

**Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL
Connection Environmental Impact
Assessment
Volume 4 | Technical Appendix 13.2
Outline Construction Noise Management
Plan**

September 2022



13.2 Technical Appendix – Outline Construction Noise Management Plan

This Technical Appendix provides a framework for a construction noise management plan (CNMP) to be integrated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). It will require to be updated when full details of the construction activities are available.

13.2.1 Construction Noise Management Plan - Framework

The indicative assessment of potential construction noise activities shows that construction noise limits for daytime are met according to BS5228. However, noise may be above the background noise level for the area and a perceived change in noise levels could occur. The nature of construction activities means these would any potential impacts are localised, short term and intermittent.

No specific mitigation has been identified as required for the construction schedule at the time of the assessment; however, it is best practice that construction is controlled with CNMP. Mitigation measures will be committed to in accordance with the guidance and procedures outlined in BS5228-1. Procedures will include:

- clear construction schedule detailing identified equipment to be used and schedule;
- detailed plan showing how permitted working hours will be adhered to;
- any changes to predicted noise levels and work stages to be reassessed;
- minimising the noise as much as is reasonably practicable at source;
- attenuation of noise propagation;
- carrying out identified high noise level activities at a time when they are least likely to cause a nuisance to residents;
- providing advance notice of unavoidable periods of high noise levels to residents;
- a detailed plan on community relations, including a community engagement plan, the setting up of a complaint phone line, a procedure to notify residents of any necessary work outside of the permitted working hours and an approach to the investigation of any complaints.

13.2.2 Potential Mitigation

In order to maintain a low impact on the noise environment, consideration will be given to attenuation of construction noise at source by means of the following:

- Giving due consideration to the effect of noise, in selection of construction methods.
- Avoidance of vehicles waiting or queuing, particularly on public highways or in residential areas with their engines running.
- Scheduling of deliveries to arrive during daytime hours only. Care should be taken to minimise noise while unloading delivery vehicles. Delivery vehicles will comply with the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), which should follow routes that minimise residential roads.
- Ensure plant and equipment are regularly and properly maintained. All plant should be situated to sufficiently minimise noise impact at nearby properties.
- Fit and maintain silencers to plant, machinery, and vehicles where appropriate and necessary.
- Operate plant and equipment in modes of operation that minimise noise, and power down plant when not in use.
- Use electrically powered plant rather than diesel or petrol driven, where this is practicable.
- Working typically will not take place outside of daytime defined hours. Daytime is defined to be 07:00 – 19:00 on weekdays and 07:00 – 13:00 on Saturdays.

Consideration will be given to the attenuation of construction noise in the transmission path by means of the following:

- Locate plant and equipment liable to create noise as far from noise sensitive receptors as is reasonably practicable or use natural land topography to reduce line of sight noise transmission.
- Noise screens, hoardings and barriers should be erected where appropriate and necessary to shield high-noise level activities.
- Provide lined acoustic enclosures for equipment such as static generators and when applicable portable generators, compressors, and pumps.

The nature and effect of the construction operations, including increased traffic noise, results in the need to minimise noise produced during these activities. Best practicable means will be employed to minimise noise produced by the works. In establishing criteria, controls and working methods, account will be taken of guidance provided in BS5228-1.

In setting working hours, consideration is given to the fact that the level of noise through the normal working day is more easily tolerated than during the evening and night-time. It is anticipated all works will be conducted during daytime defined hours.

Essential work outside of defined daytime hours should be subject to prior notification Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) and consultation with the local community.

Concerns have been raised by ABC about the noise from any potential rock breaking. The details provided with the generic construction schedule do not specifically reference the need for such activity. However, if rock breaking is found to be required then the applicant will assess potential impacts and agree a mitigation plan in consultation with Argyll and Bute Council's Environmental Health officer as soon as possible.

An updated Construction Noise Impact Assessment (CNIA) will be undertaken by the Appointed Contractor as part of their update to this CNMP. The CNMP will relate specific work activities and identify mitigation measures where appropriate to ensure appropriate construction noise levels are achieved at all NSRs.

Several safeguards exist to minimise the effects of construction noise and these will be implemented, where necessary, during the construction of the OHLs. These safeguards included:

- the various EC Directives and UK Statutory Instruments that limit noise emissions of a variety of construction plant; and
- guidance set out in BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 which covers noise control on construction sites.

13.2.3 Public Liaison and Complaint Procedure

A contact telephone number will be made available for the public including local residents to report complaints or lodge enquiries.

Local residents will be notified in advance of specific construction activities, particularly where these are likely to produce higher noise levels and increased risk of complaint or adverse impact occurring at noise sensitive receptors, thereby diminishing the surprise impact of noise associated with those activities.

The following procedure will be adopted in response to receiving any complaint direct to the Applicant or via ABC.

- The complaint will be entered into a complaint register.
- The complaint will be investigated, to establish the validity of the complaint, by reviewing available noise measurement to identify periods of noise in excess of defined limits.
- Where necessary, remedial measures will be investigated, and the complainants informed of the actions taken.

A short note will be prepared and issued to ABC detailing the outcome of the complaint investigation and any remedial measures. This will be made available as soon as is reasonably practicable following the completion of the investigation.