



THINKING **DIFFERENTLY**

## NHDC DECARB SCHEME - ROYSTON LEISURE CENTRE

---

Environmental Noise Assessment

Willmott Dixon Construction Limited on behalf of North Hertfordshire District Council

## NHDC DECARB SCHEME - ROYSTON LEISURE CENTRE

### Environmental Noise Assessment

#### MACH Acoustics Ltd

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 1 York Court  
Upper York Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8QF  
0117 944 1388

Eagle House  
163 City Road  
London  
EC1V 1NR  
0203 488 4559

info@machacoustics.com  
www.machgroup.co.uk

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Document Description: | Environmental Noise Assessment Report |
| Document Reference:   | RLC-MAL-XX-ZZ-RP-O-000001             |
| Suitability Status:   | For Review and Comments               |
| Status:               | S3                                    |

| Revision | Description                   | Author       | Checked by       | Issued by   | Issue Date |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| P01      | First Issue                   | Toby Chan    | Andrea Rodriguez | Phil Jordan | 18/10/2024 |
| P02      | Plant Noise Assessment Update | William Shen | Phil Jordan      | Phil Jordan | 15/11/2024 |
| P03      | Revised following comments    | William Shen | Phil Jordan      | Phil Jordan | 15/11/2024 |
| P04      | Plant Design Update           | William Shen | Phil Jordan      | Phil Jordan | 05/03/2025 |
| P05      | Revised following comments    | Phil Jordan  | William Shen     | Phil Jordan | 06/03/2025 |

## CONTENTS

|      |                                                              |    |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1.0  | INTRODUCTION .....                                           | 4  |
| 1.1  | Performance Standards .....                                  | 4  |
| 2.0  | PERFORMANCE DOCUMENTS.....                                   | 5  |
| 2.1  | Internal Ambient Noise Limit Criteria.....                   | 5  |
| 2.2  | Noise Breakout.....                                          | 5  |
| 3.0  | NOISE CLIMATE .....                                          | 6  |
| 3.1  | Site Description .....                                       | 6  |
| 3.2  | Site Map .....                                               | 6  |
| 3.3  | Operating Hours .....                                        | 6  |
| 3.4  | Summary of $L_{Aeq,30mins}$ Noise Levels .....               | 6  |
| 3.5  | Summary of Spot Measurements .....                           | 7  |
| 3.6  | Summary of Background Noise Levels, $L_{A90}$ .....          | 7  |
| 4.0  | FAÇADE ASSESSMENT.....                                       | 8  |
| 4.1  | Façade Noise Levels .....                                    | 8  |
| 4.2  | Suitable Ventilation Strategies & Façade Specification ..... | 8  |
| 5.0  | NOISE BREAK-OUT ASSESSMENT.....                              | 9  |
| 5.1  | Criteria .....                                               | 9  |
| 5.2  | Design Target.....                                           | 9  |
| 5.3  | Assessment Criteria.....                                     | 9  |
| 5.4  | Noise Sensitive Receivers.....                               | 9  |
| 5.5  | Items of Noise Generating Plant .....                        | 10 |
| 5.6  | Plant Noise Data.....                                        | 11 |
| 5.7  | Proposed Acoustic Screening .....                            | 11 |
| 5.8  | 3D Acoustic Model.....                                       | 12 |
| 5.9  | Noise Impact Assessment.....                                 | 13 |
| 5.10 | Vibration Control .....                                      | 13 |
| 5.11 | Uncertainty .....                                            | 13 |
| 6.0  | CONCLUSION.....                                              | 14 |
|      | APPENDIX A - Environmental Noise Survey .....                | 15 |
| A.1  | Site Description .....                                       | 15 |
| A.2  | All Measurement Locations.....                               | 15 |
| A.3  | Fixed Measurement .....                                      | 16 |
| A.4  | Spot Measurement.....                                        | 17 |
| A.5  | All Spot Measurement Results.....                            | 17 |
| A.6  | Measurement Equipment.....                                   | 18 |
| A.7  | Meteorological Conditions.....                               | 18 |
|      | APPENDIX B - Plant Noise Data.....                           | 19 |
|      | APPENDIX C - policy For noise.....                           | 21 |
| C.1  | National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).....               | 21 |
| C.2  | Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE).....               | 21 |
| C.3  | National Planning Policy Guidance - Noise .....              | 22 |
| C.4  | North Herts Local Plan 2011 – 2031 .....                     | 22 |
| C.5  | Summary of Local and National Guidance.....                  | 22 |
|      | APPENDIX D - BS 4142 .....                                   | 23 |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

MACH has been appointed by Willmott Dixon Construction Limited on behalf of North Hertfordshire District Council to undertake an environmental noise assessment for Royston Leisure Centre such to support the decarbonisation of the leisure centre through improved building performance and the introduction of efficient mechanical services.

The development includes a variety of sports facilities including halls, swimming pools and other facilities. This report provides details of an environmental noise assessment and provides details of:

- The existing noise levels across the site.
- A façade assessment to ensure internal noise levels meet any required internal noise level criteria.
- The background noise levels such to set the noise limits for building services plant to protect the amenity of the neighbouring noise sensitive receptors.
- Assess the noise impact of the proposed mechanical plant equipment at the nearby noise sensitive receivers.

Detail of the noise survey is presented within APPENDIX A - .

## 1.1 Performance Standards

The table below outlines the various performance standards and guidance documents which have formed the basis of the acoustic design.

| Document     | Documents used for guidance |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| BS 4142:2014 | ✓                           |
| BS 7445      | ✓                           |
| BB93         | ✓                           |
| BS8233       | ✓                           |

**Table 1.1: Performance Standards**

## 2.0 PERFORMANCE DOCUMENTS

### 2.1 Internal Ambient Noise Limit Criteria

The indoor ambient noise level limits are the sum of both building services noise and external noise ingress within the unoccupied, fully operational building. The noise level targets below have been specified with reference to guidance provided within BS8233:2014, British Council for Offices 2014 and BB93. Sports England does not provide any guidance with regard to internal noise levels.

| Room Classification                                                           | Internal Ambient Noise Limit<br>L <sub>Aeq, 30min</sub> [dB] |               | Recommended<br>Building Services<br>Noise Limits NR<br>dB |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               | New Build                                                    | Refurbishment |                                                           |
| Dance Studio                                                                  | 40                                                           | 45            | 34                                                        |
| Sports Hall                                                                   | 40                                                           | 45            | 34                                                        |
| Gymnasium/Activity Studio                                                     | 40                                                           | 45            | 34                                                        |
| Swimming Pool                                                                 | 50                                                           | 55            | 44                                                        |
| Office, Medical Room, Staff Room <sup>1</sup>                                 | 40                                                           | 45            | 34                                                        |
| Corridor, Stairwell, Coats and Locker Area <sup>1</sup>                       | 45                                                           | 55            | 39                                                        |
| Changing Area <sup>1</sup>                                                    | 50                                                           | 55            | 44                                                        |
| Toilet <sup>1</sup>                                                           | 50                                                           | 55            | 44                                                        |
| <sup>1</sup> Considered administration or ancillary, therefore, guidance only |                                                              |               |                                                           |

**Table 2.1: Internal Ambient Noise Limit Criteria**

#### 2.1.1 Design Target

This section provides a summary of the acoustic performance criteria which have been adopted for the project. Given that the proposals include both, new build and refurbishment spaces, the internal ambient noise level targets have been set accordingly. The table below provides a summary of the most onerous internal ambient noise level targets provided by BB93.

| Build Classification | Most onerous Internal Ambient Noise Limit L <sub>Aeq, 30min</sub> [dB] |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New build            | 40                                                                     |
| Refurbishment        | 45                                                                     |

**Table 2.2: Most onerous internal ambient noise limits**

### 2.2 Noise Breakout

The design criteria for plant noise breakout is provided within Section 5.0.

3.0 NOISE CLIMATE

To establish the existing environmental noise levels on site, a noise survey was conducted between 15:30 on the 01/10/2024 and 14:45 on the 02/10/2024. For more information on the methodology of this survey, site information and survey data, see APPENDIX A - Environmental Noise Survey

3.1 Site Description

The site is located at Royston Leisure Centre, the dominant noise source on site is road traffic from leisure centre users as well as existing plant equipment on site.

3.2 Site Map

The site in relation to its surroundings and nearest noise sensitive receivers is presented in Figure 3.1.



Figure 3.1 - Proposed Development (Red) and Nearest Noise Sensitive Receivers (Blue)

3.3 Operating Hours

The leisure centre is understood to operate between 06:00- 22:00 hours.

3.4 Summary of LAeq,30mins Noise Levels

Based on the results of the environmental noise survey as outlined within APPENDIX A - , the LAeq, 30mins noise levels representative of the local noise climate is summarised below.

| Location         | Date       | Start | End   | Duration | LAeq,30min (dB) |
|------------------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| Fixed Position 1 | 01/10/2024 | 15:30 | 16:00 | 00:30:00 | 57              |
|                  |            | 16:00 | 16:30 | 00:30:00 | 52              |
|                  |            | 16:30 | 17:00 | 00:30:00 | 52              |
|                  |            | 17:00 | 17:30 | 00:30:00 | 57              |
|                  |            | 17:30 | 18:00 | 00:30:00 | 53              |
|                  |            | 18:00 | 18:30 | 00:30:00 | 52              |
|                  |            | 18:30 | 19:00 | 00:30:00 | 52              |
|                  |            | 19:00 | 19:30 | 00:30:00 | 51              |
|                  |            | 19:30 | 20:00 | 00:30:00 | 51              |
|                  |            | 20:00 | 20:30 | 00:30:00 | 50              |
|                  |            | 20:30 | 21:00 | 00:30:00 | 50              |
|                  |            | 21:00 | 21:30 | 00:30:00 | 50              |
|                  | 02/10/2024 | 21:30 | 22:00 | 00:30:00 | 50              |
|                  |            | 06:00 | 06:30 | 00:30:00 | 52              |
|                  |            | 06:30 | 07:00 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 07:00 | 07:30 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 07:30 | 08:00 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 08:00 | 08:30 | 00:30:00 | 55              |
|                  |            | 08:30 | 09:00 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 09:00 | 09:30 | 00:30:00 | 69**            |
|                  |            | 09:30 | 10:00 | 00:30:00 | 57              |
|                  |            | 10:00 | 10:30 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 10:30 | 11:00 | 00:30:00 | 56              |
|                  |            | 11:00 | 11:30 | 00:30:00 | 62**            |
|                  |            | 11:30 | 12:00 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 12:00 | 12:30 | 00:30:00 | 53              |
|                  |            | 12:30 | 13:00 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 13:00 | 13:30 | 00:30:00 | 54              |
|                  |            | 13:30 | 14:00 | 00:30:00 | 55              |
|                  |            | 14:00 | 14:30 | 00:30:00 | 56              |
|                  |            | 14:00 | 14:30 | 00:30:00 | 56              |
|                  |            | 14:30 | 14:46 | 00:17:00 | 54              |

\*\*Denotes data deemed unrepresentative of the site.

Table 3.1: LAeq, 30mins Summary

As shown in Table 3.1, 57 dB  $L_{Aeq,30mins}$  is the highest measured  $L_{Aeq, 30mins}$  noise level at the fixed measurement position.

### 3.5 Summary of Spot Measurements

Spot measurements have been undertaken to quantify noise levels around the site at two locations. The attended spot measurements were used to quantify average ( $L_{Aeq}$ ) values, and maximum ( $L_{Amax}$ ) noise levels. The table below provides a summary of the spot measurement results.

| Spot measurement | Start | End   | Duration | $L_{Aeq,T}$ (dB) | $L_{Amax}$ (dB) |
|------------------|-------|-------|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| S1               | 14:15 | 14:30 | 15 mins  | 54               | 67              |
| S2               | 14:36 | 14:45 | 9 mins   | 56               | 79              |

Table 3.2: - Spot Measurement 1 Results Table

### 3.6 Summary of Background Noise Levels, $L_{A90}$

The table below presents measured noise levels of the  $L_{A90}$  values measured on site. These will be discussed further in the plant noise impact assessment to ensure a representative value will be used in relation to the proposed operational hours.

| Measurement Position | $L_{A90,T}$ Method | Background Noise Level $L_{A90,T}$ |                               |                                       |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                      |                    | Daytime<br>(07:00 – 23:00)         | Night-Time (23:00 -<br>05:00) | Early Morning Time<br>(05:00 - 07:00) |
| F1                   | Modal              | 51                                 | 46                            | 50                                    |

Table 3.3: Summary of Background Noise Level Measurements

## 4.0 FAÇADE ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Façade Noise Levels

As shown in Table 3.1, 57 dB  $L_{Aeq, 30mins}$  is the highest measured  $L_{Aeq, 30mins}$  noise level at the fixed measurement position. This is seen to be representative of the southern and eastern façades. A level of 56  $L_{Aeq,T}$  was measured at spot measurement 2, this location is seen to be representative of the northern and western façades.

Based on the above, the noise levels around the site are seemed to be consistent. Therefore, the most onerous noise level of **57 dB at the façade** will be used in the following sections to ensure a robust assessment.

### 4.2 Suitable Ventilation Strategies & Façade Specification

#### 4.2.1 Natural Ventilation Feasibility

An open window typically, provides 10 – 15 dB attenuation. MACH typically takes 13 dB as the attenuation provided by an open window ventilation strategy. Subtracting this figure from the predicted façade noise level gives a predicted internal noise level.

| Build type                    | Internal Ambient Noise Limit (dB $L_{Aeq,30min}$ ) | Predicted Façade Noise Levels (dB $L_{Aeq,30min}$ ) | Open Window Attenuation (dB) | Predicted Internal Ambient Noise Level (dB $L_{Aeq,30min}$ ) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| New Build (Fitness Extension) | 40                                                 | 57                                                  | - 13                         | 44                                                           |
| Refurbished Spaces            | 45                                                 | 57                                                  | - 13                         | 44                                                           |

**Table 4.1: Natural Ventilation Feasibility**

As the table shows, site noise levels have been found to be sufficiently low that natural ventilation through openable windows is feasible for all refurbished spaces in the building. The predicted internal noise level is seen to exceed the design limit for spaces in the new build extension; therefore, simple openable windows should not be relied upon as part of the normal ventilation strategy for these spaces. Further design development will be required.

#### 4.2.2 Façade Specification

The minimum façade specification required to meet the internal noise level requirements are shown below:

- External Wall – 43 dB  $R_w$
- Window – 32 dB  $R_w$
- Roof – 43 dB  $R_w$

#### 4.2.3 Proposed Façade

It is understood that enhancements to the façade are to include new windows, insulated rendered walls amongst other enhancements as well as a new extension. Improvements to the roof through the introduction of additional insulation is also proposed.

A review of various wall and roof types will be undertaken following review of the detail , however It is anticipated that the proposed enhancements will meet the sound reduction requirements for the façade.

## 5.0 NOISE BREAK-OUT ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Criteria

BS 4142:2014 “Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound” describes a method of determining the level of noise of an industrial nature, together with the procedures for assessing whether the noise in question is likely to give rise to complaints from persons living in the vicinity. As such, an assessment to BS 4142 is typically called for within planning conditions.

The likelihood of complaints in response to a noise depends on various factors. BS 4142 assesses the likelihood of complaints by considering the margin by which the noise in question exceeds the background noise level.

BS4142:2014 has therefore been used to assess the likelihood of complaints / noise impacts from the proposed development upon the nearest existing sensitive receptors such to identify whether mitigation measures are required to built-in as discussed within the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031.

### 5.2 Design Target

No specific plant noise limits have been provided by the Council as part of the pre-application advice process undertaken by the Applicant;

When considering the existing background levels of a site, BS 4142:2014, “Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound” states that the background sound level used for the assessment should be representative of the period being assessed.

BS4142:2014 goes on to state:

“To obtain a representative background sound level a series of either sequential or disaggregated measurements ought to be carried out for the period(s) of interest, possibly on more than one occasion. A representative level ought to account for the range of background sound levels and ought not automatically to be assumed to be either the minimum or modal value.”

The table below presents measured noise levels of the  $L_{A90,T}$  values measured on site. For the purposes of assessment, MACH Acoustics has used the typical daytime and night-time background noise level.

| Position | Time Period                        | Assessed Background Noise Level (dB $L_{A90}$ ) |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Fixed    | Daytime (07:00 - 23:00)            | 51                                              |
|          | Night-Time (23:00 - 05:00)         | 46                                              |
|          | Early Morning Time (05:00 - 07:00) | 50                                              |

**Table 5.1:  $L_{A90}$  Background Noise Levels for Plant Noise Break-out Assessment**

### 5.3 Assessment Criteria

#### 5.3.1 BS4142 and LOAEL & SOAEL

A summary of the BS4142:2014 assessment method is included in APPENDIX D - . Within it, it describes the likely level of adverse impact in relation to the comparative difference between the background noise level and the noise rating level predicted at the receiver. These relate to the descriptions within assessment method described in PPG – Noise, presented in APPENDIX C - , and therefore the following values can be applied to LOAEL & SOAEL;

| Difference | BS4141 Description                                        | PPG – Noise |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| +10 dB     | Significant Adverse Impact                                | SOAEL       |
| 0 dB       | Does not exceed background is an indication of low impact | LOAEL       |

**Table 5.2: BS4142:2014 and LOAEL & SOAEL**

#### 5.3.2 Summary of Criteria

In summary of the criteria above, it is considered that where the Rating Level  $L_{ArTr}$  does not exceed the background sound level  $L_{A90}$ , this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context and suggests a LOAEL.

The assessments considered within this report are therefore based upon a design target of less or equal to background. This is however subject to agreement from the local planning authority.

### 5.4 Noise Sensitive Receivers

The noise impact generated by the new plant installation has been assessed at the worst-affected NSR's which are described in Section 3.2 of this report.

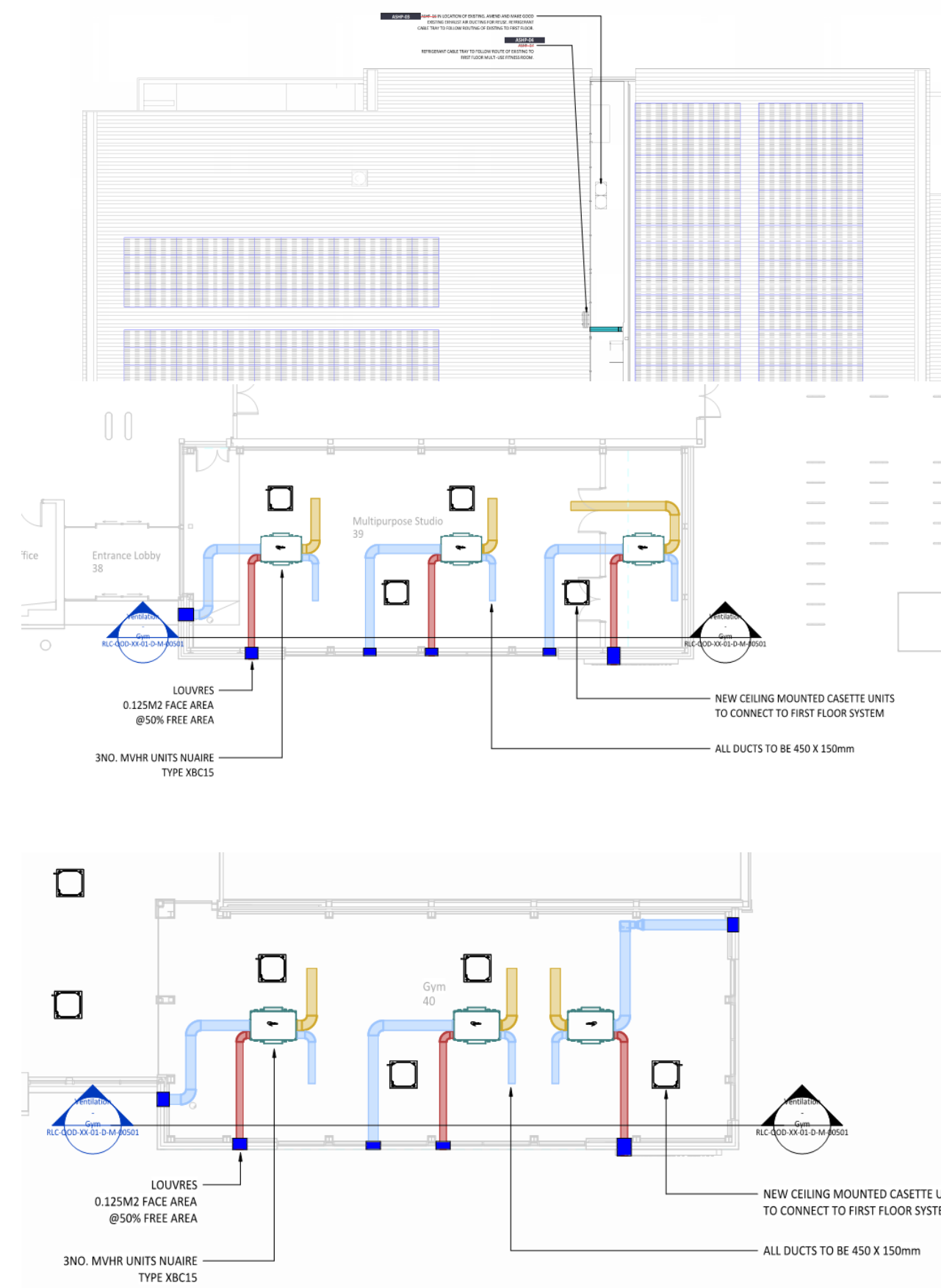
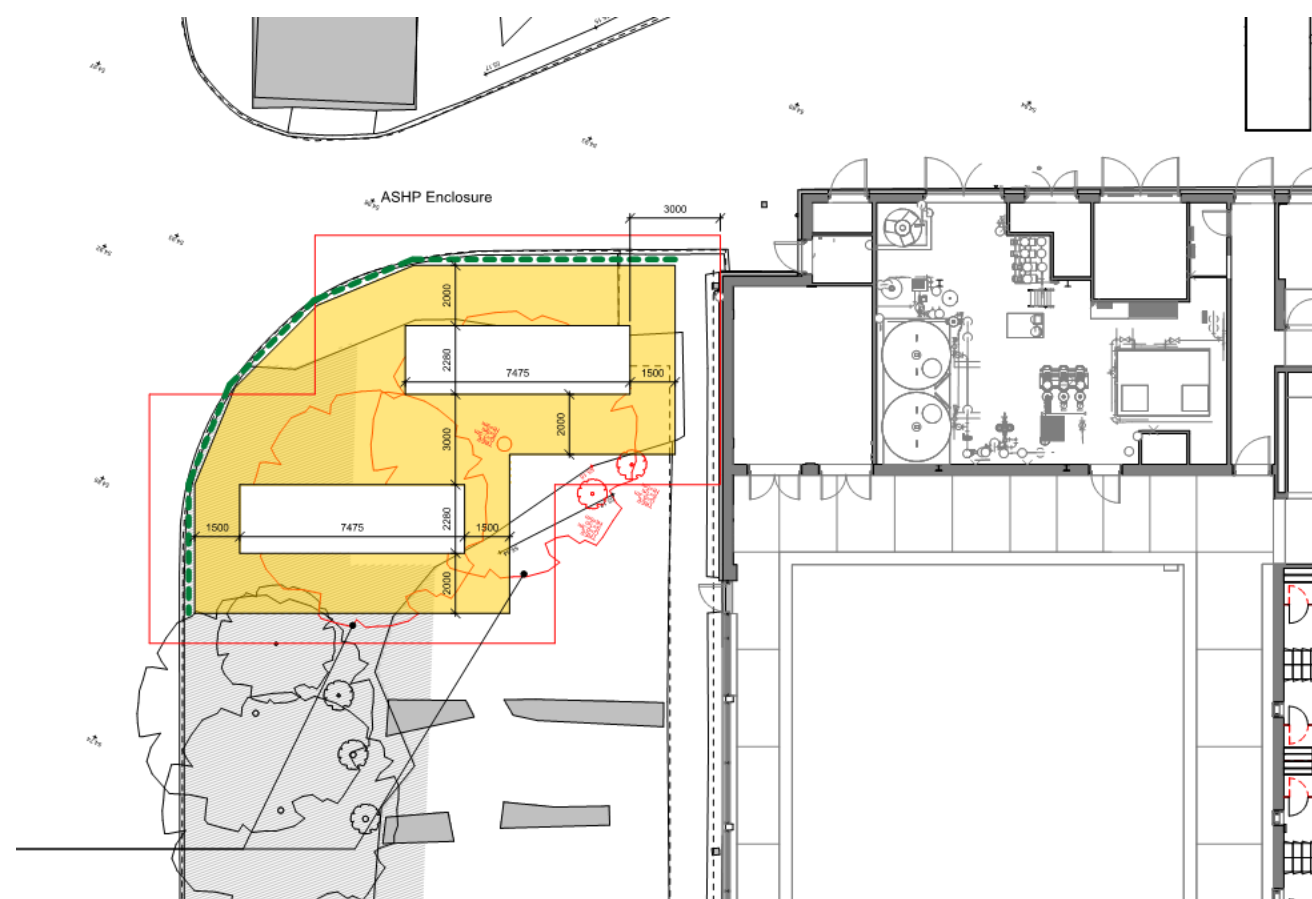
## 5.5 Items of Noise Generating Plant

Information on the proposed plant installations have been provided by QODA M&E engineers. The items of plant within each group, along with their locations and operational hours are as follows:

| Reference  | Type of Source                                                        | Manufacturer/ model        | Location               | Number of Units | Operational Hours |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ASHP-01&02 | Air Source Heat Pump / Breakout noise                                 | EUROKLIMAT/ 510-3-3 PV     | External ASHP compound | 2               | 05:00–23:00       |
| ASHP-03    | Air Source Heat Pump / Breakout noise                                 | Mitsubishi/ EYA22A         | Rooftop                | 1               | 05:00–23:00       |
| ASHP-04    | Air Source Heat Pump / Breakout noise                                 | Mitsubishi/ RYSA4AY1N/A    | Rooftop                | 1               | 05:00–23:00       |
| MVHR       | Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery/ Intake and Exhaust Grilles | Nuaire/ XBC15HA-EHN-C-LB1S | Extension              | 6               | 05:00–23:00       |

**Table 5.3: Proposed items of noise generating plant**

The following site plan shows the proposed plant installation:



**Figure 5.1: Site plan showing proposed plant layout**

## 5.6 Plant Noise Data

The following noise levels for the individual items of plant are presented below. All data is based on manufacturers data. All plant noise data sheets are included within APPENDIX B - .

| Unit Reference    | Noise Data Type                 | Sound Levels, dB, at Octave Band Centre Frequencies, Hz |     |     |     |      |      |      |      | dBA |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|
|                   |                                 | 63                                                      | 125 | 250 | 500 | 1000 | 2000 | 4000 | 8000 |     |
| ASHP-01&02        | Breakout<br>$L_w$               | —                                                       | —   | —   | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | 95  |
| ASHP-03           | Breakout<br>$L_p$ @ 1m          | 70                                                      | 71  | 67  | 68  | 58   | 55   | 50   | 43   | 67  |
| ASHP-04           | Breakout<br>$L_p$ @ 1m          | 86                                                      | 85  | 84  | 79  | 75   | 74   | 68   | 0    | 82  |
| Ground Floor MVHR | Supply inlet<br>In-duct $L_w$   | 68                                                      | 58  | 53  | 54  | 60   | 53   | 45   | 41   | 62  |
|                   | Exhaust outlet<br>In-duct $L_w$ | 73                                                      | 71  | 63  | 65  | 66   | 63   | 58   | 56   | 70  |
| First Floor MVHR  | Supply inlet<br>In-duct $L_w$   | 65                                                      | 55  | 50  | 51  | 57   | 50   | 42   | 38   | 59  |
|                   | Exhaust outlet<br>In-duct $L_w$ | 70                                                      | 68  | 60  | 62  | 63   | 60   | 55   | 53   | 67  |

Table 5.4: Plant Noise Data

## 5.7 Proposed Acoustic Screening

A solid acoustic barrier has been proposed around the ASHP plant compound. Currently, a 12k Envirofence from Jacksons Fencing has been proposed at a height of 2500mm. The blue line in the following figure illustrates the extent of the acoustic barrier.

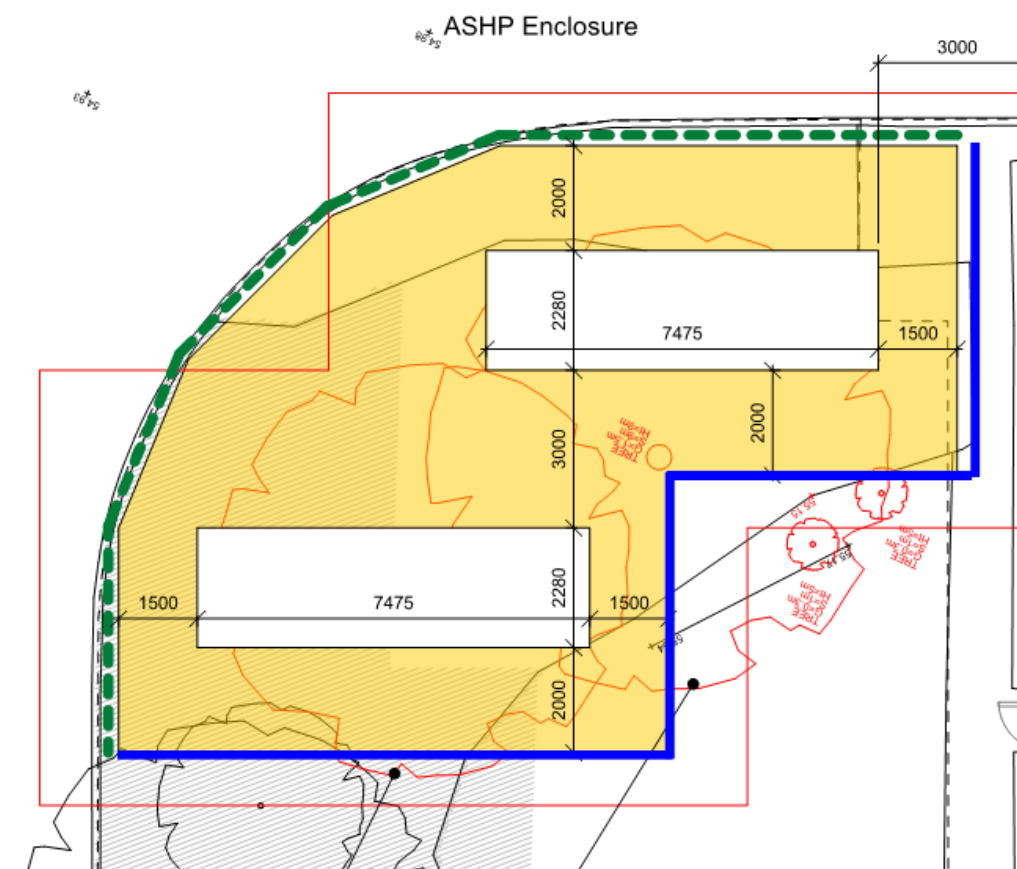


Figure 5.2: Proposed acoustic screen location (Blue)

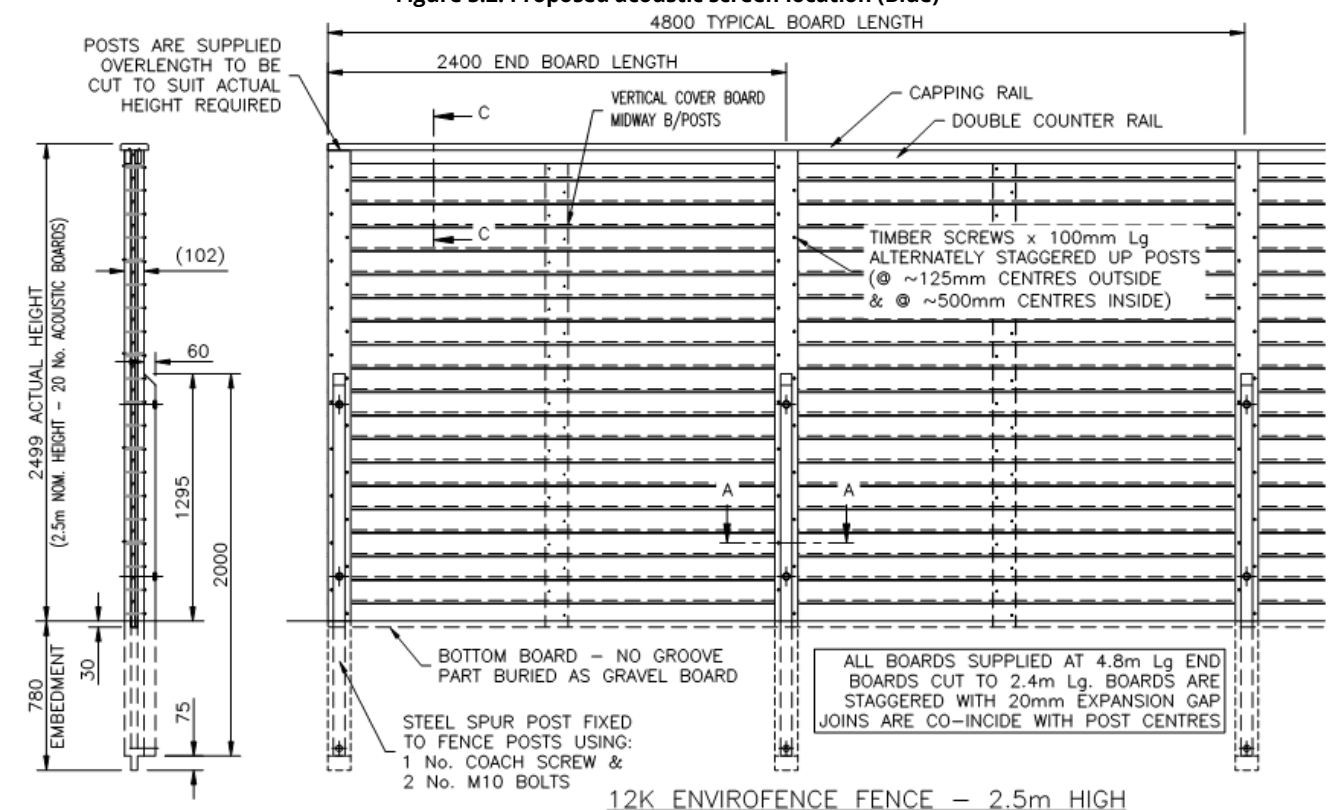


Figure 5.3: Proposed acoustic screens details

It is understood that the minimum required distance between the ASHP units and the fence is 800mm.

The acoustic fence installation should meet the following specification:

- Have no gaps within the acoustic barrier

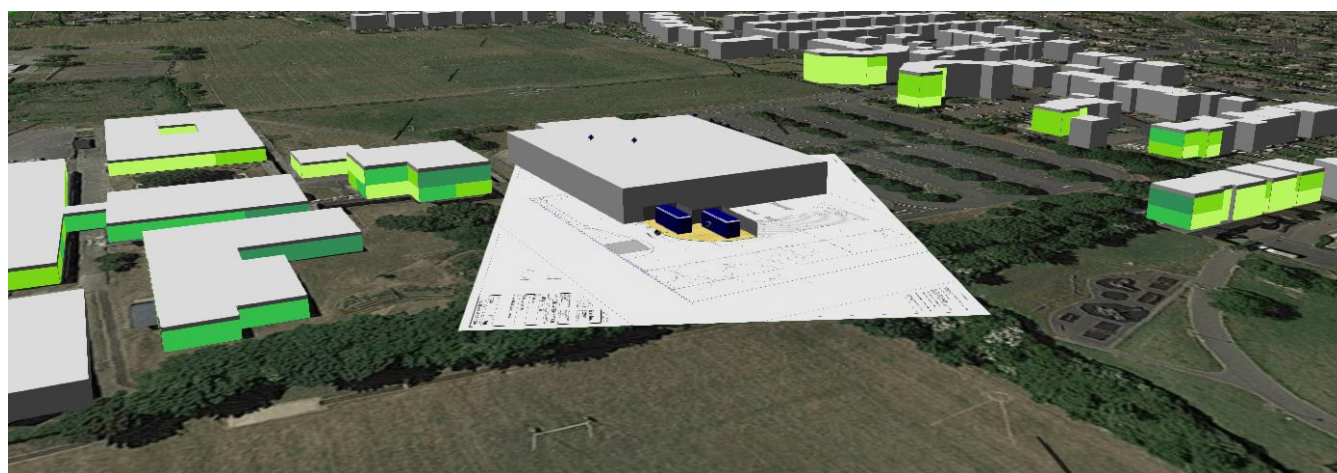
## 5.8 3D Acoustic Model

A 3D acoustic model of the development has been constructed in CadnaA such to accurately predict noise break out from individual items of plant from the development at nearby noise sensitive receivers. CadnaA is an industry standard noise modelling software which calculates how sound travels over distance. The model considers reflections off hard surfaces, ground absorption, acoustic screening, and geometrical spreading. The calculations are performed in accordance with ISO 9613: Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors.

The following assumptions have been made in the model, based on observation of the site and proposed development has identified the following features. These features will be included within the calculation model including any other additional parameters stated.

- Ground absorption has been set to acoustically hard.
- Topography of the site is assumed to be flat.
- Order of reflections has been set to 3

A screenshot of the 3D noise model is illustrated below.



**Figure 5.4: 3D Acoustic model with noise sources**

## 5.9 Noise Impact Assessment

The table below provides the calculated rating levels at the worst-affected noise sensitive receptors. The resultant noise map which calculated the combined specific noise level at each receiver is also presented below. Each image below represents the relevant operational time of the plant equipment as described in Table 5.3.



Figure 5.5: Resultant noise map in Operation Hours (05:00-23:00)

| NSR Reference                         | Time Period                        | Background Noise Level (dB $L_{A90,T}$ ) | Criteria (dB)    | Specific Noise Level (dB $L_{Aeq,T}$ ) | Feature Correction | Rating Level (dB $L_{A,rTr}$ ) | Assessment Outcome |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Residential dwellings on Redwing Rise | Daytime (07:00 - 23:00)            | 51                                       | Below Background | 45                                     | +0                 | 45                             | -6                 |
|                                       | Early Morning Time (05:00 - 07:00) | 50                                       | Below Background | 45                                     | +0                 | 45                             | -5                 |
| King James Academy Royston            | Daytime (07:00 - 23:00)            | 51                                       | Below Background | 49                                     | +0                 | 49                             | -2                 |

Table 5.5: BS4142 assessment outcome

As can be seen in Table 5.5, the cumulative noise levels generated by the plant equipment is predicted to be at least 5dB below the existing background sound level at the nearest residential sensitive receptors and 2 dB below the existing background sound level at the King James Academy. As described within Section **Error! Reference source not found.** this is an indication of a low impact and is considered to be a LOAEL.

### 5.9.1 Acoustic Feature Correction

The following acoustic feature corrections have been considered in regards to the rating level,  $L_{A,rTr}$  at the affected NSR's.

#### 5.9.1.1 Intermittency

The proposed plant units are not seen to be intermittently operating in nature. Therefore, intermittency correction is not applied.

#### 5.9.1.2 Tonality

The tonality of the proposed M&E items could not be assessed as third octave noise data is required for the assessment and only octave/single-figure noise data was available at the time of writing. However, the proposed M&E items are typically broadband in character.

## 5.10 Vibration Control

Although not necessarily related to planning matters, it is also important to consider the potential transfer of structure borne noise to the development itself, in the form of vibration.

It is typically recommended that condenser units and fans or anything generating vibration are isolated from the supporting structure by either steel spring isolators or rubber footings. Where there are particularly sensitive locations nearby, or when equipment is mounted on lightweight structures, consideration to use caged restrained type anti-vibration mounts should be made.

In addition, it is critical that the isolation is not "short-circuited" by associated ductwork or pipework. As such, flexible connectors should be introduced between the plant and any associated pipework or ductwork. Associated pipework and ductwork should be resiliently mounted, as appropriate.

### 5.11 Uncertainty

Consideration of the potential uncertainties involved in the sound level measurements and the assessment methodology have been made to ensure a high level of confidence in the outcome of the assessment. Annex B of BS4142:2014 presents a range of factors and good practice methods which should be made, and these have been considered in this assessment.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

In summary the following points set out the conclusions of this report;

### Noise Survey

- A noise survey has been conducted at the proposed site to establish the existing noise climate. These noise levels are presented in Section 3.0 of this report and the details of the noise survey itself are included in APPENDIX A - .

### Design Criteria

- MACH has proposed a set of design criteria, which is considered appropriate for the planning stage, which has been provided in Section 2.1.1.

### Façade Assessment

- The feasibility assessment of different ventilation strategies, indicates that natural ventilation through openable windows is feasible for all refurbished spaces. However, for the new build extension, the ventilation strategy will require further design development.
- Section 4.2.2 outlines minimum sound reduction indices required for the façade elements such to comply with the established internal noise criteria.
- A review of the proposed façade changes will be undertaken in the following stage.

### Assessment – Noise Breakout

- An assessment of the proposed new plant which forms part of the decarbonisation strategy of the leisure centre has been undertaken.
- The assessment criteria to be used for the purpose of planning submission has been established and is provided Section 5.3.2.
- Details of the plant equipment have been provided to MACH, including location, hours of operation, noise data and any proposed mitigation has been presented in Sections 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 of this report.
- Calculations have shown that the Rating Level from the proposed plant is predicted to be at most 5dB below the background sound level at the nearest residential sensitive receptors and 2 dB below the existing background sound level at the King James Academy
- The assessment therefore suggests that the proposed plant and associated attenuation will have a low impact upon the nearest sensitive receptors and is therefore considered to be a LOAEL.
- The assessment illustrates the proposed design including associated attenuation has aimed to minimise noise impacts upon the nearest noise sensitive receptors and thus minimise adverse effects on the health and quality of life, protecting current living conditions as required by national and local planning policy.

## APPENDIX A - ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE SURVEY

To establish the existing environmental noise levels on site, a noise survey was conducted between 15:30 on the 01/10/2024 and 14:45 on the 02/10/2024.

This site assessment was undertaken by Darryl Chen of MACH Group.

### A.1 Site Description

The site is located at Royston Leisure Centre, the dominant noise source on site is road traffic from leisure centre users as well as existing plant equipment on site.

#### A.1.1 Subjective Noise Climate (On-site)

| Noise Type                | Noise Characteristics                                       | Sources                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dominant                  | A primary contributor of noise levels on the site.          | Car park road traffic.            |
| Other Noise Contributions | Contributors to the remainder of the noise climate on site. | Existing plant equipment on site. |

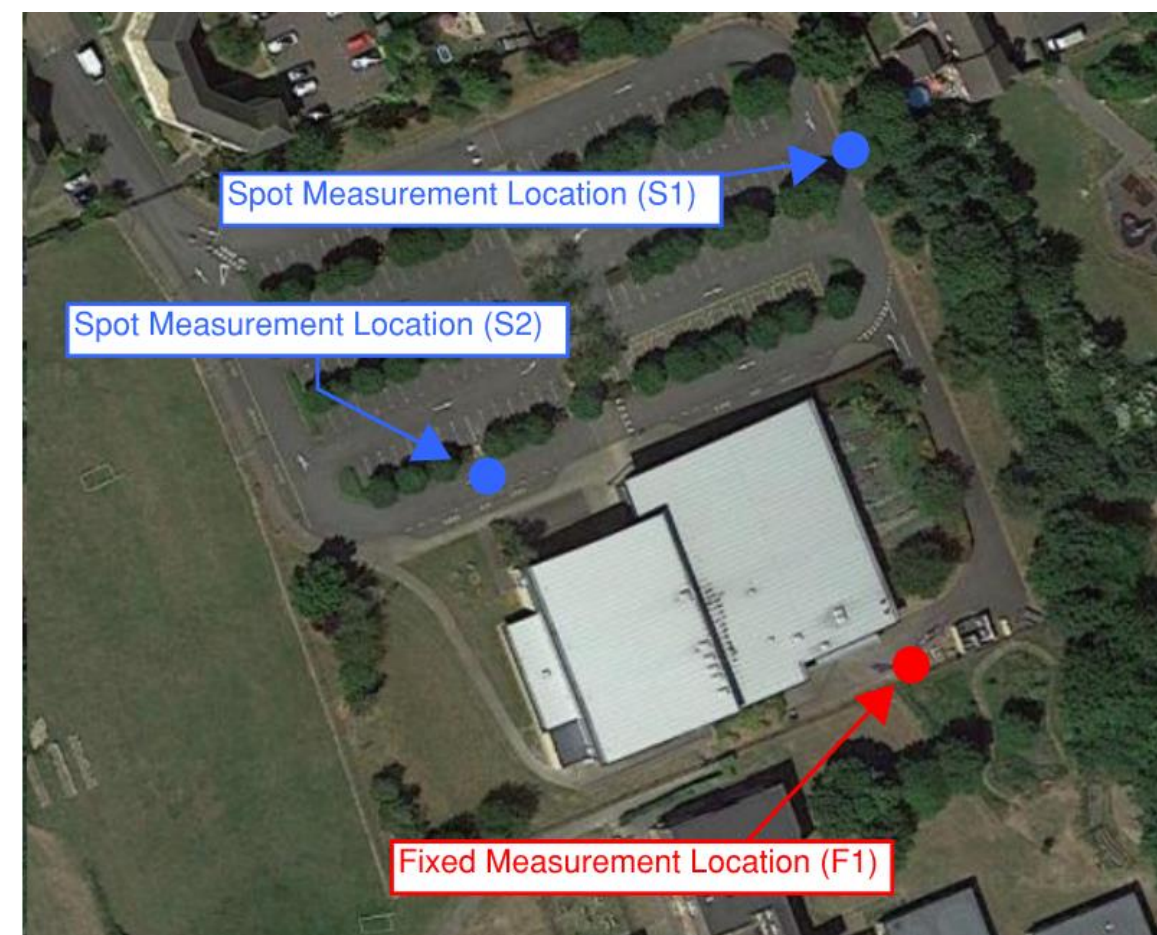
**Table 6.1 Subjective Summary of the Noise Sources**

#### A.1.2 Non-Representative Noise Sources

During the survey, there was an increase in  $L_{Aeq}$  between 09:25 and 09:35, as well as between 11:00 and 11:10 on 02/10/2024. This period of data has been highlighted in Figure A.3.3 and removed from any calculations for future assessments.

### A.2 All Measurement Locations

To help with the understanding of the site and measurement locations all the measurement positions are presented on the map below. Photos of the locations in situ are in the following sections.



**Figure A.2.1 All Measurement Locations on a Map**

## A.3 Fixed Measurement

A fixed microphone position was used to record noise levels between 15:30 on the 01/10/2024 and 14:45 on the 02/10/2024, where the fixed long-term meter was set to measure consecutive 'A' weighted 5-minute time samples.

To help with the understanding of the site and the measurement locations, the figures below present the location of the microphone position(s) in situ.

### A.3.1 Fixed Measurement Location – F1



Figure A.3.2 Fixed measurement F1 location in situ

### A.3.2 Fixed Measurement Results – F1

The following graph presents the noise levels recorded over the measurement period at the fixed location (F1).

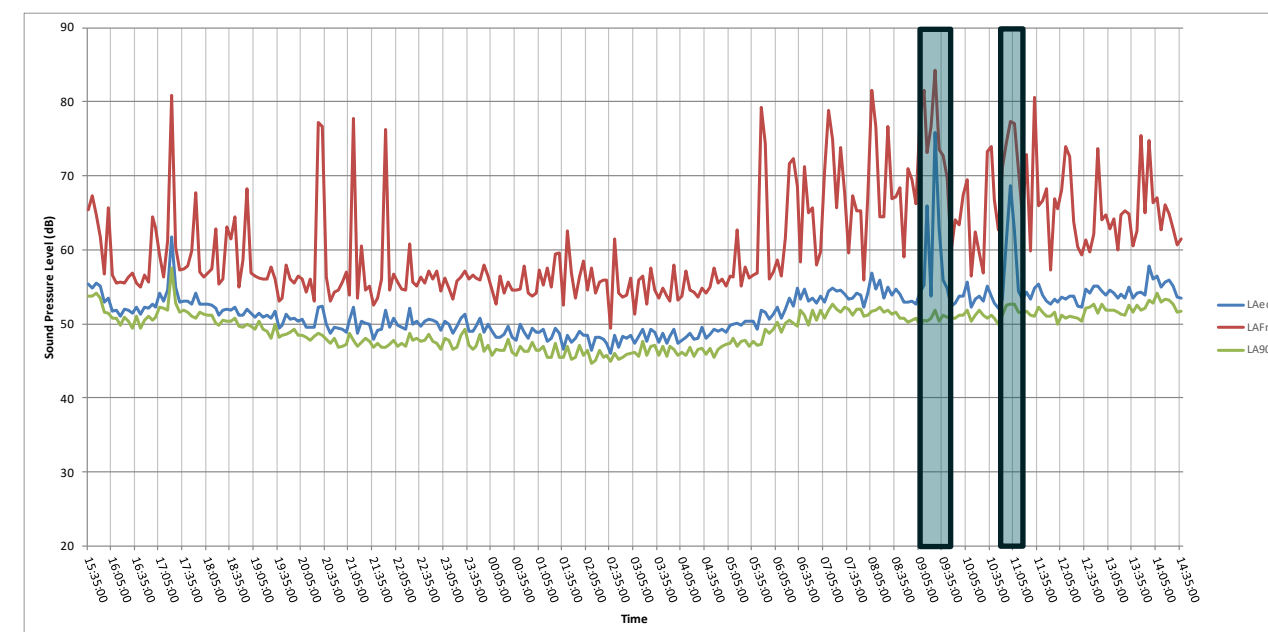


Figure A.3.3 Sound Pressure Level at fixed location, F1

## A.4 Spot Measurement

Spot measurements help quantify existing noise levels at different points around the site.

The figures below present the location of the microphone position(s) in situ.

The results of the measured levels at these location(s) are also presented in section A.5 Table 6.2.

### A.4.1 Spot Measurement - S1

This spot measurement was taken between 14:15 and 14:30 on 02/10/2024.



Figure A.4.4 - Spot Measurement S1 in situ

### A.4.2 Spot Measurement – S2

This spot measurement was taken between 14:36 and 14:45 on 02/10/2024.



Figure A.4.5 - Spot Measurement S2 in situ

## A.5 All Spot Measurement Results

The  $L_{Aeq}$ ,  $L_{AFmax}$ , and  $L_{A90}$  levels measured from all spot measurements are shown in Table 4.2 below.

| Spot Measurement Position | Date       | Start | End   | Duration | $L_{Aeq,T}(dB)$ | $L_{AFmax}$ | $L_{A90}$ |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| S1                        | 02/10/2024 | 14:15 | 14:30 | 15 Mins  | 54              | 67          | 50        |
| S2                        | 02/10/2024 | 14:36 | 14:45 | 9 Mins   | 56              | 79          | 52        |

Table 6.2 - Spot Measurement 1 Results Table

A.6 Measurement Equipment

| Item                                | Serial No.   | Last Calibration | Certificate No. | Calibration Due |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| NTI Precision Sound Analyser XL2 TA | A2A-11002-E0 | 190656           | 18/04/2023      | 18/04/2025      |
| NTI Pre-amplifier MA220             | 7183         | 190656           | 18/04/2023      | 18/04/2025      |
| Cirrus Microphone Capsule MK:224    | 214341A      | 190553           | 11/04/2023      | 11/04/2025      |
| Norsonic Sound Calibrator Type 1251 | 32090        | 175112           | 30/05/2023      | 30/05/2024      |

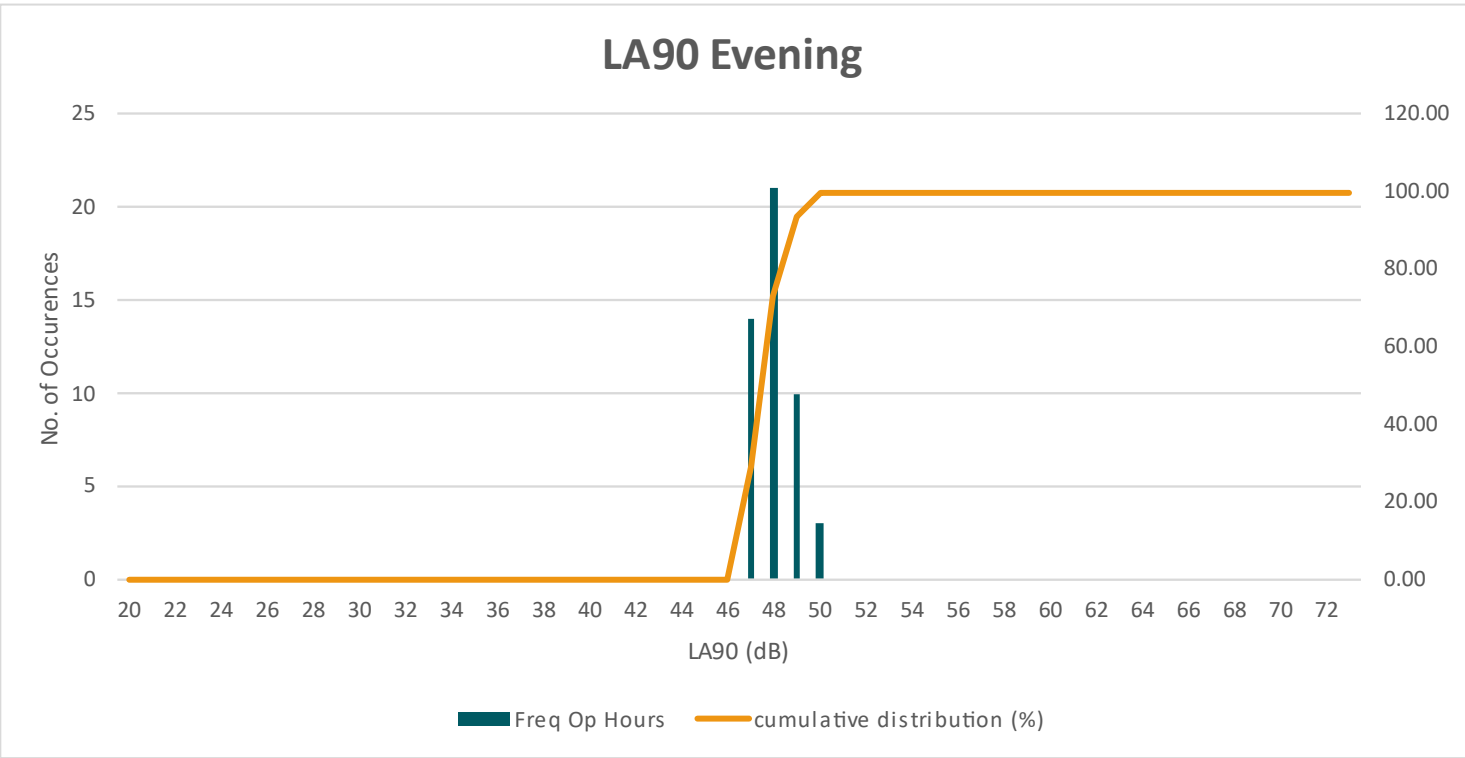
Table 6.3 Measurement Equipment

A.7 Meteorological Conditions

Data Taken from: <https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/>

| Date       | Time (hh:mm) | Temperature (High / Low) (°C) | Humidity (%) | Pressure (hPa) | Wind Speed (m/s) | Wind Direction | Conditions                  |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 01/10/2024 | 06:00        | 12/11                         | 94           | 1007           | 6.9              | WNW            | Light rain. Partly sunny.   |
|            | 12:00        | 13/11                         | 96           | 1005           | 7.8              | WNW            | Light rain. Low clouds.     |
|            | 18:00        | 13/12                         | 96           | 1007           | 7.5              | NNW            | Mostly cloudy.              |
| 02/10/2024 | 00:00        | 12/12                         | 99           | 1009           | 7.8              | N              | Light rain. Passing clouds. |
|            | 06:00        | 14/12                         | 96           | 1013           | 6.               | NNE            | Partly sunny.               |
|            | 12:00        | 14/12                         | 87           | 1016           | 5.8              | NE             | Broken clouds.              |

Table 6.4 Meteorological Conditions

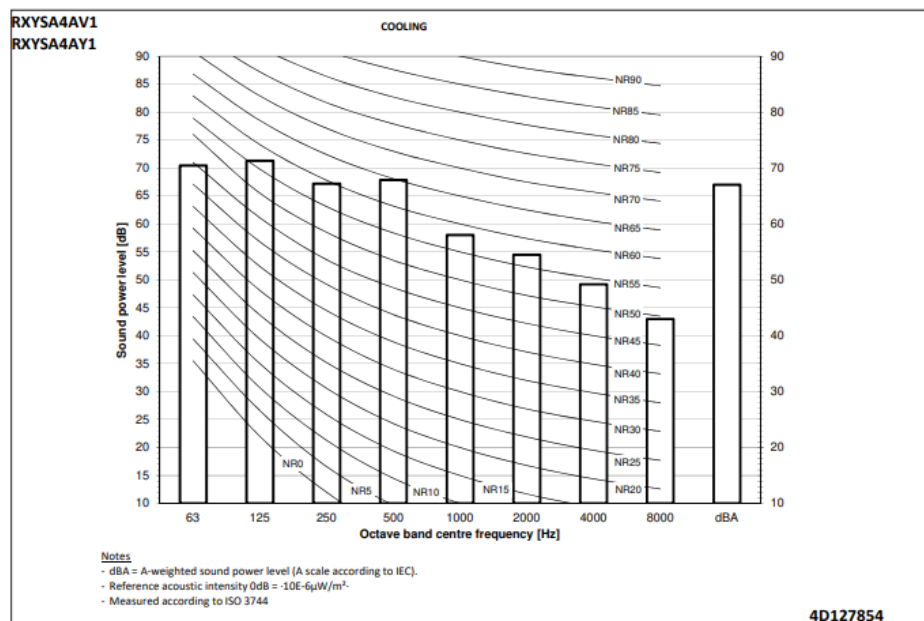


## APPENDIX B - PLANT NOSIE DATA

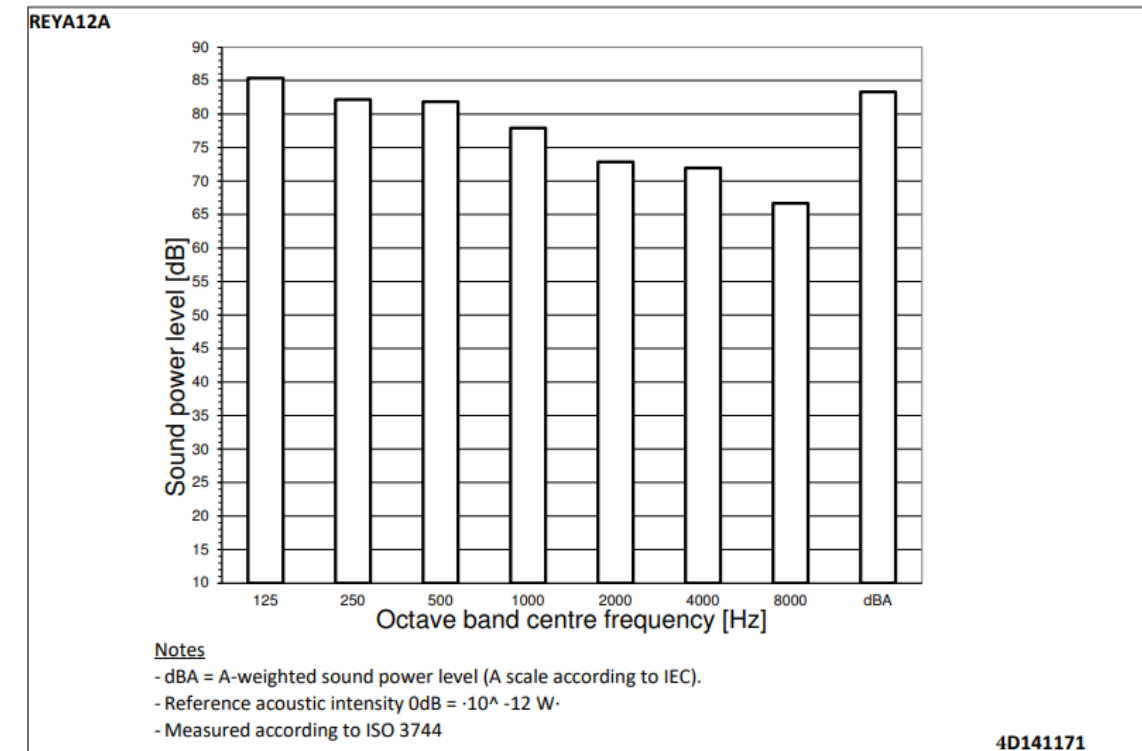
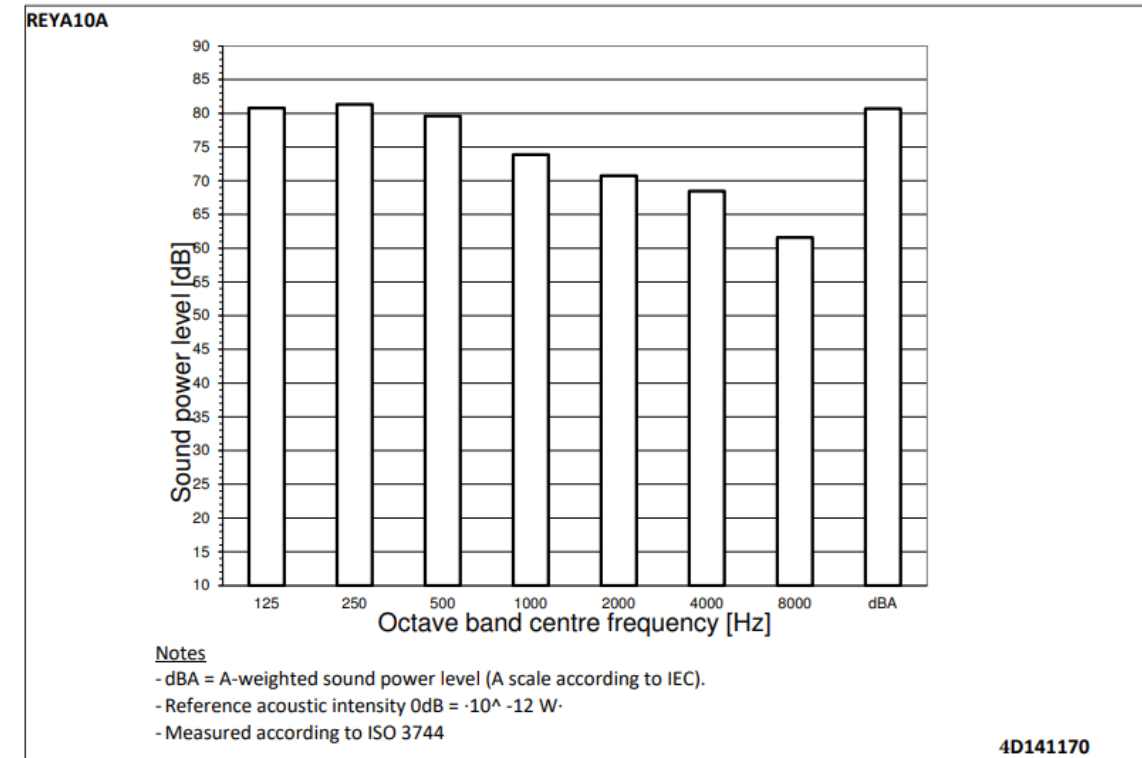
### HERA HT R290 510-3-3 PV

| HERA HT R290                                                                                                                                       |         | 365-3-3 PV                                                         | 425-3-3 PV    | 465-3-3 PV    | 510-3-3 PV    |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Heating Capacity <sup>(1)</sup> (LN/SL versions)</b>                                                                                            |         | [kW]                                                               | 360           | 419           | 461           | 507           |
| Total power input <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                                                                   |         | [kW]                                                               | 113           | 131           | 146           | 159           |
| COP                                                                                                                                                |         | [-]                                                                | 3,20          | 3,19          | 3,17          | 3,19          |
| <b>Heating Capacity <sup>(1)</sup> (XL versions)</b>                                                                                               |         | [kW]                                                               | 358           | 416           | 458           | 502           |
| Total power input <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                                                                   |         | [kW]                                                               | 112           | 130           | 144           | 158           |
| COP                                                                                                                                                |         | [-]                                                                | 3,21          | 3,19          | 3,17          | 3,19          |
| Water flow <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                                                                          |         | [m³/h]                                                             | 62,4          | 72,6          | 79,9          | 87,9          |
| User circuit pressure drop <sup>(1)</sup> - Base version                                                                                           |         | [kPa]                                                              | 53,7          | 62,1          | 58,3          | 64,0          |
| Min / Max water flow (heat exchanger, user side)                                                                                                   |         | [m³/h]                                                             | 59,3 / 74,9   | 69 / 87,1     | 75,9 / 95,9   | 83,5 / 106    |
| <b>Applications for seasonal efficiency for heating according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 813/2013 - Low Temperature - Average Climate</b>    |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| SCOP (LN/SL - XL)                                                                                                                                  |         | [W/W]                                                              | 3,983 - 4,048 | 4,009 - 4,066 | 3,992 - 4,045 | 3,704 - 3,769 |
| η <sub>h</sub> (LN/SL - XL)                                                                                                                        |         | [%]                                                                | 156,3 - 158,9 | 157,4 - 159,6 | 156,7 - 158,8 | 145,1 - 147,8 |
| <b>Applications for seasonal efficiency for heating according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 813/2013 - Medium Temperature - Average Climate</b> |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| SCOP (LN/SL - XL)                                                                                                                                  |         | [W/W]                                                              | 3,304 - 3,351 | 3,330 - 3,374 | 3,326 - 3,364 | 3,364 - 3,398 |
| η <sub>h</sub> (LN/SL - XL)                                                                                                                        |         | [%]                                                                | 129,1 - 131,0 | 130,2 - 131,9 | 130,0 - 131,6 | 131,5 - 132,9 |
| <b>Cooling Capacity <sup>(2)</sup> (LN/SL versions)</b>                                                                                            |         | [kW]                                                               | 323           | 373           | 411           | 453           |
| Total power input <sup>(2)</sup>                                                                                                                   |         | [kW]                                                               | 127           | 146           | 161           | 175           |
| EER                                                                                                                                                |         | [-]                                                                | 2,54          | 2,56          | 2,55          | 2,58          |
| <b>Cooling Capacity <sup>(2)</sup> (XL versions)</b>                                                                                               |         | [kW]                                                               | 321           | 372           | 409           | 450           |
| Total power input <sup>(2)</sup>                                                                                                                   |         | [kW]                                                               | 122           | 141           | 157           | 171           |
| EER                                                                                                                                                |         | [-]                                                                | 2,63          | 2,64          | 2,61          | 2,63          |
| Water flow <sup>(2)</sup>                                                                                                                          |         | [m³/h]                                                             | 55,6          | 64,2          | 70,6          | 77,8          |
| User circuit pressure drop <sup>(2)</sup> - Base version                                                                                           |         | [kPa]                                                              | 45,1          | 51,5          | 48,3          | 53,2          |
| Min / Max water flow (heat exchanger, user side)                                                                                                   |         | [m³/h]                                                             | 44,5 / 66,7   | 51,4 / 77,1   | 56,5 / 84,8   | 62,3 / 93,4   |
| <b>Technical data</b>                                                                                                                              |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Refrigerant / GWP                                                                                                                                  | -       | R290 / 3                                                           |               |               |               |               |
| Charge of refrigerant                                                                                                                              | [Kg]    | > 12                                                               |               |               |               |               |
| Number of refrigerant circuits                                                                                                                     | N°      | 3                                                                  |               |               |               |               |
| Compressor type / quantity                                                                                                                         | -/N°    | Semihermetic reciprocating with VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) / 3 |               |               |               |               |
| Expansion valve type                                                                                                                               | -       | Electronic                                                         |               |               |               |               |
| Fans quantity / type                                                                                                                               | -       | 12 / Axial EC                                                      |               |               |               |               |
| Fans power input <sup>(1)</sup> (total)                                                                                                            | [kW]    | 2,93                                                               | 3,30          | 3,48          | 3,63          |               |
| Total air flow <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                                                                      | [m³/h]  | 125.600                                                            | 130.900       | 133.350       | 135.400       |               |
| <b>Electrical data</b>                                                                                                                             |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Power supply (main - gas detector)                                                                                                                 | -       | 400/3+N/50 - 230/1/50                                              |               |               |               |               |
| Maximum absorbed power                                                                                                                             | [kW]    | 211                                                                | 243           | 269           | 290           |               |
| Locked rotor current - LRA                                                                                                                         | [A]     | 337                                                                | 388           | 430           | 463           |               |
| Maximum absorbed current (full load)                                                                                                               | [A]     | 337                                                                | 388           | 430           | 463           |               |
| <b>Solution BASE-P - with Hydronic Kit</b>                                                                                                         |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Pump type                                                                                                                                          | -       | Centrifugal                                                        |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Standard pump (1,5 bar)</b>                                                                                                                     |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Motor efficiency                                                                                                                                   | -       | IE3                                                                |               |               |               |               |
| Pump motor nominal power input                                                                                                                     | [kW]    | 5,5                                                                | 5,5           | 5,5           | 5,5           |               |
| Pump motor nominal absorbed current                                                                                                                | [A]     | 10,6                                                               | 10,6          | 10,6          | 10,6          |               |
| <b>Increased pump (3,0 bar)</b>                                                                                                                    |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Motor efficiency                                                                                                                                   | -       | IE3                                                                |               |               |               |               |
| Pump motor nominal power input                                                                                                                     | [kW]    | 9,2                                                                | 9,2           | 9,2           | 11,0          |               |
| Pump motor nominal absorbed current                                                                                                                | [A]     | 17,2                                                               | 17,2          | 17,2          | 21,3          |               |
| <b>Water connections</b>                                                                                                                           |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Size (nominal external diameter)                                                                                                                   | [inch]  | 4" (DN 100)                                                        | 4" (DN 100)   | 5" (DN 125)   | 5" (DN 125)   |               |
| <b>Noise levels <sup>(3)</sup></b>                                                                                                                 |         |                                                                    |               |               |               |               |
| Total sound power (LN version)                                                                                                                     | [db(A)] | 93                                                                 | 93            | 93            | 95            |               |

### RXYS44AY1



### REYA22A (REYA10A+ REYA12A)



**MVHR XBC15HA-EHN-C-LB1S (Ground Floor)**

Noise calculated speed controlled to required duty (94.11%)

Sound Power Levels re 1 pWatts (Hz):

| Hz               | 63 | 125 | 250 | 500 | 1k | 2k | 4k | 8k | dBA |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Breakout         | 59 | 55  | 40  | 41  | 39 | 35 | 32 | 21 | 24  |
| Induct Intake    | 68 | 58  | 53  | 54  | 60 | 53 | 45 | 41 | 41  |
| Induct Supply    | 73 | 70  | 63  | 64  | 66 | 62 | 57 | 55 | 49  |
| Induct Discharge | 73 | 71  | 63  | 65  | 66 | 63 | 58 | 56 | 49  |
| Induct Extract   | 67 | 57  | 53  | 53  | 59 | 53 | 43 | 39 | 40  |
| For 100% speed:  | +2 | +2  | +2  | +2  | +2 | +2 | +2 | +2 |     |

dBA is spherical at 3 metres. For hemi-spherical add 3 dBA.

Please note that the noise data stated on this data sheet for the unit and/or silencer is tested in accordance with UK, European and International industry laboratory standards. However onsite conditions may vary and we would recommend that this information is verified by an acoustic specialist in order to ensure its suitability for the intended application.

**MVHR XBC15HA-EHN-C-LB1S (First Floor)**

## Sound Data

Noise calculated speed controlled to required duty (81.15%)

Sound Power Levels re 1 pWatts (Hz):

| Hz               | 63 | 125 | 250 | 500 | 1k | 2k | 4k | 8k | dBA |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Breakout         | 56 | 52  | 37  | 38  | 36 | 32 | 29 | 18 | 21  |
| Induct Intake    | 65 | 55  | 50  | 51  | 57 | 50 | 42 | 38 | 38  |
| Induct Supply    | 70 | 67  | 60  | 61  | 63 | 59 | 54 | 52 | 45  |
| Induct Discharge | 70 | 68  | 60  | 62  | 63 | 60 | 55 | 53 | 46  |
| Induct Extract   | 64 | 54  | 50  | 50  | 56 | 50 | 40 | 36 | 37  |
| For 100% speed:  | +5 | +5  | +5  | +5  | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 |     |

dBA is spherical at 3 metres. For hemi-spherical add 3 dBA.

Please note that the noise data stated on this data sheet for the unit and/or silencer is tested in accordance with UK, European and International industry laboratory standards. However onsite conditions may vary and we would recommend that this information is verified by an acoustic specialist in order to ensure its suitability for the intended application.

## APPENDIX C - POLICY FOR NOISE

### C.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024, sets out the Government's planning policies for England.

With regards to noise impact, Paragraph 191 of the NPPF states the following:

"Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

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 life<sup>69</sup>;

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

c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation. "

Paragraph 193 goes on to state:

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.

\*The draft NPPF published on 30 July 2024 propose no change to the above statements.

### C.2 Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)

The aim of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) is to provide clarity regarding current policies and practices to enable noise management decisions to be made within the wider context, at the most appropriate level, in a cost-effective manner and in a timely fashion. The NPSE applies to all forms of noise including environmental noise, neighbour noise and neighbourhood noise.

**Noise Policy Vision:** Promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.

**Noise Policy Aims:** Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:

- avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and
- where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life

**Observed Effect Level:** In order to fit an objective assessment of "significant adverse" and "adverse" impacts, the NPSE introduced the concept of categorising the impact from noise pollution into different observed effect level categories. This has been expanded further within the more recent document "National Planning Policy Guidance – Noise".

### C.3 National Planning Policy Guidance - Noise

Guidance on the interpretation of the policy aims contained within the NPPF is contained within National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG). The NPPG introduces the concept of a noise exposure hierarchy based on likely average response. The current guidance contained in the NPPG is summarised in the table below. This advice has not changed since the introduction of the 2018 version of the NPPF.

| Perception                                | Examples of Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Increasing Effect Level             | Action                           |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Not noticeable                            | No Effect                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No Observed Effect                  | No specific measures required    |
| Noticeable and not intrusive              | Noise can be heard but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No Observed Adverse Effect          | No specific measures required    |
| Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                     |                                  |
| Noticeable and intrusive                  | Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.                                                          | Observed Adverse Effect             | Mitigate and reduce to a minimum |
| Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                     |                                  |
| Noticeable and disruptive                 | The noise causes a material change in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area. | Significant Observed Adverse Effect | Avoid                            |
| Noticeable and very disruptive            | Extensive and regular changes in behaviour and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress or physiological effects, e.g. regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable harm, e.g. auditory and non-auditory                                                                                                                                                                               | Unacceptable Adverse Effect         | Prevent                          |

Table 6.5: Noise exposure hierarchy

### C.4 North Herts Local Plan 2011 – 2031

The North Herts Local Plan aims to create a strategy to ensure that growth is delivered in the right place and is of the right character and quality. A new Local Plan for North Hertfordshire has been a long time in the making. This provides guidance on the prevention of adverse noise impacts associated with noise and includes the following:

Policy D3 - Protecting Living Conditions

“Planning permission will be granted for development proposals which do not cause unacceptable harm to living conditions Where the living conditions of proposed developments would be affected by an existing use or the living conditions of an existing development would be affected by a proposed use, the Council will consider whether there are mitigation measures that can be taken to mitigate the harm to an acceptable level. If the Council is not satisfied that mitigation proposals would address the identified harm, development proposals will not be permitted.”

### C.5 Summary of Local and National Guidance

The first two aims of the NPSE and the table from NPPG-Noise (Table 6.5) require that no significant adverse impact should occur and that, where a noise level which falls between a level which represents the lowest observable adverse effect and a level which represents a significant observed adverse effect, then according to the explanatory notes in the statement:

“... all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life whilst also taking into consideration the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such effects cannot occur”

The local planning policy also advises that

“It is not practical to provide absolute protection for existing residents’ current living conditions, instead, there is a need to ensure that any impacts a development has are identified and appropriate mitigation built into the scheme”

Therefore, taking an overview of the local and national policy, where impacts are identified appropriate mitigation should be built into the scheme. However, from the national policies it is clear that when considering the impact of noise, one must consider the significance of any impact. The presence of an adverse impact in itself is not sufficient to refuse permission.

## APPENDIX D - BS 4142

BS 4142:2014 “Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound” describes a method of determining the level of noise of an industrial nature, together with the procedures for assessing whether the noise in question is likely to give rise to complaints from persons living in the vicinity. As such, an assessment to BS 4142 is typically called for within planning conditions. The likelihood of complaints in response to a noise depends on various factors. BS 4142 assesses the likelihood of complaints by considering the margin by which the noise in question exceeds the background noise level.

BS 4142 states that one should ‘obtain an initial estimate of the impact of the specific sound by subtracting the measured background sound level from the rating level and consider the following:

- a) Typically, the greater this difference, the greater the magnitude of the impact.
- b) A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- c) A difference of around + 5 dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.
- d) The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or a significant adverse impact. 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.

The aforementioned rating level is based upon the specific noise level of the noise source in question. A correction should be applied to the specific noise level to obtain an increased rating level if ‘a tone, impulse or other characteristic occurs, or is expected to be present, for new or modified sound sources. To summarise, BS4142 section 9.2 advises the following with regards to corrections for acoustic characteristics:

- **Tonality** – for sound ranging from not tonal to prominently tonal the Joint Nordic Method gives a correction of between 0 dB and +6 dB for tonality. Subjectively, this can be converted to a penalty of 2 dB for a tone which is just perceptible at the noise receptor, 4 dB where it is clearly perceptible, and 6 dB where it is highly perceptible.
- **Impulsivity** – A correction of up to +9 dB can be applied for sound that is highly impulsive, considering both the rapidity of the change in sound level and the overall change in sound level., Subjectively, this can be converted to a penalty of 3 dB for impulsivity which is just perceptible at the noise receptor, 6 dB where it is clearly perceptible, and 9 dB where it is highly perceptible.
- **Other sound characteristics** – Where the specific sound features characteristics that are neither tonal nor impulsive, though otherwise are readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment, a penalty of 3 dB can be applied
- **Intermittency** – When the specific sound has identifiable on/off conditions, if the intermittency is readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment, a penalty of 3 dB can be applied.