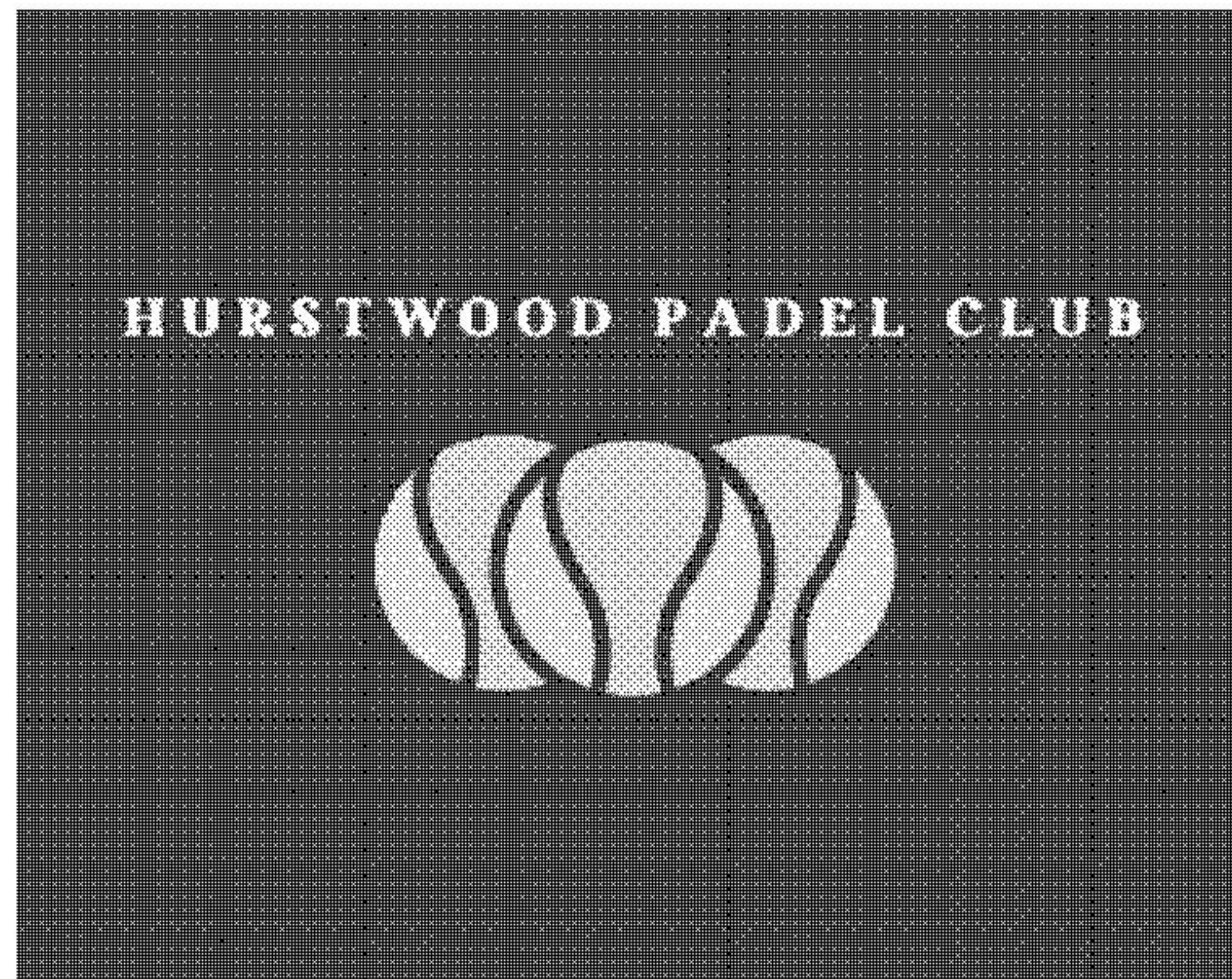




Noise Impact Assessment & Noise Management Plan for **Hurstwood Padel Club**

Location: St Francis Tennis Courts, Princess Royal Hospital, Lewes Road,
Haywards Heath, RH16 4EX

Operator: Hurstwood Sports Group Ltd

Operating Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM (Daily)

Distance to Nearest Residences: 81 meters

1. Introduction

This Noise Impact Assessment (NIP) & Noise Management Plan (NMP) outlines the measures we will implement to minimise disturbance to the neighbouring residents of Hurstwood Padel Club. It ensures proper understanding and control of noise at the facility while maintaining operational efficiency.

2. Noise Sources & Potential Impacts

The main sources of noise at the facility could include:

- **Ball impact** (against walls, floors, and racquets)
- **Player vocalisations** (shouts, calls, and general communication)
- **Footsteps and player movement**
- **Equipment operation** (e.g. ball machines)
- **Background music**

These activities may contribute to noise levels.

To ensure minimal disturbance to nearby homes (located 81m away) and in the absence of existing sound barriers, noise levels will be closely monitored and controlled.

3. Noise Mitigation Measures

A. Operational Controls

- **Restricted Play Hours:**
 - High-intensity play (including ball machine use) will not be permitted before **8:00 AM** or after **9:00 PM**.
 - Quieter warm-up sessions will be encouraged during early morning and late evening hours.
- **Scheduled Quiet Periods:**
 - **Quiet Intervals:** Players will be encouraged to maintain 5-minute quiet periods between sets, with reduced noise levels during water breaks.
- **Noise Monitoring & Awareness:**
 - A designated staff member will monitor noise levels and remind players to minimise vocal volume during sensitive hours.

B. Player Guidelines

Noise Awareness Signage

- Clearly visible signage will be installed to remind players to:
 - Minimise shouting and avoid profanity during play
 - Adhere to quiet-time protocols during scheduled breaks

Member Education

- All members will receive guidance on noise etiquette, with particular emphasis on respectful play during early morning and late evening hours.

C. Court Modifications (If Feasible)

- **Sound-Absorbing Landscaping:**
 - Planting dense shrubs or trees along court perimeters to act as natural noise buffers.

D. Monitoring & Compliance

- **Noise Audits:**
 - Regular sound level checks at the property boundary to verify compliance with permissible noise limits.
- **Community Liaison:**
 - A dedicated contact (phone/email) will be provided for noise-related complaints, with a guaranteed response from the Hurstwood Sports Group committee within **24 hours**.

4. Contingency Measures

Should noise complaints continue despite mitigation efforts, the following actions will be implemented:

- **Revised Operating Hours:** Potential adjustment of opening times to **7:00 AM** or earlier closure by **9:30 PM**.
- **Reduced Court Capacity:** Fewer courts may be made available during early morning and late evening sessions to further minimise noise.

5. Review & Continuous Improvement

- **Quarterly Noise Assessments:**
Regular evaluation of noise logs and complaint records to refine mitigation strategies as necessary.
- **Annual Community Consultation:**
Scheduled meetings with local residents' representatives to discuss concerns and improve noise management collaboratively.

6. Conclusion

This Noise Management Plan demonstrates Hurstwood Padel Club's commitment to responsible operations and neighbour-friendly practices. Through proactive mitigation measures, ongoing monitoring, and responsive adjustments, we will maintain an optimal balance between sporting activity and community harmony.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies planning decisions should 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; and
- 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, amongst other things.

Having regard to the Government's Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE), it seeks to provide guidance on what significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life means in practice. It notes:

“It is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL (Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level) that is applicable to all sources of noise in all situations. Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different for different noise sources, for different receptors and at different times. It is acknowledged that further research is required to increase our understanding of what may constitute a significant adverse impact on health and quality of life from noise. However, not having specific SOAEL values in the NPSE provides the necessary policy flexibility until further evidence and suitable guidance is available.”

In this case, the recorded noise levels show a maximum of 56 dB which is below the noise level associated with a slamming car door which registered at 75 dB. As such, there is no risk of the development giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life as per paragraph 198 of the NPPF referred to above. In light of this, and subject to a suitably worded planning condition securing the measures out in this document, there is no reason for the Council to refuse this planning application on noise grounds.

Prepared by: [REDACTED] Hurstwood Padel Club

Date: 2nd July 2025

Appendix One

Hurstwood Sports Group Initial Noise Evaluation

Baseline Noise Assessment

The ambient noise level at the existing tennis courts was measured at **40 dB** (site level, access road height). This reading represents an average of five measurements taken at midday at intervals along a 25-meter stretch of the tree-lined access road.

Site Characteristics

- A natural bund rises from the access road toward the nearest residential properties (**81.3 meters away**), with parking bays integrated into its slope
- The northern side of the access road is bordered by mature trees, which may provide partial sound attenuation.



Padel Noise Impact Assessment

Methodology:

To evaluate potential noise disturbance, we conducted controlled gameplay simulations including:

- Ball impacts on tarmac surfaces and vertical plastic barriers
- Player vocalisations (including competitive calls like "good shot")
- Movement and footwork patterns

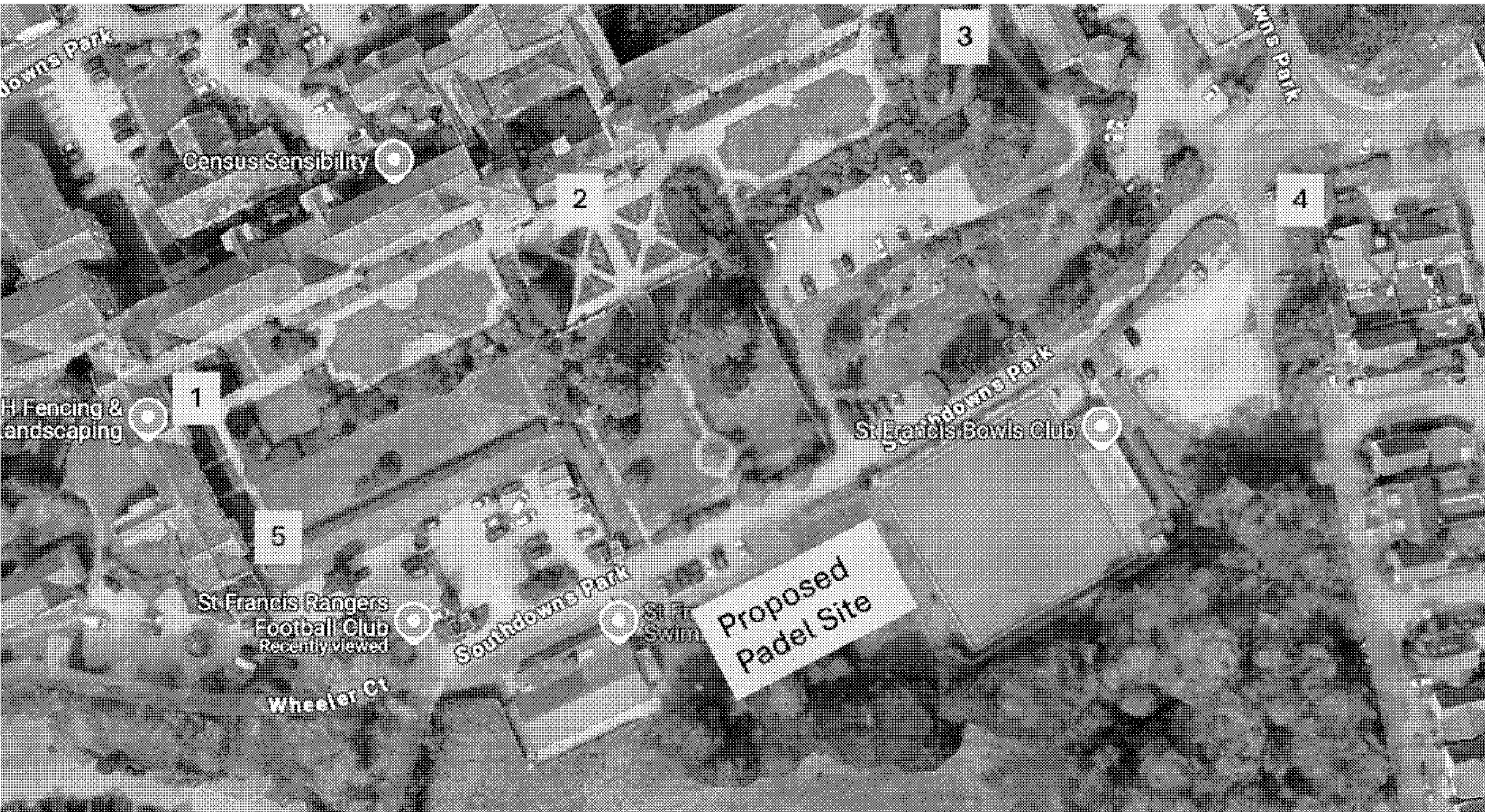
Monitoring Protocol:

Sound level measurements were recorded at five strategic monitoring points along the boundary with Southdowns Park residential properties. The results captured both:

- 1. Baseline ambient noise levels
- 2. Peak noise levels during active padel simulations

Monitoring Point	Ambient Noise (dB)	Peak Noise During Play (dB)	Delta (Δ)	Time of Measurement
SP-1 (NW corner)	37	48	+11	11:15
SP-2 (North mid)	43	47	+3	11:22
SP-3 (NE corner)	39	49	+10	11:30
SP-4 (West corner)	40	56	+16	11:38
SP-5 (NW corner)	39	50	+11	11:45

Please see the image below to demonstrate where these points above are located geographically:



Key Observations:

- The tests provided realistic acoustic modelling of actual match conditions
- All measurements were taken under controlled conditions to ensure data reliability
- Results account for worst-case scenarios during high-intensity play

This assessment forms the basis for our proposed mitigation measures in Section 3.

Notes:

- All measurements taken with [Brand] Class 1 sound meter.
- Weather: Sun and no wind.