

SUPPORTING NOISE STATEMENT

Proposed Outdoor Padel Court — Assessment of Likely Noise Impact on Neighbouring Properties

1. Introduction and Purpose

This statement has been prepared to support the planning application for the proposed outdoor padel court, in response to noise concerns raised by two neighbouring properties. It sets out, by reference to the site's specific circumstances and the published acoustic research on padel court noise, why the proposed development will not give rise to an adverse noise impact on either objecting neighbour.

2. Site Context and Location of Complainants

- Nearest objecting neighbour: approximately 160m from the padel court.
- Second objecting neighbour: approximately 400m from the padel court and screened by Lock House itself.
- The site sits within a rural landscape. The court is screened from both neighbours by an existing dense hedge approximately 6m in height.
- The nearest neighbour's property sits directly adjacent to a farm track used for numerous daily tractor and heavy machinery movements (100DB+) passing within approximately 5m of their house.
- The second, more distant, neighbour keeps two dogs which bark continually and are a recognised, ongoing source of noise disturbance in the locality.

These site characteristics are directly relevant. Current best-practice guidance for assessing noise from padel (see Section 3) makes clear that impact should not be judged against a generic threshold alone, but against the context of the receiving environment — including its existing noise character. Both complainants already experience frequent, close-range noise from other sources that is unrelated to the proposed development.

3. Relevant Guidance Benchmarks

There is currently no padel-specific noise standard in UK planning law. In practice, applications are assessed against a combination of general guidance, summarised below:

- BS 8233 — sets internal/external noise level guidance for buildings, generally assessed as an average level (LAeq); typically the first benchmark applied by planning officers, though it is a relatively blunt tool for describing padel's intermittent impact noise.
- Sports England guidance (on Artificial Grass Pitches/MUGA) — broadly supports the BS8233 criteria and, notably, states that the impact of proposed noise should be judged in the context of the site rather than by a rigid single figure.
- Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) guidance — states that where a padel court is within 30m of a building, noise mitigation may be needed and an acoustic consultant should be engaged. This is the clearest "trigger distance" currently used within the sport.

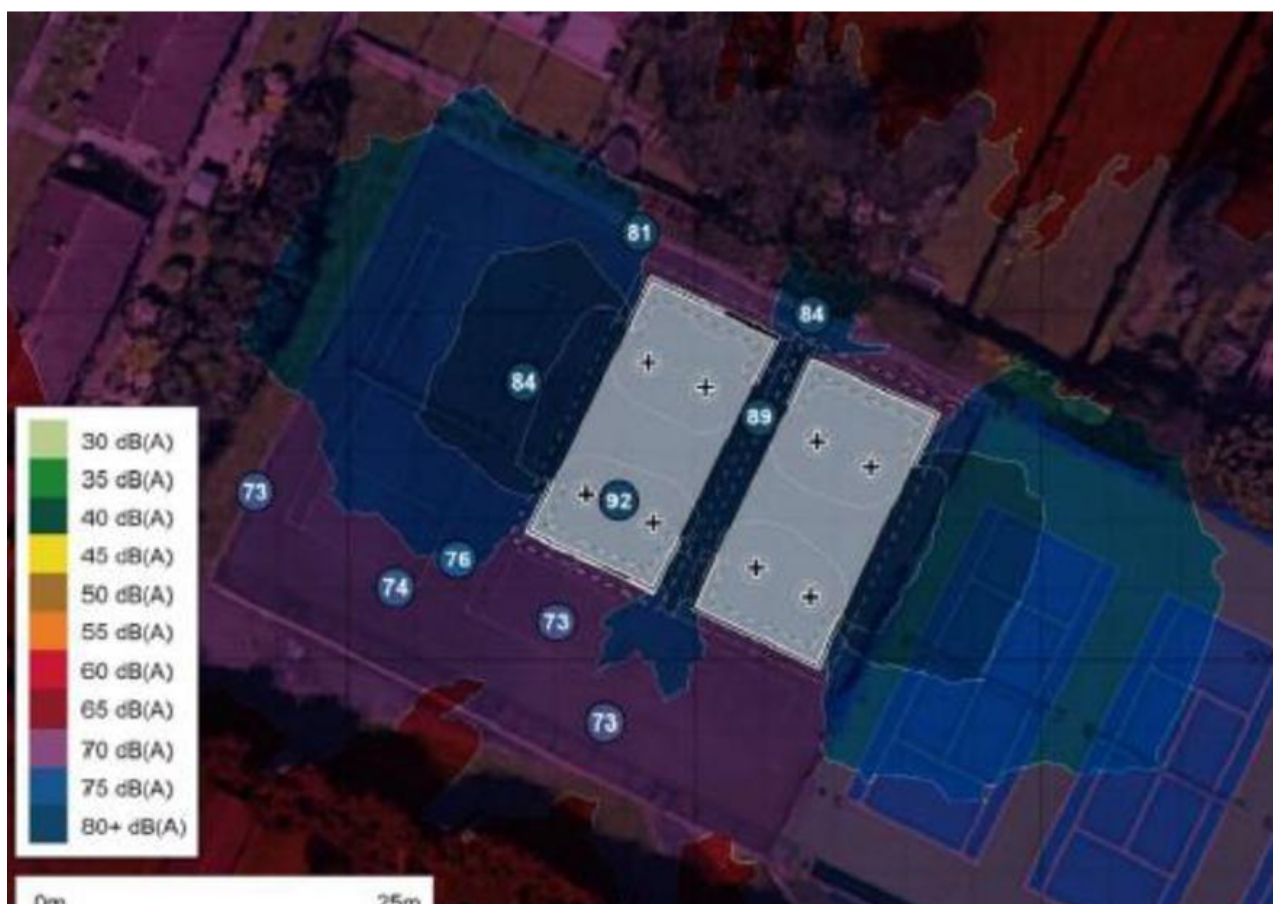
Measured against the LTA's own 30m trigger distance, the nearest complainant at 160m is roughly 5+ times further away, and the second complainant at 400m is over 13 times further away. Both distances

sit well outside the range at which the sport's own governing body considers mitigation is likely to be required.

4. Assessment of Likely Impact

4.1 Distance attenuation

Published padel-specific research (MW Acoustics, 2024) confirms that padel court noise is highly directional: sound escaping through the open mesh sides of a court is significantly louder than sound at the enclosed, glazed ends, where the boundary wall acts as a barrier. The research measured noise at the side of a court to be around 12dB higher than at the end — equivalent to more than double the perceived loudness — with levels at 5m from the side roughly twice as loud as at 5m from the end. This directional behaviour means court orientation and boundary treatment materially affect how much noise reaches any given receptor, and it should be factored into siting the court so that its quieter (end) aspects face the two complainants where practicable. All neighbours are in line with the enclosed (quieter) end reducing any noise. Padel Paper states “In contrast, when measured 5m from the end of the court (baseline), the noise levels for both padel and tennis are almost identical (primarily due to the solid glass boundary at the back of the court acting as a sound barrier.”



The acoustic mapping showing that 20m from the Padel court in the orientation of the nearest neighbour the maximum sound level is 73DB.

Beyond this directional effect, sound also attenuates simply with distance. Under standard free-field geometric spreading, sound pressure level falls by approximately 6dB each time the distance from the source doubles (before any additional loss from ground absorption, screening or atmospheric effects, all

of which apply further reductions in a rural setting with intervening vegetation). Applying this principle illustratively from the LTA's 30m guidance trigger:

Distance from court	Multiple of LTA's 30m trigger	Indicative geometric attenuation vs. 30m
5m from Court (per map)		84DB
20m from court (per map)		73DB (equivalent to a lawn mower)
30m (LTA mitigation trigger)	1x (baseline)	
140m (nearest complainant)	~5x	55DB (equivalent to quiet conversation or hum of household appliance)
400m (second complainant)	~13.3x	42DB (equivalent to rustling of leaves)

Note: this table illustrates the order of magnitude of distance attenuation using standard geometric spreading only; it is not a substitute for site-specific acoustic modelling. Even allowing generous margin for error, reductions of this scale would be expected to take padel noise at both complainants' properties well below the levels considered by the LTA and by BS8233/Sports England guidance to warrant concern.

4.2 Boundary hedge

The site benefits from an existing dense hedge approximately 6m high along the relevant boundary(ies). Published research on vegetation as an acoustic barrier indicates that hedging and trees are not, on their own, an especially effective acoustic barrier — sound, particularly the lower-frequency impact noise generated by padel, will pass through gaps in foliage more readily than it is blocked. Its principal value is in providing visual screening, removing direct line of sight between the court and each neighbour and thereby reducing light spill and the visual awareness of activity that the same research identifies as a significant driver of complaint likelihood, independent of measured decibel levels.

The hedge should therefore be relied upon as a valuable contributor to reducing the perceived intrusion and amenity impact of the development — supporting good relations with neighbours — rather than as the primary acoustic mitigation. The primary protection at this site is distance, addressed in Section 4.1 above.

4.3 Existing ambient and contextual noise

Guidance consistently emphasises that padel noise should not be judged against a fixed threshold in isolation, but in the context of the existing noise environment and the character of that noise. This is directly relevant here:

- The nearest complainant, at 160m, already experiences frequent, close-range noise from tractor and heavy machinery movements on the adjoining farm track passing within approximately 5m of their house. Agricultural machinery of this kind is a well-established source of intermittent, high-level noise, occurring daily, at a distance more than 30 times closer than the padel court. These machines generate noise levels of 80-110DB
- The nearest complainant, is 50m from the Lock House tennis court, a sport which generates the same sound level as Padel and where the effect of the sound is far closer.

- The second complainant, at 400m, keeps two dogs that bark continually. Barking is itself an impulsive, intermittent, attention-grabbing noise source of the same general character (short, sharp, repeated) as the impact noises produced by padel — and it originates from within the complainant's own curtilage, far closer than the proposed court.
- Both complainants are surrounded by the Lock Estate driven pheasant shoot which occurs every other Saturday during the winter and produces noise levels of 150-170DB from the gun.

In both cases, the existing ambient noise environment experienced by the complaining neighbours already includes noise sources that are closer, at least as intermittent/impulsive in character, and in the case of the farm track substantially louder at source, than anything the padel court is likely to generate at 140m or 400m. Any reasonable assessment of "context", as required by current guidance, must weigh the proposed noise against this existing baseline.

5. Conclusion

Taking the above together:

- Both complainants are well beyond the 30m distance at which the sport's own governing body (LTA) considers noise mitigation may be needed — 5x and 13x that distance respectively.
- Basic geometric attenuation over these distances would be expected to reduce padel noise by a substantial margin to 55DB at Grant's cottage being equivalent to a quiet conversation or household appliance and 42DB at the Gate House being equivalent to rustling leaves and this is before accounting for the additional benefit of the court's directional acoustic behaviour and the existing boundary hedge.
- The hedge, while not a substitute for distance as the primary mitigation, provides valuable visual screening that reduces the awareness and perceived intrusion of the court, a recognised factor in complaint likelihood.
- Lock House will screen the sound from the Gate House.
- Both complainants already experience closer, comparably intermittent or louder existing noise sources (farm traffic and machinery; continual dog barking, tennis court noise, lawnmower from adjacent neighbours, kids playing in neighbouring gardens, neighbouring pheasant shoot etc) which form the proper baseline against which any new noise should be judged.

On this basis, it is considered that the proposed padel court would not give rise to any adverse noise impact on either neighbouring property, and that noise should not be a reason to withhold planning permission..

Sources: MW Acoustic Consultants (May Walters Ltd) — "Padel v Tennis Noise", "Padel Noise Impact Assessments", "Padel Planning Guidance and Standards" and "Editorials – Padel Noise Mitigation" (2024–2025); The Padel Paper, "New research creates model for measuring padel noise" (11 September 2025); Lawn Tennis Association padel noise guidance; BS 8233; Sport England noise guidance for Artificial Grass Pitches/MUGA.