

AENC-ARC-ENV-REP-0118

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

Document: 6.14.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 14.3 - EACN
Substation Operational Noise Assessment - Clean Version

Final Issue B

July 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(a)

nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	29 August 2025	DCO Application
B	21 July 2026	Deadline 7 to include latest cross references

Contents

14.	EACN Substation Operational Noise Assessment	1
14.1	Introduction	1
14.2	Assessment Methodology	1
14.3	Baseline Data	3
14.4	Study Area	4
14.5	Noise Sensitive Receptors	4
14.6	Measured Noise Levels	5
14.7	Operational Noise Assessment	6
14.8	Operational Noise Mitigation	9
14.9	Cumulative Noise Assessment	14
14.10	Conclusions	15

Table A14.3.1	Magnitude of Effect of operational noise	2
Table A14.3.2	Summary of Representative Background Sound Levels	5
Table A14.3.3	Indicative Substation Plant Sound Data	6
Table A14.3.4	Resultant Specific Noise Levels at NSR (Without Mitigation)	6
Table A14.3.5	Indicative BS 4142 Assessment (Without Mitigation)	7
Table A14.3.6	Plant Sound Level Contribution	9
Table A14.3.7	Indicative Mitigation Options	11
Table A14.3.8	Resultant Specific Noise Levels at NSR (With Mitigation)	11
Table A14.3.9	Indicative BS 4142 Assessment (With Mitigation)	12
Table A14.3.10	Cumulative Noise Assessment	14
Table A14.3.11	Cumulative Noise Assessment	14

Image A14.3.1	Operational Noise Baseline Information	3
---------------	--	---

Abbreviations	17
Glossary	18
Bibliography	20

14. EACN Substation Operational Noise Assessment

14.1 Introduction

14.1.1 This appendix has been produced to support Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (document reference 6.14) (Revision B) of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Volume 6 of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application) for Norwich to Tilbury (the 'Project'). It sets out the assessment of operational noise from the proposed East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation in the Tendring Peninsula. This appendix includes:

- Assessment Methodology – Description of the assessment methodology used in the assessment of operational noise from the proposed EACN Substation
- Baseline Data – Description of the acoustic environment and associated data sources
- Operational Noise Assessment – Description of the potential effects from operational noise from the proposed EACN Substation, without mitigation
- Operational Noise Mitigation – Description of potential mitigation options to reduce noise level from the proposed EACN Substation
- Cumulative Noise Assessment – An assessment of potential cumulative effects of the proposed EACN substation and the proposed substations associated with the Five Estuaries and North Falls offshore wind farm schemes.

14.2 Assessment Methodology

Assessment Methodology Introduction

14.2.1 The assessment of operational noise has been conducted in accordance with British Standard (BS) 4142:2014+A1:2019. Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound (BS 4142). The assessment methodology was agreed with the environmental health department of Tendring District Council.

BS 4142 Methodology

14.2.2 BS 4142 is used to assess the potential significance of effects by comparing the 'rating sound level' of an industrial source to the typically representative 'background sound level' at the location of nearby Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSR). Certain acoustic features can increase the potential for a sound to attract attention, and therefore increase its relative significance than that expected from a simple comparison between the specific sound level and the background sound level. BS 4142 identifies noise that contains audible tonality, impulsivity and/or intermittency and recommends that a correction be added to the specific sound level. The specific sound level along with any applicable correction is referred to as the 'rating level'. It should be noted that the

penalties can be additive (i.e., if they have a combination of tonal, impulsive, and intermittent acoustic characters).

- 14.2.3 Where tonality is audible at a receptor a penalty of between 0 and 6 decibels (dB) may be applied. Subjectively, a 2 dB penalty may be applied where a tone is just perceptible, 4 dB where it is clearly perceptible, and 6 dB where it is highly perceptible.
- 14.2.4 The greater the difference between the rating level and the background sound level; the greater the likelihood of complaints. The assessment criteria given by BS 4142 are as follows:
- A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse effect, depending on the context
 - A difference of around +5 dB could be an indication of an adverse effect, depending on the context.
- 14.2.5 The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that there would be an adverse effect. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low effect (in BS 4142 terminology), depending on the context.
- 14.2.6 The assessment should also consider the context of the sound. Where the initial estimate of the effect needs to be modified due to the context, all pertinent factors should be considered, including:
- The absolute level of the sound
 - The character and level of the residual sound compared to the character and level of the specific sound
 - The sensitivity of the receptor, including whether dwellings already incorporate design measures that secure good internal and/or outdoor conditions, such as: façade insulation treatment, ventilation and/or cooling that will reduce the need to have windows open to provide rapid or purge ventilation and acoustic screening.
- 14.2.7 With regards to the absolute level of the sound, BS 4142 states that where background sound levels and rating levels are low, absolute levels might be as, or more, relevant than the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background, particularly at night. Guidance in this matter is provided by the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note (ANC, 2020) and BS 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings (BS 8233).
- 14.2.8 The noise rating level will be compared to the background sound level to determine the magnitude of effect. The magnitude of effect of operational noise is determined against the criteria detailed in Table A14.3.1.

Table A14.3.1 Magnitude of Effect of operational noise

Magnitude	Comparison of Sound Rating Level and Background Sound Level
Large	Rating level $\geq$ 10dB above the background sound level (Significant Observed Adverse Effect Levels (SOAEL))
Medium	Rating level between 5 and 9 dB above background sound level (Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL))

Small	Rating level between 0 and 4 dB above background sound level
Negligible	Rating level below background sound level

14.2.9 Although the above criteria will be used to assess the magnitude of effect, it is standard practice to aim for a sound rating level not to exceed the background sound level, such that the effect is 'low' (as defined in BS 4142), or negligible in terms of the effect magnitude definition defined in Table A14.3.1.

14.2.10 Consideration will also be taken of context, as defined in BS 4142, for the final determination of significance; in particular, absolute noise levels.

14.2.11 Taking account of the guidance provided by BS 4142, the ANC Technical Note, BS 8233, and Planning Practice Guidance for Noise (PPGN), where background sound levels are 'low' (less than about 30 dB L_{A90}), the SOAEL is defined as follows:

- SOAEL: rating level ≥ 35 dB $L_{A_{r,Tr}}$ or ≥ 10 dB above the background sound level, whichever is higher.

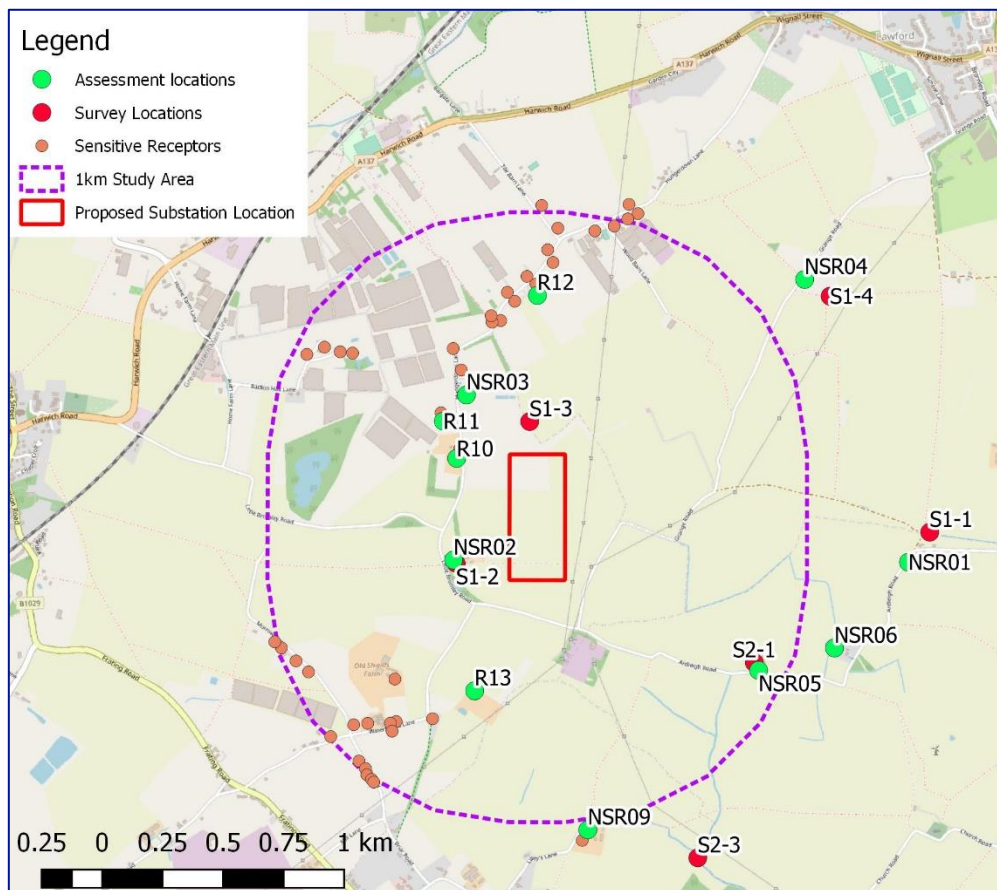
14.3 Baseline Data

Baseline Data Introduction

14.3.1 This section details the baseline information used within the preliminary operation noise assessment.

14.3.2 The proposed EACN Substation location, Study Area, NSR locations, assessment locations, and noise survey locations, are shown in Image A14.3.1 and Figure 14.1: Baseline Noise Data (document reference 6.14.F1).

Image A14.3.1 Operational Noise Baseline Information



14.3.3 The proposed EACN Substation is in a predominantly rural area, comprising flat arable farmland, with several isolated farms and dwellings in the vicinity, principally to the west of the site off Little Bromley Road (NSR02) and Hungerdown Lane (R10, R11 and NSR03). There is also the settlement of Lawford approximately 600 m to the north.

14.4 Study Area

14.4.1 The Study Area for operational noise effects from the proposed EACN Substation, based on guidance from ISO 9613-2:2024 Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors (International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9613-2), would include NSR within 1 km of the EACN Substation, with a particular focus on the nearest NSR.

14.5 Noise Sensitive Receptors

14.5.1 The assessment considers NSR included within the Five Estuaries and North Falls assessments. These are referred to with the suffix 'NSR', to match those used within their assessment for comparative and cumulative purposes. Additional NSR considered in this assessment are referred to with the suffix 'R'.

14.5.2 The nearest NSR are R10 and NSR02 located approximately 200 m to the north-west and south-west of the proposed EACN Substation site, respectively, as shown in Image A14.3.1. There are further NSR located within the study to the north, north-west, south-west, and south-east. Consideration is also given to NSR outside the Study Area where there are potential cumulative effects from the Five Estuaries and North Falls schemes.

14.6 Measured Noise Levels

- 14.6.1 The operational noise assessment has been informed by noise survey data obtained from locations representative of nearby NSR. The surveys were conducted as part of the Five Estuaries and North Falls Substation noise assessments and are detailed in Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Statement Volume 6, Part 6, Annex 9.1 Onshore Airborne Noise Baseline Noise Survey (Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, 2024).
- 14.6.2 Due to the potential cumulative effects of the three projects, it has been agreed with Tendring District Council that the projects would be assessed against the same baseline, and the cumulative effects of all three projects has been considered.
- 14.6.3 Background noise level surveys were conducted at six locations representative of the nearby NSR, as detailed in Image A14.3.1. The surveys were conducted for periods of between seven and 12 days in July, September, and October 2022.
- 14.6.4 Table A14.3.1 presents a summary of measured sound levels during daytime (07:00 to 23:00) and night-time (23:00 to 07:00) periods at the survey locations for use in the operational noise assessment.

Table A14.3.2 Summary of Representative Background Sound Levels

Monitoring Location	Description	Easting	Northing	Representative Average Noise Level, dB LAeq,T		Representative Background Noise Level, dB LA90	
				Daytime	Night-time	Daytime	Night-time
S1-1	Hollylodge Farm	609148	229057	40	32	29	21
S1-2	Badley Hall	607190	228928	46	35	32	25
S1-3	Mayfields Farm	607494	229514	44	36	34	24
S1-4	Grange Farm	608736	230032	42	35	30	22
S2-1	Normans Farm	608423	228518	42	34	26	23
S2-3	Fields between Lilleys Farm and Barlon House	608189	227712	46	37	28	24

14.7 Operational Noise Assessment

Indicative Plant Data

14.7.1 Table A14.3.3 presents indicative operational source sound power levels from proposed EACN Substation plant.

Table A14.3.3 Indicative Substation Plant Sound Data

Plant Item	Number of Items	Sound Power Level per Unit dBA
Super Grid Transformer	2	95
Shunt Reactor	8	91
Super Grid Transformer Cooling	2	93
Shunt Reactor Cooling	8	87

14.7.2 During normal operation cooling plant would not operate. Cooling plant is only likely to operate during periods of increased load. This would typically only occur during an outage of transformer (e.g., during maintenance or fault) leading to increase in load on its paired transformer. However, for the purposes of this initial assessment it is assumed that cooling plant is operational.

Operational Sound Propagation Modelling (Without Mitigation)

14.7.3 Specific sound levels at nearby NSR due to the proposed EACN Substation plant have been predicted via computer noise modelling using SoundPlan software (version 9.0). The model calculates noise levels in accordance with the methodology described in ISO 9613-2. The resultant noise levels at nearby NSR are presented in Table A14.3.4. The specific sound levels are compared against the background sound levels to determine the worst-case affected NSR.

Table A14.3.4 Resultant Specific Noise Levels at NSR (Without Mitigation)

NSR location	Corresponding Background Measurement Location	Resultant specific sound level, dB LAeq	Excess over background, dB	
			Daytime	Night-time
NSR01 Jubilee Villa	S1-1	24	-5	+3
NSR02 Badley Hall	S1-2	37	+5	+12
NSR03 Property South of Hunger Downs	S1-3	34	+0	+10
NSR04 Grange Farm	S1-4	24	-6	+2

NSR location	Corresponding Background Measurement Location	Resultant specific sound level, dB LAeq	Excess over background, dB	
			Daytime	Night-time
NSR05 Normans Farm	S2-1	27	+1	+4
NSR06 Mulberry Lodge	S1-1	25	-4	+4
NSR09 Lilleys Farm	S2-3	27	-1	+3
R10 Bounds Farm	S1-3	38	+4	+14
R11 Mayfields Farm	S1-3	34	+0	+10
R12 69 Hungerdown Lane	S1-3	29	-5	+5
R13 Water house Farm	S1-3	31	-3	+7

14.7.4 The results indicate that the worst-case affected NSR, without mitigation is R10, which is the closest NSR to the proposed EACN Substation. The specific sound level at this NSR is predicted to exceed the night-time background sound level by 14 dB, without mitigation. Without the cooling plant operating (i.e. during normal operation), noise levels are expected to be approximately 2dB lower.

BS 4142 Assessment (Without Mitigation)

14.7.5 The results of an initial BS 4142 assessment at the worst affected receptor, R10 Bounds Farm, without mitigation are presented in Table A14.3.5.

Table A14.3.5 Indicative BS 4142 Assessment (Without Mitigation)

Parameter	Value		BS 4142 Clause	Commentary
	Daytime	Night-time		
Background sound level, dB LA90	34	24	8.1	Representative background sound level at receptor based on measured noise data (Location S1-4).
Specific sound level, dB LAeq,T	38	38	7.3	Calculated via noise model based on indicative plant data.
Acoustic feature correction, dB	6	6	9.2	Assumed potential tonal audibility at receptor as worst-case. In practice likely to be less.

Parameter	Value		BS 4142 Clause	Commentary
	Daytime	Night-time		
Sound rating level, dB L _{Ar,T}	44	44	9	Sum of specific sound level and acoustic corrections.
Difference in rating noise level relative to background sound level, dB	+10	+20	11	
Assessment Outcome	Large magnitude, depending on context. Above SOAEL.	Large magnitude, depending on context. Above SOAEL.	11	<u>Context</u> The context is a relatively low specific noise level in a rural area, above existing average levels of ambient noise during night-time periods (36 dB L_{Aeq,16h}). However, the specific noise level marginally exceeds the SOAEL during daytime and night-time periods. Outcome – Likely Significant Effect
Uncertainty			10	Uncertainty has been minimised using noise survey data over a suitable representative period. Main uncertainty from the use of indicative plant noise data, although this is based on plant at similar sites. Likely worst-case acoustic character correction applied for tonality. In practice likely to be lower. Uncertainty unlikely to affect the outcome of the assessment. However, this assessment is indicative based on available plant noise data and further studies would be conducted as the design progresses.

Notes:

BS 4142 Clause refers to the corresponding clause in BS 4142 relating to that aspect of the assessment.

- 14.7.6 The assessment indicates that without mitigation there is potential for significant adverse effect from noise at nearby NSR due to the operation of the proposed EACN Substation, including cooling.

14.8 Operational Noise Mitigation

Introduction

- 14.8.1 The assessment of operational noise is based on currently available design information specification data. Further noise assessment would be undertaken based on detailed design information to inform the specific noise mitigation measures. Further detailed assessment is secured in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference 7.2) (Revision G) measure NV21.
- 14.8.2 The outcome of the initial assessment indicates that there is the potential for significant adverse effects without mitigation. Indicative plant data, based on plant used on similar projects, has been used in the assessment. The ongoing design must therefore follow the mitigation hierarchy to reduce noise levels. This section details the noise mitigation options that may be considered as part of the ongoing design.
- 14.8.3 To avoid significant adverse effects, a reduction in noise levels of at least 9 dB would be required to achieve a sound rating level of less than 35 dB $L_{A,T}$ at the worst-case NSR. However, in accordance with planning policy, noise levels should be mitigated and reduced to a minimum below this level as far as reasonably practicable using best available techniques. Where feasible, a sound level below background would be considered as an aim, which would require a reduction in noise levels of at least 20 dB.

Source Contribution

- 14.8.4 Table A14.3.6 details the contribution of noise from each type of plant item type at the worst affected NSR. The specific sound levels are compared against the background sound levels to determine the worst-case affected NSR.

Table A14.3.6 Plant Sound Level Contribution

Plant Item	Contribution to Resultant Noise Level at NSR, dB L_{Aeq}	Description
Transformers	30	Main Source
Shunt Reactors	34	Main Source
Transformer Cooling	30	Main Source
Shunt Reactor Cooling	32	Main Source

- 14.8.5 The results indicate all sources are generally similar in their contribution to the specific sound level.

Mitigation Hierarchy

- 14.8.6 The mitigation of operational noise effects from the proposed EACN Substation would follow the mitigation hierarchy, as follows:

- Mitigation of source
- Reducing propagation of noise
- Administrative controls.

Mitigation of Source

14.8.7 Reducing noise at source is the first consideration in the noise mitigation hierarchy. Consideration should be given to the following for reducing the noise at source:

- Eliminating equipment – (e.g., determining if the equipment is required or whether other processes can perform the same operation)
- Equipment selection – selecting quieter equipment where feasible
- Fitting of manufacturer noise attenuation to equipment.

14.8.8 Additionally, consideration should be given to the siting of the equipment and where it can:

- Be located further away from NSR, and/or
- Take advantage of natural screening provided by non-sensitive buildings and/or topography.

Reducing propagation of noise

14.8.9 Where adequate control of noise cannot be achieved by mitigation of the source alone, consideration should be given to reducing the propagation of noise between the source and NSR. This can typically be achieved with:

- Screening
- Enclosures.

14.8.10 Screening with noise barriers can typically achieve a reduction in noise levels of up to 10 dB.

14.8.11 Enclosures (four sided and roof) can be specified to a high level of attenuation and would, acoustically, be a viable option to attenuate noise at this site. Standard transformer enclosures used by National Grid can reduce noise levels by 20 dB, although higher levels of attenuation are possible through bespoke design. However, consideration should be given to:

- The ventilation requirements of the plant, and the noise that the ventilation plant may generate
- Potential Noise at Work (NaW) implications within the enclosure (e.g., hearing protection zones), which are outside the scope of this assessment.

Administrative Controls

14.8.12 Due to the nature of proposed operation of the proposed EACN Substation, administrative controls, such as limiting hours of operation are unlikely to be viable. As such, the focus would be on the mitigation of source and reducing the propagation of noise, as detailed above.

Indicative Mitigation Options

14.8.13 This section describes indicative mitigation options that may be taken forward as the design progresses to reduce level of noise from the proposed EACN Substation. Table A14.3.7 provides indicative mitigation options for each plant item type, together with an estimate of the level of attenuation that may be achievable.

Table A14.3.7 Indicative Mitigation Options

Plant Item	Potential Mitigation Option	Indicative level of reduction achievable, dB
Transformers and shunt reactors	Plant selection	10
	Screening	5
	Acoustic enclosure	20
Cooling systems	Plant selection and manufacturers attenuation	14

Residual Assessment

Operational Sound Propagation Modelling (With Mitigation)

14.8.14 The resultant noise levels at NSR with indicative attenuation, as described in Table A14.3.7, are presented in Table A14.3.8. The specific sound levels are compared against the background sound levels to determine the worst-case affected NSR.

14.8.15 For the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed that noise levels from transformers, shunt reactors are attenuated by 20 dB and cooling systems are attenuated by 14 dB, compared to the indicative data.

Table A14.3.8 Resultant Specific Noise Levels at NSR (With Mitigation)

NSR location	Corresponding Background Measurement Location	Resultant specific sound level, dB L_{Aeq}	Excess over background, dB	
			Daytime	Night-time
NSR01	S1-1	7	-22	-14
NSR02	S1-2	21	-11	-4
NSR03	S1-3	18	-16	-6
NSR04	S1-4	8	-22	-14
NSR05	S2-1	11	-15	-12
NSR06	S1-1	9	-20	-12
NSR09	S2-3	11	-17	-13
R10	S1-3	21	-13	-3
R11	S1-3	18	-16	-6
R12	S1-3	13	-21	-11

NSR location	Corresponding Background Measurement Location	Resultant specific sound level, dB LAeq	Excess over background, dB	
			Daytime	Night-time
R13	S1-3	15	-19	-9

14.8.16 The results indicate that the worst-case affected NSR, with mitigation, is R10, which is the closest NSR to the proposed EACN Substation. The specific sound level at this NSR is predicted to be 3 dB below the night-time background, with mitigation. Without the cooling plant operating (i.e. during normal operation), noise levels are expected to be approximately 5dB lower.

BS 4142 Assessment (With Mitigation)

14.8.17 The results of the initial BS 4142 assessment at the worst affected receptor, R10, with mitigation are presented in Table A14.3.9.

Table A14.3.9 Indicative BS 4142 Assessment (With Mitigation)

Parameter	Value		BS 4142 Clause	Commentary
	Daytime	Night-time		
Background sound level, dB LA90	34	24	8.1	Representative background sound level at receptor based on measured noise data (Location S1-4).
Specific sound level, dB LAeq,T	21	21	7.3	Calculated via noise model based on indicative plant data.
Acoustic feature correction, dB	6	6	9.2	Assumed potential tonal audibility at receptor as worst-case. In practice likely to be less.
Sound rating level, dB LAr,T	27	27	9	Sum of specific sound level and acoustic corrections.
Difference in rating noise level relative to background sound level, dB	-7	+3	11	
Assessment Outcome	Negligible magnitude, depending on context. Below LOAEL.	Small magnitude, depending on context.	11	<u>Context</u> The context is a relatively low specific noise level in a rural area, below

Parameter	Value		BS 4142 Clause	Commentary
	Daytime	Night-time		
		Below LOAEL.		existing average levels of ambient noise during night-time periods (36 dB $L_{Aeq,16h}$). Additionally, the specific noise level is below the LOAEL during daytime and night-time periods. Outcome – Likely Not Significant
Uncertainty			10	Uncertainty has been minimised using noise survey data over a suitable representative period. Main uncertainty from the use of indicative plant noise data, although this is based on plant at similar sites. Likely worst-case acoustic character correction applied for tonality. In practice likely to be lower. Uncertainty unlikely to affect the outcome of the assessment. However, this assessment is indicative based on available plant noise data and further studies would be conducted as the design progresses.
Notes:				
BS 4142 Clause refers to the corresponding clause in BS 4142 relating to that aspect of the assessment.				

14.8.18 The assessment shows that with indicative mitigation, significant adverse effects from noise at nearby NSR due to the operation of the proposed EACN Substation, including cooling, can be avoided.

14.8.19 Noise from the proposed EACN Substation with the inclusion of appropriate mitigation would therefore likely be **not significant** during operation, including cooling. Without cooling (i.e. during normal operation), noise levels would be even lower.

14.9 Cumulative Noise Assessment

- 14.9.1 This section considers the potential cumulative effects from the two proposed substations associated with the Five Estuaries and North Falls offshore wind farm schemes, respectively, which would be located close to the proposed EACN Substation.
- 14.9.2 Individual noise limits at nearby NSR have been agreed between the three projects such that a significant adverse cumulative effect would be avoided with a cumulative noise rating level not exceeding 35 dB $L_{A,r,Tr}$. Each project therefore has individual noise limits at nearby NSR that, if not exceeded, would not cumulatively exceed 35 dB $L_{A,r,Tr}$ at any NSR. It is therefore assumed that each project would not exceed their individual noise rating limits.
- 14.9.3 Table A14.3.10 details the agreed individual noise limits for the three projects, together with the resultant cumulative noise limit when added logarithmically.

Table A14.3.10 Cumulative Noise Assessment

Receptor Location	Noise Limit for Projects, dB $L_{A,r,Tr}$			
	National Grid EACN	Five Estuaries	North Falls	Cumulative
NSR01 Jubilee Villa	26	30	33	35
NSR02 Badley Hall	33	28	25	35
NSR03 Property South of Hunger Downs	33	29	28	35
NSR04 Grange Farm	28	30	31	35
NSR05 Normans Farm	23	31	33	35
NSR06 Mulberry Lodge	23	29	33	35
NSR09 Lilleys Farm	27	32	30	35
R10 Bounds Farm	34	26	24	35
R11 Mayfields Farm	33	28	27	35
R12 69 Hungerdown Lane	31	30	30	35
R13 Water house Farm	31	32	28	35

- 14.9.4 Table A14.3.11 details the predicted operational noise rating levels compared to the EACN noise limits.

Table A14.3.11 Cumulative Noise Assessment

Receptor Location	EACN Noise Limit, dB $L_{A,r,Tr}$	Predicted EACN Noise Rating Level, dB $L_{A,r,Tr}$	Below EACN Limit?
NSR01 Jubilee Villa	26	13	Yes
NSR02 Badley Hall	33	27	Yes

Receptor Location	EACN Noise Limit, dB L _{Ar,Tr}	Predicted EACN Noise Rating Level, dB L _{Ar,Tr}	Below EACN Limit?
NSR03 Property South of Hunger Downs	33	24	Yes
NSR04 Grange Farm	28	14	Yes
NSR05 Normans Farm	23	17	Yes
NSR06 Mulberry Lodge	23	15	Yes
NSR09 Lilleys Farm	27	17	Yes
R10 Bounds Farm	34	27	Yes
R11 Mayfields Farm	33	24	Yes
R12 69 Hungerdown Lane	31	19	Yes
R13 Water house Farm	31	21	Yes

14.9.5 The assessment indicates that operational noise from the proposed EACN Substation would be comfortably below the proposed limits at nearby NSR and therefore the cumulative effects of noise from the proposed substations would be **not significant** due to the proposed EACN Substation at all nearby NSR.

14.10 Conclusions

- 14.10.1 This appendix presents results of the operational noise assessment of the proposed EACN Substation at nearby NSR.
- 14.10.2 The assessment has been conducted in accordance with current guidance and good practice. The assessment draws on noise survey data, and indicative operational plant noise data.
- 14.10.3 The assessment indicates that without mitigation and based on the indicative plant data, there are potential significant adverse effects at nearby NSR due to operational noise from the proposed EACN Substation.
- 14.10.4 Outline mitigation proposals have been highlighted, including plant selection, manufacturer attenuation, screening, and transformer noise enclosures. Based on the inclusion of these indicative mitigation measures, the impact of operational noise from the proposed EACN Substation at nearby NSR would be **negligible** during daytime periods and small during night-time periods. The effect of operational noise would therefore be **not significant**.
- 14.10.5 The assessment includes consideration of the potential cumulative effects from the proposed substations associated with the Five Estuaries and North Falls offshore wind farm schemes which would be located close to the proposed EACN Substation. The assessment indicates that operational noise from the proposed EACN would be comfortably below the proposed limits at nearby NSR. Therefore, the cumulative effects of noise from the proposed substations would be **not significant** assuming each project does not exceed their individual noise rating limits.
- 14.10.6 The assessment is based on indicative plant noise data, and it is anticipated that further assessment would be conducted as the design progresses and included within the ES

(Volume 6 of the DCO application). The design would seek to reduce noise levels due to the operation of the proposed EACN Substation as far as reasonably practicable. Further detailed assessment is secured in the CoCP (document reference 7.2) (Revision G) measure NV21.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
ANC	Association of Noise Consultants
BS	British Standard
dB	Decibels
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
LOAEL	Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level
NaW	Noise at Work
NF	North Falls
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptors
PPGN	Planning Practice Guidance for Noise
SOAEL	Significant Observed Adverse Effect Levels
VE	Five Estuaries

Glossary

Term	Definition
A-Weighted	The A Weighting corrects the variation in the ear's ability to hear different frequencies and provides a good representation of how sound is perceived by the human ear.
Decibel (dB)	Unit for measuring sound levels.
Embedded design measures	Measures for the protection of the environment that are embedded (intrinsic) with the design.
Equivalent Continuous Sound Level (Leq)	Equivalent continuous sound level is a notional steady sound level that causes the same A-weighted sound energy to be received as that due to the actual and possibly fluctuating sound over a period of time T. It can also be used to relate periods of exposure and noise level. For example, halving or doubling the period of exposure is equivalent in sound energy to a decrease or increase of 3dB(A) in the sound level for the original period.
Frequency Weighting Networks	Frequency weighting networks, which are generally built into sound level meters, attenuate the signal at some frequencies and amplify it at others. The A-weighting network approximately corresponds to human frequency response to sound. Sound levels measured with the A-weighting network are expressed in dB(A). Other weighting networks also exist, such as C-weighting which is nearly linear (i.e. unweighted) and other more specialised weighting networks. Variables such as Lp and Leq that can be measured using such weightings are expressed as LpA / LpC, LAeq / LReq etc.
Impact Magnitude	This is the scale of change which a given impact may cause. This is compared to the baseline state and consideration is given to how the change relates to accepted thresholds and standards.
Impact Significance	The level of significance is defined by the magnitude of impact in relation to the sensitivity/value of the environmental receptor.
LA90,T	LA90,T index represents the noise level exceeded for 90 percent of the measurement period, T, and is used to indicate quieter times during the measurement period. It is usually referred to as the background noise level.
LAeq,T	The A-weighted Leq sound level measured over a specified period of time, T.
Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level	This is the level of noise above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.
Lw (Sound power levels)	These are used to describe the noise output of a noise source.

Term	Definition
Magnitude of change	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
Mitigation	The action of reducing the severity and magnitude of change (impact) to the environment. Measures to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for significant adverse effects.
No Observed Effect Level	This is the noise level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise.
Noise	Unwanted sound.
Noise and vibration sensitive receptor (NSR)	A location that is sensitive to noise and/or vibration. The sensitivity of a receptor to noise and vibration varies depending on the receptor type.
Percentile or Statistical Levels	Calculation of the noise level which is exceeded for a certain percent of a total period. Background noise is often defined as the A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for 90% of the specified period T, expressed $L_{90,T}$. Road traffic noise is often characterised in terms of $LA_{10,18h}$.
Rating Level	The A-weighted, L_{eq} , sound pressure level of the sound in question at the assessment location over time period T, adjusted for any tonal character and impulsiveness.
Receptor	The physical resource or user group that would respond to an effect e.g. somebody or something adversely affected by a pollutant.
Residual Effects	The consequence of an 'impact' of construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development after mitigation measures have been applied.
Significance	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Significant observed adverse effect level (SOAEL)	This is the level of noise above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.
Sound	Sound is vibrations travelling through a medium (usually air) that can be perceived by the hearing organs.
Substation	Substations are used to control the flow of power through the electricity system. They are also used to change (or transform) the voltage from a higher to lower voltage to allow it to be transmitted to local homes and businesses.

Bibliography

Association of Noise Consultants (2020) *BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note Version 1.0.*

British Standard Institution (2019) *BS 4142:2014+A1:2019. Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound*

British Standard Institution (2014) *BS 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings*

British Standard Institution (2014) *British Standard 7445-1:2003 – Description and measurement of environmental noise – Part 1: Guide to quantities and procedures, British Standard Institution, 2003.BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise*

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (2024) *Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Statement Volume 6, Part 6, Annex 9.1 Onshore Airborne Noise Baseline Noise Survey*

International Organization for Standardization (2024) *ISO 9613-2:2024 Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors*

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com