

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: PLANNING CONTROL AND CONSERVATION Alex Howard	From: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Alan Stone Ext 4108
	Date: 29 th August 2025
Our Ref: 6318/25	Your : 25/01514/FP Ref:
Subject: Noise and other nuisances, AQ and CL Full Planning Permission: Erection of shop, forecourt canopy, car and jet wash, car and cycle parking, EV vehicle charging points, hard and soft landscaping, and bin stores following demolition of existing buildings. Whitehorse Service Station, Clothall Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6PD	

Comments:

Thank you for consulting Environmental Protection on this application. I can respond as follows.

Contaminated Land:

I can see no information in relation to land contamination. Being a former petrol station, I would expect to see such information. However, this can be secured using pre-commencement and pre-occupation conditions.

Light:

The application is supported by a lighting assessment based on the proposals. We would seek to ensure that any lighting installed on the site is done so in accordance with the Institute of Lighting Professionals guidance documentation and associated lux levels. Looking at the model presented, it would appear that this is the case and as such would seek to secure this via a suitably worded condition.

Noise:

The application is supported by a noise assessment. The noise assessment concludes that with certain mitigation (acoustic absorptive fence between the car wash and receptors 2 and 3, 2 m fence elsewhere around the site and a recommendation for the car wash to have automatic closing doors) in place, that the noise from the jet wash, car wash, vacuum and air pump will remain below the background sound level.

I have a few issues with this or at least would like further information or clarification.

Firstly, the background noise levels as set out does seem high for this location. Indeed, the time history chart shows interference of some kind 10.45-1130 hours on 7th July and 0745 to 1000 hours on the 8th July. It is difficult to know what that is, but I suspect it is some kind of local existing commercial activity. Additionally, the survey was undertaken on a Monday to

Tuesday over 26 hours. It could be argued that a survey undertaken over a weekend would have provided a better basis for assumptions about the site. Additionally, is the background survey taken at MP1 representative of the background at the north-western side of the site where the car wash is proposed?

In addition to perhaps obtaining further information on the existing noise at the site (perhaps a further survey) I would suggest that the hours of operation for the car wash and jet wash are controlled e.g. 0800 to 2000 hours daily to further restrict the possibility of adverse impact on neighbouring residents. And is there any other plant proposed as part of this application e.g. air handling units etc there is no mention of these in the report.

I think that given my questions and the objections received, perhaps we seek further work and/or clarification on this matter?

I am on leave for two weeks after today and will return on 15th September 2025.

Regards
Alan Stone