

Compton Parish Council written statement

ACOUSTIC COMMENTARY

NPPF Para. 180 states:

..mitigate and reduce to minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise... – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health.

1. The Applicant should demonstrate how this will be achieved.
2. The LPA should ensure that this will be achieved.

The report (11/12/19) provides predictions of likely noise from Units 10–12 only, based on manufacturers' data. The assessment (23/7/19) is based on site measurements.

- (i) Recommended targets pre-assume that noise will not have any noticeable character. The calculations do not provide detailed analysis but do suggest energy concentration in the 125 Hz octave-band. This may be indicative of a noticeable tone, which would worsen the subjective reaction to a given overall level of sound. Any targets derived from the baseline noise survey should reference a Rating level, as defined in BS4142:2014.
- (ii) Predictions are based on extract fans running at reduced air volumes. Calculations reduce the noise emissions associated with full operation, simply in proportion with the proposed air flow, day and night. This is potentially inaccurate. More detailed assessment should have been conducted based on actual fan curves.
- (iii) It is questioned whether all plant would have been operating at maximum capacity during survey (ambient temperature was less than 15oC). Also, were items of plant locked to their night-time 'set-back' (thereby underestimating daytime emissions)?
- (iv) After 04.30 levels are said to have been influenced by the dawn chorus. All higher frequency sounds have been excluded thereafter. This may have excluded some site noise from the assessment.
- (v) The report highlights uncertainty in the extrapolated levels at the dwellings.
- (vi) The extrapolated levels of the extract fans are higher than previously calculated.
- (vii) It offers a cumulative level from 'all equipment', yet notes that all plant associated with Units 10 – 12 is excluded.
- (viii) Impact Assessment confirms adverse impact during the day, and significant adverse impact at night. Specific consideration of low frequency noise confirms a low frequency adverse impact.
- (ix) The proposed mitigation is imprecise, suggesting only trial and error approach to the attenuation of an unspecified number of the containers.
- (x) The report confirms that equipment, excluding both the containers and the plant associated with Units 10 – 12, will generate close to a significant adverse impact at night. There is no information regarding which equipment requires attenuation, nor the degree of attenuation for each.

The site clearly emits noise which can cause adverse impact at residential neighbours. It is not possible to grant permission conditioned by a robust and detailed set of acoustic remediation. No such schedule of works is provided.

If the LPA grant permission, it is strongly recommended a condition be attached to ensure acceptable levels of noise. It is recommended the overall level of noise be set to a BS4142:2014 Rating level which is at least 5 below the daytime and night-time background noise levels confirmed by previous surveys. It is also recommended that low frequency noise internally (20 – 100Hz) does not exceed the ISO226 threshold curve for audibility.