

Acoustic South East



Discharge of Planning Condition

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Date: 15/04/2025

Project: J3996

Issue 1

Site: **Land North of Sefter Road, Pagham**

Client: **South East Coast Ambulance Service**

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1 Introduction and Executive Summary

Acoustic South East have been appointed to provide the client (South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust) a Noise Management Plan in order to discharge a planning condition.

Specifically, Arun District Council consented a site under planning reference P/104/24/PL on 20 December 2024 and condition 8 requires the submission of a Noise Management Plan (NMP).

An Ambulance Community Response Post (ACRP) has been consented by Arun District Council and condition 8 of the decision notice (P/104/24/PL) required the submission of a Noise Management Plan (NMP).

The condition was specific about the content of the NMP and this has been adhered to in providing the client a workable NMP.

Sufficient detail has been provided to allow the local planning authority to discharge condition 8 of P/104/24/PL.

2 Context, Noise Criteria & Noise Assessment Methodology

2.1 Context

Arun District Council consented planning application P/104/24/PL on 20 December 2024. The application allows for a building and the parking of two ambulances. Condition 8 requires as follows:

- 8 Prior to the commencement of the development, a Noise Management Plan (NMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The NMP shall provide details as appropriate, including but not necessarily restricted to, the following matters:
 1. Hours of operation
 2. Management responsibilities during operating hours
 3. Measures to control noise from activities and operations at the site (including the operation of any equipment plant or building services)
 4. Minimising noise from vehicles, deliveries, and servicing.

The NMP shall be regularly reviewed to ensure that it reflects current operational site practices. Where the operator or the Local Planning Authority receives complaints or have concerns that site activities or operations are having or may have a detrimental impact to the local amenity, the NMP shall be reviewed. Any changes to the NMP necessary to address these concerns shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

The applicant should review the Planning Noise Advice Document - Sussex, November 2023: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjm4n19846.pdf&ver=24686>

The consented application is an Ambulance Community Response Post or ACRP.

2.2 Site Location



Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Site Location and Layout

2.3 Site Layout

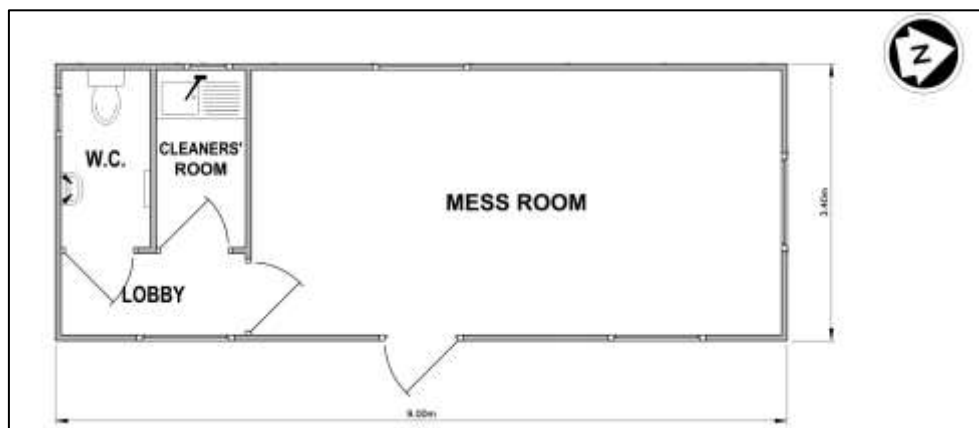


Figure 3. Internal Floor Plan (single storey unit)

2.4 Nearest Residential Receptors

The nearest residential receptors will be numbers 6 and 8 Harvest Drive, located to the East of the site at approximately 21m from the new building.

2.5 Hours of Use

The site will be used 24/7. Staff book on and off at the nearby Tangmere Make Ready Centre (MRC). Shifts are varied and include 8/10/12 hour shifts with staggered start times.

2.6 Site Operations

It is important to understand that this is **not** a make ready centre (MRC) where vehicles are checked and prepared or maintained as appropriate.

Pagham Ambulance Community Response Post (ACRP) due to its location and growing local population allows for a faster response time for the ambulance service and allows for the rapid deployment of an ambulance. It is not the case that vehicles are sat idling waiting for calls, but that more likely ambulance personnel are within the purpose build building/mess centre and will respond to calls as appropriate.

The Pagham site is one of 7 such locations across the Tangmere and Worthing dispatch desks.

It is simply a case of a vehicle or vehicles (maximum of 2) parked in a relatively central location to optimise response times to emergency call outs.

Once out responding to an incident or call, the ambulance or vehicle would either go to the next incident or return to a different ACRP.

2.7 Anticipated Sound Sources

2.7.1 Vehicles

The only vehicles likely to be present at the site are either a double crewed ambulance (DCA) or a single response vehicle (SRV).

The sound sources will only be door slams occurring as staff access or depart their vehicles, or reverse warning systems. Due to being good community partners, the reverse systems on the vehicles are not the classic bleep bleep safety signal, but a reduced white noise signal which is less intrusive.

As discussed, it is not the case that staff are sat in vehicles with engines idling waiting for calls, or carrying out maintenance to their vehicles whilst parked up.

An obvious sound source is that of the sirens for emergency services vehicles. These need to be loud for obvious reasons to ensure that other road users are aware of their presence and take action accordingly. This allows the ambulance vehicles to access emergency calls in as fast a time as possible.

The driving factor for using a siren is safety, and it is not anticipated that sirens will be necessary to depart the site, as the vehicle driver would have a clear view out of Harvest Drive and onto Sefton Road.

2.7.2 Building Plant

Condition 8 of the planning consent also refers to building services. A single external condenser unit is proposed at the rear of the building to utilise the building mass to shield the nearby residents. This is understood to be a Mitsubishi 3.5Kw unit (MSZ-EF R32) wall mounted system with a sound power level of 60dB(A). A basic calculation to demonstrate that this is unlikely to be an issue is as follows:

L_{WA} of 60dB(A).

Plus 3dB for wall mounting = 63dB(A) L_{WA}

Assumed distance to façade of nearest residential = 21.4m

$63 - 20 \times \log(21.4) - 8 = 28.4\text{dB } L_{Aeq,T}$ at the receptor location.

Considering that the mess building is in-between the condenser and the path of the nearest receptor, a 10dB loss is likely at the very minimum, therefore 18.4dB $L_{Aeq,T}$ at the residential location is more likely.

With a partially open window providing circa 13dB of attenuation from outside to inside, this would account for approximately 5.4dB internally.

Such low noise levels both outside and inside a residential dwelling would not likely be audible or provide cause for concern.

2.7.3 Minimising Noise from Vehicles, Deliveries and Servicing

The ACRP would not be receiving any deliveries. Similarly, servicing of vehicles would take place elsewhere, and as previously stated, the vehicles where appropriate would not have audible reversing systems.

The use of sirens has already been discussed. The site is merely to strategically locate relevant medical personnel with an ambulance at a relevant location(s) to achieve response times for the local population.

2.8 Management Responsibilities

It is noted that condition 8 also requires management responsibilities during operating hours. This is not entirely clear as to the rationale, however users of the ACRP will undergo training to ensure that they understand that the site is located in a residential setting and to be good neighbours and community partners.

2.9 Communications

At the heart of any Noise Management Plan is the ability for the community to be able to get in touch with the trust and register their concerns over any adverse noise events. Whilst this has not been necessary at other sites, there should remain an open channel for communications with the trust.

The relevant point of contact is Joshua Tonks, Joshua.Tonks@secamb.nhs.uk - 07867139345

If noise complaints are received, these should be logged and responded to and the complaints kept on file for review at a later date.

3 Review of the Noise Management Plan

It is proposed that this document is a live document and is subject to review on an annual basis, or shorter if there are changes in site practices and procedures.

The review of the document should be conducted with sight of any noise concerns raised within the last year and how these were dealt with and whether there remains a need to change any practices or procedures. If there is a need to update the NMP, it should be done in an expedient manner and a new revision created.

4 Conclusion and Summary

An Ambulance Community Response Post (ACRP) has been consented by Arun District Council and condition 8 of the decision notice (P/104/24/PL) required the submission of a Noise Management Plan (NMP).

The condition was specific about the content of the NMP and this has been adhered to in providing the client a workable NMP.

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