

From: David Denham
Sent: 12 September 2023 10:38
To: James Neave
Subject: RE: WSCC/021/23 - Elbridge Farm - Further info to EHO 24 08 23

****EXTERNAL****

Good morning James,

Apologies for the delay in my response.

I have now reviewed the noise consultant's comments and respond as follows.

Background sound level – I appreciate that the site is operational and therefore the background sound levels would be difficult to obtain, however BS4142 (at paragraph 8.4) advises the use of a proxy location in these circumstances, where the residual sound is considered comparable to that of the assessment location, this approach hasn't been adopted and could have been. Additionally, measurements could have been undertaken outside of site operational hours, i.e. just before start up and after site operations cease.

Assessment outcome – To clarify, BS4142:2014+A1 2019 advises that “*Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact*”. In light of this advice, a rating level of +3dB above the background sound level cannot be considered to have a low impact as suggested by the consultant. To reiterate my point the standard states that “*a difference of +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on context*” therefore an assessment of +3dB sits between an “*adverse*” and “*low*” impact depending on context, however with the limited background sound monitoring the impact may be greater than reported. BS4142 places emphasis on ensuring that assessment outcomes are determined in context and the context here is that the site is already operational and as an existing site, nearby receptors may be less sensitive than if the scenario was a new noise source being introduced.

I note the consultant's comments on the wording of the proposed condition and in particular the use of the phrase ‘ambient’ which was a typo on my part, I would therefore suggest the following revised condition;

The ‘rating’ level of noise emitted from the proposed plant and equipment to be installed on the site (determined using BS4142:2014A1:2019 ‘Methods for rating and assessment industrial and commercial sound’ and subsequent amendments) shall be no greater than 3dB above the prevailing background sound level LA90, T, during operational hours.

Reason: To protect the amenity of local residents in accordance with Policy QE SP1 of the Adopted Local Plan 2011 – 2031 / xxxx WSCC policy reference

Many Thanks

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