



PEAK acoustics

Noise Assessment Report

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Noise Impact Assessment

Report Reference Number: TW0907205NR

Client: Euro Tel Design Ltd

Site: Proposed Data Cabins

Redbrook Business Park, Barnsley, S75 1JN

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Assessment Summary

A Noise Impact Assessment has been undertaken on behalf of Euro Tel Design Ltd for a proposed data centre with associated air conditioning plant and emergency generators at Redbrook Business Park, Barnsley, S75 1JN.

A background noise survey was undertaken between 12:00 on 3rd August and 12:50 on 4th August 2020 to obtain measurements of the existing background noise climate representative of nearby Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSRs). The nearest receptor has been identified as a residential dwelling situated approximately 7 meters West of the site boundary.

Calculations of all AC Plant indicate potential for a *significant adverse impact* at the NSR location, with the Rating Level predicted to be 16 dB above the lowest measured background sound level. Therefore, mitigation has been recommended to ensure a *low* impact.

After consultation with the client, it was recommended to re-position plant units and install acoustic louvres over all exit vent openings. With the new positioning along with the recommended reduction index for acoustic louvres, mitigated AC plant noise emissions were determined to be of *low* impact at the worst affected NSR location, in accordance with BS4142:2014.

Calculations indicate that operation of the emergency backup generators would exceed the background sound level, implying the potential for *significant adverse* noise impacts. However, suitable mitigation was achieved with the use of acoustic louvres and relocating the generators and their exit vents to the South East façade.

Provided the guidance given within this report is followed and implemented, noise emissions from the proposed data cabins and associated plant equipment should be controlled, with adverse noise impacts minimised.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Noise Impact Assessment has been undertaken on behalf of Euro Tel Design Ltd for a proposed data centre with associated air conditioning plant and emergency generators at Redbrook Business Park, Barnsley, S75 1JN.

2. Standards & Criteria

- 2.1 The assessment of plant noise emissions is to be undertaken in accordance with BS4142:2014: ***‘BS4142:2014 – Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound’*** - is a recognised standard for determining the noise impact of fixed plant machinery via relation of emissions to the measured background noise levels on site.
- 2.2 The proposed plant is to be assessed by comparing noise emission levels against the lowest prevailing background sound levels measured during the noise survey. The assessment will consider night-time background sound levels against maximum output of operating plant.

3. Nearby Noise Sensitive Receptors

- 3.1 The nearest or most-affected Noise Sensitive Receptor (NSR) have been identified as the residential dwellings to the east on Chalbury Close. The site, receptor positions and noise monitoring locations are shown in Figure 1 on page 7.

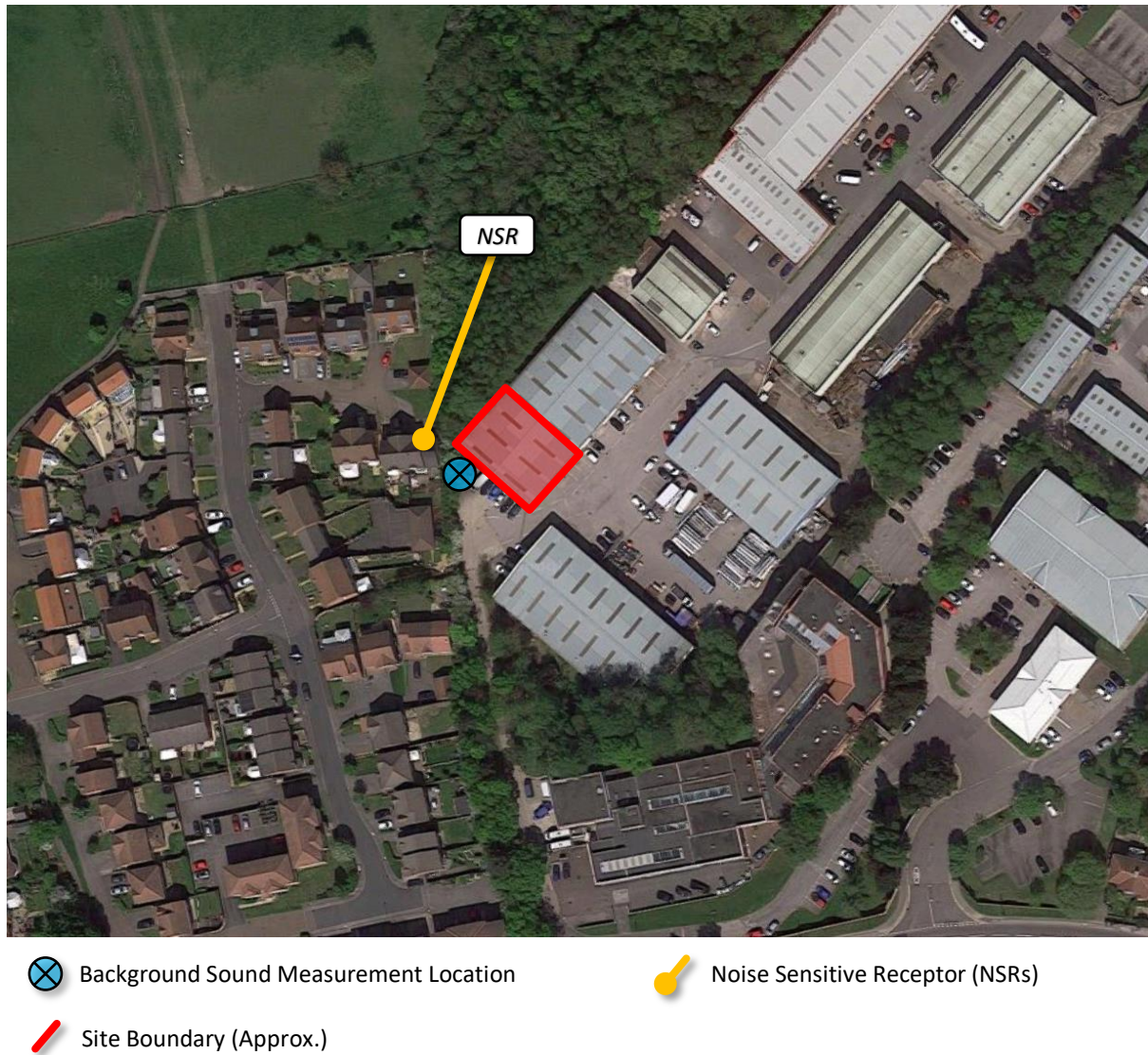
4. Survey Procedure & Equipment

- 4.1 An unattended background noise survey was undertaken at position M1 over the period between 12:00 on 3rd August and 12:50 on 4th August 2020. The noise climate at this position was deemed representative of the nearest and most affected NSR dwelling.
- 4.2 The background noise climate primarily consisted of slow-moving traffic on the estate to the West of the site. Vehicle movements were noted within the neighbouring commercial yards. Noise sources included the use of Power tools, forklifts, large vehicles, and alarms were the main noise sources emitted from these units.
- 4.3 Secondary noise sources included birdsong and workers conversing from nearby commercial premises were noted.
- 4.4 Measurements of $L_{Aeq,T}$ and $L_{A90,T}$ were logged in 5-min intervals. The microphone was placed approximately 1.7m from ground level and away from nearby reflective surfaces.
- 4.5 Measurements were obtained using Class 1 instrumentation. Full equipment details are given in **Appendix B**. Equipment was calibrated before and after use and no significant drift occurred during measurements. Full calibration details are provided in **Appendix D**.
- 4.6 Weather conditions were a little damp with temperatures of 17 - 18°C and negligible winds; deemed suitable for environmental noise measurements; details can be found in **Appendix C**.

6. Site Description, NSR and Measurement Locations

6.1 The Site, NSR and monitoring locations are shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Site Boundary, Measurement Position and NSR Locations



7. Proposed Noise Sources

- 7.1 Table 2 lists all noise generating equipment, including external cooling equipment and emergency back-up diesel generators. The equipment is proposed to be installed for two cabins, C1 & C2, in two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2. Each cabin is identical in terms of the equipment installed. The assessment will be undertaken for the site as a whole.

Reference	Description	Operating Hours
C1 AC1	4 No. Daikin RZQ250 Air Conditioning Units	Any Time (24hr)
C1 AC2	2 No. Daikin RZQSG100L9V1 or RZQSG100L8Y1 (tbc) AC Units	Any Time (24hr)
C1 GEN	1 No. FG Wilson P150-5 Power Generator in Acoustic Enclosure	Only during power outages and for testing
C2 AC1	4 No. Daikin RZQ250 Air Conditioning Units	Any Time (24hr)
C2 AC2	2 No. Daikin RZQSG100L9V1 or RZQSG100L8Y1 (tbc) AC Units	Any Time (24hr)
C2 GEN	1 No. FG Wilson P150-5 Power Generator in Acoustic Enclosure	Only during power outages and for testing

Table 2: Proposed Plant

8. Background Sound Level & Plant Noise Limit

- 8.1 The assessment of AC units for both phase 1 & phase 2 will be assessed as a cumulative plant noise impact.
- 8.2 The assessment of the emergency generators will be considered separately due to their likely infrequent operation.
- 8.3 Table 3 shows the noise criteria for plant operations which must not be exceeded to ensure a low impact is achievable at the nearest / worst affected NSR location.
- 8.4 In order to derive a design criterion for the limit of plant noise emissions, the lowest background $L_{A90,15min}$ obtained during the survey has been considered. This is summarised in Table 3 below

Day/Night	Period(s)	Lowest $L_{Aeq,T=15min}$	Lowest $L_{A90,T=15min}$
Night-time	03:10 – 03:25	34	≤32

Table 3: Measured Lowest Background Sound Levels

- 8.5 The full measured background sound levels are shown graphically in **Appendix**

9. Specific Sound Levels – AC Plant

- 9.1 The proposed AC has the potential to operate at all times.
- 9.2 It is important to note that the following assessment is based on the lowest background sound levels measured during the survey, and therefore represents a worst-case scenario.
- 9.3 Source noise levels are from manufacturer noise data sheets, shown in **Appendix G**.
- 9.4 Noise levels at the NSR locations have been calculated taking into account; distance from the noise source to the receiver; screening provided by structures; line of sight between source and receiver.
- 9.5 A site plan showing the original floor plan and mitigated relocation of plant is given in Section 14.
- 9.6 The Specific Sound Levels (L_{As}) of the AC plant has been calculated to the receptor location shown in Figure 1, the resultant sound level is found in Table 5 below.

NSR Location	Specific Sound Level, dB L_{As}
NSR Façade	43

Table 4: Specific Sound Level

- 9.7 All calculations are detailed in **Appendix F**.

10. Rating Levels – AC Plant

- 10.1 In accordance with BS4142:2014, the Specific Sound Levels may be corrected for characteristics that make the sound more noticeable at the NSR location such as tonality, impulsivity and intermittency.
- 10.2 The plant equipment is likely to operate intermittently, therefore a 3 dB penalty for intermittency is applied.
- 10.3 The plant equipment is likely to emit noise with tonal characteristics, therefore a 2 dB penalty for tonality is applied.
- 10.4 The proposed plant does not produce any sounds of an impulsive nature, meaning no penalty for impulsivity is applied.
- 10.5 The resultant Rating Level is summarised below.

NSR Location	Specific Sound Level, dB L_{As}	BS4142 Penalties, dB	Rating Level, dB L_{Ar}
NSR Façade	43	+ 5	48

Table 5: Rating Level

11. Rating Levels Vs Background Sound Level – AC Plant

- 11.1 The Rating Levels are to be compared to the background sound levels to determine noise impact in accordance with BS4142:2014.

A Sound Rating Level at or below the background noise level is indicative of Low Impact;

A Sound Rating Level that exceeds the background noise level by around +5dB is likely an indication of Adverse Impact, depending on the context;

A Sound Rating Level that exceeds the background noise level by around +10dB is likely an indication of Significant Adverse Impact, depending on the context;

- 11.2 The noise impact, with respect to daytime and night-time at the NSR locations, is summarised below:

NSR Location	Rating Level, dB L _{ar}	Background, dB L _{A90}	Difference	BS4142 Impact
NSR Façade	48	32	16	Significant Adverse Impact

Table 6: Cumulative AC plant Noise Impact

- 11.3 The Rating Level for the AC plant at the NSR location is 16 dB above the lowest background sound level; indicative of a *Significant Adverse Impact* in accordance with BS4142:2014.

- 11.4 Mitigation has therefore been provided in Sections 13 and 14.

12. Consideration for Backup Emergency Generators

- 12.1 The emergency back-up generators are intended to operate during mains power outages and for testing which is to occur for approximately 30 minutes during typical daytime business hours, once a month.

- 12.2 Noise data for the *FG Wilson P150-5 Power Generator* was obtained at another representative data cabin site during December of 2019 by Peak Acoustics. Measurements were conducted to relevant standards and derived a noise level of 78 dB L_{Aeq} at 2.2m from the external vent.

- 12.3 Calculations have considered all plant, including AC units, operating simultaneously as representative of a mains power outage. The predicted noise impact is summarised in Table 7 below.

Source(s)	NSR Location	Rating Level, dB L _{ar}	Background, dB L _{A90}	Difference, dB	BS4142 Impact
All Plant	NSR Façade	65	32	33	Significant Adverse

Table 7: Predicted Noise Impact - All Plant

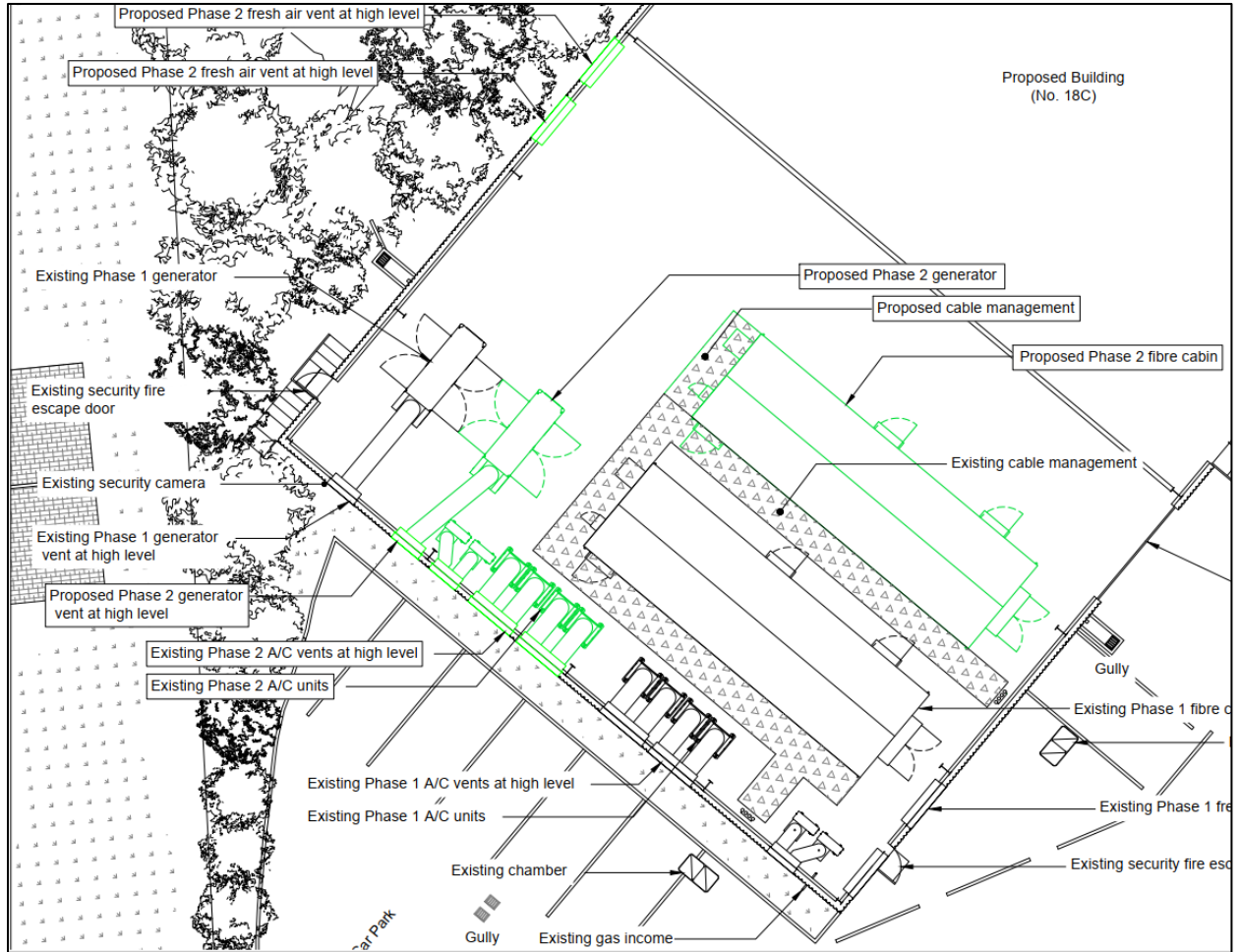
- 12.4 Although the predicted noise levels may be considered as *significantly adverse*, the likelihood of a mains power outage during the night-time is very low. However, mitigation has been

provided for all plant, through the design of relocation and with the addition of acoustic louvres.

13. Mitigation – Repositioning Plant Equipment and Vents

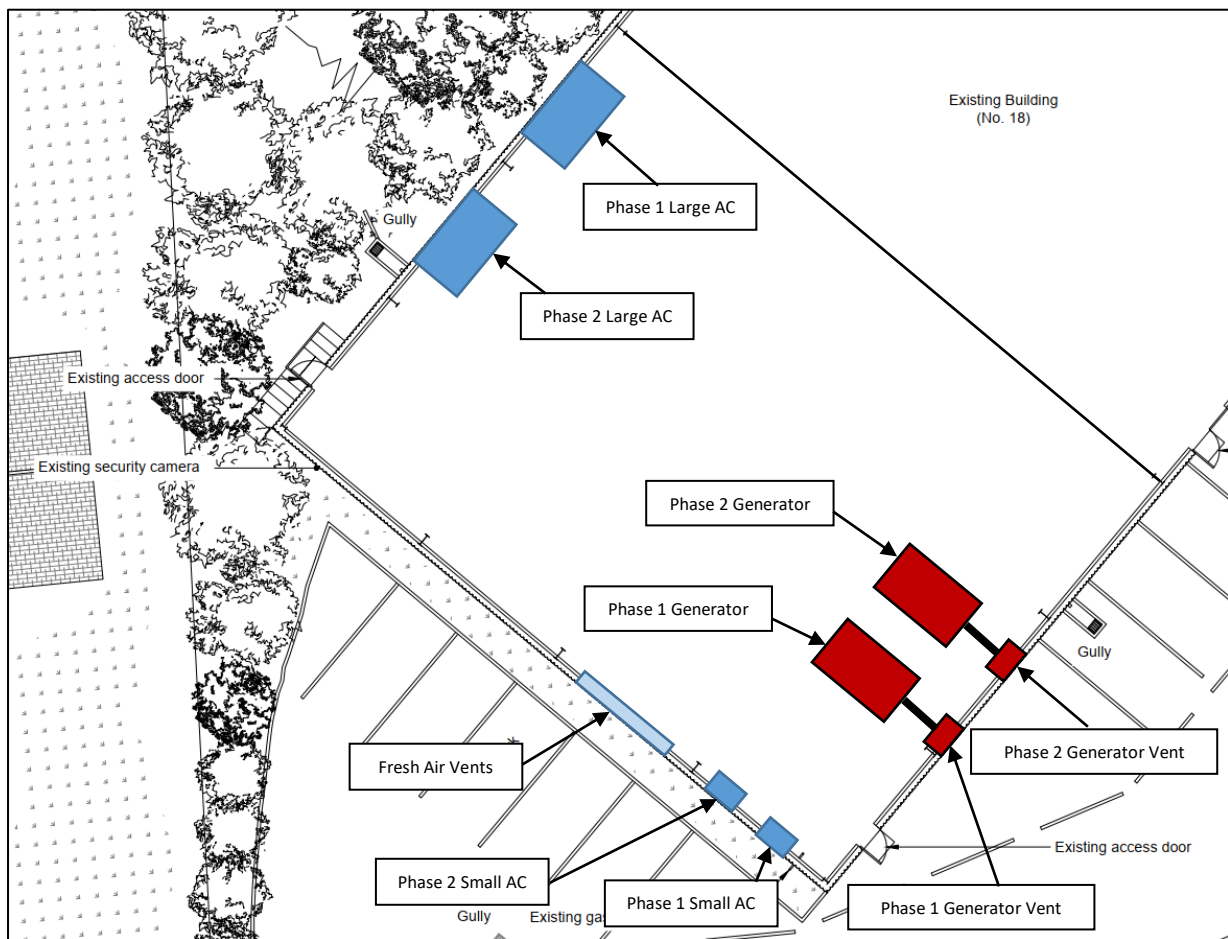
13.1 The latest floor plans, provided by the client, indicate that all plant vents are to be installed on the South West façade of the site, facing toward the NSR dwelling. This can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Original Location of Plant in Relation to the NSR



13.2 Below, in Figure 3, is the proposed relocation of plant.

Figure 3: Proposed Relocation of Plant in Relation to the NSR



- 13.3 Relocating all AC units would result in a revised noise rating level of 43 dBA at the NSR. Although this is an improvement, the predicted level still exceeds the background sound level by 11 dB.
- 13.4 The Rating Level for the AC plant at the NSR location is 11 dB above the lowest background sound level; indicative of a *Significant Adverse Impact* in accordance with BS4142:2014. Therefore, further mitigation is required.
- 13.5 The newly proposed generator position to the South East façade would result in a fully blocked line of sight between the generator exhaust vents and the receiver.
- 13.6 The mitigated noise rating level when considering all plant running simultaneously is calculated at 48 dBA, improving on the original level significantly but still exceeding the Background Sound Level by 16 dB. Therefore, further mitigation is required.
- 13.7 Section 14 details the mitigated noise levels provided by installing acoustic louvres on all plant exit vents.

14. Mitigation – Installing Acoustic Louvers

- 14.1 All plant vents located on external façades would need to be acoustically louvred. An acoustic louvre for each plant vent should have a minimum attenuation factor of **21 Rw** (weighted sound reduction index). Table 8 shows the minimum Sound Reduction Index required.

Example Model	Depth (mm)	Required Minimum Sound Reduction Index							
		63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k
Caice Louvre (SH300)	300	7	7	10	17	29	30	27	21

Table 8: Recommended Example Acoustic Louvre

- 14.2 For the assessment of AC plant, installation of acoustic louvres would result in a revised noise level of 26 dBA at the NSR. When considering all plant running simultaneously, the predicted Specific Sound Level at the NSR is 30 dBA.
- 14.3 In both scenarios, the plant noise level falls below the background sound level, thus negating the influence of penalties and resulting in a *low* impact in accordance with BS4142:2014.
- 14.4 Table 9 demonstrates the noise impact for the 3 scenarios.

Source(s)	NSR Location	Rating Level, dB L _{ar} (Louvers and Relocation)	Background, dB L _{A90}	Difference, dB	BS4142 Impact
All AC Units	NSR Façade	26	32	-6	Low Impact
All Generator Units	NSR Façade	27	32	-5	Low Impact
All Plant	NSR Façade	30	32	-2	Low Impact

Table 9: Mitigated Noise Impact

- 14.5 The predicted noise level at the receiver for all AC plant is calculated at 6 dB below the background sound level / design criteria, indicative of a *low* impact.
- 14.6 The mitigated noise impact for backup generators is calculated to be 5 dB below the background sound level / design criteria, indicative of a *low* impact.
- 14.7 The mitigated noise impact of all plant running simultaneously is calculated to be 2 dB below the background sound level / design criteria, indicative of a *low* impact.
- 14.8 No further mitigation is required.

15. Conclusion

- 15.1 A noise impact assessment has been undertaken on behalf of Euro Tel Design Ltd for a proposed data centre with associated air conditioning plant and emergency generators at Redbrook Business Park, Barnsley, S75 1JN.
- 15.2 Measurements have been made to establish the current background noise climate. This has enabled design criteria to be set for the control of plant noise emissions in accordance with a BS4142:2014 assessment.
- 15.3 Specification data sheets for air conditioning units were used to predict the noise impact of the new plant on neighbouring noise sensitive properties.
- 15.4 Measurement data previously obtained by Peak Acoustics has been used to predict noise emissions of the emergency generators.
- 15.5 A BS4141:2014 assessment of AC plant noise emissions indicated a low impact at the NSR location. A mitigation scheme involving acoustic louvers and the relocation of plant equipment has been provided.
- 15.6 Initial calculations of emissions from all plant, inclusive of backup generators, indicated the potential for significant adverse noise impacts. Mitigation has been proposed in the relocation of plant equipment and the installation of acoustic louvers.
- 15.7 Provided the guidance given within this report is followed and implemented, noise emissions from the proposed data cabins and associated plant equipment should be controlled, with adverse noise impacts minimised.

APPENDIX A – Measurement Details

Measurement	Kit	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
M1	A1	03/08/20	12:00	04/08/20	12:50

APPENDIX B - Equipment Details

Kit	Equipment	Make	Model	Class	Serial Number
A1	Sound Meter	Svantek	958	1	34525
A1	Pre-Amp	Svantek	SV12L	1	32484
A1	Microphone	Microtech Gefell	MK255	1	11561
A1	Calibrator	Svantek	SV33A	1	90273

APPENDIX C - Meteorology Details

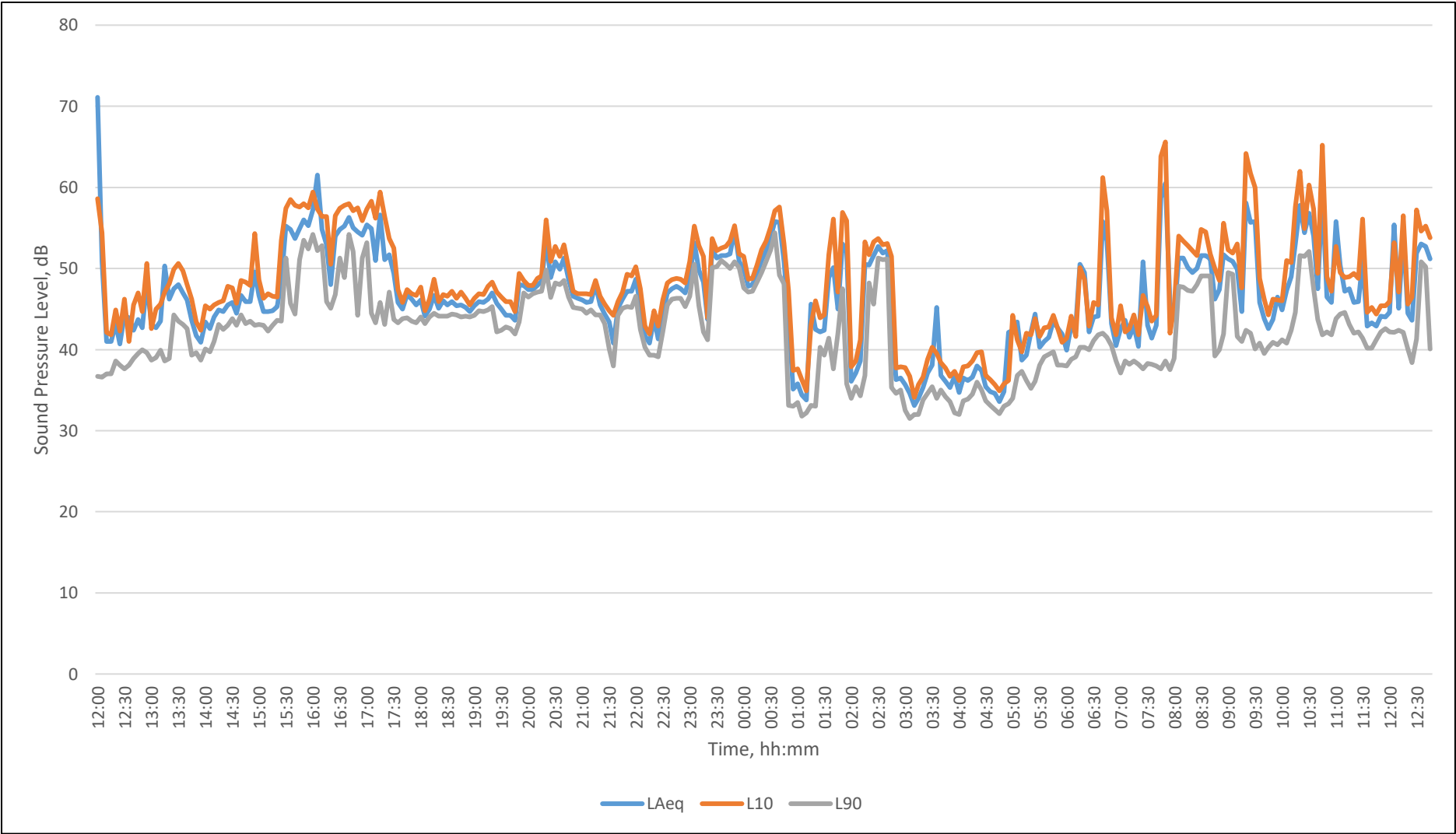
Date	Temp C°	Wind Speed m/s	Wind Direction	Humidity %	Precipitation mm	Cloud Cover (Oktas)
03/08/20	17	3 - 4	NW	56	0	8/8
04/08/20	18	5 - 6	SSW	75	1.7	8/8

APPENDIX D - Calibration Details

Measurement	Calibrator Ref Level (dB)	Level Before (dB)	Deviation Before (dB)	Level After (dB)	Deviation After (dB)
M1	114	113.9	0.1	114.1	-0.1

APPENDIX E – Background Noise Survey

Measured Background Sound Levels (M1) – 3rd – 4th August 2020



Emergency Generators											
For Each Cabin:		Hz	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dB(A)
1 No. FG Wilson P150-5 Diesel Power Generator			78	82	79	76	71	67	61	54	78
Quantity	2		81	85	82	79	75	70	64	57	81
Cabin 2 (Phase 2)											
Distance	11.1	m	-21	-21	-21	-21	-21	-21	-21	-21	
Cabin 2 (Phase 2) NSR 1 Total			57	61	58	55	51	46	40	33	57
Cabin 1 (Phase 1)											
Distance	9.8	m	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	
Cabin 1 (Phase 1) NSR Total			58	62	59	56	52	47	41	34	58
Generators - Cabin 1 & Cabin 2											
Noise Levels at NSR			60	65	62	59	54	50	44	36	60
ALL PLANT Cabin 1 (Phase 1)											
Noise Levels at NSR			58	62	59	56	52	47	41	34	58
ALL PLANT Cabin 2 (Phase 2)											
Noise Levels at NSR			57	61	58	55	51	46	40	33	57
ALL PLANT Cabins 1 & 2											
Noise Levels at NSR			61	65	62	59	54	50	44	37	60
Rating Level											65

Post-Mitigation

Air Conditioning Units

For Each Cabin:

Mitigation - Acoustic Louvres & Plant Relocation

			Hz	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dB(A)
Daikin RZQ250C				62	63	62	55	50	43	39	34	57
Quantity	4			68	69	68	61	56	49	45	40	63
Daikin RZQSG100L9V1 or RZQSG100L8Y1 tbc				58	59	58	51	46	39	35	30	53
Quantity	2			61	62	61	54	49	42	38	33	56
AC Units Total				69	70	68	62	57	50	46	40	64
Summed AC units Total				69	70	69	62	57	50	46	41	64
Cabin 2 Small AC												
Distance	23.5	m		-27	-27	-27	-27	-27	-27	-27	-27	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>nil applied</i>				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cabin 2 Small AC NSR Total				27	28	24	10	-7	-15	-16	-15	17
Cabin 2 Large AC												
Distance	14.5	m		-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	-23	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>partil blockage</i>				-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	
Cabin 2 Large AC NSR Total				33	34	30	16	-1	-9	-10	-9	23
Cabin 1 small AC												
Distance	25	m		-28	-28	-28	-28	-28	-28	-28	-28	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>nil applied</i>				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cabin 1 Small AC NSR Total				26	27	23	9	-8	-16	-17	-16	17
Cabin 1 Large AC												
Distance	18.5	m		-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>partil blockage</i>				-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	
Cabin 1 Large AC NSR Total				31	32	28	14	-3	-11	-12	-11	21
AC Units - Cabin 1 & Cabin 2												
Noise Levels at NSR				36	37	33	19	2	-6	-7	-6	26

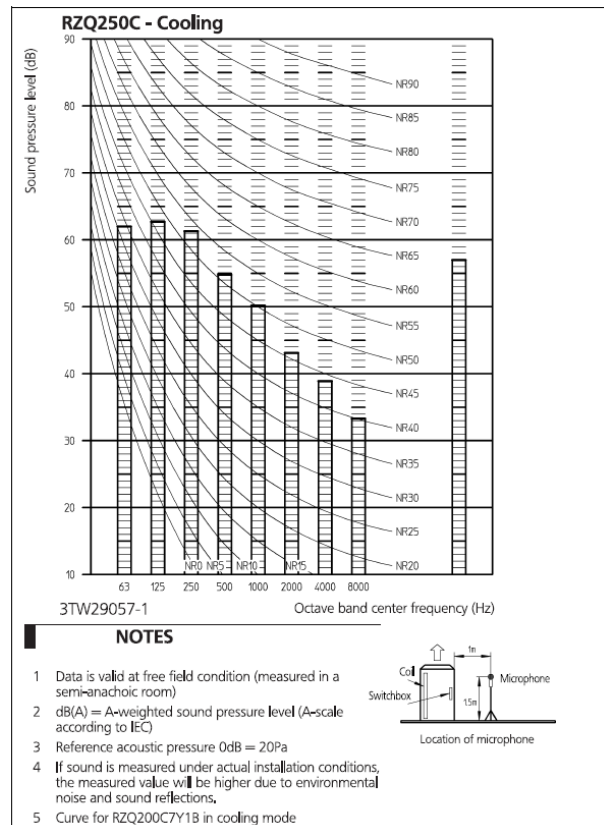
Emergency Generators

For Each Cabin:

			Hz	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dB(A)
1 No. FG Wilson P150-5 Diesel Power Generator				78	82	79	76	71	67	61	54	78
Quantity	2			81	85	82	79	75	70	64	57	81
Cabin 2 (Phase 2)												
Distance	32.6	m		-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>full blockage</i>				-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	
Cabin 2 (Phase 2) NSR 1 Total				30	35	29	19	2	-3	-6	-8	23
Cabin 1 (Phase 1)												
Distance	30.4	m		-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	
Caice SH300 Louver				-7	-7	-10	-17	-29	-30	-27	-21	
Line-of-sight, <i>full blockage</i>				-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	
Cabin 1 (Phase 1) NSR Total				31	35	29	19	3	-3	-6	-7	24
Generators - Cabin 1 & Cabin 2												
Noise Levels at NSR				34	38	32	22	6	0	-3	-4	27
ALL PLANT Cabin 1 (Phase 1)												
Noise Levels at NSR				35	37	32	21	4	-2	-4	-5	26
ALL PLANT Cabin 2 (Phase 2)												
Noise Levels at NSR				35	38	33	21	4	-2	-4	-5	27
ALL PLANT Cabins 1 & 2												
Noise Levels at NSR				38	41	36	24	7	1	-1	-2	30

APPENDIX G – Manufacturer Technical Data

Daikin RZQ250



Fan motor	Quantity				1	
	Model				Brushless DC motor	
	Output			W	750.00	
	Speed	Cooling	Super low	rpm	-	
Heating		Super low	rpm	-		
Sound power level	Cooling			dBA	78	
	Heating			dBA	78	
Sound pressure level	Nom.			dBA	57	
Operation range	Cooling	Ambient	Min.	*CDB	-5.0	
			Max.	*CDB	46.0	
	Heating	Ambient	Min.	*CWB	-15.0	
			Max.	*CWB	15.0	
Refrigerant	Type				R-410A	
	Charge			kg	8.3	9.3
				TCO ₂ eq	17.3	19.4
	Control				Electronic expansion valve	
	GWP				2,087.5	
	Circuits	Quantity			1	
Refrigerant oil	Type				Synthetic (ether) oil	
	Charged volume			l	2.0	

Daikin RZQSG100L9V1 or RZQSG100L8Y1 – TBC



Outdoor unit			RZQSG71L3V1	RZQSG100L9V1	RZQSG100L8Y1
Dimensions	Height x Width x Depth	mm	770 x 900 x 320	990 x 940 x 320	990 x 940 x 320
Weight		kg	67	81	82
Operation Range	Cooling Min~Max	°CDB	-15°C to +46°C		
	Heating Min~Max	°CWB	-15°C to +15.5°C		
Sound Power	High	dB(A)	65	69	69
Sound Pressure	Nominal	dB(A)	49	53	53
Refrigerant		Type	R410A		
Power Supply			1~ / 50Hz / 220 - 240v		
Piping connections	Liquid (OD)/Gas	inches	3/8 / 5/8		
Piping Length (Maximum)		m	50	50	50
Max Installation Height Difference		m	15	30	30

FG Wilson P150-5 Power Generator



Sound Pressure Levels (dBA)

Generator Set Model		50 Hz						60 Hz					
		15 m (50 ft)		7 m (23 ft)		1 m (3 ft)		15 m (50 ft)		7 m (23 ft)		1 m (3 ft)	
		75% Load	100% Load	75% Load	100% Load	75% Load	100% Load	75% Load	100% Load	75% Load	100% Load	75% Load	100% Load
P150-5	Prime	60	61	66	67	76	78	61	62	67	68	79	79
	Standby	60	61	66	67	77	78	61	62	67	68	79	79



Let us introduce ourselves

Peak Acoustics formed in 2011, we are a fully accredited specialist consultancy and testing organisation.

We are a diverse team of Acoustic Consultants, Specialist Engineers and Building Compliance Technicians, with a network spanning the UK. We are proud to offer our services nationally, with no job too big or small.

We provide Acoustic Consultancy, Building Compliance Testing and Energy Services.

Additional Services

We offer an extensive range of services in the sectors of Acoustic Consultancy, Building Compliance & Energy Efficiency. We are able to put together custom packages combining multiple services which saves both time and money for you.

Building Compliance

- Sound Insulation Testing
- Air Tightness Testing
- Ventilation Testing
- Water Efficiency Calculations
- Sound Insulation Specification

Energy Efficiency

- SAP Calculations
- EPC's
- SBEM Calculations
- Energy Statements
- Sustainability Statements
- MEES Regulations
- Commercial EPC's

Acoustic Consultancy

- Noise Assessment for planning conditions
- Construction site noise monitoring
- Noise at work assessments
- Noise & Vibration Impact Assessments

Peace of mind

We are accredited and registered by all the relevant major UK authorities to provide the services we offer. Peak Acoustics is UKAS accredited for sound insulation testing, ATTMA registered for Air Leakage Testing. and our Energy team are all Domestic On-Completion Energy Assessors.

Our Added Value

We combine our detailed knowledge of building regulations with our technical understanding of building physics, acoustics and environmental sciences to maximise development quality. Our work ensures appropriate strategies and studies are prepared to demonstrate to local authorities how proposed developments will be of high quality and generate acceptable impact on the surrounding environment.

Contact Us

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