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FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE ASSESSMENT

FOR PADEL TENNIS COURTS

AT LOWER FARM, ROWDE

Prepared for



Date: 4th June 2026

Report No:



1. INTRODUCTION

An environmental noise survey reported in reference 1 assessed the effect of the proposed new padel tennis courts at Lower Farm, Devizes Road, Rowde on the nearby residential areas.

The planning application involved demolishing an existing open plan storage area and replacing it with a new agricultural storage building with 2 padel tennis courts inside.

The survey covered background noise measurements around the area and padel tennis noise predictions, based on data measured by the Author of the report at other padel tennis courts in Southern England.

Following submission of the reference 1 report to Wiltshire Council, the Council's Environmental Health Officer recommended that the application be approved subject to use of the courts between 9am and 6pm. The time period was then extended by the Planning Officer from 8am to 9pm daily, following email correspondence from the client requesting 24 hour opening.

As a compromise the client is looking for an opening period of 6am to 11pm, on the grounds that most padel tennis players wish to play outside normal working hours, and without the extra hours the business venture may not be profitable.

In response to this further email correspondence, the Planning Officer has requested further background noise measurements to cover the additional times. This second report reassesses the situation following further background noise measurements on site during a late evening period on Friday 29th May 2026.

The reader needs to be familiar with the contents of reference 1.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

As described in reference 1, Lower Farm in Devizes Road is accessed by a tarmac track approximately 200 metres long, with the nearest residential properties alongside the main road to the south west and in Conscience Lane to the north west. There are a large number of farm buildings at the end of the access track, some of which are used for agricultural reasons by the farm, whilst others are rented out for commercial reasons.

3. MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

The previous background noise survey covered 5 freefield measurement positions as shown in figures 1 and 2. Position 1 was located in the front garden of the farm house at Lower Farm, but since this property is owned by the client/applicant, it is not a reception point of concern.

Position 2 was located outside the office being used by the mental health assistance group. This could be a reception point of interest, but it is well shielded from the proposed padel courts by several agricultural buildings on route.

Position 3 was a pavement location alongside the Buena Vista house in Devizes Road, as access was not possible to any of the gardens. Position 4 was located alongside Buena Vista in a bungalow estate off Conscience Lane and position 5 was located on a farm track to the south of the farm. Position 5 basically covered the rear garden area of Lakeside House.

During the latest site visit on 29.5.26, data was acquired at positions 2A, 4 and 5, plus one new position 6. Position 1 was dispensed with for reasons given above, and the Devizes Road pavement location (position 3) was dropped for personal safety reasons at night in dim light, and because padel tennis noise would not be an issue for houses close to the main road.

Position 2A near the SEND office was basically similar to previous position 2 in the farm car park location, but slightly displaced to reduce noise interference from the café air conditioning units and the fresh milk machine. Position 6 was a new location at the end of the farm entrance road near to the proposed padel tennis building. This position was chosen to partly cover any commercial use of the farm buildings nearby and partly to see how the road traffic noise varied with distance from Devizes Road.

The background noise data was acquired in the form of the Leq, L10, L50, L90 and Lmax levels over 10 minute measurement periods during the late evening period 9.40pm to 11.15pm. The measurement equipment consisted of a CEL 593C Precision Computing Sound Level Meter and the weather conditions were clear skies with no wind.

4. RESULTS

Table 1 provides the measured background noise levels for the 10 minute measurement periods. The late evening background noise environment well away from Devizes Road consisted of distant road traffic and the occasional aircraft activity. Other noise sources included dog barking, birds fluttering in nearby trees, and church clock chimes.

The measurements at modified position 2A had to be repeated since, totally unexpectedly, a car and its occupants arrived to purchase fresh milk from the machine during the last minute of the 10 minute measurement period. Table 1 shows both sets of data and, fortunately, the measured Leq and L90 values are very similar in both cases.

Levels of 33-44 dBA Leq (10 minutes) and 27-36 dBA L90 (10 minutes) were obtained at the 4 positions, with the lowest data at position 4 (Sandfield Tannis off Conscience Lane). Here levels of 33 dBA Leq (10 minutes) and 27-28 dBA L90 (10 minutes) were obtained.

Tables 2 and 3, reproduced from reference 1, show the previously predicted freefield padel tennis Leq and Lmax levels for the various reception points, with table 2 applying to the Leq value and table 3 applying to the Lmax value. As previously noted in reference 1, these tables were derived from measurements at close in distances from 5 different padel courts using the simple $20 \log d_1/d_2$ distance relationship, where d is the distance from the centre of the court.

As noted in reference 1 the average predicted Leq levels varied between 28 and 42 dBA depending on reception point, whilst the average predicted Lmax noise levels varied between 42 and 56 dBA. Also the predictions only apply to one padel court in operation and it may be necessary to add 3 dBA to the predicted levels for 2 courts in operation. Thus in the case of the two main reception areas of Sandfield Tannis and Lakeside House, predicted levels of 28 dBA Leq and 33-34 dBA Leq respectively compare with background levels of 27-28 dBA L90 and 35-36 dBA L90 respectively, prior to any 2 court additions.

The predicted levels, however, have yet to include any sound insulation benefits of the barn structure enclosing the 2 padel courts, and it was shown in reference 1 that such benefits should be worth about 15 dBA. In addition, some of the reception points will benefit from acoustic shielding by the other buildings on site. Also the simple $20 \log d_1/d_2$ distance relationship did not include any ground absorption effects over the intervening fields, leading to slightly lower predicted values than those shown.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Whilst the late evening background L90 noise levels are a little lower than the late morning L90 levels presented in reference 1, the 15 dBA benefit from the building enclosure means that the previous conclusion, that the installation of 2 padel tennis courts inside a new barn at Lower Farm should not be a problem for local residents, is still valid.

With regard to the client's requirement for a 6am start, early morning background noise measurements were not considered necessary. Based on experience with other projects, road traffic noise between 6am and 8am is likely to produce higher L90 levels than late evening periods, due to increased traffic flows as people travel to work etc.

As part of the recent email correspondence between the client and the Planning Officer, the Environmental Health Department of Wiltshire Council has stated that the department is in the process of producing a guidance note for assessing padel tennis noise. This Council guidance would appear to include adopting the principles of BS4142, in the absence of UK specific padel noise standards. Such principles could include appropriate corrections for the impulsive content and distinctive characteristics of padel tennis noise. Even if this is the case for the Lower Farm proposals, the 15 dBA benefit from the building enclosure should be sufficient to offset any BS4142 type corrections.

6. REFERENCES

1. *Environmental Noise Assessment for Padel Tennis Courts at Lower Farm, Rowde.*
Report No RPT1647 dated February 2026

Statement of Disclaimer

The Consultant cannot guarantee that the objectives of the investigation have been achieved, but every reasonable effort has been made to provide expert advice and measurement assistance during the investigation and preparation of the report, based on information made available by the client and the agent.

TABLE 1 – MEASURED BACKGROUND NOISE LEVELS (dBA)

Position	Period	Leq	L10	L50	L90	Lmax	Observations
5	21.42-21.52	44.0	47.5	40.5	35.5	62.4	Road traffic, distant dog bark, 21.45 distant aircraft
6	22.03-22.13	42.4	46.5	39.5	33.5	57.2	Distant road traffic, occasional peacock, pigeons in trees
2A	22.22-22.32	40.8	41.0	37.5	35.5	60.0	Distant road traffic, milk machine hum, 22.31 milk machine in use
2A repeat	22.40-22.50	38.0	40.0	36.5	35.0	59.7	Distant road traffic
4	22.59-23.09	32.8	35.5	30.5	27.5	56.3	Distant road traffic, 23.00 distant aircraft & clock chimes

TABLE 2 PREDICTED LEQ NOISE LEVELS AT RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS (dBA)

	<u>Approx Distance (m)</u>	<u>End of court</u>	<u>Side of court</u>
		Leq/minutes	Leq/minutes
Farmhouse	100	39 dBA / 28 min	40 dBA / 17 min
SEND office	80	41 dBA / 28 min	42 dBA / 17 min
Buena Vista	227	32 dBA / 28 min	32 dBA / 17 min
Sandfield Tannis	362	28 dBA / 28 min	28 dBA / 17 min
Lakeside House	200	33 dBA / 28 min	34 dBA / 17 min
21-26 Devizes Rd	268	30 dBA / 28 min	33 dBA / 17 min

TABLE 3 PREDICTED LMAX NOISE LEVELS AT RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS (dBA)

	<u>Distance (m)</u>	<u>End of court</u>	<u>Side of court</u>
		Lmax/minutes	Lmax/minutes
Farmhouse	100	54 dBA / 28 min	54 dBA / 17min
SEND office	80	56 dBA / 28 min	56 dBA / 17 min
Buena Vista	227	47 dBA / 28 min	46 dBA / 17 min
Sandfield Tannis	362	43 dBA / 28 min	42 dBA / 17 min
Lakeside House	200	48 dBA / 28 min	48 dBA / 17 min
21-26 Devizes Rd	268	45 dBA / 28 min	45 dBA / 17min

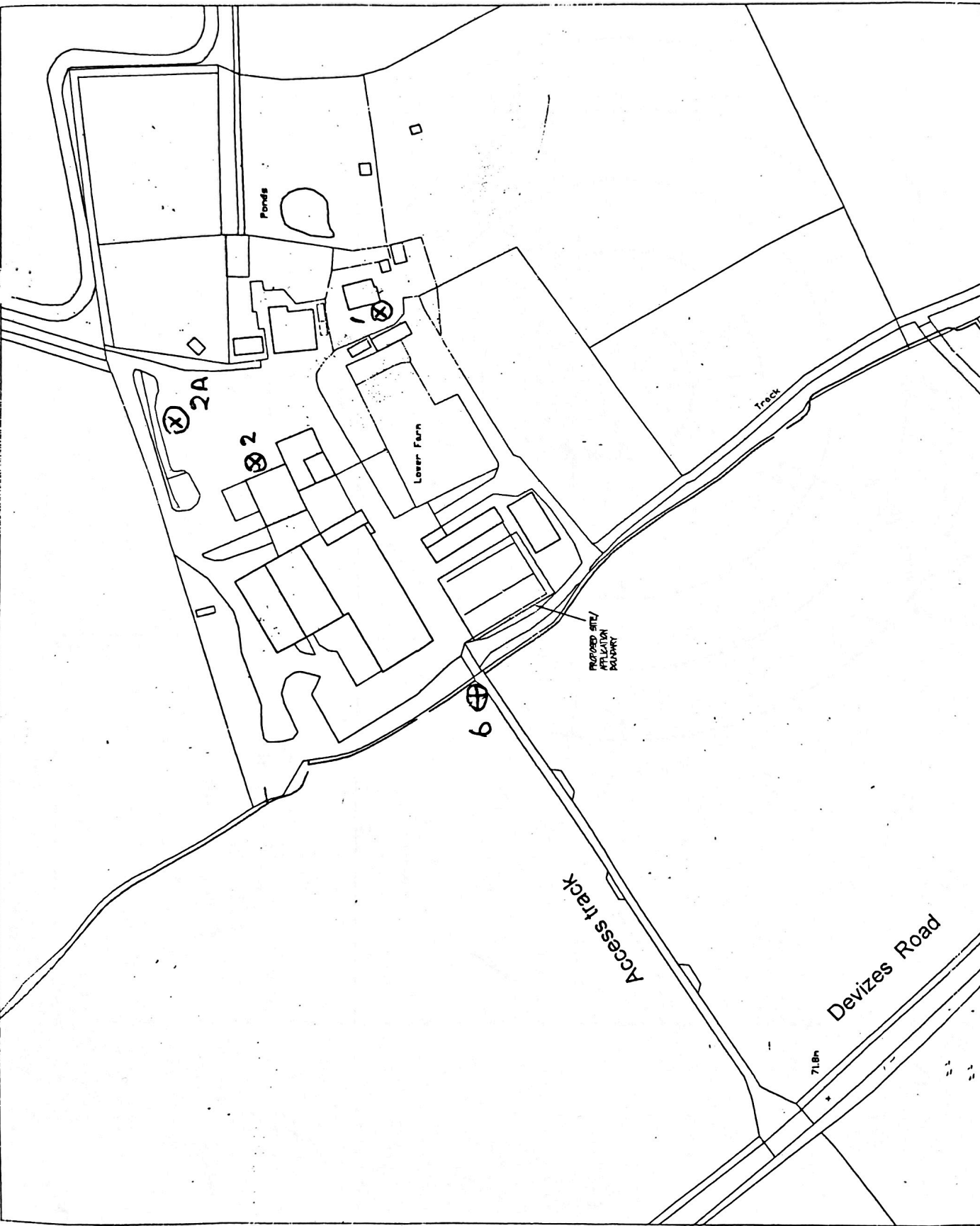


Figure 1 General Layout of Lower Farm & Location of Measurement Positions 1, 2, 2A and 6.

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SCALE 1:250 @ A3

Client	RONDEY CON LTD
Project	LOWER FARM, DEVIZES ROAD, RONDEY, DEVIZES, SNOWEX
 alorn architectural ALORN 107, 8 The Bridge, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6JY 01249 844444 www.alornarchitectural.com	
Title LOCATION PLAN	
Date	OCT. 25
Dwg. No.	1488-01
Rev.	P1

SCALE 1/2" = 1' N2	CASE ROMNEY CON LTD Project LOWER FARM, PEIZES ROAD, ROMNEY, PEIZES, SANDYX		Title LOCATION PLAN	Date FEB. 26	Drawn by 2450-SN	Scale PA
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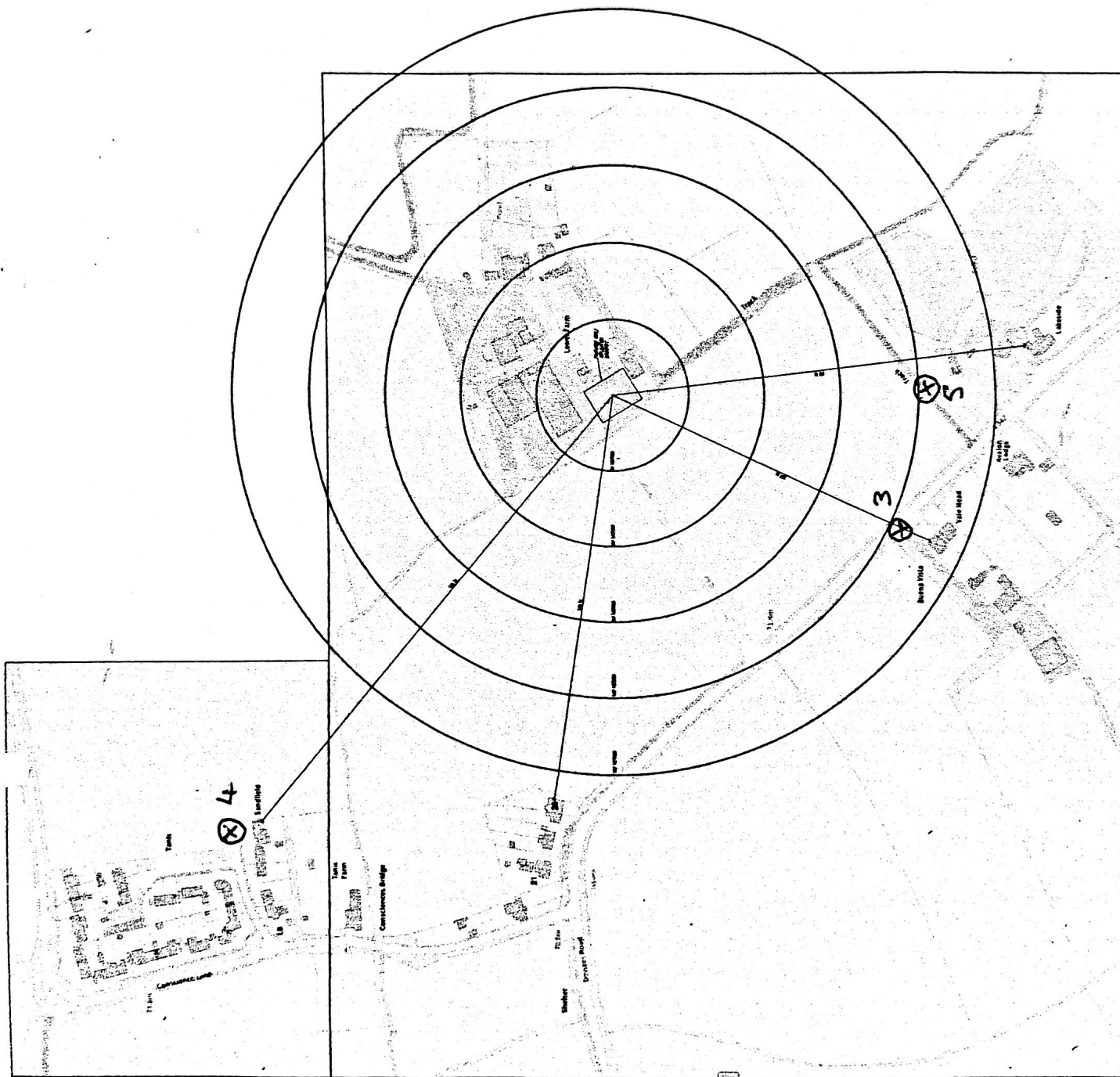


Figure 2 | Location of Measurement Positions 3-5.