

Pets at Home Ltd

2 & 3 Pentwyn Baglan Road, Port Talbot

Noise Impact Assessment

Report No. 26-0017-0 R01.2



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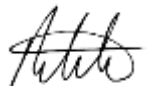
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Prepared by:
Angela Lamacraft
MSc IEng FIOA



Checked by:
Peter Rogers
BSc(Hons) MSc CEng FIOA FRSA



Managing Director: Peter Rogers BSc(Hons) MSc CEng FIOA FRSA MIOL

Registered Offices: Unit G, Meadowview Business Park, Winchester Road, Upham, SO32 1HJ
T +44 (0)1962 858800 E sa@sustainableacoustics.co.uk W www.sustainableacoustics.co.uk
Registered in England • Company No 08149321 • VAT Registration No 180557205



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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

Sustainable Acoustics Ltd ('SAL') has been instructed by Savills, on behalf of Pets at Home Limited, to assess noise from the proposed change of use from day nursery and creche to veterinary surgery at Units 2 & 3, 116 Pentwyn Baglan Road, Port Talbot SA12 8EB.

The site is within the jurisdiction of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC).

Noise sources associated with the change of use from day nursery and creche to veterinary surgery include plant emissions, the sound of vehicle movements and vehicle door closures in the car park and dogs barking before entering the surgery. As noise from vehicle movements and vehicle door closures is common to the other commercial units at the local shopping centre, and the change of use from day nursery and creche to veterinary surgery is not likely to significantly increase the overall number of vehicle movements, noise from vehicle movements and vehicle door closures from people visiting the veterinary surgery is not considered likely to have an adverse impact on nearby residents or users of the nearby commercial premises and has not been assessed in detail.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located in the north of Port Talbot. The single-storey building is situated in a mixed use commercial, retail and residential area, as illustrated in Figure 1.

It is assumed that the plant locations will be in the area shown. Where the detailed plans differ from this a review of those proposals may be required.

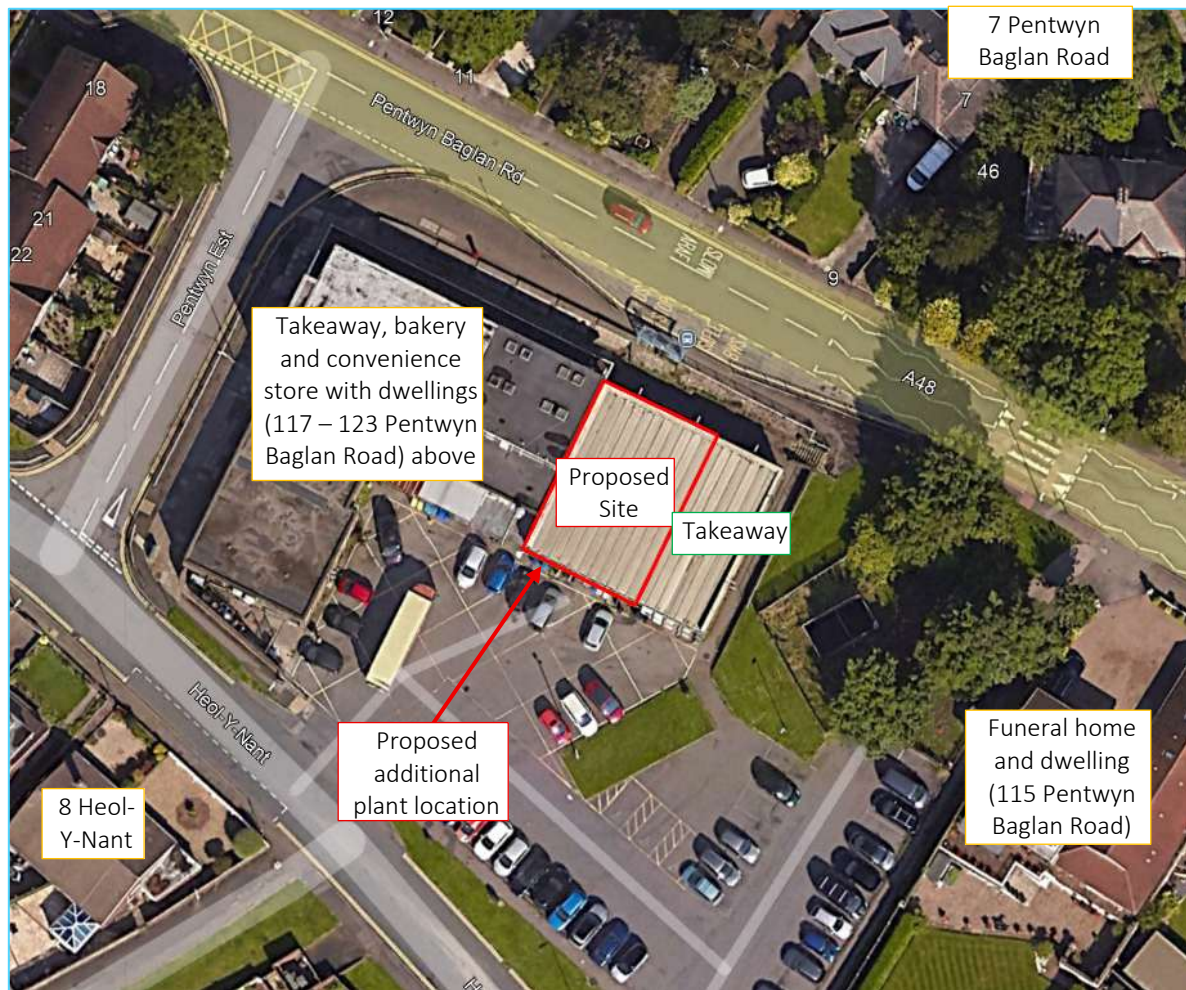


Figure 1: Site Location

Dwellings are located in all directions from the local shopping centre, as well as above units directly adjacent to the proposed veterinary surgery.

1.3 Plant Details

The externally mounted plant comprises one Mitsubishi VRF Air Conditioning system in addition to the existing air conditioning plant. The plant noise levels, based on manufacturer's are summarised in Table 1 and Appendix 1 provides more detail.

Item Manufacturer and Model	Mode	Octave Frequency Band (Hz) Sound Power Level (dB Lwz)								A-Weighted Sound Power Level (dB LWA)
		63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	
Mitsubishi PURY- P200YNW-A	Cooling	94	78	78	75	68	64	61	59	76
	Heating	88	80	79	77	71	66	67	61	78

Table 1: Summary of Plant Noise Levels



The typical plant operating hours will be 07:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs seven days a week.

1.4 Noise Sensitive Receptors

1.4.1 Residential

The nearest residential noise sensitive receptors to the proposed plant are:

- Dwellings above 117 to 123 Pentwyn Baglan Road, approximately 12 m to the north of the proposed plant and 24 m to the north of the nearest likely location of an animal approaching the surgery, at the nearest location;
- Dwelling above 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road, approximately 43 m to the east of the proposed plant location and 28 m to the east of the nearest likely location of an animal approaching the surgery;
- 8 Heol-Y-Nant, approximately 37 m to the south of the proposed plant location and 22 m to the south of the nearest likely location of an animal approaching the surgery; and
- 7 Pentwyn Baglan Road, approximately 55 m to the north of the proposed plant location (and on the opposite side of the building) and 34 m to the north of the nearest likely location of an animal approaching the surgery.

1.4.2 Commercial

The nearest commercial noise sensitive receptor to the proposed plant is Baglan Funeral Home, 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road, approximately 43 m to the east of the proposed plant location. The other commercial properties at the Pentwyn Baglan Road shopping centre are not considered to be sensitive to plant noise or noise from barking dogs as they are retail or take away premises.



2 Noise Assessment Guidance

2.1 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Planning Policy

2.1.1 Request for Information

An email was sent from SAL to the Environmental Health Department of NPTCBC on 25th February 2026 requesting information regarding plant noise limits. No response was received at the time of writing this report.

2.1.2 General Environmental Health Planning Consultation Response

In the General Environmental Health Planning Consultation Response, dated 23/04/2026, the NPTCBC Environmental Health Department advised that:

“The noise impact assessment does not include operational noise such as dog barking and we are therefore unable to provide comments on the application. In carrying out that assessment the applicant should consider noise impact on neighbouring commercial uses as well as residential receptors.”

Assessment of dog barking has therefore been included in this version of the Noise Impact Assessment, taking account of the guidance that is available on this subject area.

2.2 National Planning Policy

2.2.1 Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales: 2023 – 2028

Published in December 2023, the Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales: 2023 – 2028 sets out Wales’s national strategy on soundscapes, *“meaning the sound environment as perceived or experienced and/or understood by a person or people, in context”*. The Plan advises that soundscapes sites within the need to carry out sustainable development, *“the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales”*, and states that:

*“The cities, towns and villages in which people live serve a variety of purposes, and should contain a variety of sound environments appropriate to the time and place. There should not be a one-size-fits-all sound environment, which is experienced everywhere, any more than every street and building should look alike. **We need to create appropriate soundscapes, meaning the right sound environment in the right time and place.**”*

Furthermore, it suggests that public bodies and public services boards must operate in a way that *“seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

The Plan is clear that a full soundscape assessment using the ISO 12913 series of soundscape standards would be “unreasonable and disproportionate” every time a soundscape perspective is



desired to inform a decision in Wales. Nevertheless the approach is available as an additional consideration to a tradition noise assessment approach.

A matrix (Figure 1 of the Plan, reproduced as Figure 2 below) is provided to determine the appropriate level of noise control and/or soundscape assessment.

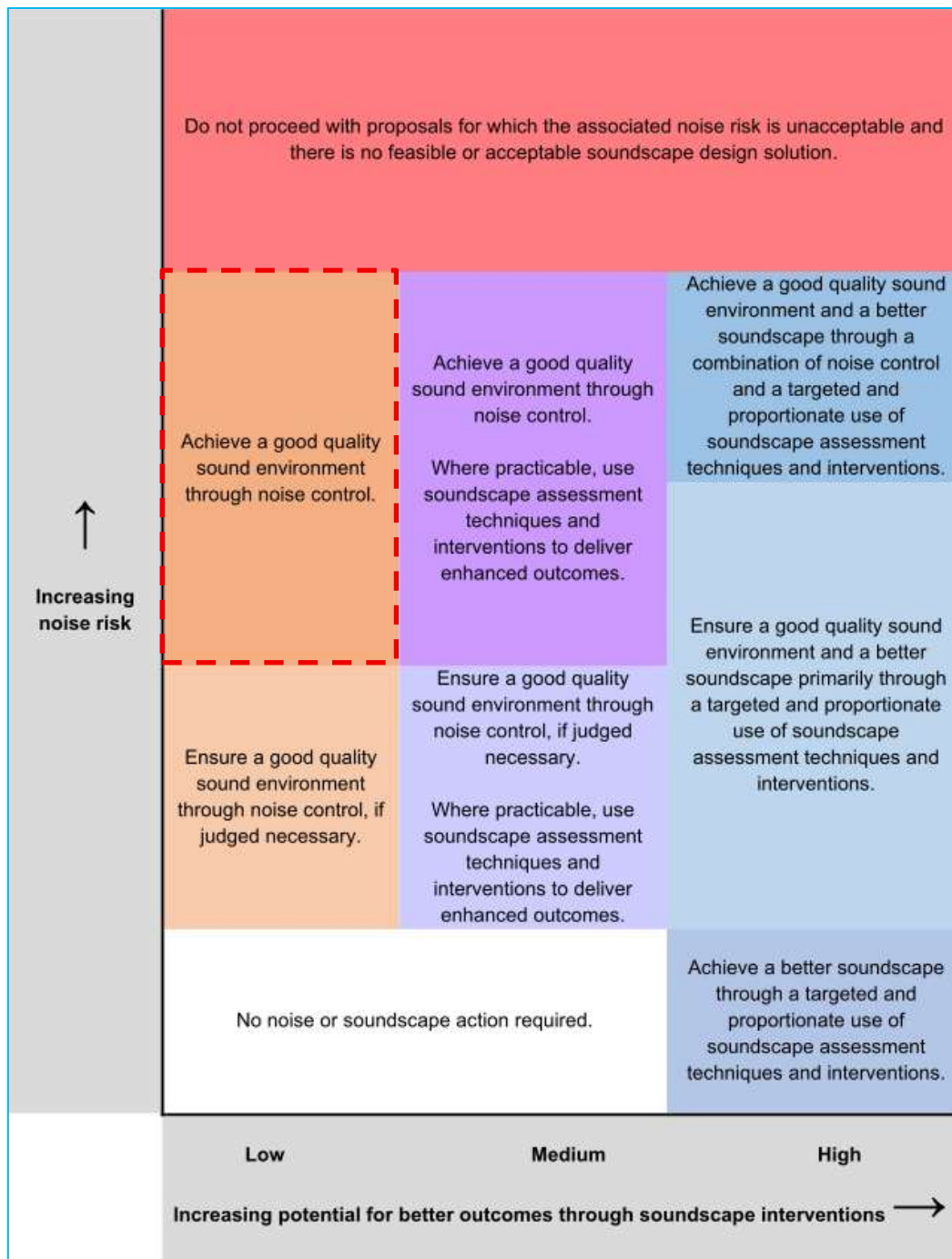


Figure 2: A generalised decision-making framework for determining the appropriate level of noise control and/or soundscape assessment and intervention when exercising functions that may affect soundscapes, with region in which this proposal sits in the judgement of Sustainable Acoustics boxed in red line.



It is considered that the proposed development sits within the area is likely, in our judgement, to *“Achieve a good quality sound environment through noise control.”*

2.3 National Guidance

2.3.1 Technical Advice Note 11: Noise

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11 Noise provides advice on *“how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.”*

TAN 11 refers to older versions of BS 4142 and BS 8233. These were updated to the current versions in a letter from the Minister for Natural Resources to Local Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Planning titled ‘CL-01-15 Updates to Tan 11 Noise – Noise Action Plan (2013-18) Commitments’, dated 25 November 2015.

Regarding noise from industrial and commercial developments, the amended TAN 11 requirement is to use BS 4142:2014

2.3.2 British Standard BS 4142:2014+A1:2019

BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 ‘Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound’ describes methods for rating and assessing sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature to residential receptors, to assess the likely effects of sound on people who might be inside or outside a dwelling or premises used for residential purposes upon which sound is incident. The sound from the industrial/commercial source is rated by using the sound level of the source, known as the specific sound level, and adding an appropriate character correction (for e.g. tonality, impulsivity or intermittency of the source) to give a rating level of the sound source. To gain an initial estimate of the potential impacts of the sound source, it is compared to the background sound level, and the level by which the rating level exceeds the background sound level indicates the potential impacts summarised in Table 2.

Difference	Assessment
Around 10 dB or more	Likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context
Around 5 dB	Likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context
0 dB or less	An indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context

Table 2: BS 4142 Initial Estimate of Impact of the Specific Sound

The standard suggests that where an initial estimate of the impact needs to be modified due to the context, all pertinent factors should be taken into consideration, including:

- 1) The absolute level of the sound;



- 2) The character and level of the residual sound compared to the character and level of the specific sound;
- 3) The sensitivity of the receptor.

The current edition of the standard also requires that the potential impact of uncertainty should be reported, and that reasonably practicable steps are taken to reduce the level of uncertainty.

In determining the background sound level, it is stated in the commentary to paragraph 8.1 that *“it is important to ensure values that are reliable and suitably represent both the particular circumstances and periods of interest. For this purpose, the objective is not simply to ascertain a lowest measured background sound level, but rather to quantify what is typical during particular time periods”*.

In relation to the absolute level of sound, it is noted that *“Where background sound levels and rating levels are low, absolute levels might be as, or more, relevant than the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background. This is especially true at night.”*

2.3.3 Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment sets out key principles around the process of assessment of environmental noise impacts and reporting to the decision makers. These guidelines are not prescriptive but describe the process and good practice.

Table 7-14 of the Guidelines (relevant parts reproduced as Table 3) provides an example of the impact of a change in noise level.

Sound Level Change (dB L_{pAeqT}) (Positive or Negative) (T = either 16hr day or 8hr night)	Long-term Impact Classification
≥ 0 dB and < 3 dB	Negligible
≥ 3 dB and < 5 dB	Minor
≥ 5 dB and < 10	Moderate
≥ 10 dB	Major

Table 3: Summary of Change in Noise Level

2.3.4 Draft Professional Practice Guidance (ProPG): Guidance for the Assessment and Management of Noise from Dog Kennels

There is currently no national guidance on the assessment of noise from pets, however, the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC), the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) and the Chartered Institute



of Environmental Health (CIEH) have recently produced draft guidance for consultation in March 2026. Whilst this is a draft document for consultation, and therefore can only be given limited weight, it provides an indication of the considerations for assessing noise from dogs objectively. It also provides an indicative noise level for noise from dog vocalisation, as reproduced in Table 4.

Item	Octave Frequency Band (Hz) Sound Pressure Level at 10 m (dB L _{Zeq, T})								A-Weighted Equivalent Continuous Sound Level at 10 m (dB L _{Aeq, T})
	31.5	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	
Medium Dog	43	38	35	48	63	63	56	43	65

Table 4: Sound Pressure Level of Medium Dog Vocalisation

For daytime assessment (i.e. 07:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs) the guidance suggests an assessment of the equivalent continuous sound level using a BS 4142 type approach whereby the L_{Aeq, T} value after correcting for the percentage on time is compared with the existing L_{A90, T} background sound level. There are suggested penalties to be included to allow for the potential characteristics of the dogs' vocalisations, such as impulsivity and intermittency, to give a Dog Vocalisation Level (DVL).

For daytime, it is considered that 'no significant impact' would arise if the DVL did not exceed the background L_{A90, T} sound level by more than around 5 dB.

For the evening period, the baseline environment and context at the NSRs should be considered, and either the 5 dB criterion should be adopted for less sensitive areas (e.g. commercial premises), or a DVL not exceeding background sound level should be adopted for more sensitive areas (e.g. dwellings with no financial involvement). It is also right to recognise that context should still be a consideration for each and every noise sensitive receptor, including that this is not a kennels.

In this assessment the nearest residents are not known to have any financial involvement and context is dealt with in Section 4.2.1.

3 Environmental Sound Survey

3.1 Methodology

An unattended sound measurement was undertaken between approximately 12:15 hrs on Tuesday 24th February and 10:30 hrs Thursday 26th February 2026 in the location illustrated as LT1 in Figure 3. This location was selected as being a secure location most representative of the nearest residential receptors.



Figure 3: Environmental Sound Level Measurement Location and Site Boundary

The microphone of the sound level meter was installed at a height of approximately 3 m above ground level.

3.2 Instrumentation

Table 5 summarises the instrumentation used for the sound measurements.



Equipment	Type	Serial Number	Calibration	
			Certificate No.	Valid Until
LT1				
Svantek Class 1 Sound Level Meter	SV307	149025	1513829-1	01/12/2026
Microphone	ST30	153972	1513829-1	01/12/2026
Svantek Calibrator	SV33B	155582	-	22/01/2028

Table 5: Instrumentation used for Sound Measurements

3.3 Weather Conditions

The weather conditions during the environmental sound survey were variable. The weather reports from two weather stations (ISOUTHWA2, approximately 3.8 km to the north west of the site, IPORTT2 approximately 3.4 km to the south west of the site) have been reviewed. The wind speed data from IPORTT2 has not been considered as it is located on the shoreline of the town, whereas the proposed development site is much further in-land and will therefore generally experience lower wind speeds.

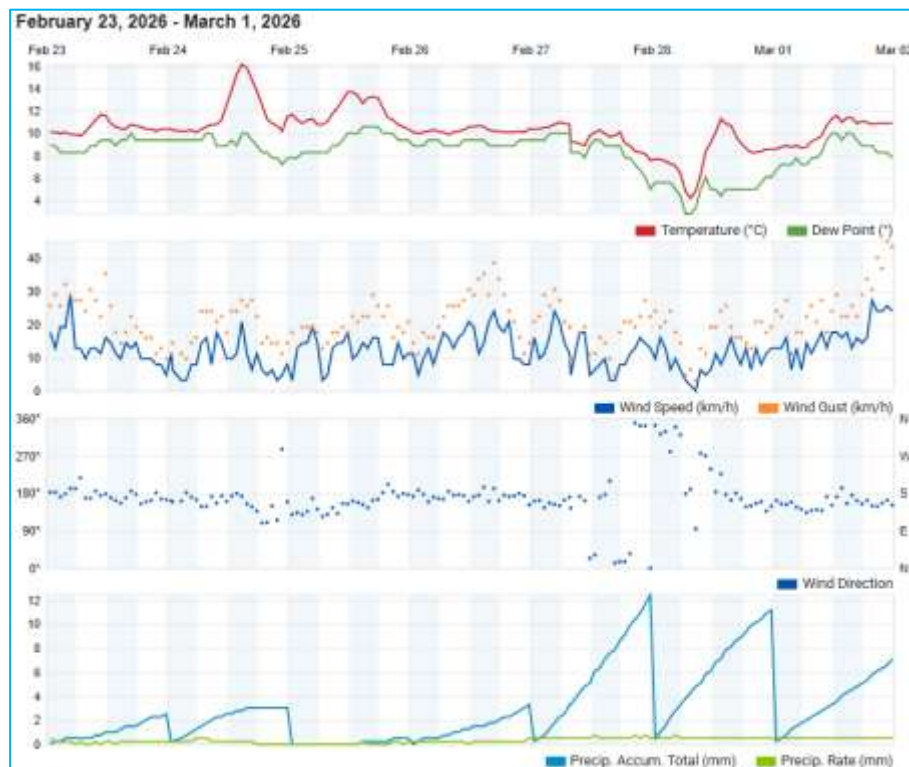


Figure 4: Weather Data: ISOUTHWA2ⁱ

ⁱ <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/ISOUTHWA2>, accessed 03/03/2026

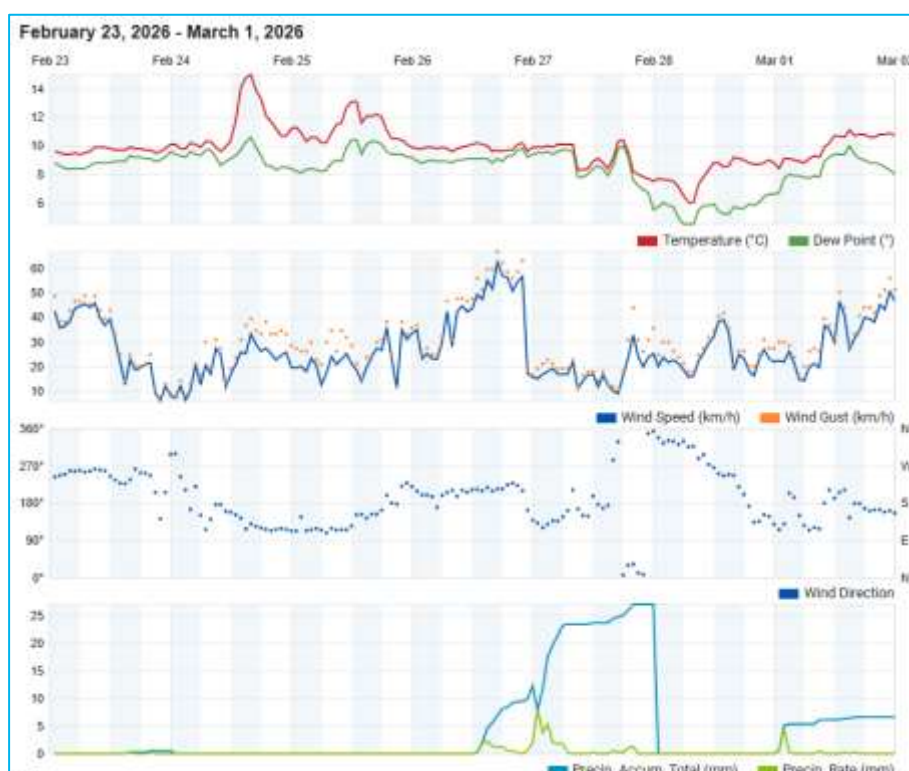


Figure 5: Weather Data: IPORTT2ⁱⁱ

3.4 Observations

The sound climate at and around the site was relatively quiet, with sound from existing AC units on different commercial units audible and local traffic providing the main elements of the soundscape.

3.5 Analysis of Ambient and Background Sound Levels

The measured sound levels are provided in Appendix 1 and summarised in Table 6.

Period	Time	Ambient Sound Level (dB L _{Aeq,T})	Maximum Sound Level (dB L _{Amax}) ¹	Background Sound Level (dB L _{A90,15 min})		
				Mean	Modal	Typical ²
Daytime	07:00-23:00	61	72	54	54	54
Daytime	07:00-19:00	61	72	55	54	54
Evening	19:00-23:00	54	67	50	51	49
Night	23:00-07:00	52	67	46	45	45

Note 1: Typical maximum sound level taken as the 10th highest of 2 min samples during the period

Note 2: Typical background sound level based on consideration of the measured mean and modal background sound levels and the histogram of the measured sound levels

Table 6: Summary Sound Results from Unattended Sound Level Meter (Free-Field Results) at 3 m Height.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IPORTT27>, accessed 03/03/2026



The histograms of the background sound levels are provided in Figure 6 and Figure 7 for the daytime (07:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs) and evening (19:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs) respectively. The night-time histogram is not presented as it is not relevant to the hours of applied for us, but the data is presented for completeness in Figure 6. The difference in sound level between 3 m and 1.2 m height (required by BS 4142 for the methodology and suggested by draft ProPG) is unlikely to be significant.

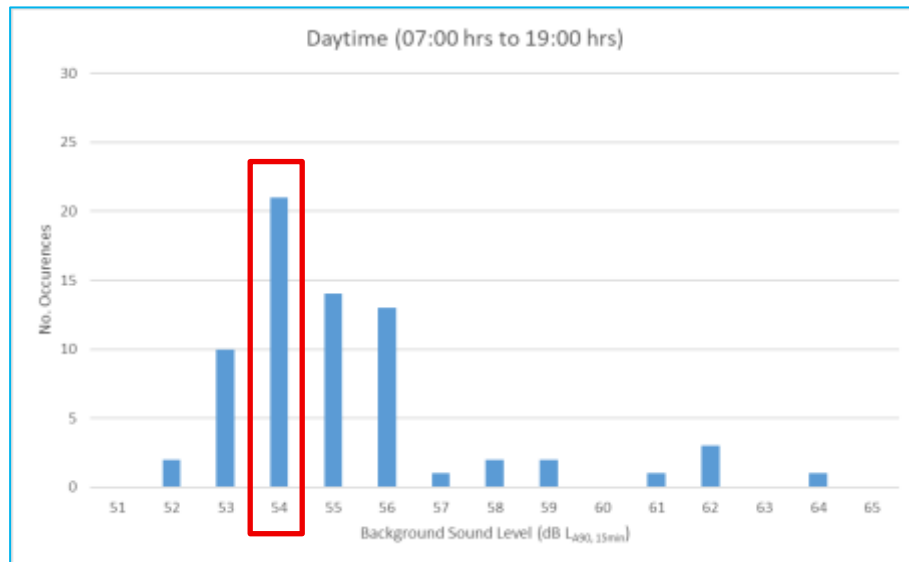


Figure 6: Measured Background Sound Levels: Daytime (07:00 hrs – 19:00 hrs)

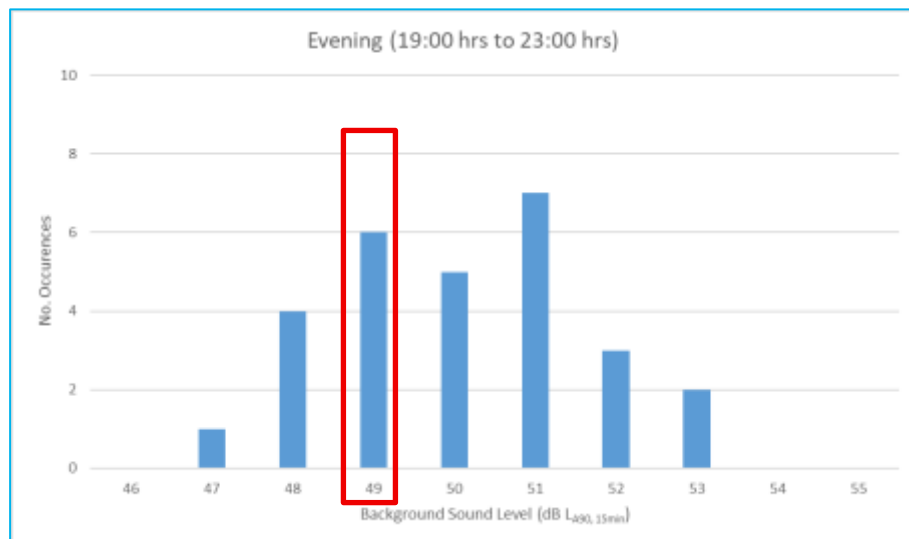


Figure 7: Measured Background Sound Levels: Evening (19:00 hrs – 23:00 hrs)



4 Noise Impact Assessment

4.1 Plant Noise Assessment

4.1.1 Target Noise Levels

The target plant noise level is equal to the typical background sound level, i.e.:

- 54 dB $L_{A90, 15min}$ during the daytime (07:00 hrs – 19:00 hrs); and
- 49 dB $L_{A90, 15min}$ during the evening (19:00 hrs – 23:00 hrs).

4.1.2 Acoustic Character Corrections

Third-octave frequency band spectrum data were not available for the proposed plant, therefore it is not possible to undertake an objective assessment of tonality. Sound from the proposed plant may have slightly tonal characteristics, therefore a correction of 2 dB has been applied for tonality as appropriate in our judgement.

The plant items are likely to switch on and off as required, therefore a correction of 3 dB has also been applied for intermittency.

The proposed plant items are not impulsive, therefore no correction has been applied for impulsivity.

The total character correction applied for the residential noise assessment is therefore 5 dB.

4.1.3 Context

The context of the proposed plant is that it is proposed in a location that has numerous existing plant noise sources, as illustrated in Figure 8, which provides an image of the rear of the commercial premises at Pentwyn Baglan Road with existing industrial/commercial plant noise sources circled in blue. This should be a material consideration for allowing noticeable plant noise.



Figure 8: Google Image of the Rear of Commercial Premises at Pentwyn Baglan Road, accessed 25/02/2026

4.1.4 Predicted Noise Levels

The predicted plant noise levels are based on the worst-case scenario, i.e. the plant operating continuously in heating mode (although the penalty for intermittency has still been applied to



consider times when the plant operates almost continuously but with some small periods of not operating).

Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors

The results of the predicted plant noise levels at indicative residential NSRs are summarised in Table 7 and Table 8 for the daytime and evening respectively.

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	Plant Rating Level Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted Plant Specific Noise Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Rating Level (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Exceedance of Rating Level Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of adverse Impact
Dwellings above 117 to 121 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	40	45	-9	Low impact
Dwellings above 123 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	42	47	-7	Low impact
Dwelling above 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	34	39	-15	Low impact
8 Heol-Y-Nant	54	36	41	-13	Low impact
7 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	22	27	-27	Low impact

Table 7: Plant Noise Assessment: Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors: Daytime (07:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs)

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	Plant Rating Level Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted Plant Specific Noise Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Rating Level (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Exceedance of Rating Level Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Dwellings above 117 to 121 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	40	45	-4	Low impact
Dwellings above 123 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	42	47	-2	Low impact
Dwelling above 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	34	39	-10	Low impact
8 Heol-Y-Nant	49	36	41	-8	Low impact



Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	Plant Rating Level Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted Plant Specific Noise Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Rating Level (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Exceedance of Rating Level Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
7 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	22	27	-22	Low impact

Table 8: Plant Noise Assessment: Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors: Evening (19:00 hrs to 23:00)

Table 7 and Table 8 indicate that the plant noise levels are predicted to be met at nearby residential noise sensitive receptors during the daytime and evening.

Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors

The predicted noise level at the commercial NSRs is summarised in Table 9 and Table 10 for the daytime and evening respectively.

Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors	Typical Ambient Sound Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Predicted Specific Plant Noise Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Increase in Ambient Sound Level (dB)	IEMA Impact Classification
Funeral Home at 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	61	34	0	Negligible

Table 9: Plant Noise Assessment: Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors: Daytime (07:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs)

Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors	Typical Ambient Sound Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Predicted Specific Plant Noise Level (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Increase in Ambient Sound Level (dB)	IEMA Impact Classification
Funeral Home at 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	34	0	Negligible

Table 10: Plant Noise Assessment: Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors: Evening (19:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)

Table 9 and Table 10 indicate that the plant noise levels are predicted to be met at nearby commercial noise sensitive receptors during the daytime and evening.

4.2 Dog Barking Noise Assessment

4.2.1 Context

This assessment section concerns potential noise from dogs arriving at the surgery and vocalising before they enter the premises or as they leave it as barking dogs are considered to be the most likely sound of concern from any of the potential pets arriving or leaving. Once inside the surgery the break-out noise is not considered likely to be a concern, assuming that the sound insulation will



adequately deal with noise break-out. This may require a Noise management Plan to make sure that windows are kept closed in areas where dogs will be located, as a precaution.

For a surgery of this size, a typical number of customers per hour is six to seven per hour, or up to two per 15-minute assessment period. It has been assumed that 15 s will pass in each assessment location for the customer to arrive and enter the surgery. The worst-case potential location of dog barking has been used for each receptor.

Perhaps the most important context consideration of all is that this is not a dog kennels, which the draft ProPG is predominantly aimed at assessing. Together with the guidance being in draft format suggests that the assessment should be taken loosely as a worst-case impact, with the reality likely to be a much reduced intensity and risk of noise from barking occurring.

4.2.2 Target Noise Levels

The target DVL is:

- 5 dB above the background sound level during the daytime (07:00 hrs – 19:00 hrs), i.e. 59 dB $L_{A90, 15min}$;
- 5 dB above the background sound level at commercial receptors during the evening (19:00 hrs – 07:00 hrs), i.e. 54 dB $L_{A90, 15min}$; and
- Equal to the background sound level at dwellings during the evening (19:00 hrs – 07:00 hrs), i.e. 49 dB $L_{A90, 15min}$.

4.2.3 Acoustic Character Corrections

+3 dB corrections have been added to the DVL for intermittency and a distinctive character (i.e. a total correction of +6 dB).

4.2.4 Predicted Noise Levels

Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors

The results of the predicted dog barking noise levels at indicative residential NSRs are summarised in Table 11 and Table 12 for the daytime and evening respectively.

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	DVL Limit (dB $L_{Ar, Tr}$)	Predicted DVL (dB $L_{Aeq, T}$)	Exceedance of DVL Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Dwellings above 117 to 121 Pentwyn Baglan Road	59	52	-7	No impact



Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	DVL Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted DVL (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Exceedance of DVL Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Dwellings above 123 Pentwyn Baglan Road	59	49	-10	No impact
Dwelling above 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	59	51	-9	No impact
8 Heol-Y-Nant	59	53	-6	No impact
7 Pentwyn Baglan Road	59	49	-10	No impact

Table 11: Dog Barking Noise Assessment: Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors: Daytime (07:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs)

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	DVL Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted DVL (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Exceedance of DVL Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Dwellings above 117 to 121 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	52	3	Some potential observable adverse impact during barking
Dwellings above 123 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	49	0	Low impact
Dwelling above 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	51	2	Some potential observable adverse impact during barking
8 Heol-Y-Nant	49	53	4	Some potential observable adverse impact during barking
7 Pentwyn Baglan Road	49	49	0	Low impact

Table 12: Dog Barking Noise Assessment: Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors: Evening (19:00 hrs to 23:00)

Table 11 indicates that there is predicted to be no impact of noise from dog barking to residents of nearby NSRs during the daytime.

Table 12 indicates that there may be some observable adverse impact to residents of nearby NSRs to the west, east and south of the proposed surgery during a 15-minute evening period when a dog is barking as it enters or exits the proposed surgery for 1 minute in each 15-minute assessment



period. This is likely to be a worst-case assumption, and may not occur at all. The noise levels in Table 11 and Table 12 assume that regular barking occurs in the 15-minute assessment period (i.e. there is no management of barking). In reality, it is not possible to determine how often this will occur: there could be days when there are no instances of dog barking, or days when there are more instances of dog barking.

Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors

The predicted noise level at the commercial NSRs is summarised in Table 13 and Table 14 for the daytime and evening respectively.

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	DVL Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted DVL (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Exceedance of DVL Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Funeral Home at 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	59	51	-8	No impact

Table 13: Dog Barking Noise Assessment: Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors: Daytime (07:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs)

Indicative Residential Noise Sensitive Receptors	DVL Limit (dB L _{Ar, Tr})	Predicted DVL (dB L _{Aeq, T})	Exceedance of DVL Limit (dB)	Initial Assessment of Impact
Funeral Home at 115 Pentwyn Baglan Road	54	51	-3	No impact

Table 14: Dog Barking Noise Assessment: Indicative Commercial Noise Sensitive Receptors: Evening (19:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs)

Table 13 and Table 14 indicate no impact or a low impact of noise from dog barking at nearby commercial noise sensitive receptors during the daytime and evening.



5 Soundscape Consideration

The noise impact is considered to be low, but the quality of the soundscape is already dominated by noise from plant from other sources, so the opportunity to improve the quality of the soundscape is limited.

The introduction of dogs as a sound source to the area may a new element to the area, but the impact of the noise is concluded to be adverse for some residents in the evening in the worst case. This will alter the soundscape for residents such that the sound of dog barking will be introduced, but no more than if a proportion of the residents have their own dogs. To this extent it is considered that occasional barking will not adversely affect the soundscape quality, given it is to some extent an acceptable part of the community noise which already occurs.

As such to achieve the expectations of national policy is stratified with no further action, as improvement of the soundscape would require all plant or all dog barking sources in the area to be addressed, which is not possible through this application.



6 Uncertainty

6.1 Ambient and Background Sound Level Measurements

Background sound levels will vary with time, however typical levels have been identified from two days of sound monitoring during periods in which the background sound climate was considered to be normal for the area (i.e. no construction work, maintenance work or road closures nearby) to reduce uncertainty.

Calibrated Class 1 sound level meters have been used to reduce the uncertainty of accuracy and increase the repeatability of the ambient and background sound level measurements.

Uncertainty has been further minimised by removing measurements undertaken during periods of adverse weather prior to analysis.

6.2 Predicted Plant Sound Levels

There are several areas of uncertainty relating to the prediction of sound from plant, one of which is the use of manufacturers' noise data for the equipment. However, the manufacturer is a recognised and trusted manufacturer of these plant items, therefore it is very likely that uncertainty will have been minimised in the test procedures.

6.3 Predicted Dog Barking Sound Levels

The noise level of a dog barking has been found in the draft ProPG for Noise from Dog Kennels (see Section 2.3.4). The noise level provided in the draft document is based on "*an extensive set of measurements at a boarding kennels facility over a 4 day period*". However, these measurements were only of one dog kennel facility and over one period of time, so it is not known how many different breeds of dog were measured or how the acoustics of the facility affected the noise measurements. The noise level of a dog barking is therefore highly uncertain, although the certainty is improved as guidance published by South Holland District Councilⁱⁱⁱ suggests a noise level of 66 dB $L_{Aeq, T}$ at 10 m, which is very similar.

In addition, an assumption has been made that internal noise breakout from the premises will not occur through open windows, which relies on them being managed.

6.4 Duration and Number of Occasions of Dog Barking

There is a large degree of uncertainty when considering how often dogs will bark when approaching or leaving the proposed surgery, as well as the duration of the barking. There may be some days when no dog barking is present and others where there are many occasions of dog

ⁱⁱⁱ South Holland District Council (1999). *Supplementary Planning Guidance Location of Premises for the Boarding and Breeding of Dogs and Other Animals*.



barking. There may be some occasions when a dog barks the entire way to the proposed surgery or the entire way from a parked car to the rear of the proposed surgery to the entrance at the front of the proposed surgery. The Noise Impact Assessment assumes or up to two customers per 15-minute assessment period and that a dog will bark for 15 s approaching and leaving the surgery.

6.5 Ambient levels of Dog Barking

It is not known how many residents in the area have dogs, which may bark and add to the presence of dog barking in the ambient soundscape. It is likely that some residents have dogs, but this is an area of uncertainty, as is whether or not they have a propensity to bark when inside with windows open or outside.

6.6 Effect of Uncertainty

6.6.1 Plant Noise Assessment

The effects of uncertainty have been minimised as far as possible, but it is still possible that the noise assessment has under- or over-predicted the noise impact of the proposed plant. However, on balance, it is considered that the impact of uncertainty is likely to be low.

6.6.2 Dog Barking Noise Assessment

Due to the highly variable nature of dog barking in terms of how often dogs will bark when approaching or leaving the proposed surgery and the duration of the barking there is a high level of uncertainty in the dog barking noise assessment. The only certainty is that when dogs are not barking there will not be a noise impact; if a dog does bark when approaching or leaving the proposed surgery the DVL is predicted to have no impact during the daytime and up to an observable adverse impact during the evening, but a significant impact will likely be avoided.



7 Summary and Conclusion

Sustainable Acoustics Ltd has undertaken an assessment of the proposed plant at Units 2 & 3, 116 Pentwyn Baglan Road, Port Talbot.

An environmental sound survey was carried out between approximately 12:15 hrs on Tuesday 24th February and 10:30 hrs Thursday 26th February 2026 to determine the existing background sound level at nearby residential noise sensitive receptors during the daytime and evening and the ambient sound level at nearby commercial noise sensitive receptors during the daytime and evening.

The Noise Impact Assessment considers relevant guidance as BS 4142 and the assessment indicates that the plant noise limits of not more than a low adverse impact would be predicted to be met at all residential and commercial receptors for the proposed units.

Dog barking is predicted to have no impact to residential or commercial noise sensitive receptors in the daytime or commercial receptors in the evening. Up to an observable adverse impact is predicted to occur at some residential noise sensitive receptors, assuming 1 minute of barking in a 15-minute period from a dog barking when approaching or leaving the proposed surgery in the evening. However, the number of occasions when an adverse impact will be experienced in reality will be highly variable and it is not possible to determine how often this will occur. Consideration of context is also important to the assessment of dog noise, according to the draft guidance, which is intended for dog kennels, which is more intensive than the proposed surgery. The likelihood of dogs barking when entering or leaving the proposed surgery is more similar to noise from dogs living in the residential community.

It is therefore considered that there should be no basis for a technical objection to granting planning consent on noise grounds for the proposed development on the grounds of noise, with regard for the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council criteria and national planning policy. Consideration of soundscape does not present an opportunity to improve the existing soundscape, which is already including plant noise from other units, other dogs in the community and local traffic, so limiting any adverse impact to not more than low or occasionally adverse for dogs is likely to satisfy policy intent in our view.



Appendix 1 Plant Noise Data



Mitsubishi PURY-P200YNW-A

**CITY MULTI**^{<ORIGINAL>}

Air-Conditioners For Building Application

OUTDOOR UNIT
PURY-P-YNW-A(-BS)
PURY-EP-YNW-A(-BS)

CE
For use with R410A

(1) P models

Model	PURY-P200YNW-A*3
Sound pressure level*4 (50/60 Hz)	59 dB <A>

**CITY MULTI**
Changes for the Better

for a greener tomorrow 

AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

CITY MULTI
MODEL
PURY-P200-1100Y(S)NW-A

DATA BOOK

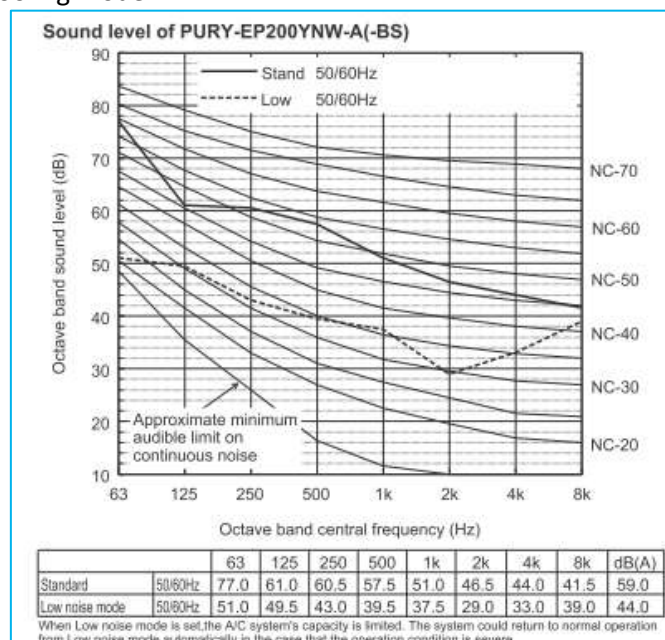


1. SPECIFICATIONS

Outdoor units

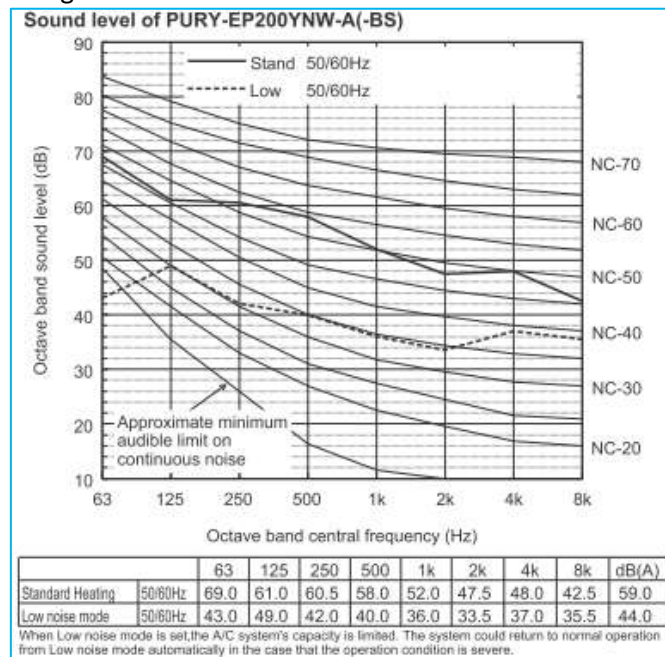
Model			PURY-EP200YNW-A (-BS)		
Power source			3-phase 4-wire 380-400-415 V 50/60 Hz		
Cooling capacity (Nominal)	*1	kW	22.4		
		kcal/h	20,000		
		BTU/h	76,400		
	Power input	kW	4.23		
	Current input	A	7.1-6.7-6.5		
	EER	kW/kW	5.29		
Temp. range of cooling	Indoor	W.B.	15.0~24.0°C (59~75°F)		
	Outdoor	D.B.	-5.0~52.0°C (23~126°F)		
Heating capacity (Max)	*2	kW	25.0		
		kcal/h	21,500		
		BTU/h	85,300		
	Power input	kW	4.57		
	Current input	A	7.7-7.3-7.0		
	COP	kW/kW	5.47		
	(Nominal)	*3	kW	22.4	
			kcal/h	20,000	
			BTU/h	76,400	
		Power input	kW	3.95	
Current input		A	6.6-6.3-6.1		
COP	kW/kW	5.67			
Temp. range of heating	Indoor	D.B.	15.0~27.0°C (59~81°F)		
	Outdoor	W.B.	-20.0~15.5°C (-4~60°F)		
Indoor unit connectable	Total capacity		50~150%		
	Model/Quantity		P15~P250/1~20		
Sound pressure level (measured in anechoic room) *4			dB <A>		
			59.0/59.0		
Sound power level (measured in anechoic room) *4			dB <A>		
			76.0/78.0		

Sound pressure level in cooling mode:





Sound pressure level in heating mode:





Appendix 2 Environmental Sound Survey Results

