

To: Planning Department
Reading Borough Council

Date 07 March 2025

**Re: Confirmation of Noise Impact Assessment for Proposed Extended Hours
and Hot Food Takeaway at 168C Whitley Wood Rd, Reading RG2 8LQ**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

ACP Consultants Ltd. has been commissioned by Mr Zubair Qureshi (the client) to provide a professional confirmation regarding noise impact assessment findings for the proposed development at 168C Whitley Wood Rd, Reading RG2 8LQ. This site currently operates as a café with an ancillary takeaway function, and the proposal seeks to extend operational hours from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm to 7:00 am – 9:00 pm while incorporating a hot food takeaway service.

A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was conducted by Syntegra Consulting Ltd. (Ref: 24-13309, May 2024), and a previously approved noise impact assessment was completed by Aval Consulting Ltd. (Ref: 91118, September 2020). This letter serves to confirm that the findings of these reports provide a reliable basis for assessing compliance with planning requirements and mitigation strategies.

This document provides a summary and confirmation of the findings of Syntegra Consulting Ltd. (2024) and Aval Consulting Ltd. (2020) Noise Impact Assessments. It should be read alongside the full Syntegra Consulting Ltd. (2024) and Aval Consulting Ltd. (2020) reports, as our evaluation is based on their findings and recommendations.

Summary of Noise Impact Assessment Findings

1. Syntegra Consulting Ltd. Noise Impact Assessment (May 2024)

The assessment evaluated the impact of the existing kitchen extraction system under the proposed extended hours. The key findings include:

- **Noise Baseline:** The background noise level (L_{A90}) measured at the nearest sensitive receptors was 46 dB during daytime (07:00 – 23:00) and 39 dB at night (23:00 – 07:00).
- **Predicted Noise Levels:** The extractor fan, measured at 49 dB(A) at 3m, was estimated to result in 40 dB(A) at the nearest receptor.
- **Assessment with BS 4142:2014 Methodology:** The noise rating level was calculated at -6 dB below background noise levels, indicating a low likelihood of adverse impact but not meeting Reading Borough Council's requirement of being at least 10 dB below background levels.
- **Proposed Mitigation Measures:** To achieve compliance with local authority standards, Syntegra Consulting Ltd. recommended:
 - Operating the extractor fan at a reduced speed



- Installing an acoustically attenuated duct termination

With these mitigations, the revised noise level was calculated at 36 dB(A) at the nearest receptor, achieving the required 10 dB reduction.

Validity and Representativeness of Noise Monitoring Data and Methodology

The validity and accuracy of the data collected during the Syntegra Consulting Ltd. assessment were confirmed through detailed noise monitoring procedures. Noise measurements were conducted over a six-day period to ensure representative data, capturing fluctuations in environmental noise levels. The monitoring followed industry best practices, using a Norsonic 140 Type 1 Precision Sound Level Meter, which was appropriately calibrated before and after data collection to maintain measurement integrity.

The monitoring location was selected based on proximity to the nearest sensitive receptors, ensuring an accurate representation of real-world noise exposure. Measurement positions were 1.5m above ground level, following the guidelines of BS 4142:2014, which specifies best practices for environmental noise monitoring. Weather conditions were monitored and recorded, with no significant deviations that could have impacted measurement reliability.

Further, the methodology included 5-minute measurement intervals with 1-second resolution, ensuring a granular dataset capable of identifying both ambient and peak noise levels. This approach enabled detailed analysis and comparison against the required noise limits, validating that the extracted data is robust and accurately reflects operational noise impact.

The noise assessment methodology adhered to BS 4142:2014 by establishing a reference background noise level through statistical analysis of measured L_{A90} values, ensuring that predictions were contextually appropriate for assessing industrial noise impact. The application of acoustic penalties for tonal and intermittent characteristics was rigorously applied to derive a rating level suitable for local authority evaluation.

The methodology and noise monitoring procedures adopted for this study were entirely appropriate for assessing the noise impact of an extended-hours commercial kitchen operation. The choice of monitoring locations, equipment calibration, data collection intervals, and environmental conditions ensure that the reported noise levels are reliable and representative of the actual operational environment.

2. Aval Consulting Ltd. Noise Impact Assessment (September 2020) – Approved Noise Report from Previous Application

This previously approved assessment evaluated the impact of noise from the café during its permitted hours (7:00 am – 3:00 pm). Key findings include:

The assessment confirmed compliance with local planning requirements, as noise levels did not exceed 10 dB below background levels.

No additional mitigation was required at that time.

The background noise conditions were comparable to those recorded in 2024, validating the consistency of noise data over time.



Consideration of Extended Hours and Hot Food Takeaway Service

The primary considerations for this proposal, compared to the previously approved operation, are:

Extended operating hours (7:00 am – 9:00 pm) – resulting in potential noise emissions during later hours.

The introduction of a hot food takeaway service could lead to increased kitchen extraction system usage and potential noise from customer activity.

Contextual Noise Levels: Given the site's location within a local centre, it is noted that nearby commercial premises, including the Co-operative food store, already operate until 10:00 pm, meaning ambient evening noise levels are already elevated.

Effect of Proposed Mitigation: With the application of the recommended attenuation measures, the site will meet the local authority's noise limits, ensuring that additional operational hours do not lead to significant adverse impacts.

Conclusion and Assessment of Compliance

The Syntegra Consulting Ltd. (May 2024) noise impact assessment provides a comprehensive and technically robust evaluation of the potential noise impacts associated with the extended operating hours of the kitchen extraction system at 168C Whitley Wood Rd, Reading RG2 8LQ. The assessment was conducted in accordance with BS 4142:2014, ensuring that the methodology, measurement locations, and data analysis adhere to industry standards. The findings demonstrate that, in its unmitigated state, the noise emissions slightly exceed the local authority's threshold for acceptability but remain within a low impact range under BS 4142:2014 guidelines.

The Aval Consulting Ltd. (September 2020) noise impact assessment previously confirmed that noise levels from the site's existing operations were within the acceptable limits set by Reading Borough Council. The 2020 report validates that the baseline noise conditions have remained relatively stable, and the findings of the 2024 assessment are consistent with previously accepted noise levels. The historical compliance of the site with noise regulations further supports the reliability of the 2024 noise assessment and the feasibility of implementing extended operational hours.

To ensure full compliance with Reading Borough Council's noise standards, the 2024 Syntegra report recommends mitigation measures to reduce the noise impact of the extraction system during extended operating hours. These measures include:

- Operating the extractor fan at a reduced speed to lower the emitted sound levels.
- Installing an acoustically attenuated duct termination to further minimise noise propagation toward nearby sensitive receptors further.

The application of these mitigation strategies will result in a predicted 10 dB reduction in noise levels, ensuring that the revised rating level achieves the required threshold for compliance with Reading Borough Council's planning conditions.

Furthermore, the site's location within a commercial area significantly supports the acceptability of the extended hours. The presence of other commercial premises, including a Co-operative food



store operating until 10:00 PM, indicates that evening activity and associated noise are already characteristic of the local area. This contextual consideration, combined with the recommended mitigation measures, ensures that the extended hours will not introduce a significant noise impact beyond what is currently experienced in the vicinity.

As such, no further noise impact assessment is required, provided that the recommended mitigation measures are implemented as outlined in the 2024 Syntegra report.

Should further clarifications be required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ayan Chakravartty
BEng (Hons). PGDip, MSc (Double), MRes, MPhil, PhD
Technical Director
ACP Consultants Ltd.

Relevant Qualifications:
PGDip- IOA Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control
MSc- Applied Acoustics
PhD- Air Quality and Environmental Noise

