

Saints Padel Club, Bamford Noise Impact Assessment

REPORT REFERENCE NO. J006039-9415-DH-01

MARCH 2026

Tel: 01925 759380

Email: enquiries@pdaltd.com





Document Control Sheet

Details of Assessment	
Client	Saints Padel Club Ltd
Document Title	Saints Padel Club, Bamford – Noise Impact Assessment
Report Reference	J006039-9415-DH-01

Client Address:	Company Address:
Saints Padel Club 651a Mauldeth Road West Chorlton Manchester M21 7SA	Philip Dunbavin Acoustics Ltd 3 Bridgewater Court Barsbank Lane Lymm WA13 0ER

Issue	Date	Author	Remark	Status
01	06/03/2026	David Hible	Initial	Issued
02				

	Name	Position
Prepared By	David Hible BA(Hons) MIOA	Consultant
Checked By	Jamie Wilson BA(Hons) MIOA	Consultant

This document has been prepared for the client only and solely for the purposes expressly defined herein. We owe no duty of care to any third parties in respect of its content. Therefore, unless expressly agreed by us in signed writing, we hereby exclude all liability to third parties, including liability for negligence, save only for liabilities that cannot be so excluded by operation of applicable law.

This report has been prepared based upon a scope of works and associated resources agreed between the client and Philip Dunbavin Acoustics Ltd (PDA). This report has been prepared with all reasonable skill, care and diligence and has been based upon the interpretation of data collected. This has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid at the time of the collection. This report has been based solely on the specific design assumptions and criteria stated herein.



CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY.....	4
2.0	SITE DESCRIPTION	5
3.0	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.....	7
3.1	National Planning Policy Framework.....	7
3.2	Planning Practice Guidance – Noise.....	8
3.3	Sport England Design Guidance 2015 – Artificial Grass Pitch Acoustics – Planning Implications.....	9
3.4	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment, Version 1.2, 2014	9
4.0	SURVEY DETAILS AND RESULTS	10
4.1	Weather	11
4.2	Noise Sources	12
4.3	Results	12
5.0	INDOOR PADEL FACILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	13
5.1	Padel Court Noise Emissions	13
5.2	Noise Model Setup	13
5.3	Predicted Noise Levels	14
6.0	INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PADEL FACILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	16
6.1	Outdoor Padel Court.....	16
7.0	CONCLUSION	18
	APPENDIX I – DEFINITION OF ACOUSTIC TERMS.....	19



1.0 SUMMARY

At the request of Saints Padel Club Ltd, PDA has carried out a noise impact assessment in relation to a proposed Padel facility including for 5 no. courts within an enclosure and 1 no. external court. The proposed facility is to be located at Bamford Cricket Club, Bamford.

As Padel is a relatively new sport within the UK, no specific guidance in regards to assessing noise egress from this type of noise source is available. In absence of specific guidance the noise impact assessment has been conducted in accordance with Sports England Guidelines “Artificial Grass Pitch Acoustics – Planning Implications”. This publication provides guidance in relation to assessing noise from Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP’s) which may also include noise from ball strikes against fencing as well as noise from players and spectators. Therefore we would consider its application in regards to the assessment of noise emanating from padel courts as reasonable.

The assessment has covered two scenarios which include for noise impact from the Padel enclosure and for noise impact from the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use. The outcome of the assessment for just the use of the Padel enclosure results in a long-term noise impact classed as ‘Negligible’ to ‘Minor’ where existing noise levels are predicted to increase by 1 to 4 dB. We would highlight that this includes for good practice acoustic design where open canopy areas are only present on facades which do not directly face the closest noise sensitive receivers to the east. Furthermore, the assessment is based upon the assumed lowest existing noise levels during the proposed opening hours and is therefore considered to be a ‘worst-case’ scenario. As such this is an indication that the Padel enclosure will have a low impact on the nearby residential receivers and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The assessment of noise levels from the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use demonstrates a long-term noise impact classed as ‘Negligible’ to ‘Moderate’ where existing noise levels are predicted to increase by 1 to 9 dB. Again, this includes for good practice design of the enclosure canopy areas and assessment based upon the lowest measured existing noise levels and is therefore considered to be a ‘worst-case’ scenario. As such this is an indication that the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use will have a moderate impact. However, we would highlight that this is only predicted to occur during the quietest noise periods and typically the impact would be considered as low for the majority of the proposed operational hours and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed Padel facility is located within the boundary of Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club, Bamford which currently provides 5 no. tennis courts and a cricket pitch. The closest residential receivers are understood to be located at Hopwood Farm and Butterworth Grange to the east, Hollins Lane to the south, Bamford Mews to the north and Jowkin Lane to the west.

The proposal is to erect an indoor Padel centre which will include for 5 no. Padel courts and 1 no. outdoor Padel court. It is understood that the Padel facility may operate within the hours of 07:00 – 22:00 Monday to Saturday and 07:00 – 19:00 hours on Sundays. The site location is shown in the Figure below:

Figure 1. Proposed Site Location

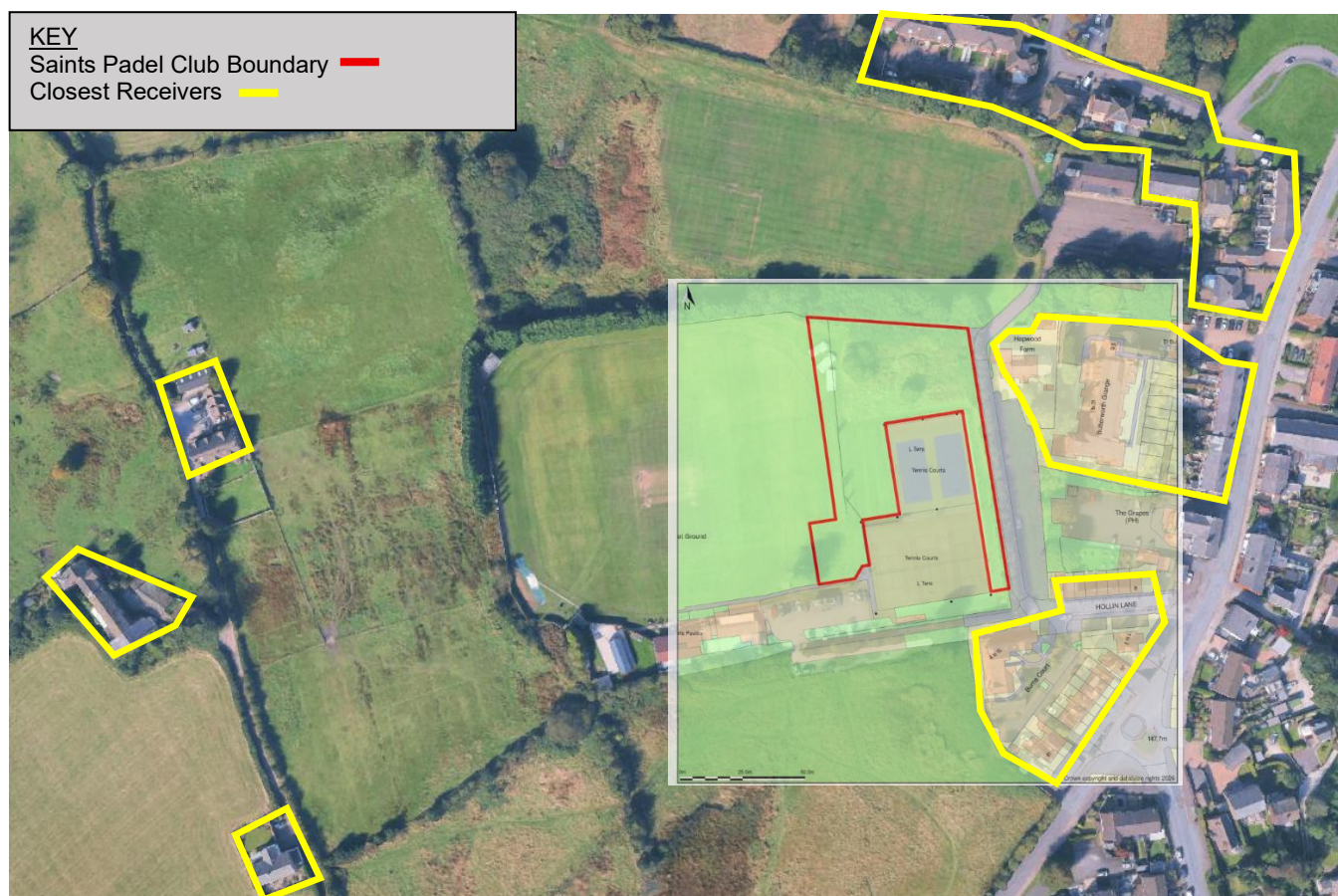
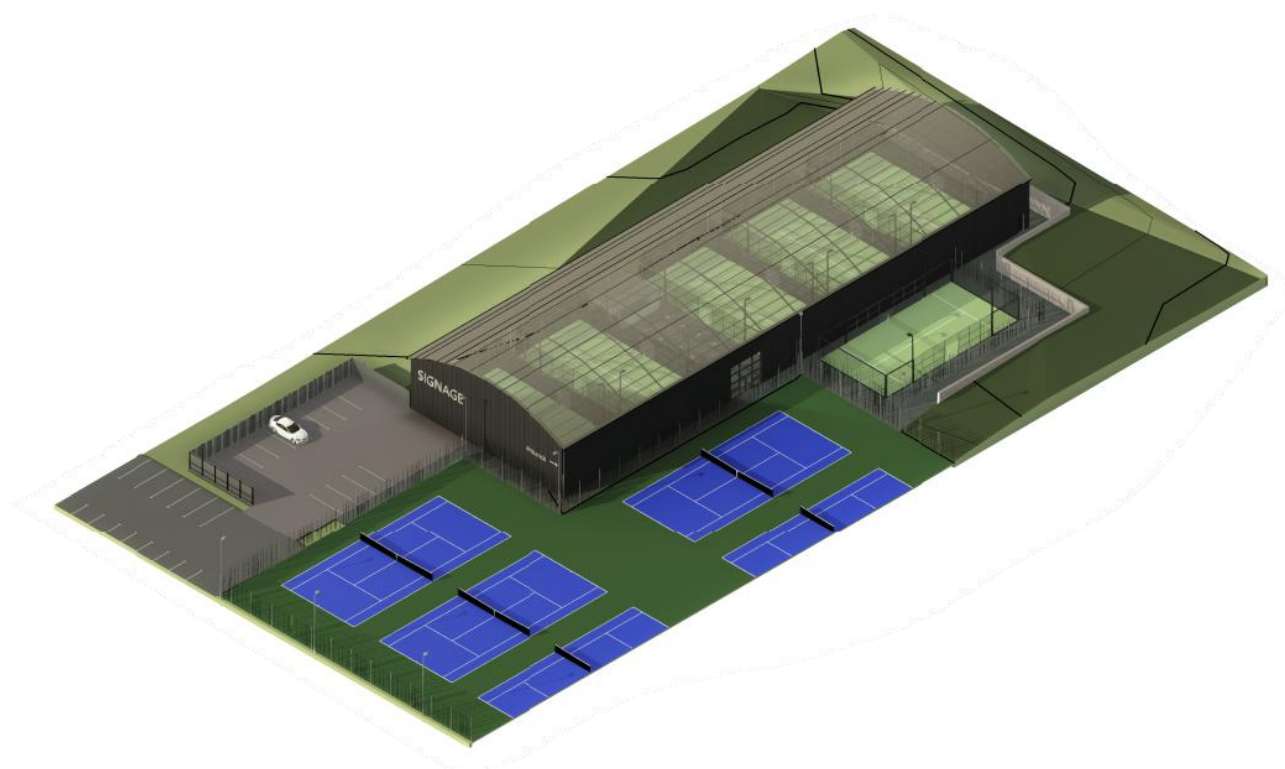


Figure 2. Proposed Padel Facility Layout



3.0 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Policy is guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated in February 2025. With regard to Noise the Framework states the following;

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- *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.*

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:

- *mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;*
- *identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.*

The terms ‘significant adverse impact’ and ‘adverse impact’ are defined in the explanatory notes of the ‘Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)’ which states;

There are two established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts, for example, by the World Health Organisation. They are:

NOEL – No Observed Effect Level

This is the level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise.

LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level

This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.

Extending these concepts for the purpose of this NPSE leads to the concept of a significant observed adverse effect level.

SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level

This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.

The notes also offer an explanation of the term ‘adverse impacts’ as follows;

... refers to the situation where the impact lies somewhere between LOAEL and SOAEL. It requires that all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development (paragraph 1.8). This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur.

Although no specific noise limits for LOAEL and SOAEL have been defined, in 2014 the UK Government published a planning practice guidance document for noise which indicates where these limits fall with

relation to the perception of noise. A summary is reproduced in Section 4.2 below, and the full document is published at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2>. It is considered that guidance from other acoustic standards may be employed to determine suitable levels within the overall principal of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The National Planning Policy Framework also states:

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.

The focus of planning policies and decisions should be on whether proposed development is an acceptable use of land, rather than the control of processes or emissions (where these are subject to separate pollution control regimes). Planning decisions should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes operated by pollution control authorities.

3.2 Planning Practice Guidance – Noise

In March 2014 (updated July 2019) the UK Government published further guidance on the assessment of noise for planning purposes in the form of the on-line publication, Planning Practice Guidance on noise (<http://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2>). This document offers further guidance on the typical levels which constitute the NOEL, LOAEL and SOAEL. The relevant section is reproduced in the table below;

Table 1. Planning Practice noise level guidance

Perception	Examples of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Level	Action
No Observed Effect Level			
Not present	No Effect	No Observed Effect	No specific measures required
No Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and not intrusive	Noise can be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.	No Observed Adverse Effect	No specific measures required
Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and intrusive	Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a small actual or perceived change in the quality of life.	Observed Adverse Effect	Mitigate and reduce to a minimum
Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level			

Present and disruptive	The noise causes a material change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area.	Significant Observed Adverse Effect	Avoid
Present and very disruptive	Extensive and regular changes in behaviour, attitude or other physiological response and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress, e.g. regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable harm, e.g. auditory and non-auditory	Unacceptable Adverse Effect	Prevent

It is notable from the above planning guidance that development should not normally be permitted above Significant Observed Adverse Effect Levels, and should aim to minimise Other Adverse Effect Levels (below SOAEL but above LOAEL). However, it is clear that noise is permitted to approach and/or exceed the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level, providing that noise is mitigated and reduced to a minimum.

3.3 Sport England Design Guidance 2015 – Artificial Grass Pitch Acoustics – Planning Implications

Sports England published a document in 2015 entitled “Artificial Grass Pitch Acoustics – Planning Implications” (AGPAPI). The document gives guidance on the acoustic implications associated with such facilities and offers advice on relevant noise criteria by which to assess the noise impact of sports facilities.

The guidance indicates that World Health Organisation ‘Guidelines for Community Noise’ (WHO 1999) is the most relevant and the most commonly applied document for the assessment of AGP’s. AGPAPI highlights that WHO 1999 includes noise from sporting events as ‘Community Noise’. Based on WHO 1999 it is indicated that noise from AGP’s should not exceed a level of 50 dB L_{Aeq} at a distance of 1m from the facades of living spaces. This is reiterated within AGPAPI which highlights WHO guidance that noise levels outside of living areas should not exceed 50 dB L_{Aeq} to avoid ‘moderate annoyance’ during daytime and evening periods. AGPAPI suggests that an appropriate assessment time period is 1-hour ($L_{Aeq}(1\text{-hour})$) as this is typically the time period for a community sports event.

The AGPAPI states that in some circumstances, an alternative assessment methodology may be appropriate such as where there are changes to an existing turf or AGP pitch, or where existing noise levels in the area are high. Furthermore, the guidance refers to the IOA/IEMA Working Party Consultation Draft stating that it... *“provides some helpful guidance on the impact of changes in noise level”* and that, *“where noise from the new source does not exceed the existing noise climate the increase in noise will be no more than 3 decibels. This is the minimum that can normally be perceived. The noise levels are both to be measured using the L_{Aeq} parameter...”*

The AGPAPI states that in some instances it may be beneficial to use both a comparative and absolute assessment method.

3.4 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment, Version 1.2, 2014

The Institute of Acoustics of Environmental Management and Assessment has produced a guidance document regarding noise impact assessments. The values given in Table 2 below are taken from the document that sets out a guide as to how changes in noise level may be assessed.

Table 2. IEMA Impact from the Change in Sound Levels

Long-term impact classification	Short-term impact classification	Sound Level Change dBA
Negligible	Negligible	> 0 dB and < 1 dB
	Minor	> 1 dB and < 3 dB
Minor	Moderate	> 3 dB and < 5 dB
Moderate	Major	> 5 dB and < 10 dB
Major		> 10 dB

The above criteria reflect key benchmarks of human response to changes in noise level. For example, a 3dB change is generally taken to be the smallest change perceptible to the human ear and a 10dB change is heard as a doubling or halving of loudness.

4.0 SURVEY DETAILS AND RESULTS

An ambient noise survey was carried at the site to establish the existing noise levels at the closest residential receivers to the proposed Padel facility. The measurements were a combination of long-term and short-term durations across an entire weekend period. The measurement locations are shown in the Figure below:

Figure 3. Noise Survey Monitoring Positions



All measurements were taken at a height of 1.5m above ground level on a pole or tripod. Measurements were undertaken and partly attended by David Hible and Jason Craig of PDA Ltd. The sound level meters were set up to log continuous 5 minute intervals and include for a range of statistics such as L_{eq} , L_{max} and L_{90} in addition to compressed audio recordings. The survey was conducted with 2 no. NTi XL2 sound level meters for which calibration certificates are held.

The NTi meters are Class 1 frequency response as per BS EN 61672-1:2003. The sound level meters were field calibrated both before and after the measurement period, during which time no significant deviation from the calibrated level was observed. The sound level meters were fitted with a microphone windshield at all times

4.1 Weather

Typical weather conditions throughout the survey were as follows:

Date: Friday - 23rd January 2026

Temperature: 5 – 7 °C

Wind Speed: 1 – 2m/s

Wind Direction: NNE

Precipitation: 1mm

Date: Saturday 24th January 2026

Temperature: 4 – 8 °C

Wind Speed: 1 – 3m/s

Wind Direction: NNE

Precipitation: Nill

Date: Sunday 25th January 2026

Temperature: 2 – 6 °C

Wind Speed: 0 - 1m/s

Wind Direction: NNW

Precipitation: 0.5mm

Date: Monday 26th January 2026

Temperature: 2 – 4 °C

Wind Speed: 0 – 2m/s

Wind Direction: NNE

Precipitation: Nill

Weather data is taken from on-site observations and Weather Underground position 'IROCHD13' and 'IHEYWO8'.

4.2 Noise Sources

The local noise climate is dominated by Norden Road to the east and south of site. Occasional noise was audible from sports activity at Bridge JFC to the north.

4.3 Results

The results have been summarised below with separate tables for each day-time period across Friday 23rd to Monday 26th. Please note that the measurement results have been curtailed to the proposed opening times of the Padel facility which is understood to be within the hours of 07:00 – 22:00 Monday to Saturday and 07:00 – 19:00 hours on Sundays.

Table 3. Ambient Noise Level Results – Friday 23rd January 2026

Time Period	L _{Aeq,1-hour} dBA			
	LT1	LT2	ST 1	ST2
13:00 – 14:00	-	-	52	55
14:00 – 15:00	-	-	-	-
15:00-16:00	48	51	-	-
16:00-17:00	47	49	-	-
17:00-18:00	49	49	-	-
18:00-19:00	45	49	-	-
19:00-20:00	44	48	-	-
20:00-21:00	44	49	-	-
21:00-22:00	42	48	-	-

Table 4. Ambient Noise Level Results – Saturday 24th January 2026

Time Period	L _{Aeq,1-hour} dBA	
	LT1	LT2
07:00–08:00	47	49
08:00-09:00	50	51
09:00-10:00	49	51
10:00-11:00	50	52
11:00-12:00	48	51
12:00-13:00	48	51
13:00-14:00	48	51
14:00-15:00	48	51
15:00-16:00	49	51
16:00-17:00	48	51
17:00-18:00	48	51
18:00-19:00	48	53
19:00-20:00	47	52

20:00-21:00	46	52
21:00-22:00	46	52

Table 5. Ambient Noise Level Results – Sunday 25th January 2026

Time Period	L _{Aeq,1-hour} dBA	
	LT1	LT2
07:00–08:00	48	45
08:00–09:00	49	46
09:00–10:00	50	47
10:00–11:00	47	48
11:00–12:00	49	47
12:00–13:00	46	48
13:00–14:00	47	48
14:00–15:00	46	48
15:00–16:00	45	48
16:00–17:00	47	48
17:00–18:00	43	47
18:00–19:00	42	46

Table 6. Ambient Noise Level Results – Monday 26th January 2026

Time Period	L _{Aeq,1-hour} dBA	
	LT1	LT2
07:00–08:00	48	49
08:00–09:00	47	49
09:00–10:00	48	48
10:00 – 11:00	45	48

5.0 INDOOR PADEL FACILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Padel Court Noise Emissions

PDA Ltd has previously conducted noise measurements during a padel tennis doubles match. The match was played by 4 no. competent players and included a professional coach. An overall noise level of L_{Aeq,T} 56 dB was measured 10m back from the centre line of the court. Within SoundPLAN (computer aided sound prediction software) a computer model with an overall sound power level (L_w) of 92 dB(A) for a padel court has been evaluated to give an equivalent L_{Aeq,T} 56dB noise level at 10m back from the centre line of a padel court in free field conditions. The evaluated L_w's in octave bands for a single padel court are provided below.

Table 7. Sound Power Level's (L_w's) per Padel Court

L _w , Octave Band Levels, dB								dBA
63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
96	93	91	88	88	83	79	79	92

5.2 Noise Model Setup

It is understood that the indoor Padel facility will include for 5 no. Padel courts therefore we have taken the sound power levels indicated in Table 7 (Section 5.1) and modelled each court within an enclosure in SoundPLAN. The resultant sound pressure level within the enclosure is then calculated accounting for the volume and expected reverberation time within the enclosure, resulting in an internal noise levels of 81dB(A).

The proposed enclosure is understood to be of a lightweight construction which features canopied areas. The external cladding is understood to be 3mm aluminium which extends from the top of the structure down to ground level on the east and south facades. On the north and west facades the aluminium cladding stops at a height of 3m from ground level to form an open canopy area. The roof is understood to be a Perspex panel construction. It is understood that there are also areas of glazing/glazed doors to the east façade.

In order to assess the noise reduction provided by these building elements we have assumed the following build ups and calculated sound reduction indexes, shown in Table 8. Where the external cladding stops to form a canopy this has been calculated as an open area with no transmission loss.

Table 8. Sound Reduction Indexes of Enclosure Elements

Typical Product	Minimum Sound Reduction Index R (dB) at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								R _w dB
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
3mm Aluminium Cladding Panel	11	15	19	24	29	32	28	28*	28
10mm Polycarbonate Roof Panel	14	17	22	27	32	36	35	35*	31
4/12/4 Standard thermal Glazing	16	22	19	25	36	42	36	36*	31

*Assumed performance as not stated in manufacturer data.

Following this a calculation has been carried out within SoundPLAN to obtain the resultant noise break-out from the enclosure accounting for the sound reduction indexes provided in Table 8, corrections for reverberant to free field and surface area. The model has been set up on the basis that all padel courts are in operation simultaneously as a worst case scenario.

The topographical data for the site and surrounding area is taken from Google Maps Terrain height data. A ground absorption coefficient of 1 has been used to take into account the predominantly soft surfaces of grassland etc. Receivers has been modelled at a height of 1.5m above ground level with an additional 2.5m for each floor level. All calculations have followed the methodology contained within ISO 9613-2:2024 *Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors - Part 2: General method of calculation*.

5.3 Predicted Noise Levels

The predicted noise levels at the closest noise sensitive receivers are as follows:

Figure 4. Predicted Noise Levels at Sensitive Receivers – Indoor Padel Courts



With reference to Figure 4, noise egress from the indoor enclosure is predicted to be 44 dB(A) at Receiver 5 to the east and Receiver 7 to the west which are considered to be the worst-case locations.

As the existing site use includes for sports activities, in accordance with AGPAPI, we have carried out a comparative noise impact assessment between the predicted noise levels and the existing ambient noise levels. The existing ambient noise levels are based upon the lowest 1 hour L_{Aeq} recorded for each day and long-term measurement period, respectively. We would consider this to be a conservative approach.

Table 9. Summary of change in noise levels – including for the indoor enclosure.

Date	Receiver	Lowest Noise Level dB L_{Aeq} / (Time)	Cumulative Noise Level (Existing Ambient + Noise From Indoor Courts) dBA	Sound Level Change dBA	Impact Description
Friday 23/01/2026	5	42 (21:00 – 22:00)	46	+4	Minor
	7	48 (21:00 – 22:00)	49	+1	Negligible
Saturday 24/01/2026	5	46 (21:00 – 22:00)	48	+2	Negligible
	7	49 (07:00 – 08:00)	50	+1	Negligible
Sunday 25/01/2026	5	42 (18:00 – 19:00)	46	+4	Minor



	7	43 (21:00 – 22:00)	46	+3	Minor
Monday 26/01/2026	5	45 (10:00 – 11:00)	47	+2	Negligible
	7	48 (10:00 – 11:00)	49	+1	Negligible

The above assessment indicates that the overall ambient noise at the worst-case residential receivers will typically increase by 1 to 4dB which in accordance with IOA/IEMA guidelines equates to a 'Negligible' to 'Minor' long-term impact. We would highlight that this assessment considers for the 'lowest' existing noise levels during which operation the Padel facility is proposed and is therefore a 'worst-case' assessment. Further we would note that the proposed opening times for the Padel facility do not include the night time period (23:00-07:00) thus, sleep disturbance as a result of noise egress from the Padel facility is not expected.

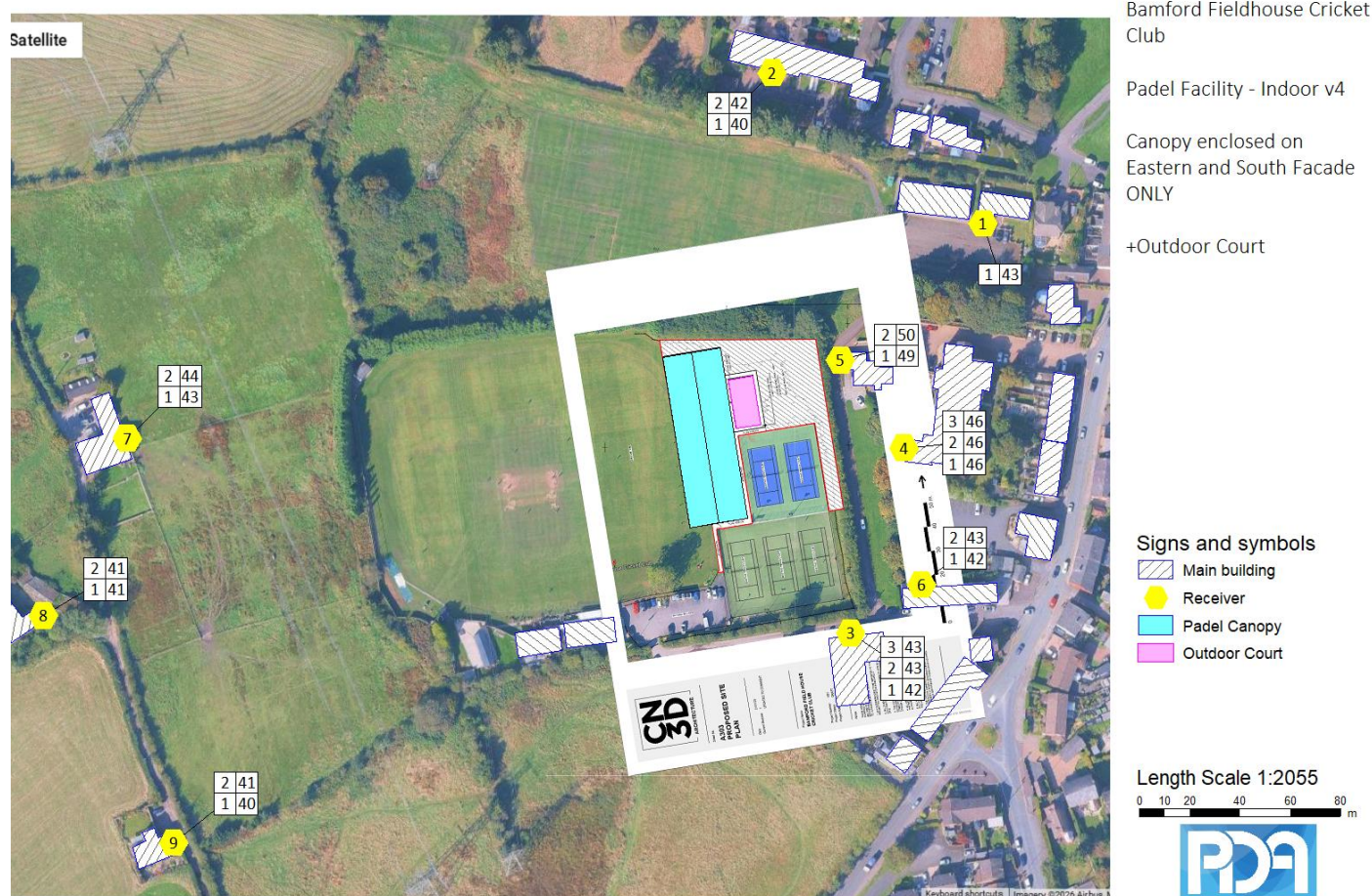
6.0 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PADEL FACILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Outdoor Padel Court

It is understood that 1 no. Padel court is proposed externally to the enclosure. We have provided a separate assessment so that the impact of the Padel facility as a whole can be compared between use of just the indoor courts and the indoor and outdoor courts simultaneously.

We have modelled the outdoor court at a height of 2m above ground level and noise levels respective to that given in Section 5.1 The predicted noise levels at the closest noise sensitive receivers are as follows. Please note that this includes for the indoor and outdoor courts all in operation simultaneously.

Figure 5. Predicted Noise Levels at Sensitive Receivers – Indoor and Outdoor Padel Courts



With reference to Figure 5, noise egress from the indoor enclosure and outdoor court is predicted to be 50 dB(A) at Receiver 5 to the east and 44dB(A) at Receiver 7 to the west.

As the existing site use includes for sports activities, in accordance with AGPAPI, we have carried out a comparative noise impact assessment between the predicted noise levels and the existing ambient noise levels. The existing ambient noise levels are based upon the lowest 1 hour L_{Aeq} recorded for each day and long-term measurement period, respectively. We would consider this to be a conservative approach.

Table 10. Summary of change in noise levels – including for the indoor enclosure and outdoor court.

Date	Receiver	Lowest Noise Level dB L_{Aeq} / (Time)	Cumulative Noise Level (Existing Ambient + Noise From Indoor and Courts) dBA	Sound Level Change dBA	Impact Description
Friday 23/01/2026	5	42 (21:00 – 22:00)	51	+9	Moderate
	7	48 (21:00 – 22:00)	49	+1	Negligible
Saturday 24/01/2026	5	46 (21:00 – 22:00)	51	+5	Moderate
	7	49 (07:00 – 08:00)	50	+1	Negligible
Sunday 25/01/2026	5	42 (18:00 – 19:00)	51	+9	Moderate

	7	43 (21:00 – 22:00)	46	+3	Minor
Monday 26/01/2026	5	45 (10:00 – 11:00)	51	+6	Moderate
	7	48 (10:00 – 11:00)	49	+1	Negligible

The above assessment indicates that the overall ambient noise at the worst-case residential receivers will typically increase by 1 to 9dB which in accordance with IOA/IEMA guidelines equates to a 'Negligible' to 'Moderate' long-term impact. We would highlight that this assessment considers for the 'lowest' existing noise levels during which operation the Padel facility is proposed and is therefore a 'worst-case' assessment. Further we would note that the proposed opening times for the Padel facility do not include the night time period (23:00-07:00) thus, sleep disturbance as a result of noise egress from the Padel facility is not expected.

7.0 CONCLUSION

At the request of Saints Padel Club Ltd, PDA has carried out a noise impact assessment in relation to a proposed Padel facility including for 5 no. courts within an enclosure and 1 no. external court. The proposed facility is to be located at Bamford Cricket Club, Bamford.

As Padel is a relatively new sport within the UK, no specific guidance in regards to assessing noise egress from this type of noise source is available. In absence of specific guidance the noise impact assessment has been conducted in accordance with Sports England Guidelines "Artificial Grass Pitch Acoustics – Planning Implications". This publication provides guidance in relation to assessing noise from Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) which may also include noise from ball strikes against fencing as well as noise from players and spectators. Therefore we would consider its application in regards to the assessment of noise emanating from padel courts as reasonable.

The assessment has covered two scenarios which include for noise impact from the Padel enclosure and for noise impact from the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use. The outcome of the assessment for just the use of the Padel enclosure results in a long-term noise impact classed as 'Negligible' to 'Minor' where existing noise levels are predicted to increase by 1 to 4 dB. We would highlight that this includes for good practice acoustic design where open canopy areas are only present on facades which do not directly face the closest noise sensitive receivers to the east. Furthermore, the assessment is based upon the assumed lowest existing noise levels during the proposed opening hours and is therefore considered to be a 'worst-case' scenario. As such this is an indication that the Padel enclosure will have a low impact on the nearby residential receivers and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The assessment of noise levels from the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use demonstrates a long-term noise impact classed as 'Negligible' to 'Moderate' where existing noise levels are predicted to increase by 1 to 9 dB. Again, this includes for good practice design of the enclosure canopy areas and assessment based upon the lowest measured existing noise levels and is therefore considered to be a 'worst-case' scenario. As such this is an indication that the Padel enclosure and outdoor court in simultaneous use will have a moderate impact. However, we would highlight that this is only predicted to occur during the quietest noise periods and typically the impact would be considered as low for the majority of the proposed operational hours and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

APPENDIX I – DEFINITION OF ACOUSTIC TERMS

The decibel

This is the basic unit of noise, denoted dB.

A Weighting

This is a weighting process which simulates the human ear's different sensitivity at different frequencies. A weighting can be shown two typical ways, 50 dB(A) L_{eq} or 50 dB L_{Aeq} . Both mean the same thing. (See below for a definition of L_{eq}). The dB(A) level can be regarded as the overall level perceived by human beings.

L_{eq} and $L_{eq(s)}$

This is the equivalent continuous noise level which contains the same acoustic energy as the actual time-varying sound. In other words it is a kind of average noise level. It is denoted dB L_{eq} or, for A-weighted figures dB(A) L_{eq} or dB L_{Aeq} . It can also be expressed in terms of frequency analysis (see later). $L_{eq(s)}$ is the sample L_{eq} level.

L_n

This is the level exceeded for n% of the time. It is denoted dB L_n or, for A-weighted figures dB(A) L_n or dB L_{An} . It can be expressed in terms of frequency analysis (see later). L_{90} is the level exceeded for 90% of the time and is a measure of the lowest level typically reached. L_{10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and is the highest level typically reached. L_{50} is the level exceeded for 50% of the time and, mathematically, it is the median.

L_{max}

This is the maximum level reached during a measurement period. The "time constant", or the ability of the equipment to respond to impulses is usually expressed along with it, e.g. "Fast", "Slow", etc. It is denoted dB L_{max} or, for A-weighted figures dB(A) L_{max} , dB L_{Amax} , etc. It can also be expressed in terms of frequency analysis.

Frequency Analysis

Whereas dB(A) gives a very useful overall figure, it has its limitations in that it cannot be used to model or predict the effect of noise control and mitigation as this nearly always has radically different performance at different frequencies.

Frequency analysis expresses an overall noise level at each frequency or band of frequencies in the audible range. Octave band analysis divides the audible range into 10 bands from 31.5 Hz to 16 kHz and the noise level in each band can be expressed in any form e.g. L_{eq} , L_{90} , L_{max} etc. One third octave band analysis uses 30 bands.

Narrow band analysis takes the process to resolutions of less than 1 Hz. This is useful for identifying the existence of tones (whines, hums, etc.) and in pin-pointing the sources.