

A Noise Management Plan for Unit 2, Development Zone 3, Hinckley Park

On behalf of Octopus Energy Services Limited

May 2024



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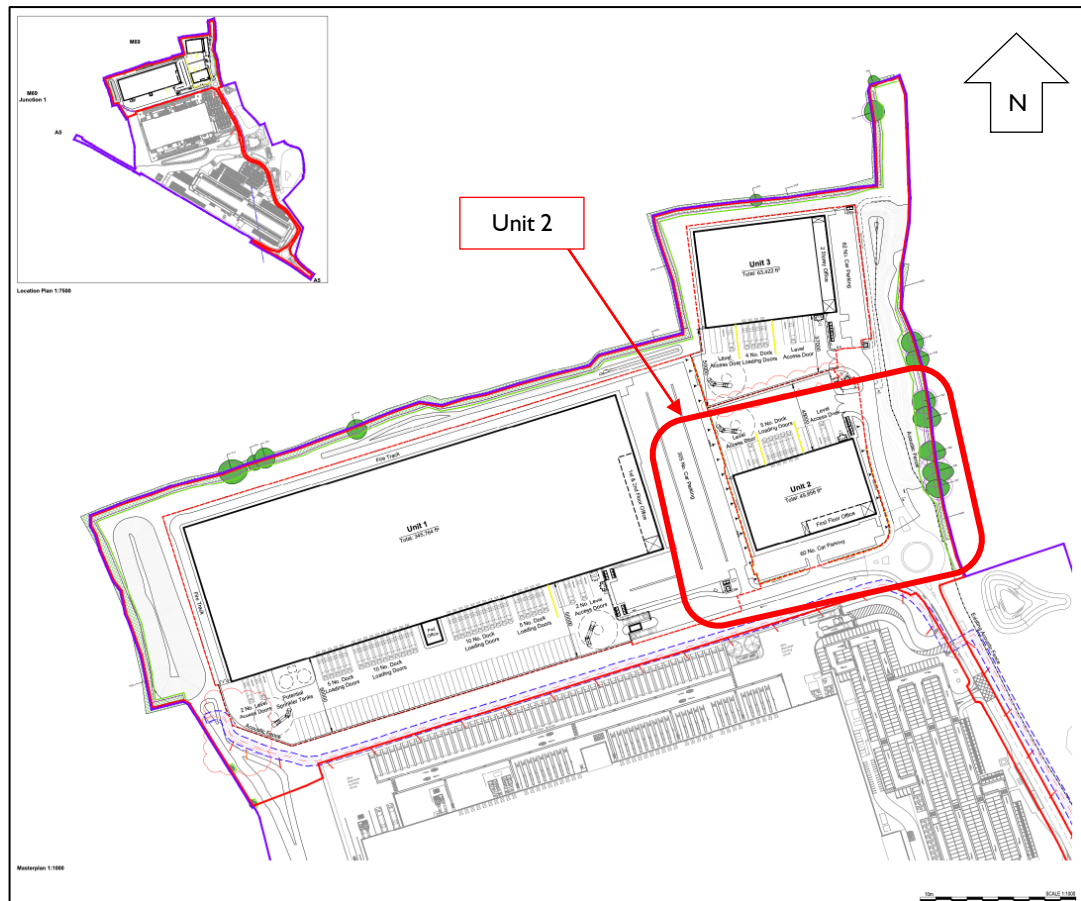
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located at the south-eastern edge of Development Zone 3, within the Hinckley Park development to the south-east of Hinckley in Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The site is bounded to the north and west by the remainder of Development Zone 3, by open fields to the north and east, with the M69 motorway approximately 85 metres to the north.
- 1.3 The noise-sensitive receptors closest to the site are the Leonardo Hotel Hinckley Island, formerly the Jurys Inn hotel, and Start Farm to the west, Burbage Fields to the north, and Cammas Close and Burbage House to the east.
- 1.4 The overall plot size is 4.5Ha with the buildings totalling 47,000sq.ft. The Unit 2 warehouse area itself is approximately 43,660sq.ft. in area. A site layout plan is shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Site layout plan



- 1.5 This *Noise Management Plan* is split into two sections:

- physical control measures, installed as part of the initial build at Unit 2; and
- management measures to control ongoing noise emissions from the site.

- 1.6 The *Noise Management Plan* will be agreed with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (the “council”) and copies will be provided to the council once it is adopted. It is submitted in relation to Condition 15 of planning permission 22/00430/FUL.
- 1.7 It is possible that this *Noise Management Plan* will evolve with the passage of time and it will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary so that it remains relevant. The council shall be notified as and when the document is updated and copies shall be provided to them.

2.0 PHYSICAL CONTROL MEASURES

- 2.1 This section serves as a record of the physical control measures that are to be installed at the site as part of the initial build.
- 2.2 Octopus Energy Services Limited does not operate a chilled vehicle fleet, and no refrigerated vehicles will use Unit 2.
- 2.3 The following physical noise control measures will be present at the time of first operation:
- an acoustic barrier along the eastern edge of the site, installed as part of the wider site landscaping, that varies in height from 4 metres above local ground at its southern end to 2 metres above the top of the landscaped bund or 108mAoD, whichever is higher, at its northern end.
 - vehicle bays will be fitted with curtains and cushions;
 - independent interlocked automatic closing doors will be used to prevent sound escaping from within the building.
- 2.4 The interlocked doors, which are fitted to all dock levellers, will operate as follows:
- a goods vehicle approaches dock levellers by reversing into position;
 - the goods vehicle makes contact with bumpers and dock seal/curtain around the door;
 - when the vehicle is in the correct position, the door is activated from within the warehouse to allow goods to be transferred between vehicle and unit;
 - when the loading or unloading activity is complete, the door is activated from within the unit so that it is closed when the goods vehicle moves away from the curtain around the door.
- 2.5 The curtain provides enclosure around the rear of the goods vehicle to offer weather protection and assist in limiting the breakout of noise as goods are loaded/unloaded to and from the unit. This approach is standard practice for this type of employment unit as it is a health and safety requirement to prevent employees from getting trapped between the vehicle and dock when the vehicle is manoeuvring into position.
- 2.6 Adopting this approach means that the doors that form part of the dock levellers will not be open unless they need to be, which is only when goods are received or despatched. This will minimise the breakout of any noise from internal operations.
- 2.7 Octopus Energy Services Limited will apply a hierarchy of control principles to their activities and will review the potential risks so far as is reasonably practicable, on the following basis:
1. Elimination;
 2. Substitution;
 3. Engineering controls;
 4. Administrative controls; and
 5. Personal Protective Equipment.

- 2.8 Any further physical mitigation measures identified as part of this risk assessment process shall implemented at the earliest opportunity and documented in this *Noise Management Plan*.
- 2.9 As with any risk assessment, Octopus Energy Services Limited will continue to monitor and review the risks on a regular basis, updating and improving control measures and processes if the need arises.

3.0 GENERAL RULES TO MINIMISE NOISE

- 3.1 This section sets out the management measures and rules that will be enforced by Octopus Energy Services Limited to control noise emissions at Unit 2.

Activities

- 3.2 Octopus Energy Services Limited will use Unit 2 for office and distribution purposes, with some ancillary internal and external training areas for the installation of heat pumps and solar panels.
- 3.3 There is no external work or noise associated with the solar panel training.
- 3.4 The heat pump training will involve lessons in classrooms on the heat pump pipework, and practical activities outside the building where pipework will be attached to pumps using hand tools, and the pumps will be operated to test the pipework installations.
- 3.5 Since only hand tools will be used for the training, the only noise will come from the heat pumps themselves during the testing phase. The noisiest pumps that will operate have a sound power level of 62dB, and up to four will operate at any one time. The theoretical total heat pump sound level at the closest receptor (Burbage House) will be in the region of 10dB, and therefore inaudible.

Management Philosophy

- 3.6 Octopus Energy Services Limited recognises the potential for noise to give rise to complaints in the surrounding community and they are committed to continually improving the management of noise emissions from the site. The management aims are:
- to meet the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation, agreements, planning permissions, authorisations and commitments;
 - to adopt working practices that minimise noise emissions;
 - to make sub-contractors, customers and hauliers aware of the sensitivity of the site, and they follow the procedures identified in this *Noise Management Plan*; and
 - to identify the responsibilities of staff in achieving good management of noise on site.

Appointment of a Responsible Person

- 3.7 A member of Octopus Energy Services Limited's management team will be deemed responsible for the following:
- overall management of the noise emissions from the site;
 - manage day to day activities to minimise noise emissions;
 - main point of contact for residents and the council;
 - development of training (induction and toolbox talks) for site personnel and sub-contractors;
 - promote best practice at all times; and
 - maintain the *Noise Management Plan* so that it remains current and relevant.

- 3.8 If deemed necessary, for example to accommodate the above tasks within existing workloads, the responsibilities may be shared, providing that all responsible individuals are identified and documented.

Communication Protocol

- 3.9 In the event of any complaints being received on-site, the nature of the complaint, shall be communicated to the council at the earliest opportunity and in any event within five working days.
- 3.10 A programme for investigating, and where possible resolving the complaint shall be notified to the council at the earliest opportunity, and in any event within five working days of the date of the complaint. The resolution shall be implemented at the earliest opportunity possible.
- 3.11 Octopus Energy Services Limited shall maintain the adopted resolution for as long as it is relevant to do so, until such time as it is deemed redundant.
- 3.12 Octopus Energy Services Limited shall maintain on-site a record of complaints and actions taken to resolve complaints. The record shall be available for inspection by the council and/or local residents.

Site-Specific Measures

- 3.13 The following actions and controls will be implemented on-site
- new fork-lift trucks will be used, with automatic engine speed control to reduce noise emissions;
 - gas or electric fork-lifts will be used in preference to diesel fork-lifts;
 - the yard will be maintained in good condition, and any holes, potholes or cracks repaired to a level surface as soon as is practical;
 - induction talks shall be given to new staff to emphasise the importance of controlling noise emissions;
 - regular toolbox talks shall be given so that noise control remains intrinsic to day to day operations;
 - where possible, tasks shall be undertaken in locations that minimise potential noise emissions off-site;
 - unnecessary noise shall be avoided at all times;
 - any vibrating machinery shall be properly balanced at all times;
 - all pneumatic tools shall be fitted with silencers or mufflers;
 - wherever possible, any plant brought onto site shall be silenced or sound reduced models;
 - any measures adopted for noise control shall be used and maintained at all times;
 - where possible, tasks shall be undertaken in locations that minimise potential noise emissions off-site;
 - activities in the external yard area will be minimised as far as is practicable;
 - playing of radios suspended in vehicles in yard;
 - vehicles associated with deliveries, customers and hauliers shall be prohibited from waiting within the site with their engines running;

- visitors to the site will be encouraged to switch off any reversing alarms fitted to their vehicles so long as this does not break any site health and safety requirements nor any health and safety legislation;
- plant known to emit noise strongly in one direction shall, where possible, be oriented so that the noise is directed away from noise-sensitive receptors;
- a considerate and neighbourly approach to relations with the local residents shall be adopted throughout.

Review Procedure

- 3.14 This *Noise Management Plan* will be reviewed six months after implementation and annually thereafter so that it remains relevant.
- 3.15 Copies of the up-to-date *Noise Management Plan* will be circulated to the council.

4.0 RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS

- 4.1 The Operations Director shall be responsible for the tasks outlined under paragraph 3.7 of this *Noise Management Plan*.
- 4.2 The Operations Director shall be the primary point of contact for the communication protocol outlined in this *Noise Management Plan*.
- 4.3 In the absence of The Operations Director, the Health & Safety Manager shall be the secondary point of contact for the communication protocol.



Resound Acoustics Limited, Elizabeth Court, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HB
Telephone: (01789) 387979
www.resoundacoustics.co.uk

Registered Address: Resound Acoustics Limited, One Eastwood, Harry Weston Road, Binley Business Park, Coventry, Warwickshire CV3 2UB
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