



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.3 ES Appendix 13-1: Noise
and Vibration Legislation,
Policy and Guidance

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1. This Environmental Statement (ES) appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as ‘the Scheme’) with regards to noise and vibration. Policy is considered at both national and local levels.
- 1.1.2. This appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation, policy and guidance, instead the purpose of considering legislation, policy and guidance in the EIA is twofold:
- To identify legislation, policy and guidance that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - To identify legislation, policy and guidance that could influence the methodology of the EIA and signposting where this is dealt with in the ES. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.3. Instead, policy compliance is assessed within the **Planning Statement** (Doc Ref. 7.1).
- 1.1.4. The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and guidance considered specifically relevant to the noise and vibration assessment, which have been taken into account in preparing **ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

2. Legislation

2.1. Control of Pollution Act 1974¹

- 2.1.1. The Control of Pollution Act 1974 (CoPA) requires that 'Best Practicable Means' (as defined in section 72 of CoPA) are adopted to control construction noise on any given site.
- 2.1.2. Sections 60 and 61 of the CoPA provide the main legislation regarding enabling works and construction site noise or vibration. If noise complaints are received, a Section 60 notice may be issued by the Local Authority with instructions to cease work until specific conditions to reduce noise have been adopted. These conditions typically set out the controls or requirements that must be implemented on site, which may include restrictions on working hours, limits on permissible noise or vibration levels at nearby receptors, the specification of quieter plant or machinery, the adoption of particular construction methods, or the requirement to install temporary noise mitigation such as acoustic barriers or enclosures. Additional requirements may also include enhanced monitoring, record keeping, or communication protocols with affected residents.
- 2.1.3. Section 61 of the CoPA provides a means to apply for prior consent to carry out noise generating activities during construction. Once prior consent has been agreed under Section 61, a Section 60 notice cannot be served provided the agreed conditions are maintained on site.

2.2. Environmental Protection Act 1990²

- 2.2.1. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 prescribes a statutory nuisance as noise (and vibration) emitted from premises (including land) that is prejudicial to health or a nuisance. Local Authorities are required to investigate any public complaints of noise, and if they are satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, or is likely to occur or recur, they must serve a noise abatement notice. A notice is served on the person responsible for the nuisance. It requires either simply the abatement of the nuisance or works to abate the nuisance to be carried out, or it prohibits or restricts the activity. In determining if a noise complaint amounts

¹ Control of Pollution Act (1974). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40> [Accessed 15 September 2025]

² The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> [Accessed 15 September 2025]

to a statutory nuisance the Local Authority can take account of various guidance documents and existing case law as no statutory noise limits currently exist for defining a statutory nuisance. Demonstrating the use of BPM to minimise noise levels is an accepted defence against a noise abatement notice.

3. National Policy Statements

- 3.1.1. The EIA has been undertaken with reference to the following National Policy Statements (NPSs), which are relevant to the Scheme:
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)³;
 - National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (NPS EN-3)⁴; and
 - National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)⁵.
- 3.1.2. The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure, along with the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining applications for Development Consent Orders (DCOs). The NPSs provide specific guidance and criteria that applicants should cover when assessing the effects of their Scheme, and how the Secretary of State should consider these impacts and any mitigation measures applied.
- 3.1.3. The relevant NPS requirements for Noise and Vibration are provided in Table 3-1, along with an indication of where in the ES this information can be sourced

³ DESNZ (2025). Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

⁴ DESNZ (2025). NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

⁵ DESNZ (2025). NPS for Electricity Networks (NPS EN-5). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d12e1b5c46330350ed9a1/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-web-accessible.pdf> [Accessed 09 January 2026]

Table 3-1: Relevant NPS Policy for Noise and Vibration

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Overarching NPS for Energy EN-1		
4.7.3	Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. [...]	Consideration to the siting areas and appropriate use of technologies is presented in the Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.3) and ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 6.1).
5.11.15	Developments should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing developments from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.	An assessment of the effect of predicted changes to the noise environment at noise sensitive receptors are summarised in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1). No unacceptable levels of noise pollution are identified.
5.12.6	<p>Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the Applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency content or temporal characteristics of the noise; 	<p>A description of noise generating aspects of the Scheme, identification of noise sensitive receptors, and a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the Scheme in the short and long term during multiple periods of the day are provided in ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>The characteristics of the existing noise environment are described in Section 13.6 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>An assessment of the effect of predicted changes to the noise environment at noise sensitive receptors are</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected; • The characteristics of the existing noise environment; • A prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the shorter term, such as during the construction period; ○ In the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure; ○ At particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year. • An assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life/ well-being where appropriate, particularly among those disadvantaged by other factors who are 	<p>summarised in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>There are no elements of the Scheme that may cause underwater subterranean noise. Subterranean noise may be generated from cables; however, underground any noise emissions would not be perceptible to the average person above ground.</p> <p>Measures to employ in mitigating noise are summarised in Sections 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>often disproportionately affected by noise-sensitive areas and noise sensitive areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise; and • All reasonable steps taken to mitigation and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life. 	
5.12.7	The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.	A Study Area has been defined within which noise effects have been assessed (see Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration) (Doc Ref 6.1).
5.12.8	Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation.	An assessment of the noise impact of ancillary activities is scoped out, as agreed by the Planning Inspectorate in Table 4.7 of the EIA Scoping Opinion (refer to ES Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc Ref. 6.3)).
5.12.9	Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology specific NPSs. In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management of	<p>The noise and vibration assessment methodology is presented in Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>Reference is made to NPS EN-3, which relates to renewables. The construction noise assessment methodology makes reference to guidance in BS 5228-1 and the operational assessment methodology makes reference to BS 4142.</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.</p>	
5.12.10	<p>Some noise impacts will be controlled through environmental permits and parallel tracking is encouraged where noise impacts determined by an environmental permit interface with planning issues (i.e. physical design and location of development). The applicant should consult the Environment Agency (EA) and/or the SNCB, and other relevant bodies, such the MMO or NRW, as necessary, and in particular regarding assessment of noise on protected species or other wildlife. The results of any noise surveys and predictions may inform the ecological assessment. The seasonality of potentially affected species in nearby sites may also need to be considered.</p>	<p>The impact of noise and vibration on protected species and other wildlife is assessed in ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
5.12.12	<p>Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.</p>	<p>An assessment of noise and vibration effects is presented in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1). Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
5.12.13	<p>The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational</p>	<p>Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>and construction noise over and above any which may form part of the project application. In doing so the Secretary of State may wish to impose mitigation measures. Any such mitigation measures should take account of the NPPF or any successor to it and Planning Practice Guidance on Noise.</p>	<p>13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
<p>5.12.14</p>	<p>Mitigation measures may include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering: reducing the noise generated at source and/or containing the noise generated; • Lay-out: where possible, optimising the distance between the source and noise sensitive receptors and/or incorporating good design to minimise noise transmission through the use of screening by natural or purpose-built barriers, or other buildings; • Administrative: using planning conditions/obligations to restrict activities allowed on the site at certain times and/or specifying permissible noise limits/ noise levels, differentiating as appropriate between different times of day, such as evenings and late at night, and taking into 	<p>Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>These measures consider how noise can be reduced through engineering and lay-out, which are relevant to a solar farm.</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>account seasonality of wildlife in nearby designated sites; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation: mitigating the impact on areas likely to be affected by noise including through noise insulation when the impact is on a building. 	
5.12.15	<p>The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest or most acceptable cost-effective plant available; containment of noise within buildings wherever possible, taking into account any other adverse impacts that such containment might cause (e.g. on landscape and visual impacts; optimisation of plant layout to minimise noise emissions; and, where possible, the use of landscaping, bunds or noise barriers to reduce noise transmission)</p>	<p>Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7. and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
5.12.16	<p>A development must be undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements for noise. Due regard must be given to the relevant sections of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE), the NPPF, and the government’s associated planning guidance on noise. [...]</p>	<p>Relevant sections of the NPSE and NPPF are duly considered and applied in assessment methodology set out in Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
5.12.17	<p>The Secretary of State should not grant development consent unless they are satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims, through the effective management and control of noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; • Mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; and • Where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise. 	Compliance with the three aims is set out in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).
NPS for Renewable Energy EN-3		
2.5.2	Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).
2.10.154	The Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to traffic and transport noise and	As the Scheme will generate limited amounts of operational traffic, an assessment of operational

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	vibration impacts from the operational phase of a project.	transport noise was scoped out. This was agreed by the Planning Inspectorate in Table 4.7 of the EIA Scoping Opinion (refer to ES Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc Ref. 6.3)).
NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5		
2.9.19	<p>In brief, the Horlock Rules⁶ state that applicants should:</p> <p>[...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep the visual, noise and other environmental effects to a reasonably practicable minimum; <p>[...]</p>	Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).
2.9.41-44	For the assessment of noise from overhead lines, the Applicant must use an appropriate method to determine the sound level produced by the line in both dry and wet weather conditions, in addition to assessing the impact on noise-sensitive receptors.	<p>The noise and vibration assessment methodology is presented in Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p> <p>Methods and inputs used for calculating overhead line noise are presented in ES Appendix 13-3: Construction and Operational Noise Modelling (Doc Ref 6.3).</p>

⁶ The Horlock Rules – guidelines for the design and siting of substations – were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>For instance, the Applicant may use an appropriate noise modelling tool or tools for the prediction of overhead line noise and its propagation over distance [...].</p> <p>When assessing the impact of noise generated by overhead lines in wet weather relative to existing background sound levels, the Applicant should consider the effect of varying background sound levels due to rainfall.</p> <p>The Secretary of State is likely to regard it as acceptable for the Applicant to use a methodology that demonstrably addresses these criteria.</p>	<p>For the ES, a Tier 2 approach has been undertaken. At detailed design, a Tier 3 assessment is secured through the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) requirements and the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.11).</p>
2.10.9	<p>Applicants must consider the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positioning of lines to help mitigate noise; • Ensuring that the appropriately sized conductor arrangement is used to minimise potential noise; • Quality assurance through manufacturing, transportation and installation to avoid damage to overhead line conductors which can increase potential noise effects; 	<p>These measures relate to detailed design. At the ES stage, specific plant and design details are not yet confirmed; the ES adopts a reasonable worst-case approach and assumes best-practice mitigation. Compliance is secured through the Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1) via requirements and the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.11), ensuring that detailed design-stage noise control measures are implemented.</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that conductors are kept clean and free of surface contaminants during stringing/installation; and The selection of the quietest cost-effective plant available. 	
2.10.10	In addition, the ES should include information on planned maintenance arrangements. Where detail is not included, the Secretary of State should consider stipulating appropriate maintenance arrangements by way of requirements attached to any grant of development consent.	Maintenance is assessed in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).
2.11.7	The Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate assessment methodologies have been used in the evidence presented to it, and that the appropriate mitigation options have been considered and adopted. Where the Applicant can demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place, the residual noise impacts are unlikely to be significant.	Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised Section 13.7 and Section 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).
2.11.8	Consequently, noise from overhead lines is unlikely to lead to the Secretary of State refusing an application, but it may need to consider the use of appropriate requirements in the DCO to ensure noise is minimised as far as is practicable.	Compliance is set out in ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration , Section 13.8 and Section 13.10 (Doc Ref 6.1).

4. National Planning Policy Framework⁷

- 4.1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines the Government's planning policies for England and provides guidance on their implementation. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the NPPF does not contain specific policies for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. As a result, the EIA has taken the NPPF into account.
- 4.1.2. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to noise and vibration, along with an indication of where the information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in Table 4-1.

⁷ National Planning Policy Framework (2025). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf> [Accessed 10 October 2025]

Table 4-1: Relevant NPPF Requirements for Noise and Vibration

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
187	<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: [...]</p> <p>e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.</p>	<p>No unacceptable level of noise pollution at sensitive receptors is identified in ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>
198	<p>Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:</p> <p>a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impact resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;</p>	<p>ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1) demonstrates that significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life are avoided (Section 13.8) and how adverse impacts on health and quality of life are mitigated and managed as far as reasonably practicable (Section 13.7 and Section 13.9).</p>

Relevant NPPF Paragraph	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
	b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason. [...]	

5. Other National Policies and Guidance

5.1. The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) 2010⁸

- 5.1.1. The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation, and guidance that relate to noise. The statement applies to all forms of noise, including environmental noise, neighbour noise and neighbourhood noise.
- 5.1.2. The NPSE sets out the long-term vision of the government's noise policy, which is to *"promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development."*
- 5.1.3. This long-term vision is supported by three aims:
- "Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:*
- *Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;*
 - *Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and*
 - *Where possible, contribute to the improvements of health and quality of life."*
- 5.1.4. The 'Explanatory Note' within the NPSE provides further guidance on defining 'significant adverse effects' and 'adverse effects' using the concepts:
- No Observed Effect Level (NOEL) – the level below which no effect can be detected. Below this level no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise can be established;
 - Lowest Observable Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) – the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected; and
 - Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL) – the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.
- 5.1.5. With reference to the SOAEL, the NPSE states: *"It is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all sources*

⁸ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Noise Policy Statement for England (2010). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-policy-statement-for-england> [Accessed 10 October 2025]

of noise in all situations. Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different for different noise sources, for different receptors and at different times. It is acknowledged that further research is required to increase our understanding of what may constitute a significant adverse impact on health and quality of life from noise. However, not having specific SOAEL values in the NPSE provides the necessary policy flexibility until further evidence and suitable guidance is available.”

- 5.1.6. For situations where noise levels are between the LOAEL and SOAEL, all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise the effects. However, this does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur.

5.2. Planning Practice Guidance: Noise (2019)⁹

- 5.2.1. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for noise advises that:

“Noise needs to be considered when development may create additional noise, or would be sensitive to the prevailing acoustic environment (including any anticipated changes to that environment from activities that are permitted but not yet commenced)”.

- 5.2.2. It also provides guidelines that are designed to assist with the implementation of the NPPF. The PPG states that local planning authorities should take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider:

- *“whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely*
- *whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and*
- *whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.”*

- 5.2.3. Factors to be considered in determining whether noise is a concern are identified including the absolute noise level of the source, the existing ambient noise climate, time of day, frequency of occurrence, duration, character of the noise, and cumulative effects.

- 5.2.4. Further details on the hierarchy of noise effects are presented in Table 5-1, which has been reproduced from PPG.

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Planning Practice Guidance (2019). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> [Accessed 10 October 2025]

Table 5-1 Planning Practice Guidance Noise Exposure Hierarchy

Perception	Examples of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Level	Action
No Observed Effect Level			
Not present	No effect	No Observed Effect	No specific measures required
No Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and not intrusive	Noise can be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a change in the quality of life.	No Observed Adverse Effect	No specific measures required
Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and intrusive	Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a small actual or perceived change in the quality of life.	Observed Adverse Effect	Mitigate and reduce to a minimum
Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and disruptive	The noise causes a material change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance	Significant Observed Adverse Effect	Avoid

Perception	Examples of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Level	Action
	resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area		
Present and very disruptive	Extensive and regular changes in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress, e.g. regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable harm, e.g. auditory and non-auditory	Unacceptable Adverse Effect	Prevent

6. Local Policy

6.1.1. Local policy and guidance relevant to the noise and vibration assessment comprise:

- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036¹⁰.

6.1.2. The relevant considerations are summarised within Table 6-1.

¹⁰ Lincolnshire County Council (2019) South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036. Available at: <https://southeastlincslocalplan.org/media/21941/South-East-Lincolnshire-Local-Plan-2011-2036/pdf/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf?m=1720710748483>. [Accessed 10 October 2025]

Table 6-1: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Noise and Vibration

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
<p>South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036</p>	<p>Policy 2: Development Management Policy 30: Pollution Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy These policies identify the need to consider and, where appropriate, mitigate noise impacts associated with new development.</p>	<p>An assessment of noise and vibration effects is presented in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1). Measures to employ in mitigating construction and operational noise are summarised in Section 13.7 and 13.9 of ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref 6.1).</p>

