

Letter to the Secretary of State

We write in response to your request for further information Public Sector Equality Duty 47. (D6 REP6-133)

Regarding; Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm ; Transmission Assets Public /sector equality statement 1.3.3.5

The close proximity of the site compound in relation to our outdoor riding and grazing areas is attached to the proposed site, so fundamentally will impact this. Even though the company have agreed to erecting fence and have been promised a bund of significant height, this does not help us ascertain the level of noise and vibration.

This is concerning from the horse's welfare, studies have shown that severe noise anxiety is reported to cause serious consequence, impacting both physiology (eg gastrointestinal signs) and these do not improve with time. As well as stress related behavioral responses whether ridden or not. Our large number of disabled riders ; disabilities include [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be put at great danger.

Please find attached Noise anxiety in horses – from a Veterinary Centre.

In addition to the site compound, Wrea Green Equitation Centre is on an agricultural B road with no passing places, linking two villages together. Resulting in chaos in delaying our riders being able to attend their lessons on time which follow one another. Not to mention the emergency services being unable to have 24hour access. Whilst we are aware the company have said there will be traffic management ,this will increase travel time to and from us resulting in loss of business and high congestion in the area, impacting other local businesses including British Aerospace at Warton

There are studies of the effects of wind turbines on horses we have seen no evidence or research of any compound built directly next to a horse riding business like ours.

Until construction would commence we have absolutely no understanding of the effect on our lively hood and the communities that access us and the huge benefits this brings.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide provide information and evidence surrounding noise anxiety in horses due to the possible future developments adjacent to Wrea Green Equitation Centre. I hope this letter is acknowledged and considered prior to pursuing these plans.

Horses are a prey species and a flight animal. They are easily startled with loud noises and become anxious when they are unsure of their surroundings.

Riva et al carried out a study to assess noise anxiety responses in horses. They state that being a prey species, the sensory systems of horses evolved to enable a prompt detection of potential danger, throughout a combination of visual, auditory and olfactory cues.

Compared to visual and olfactory stimuli, unexpected unknown noises seem to elicit rapid flight reactions more frequently. The flight reaction in this sense being bolting behaviour, potentially very dangerous if there are young, disabled or novice riders on board these animals.

The results from the Riva et al study showed that severe noise anxiety is reported to cause serious welfare consequences, impacting both physiology (e.g., gastrointestinal signs, sweating) and behaviour (e.g., running, breaking fence) of the horse. Very anxious horses showed signs of noise reactivity frequently and their reaction did not improve with time (they do not habituate to these stimuli).

It is well known within the equine community that noise anxiety exists in horses, there are many other sources of information to show this. The British Horse Society (BHS) discuss that a horse's range of hearing is greater than a human to higher frequencies (over 33 kHz in the horse compared with under 20 kHz in humans), although a horse may not be able to hear the lowest frequencies audible to humans. Hearing ability is very important to survival for a horse and their ears can pick up sound at a lower volume and a greater distance than will be detected by a human.

On a final note, it's important to know that stressors, such as noise anxiety, will have an influence on both physical and mental health of the horse, as prey animals they're incredibly stoic and therefore may outwardly show no signs of stress at all. Thus meaning, they may appear to not be affected by the change but inwardly they have increases of the stress hormone cortisol. Therefore, it can be very difficult to determine how much the stressor is truly affecting the horse.

If you would like to discuss this any further, please don't hesitate to contact me at the practice on

Yours sincerely,

BVSc Cert AVP(ESO) MRCVS.

References for above information-

Christensen, J.W.; Keeling, L.J.; Nielsen, B.L. Responses of horses to novel visual, olfactory and auditory stimuli. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* **2005**, *93*, 53–65.

Riva, M. et al., 2022. The Impact of Noise Anxiety on Behavior and Welfare of Horses from UK and US Owner's Perspective. *Animals*, *12*(1319), pp. 1-15.

British Horse Society, 2025. *Equine Stress*. [En ligne]

Available at: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/horse-care-and-welfare/behaviour/equine-stress/> [Accès le 10 10 2025].