including particular reference to managing the use of donkey engine and blowers. ▫ Feed and biomass fuel transfer lines and feed and biomass fuel silo fittings and couplings are maintained in good condition and plastic fittings are used wherever this is safe and practicable. ▫ Feed and biomass fuel deliveries will be scheduled between 06.00AM – 20.00PM unless circumstances are unavoidable due to bird health / welfare requirements.
Feed transfers from silo to feeders inside houses. Biomass pelleted fuel transfer from silo to boiler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Noise from mechanical feed and biomass fuel augers and blowers propelling feed and fuel to in-house feeders and boilers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Internal feed and fuel transfer equipment and lines are maintained in good condition and subject to regular maintenance checks. Checks are carried out at the end of each crop as part of the calibration set-up programme and any problems are dealt with as and when arising (and recorded). ▫ Whilst feed is available 24/7 to growing birds the lighting programmes provide extended dark periods through the night time which significantly reduces feeding activity and therefore reduces operation of the automated feed supply systems.

Possible Noise Source	Potential Noise Risks & Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Powered ventilation fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Roof ridge high-velocity fans operated automatically via the environmental control system. ▫ Gable end “emergency” fans automatically or manually operated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Roof ridge extraction fans have approximately 2m long chimney ducts around the fan and motor (1.3m within the house and 0.7m above the ridge). These have the effect of both muffling fan motor noise and projecting any noise up and down rather than to the side. The top of the ridge fan housings are 7m from ground level. ▫ Emergency fans are located in each house gable end (E & N facing gables). The facing direction is away from the dwelling on the site boundary. ▫ Gable end extraction fans are not specified as high velocity (<10m/s air movement) and are normally used as an emergency back-up to provide additional ventilation at times of heat-stress. Any situation requiring emergency back-up ventilation is most likely to occur during daytime hours (not night) and is subject to manual intervention. These fans will only be operated when bird welfare is likely to be compromised without additional ventilation and is agreed by the supervisor / manager. ▫ All fans are maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks including monitoring the life of key components (motor bearings and blades etc.). These checks are recorded. Any problems will be dealt with as and when they arise (these are recorded on non-routine maintenance log sheets). ▫ Any replacements required will be BAT (high efficiency, low noise construction) as and when a need arises.
Operation of side vents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Automatic operation of side air inlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Side vents work in conjunction with ridge fans to provide continuous circulation of fresh air in the house. ▫ The whole system is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks. ▫ Any unusual noises from vent movements will be investigated and rectified (smooth and efficient operation of the whole integrated system is key to good bird health, welfare and growth).
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Staff members playing music. ▫ Shouting and calling on site between staff members. ▫ Contractors working on exterior features of buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Staff, visitors and contractors are required to carry out their work without creating excessive noise. ▫ Staff members are to receive annual training regarding Environmental Permitting Regulations – which will include noise management and any new company procedures. In particular staff members are required not to play any music through external speakers outside of the poultry houses or associated buildings and not to communicate around the site by shouting. ▫ Contractors working around the site will equally be advised of these requirements and to have due consideration of noise generation if using tools and equipment outside of the buildings.

Possible Noise Source	Potential Noise Risks & Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Bird Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Natural noise / calls from housed birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Noise from broiler chickens is relatively low in intensity. ▫ All poultry houses are purpose-built and insulated poultry meaning that noise escape is minimal when birds are housed. ▫ The period of most likely increased noise is during the catching of fattened birds for transfer to processing plants. Catching staff are required to work calmly and quietly to ensure good welfare standards. Lights are kept dimmed during catching to minimise bird stress & activity. This also keeps any bird noise minimised.
Clean out (Removal of litter from houses & removal from site) Wash down and disinfection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Operation of mechanical equipment (bobcats etc.) to scrape, lift and tip litter). ▫ Reverse warning signals on handling equipment. ▫ Operation of blowers to dislodge dust. ▫ Operation of power washers and disinfectant spray equipment (engine and pump noises). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The nature of the tasks in relation to scraping and removing litter and the spraying of chemicals by necessity require that doors of houses are kept open. Activities are however principally occurring within the insulated buildings which retain much of the noise generated. ▫ The removal of litter and the cleaning, washing and disinfection of poultry houses will be restricted to daytime working hours (06.00AM – 20.00PM). ▫ The use of bobcat machines for scraping, lifting and tipping litter involves a significant amount of reverse movements with associated reversing warning siren noise. Movement outside of the houses are to involve minimum reverse movements for safe and practical operation. ▫ All cleaning staff and drivers will be briefed in the CoP advice for drivers and vehicle users on how noise can be minimised. ▫ All equipment is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks including calibration checks at each washing and set-up.
Manual washing and cleaning of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Noise associated with handling and movement of feeder and drinker equipment. ▫ Use of power wash machines for equipment washing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Washing of equipment will be restricted to daytime working hours (06.00AM – 20.00PM) and normally carried out within the indoor wash-room facility or within a poultry house, subject to staff safety and bio-security needs. This includes the use of power wash equipment. ▫ Equipment is predominantly plastic construction which minimises “clatter”. ▫ All equipment is maintained in good condition and subject to planned maintenance checks including calibration checks at each washing and set-up.
Running and testing the standby generator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Diesel powered generator cuts in if mains power fails. Generator is tested under load on a weekly basis unless otherwise in operation. ▫ Noise associated with fuel combustion and generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Apart from short weekly testing it is only used in emergency situations to maintain bird welfare. ▫ The generator is maintained in good condition and in addition to weekly testing is subject to planned maintenance checks. ▫ Any testing, including planned weekly load tests, will be carried out during the working day (06.00AM – 20.00PM Mon-Fri) ▫ Any unusual noises or problems will be investigated and rectified with details recorded on the relevant engineering log sheet.

Possible Noise Source	Potential Noise Risks & Problems	Actions Taken to Prevent & Minimise the Noise Risk
Biomass boiler operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Noise from burning and the associated water pumps, hot water lines & radiators and air blowers. ▫ Fuel feed system. ▫ Fuel deliveries. ▫ Removal of ash waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ This installation and the construction of the boiler and housing is consistent with BAT principles in relation to energy efficiency and noise, and in particular as required to qualify for RHI subsidy. ▫ The boiler is located inside a purpose-built housing that provides acoustic insulation. ▫ Effective maintenance and servicing of the boiler and associated equipment including fuel transfer systems. ▫ Delivery of fuel pellets is managed in accordance with guidelines for delivery vehicles (see in table above). ▫ Ash is transferred to waste bins inside the boiler house. Ash boxes and implements are handled with care to avoid undue noise from scraping and tipping.

ROUTINE MONITORING & CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

- Equipment maintenance checks, buildings and site conditions reports are carried out in accordance with the site maintenance programmes and internal auditing schedules. Additional measurement and recording will be carried out in response to any issues to support problem solving and ongoing management.
- Weather conditions are monitored and recorded daily.
- The use of a mobile monitoring station to include weather conditions and noise levels (if practicable) along with other environmental parameters would be introduced should any continual problems or complaints arise.
- All complaints and any subsequent actions are to be logged on site using the complaint report format.
- Staff members are to receive annual training regarding Environmental Permitting Regulations – which will include noise management and any new company procedures. Contractors and drivers are also briefed in relation to noise minimisation.
- Specialist noise monitoring can be carried out during the flock cycle to help gauge and further understand noise lives in and around the farm. Monitoring will be introduced in response to any substantiated complaints relating to noise.

NOISE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- Any noise complaints received in direct relation to the installation shall be recorded on a noise complaints form (**Document Ref. No. RPF006.1**).
- Noise complaints shall be fully investigated and the reports will be available at future inspections. Complaints received directly from the public will be notified to the Environment Agency within 7 days.

Investigations shall take into account: -

- The activities taking place at the time of the complaint
- The timing of the complaint
- The weather conditions at the time of the complaint
- The possibility of any abnormal operations either on site or nearby

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- Any changes that may have been made to a standard operational procedure
- The receptor and the impact that may have been caused
- Following investigation into a complaint, if the issue is caused by an operation at the site this will be discussed and reviewed with the Environment Agency. Any practical and proactive measures which can be agreed in response to a complaint will be implemented to help minimise the impact.
- The complainant will also be contacted following the investigation into the complaint and kept up to date with progress and any remedial action being taken.

NOISE MONITORING & REDUCTION PLANS

In the event of prolonged complaints from any source then an independent noise assessment shall be carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency and an appropriate third-party monitoring company.

Monitoring will be undertaken in line with current guidance to identify the root cause of the noise and whether noise from the site correlates with specific times or activities within the flock cycle and within seasonal patterns. If normal operations are deemed to be the root cause, and no further reasonable and financially viable mitigation can be implemented to reduce the noise pollution then an agreed programme of noise mitigation steps will be put in place to help reduce the levels of noise to an acceptable level which is assessed by the EA as being below that deemed to cause noise pollution outside the permitted boundary. Operations will then be maintained at that level until such time as further measures can be put in place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Contact will be made with the local Parish Council to open up lines of communication between the Parish Council and the operator. Updates regarding the site will be provided to the Parish Council as and when required.

REVIEW

This NMP will be subject to review following any complaint that has been substantiated by the EA or every four years, whichever is sooner.

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