

5th March 2026

Chris Parker-Jones BSc MSc MIOA
ParkerJones Acoustics Limited
11 Bankside Road, Bristol, Avon
BS4 4LB

To whom it may concern,

Re: DC/26/0024 Bentley House, North Heath Lane Industrial Estate, North Heath Lane – Response to Officer Query Regarding Noise Monitoring Results

I am writing in response to the query received by the applicant from Mr. Daniel Holmes, Senior Planning Officer at Horsham District Council, dated 4th March 2026, in which he relayed comments from the Environmental Health Department regarding the submitted Noise Impact Assessment.

The request from the Environmental Health Officer was as follows:

"The noise report appears to be contradictory in that the noise levels measured for the façade facing the industrial estate appear to be quieter than the façade overlooking the recreation ground to the south. Please could you ask the applicant to provide the full noise data set from the noise monitoring as I would like to better understand this and the potential implications for the amenity of the development."

In response to this request, the monitoring results presented in the report have been reviewed in more detail. From this review it appears there are several clear reasons why noise levels at times may appear higher on the south side of the site than on the north side, albeit, as explained below, this is not the case at all times and the overall pattern is consistent with the surrounding land uses and environmental conditions.

The relevant measurement locations and monitoring results are illustrated in Figures 4.1 and 4.2 of the Noise Impact Assessment report issued on 13th November 2025, specifically within Section 4.1 of that report. Figure 4.1 presents the monitoring results for Position P1, located on the north side of the building facing the industrial estate, whereas Figure 4.2 presents the results for Position P2, located on the south side facing the recreation field.

At Position P2, the time-history data show clear peaks around 07:00 – 08:00 on each monitoring day, where noise levels rise quickly and then fall away shortly afterwards. This pattern is typical of the morning dawn chorus (birdsong). The southern boundary of Bentley House contains a significant amount of trees and foliage, which is clearly visible in the site photographs and provides suitable habitat for birds in close proximity to the monitoring position.

When reviewing the sunrise times during the monitoring period, these occurred between approximately 07:20 and 07:30, which aligns closely with the observed peaks in the data. It is therefore entirely reasonable that birdsong would dominate the local sound environment during this period when other background noise sources are relatively low. A smaller increase in sound levels can also be seen on some days around sunset (approximately 16:00), although this effect is generally less pronounced than the morning peaks.

Because the $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ daytime level represents an average across the entire daytime period, a relatively noisy one-hour period associated with the dawn chorus can increase the overall daytime average. If this short-duration event is disregarded, the underlying ambient noise levels at Position P2 appear broadly comparable to those recorded at Position P1.

It should also be noted that Position P1 is less affected by this phenomenon, as it is located on the industrial side of the site where there is very little vegetation or tree cover, and therefore fewer birds in close proximity to the microphone.

A further explanation can be seen in the weekend data. On Saturday and Sunday (18th and 19th November) the baseline levels at Position P2 are generally slightly higher than those at Position P1. This is consistent with the surrounding land uses. Industrial activity within the business park is likely to be reduced over the weekend, whereas the recreation field on the south side may be more actively used by members of the public.

A review of the weather conditions during the survey period indicates that, aside from some rain on Saturday morning, conditions were generally mild and dry, which would be consistent with increased recreational use of the field.

When the monitoring period moves into Monday and Tuesday, the general ambient levels at Position P2 reduce again (aside from the dawn chorus peaks). This would also be expected, as weekday daytime use of the field is typically lower, with children at school and fewer people present during working hours. Conversely, industrial activity within the business park increases during the working week, which is reflected in the slightly higher noise levels observed at Position P1.

In summary, the monitoring data show a pattern consistent with the surrounding environment:

- Position P1 (north side) tends to be noisier during weekdays, reflecting activity within the industrial estate.
- Position P2 (south side) exhibits dawn chorus peaks around sunrise, which slightly increase the daytime L_{Aeq} values, and can be marginally higher at weekends when the recreation field is more actively used.

The time-history graphs included in the report already present the full monitoring dataset visually. However, for completeness, the raw monitoring data (Excel format) used to generate those graphs has also been provided for review.

I trust this clarifies the apparent differences between the monitoring positions, but please do not hesitate to contact me should any further clarification be required.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Parker-Jones

BSc MSc MIOA

Director and Acoustic Consultant

of **ParkerJones Acoustics Limited**