

Acoustic South East



Application to Extend Working Hours

Report by: Scott Castle BSc (Hons) CEnvH, MCIEH MIOA

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Project: J4091

Issue 2

Site: **Unit 2, Redkilm Close, Horsham. RH13 5QL**

Client: **Safeguard Europe Limited**

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Report by: Scott Castle BSc (Hons) CEnvH, MCIEH MIOA

Checked by: Peter Attwood BSc(Hons) MSc MCIOB MIOA

Issue 1	10/12/2025	DRAFT Issue
Issue 2	09/07/2026	Revised

1 Introduction and Executive Summary

Acoustic South East have been appointed to undertake an acoustic assessment to support a planning application for extension of hours at the existing commercial site. The operating hours within the main building are 06:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday with reduced hours for a Saturday.

The proposal is to extend the working for Saturday afternoons and Sunday periods, inside the Safeguard building, and to extend a short period of the Saturday afternoon to utilise the yard area, which is consistent with the Brewers use of the area also.

Measurements were made inside Unit 2 over a number of days (19th to 30th September 2025) and deliberately included a weekend. The measured data shows that a worst-case hour was 69dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$ and a worst case 12 hour working day was 65dB $L_{Aeq,12 \text{ hour}}$.

Both the 69dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$ and 65dB $L_{Aeq,12 \text{ hour}}$ values were used in a computer-generated noise model to ascertain how sound energy is likely to propagate out of the Unit 2 structure. To ensure a robust assessment, the noise modelling considered the North East roller shutter door open and closed.

The results of the noise modelling software were compared with a previously applied boundary condition which Horsham considered for a B2 use to potentially move into Unit 2. It is noted that the B2 use never occurred at the site and therefore the condition is not valid, however it is a useful yardstick to consider noise predictions against.

The results of the assessment show that even with 8 receptor positions placed at the nearest boundary, none of these exceed 47dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$ with the door open or closed, when considering a worst-case hour (69dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$) or a worst case 12 hour working day.

It is therefore logical and proven that the noise impact from internal working within Unit 2 is not having any detrimental effect. Accordingly, an extension of hours to permit Saturday afternoon and Sunday working would not have any impact on the nearest residential properties (Manton Court). As stated within the reporting, any extension of hours, relates solely to the internal use of Unit 2. The proposed extension of hours of the yard (13:00-17:00 hours) on a Saturday to match the Brewers use of the same yard is therefore felt to be appropriate also.

Notwithstanding this, Safeguard Europe Limited are conscious of their setting with assisted living in close proximity and have developed a noise management plan to share with all staff members to ensure that where practicable, noise emissions from site are kept to a minimum. As a matter of transparency, the noise management plan has been included.

The extension of internal working hours should not be withheld on noise grounds.

2 Context, Noise Criteria & Noise Assessment Methodology

2.1 Context

Safeguard Europe Limited have been present on their current site since 1996.

The company manufacture damp proofing products inside their business at Unit 2, Redkilyn Close Horsham. The company also work out of a small section of Unit 3 which is the building opposite, as seen in Figure 1 below.

An external servicing/delivery yard area is also present between Unit 2 and Unit 3.

The reporting relates to an extension of hours worked within Unit 2 and also to ensure that the use of the external servicing/delivery yard matches those of Brewers which also use the yard area. The yard hours extension would be Saturday from 13:00-17:00 hours.

The company is located in a dedicated commercial/industrial setting of Redkilyn Close and the closest commercial neighbour is Brewers, a decorating centre who have a dedicated fleet of vehicles which attend and depart from the sites and also utilise the external yard area.

A planning application is proposed to be made to Horsham District Council to extend the current business working hours.



Figure 1. Unit 2 as Seen from Redkilyn Way

2.2 Site Location and Commercial Setting

The application site is detailed in red in Figure 1.



Figure 2. Site Location (PLACEHOLDER – redline plan needed)

Commercial/business units exist to the North East, East and South of the site and include:

Brolly Brewing Taproom, Unit 8, Redkiln Close

Revs Vehicle Repair, Units 9 and 10 Redkiln Close

Horsham Matters Foodbank, Unit 1 Redkiln Close

Freeborn, 2 Redkiln Close

Former Volkswagen Service Centre (Vacant)

Bailey Total

Holm Filters, 6 Redkiln Close

2.3 Site Soundscape

The site soundscape is dominated by passing road traffic on Redkiln Way and aviation noise.

2.4 Brewers Operating Hours

As stated, Brewers also utilise the external servicing/delivery yard for their site opposite Safeguard. The Brewers operating hours are 07:00 to 17:00 hours Monday to Saturday.

2.5 Safeguard Operating Hours and Proposal

The Safeguard site currently operates from 06:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday with reduced hours on a Saturday and no working on a Sunday.

It is proposed to obtain planning consent to operate for the Saturday afternoon and Sunday, however, this is for internal working inside Unit 2. A small extension of hours for the use of the external yard on Saturday afternoon to match the hours of Brewers is also proposed from 13:00 to 17:00 hours.

The proposed internal working hours inside Unit 2 are 06:00 hours to 18:00 hours.

2.6 Closest Residential Receptor(s)

The closest residential receptor to the building is an assisted living complex, Manton Court located to the North West of the site, also seen in Figure 1.

2.7 Historic Acoustic Assessment

Southdowns Environmental carried out a noise report dated October 2002. The report was carried out in order to allow the movement of a potential B2 use into Unit 2 which was likely to generate increased noise levels over and above what Safeguard generate.

The Southdowns report was undertaken to assess noise and create a relevant boundary condition to ensure that residents in close proximity remained protected from adverse noise levels. It is noted for clarity that the proposed B2 use never occupied Unit 2, however it remains valid that the proposed boundary condition is capable of being achieved.

2.8 Relevant Planning Policies

2.8.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024

The National Planning Policy Framework (Dec 2024) defines the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so.

The following paragraphs are relevant within NPPF Section 15 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) states the following:

Paragraph 187(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, and

Paragraph 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 impact resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;
- 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; and

Paragraph 200– Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.

2.8.2 Planning Noise Advice Document Sussex, November 2023

A planning noise advice document which all Sussex local authorities have contributed to and signed up to (including Horsham District Council) remains relevant. The guidance document has been followed in respect of measurement parameters and report presentation of data.

3 Methodology

1. Measure inside the business premises to identify the relevant site soundscape.
2. Use noise modelling software to identify how sound is likely to propagate across the site
3. Compare the predictions/noise model outputs with the historic reporting and suggested condition.
4. Identify relevant mitigation measures for the client
5. Conclude.

4 Survey

The survey used a class 1 sound level meter for a long-term survey inside the factory, measuring in reverberant conditions and using Fast and A weighting filters. The survey was calibrated before and after the installation without any significant drift observed and measurements were made in a 1 second resolution, allowing post processing to occur and determine relevant internal sound pressure levels.

Survey(s) carried out by	Scott Castle BSc(Hons) Env Health, MCIEH CEnvH MIOA
Equipment Used	01dB Symphonie
Equipment Used	Castle Acoustic Calibrator – Serial No. 041173
Location	2.5m in height, attached to racking approx 3m from North East Roller Shutter Door
Duration	19 th September 2025 to 30 th September 2025

Table 1. Survey Details

5 Survey Results

The survey data was broken down into single hours and is presented in Figures 3 and 4 below. The Sunday trace without any working is easily evident in grey.

Measured Internal Sound Pressure Levels, dB LAeq,1 hour												
Time	Friday	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri(2)	Sat(2)	Sun(2)	Mon(2)	Tue(2)
06:00-07:00		58	52	56	57	53	60	56	57	56	47	54
07:00-08:00		62	56	53	59	54	56	54	61	56	45	55
08:00-09:00		64	58	55	64	64	63	60	64	59	65	64
09:00-10:00		65	50	66	61	62	64	63	61	61	68	66
10:00-11:00		65	49	65	65	62	67	68	61	60	65	60
11:00-12:00		62	56	60	63	60	69	66	63	61	66	
12:00-13:00		59	61	54	57	61	64	63	60	59	64	
13:00-14:00		61	48	53	64	54	63	64	53	56	62	
14:00-15:00		63	50	63	61	64	62	66	58	55	63	
15:00-16:00		58	46	56	63	66	68	65	56	53	59	
16:00-17:00	65	52	44	60	57	67	66	64	61	59	62	
17:00-18:00	59	57	44	57	54	59	58	59	59	56	56	

Figure 3. Measured Internal Sound Pressure Levels - LAeq,1 hour

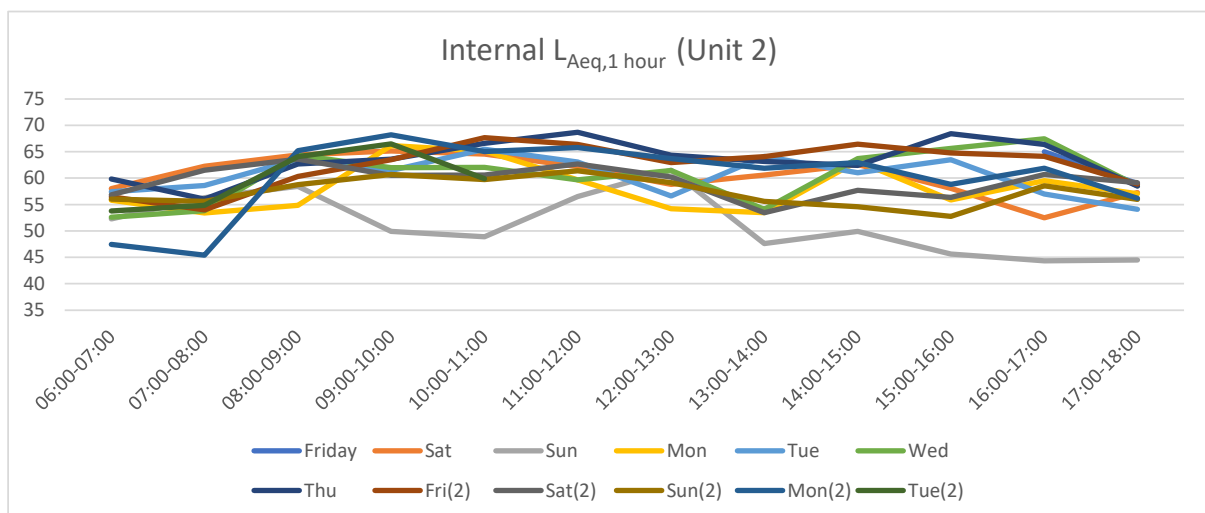


Figure 4. Graphical Presentation of Time vs Level (Internally Measured Sound Pressure Levels)

The measured internal worst-case hour was 69dB LAeq,1 hour, and the worst case measured LAeq,12 hour (ie 06:00-18:00hours) was 65dB.

6 Noise Modelling

In order to see how noise varies at different positions around the proposed development it is possible to produce a noise contour map. A computer noise model has been completed using the computer package IMMI. Drawings of the area have been used to complete the noise models and the topography of the location recreated. IMMI faithfully implements the propagation method of ISO-9613:1996; Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors.

The noise modelling software predicts freefield and A weighted dB values.

6.1 Noise Model Inputs

The noise model was created with a number of variables. These were as follows:

1. The site was visited with laser measurements taken to understand the height of the building as well as the relevant factors such as the roller shutter doors which are located on the North East and South East facades.
2. The building is a combination of brickwork, external metal profiled sheeting (Kingspan), internal blockwork, as well as internally fixed plasterboard on the North West façade.
3. The separating fence was measured with a height above ground level of 2.4m, which was included within the noise model.
4. To present a worst-case model, a building was constructed as an area sound source using only Kingspan Rw1000 sheeting. This is a profiled metal sheet which provides an R_w of 25dB.
5. The roller shutter door was modelled as both open and closed. Clearly the door is opened to allow fork lift trucks to move into the yard allowing items to be despatched into waiting vehicles (deliveries are received via a different entrance). For the closed position, the D_w of the metal roller shutter door (measured on other sites) used was 22dB. For the open position, this is effectively transparent allowing sound out of the building.
6. To also present a robust case, the highest measured hour and higher averages of the working day have been applied into the model(s).
7. It is also the case that the building constructed in the model is the whole of Unit 2. However, in reality, not all of the building is in use as a commercial space and a large chunk for example in the North East corner is dedicated to office spaces, so there would be limited noise break out from there.
8. The South East roller shutter door was not modelled; this is well away from residential receptors and would not likely impact the boundary between the yard and Manton Court to the North West.

6.2 Noise Model Outputs

As stated, the noise model was run with the North East roller shutter door open and closed in order to present realistic scenarios. The company typically report that the roller shutter door is closed for normal operations.

It is also recognised that for the extension of hours application that the yard would not be utilised and there would not be any requirement to open the roller shutter door.

It is recognised that noise modelling predictions are not always legible, therefore a table of the outcomes is presented in Figure 9. Figures 5 to 8 present 2D noise contours of how the sound is likely to propagate across the site.

6.2.1 69dB L_{Aeq,1 hour} – Roller Shutter Door Closed

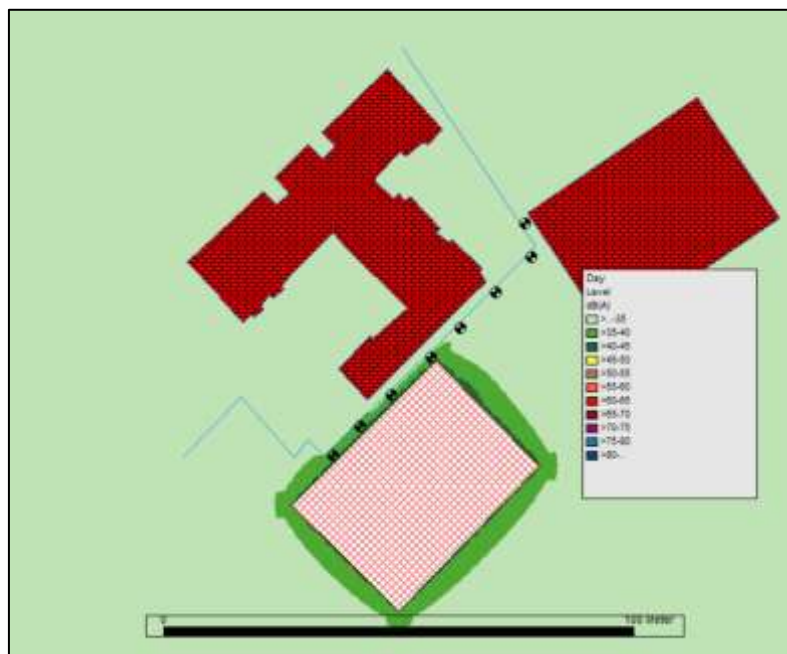


Figure 5. 2D Noise Contours. Worst Case Hour – Roller Shutter Door Closed

6.2.2 69dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$ – Roller Shutter Door Open

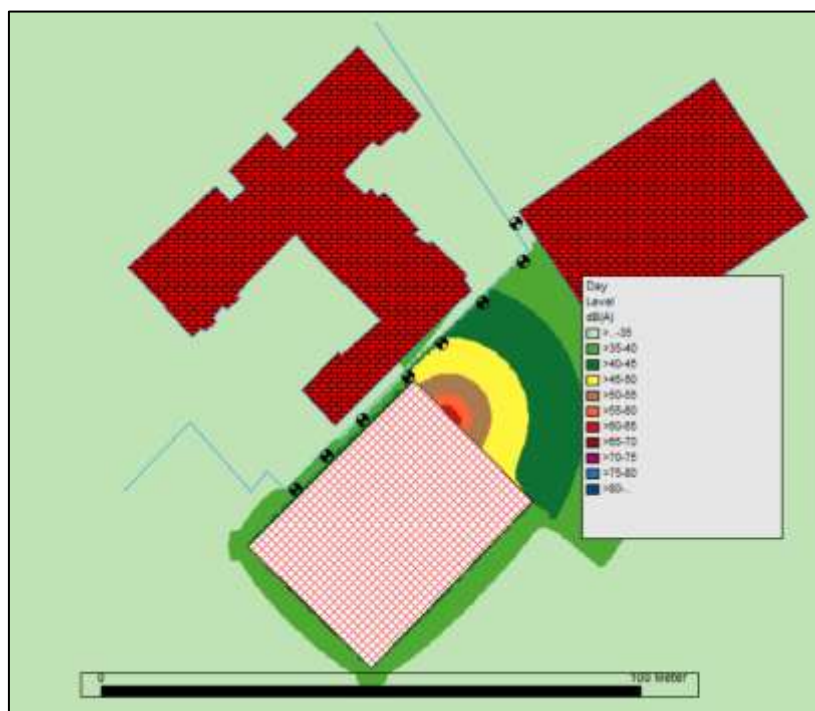


Figure 6. 2D Noise Contours. Worst Case Hour – Roller Shutter Door Open

6.2.3 65dB $L_{Aeq,12 \text{ hour}}$ – Door Closed



Figure 7. 2D Noise Contours. $L_{Aeq,12 \text{ hour}}$, Roller Shutter Door Closed

6.2.4 65dB $L_{Aeq, 12 \text{ hour}}$ – Door Open

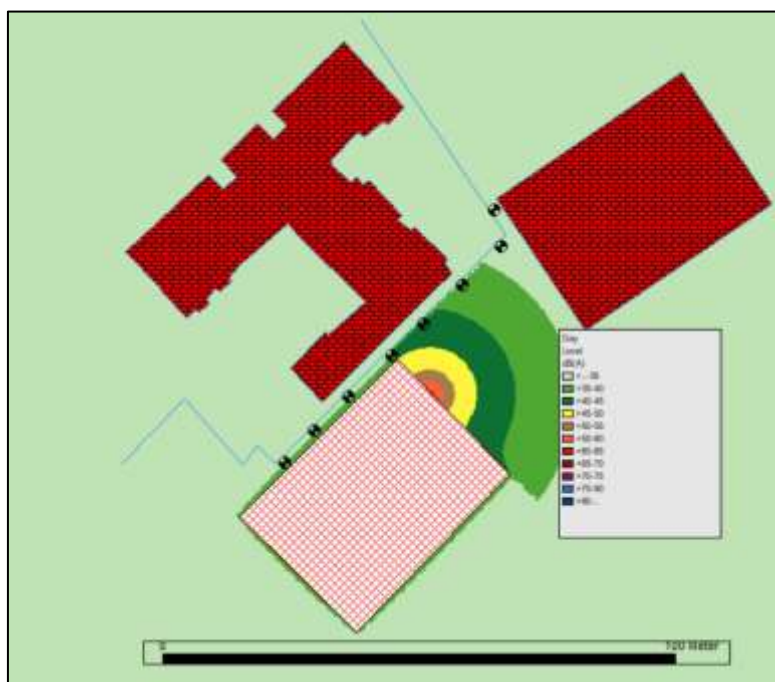


Figure 8. 2D Noise Contours. $L_{Aeq, 12 \text{ hour}}$, Roller Shutter Door Open

6.2.5 Noise Modelling Predictions Summary Table

Assessment of Noise Break Out of Unit 2				
Receptor Position	65dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$ Sound		69dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ Hour}}$ Sound Pressure	
	Door Closed	Door Open	Door Closed	Door Open
Boundary 1	34.5	34.5	38.5	38.5
Boundary 2	34.4	34.5	38.4	38.5
Boundary 3	34.4	34.5	38.4	38.5
Boundary 4	33.4	38.2	37.4	42.2
Boundary 5	28.5	41.6	32.5	45.6
Boundary 6	24.5	37.4	28.5	41.4
Boundary 7	21.6	33.1	25.6	37.1
Boundary 8	11.6	22.1	15.6	26.1
All predicted sound pressure levels are external, freefield and A weighted				

Figure 9. Noise Modelling Predictions Summary Table

7 Discussion

It is shown from the noise modelling predictions that the predicted boundary conditions, even with a worst-case internal hour applied are below 47dB $L_{Aeq,1 \text{ hour}}$ externally with a roller shutter door wide open.

It therefore follows that with the roller shutter doors closed and/or the slightly lower value for the 12-hour working day applied (ie 65dB $L_{Aeq,12 \text{ hour}}$), the predicted noise levels are lower than the original boundary condition. It also follows that any building facades at a greater distance than the fence line will be at an even-lower received noise level.

Therefore, there is no reason why the additional working pattern for a Saturday afternoon and 06:00 to 18:00 hours for the Sunday should not be permitted for Safeguard working inside Unit 2. Working conditions inside Unit 2 are unlikely to present any cause for concern with regards to the boundary condition.

It is reasonable to be able to share the same hours of use of the external yard as the neighbours Brewers. The extension of hours to match Brewers use of the site for a Saturday afternoon of 13:00-17:00 is appropriate.

Notwithstanding this, Safeguard Europe Limited are aware of their positioning with assisted living quarters located to the North West of the site and the desire to be a good neighbour.

Therefore, a noise management plan has been derived to ensure that all staff members are conscious of the fact that residents live nearby. This is especially relevant for staff members arriving in the morning and evening periods and this is also covered off within the noise management plan. For transparency, this is presented in Appendix A.

8 Conclusion

Measurements were made inside Unit 2 over a number of days (19th to 30th September 2025) and deliberately included a weekend. The measured data shows that a worst-case hour was 69dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$ and a worst case 12 hour working day was 65dB $L_{Aeq, 12 \text{ hour}}$.

Both the 69dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$ and 65dB $L_{Aeq, 12 \text{ hour}}$ values were used in a computer-generated noise model to ascertain how sound energy is likely to propagate out of the Unit 2 structure. To ensure a robust assessment, the noise modelling considered the North East roller shutter door open and closed.

The results of the noise modelling software were compared with a previously applied boundary condition which Horsham considered for a B2 use to potentially move into Unit 2. It is noted that the B2 use never occurred at the site and therefore the condition is not valid, however it is a useful yardstick to consider noise predictions against.

The results of the assessment show that even with 8 receptor positions placed at the nearest boundary, none of these exceed 47dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$ with the door open or closed, when considering a worst-case hour (69dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$) or a worst case 12 hour working day.

It is therefore logical and proven that the noise impact from internal working within Unit 2 is not having any detrimental effect. Accordingly, an extension of hours to permit Saturday afternoon and Sunday working would not have any impact on the nearest residential properties (Manton Court). As stated within the reporting, any extension of hours, relates solely to the internal use of Unit 2. The proposed extension of hours of the yard (13:00-17:00 hours) on a Saturday to match the Brewers use of the same yard is therefore felt to be appropriate also.

Notwithstanding this, Safeguard Europe Limited are conscious of their setting with assisted living in close proximity and have developed a noise management plan to share with all staff members to ensure that where practicable, noise emissions from site are kept to a minimum. As a matter of transparency, the noise management plan has been included.

The extension of internal working hours should not be withheld on noise grounds.

9 Appendix A – Noise Management Plan (Summary)

Delivery Yard

The external North East Yard is only for despatch only.

All site deliveries to be directed to the side door of the warehouse (where operationally possible).

Use of signage within the yard area and also for regular deliveries to the site, use of what three words to delivery drivers to ensure that deliveries do not occur to the despatch site.

Fork lift trucks only fitted with a white noise system to enter the yard

Fork lift truck operators to have a continued and rolling programme of briefings about being good neighbours, ie minimising use of horns etc (where H&S allow).

The only hand pallet truck for access to the yard will only be the newly purchased electric truck with rubber wheels to minimise the clatter of the flooring surface.

Safeguard to ensure that the yard hours of use are enforced, with no plant or door openings before 08:00 hours.

Safeguard to ensure that any alarms associated with roller shutter door openings are silenced.

No un-necessary working outside of the business unit.

A dedicated yard supervisor will ensure that despatch drivers are being courteous to neighbours with no idling, no loud radios, no mobile phone conversations in the yard, no un-necessary use of the horn to attract attention for example.

The yard supervisor will also undertake to regularly assess the yard surface to ensure that it remains free of potholes or defects, likely to cause rattle or un-necessary noise of the vehicles using the yard.

Administrative Actions

A dedicated complaint handing system. - A nominated member of staff will receive and investigate any complaints. There will be a dedicated route for complaints to come into the business and this might be through the creation of a specific email address.

The nominated individual will respond in a given time period to the complainant and be responsible for recording the particulars of the complaint.

A complaint form shall be constructed to collect the relevant particulars of an event, allowing staff to be able to easily review the information.

Complaint records shall be reviewed every six months to ensure that any trends are accurately identified or whether there is a need for further mitigation measures/interventions.

A sit down meeting with the assisted living site and additionally Brewers could also be convened to identify any trends or items of concern.

The NMP shall be subject to a regular review.

A sit down meeting with Brewers is also strongly advised to ensure that there are open channels of dialogue and that Brewers remain aware of the current circumstances of the yard and the rationale for a noise management plan. Brewers may well have a company wide noise management plan for using external yards.

The use of CCTV within the delivery yard should continue to be used as this is particularly beneficial to identify any concerns post event.

Staff training must include noise related measures and should be carried out on an ongoing basis.

This is particularly relevant for new members of staff as well as those that will enter the yard and or engage with despatch drivers.

Maintenance of the fork lift trucks and electric pallet trucks should be undertaken on an ongoing basis to ensure that equipment remains in optimal condition.

Complaints, or rather more specifically, noise complaints shall be part of the any regular management updates and meetings.

Waste contractors who collect from the site shall be advised of the 08:00 hours curfew.

Staff Car Parking Area

With a potential for expansion of early staff arrivals, it is critical that staff receive a briefing regarding unnecessary noise in the staff car park area. This shall include but not be limited to:

No unnecessary idling

No use of mobile phones in the yard area

No radios

No shouting between staff members