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NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dog Enclosed Field Higham

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Location: The Orchard, Church Street, Higham, ME3 7LH

Client: Lorraine Johns and Angie White

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.

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1. Introduction

- JG Acoustics Ltd has been instructed by the management of the Dog Enclosed Field (Higham) to produce a Noise Management Plan alongside an assessment of the potential dog/ barking noise from the site. This is prepared as part of a planning application with Gravesham Council reference 20240661.
- The environmental protection team at Gravesham Borough Council have made the following requests and detail:

[...] it is requested that a noise impact assessment (NIA) is undertaken for the proposal and submitted for review prior to the determination of the application. Any mitigation measures contained in the assessment can then be required to be put in place prior to the use continuing should permission then be granted.

[...] In addition to (or as part of) the noise impact assessment/mitigation measures, a Management Plan should also be drawn up and submitted prior to the determination of the application. This should refer to matters to reduce and deal with noise as well as other considerations (indicated below).

The full comment relating to noise from environmental protection are included in Appendix H of this document.

- The aim of this Noise Management Plan (NMP) is to assist the client and their staff in the prevention of public nuisance balanced with the demands of providing suitable facilities for dogs. The requirement for the NMP and the noise impact assessment were by request of the client and from Gravesham Borough Council. Further discussions were had with an environmental protection officer to agree a suitable methodology.
- Businesses have a statutory duty to prevent excessive noise. Therefore, implementing proactive and preventative noise control measures are an essential part of normal day to day operations. The procedures and methods outlined in this document have been successfully adopted for many establishments within the United Kingdom. They rely upon a transparent and collaborative approach between all stakeholders, including management, the local authority and surrounding community. Published guidance, British and international Standards and local and national policy are also taken into further consideration where applicable.
- A glossary of relevant acoustic terms used in this report is contained in Appendix B.

2. About JG Acoustics Ltd

- James Gardner holds membership of the Institute of Acoustics (AMIOA) and the Institute of Acoustics Diploma in Acoustic and Noise Control. He has also completed an MSc in Applied Acoustics from the University of Derby with distinction and an undergraduate degree at the University of Surrey in Music. From 2010 James also operated professionally as a Sound Engineer in the live events and broadcast industry and continues to consult regularly for venues, outdoor music festivals and leisure facilities among all other aspects of acoustics related work. He has developed significant experience in sound and acoustics for many applications
- JG Acoustics Ltd is not aware of any previous consultations regarding the Dog Enclosed Field. Acoustics was first contacted on 25/09/2024 by the client with respect to the relevant scope of works.
- This document has been prepared for the sole purpose described above and no extended duty of care to any third party is implied or offered. Third parties referring to the document should consult JG Acoustics Ltd as to the extent to which the findings may be appropriate for their use.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance (PPN)

The purpose of any noise management plan is to prevent public nuisance arising from operational noise on the surrounding community. In summary, councils must investigate complaints about issues that could be a 'statutory nuisance' (a nuisance covered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990), which includes potential noise disturbances. For the issue to count as a statutory nuisance it must do one of the following:

- Unreasonably and substantially interfere with the use or enjoyment of a home or other premises
- Injure health or be likely to injure health.

Councils must serve an abatement notice on people responsible for statutory nuisances, or on a premises owner or occupier if this is not possible. This may require whoever's responsible to stop the activity or limit it to certain times to avoid causing a nuisance and can include specific actions to reduce the problem. If someone does not comply with an abatement notice they can be prosecuted and fined. The police also have separate powers to prosecute and close a premise should there be a nuisance caused by noise. From a licensing perspective, this can additionally lead to review and suspension.

Uninterrupted business operation can be maintained while proactively preventing public nuisance. Implementing proactive and preventative noise control measures are to be an essential part of normal day to day operations, and procedures for this are provided within this NMP and by request of the council. Considering this on balance with the demands of running a successful commercial operation is the aim of a NMP. As businesses evolve, noise impacts and operations can change. Through effective planning and regular review public nuisance can continue to be prevented.

4. Premises Operations

Local Authority	Gravesham Borough Council
Management	Lorraine Johns and Angie White
Site Location	Dog Enclosed Field Higham, The Orchard, Church Street, Higham, ME3 7LH
Initial Opening Date	Mid 2024
Opening Hours	Summer months (Between 1 May and 30 September) Monday to Friday 07:00 to 19:30 Saturday and Sunday 08:00 to 18:00 Winter months (Between 1 October and 30 April) Monday to Friday 07:00 to 16:45 Saturday Sunday 08:00 to 16:45
Capacity	8 dogs maximum in the field at any time.
Description of Activities	Private dog field.



Figure 1 – Dog Enclosed Field Higham.

5. Noise Management Strategy

All activities and sources of noise that may cause disturbance shall be identified by staff. Control shall be implemented through regular review and communication to all customers of the field.

Management is to remain aware of the obligation to prevent noise disturbance as part of a normal good working practice. The Control of Pollution Act (COPA) (1974) advises reasonable steps should be taken to apply a 'best practicable means' (BPM) approach to demonstrate noise is actively controlled. Noise impacts are to remain LOEL/NOEL at receptors from all premises operations. Management shall be obliged to brief all staff and customers on these obligations for reducing noise impacts.

Usually, the most effective BPM method is to control noise emissions at source. However, it is important to recognise that this cannot be applied to dogs or other domestic animals. The dogs are also free running over the area, so cannot be contained for noise or relocated other than being removed from the field. Noise barriers would be limited in performance at the boundary of the site so are also not a viable option.

BPM can be applied across the site by:

- Administrative control,
- Control of hours,
- Control of number of dogs (limited to 8),
- Site boundary positioned set back from residential gardens (a no man's lands).
- Restricting access to dogs who are deemed to bark excessively.
- BPM and limits on other sources of noise (such as whistles, shouting, sound systems or other).

Further guidance can be sought from other sections within this document.

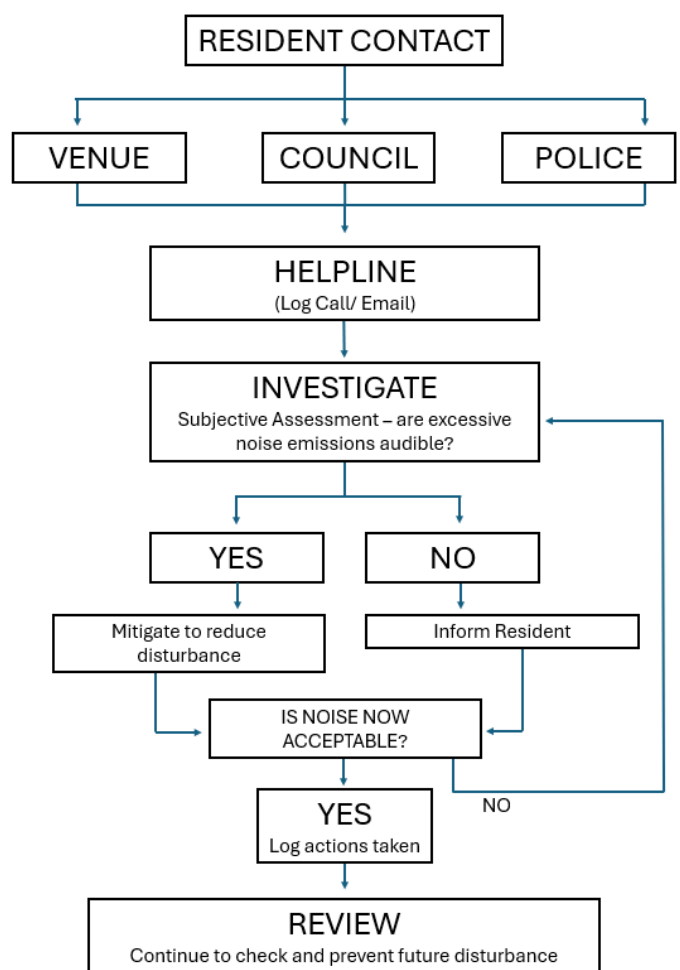


Figure 2- General flow of staff procedure for responding to a noise complaint.

5.1 Community Engagement

All practicable steps will be taken by the dog field's management to maintain positive community relations. The management's continued aim will be to provide a safe space for local dog owners to meet and socialise with their dogs and provide a space for dogs that benefit from the use of a private enclosed space. Engaging with this community they are serving and maintaining a positive relationship is fundamental to the operation.

A direct means of contact via telephone and email shall be implanted at the premises during operating hours. A reported noise concern shall be responded to quickly and proactively by staff and logged (as per figure 2 above and Appendix C). Management and their staff will remain sympathetic to their local community and aim to reduce noise to a minimum at all times.

Contact details for the enclosed dog field will be provided online so that anyone local with such concerns can direct them to the management (Lorraine and Angie). These shall be updated as required.

The premises holder or the responsible person must immediately comply with any request to reduce noise made by an 'authorised person' or the Police.

6. Noise Impact Assessment –Dog Enclosed Field

6.1 Introduction

Environmental Protection at Gravesham Borough Council require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment in relation to a planning application for the site (ref 20240661). This section details the methodology and results of this survey.

The aim of this assessment is to calculate and consider the noise impact of the Dog Enclosed Field Higham on nearby residential dwellings, with consideration to dog (barking) noise. This will generally be achieved with the following objectives:

- Identify relevant receptors as per current Environment Agency Guidance and local policy.
- Undertake measurements, calculations, and assessments as per relevant guidance such as from British and International Standards to consider the impact and context of the noise within the surrounding area.
- Consider mitigation strategies to reduce noise impacts, where required.

6.2 Gravesham Council

The following information has been forwarded by the client from Gravesham Council:

'The noise assessment should be carried out with reference to the planning guidance on noise, the WHO's Guidelines for Community Noise 1999 and BS8233:2014 (the latter 2 providing guidance on acceptable internal noise levels and noise levels in garden areas). Although a BS4142:2014+A1 2019 assessment could be undertaken, BS4142 advises that "The standard is not intended to be applied to the rating and assessment of sound from (a) recreational activities....(e) domestic animals, (f) people...".

The report should include a psychoacoustic assessment of the noise. This is the assessment of the psychological perception of a noise and its impact. Any noise mitigation measures should be included in the report.'

A phone conversation was arranged with an environmental protection officer at Gravesham Council. It was agreed that relative type assessment would be appropriate and has precedence for this type of establishment as outlined in an IOA Acoustics Bulletin May/ June 2016. This could be akin to BS 4142, but recognising its application is limited as the scope of BS 4142 and its rating method does not apply to domestic animals. Further discussions were had with regards to guidance published by South Holland District Council in 1999 for dog boarding establishments and the agreed acceptability of the reference noise levels and the quantity of dogs.

The Environmental Protection Officer agreed that the likely origin of noise should be considered including at arrival and collection and the period of barking for supervised dogs. It was agreed that dogs who are observed to bark excessively shall not be able to attend the site by way of mitigating excessive noise impacts and to be recognised in the noise management plan. The officer advised with respect to the psychological assessment that the context of the existing noise climate should be considered for this in addition to the initial relative/ BS 4142 type assessment and BS 8233 criteria.

6.3 British Standard BS 4142:2014+A1:2019

BS 4142:2014 describes methods for assessing the likelihood of adverse comment arising as a result of commercial or industrial type noise. Domestic animals are therefore not included in the scope of assessment. The methodology requires the determination of the 'noise rating level' (or $L_{Ar,Tr}$) for the noise source(s) being assessed, which is the noise of the plant plus corrections for acoustic characteristics, e.g. tonality, impulsivity, intermittency. The noise rating level is then compared against the prevailing 'background sound level' (or $L_{A90,T}$) at the noise-sensitive receptor considering the following guidance:

- Typically, the greater the difference, the greater the magnitude of the impact;
- A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context;
- A difference of around +5 dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context; and
- The lower the rating 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. When 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.

(British Standards Institution, 2019).

6.4 British Standard BS 8233:2014

With reference to BS 8233, the guidance limit of 50-55 dB in gardens shall be maintained. This criterion as a limit is typically aligned with noise criteria in habitable rooms through a partially open window (as set out in this standard as -15dB). As the Dog Enclosed Field is not to be open in late evening or night hours, LAFMax as additionally specified in WHO guidance shall not be of relevance for assessment (sleep disturbance).

6.5 South Holland District Council SPD 1999

Supplementary planning guidance published by South Holland District Council (SHDC) in 1999 (Location of premises for the boarding and breeding of dogs and other animals – noise issues) remains referenced in similar and recent assessments performed nationally, as no such specific guidance or standardised source levels are advised.

The initial challenge with such an assessment is to consider the source. Dog barks are highly variable between breeds and individual dog temperament. Dog barks are intended to be audible - as a warning, expression, or for communication. Quantifying and understanding the complexity of dog barks and breeds is possibly beyond the scope of an acoustician's expertise, and therefore standardised reference levels provided by SHDC have proved for this purpose to be very effective for a majority of similar assessments. It is acknowledged that further research is required in this area and various consultations have been taking place within the IOA.

The SHDC guidance however applies to dogs in boarding and breeding establishments, and it is therefore not clear how the wider methodology applies to dog fields, for 1 hour of exercise.

In summary, the SHDC follows the following procedure:

1. Establish the representative LA90 background noise level.
2. Determine number of dogs to be used for assessment purposes.
3. Calculate the activity LAeq, T based on reference values (detailed in Appendix F).
 - For boarding purposes this advises total number of dogs x 0.6 as barking for the reference time period. This is advised as 10 minutes in the hour for dogs housed in insulated kennels. Where there is deviation from the standard criteria a justification for doing so shall be reported. In the context of supervised dogs in an open field, 10 minutes of continuous level barking would likely be excessive and proactively limited by supervision, and this was agreed by environmental protection. Similarly other reports have come to their own conclusions.

Further steps are provided, however these have been considered less relevant for this assessment in 2024, where industry standard ISO 9613 modelling shall instead be applied within SoundPlan V9 software. This shall consider the terrain, screening, downwind characteristics and propagation according to that standard.

In conclusion the specific noise level at the receiving position is assessed against the background noise level and an impact can be determined akin to BS 4142.

6.6 Baseline Noise Survey

The field is within the rural area of Higham, Kent. In the immediate area are other fields containing animals such as horses, goats and farming outbuildings. Residential properties are towards the South and South-West. There are no hospitals, or schools identified within the immediate area. The main line railway station connecting Higham to London is approximately 700m to the south and is audible at the site. There is some very distant road noise and aircraft noise which were observed to be present in the surrounding noise climate. Noises from other dogs in gardens were audible at the time of attending along with occasional horses and goats. However, despite the audible features in the area, the background level was perceived to be low as expected due to its rural location.

The measurement position was selected as practicable to ensure reliable results and without directly measuring other noise sources nearby, obstructing access, creating a hazard and to ensure its security. Remote access monitoring was also set up with GPS tracking to ensure the equipment was not tampered with or moved from site. The community background levels were measured in accordance with BS7445-1:2003 and BS4142:2014+A1:2019 at a position that is representative of the noise climate surrounding the receptors. This consisted of a rolling 72-hour unattended measurement covering a weekday and a Sunday, under suitable weather conditions.



Figure 3- Map of the area surrounding the site.

The equipment consisting of a Svantek 971a Class 1 noise monitor was field calibrated before and after use with no significant drifts reported. The Svantek 971a was positioned in excess of 3.5m from nearest façade (free-field) at a height of 1.5m above the ground, to account for the conditions at the nearest residential premises on Church Road and Bull Lane. The distance to these receptors and the perimeter of the field were measured with a laser and additionally validated with google maps. 100ms LAeq logging with a Fast response time was selected along with a contiguous 15 min interval for post processing to highlight any erroneous data.



Figure 4- Baseline measurement position P1 showing microphone and nearest residential premises R2 (top right).

BS4142 is not descriptive in the methods to be used to determine a representative figure. Representative figures are generally derived through analysing multiple averages min/max ranges and context. Relevant time periods were provided for the Dog Enclosed Field and it was advised by the local authority to consider the summer time (extended hours) for the purpose of assessment. The representative background level for this time period is shown below in Table 1.

Table 1- Baseline Community Noise Survey Results

Period	Representative Background Level (LA90 dB)
Opening Hours SUMMER (Daytime), 1 hour 07:00-19:30	35

Further information including logging charts and meteorological conditions are included in Appendix D and E of this report.

6.7 Calculation and Assessment

The assessment is detailed below including the determination of source levels and source levels at receptors as calculated in SoundPlan V9.

1. SHDC Source Calculation:

- 8 x dogs max permitted at the site x 0.6 = 5 dogs barking at any given time.
- SHDC Reference Value for 5 dogs = LAeq 72.6 dB. Adjusted for representative time-period 1min/hour = 54.8 dBA

2. SoundPlan V9 Noise Model:

- Contours/terrain imported from DEFRA Lidar open-source data.
- 2 orders of reflections.
- Downwind (favourable propagation conditions).
- Free field levels at the nearest façade 1.2m from ground.
- Source defined as area source 0.5m from ground.
- Soft ground.

Table 2- SoundPlan V9 Lp (sound pressure levels) from dog barking at nearest receptors.

Receiver	Direction to Source	Lp dB(A)
R1 - Bull Lane 17-23	N	35
R2 - Church St 7-1	E	35
Bull Lane 25-31	N	35
Bull Lane 33-59	N	35

3. Assessment Results

Table 3- BS 4142 assessment results for the Dog Enclosed Field Higham at worst case residential receptor (R1 and R2).

Relative Assessment at R1 and R2 for the Dog Enclosed Field Higham		
Parameter	dBA	Notes
Representative Background Level Hours of Operation (LA90) 07:00-23:00	35	Typical Daytime Hours
SHDC Specific Source Level (Ls=LAeq,Tr)	72.6	For max 8 dogs as permitted in field.
Source Reflections	0	
Tr (Reference Time) Minutes	60	
To (On Time) Minutes	1	
Correction for Specific Sound (Ls)	54.8	1 minute barking in the hour. SoundPlan input.
Acoustic Feature Correction Total	0	(Outside scope of BS4142 and relatively low absolute levels)
Dog Enclosed Field Rating Level at R1 / R2 (LAR,Tr)	35	SoundPlan Output
Impact Hours of Operation SUMMER	0	Low

6.8 Analysis and Discussion

The assessment indicates that the impact is 0 dB as the source does not exceed the background level. 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.

As per BS 4142 guidance this accounts for 1 hour daytime, however in practice the site operates for one hour and then has a 15-minute grace period in between sessions. Any impact assessed will therefore not be contiguous to the hour and likely reduced with the 15-minute period of limited to no activity. This would theoretically further reduce average noise for the day but has not been quantified as part of the calculation – for a worst case scenario.

The field is effectively split into two defined areas. The activity area is positioned away from the receptors and also near the entrance to the field, where barking activity can be reasonably assumed most likely to occur (such as dog arrival, departure). It is unlikely that the maximum quantity of supervised dogs permitted in the field would be positioned at the site perimeter and all be barking simultaneously for prolonged periods. Therefore, this has been considered as part of the context to the initial assessment.

As the BS4142 standard should not be strictly relied upon for the assessment of domestic animals, the results are to be considered indicative based on best judgment and guidance available at the time. It is anticipated that the likelihood of adverse comment for noise from the site is low. In combination with robust management procedures additionally outlined in this report, any likely scenario (such as dogs regularly gathering and barking at the bottom of the field) can be avoided.

Based on the prediction of the specific source level at receptors (Lar, 1 hour 35 dB), BS 8233 criteria for gardens would remain below the lowest guidelines limit of LAeq 50 dB. The new source would not materially contribute to the existing residual level (as obtained from the baseline survey) and existing internal conditions as per WHO/ BS8233 are anticipated to be maintained.

Context is relevant as must be considered under BS4142 assessment and as advised by the local authority, should be further considered as part of a psychological assessment. No such assessment outcome concludes on the audibility of dogs from the site; and likewise, audibility does not necessary constitute a nuisance. It was noted that with the existing noise climate, use of the area for animals and presence of domestic animals at the nearby residential dwellings that were audible, that the sound from the park itself was not likely to be an unusual or distinguishable contribution to the immediate noise climate. Low absolute source levels (around 35 dBA) are recognised in BS 4142 as being relevant when considering impacts, in addition to the margin in which it may or may not exceed background levels.

With this low impact assessment outcome, no further mitigation is required beyond good site management. It is however recommended that the client performs regular checks to ensure noise impacts do not increase over time.

7. BPM Management of Operational Noise.

Further operational noise can either come from additional or new sources that require regular attention and control where practicable. Management should consider appropriate use and siting of such sources and reduce when able to accordingly.

Table 4- Operational noise

Source	Hours of Operation	Control Methods
Dogs	Opening Hours	- Customers to be advised to keep noise from their dogs to a minimum. - Signage to be displayed advising customers to respect neighbours and limit excessive barking. - Dogs that are known to excessively bark shall not be permitted at the site. - Particular attention recommended to ensure dogs do not congregate at the end of the field nearest residential dwellings for long periods or activities . - Activities to be sited at the top end of the field away from dwellings, to attract dogs to these areas for most of the session. - As conditioned by local authority 8 dogs maximum at the site at any time. This also limits cumulative noise impacts from additional dogs.
Patron Noise	Opening Hours	- BPM, kept to a minimum (such as necessary dog recall). - No whistles are permitted.
Vehicles	Opening Hours	Engines are not to be left idling and near residential dwellings.
Amplified Music	Not Permitted	Not anticipated, but this comment relates to small portable/ Bluetooth speakers which are not permitted and car stereos which may be used for such purposes.
Alarms (for future reference)	-	- The field is gated and not anticipated to be alarmed. However should such security alarms be required. Ensure alarms are serviced and maintained according to supplier's specifications to prevent faults. - Ensure there is a swift response to any instances of security or other alarms going off at day/night for prolonged periods unnecessarily.
Generators (for future reference)	N/A	There has been no requirement for generators communicated by the client and they are not anticipated, however it should be noted that generators and similar plant should not be used at the site unless a full noise impact assessment of such a new sources of plant noise is undertaken.

The dog field will act responsibly to ensure customers, and their associated noise is kept to a minimum. Rowdy and disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated and is generally not a risk factor as part of day-to-day operation at such a site. The site shall be attended to at opening and closing to ensure that opening hours are strictly adhered to.

8. Review

This Noise Management Plan is subject to regular review. Consideration should be taken to new noise sources that may be introduced throughout the operation of the dog enclosed field, or existing ones that may change in their typical operation over time. Further review may be required in response to complaints that may be submitted to the management or local authority. The client shall advise all staff of the need to maintain noise at a suitable level as per the specifications of this document, and any conditions imposed by the local authority. The client shall continually review and assess noise impacts as part of their normal day to day duty.

9. Conclusion

Noise impacts have been predicted from the Dog Enclosed Field (Higham) with reference to the methodologies of British Standard BS4142:2014+A1:2019 and existing guidance published by South Holland District Council 1999. Predicted levels at the nearest residential premises for the site's hours of operation are anticipated to provide a low impact rating. At the rear of the nearest noise sensitive receptors R1 and R2 this was calculated to 0 dBA below the representative background level. With this assessment outcome it is anticipated that adverse comment relating to dogs and barking noise from the site is unlikely when robust management procedures are in place as per this document.

Appendix A - References / Bibliography

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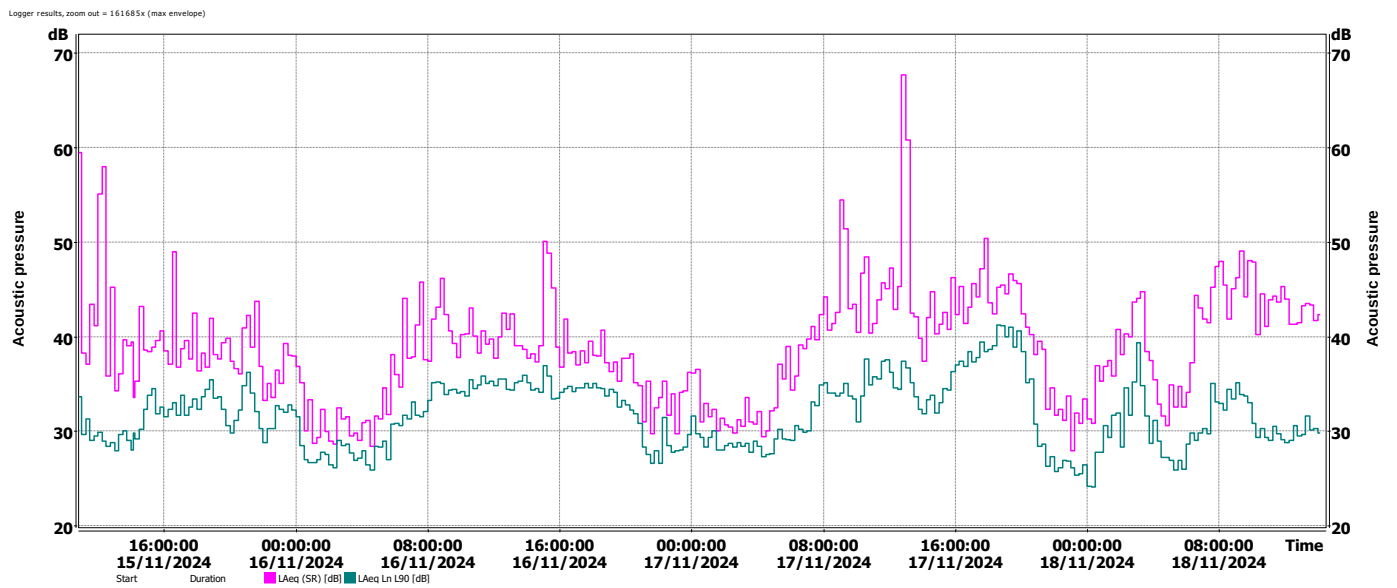
Appendix B - Glossary

A, C, Z Weighted	A, Z, C frequency weighting measurement scales.
ANC	Association of Noise Consultants
Background Sound/Noise Level	Typically, the calculated LA90 dB. Underlying level of sound over a period, T.
BPM	Best Practicable Means (Control of Pollution Act).
COPA	The Control of Pollution Act 1974
dB	Decibels
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EDM	Electronic Dance Music
F / S	Fast / Slow measurement time constant.
FOH	Front of House (mixing desk position)
IOA	Institute of Acoustics
L90 / LA90	A weighted background sound level calculated from statistical analysis. Noise level exceeded for 90% of the measurement period.
LAFmax	A weighted maximum sound level measured with a fast time-constant.
Leq / LAeq / LCeq	Equivalent sound pressure level.
LOEL NOEL	Lowest/ No Observable Effect Level
Lp	Sound Pressure Level.
Lw	Sound Power Level (dB)
NOEL	No Observable Effect Level
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPSE	National Policy Statement England
NSR or R	Noise Sensitive Receptor or R for receptor.
Pop Code	Code of Practice for Concerts 1995
ProPg	This Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise
Residual Sound/ Noise Level	The ambient sound with the specific sound source suppressed. Typically, LAeq.
Time Period (T)	Measurement Time Period/ Duration.
WHO	World Health Organisation

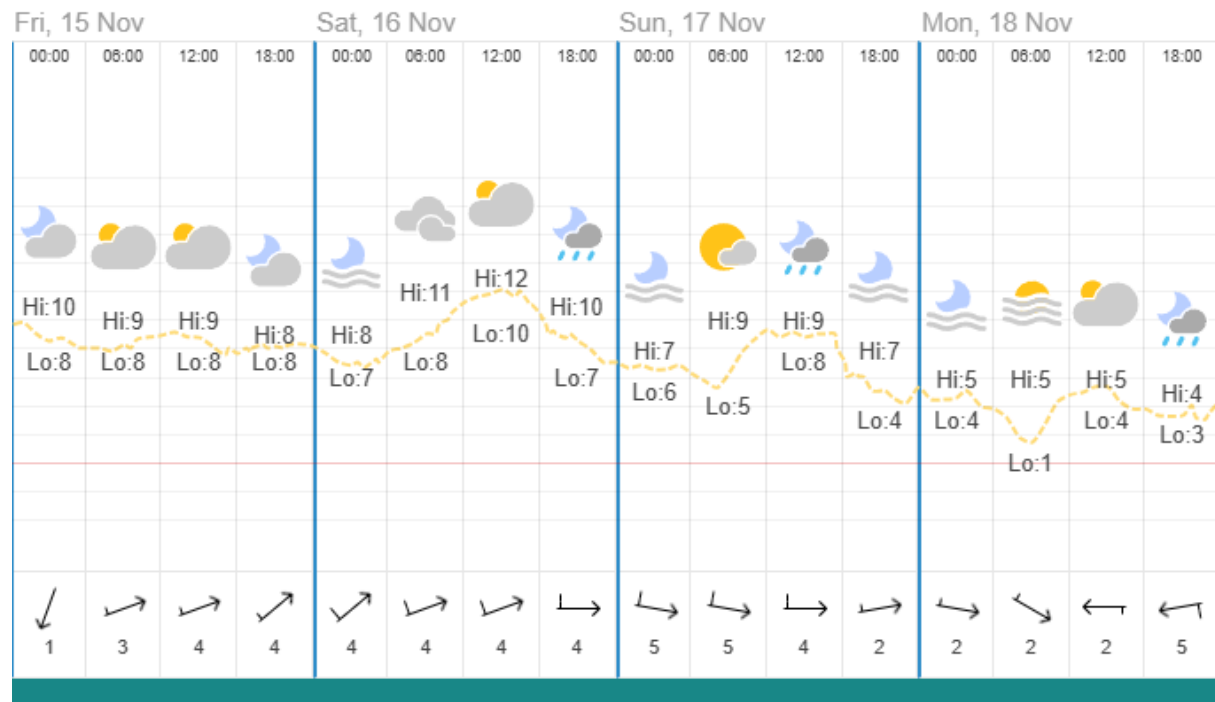
Appendix C - Complaint Logging Example

Unique Case ID	<i>(numerical i.e. 001)</i>
Date	
Call/ Email Handler Name	
Time of Complaint	
Contacted Via <i>(Email/Phone)</i>	
Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Location of Noise	
Time of Noise	
Repeat Complaint?	
Description of Complaint	
Further Comments	
Review	<i>Was the resident attended, any further contact? How was the matter resolved?</i>

Appendix D – Baseline Noise Survey Log



Appendix E – Baseline Meteorological Conditions



- Source: www.timeanddate.com past weather. °C m/s. Higham area.
- Humidity 75-94%.
- Cloud Cover approx. 75% (install and collection).

Appendix E – Equipment and Calibration

Device type	SV 971A
Serial No.	131655
Preamplifier S/N	130668
Measurement time	10:49:05
Measurement date [dd/MM/yyyy]	15/11/2024
Device function	1/3 Octave
Leq/RMS integration	Linear
Start delay	1.0s
Integration period	15 m
Repetition cycle	Infinity
Start synchronization	1 s
Pre Calibration type	By measurement
Pre Calibration date	15/11/2024
Pre Calibration time	10:47:00
Post Calibration type	By measurement
Post Calibration date	18/11/2024
Post Calibration time	14:09:26
Logger step	1 ms
Logger records count	271145000
Split mode	15 min
Channel input	Mic.
Microphone Windsield	Outdoor Environment
Measurement range	Various
Lab Calibration (2 Years)	Class 1 Traceable
Calibrator (1 Year Class 1 Calibration)	SV33B: SN 125825
Pre Calibration factor	0.7 dB
Pre Calibration level	114 dB
Post Calibration factor	0.6 dB
Post Calibration level	114 dB
Calibration drift	0 dB

Appendix F – South Holland District Council Reference Levels

Dog Noise at 10 Metres.

Figure D1.

No of Dogs	Activity (LAeqT)
1	65.6
2	68.6
3	70.4
4	71.6
5	72.6
6	73.4
7	74.1
8	74.6
9	75.1
10	75.6
11	76.0
12	76.4
13	76.7
14	77.1
15	77.4
16	77.6
17	77.9
18	78.1
19	78.4
20	78.6
21	78.8
22	79.0
23	79.2
24	79.4
25	79.6

Acoustic Spectrum of 1 Dog Barking.

Frequency (Hz)	125	250	500	1K	2K	TOTAL
dB(A)	26.0	38.5	60.9	63.1	55.4	65.6

Appendix G – Disclaimer

This report was prepared by JG Acoustics Ltd for the client. The material in it contains JG Acoustics LTD best judgment considering the information available at the time of preparation of this report. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on, or decisions based on it are the responsibility of such third parties. JG Acoustics LTD accept no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party because of decisions made or actions taken based on this report.

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Appendix H – Environmental Protection Comments

Case Number	20240661
Case Officer	Mrs Lisa Fisher
Address	Land On East Side Of , Church Street, Higham, Rochester, Kent,

Noise

There appear to be some inconsistencies between what is advised in the application and what is advertised on the website. The Planning Statement advises that there will be no more than 8 dogs allowed in the field at anyone booking. However, the website advertises bookings available for 9-12 dogs (with a minimum of 2 handlers and 3 cars). Even 8 dogs (let alone 12) represents a significant number of dogs with the potential for there to be considerable noise associated with this (dogs barking and yapping, owners shouting and calling their dogs etc). In addition, the Planning Statement refers to bookings being able to be made by 'professional dog walkers and trainers'. Therefore, although a booking is made by one person, it could in fact result in dogs from a number of different households using the field or being trained at any one time. In this situation, there will obviously be occasions where dogs will be meeting each other for the first time, and this could result in behavioural issues and barking etc associated with this.

There does not appear to be any gap between bookings so if a dog user leaves the field very close to their session end time, this could result in a clash with the next user arriving. It is advised that this part of the booking system is revised to enable a 10/15 gap between bookings to avoid this happening. This will minimise the potential noise from dogs meeting each other and also problems of parking/manoeuvring etc.

This is a fairly rural area and so background noise levels will generally be quite low. The rear gardens of the houses on Bull Lane are only c.50m away from the southern boundary of the proposed site and being this close, noise from the field has the potential to be a problem. This potential for disturbance is exacerbated by the proposed opening hours which are given as 7.00am - 4.45pm in the winter (months not specified) and 6.30am - 8.45pm in the summer (again, months not specified). This is for 7 days a week. Contrary to this it is noted that the website currently allows booking of slots from 05:45 to 18:15 (to 19:15) even on a Sunday in the winter months.

These proposed hours are deemed to be excessive for this area and could result in dogs being in the field for extended periods of time 7 days a week, particularly in the summer months when any noise early in the morning or later in the evening could result in more disturbance due to people having windows open of ventilation/cooling.

It is advised that the applicant reviews these hours to more appropriate start and end times, particularly on Sunday which is still considered to be a day when a quieter environment is expected.

The following are opening times regarded as reasonable and are similar to other comparable fields as follows:

Summer months (Between 1 May and 30 September)

Monday to Friday 07:00 to 19:30

Saturday and Sunday 08:00 to 18:00

Winter months (Between 1 October and 30 April)

Monday to Friday 07:00 to 16:45

Saturday Sunday 08:00 to 16:45

It is also considered that, regardless of the above opening times, the use be restricted to within the hours of daylight and that there must be no use during the hours of darkness.

Based on the above, it is requested that a noise impact assessment (NIA) is undertaken for the proposal and submitted for review **prior to the determination of the application**. Any mitigation measures contained in the assessment can then be required to be put in place prior to the use continuing should permission then be granted.

The noise assessment should be carried out with reference to the planning guidance on noise, the WHO's Guidelines for Community Noise 1999 and BS8233:2014 (the latter 2 providing guidance on acceptable internal noise levels and noise levels in garden areas). Although a BS4142:2014+A1 2019 assessment could be undertaken, BS4142 advises that "The standard is not intended to be applied to the rating and assessment of sound from (a) recreational activities....(e) domestic animals, (f) people...".

The report should include a psychoacoustic assessment of the noise. This is the assessment of the psychological perception of a noise and its impact. Any noise mitigation measures should be included in the report.

It is advised that regardless of any noise mitigation measures, that the use is restricted to private dog walkers only. No commercial dog walking and no professional training or dog classes (including agility) should take place in the site. This is considered to be a comparatively usual restriction for this type of dog field.

In addition to (or as part of) the noise impact assessment/mitigation measures, a Management Plan should also be drawn up and submitted **prior to the determination of the application**. This should refer to matters to reduce and deal with noise as well as other considerations (indicated below).