



# Noise Management Plan

Version 1

PORT OF ABERDEEN



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## Document Control Information

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## Overview

Port of Aberdeen is the principal commercial port serving the Northeast of Scotland. The port plays a key role in international trade and is a key enabler within the local, regional, and national supply chain. In 2022, the port handled 6,813 vessel arrivals and approximately 3.2m tonnes of cargo; contributing to an annual turnover of £32.9m.

The Port of Aberdeen has recently invested £400m into the South Harbour Expansion project which is the largest marine infrastructure project in the UK, as well as the largest in Trust Port history. South Harbour provides 1,400 meters of quay at water depths of up to 10.5 meters, with a channel width of 165 meters. Increased activity is supporting local jobs, attract local supply chain investment, and profits are being reinvested back into the port to improve the facilities in future.

## Interaction with the Port of Aberdeen's Environmental Management System

The Port of Aberdeen operates in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is accredited to the ISO14001 standard, ensuring that continuous improvement on environmental performance is firmly established in the organisation's strategic framework. The EMS is connected to the port's Integrated Management System (IMS) 'My Compliance'.

Lloyds Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) have been appointed by the Port of Aberdeen to carry out two environmental surveillance audits per year which are robustly assessed against the port's environmental performance on ISO14001 standards, including:

- Scope of the EMS
- Evidence of an established Environmental Policy (see <https://www.portofaberdeen.co.uk/harbour-information/hseq/health-safety-environmental-policy/>)
- Evaluation of Risk and Opportunities
- Evaluation of Environmental Aspects
- Confirmation of Environmental Objectives and plans for achieving them
- Operational Control Procedures
- Procedures for Emergency Preparedness and Response
- List of Interested Parties, legal and other Requirements.
- Competence records
- Monitoring and Performance Information
- Compliance Obligation Record
- Internal Auditing Programme and Results
- Management Review results
- Nonconformities and Corrective Actions

## **Aim of the Noise Management Plan**

This Noise Management Plan puts in place reasonable measures to reduce the impact of noise associated with the port activities.

The Port of Aberdeen undertakes a range of activities associated with shipping and port operations. Some of these activities have the potential to transmit sound over distances to impact people, housing areas and to cause noise nuisance.

## **Regulatory Requirement**

Statutory Nuisance -Environmental Protection Act 1990

For the noise to count as a statutory nuisance it must do one of the following:

- Unreasonably and substantially interfere with the use or enjoyment of a home or other premises.
- Injure health or be likely to injure health.

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints>)

## **Noise Impact Mitigation**

In advance of receiving a vessel into the Port of Aberdeen, a plan is prepared for berthing the ship and to accommodate the planned activities associated with the ship.

The operations team, in consultation with the Harbour Master, will normally review these activities and decide whether such activities are likely to cause noise impacts.

If the noise is generated from the vessel the Harbour Master will lead the reactive effort to deal with the issue.

If the noise is generated from port operations the Operations Manager and the operations team will lead.

If noise impacts are likely, a risk assessment will be undertaken, and a mitigation plan will be identified (by the Operations Team). This may be simply relocating the ship to a more remote berth, or the operation team will be introducing other controls to minimise the impact.

The Noise Management Plan is a living document that will be updated periodically by the SHEQ Department, to account for feedback on the effectiveness of the proposed control measures.

## **Monitoring and Spot Checks**

If required, spot checks on noise levels can be undertaken by trained operations personnel and if found to exceed acceptable levels, a further mitigation - including work practices, timing methods will be looked at to reduce the impacts.

Noise monitors are maintained and calibrated by a Noise Management Consultant (see Appendix 1 for details of available noise monitors and their use in South Harbour). There are currently no noise monitors at North Harbour.

## **Prolonged Noise Levels**

Where “noisy” activities are likely to occur for a prolonged period of time, Operations may decide to commission noise monitoring and modelling experts in order to develop a mitigation plan with acceptable levels. Audio recording samples can be used to identify key sources and levels of noise.

If noise monitoring is required, the Port of Aberdeen can set the project noise limits and trigger automatic alerts whenever these are exceeded (email & text).

### Complaints

Any noise complaints received from the public will be investigated including any associated measuring or monitoring. If complaint is valid and supported by evidence, Port of Aberdeen will undertake mitigating steps to reduce the noise level.

Investigation of complaints or exceedance of trigger levels may include but not be limited to the following actions:

- Site inspection (including subjective impression of noise and/or vibration at complainant's premises).
- Inspect site daily record sheets including vessel movements and operations on site.
- Review the noise monitoring results to determine as far as possible the activities/plant responsible for exceeding the relevant noise level.
- Investigate possible extraneous noise sources, e.g. neighboring sites.
- Consider the influence of weather conditions (review weather data).
- Inspect and undertake field calibration of monitoring equipment.
- Evaluate and implement any reasonably practicable means of reducing the measured operation noise levels to the predicted level (or as low as is reasonably practicable).
- Prepare an incident/complaint investigation report.
- Close out the complaint by issuing the investigation report.

### Incident Recording

Noise incidents will be defined according to the Port of Aberdeen Reporting and Investigation Procedure.

All personnel, including visitors, subcontractors, and supply chain, must report all environmental incidents and near misses promptly, as per Port of Aberdeen Incident Reporting and Investigation Procedure.

In the event of a noise exceedance or complaint being received, a review of mitigation measures and working methods will need to be undertaken between the Port of Aberdeen and the vessel team involved with the works cause the nuisance.

### Appendix 1 Noise Monitoring Locations at South Harbour

There are 3 long term noise monitors (Sonitus EM-2010) sited at the nearest noise sensitive positions.

The location is positioned to account for the different direction in which noise can travel (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

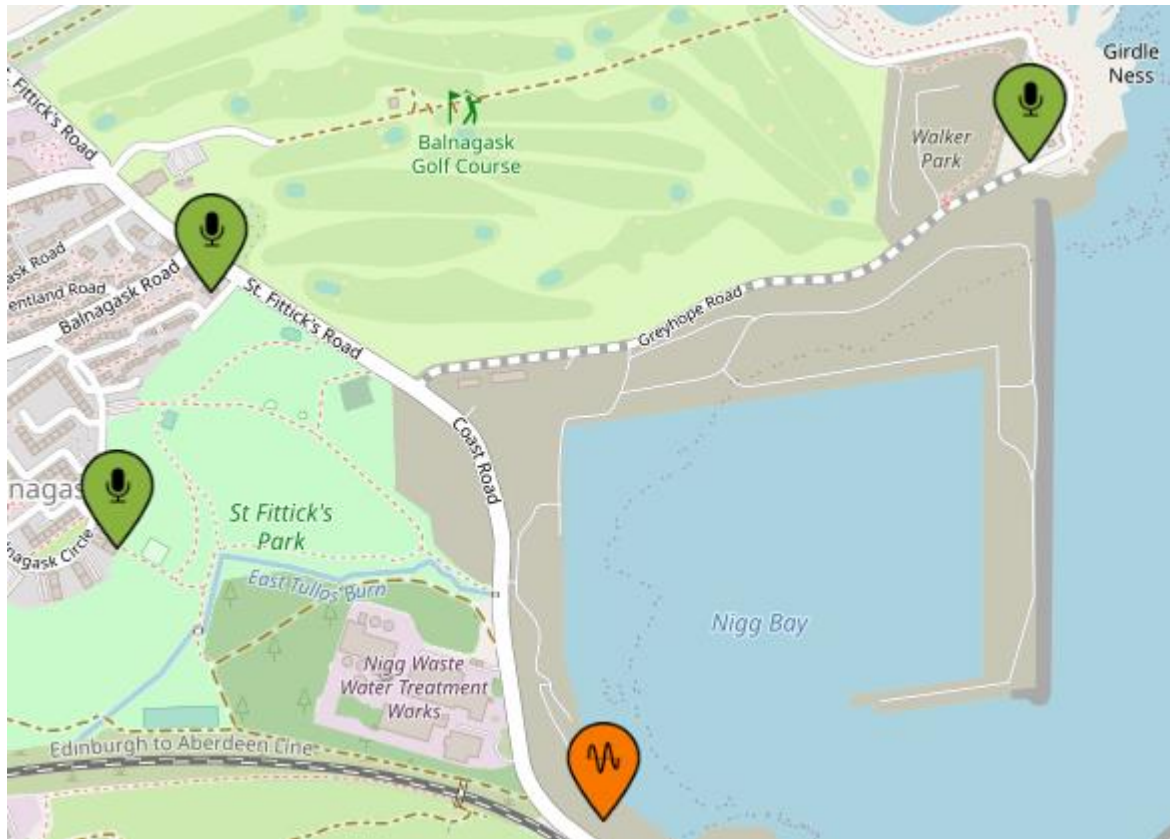


Figure 1. Port of Aberdeen South Harbour noise monitoring locations

Project Monitors					
LABEL	MODEL	LOCATION	ADDED ON	LIMITS	STATUS ⓘ
Noise Monitor s/n 86	EM2010	Torry 2B   Balnagask Circle <a href="#">(view map)</a>	Oct 19, 2020	11	●
Noise Monitor s/n 88	EM2010-A	Torry 2A   St Fitticks   Replacement Unit <a href="#">(view map)</a>	Oct 19, 2020	11	●
Noise Monitor s/n 429A	EM2010-A	Greyhope Road / edge of site REMOVED - Temp Coverage <a href="#">(view map)</a>	Nov 1, 2018	10	●
Vibration Monitor s/n. 11887	AvaTrace M80	M80 SSSI <a href="#">(view map)</a>	Apr 6, 2022	2	●

Figure 2. Port of Aberdeen South Harbour noise monitoring stations details

## Noise Recording

The monitor is configured to record  $L_{Aeq}$ ,  $L_{AMAX}$ ,  $L_{A10}$  and  $L_{A90}$ . The monitors upload the 5-minute samples to a web portal so that data can be reviewed at any point.

Capability exists to set the project noise limits and trigger automatic alerts whenever these are exceeded (email & text). Alerts allow action to be taken as soon after the exceedance as possible. The monitors are also configured with audio recording so when levels exceed a set trigger level, a short audio recording is made.

## Review History

Date	Reason for Review	Changes
28-11-2023	Document Published	