

KR08078

Hitchin Express

Noise Impact Assessment...

Standard: British Standard 4142: 2014

Site: Hitchin Express

Address: 9-10 High Street

Hitchin

Hertfordshire

Postcode: SG5 1BH

Customer: Tesco Stores Ltd

Address: Shire Park

Kestrel Way

Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire

Postcode: AL7 1GA

Issue: Version 1.1

Date: 18th May 2026

Status: Current Document

KR Associates (UK) Ltd

Quietly confident...

Revisions...

KR08078		Project	Hitchin Express		
		Title	Replacement refrigeration and air conditioning equipment		
		Standard	British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019		
Issue	Date	Details of Revision			
v1_1	18/05/2026	Description	Report issue for submission to Local Authority		
		Signature			
		Name	Mr. R. Scrivener	Miss N Truman	Mr R Scrivener
		Position	Technical Director	Project Manager	Technical Director

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KR Associates...

KR Associates (UK) Ltd (Company No. 04813349) registered office at 56 Bassett Green Road, Southampton. SO16 3DX.

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1. Executive Summary....

1.1. Instruction

KR Associates (UK) Ltd have been instructed by Tesco Stores Ltd to undertake an environmental noise survey at the Tesco Express located at 9-10 High Street in Hitchin. The report will determine if the installation of the proposed plant will have a significant adverse impact in terms of noise on the local noise sensitive properties.

1.2. Executive Summary (Repeated at Section 6)

1.2.1 Assessment Position

The possible residential flats over the commercial properties in Brand Street are located around 28 m from the dedicated plant area on the flat roof towards the front of the store.

1.2.2 Background Noise Measurements

Day Time (07:00 – 19:00)			Evening (19:00 – 23:00)			Night Time (23:00 – 07:00)		
L _{Amax,1h}	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	L _{Amax,1h}	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	L _{Amax,15m}	L _{Aeq,15m}	L _{A90,15m}
54 - 69 dB	59 - 92 dB	50 - 57 dB	49 - 60 dB	58 - 82 dB	43 - 54 dB	40 - 59 dB	53 - 76 dB	35 - 55 dB
Minimum Background		50 dB	Minimum Background		43 dB	Minimum Background		35 dB

1.2.3 Criterion at Assessment Position

To comply with the revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”) and the guidance within the Local Plan, the resultant noise levels at the nearest residential dwellings should be below the underlying background noise levels when assessed in accordance with British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019.

1.2.4 Mitigation Measures

No specific mitigation measures will be required at this site.

1.2.5 Assessment of Noise Levels

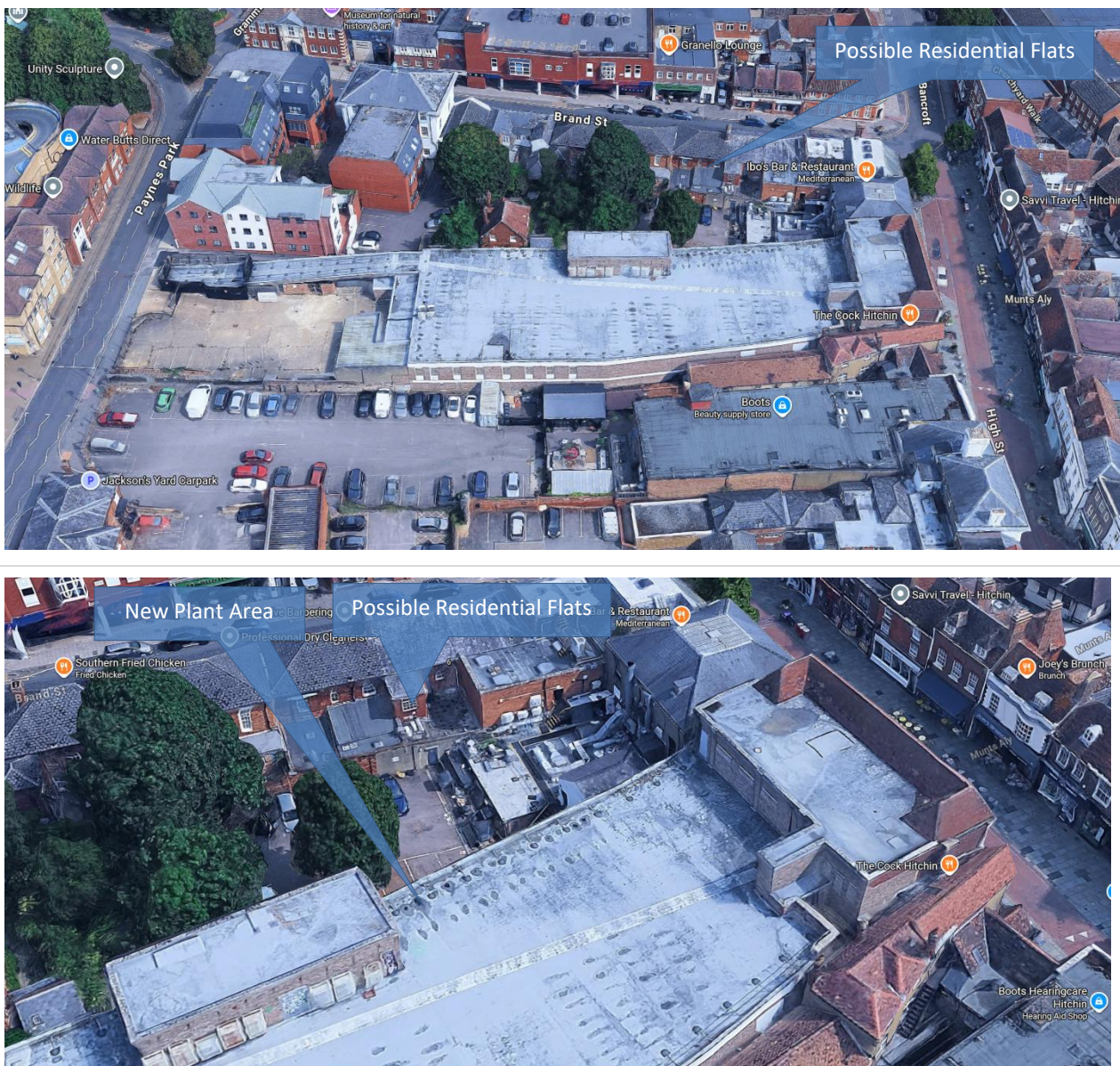
Day Time (07:00 – 19:00)			Evening (19:00 – 23:00)			Night Time (23:00 – 07:00)		
L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142
37 dB	50 dB	-13 dB	37 dB	43 dB	-7 dB	24 dB	35 dB	-11 dB

1.2.6 Conclusions

The resultant noise levels from the proposed mechanical equipment will result in noise levels that comply in full with the Local Plan and are at levels that are very unlikely to give rise to complaints from residents.

2. Site Location...

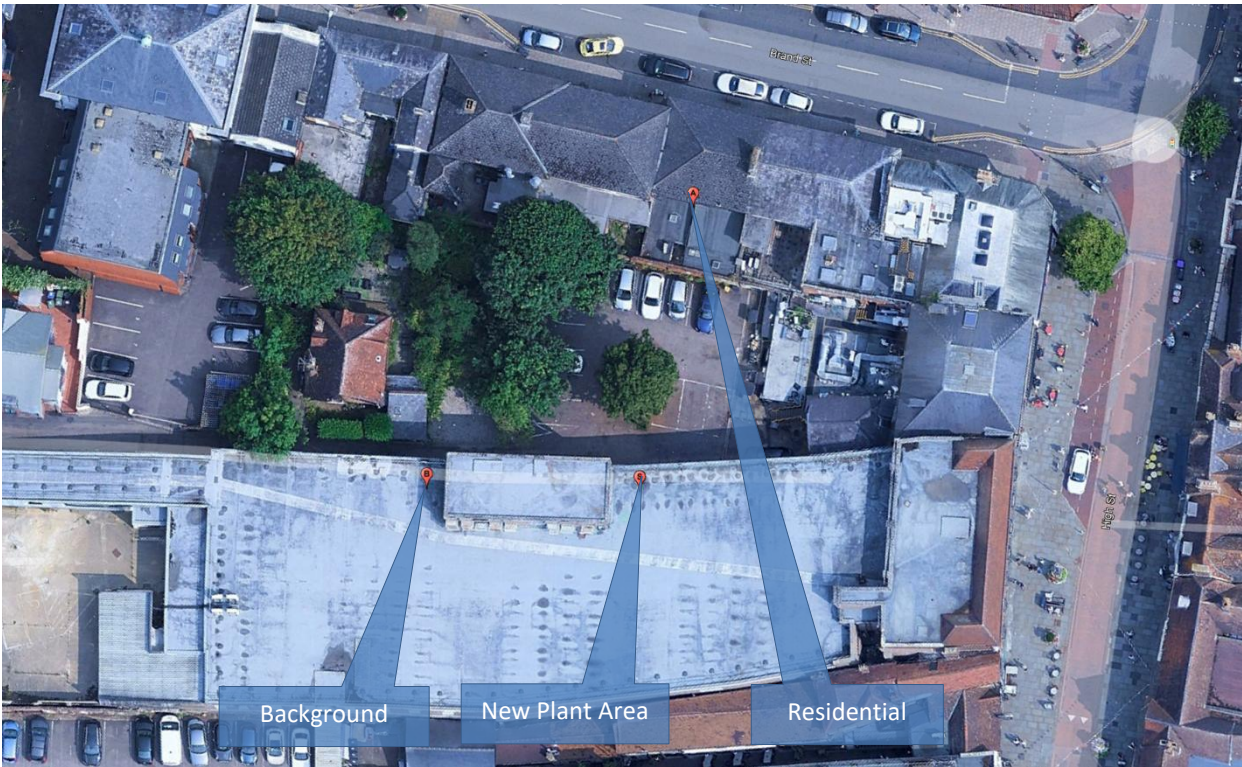
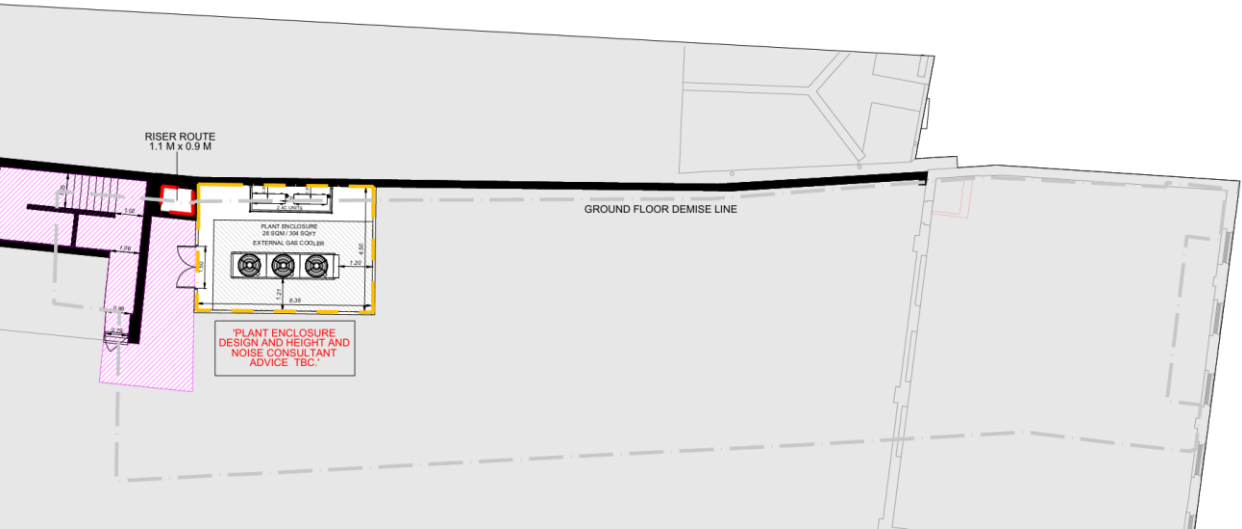
2.1. General Location of Site



Site Plan (Imagery © Google 2026)

It is proposed convert 9 - 10 High Street in the centre of Hitchin into a Tesco Express convenience store. The dedicated plant area will be located on the upper flat roof towards the front of the store. The rear of the possible residential flats at 1st floor level on Brand Street are around 33m away.

2.2. Key Positions (Source, Assessment & Background)



Position	Description	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
Assessment	The possible residential flats over the commercial properties in Brand Street	51.948761°	-0.278795°	8 m
Background	On the side of the building.	51.948617°	-0.279277°	8 m

2.3. Locations and Distances of Individual Source Positions

Position	Relative Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
Source 1 - 4	28m to assessment position	51.948550°	-0.279005°	8 m

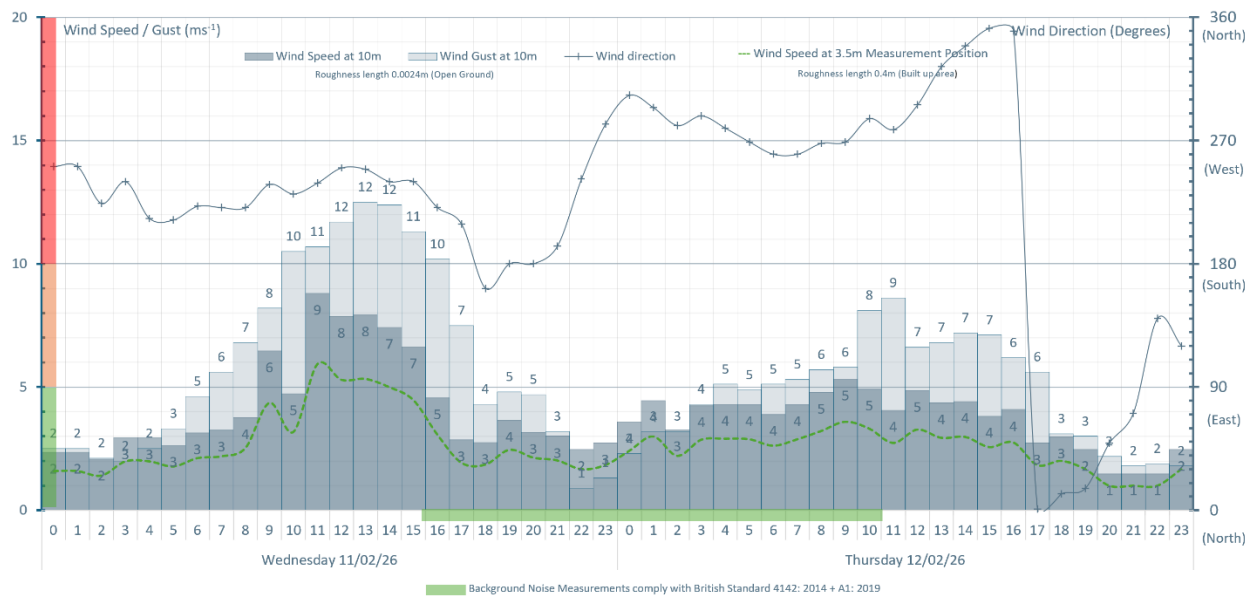
2.4. Free Field Source Sound Pressure Levels at 10m

Source	Description of Source	Sound Pressure at 10m – Annex C 13487: 2003		
		07:00 – 19:00	19:00 – 23:00	23:00 – 07:00
Source 1	Packaged Refrigeration Unit	L _{p(10)} 40 dB		L _{p(10)} 30 dB
Source 2	AC01 Standard Tesco Sales Floor AC Heat Pump – 57 dB(A) at 1m	L _{p(10)} 41 dB		Not Operating
Source 3	AC02 Standard Tesco Sales Floor AC Heat Pump – 57 dB(A) at 1m	L _{p(10)} 44 dB		
Source 4	AC03 Standard Tesco Cash Office AC Unit – 47 dB(A) at 1m	L _{p(10)} 31 dB		

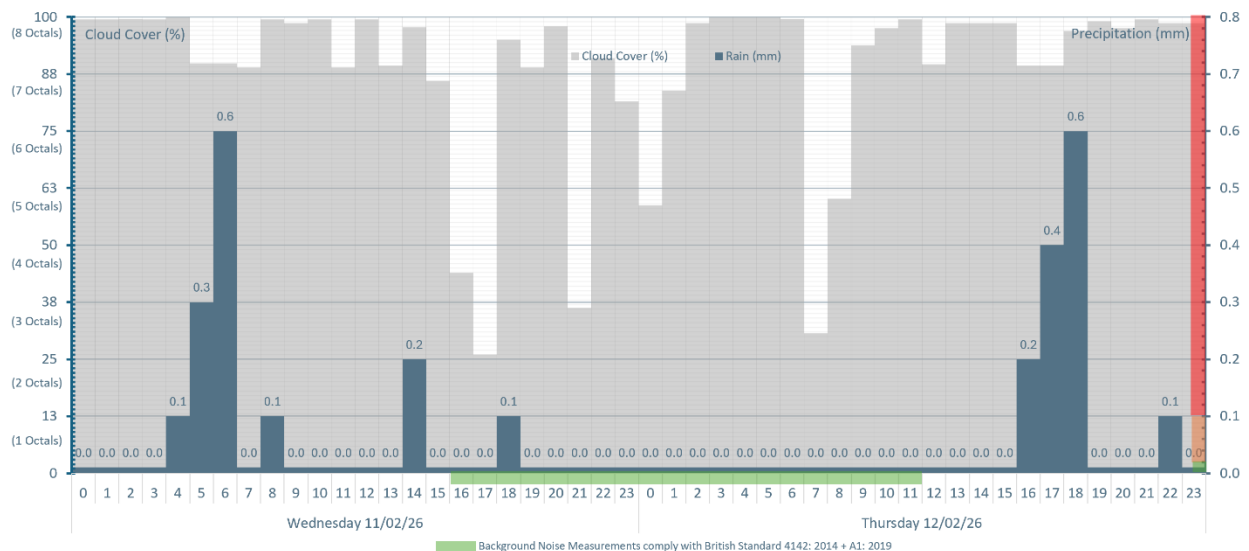
3. Background Noise Levels...

3.1. Weather During Survey

3.1.1 Wind Speed, Gust and Direction



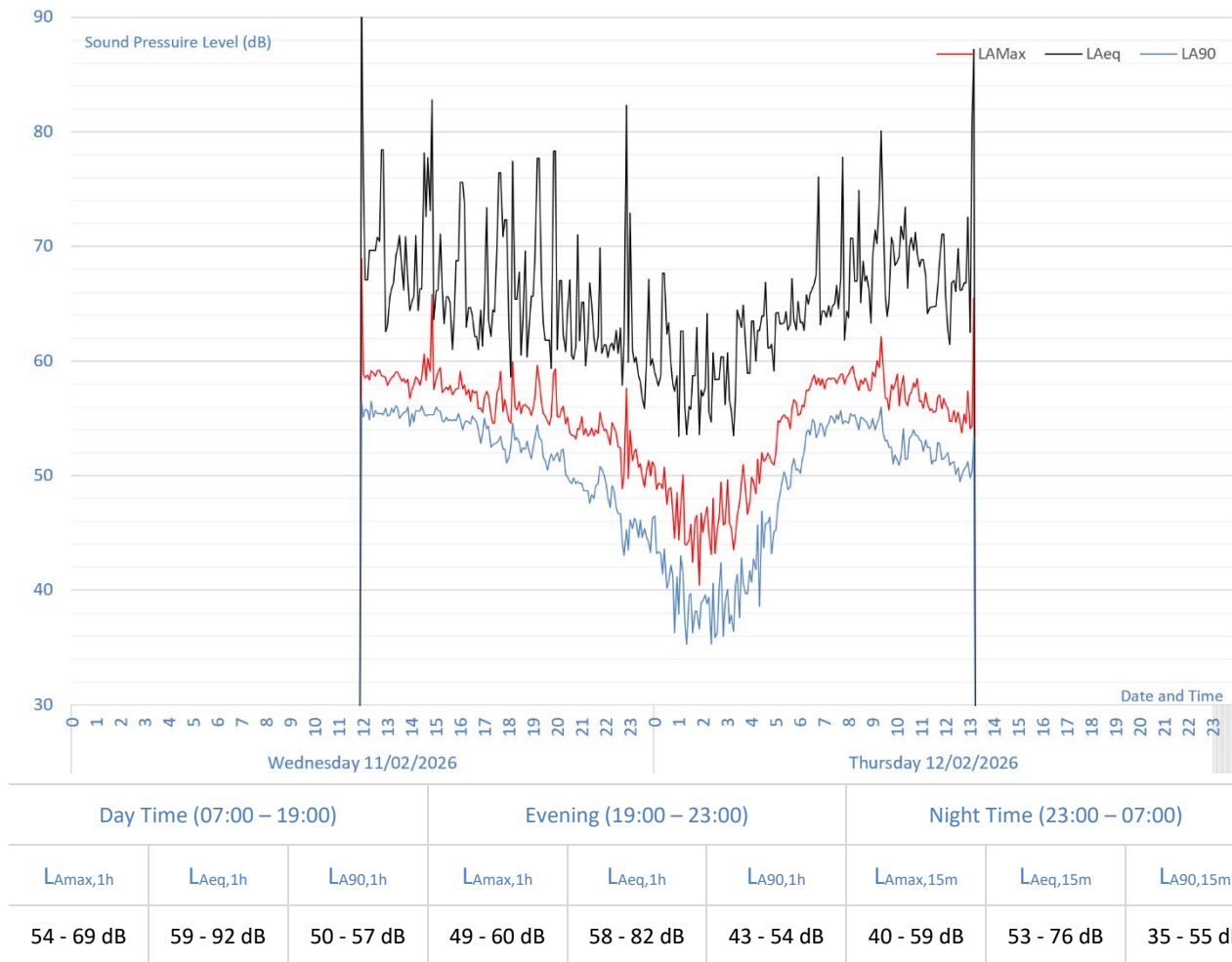
3.1.2 Rainfall, Temperature and Dew Point



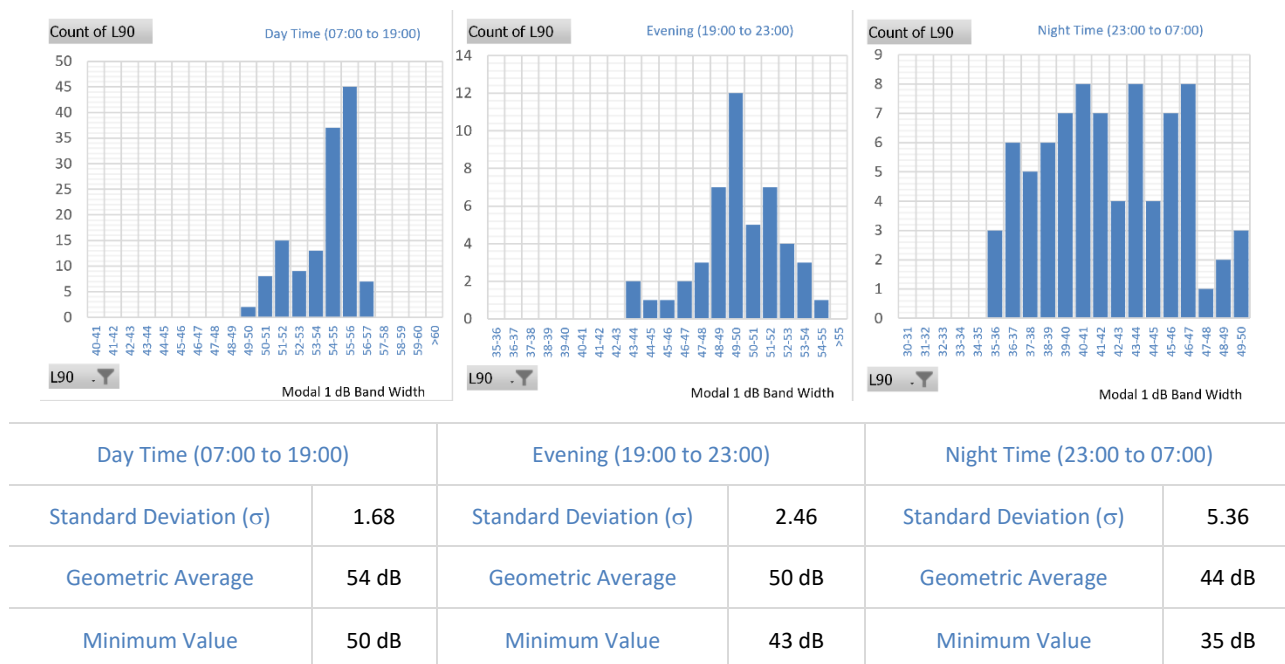
3.1.3 Impact of Weather

An analysis of the background data recorded on site indicates that the prevailing weather did not adversely impact the results.

3.2. 24-hour Background Measurements



3.3. Modal Analysis of Background Data



4. Criterion...

4.1. National Planning Policy Framework 2024

4.1.1 Scope of Standard

The revised National Planning Policy Framework published in December 2024 provides an assumption in favour of sustainable development that meets the three overarching objectives: economic, social, and environmental. Paragraph 11 provides guidance for decision makers:

“For decision-taking this means:...

c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or

d) ...granting permission unless...

i) the application of policies in this Framework... provides a strong reason for refusing the development proposed; or

ii) any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits....”

4.1.2 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Paragraph 187 of the NPPF provides the following guidance on noise:

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:..

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of ...noise pollution...”

4.1.3 Appropriate Development

Paragraph 198 of the NPPF requires the development to be appropriate for its location:

“Planning... decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location...

a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development - and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life⁷².

b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value...

⁷²*See Explanatory Note to the Noise Policy Statement for England (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2010)”*

4.2. Noise Policy Statement for England: 2010

4.2.1 Scope of Standard

The Noise Policy Statement for England published in 2010 defines three aims:

*“**Avoid** significant adverse impact on health and the quality of life.*

***Mitigate** and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and*

***Contribute** to the improvement of health and the quality of life.”*

4.2.2 Criterion

The NPSE defines significant adverse and adverse impact in terms of noise:

*“**LOAEL** – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level*

This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.

***SOAEL** – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level*

This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.”

4.3. Night Noise Guidelines (“NNG”)

The European Union and the World Health Organisation published the document *“Night Noise Guidelines for Europe”* in 2009.

4.3.1 Recommendation for Health Protection

“Below the level of 30 dB $L_{night, outside}$ no effects on sleep are observed except for a slight increase in the frequency of body movements during sleep due to night noise.

... 40 dB $L_{night, outside}$ is equivalent to the lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) for night noise.

Above 55 dB the cardiovascular effects become the major public health concern.”

For reference the $L_{night, outside}$ is the average outside noise level calculated over an 8-hour period (EU: 2002/49/EC).

4.3.2 Description of Effect of Change in Noise Level

Noise Level Change (dB)	Subjective Response	Significance
0.1 – 2.9	Barely perceptible	Minor Impact
3.0 – 5.9	Noticeable	Moderate Impact
6.0 – 9.9	Up to a doubling of loudness	Substantial Impact
10.0 or more	More than a doubling of loudness	Major Impact

4.4. British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019

4.4.1 Testing Standard...

British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019 provides a method for assessing the likely effects of sound from industrial or commercial nature on *“people who might be inside or outside a dwelling used for residential purposes.”*

4.4.2 Criterion

The standard provides 3-levels of impact based on the calculated Rating Levels:

“A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.

A difference of around +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.

Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.”

4.4.3 Feature Correction

It is appropriate to add a character correction where there is a new source that cannot be measured in line with British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019. The 3 methods for approaching this are the subjective, objective, and reference methods. In this report the subjective method is used.

Section 9.2 Subjective Method	Perceptibility to noise sensitive façades	Correction
Tonality Ranging from not tonal to prominently tonal	Not tonal	+0
	Just perceptible	+2
	Clearly perceptible	+4
	Highly perceptible	+6
Impulsivity Considering both the rapidity and any overall change in sound levels	Not impulsive	+0
	Just impulsive	+3
	Clearly impulsive	+6
	Highly impulsive	+9
Readily Distinctive Characteristic is neither tonal nor impulsive	Is not present	+0
	Is present	+3
Intermittency Identifiable “on/off” conditions	Is not present	+0
	Is present	+3

4.5. Local Authority Requirements

4.5.1 Local Plan

The North Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan was fully adopted in November 2022 including Policy SP1 entitled *“Sustainable development in North Hertfordshire.”*

“This Plan supports the principles of sustainable development within North Hertfordshire. We will:

- a) Maintain the role of key settlements within and adjoining the District as the main focus for housing, employment and new development making use of previously developed land where possible;*
- b) Ensure the long-term vitality of the District’s villages by supporting growth which provides opportunities for existing and new residents and sustains key facilities;*
- c) Grant planning permission for proposals that, individually or cumulatively:*
 - ii. create high-quality developments that respect and improve their surroundings and provide opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices;*
 - iii. provide the necessary infrastructure required to support an increasing population;*
 - iv. protect key elements of North Hertfordshire’s environment including biodiversity, important landscapes, heritage assets and green infrastructure (including the water environment);and*
 - v. secure any necessary mitigation measures that reduce the impact of development, including on climate change; and*
- d) Support neighbourhood plans and other local planning initiatives where they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of this Local Plan.”*

4.5.2 Proposed Criterion

It would be recommended that the proposed noise emissions are below the minimum 15-minute background noise level at the nearest noise sensitive property.

5. Calculations of Noise Levels...

5.1. ISO 9613 – Part 2:1996

The International Standards Organisation (“ISO”) published ISO 9613 – Part 2: 1996 entitled “*Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: General method of calculations*” details the corrections that are required to establish the resultant noise levels of the existing and proposed plant at the assessment position.

5.1.1 Source Directivity (D_c)

A correction is made to account for the location of the source and the effect of additional reflective surfaces excluding the ground and is contained within section 6 of ISO 9613 - Part 2: 1996.

Number of Surfaces	Correction in dB (D_c)
1 Reflective Surface	+3 dB
2 Reflective Surfaces	+6 dB
3 Reflective Surfaces	+9 dB

5.1.2 Geometric Divergence (A_{div})

A correction is made for the distance between the source and assessment position using the following formula defined in section 7.1 of ISO 9613-Part 2: 1996.

Formula	Symbols
$A_{div} = 20 \cdot \log_{10} (d/d_0) + 11$	A_{div} = Reduction due to Geometric Divergence (dB) d = Distance from source to receiver (m) d_0 = reference distance (1m)

5.1.3 Ground Absorption (A_{gr})

A correction is made for the effect of the ground between the source and receiver depending on whether it is considered hard or soft ground.

Type of ground	Correction in dB (A_{gr})
Hard Ground	+ 3 dB
Soft Ground	+ 0 dB

5.1.4 Atmospheric Absorption (A_{atm})

As the source was less than 100m from the receiver position (assessment position) no correction was made for atmospheric absorption.

5.1.5 Barrier Effect (A_{bar})

A correction is made for any barrier in the direct line of sight between the source and the assessment position and is detailed in section 7.4 of ISO 9613-Part 2: 1996. For clarity, the K_{met} meteorological correction has been ignored and C_2 equals 40 and C_3 equals 1.

Formula	Symbols
$A_{bar} = 10 \cdot \log_{10} [3 + (40 \cdot \delta / \lambda) - A_g]$ *Note 1 where $\delta = a + b - r$ and $\lambda = c / f$	A_{bar} = Effective barrier attenuation (dB) A_g = Total Ground Absorption (dB) *Note 1: Only apply the A_g correction if $A_g > 0$ δ = Path difference (m) a = Distance from source to barrier head (m) b = Distance from barrier head to assessment position (m) r = Distance from source to assessment position (m) λ = Wavelength of sound (m) c = Speed of sound – Assumed to be 342 ms ⁻¹ f = Octave band centre frequency (Hz)

5.2. Calculation of Plant Noise Levels

5.2.1 Day Time (07:00 to 23:00)

Day Time (07:00 to 19:00)		Source	ISO 9613 – Part 2: 1996 Corrections					Assessment
Ref	Description	L_w	D_c	A_{div}	A_{gr}	A_{atm}	A_{bar}	L_p
1	Packaged refrigeration unit 40 dB(A) at 10m	68 dB(A)	3 dB	-40 dB	3 dB	0 dB	0 dB	34 dB(A)
2	AC01 Standard Sales Floor AC Unit – 57 dB(A) at 1m	72 dB(A)	3 dB	-40 dB	3 dB	0 dB	-7 dB	31 dB(A)
3	AC02 Standard Sales Floor AC Unit – 57 dB(A) at 1m	72 dB(A)	3 dB	-40 dB	3 dB	0 dB	-7 dB	31 dB(A)
4	AC03 Standard Cash Office AC Unit – 47 dB(A) at 1m	62 dB(A)	3 dB	-40 dB	3 dB	0 dB	-7 dB	21 dB(A)
Combined Noise Level at Residential Façade:								37 dB(A)

5.2.2 Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)

Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)		Source	ISO 9613 – Part 2: 1996 Corrections					Assessment
Ref	Description	L_w	D_c	A_{div}	A_{gr}	A_{atm}	A_{bar}	L_p
1	Packaged refrigeration unit 30 dB(A) at 10m	58 dB(A)	3 dB	-40 dB	3 dB	0 dB	0 dB	24 dB(A)
Combined Noise Level at Residential Façade:								24 dB(A)

5.3. Assessment of Average Noise Levels (BS 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019)

BS 4142: 2014	Day Time - 07:00 to 19:00	Evening – 19:00 to 23:00	Night Time – 23:00 to 07:00
Residual Noise Levels	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 68 dB	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 65 dB	L _{Aeq,15 minutes} 61 dB
Specific Noise Levels	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 37 dB	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 37 dB	L _{Aeq, 15 minutes} 24 dB
Impulsivity Feature	+0 dB	+0 dB	+0 dB
Tonality Feature	+0 dB	+0 dB	+0 dB
Rating Noise Levels	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 37 dB	L _{Aeq,1 hours} 37 dB	L _{Aeq, 15 minutes} 24 dB
Background Noise Levels	L _{A90,1 hours} 50 dB	L _{A90,1 hours} 43 dB	L _{A90, 15 minutes} 35 dB
BS 4142 Assessment	-13 dB (Low Impact)	-7 dB (Low Impact)	-11 dB (Low Impact)
Uncertainty (95% Confidence, k=2)	+/- 1.77 dB	+/- 1.85 dB	+/- 2.14 dB

6. Conclusions...

6.1. Assessment Position

The possible residential flats over the commercial properties in Brand Street are located around 28 m from the dedicated plant area on the flat roof towards the front of the store.

6.2. Background Noise Measurements

Day Time (07:00 – 19:00)			Evening (19:00 – 23:00)			Night Time (23:00 – 07:00)		
L _{Amax,1h}	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	L _{Amax,1h}	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	L _{Amax,15m}	L _{Aeq,15m}	L _{A90,15m}
54 - 69 dB	59 - 92 dB	50 - 57 dB	49 - 60 dB	58 - 82 dB	43 - 54 dB	40 - 59 dB	53 - 76 dB	35 - 55 dB
Minimum Background		50 dB	Minimum Background		43 dB	Minimum Background		35 dB

6.3. Criterion at Assessment Position

To comply with the revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”) and the guidance within the Local Plan, the resultant noise levels at the nearest residential dwellings should be below the underlying background noise levels when assessed in accordance with British Standard 4142: 2014 + A1: 2019.

6.4. Mitigation Measures

No specific mitigation measures will be required at this site.

6.5. Assessment of Noise Levels

Day Time (07:00 – 19:00)			Evening (19:00 – 23:00)			Night Time (23:00 – 07:00)		
L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142	L _{Aeq,1h}	L _{A90,1h}	BS4142
37 dB	50 dB	-13 dB	37 dB	43 dB	-7 dB	24 dB	35 dB	-11 dB

6.6. Conclusions

The resultant noise levels from the proposed mechanical equipment will result in noise levels that comply in full with the Local Plan and are at levels that are very unlikely to give rise to complaints from residents.

6.7. Uncertainty

Day Time (07:00 – 19:00)	Evening (19:00 – 23:00)	Night Time (23:00 – 07:00)
+1.77 dB (k=2, 95% Confidence)	+1.85 dB (k=2, 95% Confidence)	+2.14 dB (k=2, 95% Confidence)

7. Appendix A - BS 4142:2014 + A1: 2019 Information to Be Reported...

7.1. a) Competency

	Name	Role	Competency
1)	Mr. R. Scrivener	Director	Master of Science Degree in Acoustics and Noise Control (MSc) Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA)

7.2. b) Source Under Investigation

	Source Number	Description		
1)	Source 1	Packaged refrigeration unit – 40 dB(A) at 10m Day and 30 dB(A) at 10m night		
	Source 2	AC01 Standard Tesco Sales Floor AC Heat Pump – 57 dB(A) at 1m		
	Source 3	AC02 Standard Tesco Sales Floor AC Heat Pump – 57 dB(A) at 1m		
	Source 4	AC03 Standard Tesco Cash Office AC Unit – 47 dB(A) at 1m		
2) 3) 4) 5)	Description of Source	Source Location	Hours of Operation	Mode of Operation
	Source 1	Dedicated plant area on the flat roof towards the front of the floor	24-hour	Continuously on Demand
	Source 2 - 4		07:00 - 23:00	
	Description of Operation	Period	Conditions	Load
	All Sources	Day Time (07:00 to 19:00)	Ambient Temp 32°C	Maximum Load (100%)
		Evening (19:00 to 23:00)	Ambient Temp 28°C	Part Load (60%)
		Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)	Ambient Temp 24°C	Part Load (40%)
	Description of Premises	It is proposed convert 9 - 10 High Street in the centre of Hitchin into a Tesco Express convenience store. The dedicated plant area will located on the upper flat roof towards the front of the store. The rear of the possible residential flats at 1st floor level on Brand Street are around 33m away.		

7.3. c) Subjective Impression of Source at Assessment Position

1)	Dominance	Source will not be dominant at residential facade
	Audibility	Source will not be audible at residential facade
2)	Residual Noise Sources	Residual noise due to local road traffic

7.4. d) Existing Contexts

	Type of Receptor	Period	Sensitivity	Description
1)	Residential	Day Time (07:00 to 19:00)	Low	Noise can disturb outside amenity space and internal living space
		Evening (19:00 to 23:00)	Moderate	Noise can interrupt people trying to get to sleep
		Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)	High	Noise can disturb sleeping

7.5. e) Relative Positions

1)	Assessment Position	The possible residential flats over the commercial properties in Brand Street.		
		BS 4142:2014 Criteria	Details	Compliance with Criteria
		Section 6	1.0m from façade (external)	Position is valid
2)	Source Measurement	The source sound power levels were supplied by the client. It is believed the sound power levels were established in accordance with BS EN 13487:2003.		
	Justification	The client supplied the noise levels for the proposed plant.		
3)	Background Position	At the rear of the building.		
	Justification	BS 4142:2014 Criteria	Details	Compliance with Criteria
		Section 6.2	3.5m to any reflecting surface	Complies
		Section 6.2	Height 1.2m to 1.5m	Complies
		Section 6.2	1 st floor 1m to facade	Not applicable
		Section 6.2	Measurement Height	3.5m
			Distance to Reflecting Surface	1.0m
		To record remote background levels, the noise meter had to be left in a secure position. The position represented the assessment position within the constraints of the site.		
4)	Topography, surfaces etc.	Hard and Flat		
5)	Relative Distances	The plant is located approximately 28m from the assessment position.		
6)	Dimensioned sketch	See maps and images.		

7.6. f) Noise Measurement Equipment Calibration

1)	Type	Sound Level Meter	Microphone	Calibrator
		SV 307A	SV 33b	ST 30A (v3)
2)	Manufacturer	Svantek UK	Svantek UK	Svantek UK
3)	Serial Number	154471	154757	157919

4)	Certificate Number	359133670583968	C00584	359133670583968
	Calibration Due Date	05/08/2026	26/06/2026	05/08/2026

7.7. g) Noise Measurement Equipment Operation Test

1)	Ref. Level of Calibrator	94 dB
2)	Meter Reading Before	94 dB – Meter operation checked. Meter in good working order.
	Meter Reading After	94 dB - Meter operation checked. Meter in good working order.

7.8. h) Weather Conditions

1)	Wind Speed	See weather information
	Wind Direction	
2)	Temperature Inversion	Unlikely to have occurred
3)	Precipitation	None – See section 3.1
4)	Fog	None
5)	Wet Ground	Not within the measurement period – See section 3.1
6)	Frozen Ground or Snow	Not within the measurement period – See section 3.1
7)	Temperature	See section 3.1
8)	Cloud Cover	Partly Cloudy

7.9. i) Date of Measurements

1)	Source Measurements	Unknown
	Background Measurements	11/02/2026

7.10. j) Measurement Time Interval

1)	Source Measurements	$T_m = 15$ minutes	
	Background Measurements	Day Time (07:00 to 19:00)	$T_m = 12$ hours
		Evening (19:00 to 23:00)	$T_m = 4$ hours
		Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)	$T_m = 8$ hours

7.11. k) Reference Time Interval

1)	Reference Time Interval	Day Time (07:00 to 19:00)	$T_r = 1$ hour
		Evening (19:00 to 23:00)	$T_r = 1$ hour
		Night Time (23:00 to 07:00)	$T_r = 15$ minutes

7.12. l) Specific Noise / m) Background Noise / n) Rating / o) Assessment / p) Conclusions

These details are all included within the body of the report and are not replicated within this section.

END OF REPORT (1st and last page not numbered)

KR Associates (UK) Ltd
Quietly confident...

