

15 January 2025

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Planning Policy Team
Civic Centre
44 York Street
Twickenham
TW1 3BZ

Dear Officers

Discharge of Condition | Jodrell Laboratory Decarbonisation, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

On behalf Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGK), we enclose an application to discharge a condition associated with the planning permission (ref: 22/2974/FUL), which approved new and replacement plant and solar PVs to facilitate the decarbonisation of the Jodrell Laboratory. Specifically, this application seeks to discharge the following:

- **Condition A0151763** (Acoustics)

This application has been submitted via the Planning Portal (ref: PP-13698724). An application form is submitted, together with the relevant information to support the discharge of the condition (as identified below). The relevant application fee of £215 (inc. £70 Planning Portal admin fee) has also been submitted.

Application background

Planning permission for this development was granted by LB Richmond Upon Thames on 9 March 2023. The approved scheme results in decarbonisation of the Jodrell Laboratory and energy efficiency improvements to the adjacent glasshouses, via an upgraded space heating system that moves away from gas fired boilers to a combination of air and water source heat pumps and electric boilers. The works will result in a carbon emissions saving of approximately 60% compared with the existing situation, and this is likely to improve year on year.

The approved description of development associated with planning permission ref. 22/2974/FUL is: *“Removal of existing redundant oil tanks and associated infrastructure in the service yard; new plant room and extension of existing switchroom, transformer with enclosure, replacement backup generator and Air Source Heat Pumps within the rear service yard, alongside new solar PV array on the roof of the Wolfson Wing and Jodrell main building, replacement windows and new doors to the lecture theatre.”*

Details of the conditions

This application seeks to discharge the following condition associated with the above decision:

- **Condition U0151763** (Acoustics)

This condition states: *“The plant hereby permitted shall be installed in strict accordance with the details provided in the Noise Impact Assessment submitted by Philip Dunbavin Acoustics Ltd reference J003991-5742-CW-02 dated 27th September 2022. The plant shall not be operated unless the equipment is in compliance with these details.”*

A commissioning acoustic test report shall be undertaken within two weeks of the mechanical services installation in order to demonstrate the limiting noise levels detailed in the above report have been achieved. The results of the tests shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”

A Post Installation Plant Noise Assessment (ref. J005311-8228-01-CW), prepared by PDA Acoustic Consultants, is submitted to discharge the condition. This report confirms that the results of the acoustic test shows good correlation with the results of the previously approved Noise Impact Assessment. A worst-case noise of 49 dB was predicted at the facade of the dwellings on Kew Road. Based on the results of

the measurement survey, the noise level at the facade of the nearest dwellings is calculated to be ≤ 48 dB and is therefore compliant with the limiting noise criteria as referenced in the condition.

On this basis, the condition should be discharged.

If you have any questions on any of the enclosed information, please contact lindsay@theplanninglab.com.

Yours faithfully

The Planning Lab