



Noise Impact Assessment

Burgess Hill HWRC- Fire Suppression System

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited

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Basis of Report

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1.0 Introduction

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited has appointed SLR Consulting Limited to undertake a noise impact assessment for a Helios Fire Suppression System proposed for Burgess Hill household waste recycling centre (HWRC).

This report considers the potential noise impact of the following sources:

- High pressure Emergency Hose.
- Backup Power Generator.

This report has been prepared to inform noise impacts from the proposed development following the assessment principles of British Standard BS 4142:2014 + A1:2019 *Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound*.

As such, a baseline noise survey has been undertaken to inform the assessment presented within this report.

The report considers the purpose, context, importance of the equipment installed and the likely use profile as well as the noise levels expected to be generated during usage.

Whilst reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this report is easy to understand, it is technical in nature. To assist the reader, a glossary of terminology has been included in Appendix A.



2.0 Site Description

The proposed plant and services include installation of a Helios Firefighting System towards the southeast of the HWRC site at Fairbridge Way, Burgess Hill, RH15 8AR.

The Site layout plan is presented within Appendix B.

2.1 Noise Sensitive Receptors

The Site has been noted within a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area:

Noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) in the immediate vicinity to the proposals have commercial office uses immediately to the northeast.

Those NSRs of note within this assessment have been referenced as:

- NSR 1: Dwellings to the southeast off Eastbridge Avenue and Buckthorne Place.
- NSR 2: Dwellings to the North off Fairbridge Way (Emerging Development).

These receptors are adjacent to the site, as shown on the figure presented in Figure A below.

All other noise sensitive residential receptors are either significantly more distant and/or physically screened from the proposal.

Figure A: Location Aerial View and Identification of NSRs



3.0 Planning and Noise Guidance

3.1 Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)

Inter alia, the NPSE “seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation and guidance that relate to noise”. The aims and this statement apply to all forms of noise including environmental noise, neighbour noise and neighbourhood noise. These noise types are qualified from the NPSE as follows:

- “Environmental noise” includes noise from transportation sources.
- “Neighbour noise” includes noise from inside and outside people’s homes; and
- “Neighbourhood noise” which includes noise arising from within the community such as industrial and entertainment premises, trade and business premises, construction sites and noise in the street.

The Statement sets out the long-term vision of the Government’s noise policy, which is to “promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of policy on sustainable development.”

It is recognised that the statement expresses the long-term desired policy outcome, whereby using the words of “promote” and “good” recognises that it is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that is either mandatory or applicable to all sources of noise in all situations.

The concept applicable to the “effective management of noise” applies to all types of noise and that the solution could be more than simply minimising the noise.

The NPSE provides definitions of health and quality of life as follows:

“2.12 The World Health Organisation defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, and recognises the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as one of the fundamental rights of every human being.

2.13 It can be argued that quality of life contributes to our standard of health. However, in the NPSE it has been decided to make a distinction between “quality of life” which is a subjective measure that refers to people’s emotional, social and physical wellbeing and “health” which refers to physical and mental wellbeing.

2.14 It is recognised that noise exposure can cause annoyance and sleep disturbance both of which impact on quality of life. It is also agreed by many experts that annoyance and sleep disturbance can give rise to adverse health effects. The distinction that has been made between ‘quality of life’ effects and ‘health’ effects recognises that there is emerging evidence that long term exposure to some types of transport noise can additionally cause an increased risk of direct health effects. The Government intends to keep research on the health effects of long-term exposure to noise under review in accordance with the principles of the NPSE.”

The policy promotes the effective management and control of noise, within the context of Government policy on sustainable development and includes three aims to:

- avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and
- where possible, contribute to the improvements of health and quality of life.

This Statement adopts established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts. This concept details effect levels, at which an exposure may be classified into a specific category. The classification categories as detailed within the NPSE are as follows:

- No Observed Effect Level (NOEL) - the level below which no effect can be detected. Below this level no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise can be established.



- Lowest Observable Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) - the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected; and
- Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL) - the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.

The second aim of the NPSE to “mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life” refers to the situation where noise impact lies somewhere between the LOAEL and SOAEL. This requires that all reasonable steps are taken to mitigate adverse effects on health and quality of life while accounting for the guiding principles of sustainable development. The NPSE states “this does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur”.

In defining the upper limit of SOAEL the NPSE states that “it is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all source of noise in all situations. Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different for different noise sources, for different receptor and at different times...”. Consequently, values of SOAEL will differ between sources and situations.

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced by The Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012, with the latest revision dated December 2024 (as amended February 2025).

The NPPF defines the Government’s planning policies for England and sets out the framework, within which local authorities must prepare their local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of their communities. The Government’s stated purpose in producing the NPPF was to streamline policy, so the planning process is less restrictive, to give a more easily understood framework for delivering sustainable development.

Under the heading of Section 15 conserving and enhancing the natural environment, the NPPF states the requirement to prevent unacceptable environmental impacts including noise:

“187. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ...

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability...”

Paragraph 198 of the NPPF further provides commentary on noise as follows:

“198. Planning policies and decisions should also 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 life⁷²

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...”

Foot Note 72 - See Explanatory Note to the Noise Policy Statement for England (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2010).

The NPPF acknowledges that there is a host of existing sources of national and international guidance which can be used, in conjunction with the Framework, to inform the production of Local Plans and decision making.



3.3 Planning Practice Guidance – Noise (PPGN)

PPGN provides guidance on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development, with interpretation and implementation of planning policy contained in the NPPF and NPSE. This was introduced in 2014 with the most recent version issued in July 2019.

The PPGN noise exposure hierarchy table introduces a new threshold of the NOAEL no observed adverse effect level, being between the NOEL and LOAEL and where the noise has no adverse effect where exposure to it does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response.

The PPGN clearly established whether noise is likely to be a concern, following policy statements and requirements of the NPSE and NPPF with additional categorisation and guidance as follows:

“At the lowest extreme, when noise is not perceived to be present, there is by definition no effect. As the noise exposure increases, it will cross the ‘no observed effect’ level. However, the noise has no adverse effect so long as the exposure does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological responses of those affected by it. The noise may slightly affect the acoustic character of an area but not to the extent there is a change in quality of life. If the noise exposure is at this level no specific measures are required to manage the acoustic environment.

As the exposure increases further, it crosses the ‘lowest observed adverse effect’ level boundary above which the noise starts to cause small changes in behaviour and attitude, for example, having to turn up the volume on the television or needing to speak more loudly to be heard. The noise therefore starts to have an adverse effect and consideration needs to be given to mitigating and minimising those effects (taking account of the economic and social benefits being derived from the activity causing the noise).

Increasing noise exposure will at some point cause the ‘significant observed adverse effect’ level boundary to be crossed. Above this level the noise causes a material change in behaviour such as keeping windows closed for most of the time or avoiding certain activities during periods when the noise is present. If the exposure is predicted to be above this level the planning process should be used to avoid this effect occurring, for example through the choice of sites at the plan-making stage, or by use of appropriate mitigation such as by altering the design and layout. While such decisions must be made taking account of the economic and social benefit of the activity causing or affected by the noise, it is undesirable for such exposure to be caused.

At the highest extreme, noise exposure would cause extensive and sustained adverse changes in behaviour and / or health without an ability to mitigate the effect of the noise. The impacts on health and quality of life are such that regardless of the benefits of the activity causing the noise, this situation should be avoided.”

It is qualified further to the above statements that the word “level” does not necessarily refer to a single value of noise exposure and that several factors may need to be considered to determine what noise would amount to an adverse or significant adverse effect. Specifically stating:

“Although the word ‘level’ is used here, this does not mean that the effects can only be defined in terms of a single value of noise exposure. In some circumstances adverse effects are defined in terms of a combination of more than one factor such as noise exposure, the number of occurrences of the noise in a given time period, the duration of the noise and the time of day the noise occurs.”

The guidance also provides there are four broad types of mitigation including:

- *“engineering: reducing the noise generated at source and/or containing the noise generated;*
- *layout: where possible, optimising the distance between the source and noise-sensitive receptors and/or incorporating good design to minimise noise transmission through the use of screening by natural or purpose built barriers, or other buildings;*



- *using planning conditions/obligations to restrict activities allowed on the site at certain times and/or specifying permissible noise levels differentiating as appropriate between different times of day, such as evenings and late at night, and;*
- *mitigating the impact on areas likely to be affected by noise including through noise insulation when the impact is on a building.”*

Use of toxicology thresholds of NOEL, LOAEL and SOAEL for the assessment of noise impacts is reinforced within PPGN, which includes a noise exposure hierarchy table to define human perception at these effect levels, as titled “*when noise could be a concern*” and shown below in Table A.

Table A: Planning Practice Guidance Noise Exposure Hierarchy Table

Response	Example of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Level	Action
NOEL – No observed effect level			
Not present	No effect	NOEL	No specific measures required
No observed adverse effect level			
Present and not intrusive	Noise can be heard but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.	No Observed Adverse Effect	No specific measures required
LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and intrusive	Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance. Affects acoustic character of the area and creates a perceived change in quality of life.	Observed Adverse Effect	Mitigate and reduce to a minimum
SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and disruptive	The noise causes a material change in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area.	Significant Observed Adverse Effect	Avoid
Present and very disruptive	Extensive and regular changes in behaviour and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress or physiological effects, e.g. regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable harm, e.g. auditory and non-auditory	Unacceptable Adverse Effect	Prevent



3.4 BS 4142:2014 +A1:2019

The British Standard BS4142:2014+A1:2019 *Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound* (BS4142) describes methods for rating and assessing sound of an industrial or commercial nature. It has been referenced where required in policy and guidance documents to assess the potential impact of sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature, at existing and proposed noise-sensitive receptor locations within the context of the existing sound environment.

In this assessment, industrial/commercial sources are proposed at the Site and the onus lies with the developer to mitigate any associated impacts arising.

Certain acoustic features can increase the significance of impact from a comparison of the specific sound level to the background sound level where these features are likely to affect perception and response. Where such features are present at the assessment location (typically a noise sensitive receptor), a character correction (or penalty) to the specific sound level is made to obtain the rating level. This can be approached from subjective, objective and reference methods. Character corrections comprise the following:

- **Tonality:** A correction of 0 dB to +6 dB for sound ranging from not tonal to prominently tonal.
- **Impulsivity:** A correction of up to +9 dB can be applied for sound that is impulsive.
- **Intermittency:** A penalty of +3 dB can be applied if on/off conditions are readily distinctive within the reference time interval over the period of the greatest amount of on-time.
- **Other characteristics:** A penalty of +3 dB can be applied in the absence of all other defined characteristics, where the specific sound contains a distinctive feature in the residual acoustic environment.

The rating sound level is equal to the specific sound level if there are no acoustic features present or expected to be present.

The significance of sound depends upon both the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background sound level and the context in which the sound occurs. An initial estimate of the impact of the specific sound is made by subtracting the measured background sound level from the rating level. Noise impacts may be determined as follows:

- 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 level 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. Where the rating level does not exceed the background level, this is an indication that the specific sound source will have a low impact, depending on the context.

BS4142 stipulates that context is important when assessing the impact of sound of a commercial and/or industrial nature. Amongst a range of advocated considerations, this can include mitigation, residual sound levels, location and absolute sound levels in the consideration of context.



3.5 Mid Sussex District Plan-2018

Mid Sussex District Council adopted its District Plan on 28th March 2018. Relevant noise related policies of the adopted District Plan can be found below.

In accordance with National Policy, legislation, and a commitment in the adopted District Plan, the District Council have commenced a review of the District Plan. The District Plan 2021 – 2039 was submitted for Examination on 8th July 2024.

3.5.1 DP29: Noise, Air and Light Pollution

“Sussex has a high quality environment and its residents value tranquillity and freedom from unpleasant noises, smells or light glare. New development in the District needs to be managed so that the local economy can prosper within clear guidelines and businesses can operate efficiently alongside homes without adversely affecting the environment. Soil quality must be protected in accordance with Policy DP38: Biodiversity. Where development is being proposed within 800m of a sewage treatment works, the developer should liaise with the statutory sewerage/water undertaker to consider whether an odour impact assessment is required as part of the promotion of the site and potential planning application submission. The odour impact assessment would determine whether the proposed development would result in adverse amenity impact for new occupiers, as those new occupiers would be located in closer proximity to a sewage treatment works. Where any such assessment identifies that there is an odour impact for proposed development and no improvements are programmed by the water company, the developer should contact the water company to agree what improvements are required and how they will be funded prior to any occupation of the development.”

“3) To protect valued landscapes for their visual, historical and biodiversity qualities; and

12) To support sustainable communities which are safe, healthy and inclusive.

Evidence Base:

Data held by Environmental Health, Air Quality Action Plan – Stonepound Crossroads, Hassocks. The environment, including nationally designated environmental sites, nationally protected landscapes, areas of nature conservation or geological interest, wildlife habitats, and the quality of people’s life will be protected from unacceptable levels of noise, light and air pollution by only permitting development where: Noise pollution:

- It is designed, located and controlled to minimise the impact of noise on health and quality of life, neighbouring properties and the surrounding area;*
- If it is likely to generate significant levels of noise it incorporates appropriate noise attenuation measures;*

Noise sensitive development, such as residential, will not be permitted in close proximity to existing or proposed development generating high levels of noise unless adequate sound insulation measures, as supported by a noise assessment are incorporated within the development. In appropriate circumstances, the applicant will be required to provide:

- an assessment of the impact of noise generated by a proposed development; or*
- an assessment of the effect of noise by an existing noise source upon a proposed development”*



4.0 Environmental Sound Survey

A baseline noise survey was undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed development site, to capture existing baseline noise levels as they exist presently at locations reflective of that which exists at the boundary of noise sensitive residential dwellings in the vicinity of the site boundary.

4.1 Sound Climate

A summary of the sound climate noted at each of the noise monitoring positions, during setup and collection, are presented in Table B.

Table B: Survey Engineer Subjective Impressions of Noise Climate

Period	Noted Sound Climate at Monitoring Position	
	NMP1	NMP2
Setup And Collection	Movement in transfer station (blue) rev beacons, crashing of waste, diesel engines, HGVs idling on weighbridge by entrance .	Birdsong Distant road Distant diesel engine fans No site movement

4.2 Weather Conditions

During the setup and collection of the survey the weather was generally clear and dry. Wind speeds were below 5 m/s and have therefore not influenced measurements.

The above conditions are therefore considered to be suitable for obtaining representative

4.3 Equipment and Measurements

Sound pressure level measurements were carried out using the following equipment listed in Table B conforming to Class 1 acoustic accuracy for sound level meters and matched calibrators.

The sound level meters were calibrated before the measurements using the handheld acoustic calibrator and the calibration was checked upon completion of the survey. No significant drift was observed with calibration offsets of ≤ 0.4 dB. The calibration chain of equipment has been maintained to traceably to national standards, no greater than one year for sound calibrators and two years for sound level meters.



Table B: Sound Monitoring Equipment

Location	Description	Manufacturer	Type	Serial Number	Laboratory Calibration Date	Certificate Number
LTNMP1	Sound Level Meter	Cirrus	CR:171B	G303356	08/12/2023	204430
	Pre-Amplifier	Cirrus	MV:200F	11748F		201521
	½" Pre-Polarised Microphone	Cirrus	MK:224	214834D		204436
	Outdoor kit	Cirrus	MK172	2356	08/12/2023	204430
LTNMP1 & LTNMP 2	Calibrator	Cirrus	CR:515	97641	15/11/2024	226999
LTNMP2	Sound Level Meter	Cirrus	CR:171B	G080284	28/01/2025	231225
	Pre-Amplifier	Cirrus	MV:200F	7730F		231225
	½" Pre-Polarised Microphone	Cirrus	MK:224	216418A		231225
	Outdoor kit	Cirrus	MK170	1015	12/01/2024	206374
	Calibrator	Cirrus	CR:515	59336	12/02/2025	TCRT25/1132

4.4 Measurement Location

Long term noise measurement position LTNMP1 alongside correlated measurement at short term measurement position STNMP1 was considered representative of the existing noise climate at NSR 1 to the north of the site, at Dwellings North of Fairbridge Road.

Long term noise measurement position LTNMP2 was viewed as representative of New Dwellings north of Eastbridge Avenue, to the north of Burgess Hill HWRC.

4.5 Sound Climate

There were noted to be typical existing permitted site activities during the survey assessment visits. With a minimal of operatives on site to facilitate access.

The key noise source being localised commercial and industrial activity, as well as waste management, and more distant transportation noise.

4.6 Residual and Background Sound Levels

The 'typical' background sound levels have been reported in Table C in accordance with BS4142 as established from histograms of the recorded dB $L_{A90,15min}$ data, which are provided in Appendix C. These have been used to describe the underlying sound climate at NSRs during the proposed operating periods.

In line with Section 8.1.4 of BS4142, the monitoring duration has reflected the range of background sound levels for the period assessed. In practice, there has been no single level for background sound where this is a fluctuating parameter, although a representative value of the period has been used.



The development is only operational during the daytime and evening period, and the night time period survey data is provided for information purposes only.

Table C: Summary of Measured Residual and Background Sound Levels LTNMP1

Measurement Details			Residual sound level dB $L_{Aeq,T}$		Background sound level dB $L_{A90,T}$	
Day Date Range	Period	Time HH:MM	Range	Typical*	Range	Typical*
Thu 27/03/2025 - Tue 01/04/2025	Day	07:00 - 19:00	40 - 65	53	37 - 60	45
	Evening	19:00 - 23:00	39 - 102	41	20 - 44	39
	Night	23:00 - 07:00	32 - 60	38	29 - 54	33
*Based on modal values occurring within each stated time period						

Note: LTNMP1 was vandalised at 19:15 on the 31st of March, and thus data after this event has been excluded from the analysis.

Table D: Summary of Measured Residual and Background Sound Levels LTNMP2

Measurement Details			Residual sound level dB $L_{Aeq,T}$		Background sound level dB $L_{A90,T}$	
Day Date Range	Period	Time HH:MM	Range	Typical*	Range	Typical*
Thu 27/03/2025 - Tue 01/04/2025	Day	07:00 - 19:00	39 - 60	50	34 - 52	43
	Evening	19:00 - 23:00	31 - 49	42	26 - 42	38
	Night	23:00 - 07:00	26 - 56	32	24 - 49	31
*Based on modal values occurring within each stated time period						



Figure B: Location Aerial View and Identification of LTNMP 1 & 2,



5.0 Noise Impact Assessment

5.1 Overview

The recognised methodology for assessment has been taken from BS 4142:2014 + A1:2019 “*Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound*” which includes consideration of sound from fixed plant installations. The numerical assessment has been provided below for relevant periods of proposed operation, following the definition of specific sound levels.

5.2 Assessment Parameters - Contextual Discussion

5.2.1 Overview and Exclusions

The equipment is intended for the purposes of fire control in an emergency.

It is considered inappropriate to assess noise impacts during full operations, i.e. a protection of life and /or property scenario.

In this unfortunate incidence there are more pertinent factors than short term noise impact in the immediate surround to consider.

On this basis noise impact in an emergency scenario is specifically scoped out of further discussion and assessment.

5.2.2 Included Assessments

SLR and the client recognise that such equipment will clearly have a maintenance and testing schedule associated with its continued operation to ensure capability during an emergency scenario.

On this basis and having consulted Biffa (West Sussex) Ltd (the client) and equipment supplier (Helios) regarding these scheduled uses, it is appropriate to risk assess the noise impact from the testing and maintenance use.

These assessments are discussed below considering BS 4142:2014+A1: 2019 and the local context.

It is considered that all testing activities will happen during the daytime period. During the daytime period BS 4142 considers potential impacts in the context of a 1-hour daytime period.

Thus, where appropriate time corrections are applicable for operations which occur for shorter periods, for example 25% “on time” where stated which reflects 15 minutes operation in any 1 hour period.



5.3 Manufacturer Equipment Narrative and Noise Data

The below narrative and noise levels were provided by the manufacturer Helios in relation to the proposed schedule of equipment.

5.3.1 Re-Pressurisation of System

Helios Commentary:

"The Helios ATFS system must occasionally boost pressure inside the main outlet manifold. This pressure has to be maintained at a constant 10bars pressure. Dependant on Atmospheric and outside ambient temperature the pressure in this manifold can increase and decrease.

Any excess water is transferred back to the water tank, should the pressure drop in colder temperatures then the system would need to boost pressure in the manifold from 8bars which is the trigger pressure to the 10bars required to keep the zone valves closed.

To boost the pressure from the 8bars to 10 the system would automatically start the jockey pump and boost back to the required 10bars. This would use around 200ml of water from the existing water supply.

This process doesn't use any volume because as the system heats up any excess water is transferred back into the water tank as it over pressures.

So netted out over a year if we had no activations of the system, we would not use any water at all."

It is suggested therefore that such re-pressurisation events would be negligible where no significant activations of the system occurring with any significant frequency.

5.3.2 Re-Circulation Test

Helios Commentary:

"The recirculation test is a test carried out by site every week for 15mins to ensure the operational integrity of the pumping system.

The system is isolated in this test phase and no water is consumed.

We circulate the water from the tank through our pump system and then recirculated back to the water tank through the test loop line. This operation also allows the water to be moved from the tank and oxygenates it which stops the growth of organics and microbial waterborne bacteria."

5.3.3 Water Tank

Helios Commentary:

Once "handed over then any top up or infill should be less than 15mins. "

5.3.4 Generator

Helios Commentary:

"The generator should be very infrequently used. In most cases where we have installed the operational hours have been less than 5 hours for an entire year.

This usage is mainly for testing of the generator which is done quarterly and at service schedules. If power outages were experienced, then the generator would run until power suppliers were restored."

Based on the above operational description and manufacturers data set provided, the below table summarises typical operational duration for equipment maintenance and sound pressure level for each testing phase expected to occur.

Measurements are engineering grade, undertaken with a Class 2 sound level meter (± 1 dB accuracy) in the free field over a hard reflective surface (concrete) at an existing facility.



Measured data from the testing of the pump station an operational sound pressure level of no more than 68dBA at 20m.

The tank filling exercise did not register above the existing ambient noise levels of 65dBA at 1m from the tank.

Ambient noise levels in the absence of operation of the equipment was stated as 65dB $L_{Aeq, T}$ from other sources, and therefore a correction of 3dB has been applied accordingly to isolate sound pressure levels because of the proposed equipment operations in both scenarios, this is considered robust as in reality the filling operation is likely considerably lower in actual magnitude.

The above assumptions are summarised below in Table E below.

Table E: Input Data Summary for BS4142 Assessment

Type of Operation	Detail	Periodicity	Sound pressure level dB L_{PA}	BS4142 Assessment On time *
Testing of Pumpstation	15 minutes in any 1 hour (25 % on time)	Weekly	≤65 @ 20m	25%
Wet Tests	3 mins in any one 1 hour. (5 % on time)	Weekly		5%
Water Infill	15 minutes in any 1 hour	Weekly	62 @ 1m	25%

*With reference to BS 4142:2014 + A1:2019 assessment period of 1 hour.

The on-time assumptions have been provided by Helios Fire Systems the manufacturer.

Based on the accuracy of the prediction methodology, i.e. ISO 9613-2, the measurement methodology for equipment and equipment used to undertake measurements, it is considered that the results of the assessment are as accurate as reasonably practicable, considered to be within +/-3dB.

No testing will occur before 07:00 or after 19:00 and thus the daytime background sound levels have been considered representative for referenced assessment.

5.3.5 Embedded Mitigation

It is recognised that the HWRC site sits within a “cutting”, there is a substantial embankment to the east of the site, offering substantial visual and acoustic screening to dwellings to the east from the site, and the devleopment proposal.

This is shown on the figures below:



Figure C: Embedded Mitigation- Embankment- Source Side NSR 2



Figure D: Embedded Mitigation- Embankment- Receptor Side NSR 2



6.0 BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Assessment .

6.1 Specific Sound Level Assessment

Table F and Table G below summarise the predicted specific sound level at the identified receptors during the daytime (when these premises and the plant and services associated with the proposal would be active).
Given the location of the proposed equipment, NSR 1 is screened from the installation by the intervening HWRC building massing, NSR 2 is screened to a minimum of 1st floor height by the embankment discussed in Section 5.0. On this basis a conservative -10 dB screening correction has been applied to the specific level assessment at both receptor locations.

Table F: Specific Level Assessment Summary-Daytime Equipment Testing Scenarios- NSR 1

Type of Operation	Detail	Periodicity	Sound pressure level dB L _{PA}	BS4142 Assessment On time *	Distance Correction (Receptor @ 150m)	Time Correction	Screening Correction	Specific Sound Level dB L _{Aeq,T}
Testing of Pumpstation	15 minutes in any 1 hour (25 % on time)	Weekly	65 @ 20m	25%	-18	-6	-10	31
Wet Tests	3 mins in any one 1 hour (5 % on time)	Weekly	65 @ 20m	5%	-18	-13	-10	24
Water Infill	15 minutes in any 1 hour	Weekly	62 @ 1m	25%	-44	-6	-10	2
Specific Sound Level (Cumulative) dB L _{Aeq, T}								32

Table G: Specific Level Assessment Summary-Daytime Equipment Testing Scenarios- NSR 1

Type of Operation	Detail	Periodicity	Sound pressure level dB L _{PA}	BS4142 Assessment On time *	Distance Correction (Receptor @ 49m)	Time Correction	Screening Correction	Specific Sound Level dB L _{Aeq,T}
Testing of Pumpstation	15 minutes in any 1 hour (25 % on time)	Weekly	65	25%	-8	-6	-10	41
Wet Tests	3 mins in any one 1 hour (5 % on time)	Weekly	65	5%	-8	-13	-10	34
Water Infill	15 minutes in any 1 hour	Weekly	62	25%	-34	-6	-10	12
Specific Sound Level (Cumulative) dB L _{Aeq, T}								42



In Section 5/0/

6.2 Acoustic Feature Correction

No acoustic feature correction has been applied with reference to NSR 1 or NSR 2 where the specific sound level is indicated to not exceed background sound levels, and remains significantly below the existing residual sound level at both receptor locations.

6.3 BS4142:2014+A1:2019 Assessment Summary

The BS4142 assessment for NSR 1 and 2 is summarised in Table H and Table I below.

Table H: BS4142 Noise Impact Assessment Summary-Daytime Equipment Testing Scenarios- NSR 1

Specific Sound Level dB LAeq,T	Acoustic Feature Correction.	Background Sound Level dB LA90	Exceedance of Background Sound Levels dB	Existing Ambient Noise Level dB LAeq, 16 hour	Initial Assessment of Impact
32	0	45	-13	53	Low Impact

Table I: BS4142 Noise Impact Assessment Summary-Daytime Equipment Testing Scenarios- NSR 2

Specific Sound Level dB LAeq,T	Acoustic Feature Correction.	Background Sound Level dB LA90	Exceedance of Background Sound Levels dB	Existing Ambient Noise Level dB LAeq, 16 hour	Initial Assessment of Impact
42	0	43	-1	50	Low Impact



6.4 Discussion

The numerical assessments have highlighted a low impact at NSR 1 and 2 during weekday operating hours, where the rating sound levels have been predicted to be below the representative background sound levels.

6.5 Context

The concept of 'context' has been notably emphasised in Section 11 of BS 4142 when considering numerical impacts established from applying the standard.

Based on the above, and considering context of the receptor, and the existing noise climate of the surround including both commercial and industrial as well as waste recycling noise, testing of the Firefighting system noise levels are unlikely to present a significant disturbance to existing occupants of these receptors.

Considering the duration of the testing phases, (3-15 minutes weekly depending on test type), it is therefore considered that this remains as initially assessed and constitutes a "low impact" in accordance with BS4142 when re-assessed considering BS8233, considering the pertinent factors and context as outlined in BS4142:2014+ A1:2019, and summarised as follows:

- Impact resulting from existing recycling activities is not known to be a concern at the noise sensitive receptors, and the emerging residential development to the north, would have constituted the agent of change during its planning and development, thus should have incorporated design features in respect to the existing noise climate.
- The proposed new activities are indicated to have low impacts and are not indicated to result in an unacceptable imposition in respect to absolute magnitude internally to existing sensitive receptors in the surround when considering the sensitivity and given the relatively short duration within a working week that they might occur, and existing noise climate characteristics.

Despite the above it is reasonable for the operator to have a noise management plan in place to inform the local commercial tenants about when testing may occur.

It is also advisable, if possible, to consider the time when testing may be undertaken.

A noise management plan is enclosed in Appendix D to this document to ensure suitable management of any noise related complaints in relation to proposals moving forward operationally. Although this is considered unlikely given the points raised above.

6.6 Statement of Uncertainty

Uncertainty has been considered as a limit to the accuracy of any noise assessment, including associated steps of measurement, calculation, or prediction. Factors have been considered to include (but not limited to) the following:

- The inherent accuracy limitation of methodology in Standards and guidance.
- Variability in meteorological conditions.
- The accuracy of sound source input data of a calculation.

It has been a requirement of the assessment standard BS 4142 to minimise uncertainty to a level commensurate with the intention of the assessment objective. Measures taken in this assessment to minimise uncertainty have included:

- Baseline sound levels have been referenced from a site-based study at the rear of the Site to provide a good indication of representative background and residual sound levels.



- Baseline sound level measurements undertaken in accordance with recognised Standards, using a tall environmental windshield and during acceptable weather conditions e.g. low wind speeds and precipitation.
- A direct measurement location was used to provide a representative basis for background sound levels at the nearest receiver locations.
- Field calibration checks were undertaken before and after measurements to record very low levels of equipment drift.
- The calculations have been conservative as not to under-predict the resulting impacts.

These measures have been considered to reduce uncertainty to a level considered not to have any significance to the outcome of this assessment.

6.7 Significance of Effects

In following of the assessment requirements of BS 4142, these numerical predictions have been considered in context of the NPSE below.

The evaluated noise impacts in this report should be considered by the Mid Sussex District Council mindful of the National Planning Policy Framework and Noise Policy Statement for England, as well as local guidance that define policy and decision-making requirements for planning and noise.

It has been provided within Section 3.1 of this report, that the NPSE suggests noise levels above the SOAEL should be avoided and that if noise levels fall between the LOAEL and SOAEL all reasonable steps should be taken to minimise and mitigate adverse effects, while considering guiding principles of sustainable development.

The range of noise impacts for the proposed development have been deemed acceptable with respect to overarching and local requirements for planning and noise. Resulting impacts with suitable mitigation have been anticipated between the NOAEL and LOEL thresholds of the NPSE.

It is expected once mitigated as identified, that sound from the development would be largely unnoticeable, or just perceptible during the most noise sensitive periods of assessment. If it is possible for the sound to be audible, it is not expected to cause any change in behaviour or attitude. The development could marginally affect the acoustic character of the area but not to the extent that there is a perceived change in quality of life.

Commensurate measures have been considered to “*mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life*” which have been included within the detail of this proposal as:

- Daytime operations
- Minimising weekend activity except where strictly necessary.
- Implementation of a comprehensive noise management plan.

It has been considered that suitably worded planning conditions could be used by the LPA to ensure that commensurate controls are implemented as above, primarily in the form of a noise management plan which would be adopted in the scheme to minimise any adverse impacts on health and quality of life.



7.0 Conclusions

An assessment of noise impact has been carried out for a proposed Firefighting system at Burgess Hill HWRC.

Environmental sound levels have been taken from a site survey at a location representative of nearest noise sensitive receptors.

A noise impact assessment has been carried out in line with BS 4142 methodology by a suitably qualified acoustician. Cumulative rating sound levels have been predicted at nearest sensitive receptors using acoustic calculation techniques of the new plant and equipment defined by quantitative noise emissions.

This assessment has been completed with reference to BS4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound. The numerical assessments have highlighted a low impact at NSR 1 and 2 during weekday operating hours, where the rating sound levels have been predicted to be below the representative background sound levels.

It has been concluded in context and based on the findings of this assessment that the range of noise impacts for the proposed safety equipment have been deemed acceptable with respect to overarching requirements for planning and noise, such that noise should not present reasonable grounds for planning refusal.



8.0 Closure

The assessment has required a suitable level of technical ability and has been undertaken by a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP). An individual with all the following credentials has been considered a SQP for this assessment:

- Has a minimum of three years' verifiable experience (within the last five years) of providing noise impact assessments in planning. Such experience has clearly demonstrated a practical understanding of factors affecting acoustics in relation to the proposed development use and in the built environment in general, including acting in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations and design advice in planning, and;
- Holds a recognised acoustic qualification and membership of an appropriate professional body. The primary professional body for acoustics in the UK is the Institute of Acoustics.

This assessment has been led and managed by a SQP as defined above.

Where some elements of the assessment (e.g. measurements) have been carried out by an acoustician who does not meet the requirements above, this has been undertaken with the direct guidance and supervision of a SQP who has reviewed, agreed and overseen the measurement methodology and any results obtained.

The SQP confirms that the relevant measurements and calculations:

- Represent good industry practice in accordance with available guidance.
- Are appropriate given the development being assessed and scope of works proposed.
- Avoid invalid, biased and exaggerated claims.

The checker and author of this document confirm that they both comply with the definition of a SQP defined in this Section.

Regards,

SLR Consulting Limited

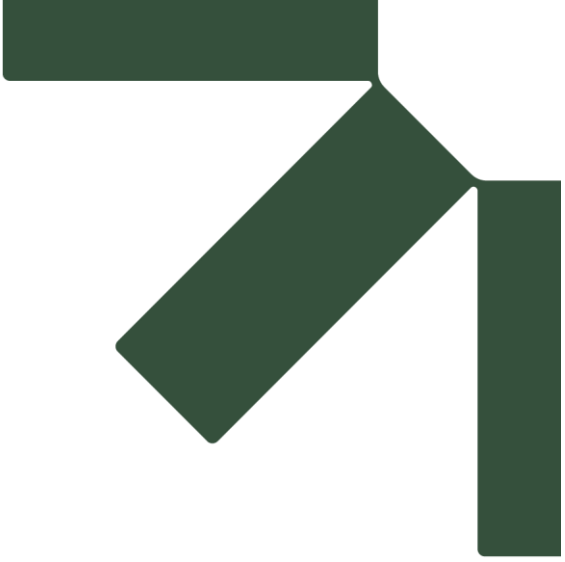


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Technical Director – Acoustics & Vibration





Appendix A Glossary of Terminology

Noise Impact Assessment

Burgess Hill HWRC- Fire Suppression System

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited

SLR Project No.: 416.066187.00001

4 June 2025

The human ear can detect a very wide range of pressure fluctuations, which are perceived as sound. In order to express these fluctuations in a manageable way, a logarithmic scale called the decibel, or dB scale is used. The decibel scale typically ranges from 0dB (the threshold of hearing) to over 120dB. An indication of the range of sound levels commonly found in the environment is given in the following table.

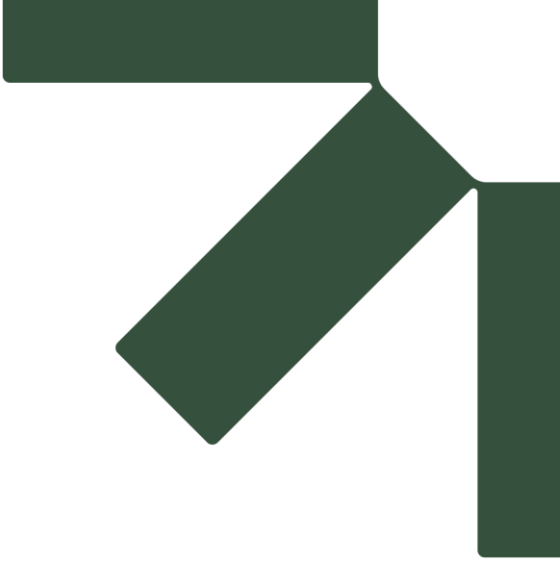
Table A-1: Sound Levels Commonly Found in the Environment

Sound Level	Location
0 dB(A)	Threshold of hearing
20 to 30 dB(A)	Quiet bedroom at night
30 to 40 dB(A)	Living room during the day
40 to 50 dB(A)	Typical office
50 to 60 dB(A)	Inside a car
60 to 70 dB(A)	Typical high street
70 to 90 dB(A)	Inside factory
100 to 110 dB(A)	Burglar alarm at 1m away
110 to 130 dB(A)	Jet aircraft on take off
140 dB(A)	Threshold of Pain

A.1 Acoustic Terminology

dB (decibel)	The scale on which sound pressure level is expressed. It is defined as 20 times the logarithm of the ratio between the root-mean-square pressure of the sound field and a reference pressure (of 20 μ Pa).
dB(A)	A-weighted decibel. This is a measure of the overall level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (i.e. 'A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies.
$L_{Aeq, T}$	$L_{Aeq, T}$ is defined as the notional steady sound level which, over a stated period T, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the A-weighted fluctuating sound measured over that period.
$L_{A10, T}$ & L_{A90}	If a non-steady noise is to be described it is necessary to know both its level and the degree of fluctuation. The L_n indices are used for this purpose, and the term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time. Hence L_{10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as the 'average maximum level'. Similarly, L_{90} is the 'average minimum level' and is often used to describe the background noise. It is common practice to use the L_{10} index to describe traffic noise.
$L_{Amax(F)}$	$L_{Amax(F)}$ is the maximum A-weighted sound pressure level recorded over the period stated. L_{Amax} is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise where occasional loud noises occur, which may have little effect on the overall L_{eq} noise level but will still affect the noise environment. Unless described otherwise, it is measured using the 'fast' sound level meter response.





Appendix B Drawings

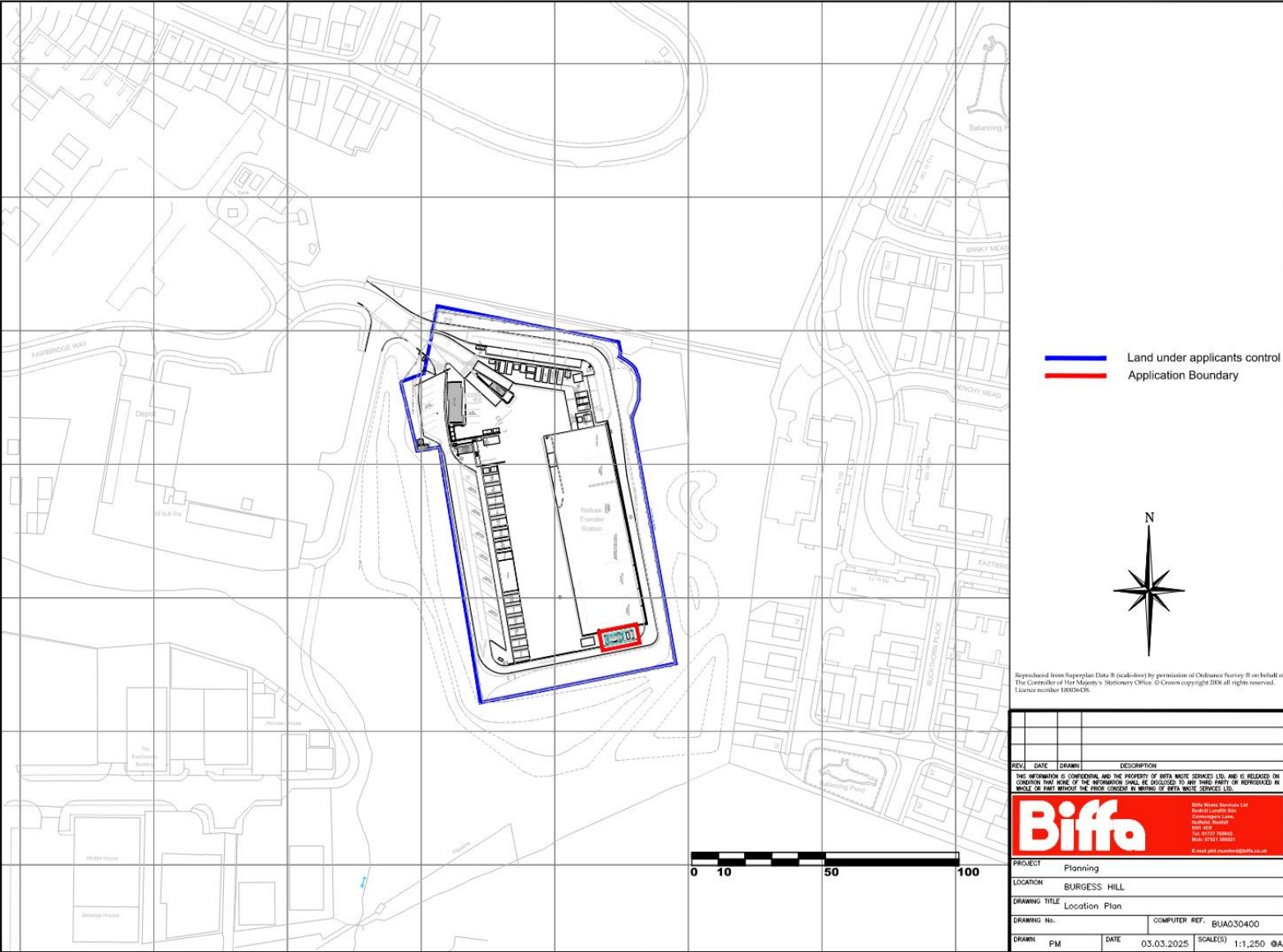
Noise Impact Assessment

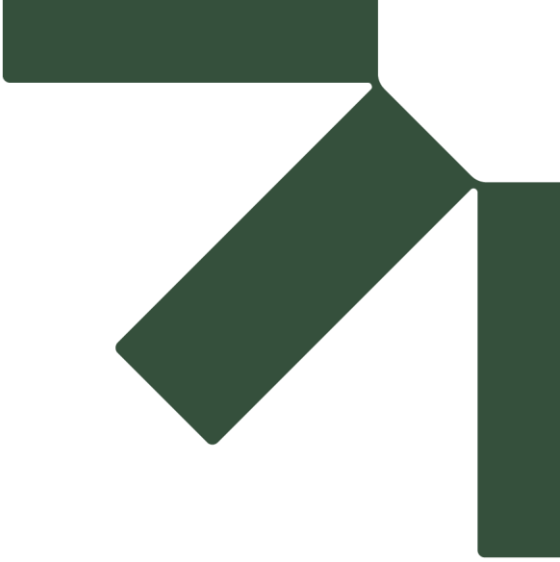
Burgess Hill HWRC- Fire Suppression System

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited

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Appendix C Survey Results

Noise Impact Assessment

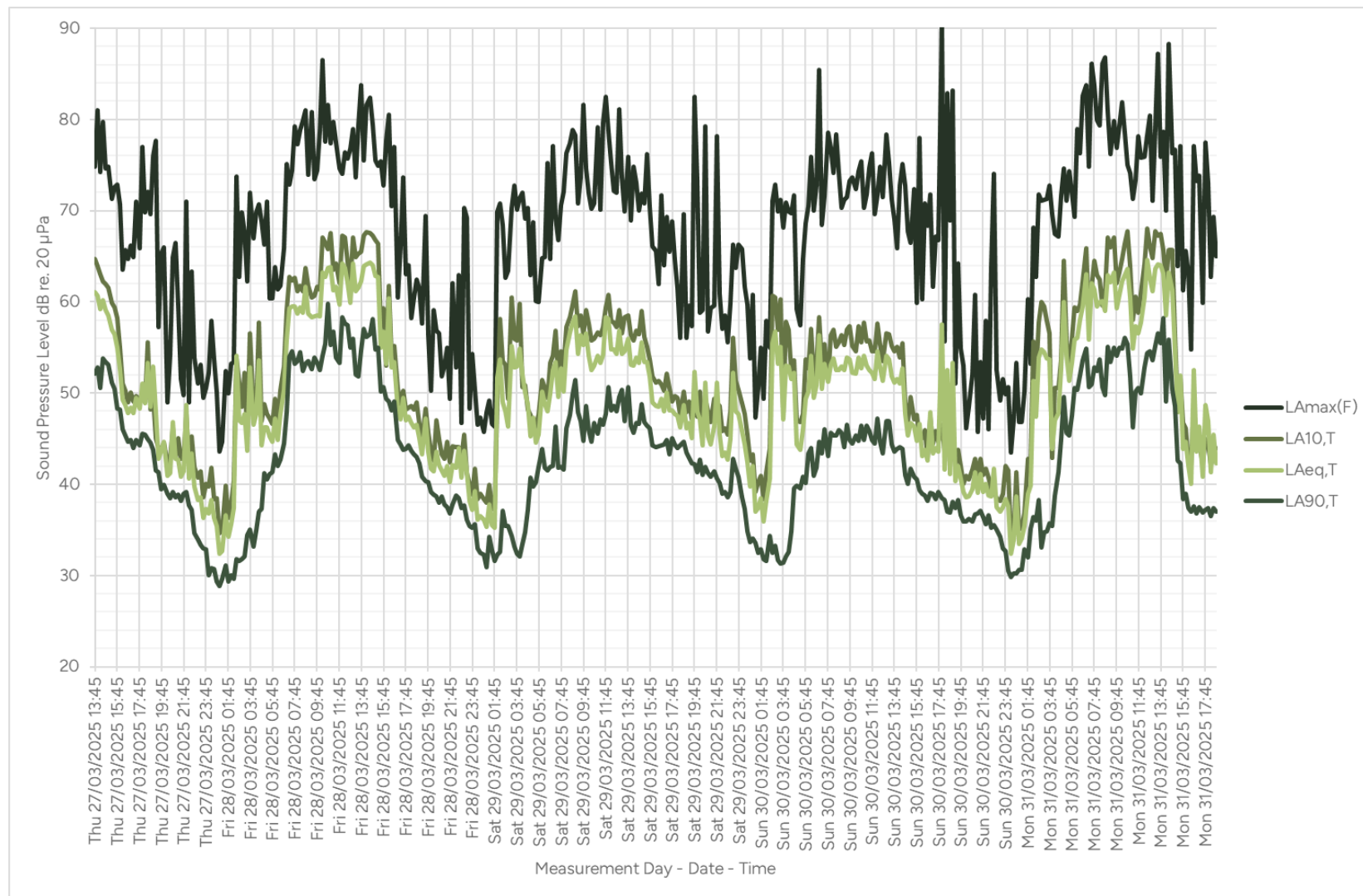
Burgess Hill HWRC- Fire Suppression System

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited

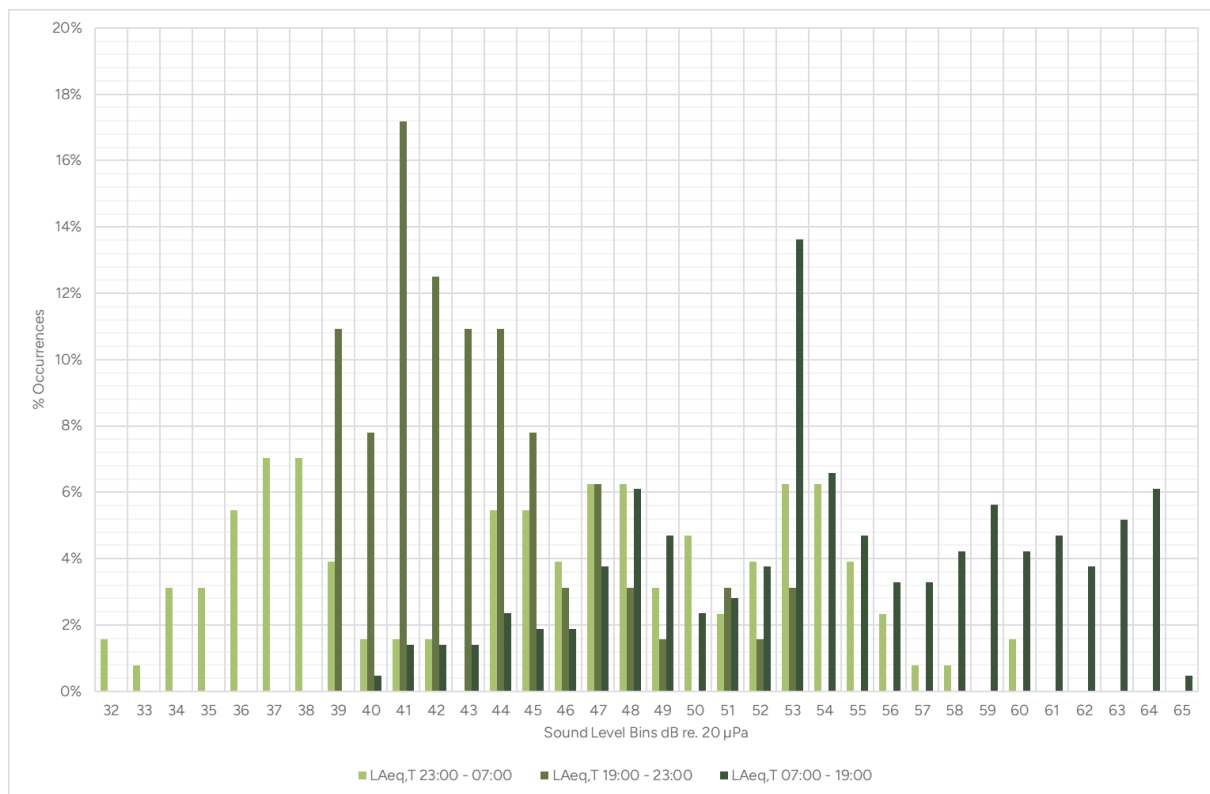
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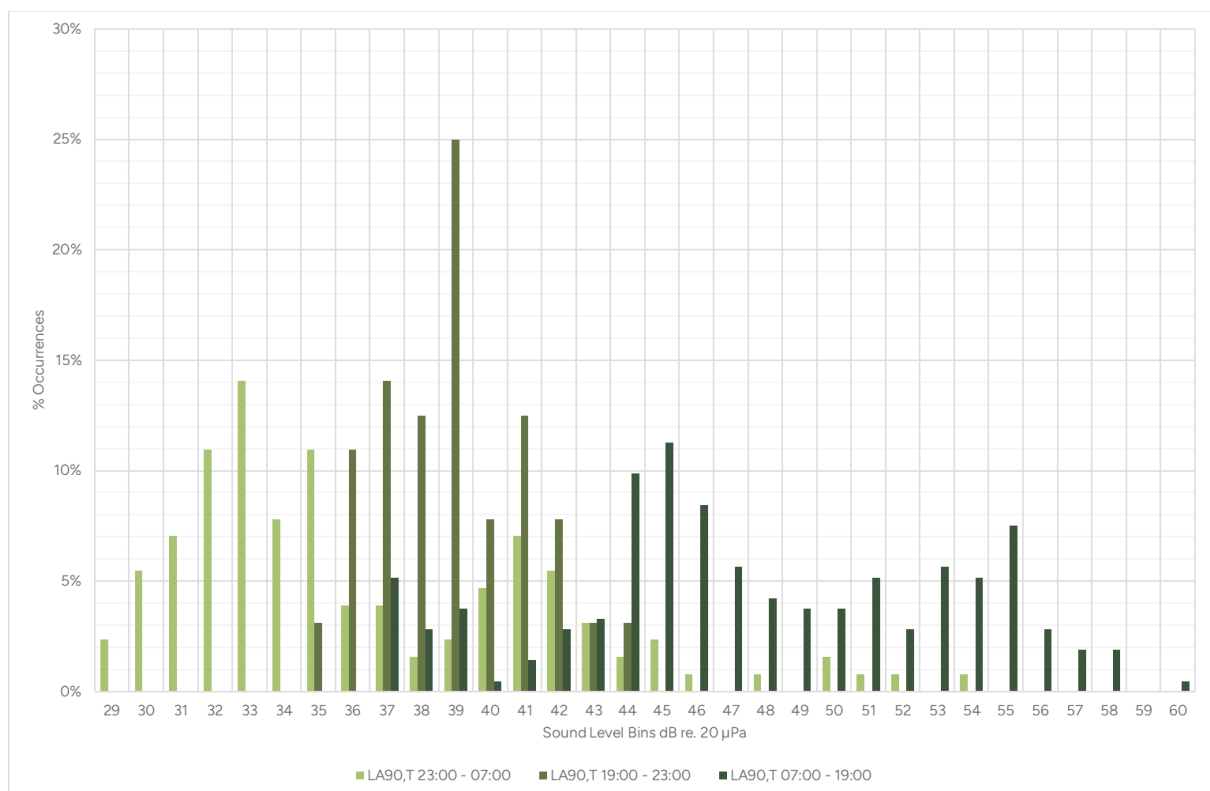
NMP1 Survey Data Summary - 14th-18th February 2025



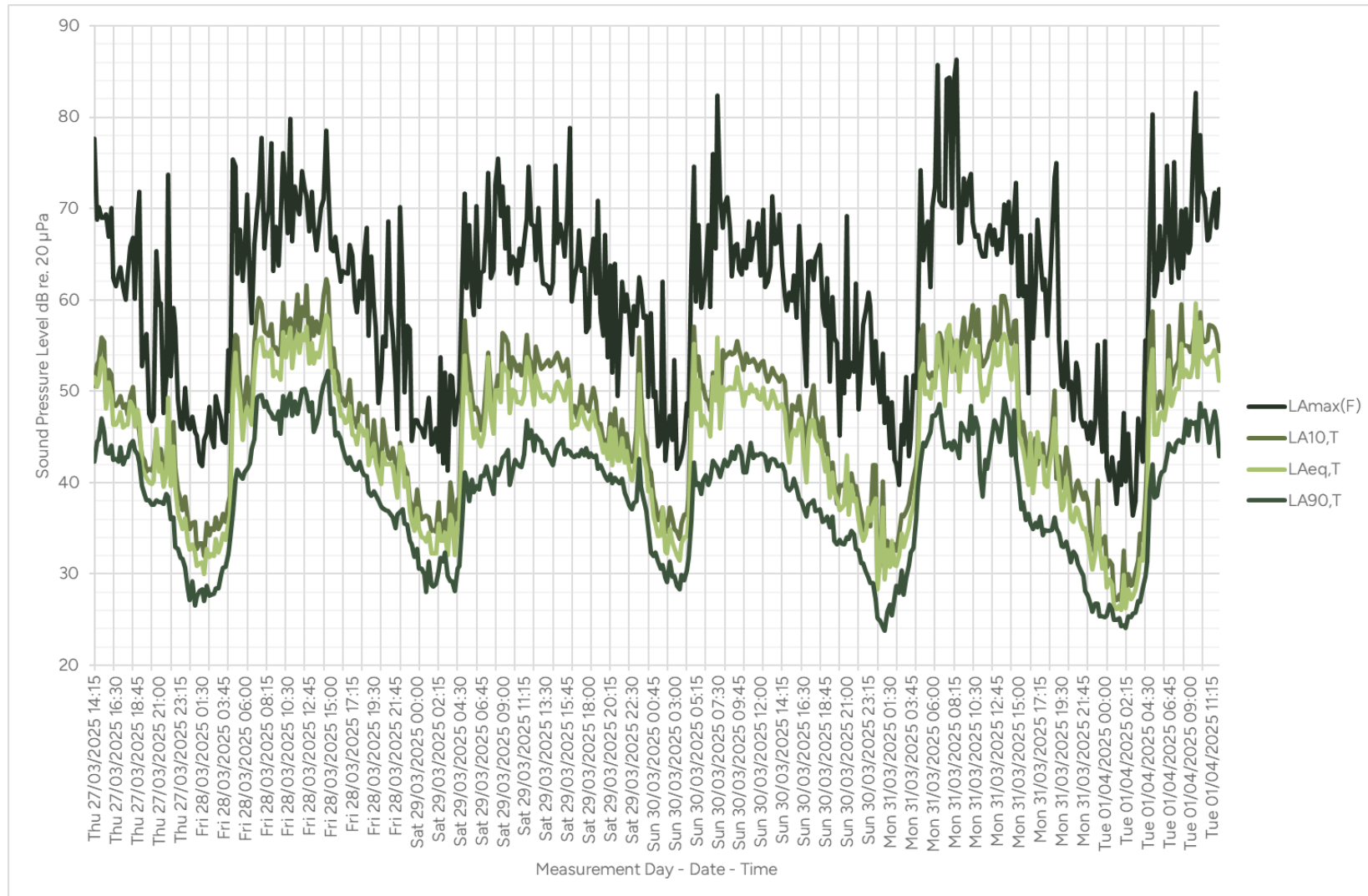
Residual Sound Level L_{Aeq} Statistical Analysis NMP1- Weekday



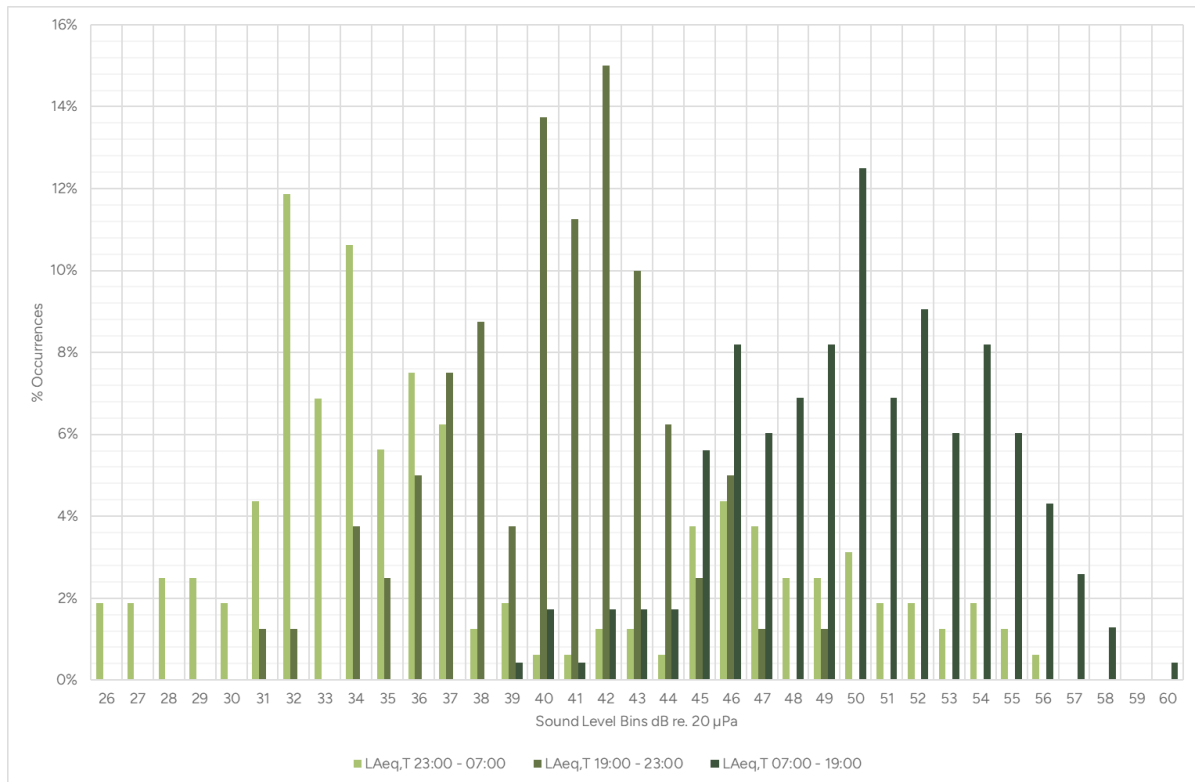
Background Sound Level L_{A90} Statistical Analysis NMP1- Weekday



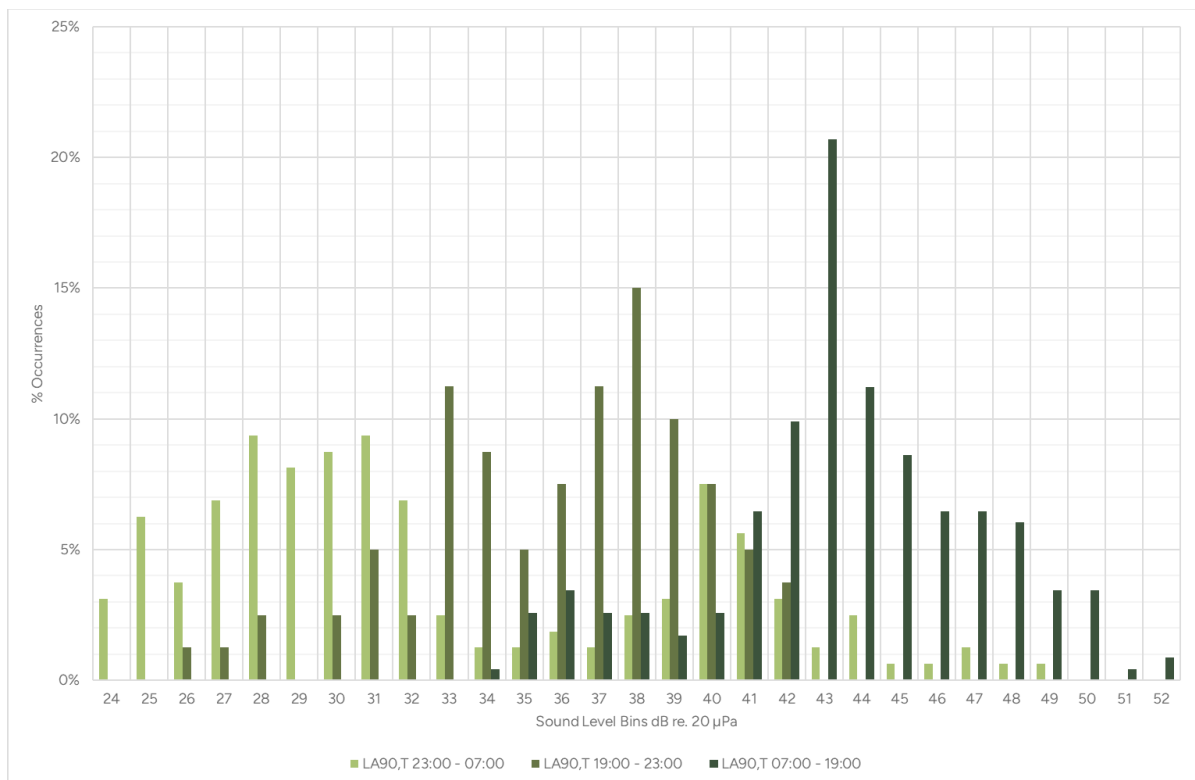
NMP2 Survey Data Summary

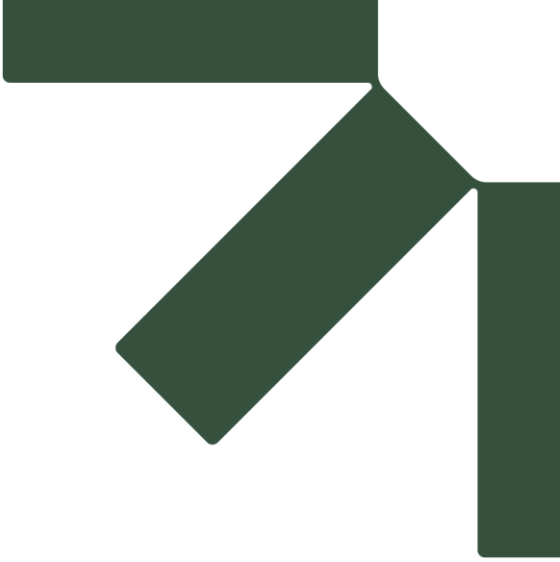


Residual Sound Level dB L_{Aeq} Statistical Analysis NMP2



Background sound Level dB L_{A90} Statistical Analysis NMP2





Appendix D Noise Management Plan

Noise Impact Assessment

Burgess Hill HWRC- Fire Suppression System

Biffa (West Sussex) Recycling Limited

SLR Project No.: 416.066187.00001

4 June 2025

D.1 Purpose

The purpose of this potential noise management plan will facilitate potential future data acquisition with a prescribed methodology to demonstrate to the LPA that the development is being operated within reasonable limits during testing, and in such a manner as to identify and minimise potential emerging noise impact at nearby noise-sensitive receptors.

If unacceptable noise levels are found via nuisance reporting to the LPA, noise monitoring scheme will prompt remedial actions to ensure ongoing operations can continue both for the purposes of safety and life protection, and to mitigate disturbance to commercial receptors in the vicinity.

D.2 Noise Sensitive Locations

The closest noise-sensitive receptors are considered to be:

- NSR 1 :Dwellings to the southeast off Eastbridge Avenue and Buckthorne Place.
- NSR 2 :Dwellings to the North off Fairbridge Way (Emerging Development)

D.3 Noise Measurement Equipment

Environmental noise levels shall be measured using sound level meters conforming to type 1 or better of the latest versions of British Standard EN 61672-1:2003 *Electro-acoustics, Sound Level Meters, Specifications*.

The sound level meters shall be field-calibrated before and after monitoring using an acoustic calibrator conforming to the latest version of British Standard EN 60942:2003 *Electro-acoustics – Sound Calibrators*.

All sound level meters shall be calibrated to a traceable standard by a UKAS-accredited laboratory, or equivalent, within a 24-month period before the survey and all acoustic calibrators shall be calibrated to a traceable standard by a UKAS-accredited laboratory, or equivalent, within a 12 month period before the survey.

D.4 Noise Survey Methodology

Noise measurements shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified person at the noise-sensitive locations identified above. The noise measurements shall be undertaken during a normal working day and night, during typical working hours, avoiding meal breaks and times when plant and equipment within the site are not operational.

If relevant and possible measurements should be taken during the specific identified testing period relating to complaint.

Noise levels shall also be measured during a period when the site is not operational, for example during a lunch break or shift change, to enable the noise levels attributable to site operations alone, to be determined by decibel subtraction.

The sound level meter shall be positioned such that the microphone is located 1.2 to 1.5 metres above local ground level in free-field conditions, i.e. at least 3.5 metres from the nearest vertical, reflecting surface, at all survey locations.

Operational noise levels shall be measured over a one-hour period during the normal working day or a period relevant to capture any testing operation in full.



A note of the prevailing weather conditions shall be made at the time of the survey and the audibility of the site shall be noted at each measurement location during each measurement period.

D.5 Frequency of Measurements

Noise monitoring shall be flexible in its frequency and an assessment of the risk of potential impact should be made for all operations, with monitoring being undertaken when:

- Atypical operations are being undertaken close to the site boundary;
- Atypical operations are outside the specification for the normal operation of the site; and

As a minimum, if none of the above points apply, noise monitoring should be undertaken on the basis of complaint or concerns only if and when they arise and the LPA inform the client, at which time a review shall be undertaken in consultation with the Local Planning Authority and the client representative acoustic engineer, to determine next steps for potential mutually agreeable mitigation for implementation.

D.6 Reporting

On completion of any additional noise survey a report shall be prepared and issued in a format suitable for submission to the LPA. Depending on the prevailing weather conditions, the report shall be submitted within ten working days (wherever possible) of a written request to undertake the monitoring.

The report shall contain, as a minimum:

- the results of the noise survey, i.e. noise levels during site operations and noise levels with the site not operating, in terms of the L_{Aeq} , and L_{A90} noise indices;
- details of the instrumentation used to include calibration details;
- details of the prevailing weather conditions on the day of the survey;
- details of the audibility of the site; and
- details of any extraneous noise sources that influenced the noise climate.

D.7 Receipt of Complaint

If a complaint is received by a local resident or occupant of the adjacent commercial receptor identified, an investigation shall be instigated within one working day to identify the cause of the non-compliance/complaint.

Such an investigation may involve the identification and cessation of the activity or activities considered to be the cause of the non-compliance/complaint and/or the investigation of mitigation measures to reduce the noise emission levels from the activity or activities, for example the attenuation of noisy plant with quieter alternatives and/or the use of temporary screening mounds to seek reductions in noise levels incident.

Any deviation from agreed working practices shall be identified immediately and conformance to the working practice reinstated.

A further noise survey in accordance with the above methodology shall be undertaken as soon as possible following the implementation of mitigation to re-assess the noise levels against the consented noise limits.



A complaints response system shall be maintained for the site enabling any complaints regarding noise to be reported and appropriate action taken promptly.

D.8 Programme of Implementation

The principles of noise monitoring scheme shall be implemented on an ad hoc on-going basis in line with the terms identified above dictating as and when a further assessment may be deemed as required and will be subject to written approval from the LPA of methodology and timescales.

D.9 Data Retention

The noise survey data obtained during the routine noise surveys shall be retained SLR or by agreement by an alternative sub-consultant for the full duration





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