

# Proposed Padel Court

## Blackheath Park, London

### Peer Review of Submitted Noise Impact Assessment Report

Archo Consulting Ltd has been asked to provide a peer review of the noise impact assessment report produced by Savills for the proposed new conversion of old tennis courts to 8 new padel courts in Blackheath Park, London. Archo Consulting has experience in conducting noise impact assessments for padel courts and the following points below detail the technical elements of the submitted assessment report which, in our experience, lend a degree of doubt to the assessment;

- The assessment uses baseline data measured in the area over a several days and inclement weather conditions such as wind speeds greater than 5 mph have been screened out of the assessment. The assessment uses data measured over the weekend period, however baseline noise levels particularly within a residential area are frequently lower during the working week. Additionally, disturbance is usually more likely to happen during the week when people are resting for work;
- The assessments states that the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile data has been used as it is lower and avoids inclusion of extraneous noise from wind and other sources. This is very unconventional and it is stated that the data set had already been screened to remove such sources. Furthermore the data is reported in Table 3.1 and 3.2 as LA90 but it is stated that the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile has been used, not LA90 which is confusing. Also the LA90 values are not presented at all in the report except on a time trace graph at the end which lends a degree of doubt to the assessment. LA90 is the standard accepted value used for background noise levels, some councils require statistical analysis of background noise levels using standard deviation, averages etc which in some instances can be acceptable, however the use of 25<sup>th</sup> percentile without presenting LA90 levels raises concerns;
- Rather than using first-hand data, the assessment has been undertaken by modelling the site as a tennis court (area source) and using archived noise data. Archo Consulting has previously undertaken noise monitoring of active padel courts and the two sports a very different, particularly from a noise perspective. The sport involves a lot of frequent ball impacts on the surrounding enclosure which can generate high levels of transient noise. The report explains that the enclosure offers some noise screening but makes no mention of the impact noise which is experienced outside of the court and how this could cause impacts. The sport is also more fast paced and intense meaning more shouting and loud noises from players. The noise context from observations and measurements of the sport being played should have been included as the context plays a crucial role in the

assessment. Comparing to a tennis court is not a fitting approach from experience. Padel courts also have a soft roof cover meaning noise can still propagate from the top;

- The assessment does not give details such as distance from the sources to the receptors or even the location of the receiver points which means the results cant be replicated;
- Section 5.3 states that noise levels from the active padel courts will be in the same range a speech and therefore not result in impacts. The noise generated by this sport, in particular the transient max levels will not be experienced in the same way and likely would result in complaints from residents, particularly given that the courts are generally used through the evening and into the night;
- In some areas, local authorities prefer that noise from such courts is assessed using the max levels against the measured LA90 background during specified periods of the day which are particularly noise sensitive as this represents a more prudent approach to protecting residents against noise impacts.

In summary, it is the professional opinion of Archo Consulting that the assessment has not been undertaken using robust methods. First-hand data from padel courts has not been used and there is no noise context or first-hand observations of the sport presented. The lack of details mean the results can't be replicated and the use of 25<sup>th</sup> percentile noise data is highly unusual.

Yours sincerely,



**Nicholas Fry**

**Director**  
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