

# Appendix 9.1 – Records of Correspondence

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 July 2020 13:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Sallachy Wind Farm - agreement of approach to noise assessment

Good afternoon Robin,

ITP Energised are undertaking the noise assessment of the proposed Sallachy Wind Farm (planning reference 20/02189/PAN), and as such I would seek to agree with you our proposed approach to the assessment. I would therefore be most grateful if you could review the below and either confirm by response that you agree, or provide comment where you would seek an alternative approach.

#### **Guidance**

- The operational noise assessment will be undertaken in accordance with ETSU-R-97 and the Institute of Acoustics' Good Practice Guide to ETSU (IoA GPG)
- If required, construction noise will be evaluated using threshold criteria provided in BS5228.

#### **Prediction and evaluation of construction noise and vibration**

- We assume, given the distances between the proposed wind farm and the closest noise sensitive receptors (NSRs), that construction noise will not be significant, and can be managed by the implementation of good practice measures, as set out in BS5228.
- We will undertake a simplified construction noise calculation scenario to confirm this, which will assume that all likely construction plant and activities will be undertaken simultaneously and at the point of closest approach to NSRs, to determine whether the threshold levels will be exceeded.
- Should predicted construction noise thresholds be exceeded then more detailed models of more realistic scenarios will be undertaken, and mitigation will be specified if required.
- We consider that vibration effects at NSRs associated with wind farm construction will be negligible, therefore further assessment of vibration will be scoped out.

#### **Baseline characterisation and derivation of operational noise limits**

- The Applicant does not propose to undertake a baseline noise survey
- For EIA purposes the baseline noise environment will therefore be characterised by desk study, and described as a rural environment in which anthropogenic noise will not be significant, and noise from natural sources, such as bird call, the wind, wind-blown vegetation and waves on Loch Shin will be the primary control on baseline noise levels
- With reference to The Highland Council's supplementary guidance for wind energy developments, we note that the overall fixed minimum daytime noise limit should be 35 dBL<sub>A90,10min</sub>, and the overall fixed minimum night-time noise limit should be 38 dBL<sub>A90,10min</sub>
- The operational noise limits in the assessment will therefore not vary with wind speed / background noise levels and will be 'flat'.

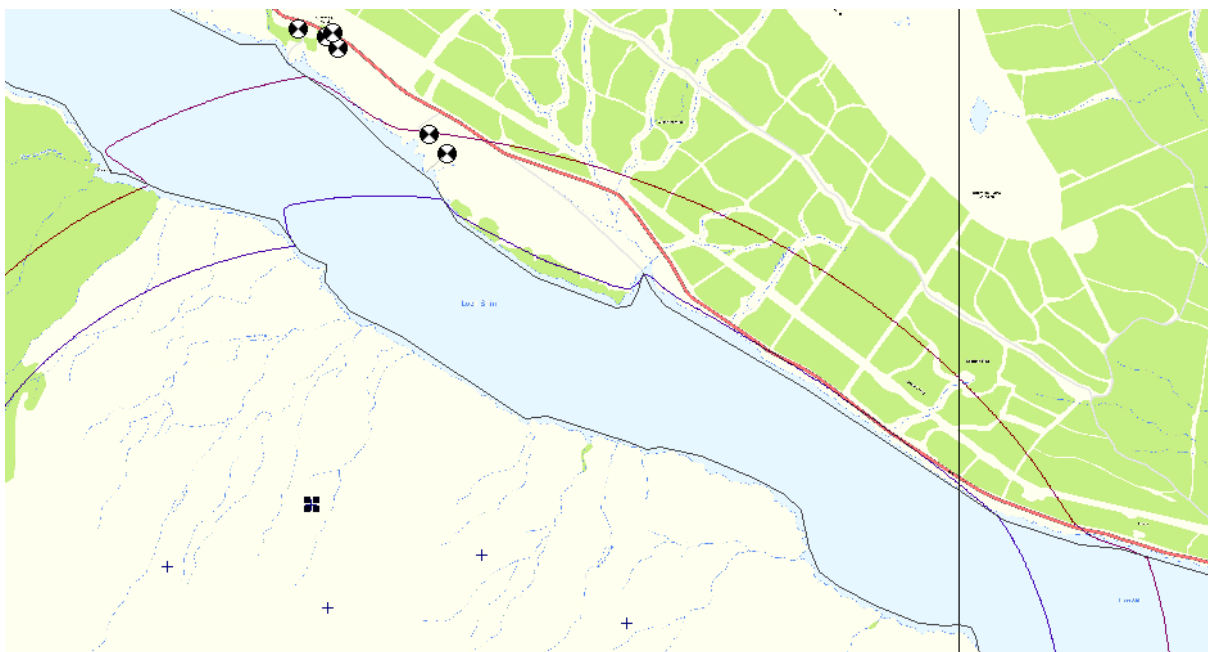
### Cumulative noise

- We note that there is a single turbine associated with the Overscaig Hotel, and that this appears to be consented to a simplified ETSU limit of 35 dB at the closest non-involved property; Oak Lodge.
- With reference to the attached preliminary 35 dBL<sub>A90</sub> contour, the Overscaig Hotel and adjacent properties lie beyond the contour.
- We therefore propose to scope out detailed evaluation of cumulative effects associated with the existing domestic-scale turbine – *I would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail should you wish to call me.*
- We have not identified any other wind turbines or existing/proposed wind farms within approx. 5 – 10 km of Sallachy, and therefore do not anticipate any potential cumulative effects. *We have reviewed the Highland Council map of existing and proposed wind turbines, but please let me know if there are any cumulative schemes you think should be considered.*

### Prediction and evaluation of operational noise levels

- Operational noise levels will be predicted in accordance with ETSU and the IoA GPG.
- Noise propagation over water will consider ground absorption of G=0.0.
- We have determined that corrections for concave topography apply at the closest properties (Carrachan NC 42226 22711).
- With reference to a corrected 35 dB contour provided in Figure 1 (+3 dB corrected contour is the outer of the two lines shown), we note that predicted noise levels will be above the proposed flat 35 dB daytime noise limit at these properties at higher wind speeds, and mitigation will be specified accordingly.
- We further note that, even with a +3 dB correction, the 35 dBL<sub>A90</sub> noise contour does not include the Overscaig Hotel, or properties potentially affected by noise from the small turbine at Overscaig.

Figure 1 – 35 dBL<sub>A90</sub> contour and 35 dBL<sub>A90</sub> contour including +3 dB concave topography correction



I hope the above meets with your approval, however, should you wish to discuss any aspect please don't hesitate to call me (mobile no. below) or respond to this email.

Many thanks in advance,

Simon

**Simon Waddell | Principal Noise Consultant | ITP Energised**

[Redacted]

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Hi Simon, I understand Glencassley is also being looked at again but I'm not sure at what stage in the Planning process it is at. It may be that you will need to consider cumulative noise from that development although my understanding is that priority is usually given to whichever application is decided first. In these circumstances it is sometimes useful for some liaison between developers and consultants to perhaps submit a joint noise assessment.

Otherwise the proposed approach seems fine if cumulative noise does not need to be considered. To clarify, where no baseline survey is undertaken the noise limit would be the simplified ETSU limit of 35dB LA90 at wind speeds up to 10m/s day and night. This would apply to cumulative noise.

With regard to the small scale turbine at Overscaig I'm happy for this to be discounted from cumulative calculations.

I'm happy with the proposed approach to construction noise.

Regards,

Robin Fraser

Environmental Health Officer

Highland Council, Community Services, 38 Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UF

[Redacted]