

James Neave

From: Christian Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 22 August 2023 14:05
To: James Neave
Cc: Andrew Sierakowski; Kirstie May
Subject: RE: Elbridge Farm - Further information required - JN to Agent 31 07 23
Attachments: EHO.pdf

****EXTERNAL****

James,

The Applicant's noise consultant has considered a response to the EHO's comments. Please see his comments below:

"Our initial assessment was prepared to demonstrate that the proposals would not result in an increase in noise levels, with mitigation measures proposed to reduce the noise levels at the properties adjacent to the site access, which were affected principally from the vehicle movements.

As a result, we only carried out limited noise monitoring on site, which included a period when the site was stood to establish the typical weekday background noise levels, which were used to demonstrate that the proposals would result in a reduced potential for adverse impact. In order to obtain the short duration where the background levels were obtained, the site needed to be stood, which was only possible during a break period.

The EHO comments that we only carried out limited background noise monitoring, which is correct. Unless the site were to close for a period to include a weekday and Saturday morning, it would not be possible to obtain further background data. As discussed above, the purpose of our assessment was to demonstrate a betterment, not to carry out a full assessment for a *new* site.

The source data we assumed within our modelling was provided in Table 4.1 of our report, which was based upon data measured adjacent to the plant presently operating on site (thus seeking to minimise potential uncertainties). If required, we can provide the detailed output from the modelling software, which would provide the additional information requested. Again, as we were assessing a noise change, we did not consider it necessary to include all the modelling assumptions within our report.

The officer comments that the assessment outcome does not appear to object to our conclusions, given the limited baseline data. He is incorrect, however, in concluding that a rating level of +3dB(A) above background is potentially an adverse impact. The actual criteria for the initial BS 4142 assessment is a difference of around 5 dB(A) is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending upon context. There is no reference that a 3 dB(A) difference would result in adverse impacts. On this basis, if the suggested condition were to be imposed on any grant of planning permission, I would suggest the following amendments and removing reference to ambient, which is incorrect phrasing when referring to background noise levels:

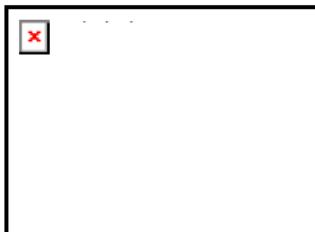
"The 'rating' level of noise emitted from the proposed plant and equipment to be installed on the site (determined using BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 'Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound') shall be no greater than 5dB above the prevailing background sound level LA90,T during operational hours (07:00 - 18:00)"

Alternatively, the condition could simply refer to our noise assessment report to ensure that the operational noise levels do not exceed those predicted in our report. Given that it is difficult to measure background noise levels as the site is presently operational, a condition on this basis may be preferable and potentially more enforceable."

I will come back to you on the other points as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Christian Smith MRTPI MCI fCMgr
Director



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