



REVIEW REFERENCE:

IMP7561-1.1

ACOUSTIC REVIEW OF VENTA ACOUSTICS REPORT

Report Ref: VA4834.230809.NIA

Dated: 17th August 2023

Author: Steven Liddell MIOA

CLIENT:

I J Murray Associates Ltd

SITE:

200 Sea Front

Hayling Island

Hampshire

PO11 9HR

SURVEY DATES:

18th – 23rd April 2024

[Impact Acoustics Ltd](#)

[1 King John Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH11 9RS](#)

[Tel: 01202 581398](#)

impactacoustics.co.uk

1 REVIEW 3

1.1 INSTRUCTION 3

1.2 BACKGROUND NOISE MEASUREMENTS 3

1.3 WEATHER CONDITIONS..... 3

1.4 EQUIPMENT 4

1.5 NOISE MODELS 4

1.6 MITIGATION MEASURES..... 4

1.7 ASSESSMENTS 5

1.8 DISCUSSION 5

1.9 NOISE MANAGEMENT 6

1 REVIEW

1.1 Instruction

Impact Acoustics Ltd have been instructed by I J Murray Associates Ltd to undertake a professional review of the acoustic report prepared for Seafront Tennis Club. Venta Acoustics have submitted their report dated 17th August 2023, prepared by Mr S Lindell, who is full member of the Institute of Acoustics. The report has been issued under reference VA4834.230809.NIA. All comments and review are made without prejudice.

1.2 Background Noise Measurements

Venta Acoustics & Impact Acoustics have undertaken background noise measurements at a representative measurement location similar to each other to capture the nearest noise sensitive premises and recorded the following values:-

	Venta Acoustics		Impact Acoustics	
Daytime Equivalent Existing Background Noise Levels 4 days (07:00 – 23:00)	L _{Aeq, t} 48 dB	L _{A90, t} 37 dB	L _{Aeq, t} 49 dB	L _{A90, t} 35 dB
Night time Equivalent Existing Background Noise Levels 4 days (07:00 – 19:00)	L _{Aeq, t} 48 dB	L _{A90, t} 40 dB	L _{Aeq, t} 49 dB	L _{A90, t} 38 dB

There is a small variance in measurements and this is perfectly normal between consultants and we have no concerns over the data captured by Venta Acoustics. The above measurements have both been undertaken in accordance with ISO 1996 – Part 2: 2017.

1.3 Weather Conditions

Section 4.1 of their report states that:

In order to establish the existing noise levels at the site, a noise survey was carried out between Thursday 27th and Monday 31st July 2023 at the location shown in site plan VA4834/SP1. This location was chosen to be representative of the noise levels in the general area, including noise from the existing tennis courts. Continuous 5-minute samples of the LAeq, L_{Amax}, LA10 and LA90 sound pressure levels were undertaken at the measurement location.

This we have considered acceptable.

The weather during the survey period was variable, with ample periods of calm weather between periods of wind and rain. The periods of unsuitable weather have been excluded from the analysis.

Whilst it's stated that these periods have been excluded from the assessment, it would have been valuable to see at what times there were adverse conditions and the process for omitting this data from the analysis.

1.4 Equipment

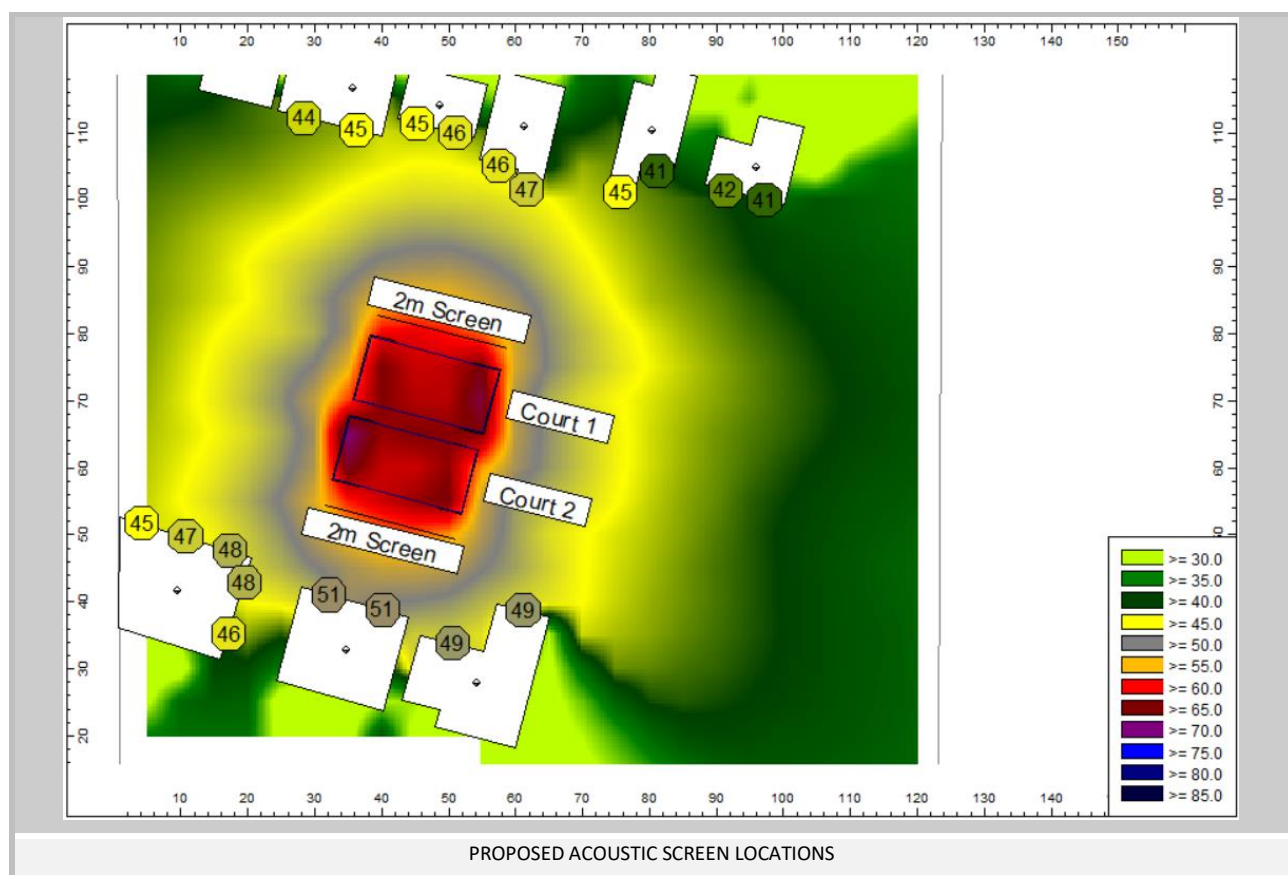
The equipment used within the Venta Acoustics assessment is compliant and up to date with the calibration requirements. The equipment's accuracy was verified before and after the assessment and no discrepancies identified.

1.5 Noise Models

We have reviewed the visual contents of the 3D model within the Venta Acoustics report and concur our model is in line with theirs and the calculated noise levels from Venta Acoustics and Impact Acoustics are within tolerance levels considered acceptable for direct comparisons.

1.6 Mitigation Measures

Venta Acoustics have recommend a 2.0m screen to the north and south of the proposed courts. The precise location and length of these screen has not been illustrated within the report. We have carried out further calculations and illustrated the location and length of the required screens. We agree a 2.0m screen to the north will be sufficient, provided it is positioned as detailed below. However, we do not agree a 2.0m screen to the south will be adequate and have carried out further models, calculations and assessments to demonstrate this.



Further to this we have undertaken further modelling and we have shown that in order to reduce the impact away from an adverse impact; acoustic screening at a height of at least 3 metres along the south boundary would be required. This screening height would bring in its own series of planning complications in itself i.e visual impact of fencing at 3 metres high.

1.7 Assessments

Venta Acoustics have only assessed noise levels to the façade of the nearest affected noise sensitive premises and not the garden levels as required by Sports England 'Design Guidance Note'. Impact Acoustics have undertaken this assessment to verify the calculated noise levels within the surrounding garden areas.

Venta Acoustics have also failed to assess the third element of the criteria from Sports England 'Design Guidance Note', which states that 'Noise from the new pitch not to exceed the existing noise climate'. Had they carried out this review, the following results would have been concluded:-

Location	Sports England Criteria		
	Façade not exceed 50 dB LAeq,1hour	Gardens not exceed 50 dB LAeq,1hour	Noise not to exceed existing noise climate. 48 dB LAeq,1hour
South 1 st Floor 2m Screen	53 dB (+3 dB)	Not Calculated	53 dB (+5 dB)
South G nd Floor 2m Screen	48 dB		48 dB
North 1 st Floor 2m Screen	49 dB	Not Calculated	49 dB (+1 dB)
North G nd Floor 2m Screen	46 dB		46 dB
VENTA ACOUSTICS DATA			

The above tabulated results demonstrate the proposed 2.0m screen will not achieve the aforementioned criteria. A +1 dB increase could be considered negligible, however, a +5 dB increase would be unacceptable and considered adverse; therefore, further mitigation measures are required in order to ensure compliance with the Sports England 'Design Guidance Note'.

1.8 Discussion

Venta Acoustics state that

While the predicted LAeq,1hour levels at the first floor level of three properties to the south slightly exceed the LAeq 50dB limit suggested by Sports England, the levels at ground floor level and at other dwellings meet the suggested target and are commensurate with the existing ambient (LAeq) sound levels in the area. It is offered that as the courts are only available for use during the day and there are no first floor balconies the external sound levels at ground floor level are more relevant. At ground floor level the sound levels meet the requirements of Sports England and the existing acoustic is not expected to be increased or compromised by the proposed padel courts.

We have demonstrated above that if Venta Acoustics had carried out a direct assessment of these existing noise levels, they would have highlighted a +5dB exceedance, prompting further calculations which may have resulted in them needing to recommend unrealistic screening height of a 3.0m screen at boundary.

At first floor level the increase in ambient sound levels is moderate and would not be at a level that would interfere with normal use of the dwellings. This suggests that while the sound from the padel court may be heard, the levels would not be prominent against the general noise climate.

Whilst we agree the paddle courts will be heard, the aforementioned +5 dB increase would be prominent and the impact would be adverse to the neighbouring properties.

The context of the area already includes the tennis courts which are in regular use. During the summer months, noise (music and shouting) from the nearby amusement park is already clearly audible and it is offered that this would have a significantly greater impact on residents' amenity than the sound of a padel court.

We do not agree with the above given that subjectively and audibly these noise sources are two completely different sounds. The amusement park is much further away and whilst has the potential to be audible, certainly doesn't contain the same characteristics as a Padel Court. From attendance at paddle tennis courts; the Impact sound from the rackets is the dominant noise source, due to the makeup and construction type of the rackets used. Padel Tennis is far more of an impact sound than general amusement park sound. Whilst we concur that they will both include patron noise, shouting etc, the patron noise is not the dominant element from a padel tennis match. Therefore contextually; it is not appropriate to draw the conclusion of noise climate as stated by Venta Acoustics.

Although Padel is a racket sport similar to tennis, it is played with a less-pressurised ball and the surrounding walls are in play, generating a slightly different sound profile to a tennis court.

We are in agreement with the above.

While the sound of padel tennis may be distinguishable from the existing tennis sounds, it is not sufficiently different to change the context of the locality. The proposed padel courts are therefore not expected to change the acoustic character of the area, increase existing sound levels or be intrusive to the surrounding residential uses.

The above statement we do not agree with. From attendance at multiple paddle tennis courts; the sound from a padel tennis court is highly reverberant due to the glass sections, which creates fluttering echoes when the ball is struck against the court walls. This noise profile just does not occur on an open tennis court. Having witnessed both open tennis matches and Padel Tennis matches: the characteristics are different and we believe it is sufficiently different to change the context of the locality and therefore marginal adverse impacts should not be accepted and a more robust approach to the audibility of the new noise source should be adhered to.

1.9 Noise Management

I agree with the recommendations made within the proposed noise management plan, however, we would additionally recommend the use of noise signage on the courts to remind patrons of the close proximity of residential dwellings.

END OF REPORT