

From: Jane Cooper <Jane.Cooper@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2025 14:19:07 UTC+00:00
To: "Andrew Horrell" <Andrew.Horrell@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: DM/25/1794

Hi Andrew,

As discussed, I have the following comments regarding the latest acoustic report.

I appreciate that context is a key consideration when assessing the impact of noise, and that it's not reasonable to compare noise produced by plant working on its highest setting with the quietest background sound level in an area when making a BS 4142 assessment. However, suggesting that an area is consistently noisy based on just 1.5 hours of data collected in the late evening/early nighttime doesn't reflect the full acoustic context, particularly when an area may be significantly quieter during other parts of the night. Although the consultant doesn't feel that a full nighttime noise survey is necessary, he highlights that the time when people are likely to be awakening from sleep in the morning, is also a sensitive time, but has provided no data for this period. The report is therefore in my opinion insufficiently robust and contains inaccuracies as the chart on page 3 does not replicate the background levels mentioned in the original report.

The report mentions that the units may not operate simultaneously and that noise from the plant during the day and night will vary depending on environmental factors however, no penalty has been applied for intermittency, which is a key consideration under BS4142 and should be factored into the assessment. Given this, and the limited survey carried out, it is not possible to make a confident or evidence-based judgement on how residents might be impacted by plant noise.

In my opinion, to ensure a proper BS4142 assessment, a longer and more robust measurement period is necessary to establish a truly representative background level in this area. However, a plant noise level of 35 dB LAeq may be acceptable in principle and, if the consultant can confirm that the plant will be inverter driven, I will accept his conclusions. I would recommend that conditions are applied to ensure that the plant is installed in accordance with the report from Acoustical Control Engineers and Consultants, Report Reference: B5716 2025-09-15 R, and that installation and associated deliveries to site take place within accepted hours for construction.

The applicant should be made aware that having planning permission in place is no defence against a statutory noise nuisance being caused or allowed to occur. Should the Environmental Protection team receive a complaint once the plant is operational, we are required to investigate under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and must take formal action where a statutory noise nuisance is in existence.

Regarding the proposed lighting, I accept the Exterior Spill Light Analysis by Signify dated 02.09.2025 and would recommend that a condition be applied requiring that lighting is installed in accordance with this report.

Kind regards,

Jane Cooper

Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Health
Tel: +44 (0)1444 477437
Email: jane.cooper@midsussex.gov.uk
Website: www.midsussex.gov.uk



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