

## Appendix 8.1 Email Consultation with NAC Environmental Health

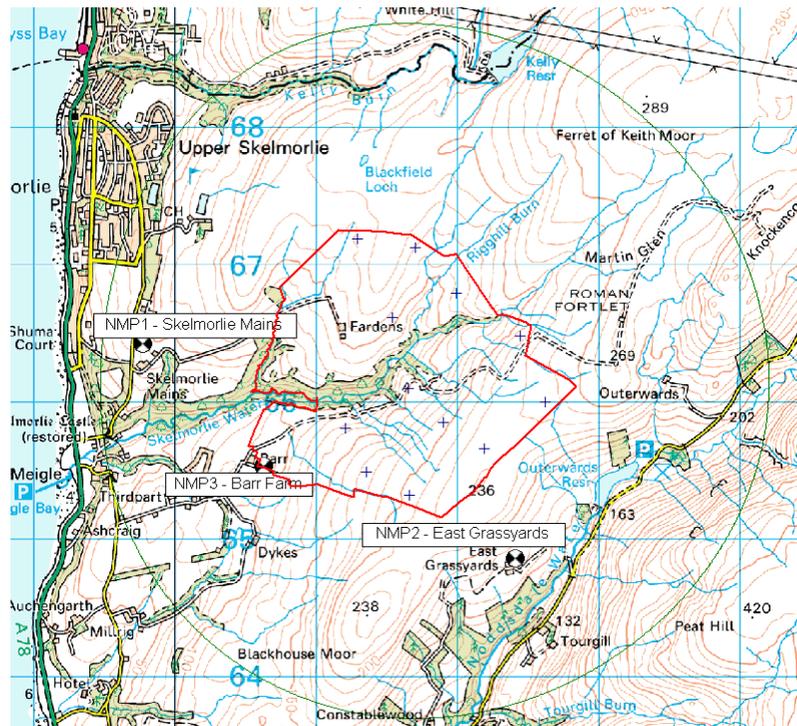
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Good afternoon Paul,

I called to discuss the proposed scope and approach of our noise assessment, in particular to agree the details of the baseline noise survey and your colleague informed me you are currently out of office.

Hopefully you will have seen the Scoping Report for the project, setting out our proposed approach to the assessment. We hope to attend site in the next couple of weeks (potentially next week) to commence the baseline noise survey. To this end, please could you confirm whether the proposed monitoring locations shown in Figure 1 (labelled black and white circles) are suitably representative of noise sensitive receptors in the study area?

**Figure 1 – Proposed baseline noise survey monitoring locations**



The proposed turbine locations are shown as blue crosses, the 35 dBL<sub>A90</sub> noise contour is shown as a green line. The proposed baseline survey locations and the rationale for their selection is provided below:

- **NMP1 – Skelmorlie Mains** – anticipated to be representative of the properties to the west of the wind farm, including Upper Skelmorlie. Proposed monitoring location selected based on remoteness from the village of Skelmorlie, forested areas and watercourses, therefore likely to be representative of the quietest background noise levels in the vicinity.
- **NMP2 – East Grassyards** – anticipated to be representative of properties within the Noddsdale Water glen, south-east of the wind farm, including receptor “Outwards”. Proposed monitoring location selected based on remoteness from road, areas of forestry and watercourses, therefore likely to be representative of the quietest background noise levels in the vicinity.
- **NMP3 – Barr Farm** - anticipated to be representative of properties to the west and south-west of the proposed wind farm, including Dykes, Thirdpart and Meigle. Proposed monitoring location selected based on remoteness from road, areas of forestry and watercourses, therefore likely to be representative of the quietest background noise levels in the vicinity.

There are no identified sensitive receptors to the north or north-west of the wind farm, therefore no monitoring locations are proposed.

Monitoring will be in accordance with the requirements of ETSU and the IoA Good Practice Guide. Wind measurement is currently being undertaken using a met mast, and measured background noise levels will be correlated with measured 10min wind speeds. A rain gauge will be sited at one of the noise monitoring locations.

I hope that the above meets with your agreement, however, please let me know at your earliest convenience if you have any questions or comments. Should you wish to meet with us at the site at the commissioning of the baseline survey, you would be most welcome. Should you not wish to, or be unable to attend, we will provide a detailed photographic record of the final selected monitoring locations to you shortly after commissioning, do demonstrate compliance with the IoA Good Practice Guide recommendations.

Many thanks in advance,

Simon

Hi Simon,

There are no objections from Environmental Health to the sites located.

However, I would make the following comments:

1. The scoping request document advises that full consultation with both North Ayrshire and Inverclyde Councils Environmental Health will take place. I am not sure if you have consulted Inverclyde- I note from your e mail below that you do not consider there to be sensitive receptors to the north or north-west of the wind farm. I have consulted with Inverclyde Council on this and await their response.

With regards to the selected sites for background noise monitoring in North Ayrshire:

2. The submitted noise monitoring positions within the scoping request varies from that submitted in this e -mail. The scoping request suggests Skelmorlie Castle Road yet NMP 1 below suggests Skelmorlie Mains.

Assuming it is Skelmorlie Mains- can you confirm what property? It may be that Skelmorlie Mains Cottage/Klondyke Cottage will be most suitable.

3. Can you confirm whether any agricultural activities take place at Barr farm? If so please advise what measures will be taken to omit noise measurements affected by such activities from the data.

Happy to discuss.

Regards,

*Paul Brennan*

Paul Brennan

Specialist Environmental Health Officer

Hi Paul,

Thanks for this, responses to your comments/queries as follows:

- Many thanks for consulting with Inverclyde, though as noted, we have not identified any sensitive receptors to the north-west. Certainly it would be best if they could confirm that they agree with this approach.
- Skelmorlie Mains Cottage/Klondyke Cottage would be our preferred option, subject to consent from the resident to monitor there and the audibility of the nearby small watercourse. We will evaluate the noise environment/noise sources present on our arrival to confirm whether the chosen location could be used as a proxy for nearby properties.
- Currently we are unaware as to the nature of agricultural activities at Barr Farm, however, the monitoring location will be chosen so as to be representative the quietest area of residential amenity of the property, such that any agricultural noise is minimised as far as is possible. The data will be evaluated following the survey to identify any potentially non-representative noise events, and any such data will be filtered out, in accordance with the recommendations of the IoA Good Practice Guide.

I'd be grateful if you could let me know if your colleagues at Inverclyde provide any further comment, and I would again extend our invitation to meet you at site, following installation of the monitoring equipment, should you wish to review the sites selected.

Best regards,

Simon

Hi Simon,

Having given further consideration to the proposed noise monitoring stations, I would suggest an additional station is set up in Skelmorlie-perhaps Skelmorlie Castle Road.

Given this is the closest town to the proposed development I believe it would be prudent to know the background area rather than make assumptions and comparisons to Skelmorlie Mains.

It may be the case that Skelmorlie Castle Road is not as quiet as Skelmorlie Mains-however the preference is to establish this as a matter of fact.

Let me know what your thoughts are.

Regards,

*Paul Brennan*

Paul Brennan

Specialist Environmental Health Officer

Paul,

Thanks for your time this afternoon, it's been helpful to discuss the baseline survey approach with you.

As discussed:

- We agree that the noise environment at Skelmorlie Mains is likely to be sufficiently similar to that at Barr Farm, that measurements at the latter will be representative of the former.
- We note your request that noise levels representative of properties within Skelmorlie should be measured, and will therefore seek to obtain permission to monitor at a property on the eastern side of Skelmorlie, potentially on Caskie Drive, Annatyrd Drive, Innes Park Road or Hillview.
- We will monitor at Fardens – at our client's request.
- We will seek agreement with Inverclyde that they do not wish us to undertake any additional monitoring at locations representative of properties within their administrative area.

Once we have permission agreed to monitor at the four monitoring positions we will provide you with confirmation of the addresses, and following installation of the monitoring kit we will provide you with a photographic record, grid references and a description of the noise environment at each, for your further review.

I'd be grateful if you could confirm by response that you're happy with the above.

With thanks and regards,

Simon

Simon,

I would confirm your methodology is acceptable.

Regards,

*Paul Brennan*

Paul Brennan

Specialist Environmental Health Officer

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