

Planning Application Reference: APP/25/01015

Description: Part retention of ground floor commercial unit (Use Class E); conversion of remainder of ground floor and first floor to form 8 x 1 bed flats (Use Class C3); construction of 2nd floor with recessed 3rd floor mansard roof to form 12 bed Shared Living Property (HMO - Sui Generis); with associated parking, refuse and landscaping.

Location: 212-218 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7AJ

On further consideration and with improved technical understanding, the use of LAFmax data derived from 3 minute reference periods has been reassessed, and it is not accepted that a 3-minute logging interval represents an appropriate or robust methodology for identifying and assessing discrete night-time noise events.

I have reviewed the Apex Acoustics article referenced at Section 7.14 of the Vine Acoustics report. While the paper suggests that 1-3 minute intervals may be useful in certain analytical contexts to avoid misclassification of closely spaced events, this guidance is provided within the specific context of overheating and the contextualisation of adverse effect level, rather than health based night-time noise assessment, and does not supersede WHO guidance relating to the identification and assessment of LAFmax noise events.

WHO night-time noise guidance is fundamentally event-based, relying on the identification and counting of discrete maximum noise events capable of causing sleep disturbance.

Although it is acknowledged that Fast time-weighting (125 ms) may result in logging entries being associated with a single noise source, the adoption of a 3 minute logging interval inherently collapses multiple distinct noise events into a single reported value. This creates a clear risk of systematic under representation of event frequency, particularly where different sources or repeated pass-by events occur within the same interval.

In environments influenced by multiple or intermittent sources, such as road traffic or service activity, individual noise events may reasonably last anywhere from a few seconds to over a minute. A 3 minute reference period is therefore likely to suppress legitimate discrete events that should be identified and counted separately for the purposes of night-time impact assessment.

As a result, validation testing required by condition must demonstrate that the relevant night-time noise criterion of 45 dB LAFmax is not exceeded more than 10 times per night. This should be determined using short measurement intervals (for example 5 seconds) with subsequent detailed analysis to identify and count discrete noise events, rather than relying on extended logging periods.

The acoustic assessment implies that background ventilation to rooms on the rear elevation would be provided via trickle vents; however, such vents do not provide purge ventilation and are therefore insufficient to address or mitigate overheating risk. In the absence of a robust, substantiated overheating assessment, reliance on purge ventilation through window opening cannot be assumed. It should therefore be emphasised that the internal noise criteria set by condition must be achieved at all times, and that no relaxation of the conditioned internal noise thresholds is accepted to facilitate purge ventilation during overheating events, whether assessed or otherwise

Kind regards,

Craig Milligan

Environmental Health Officer

Environmental Health , Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza,
Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX