

Environmental Control and Protection - Planning Consultation Response

To Planning Officer: Adam Madge

From Environmental Control and Protection Officer: Damaris Broad

Date: 05/09/2024

Planning Application Reference:	PL/2024/05527
Environmental Health Reference:	PR202407-506641
Description of Proposal:	Redevelopment of site to deliver extension to existing Spring Park data centre campus consisting of (a) free standing data centre building (b) energy, power, and water infrastructure (c) site access and internal roads (d) site security arrangements (e) diverted Public Rights of Ways (f) hard and soft, green and blue, landscaping and (g) other ancillary and auxiliary forms of development
Address:	Land South of Westwells Road
Site Visited:	Yes/No
Amenity Including noise, lighting, odour, smoke.	Officer: Damaris Broad
Noise: Public Protection have recently received three complaints of low frequency or tonal noise from the existing data centres. At this stage there has been no investigation into these complaints and those responsible for the data centre are unaware of them. The introduction of a further data centre in close to housing raises concern in light of the complaints. There is a large quantity of plant proposed, some of which is external. I understand that the assessment covers all plant that will usually be operating rather than the emergency generators which are only seldomly used. This is fine if the emergency scenario happens for 22 hours a year. Can the data centre operators provide verification of this via records	

from the existing data centres that this is the case?

The correct assessment tool, BS4142 has been used for the noise assessment. BS4142 provides penalties for tonal noise of up to +6dB which has not been added in this assessment. Air handling plant and generators are often associated with tonal noise and arguably this penalty should have been added. Data sheets that provide information on 1/3 octave bands is included but this would not necessarily give information on whether there is a tone present and doesn't go down to 20hz which is the bottom end of audibility for low frequency noise.

When a penalty of +6dB is included for Westwells Road (MP2 at 29 meters from the boundary) and Moor Green (MP3 at 10m from the boundary), the BS4142 rating level for each becomes +3 and +4 respectively. I have attached our Noise and Planning Guidance Document and the implications for this are that the noise would be classed as present and intrusive (see Table 3). The actions that should be taken to mitigate the noise and reduce it to the lowest level possible.

The applicant should engage the noise consultant to look at further remediation measures especially regarding low frequency noise. If the plant that is proposed duplicates the existing data centre, then maybe information on tonal noise could be gained from measurement of existing sources and further attenuation proposed regarding the new data centre.

Lighting:

Confirmation by a suitably qualified member of the institute of lighting professionals (ILP) is required to validate that the proposed lighting scheme conforms to the recommendations for environmental zone E2 or better in the ILP document 'Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light - Guidance Note 01:20'.

Air Quality

Officer:

Contaminated Land

Officer:

Other Matters Including drainage provision, food safety, health and safety, licensing.	Officer: Damaris Broad
Recommendation:	
Conditions (if appropriate) 1) 2) 3)	

Please contact the Environmental Control and Protection Officer should you wish to discuss these comments.