

Environment Agency Update – Noise reports relating to A1 Wokingham Car Spares

May 2021

Introduction

In February 2020 we required A1 Wokingham Car Spares to review and update their Noise Management Plan (NMP).

In December 2020 we approved the NMP for A1's routine hours of operation. A1 were also advised to install modifications to reduce noise from their baler machine. We can confirm that the planned modifications to the baler have recently been completed.

This is the first of our regular updates to outline our work regulating A1 Wokingham Car Spares.

Environment Agency role

We use Environmental Permits to ensure waste activities cause minimal impact to the environment. Our officers assess compliance against permit conditions. We categorise any non-compliances based on the environmental risks and impact. Our aim is to ensure sites comply with their permits and we will use the tools available to us in a proportionate and transparent way in order to achieve this.

It is not a requirement of the Environmental Permitting Regulations for permitted sites to eradicate all noise. We expect Operators to follow good practice and to 'prevent or, where that is not practicable, to minimise the noise'. It is important to note that while reports of noise can be an indicator as to whether the noise controls are working effectively, to assess permit compliance we will rely on our trained officer's assessment of noise pollution.

Update on Noise Reports and Investigations

We recently carried out a site inspection which included an assessment of the modifications to the baler. We confirmed that complete enclosure of the baler engine has been provided and that enhanced exhaust silencers have been installed. The baler was operational at the time and the officer's assessment was that there was a significant reduction in noise from the baler. Our officers have also been monitoring noise levels in the Limmerhill and Woosehill areas. Our monitoring results suggest there has been a decrease in noise levels compared to our equivalent monitoring in 2019.

Further modifications to the noise barrier will be completed at future dates.

Our most recent compliance visit did not result in any permit breaches.



Reporting Noise

We aim to respond to all serious environmental incidents. Our ability to respond to less serious incidents depends on the resources we have available at the time. We are not resourced to respond to all incidents reported to us.

We continue to notify A1 Wokingham Car Spares of all incidents reported to us and pass on non-sensitive information relating to what noise was heard.

Current situation

From 1 May 2021 the team regulating A1 Wokingham Car Spares will be changing. We will continue to routinely monitor A1's compliance with their permit and the associated NMP.

We will be providing updates to interested parties via this regular bulletin.

Enquiries or correspondence relating to A1 should be submitted as follows:

- General Enquiries and FOI requests: National Customer Contact Centre (NCCC) - 03708506506
- Reporting a pollution: ICS Incident Hotline - 0800 80 70 60
- Other Correspondence: Thames Enquiries – enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

