

OTG Noise Management Action Plan

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Noise Management Action Plan 2026



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Ref: OTG-002-V2

Completed By: Clare Kelly (Events and Bookings Manager)

Reviewed: N/A

Introduction

In addition to our existing Noise Management Plan, we have developed this Noise Management Action Plan to outline a series of proposed measures. Some actions will be implemented immediately, while others will be introduced progressively based on neighbour feedback and ongoing consultation.

Because several areas require us to find the right balance and due to the financial impact of the proposed actions, we have included a set of flexible, evidence-based proposals that can be trialled throughout the 2026 season. By combining community feedback with sound monitoring data, we will identify the most effective measures and incorporate them into the long-term Noise Management Plan. This approach will help us build a robust and comprehensive strategy to prevent public nuisance.

The key areas of focus are:

- Sound level limits - source and pathways
- Professional sound engineering
- Monitoring at site boundaries / nearby properties
- Stage and speaker orientation and setup
- Communication and consultation with neighbours
- Complaint response procedure
- Review and adjustment after events
- Frequency and duration of potential disruption

At the end of this six-month period of consultation and incremental improvements, our aim is to eliminate the risk of public nuisance and ensure the venue operates responsibly within the community.

Improvements in place before May 2026

Soundproofing of the main dome

Timescale of Implementation: End of April 2026

Financial Impact: £5000+vat

Aim: To reduce sound escaping by obstructing the path of sound

As part of the Out to Grass noise containment plan, 18mm plywood panels cut to fit the triangular sections of the dome are being installed as the first structural layer of acoustic containment. The panels will be mounted onto the frame using pipe lagging on the steel tubes to provide mechanical isolation and reduce vibration transfer. Installation of this base layer is scheduled for completion by the end of April. Where required, selected panels may later be upgraded with a second plywood layer and approximately 100mm of mineral wool insulation, with CNC-cut diffusion openings on the outer surface to help disperse mid and high frequency sound energy and further improve containment.

This will be tested and adjusted before the site opens to ensure effectiveness.

Increased Acoustic Straw Bail Barriers

Timescale of Implementation: End of April 2026

Financial Impact: £2400 (using approx 30 bails at £80 per bail)

Aim: To reduce sound escaping by obstructing the path of sound

Hay bales (specifically, straw bales) act as effective, low-cost acoustic barriers by absorbing noise across wide frequencies due to their density and air pockets. We currently use bails as sound barriers behind the main stage area and in a horse shoe around the second dome. We plan to increase this provision to almost double the number of bails used.

Soundsystem Upgrades and Configuration

Timescale of Implementation: End of April 2026

Financial Impact:

Aim: To reduce risk of public nuisance by amending the direction and shape of sound at source

We believe the system in the main dome to be the most suitable system for the job, this was installed as the main and only system for the main dome in 2015

The second dome however can be further improved and we have decided to go with the following system:

Second Dome System

PA System

- Turbosound TCX10 - Tops x 2
- Element 5 RB212 - Subs x 3 or 4 (subject to best containment option)

Amplification and Processing

- Linea Research 88C10

We will try various configurations including hung bass speaker which should further diver the sound meaning less sound escaping the dance floor area. This will be tested as per below.

Sound Test Days

Timescale of Implementation: - Proposed dates May 4th-6th

Financial Impact: £1200 in wages for consultants/professionals

Aim To set up a site for comprehensive noise testing. Sound systems will remain in the positions agreed for the entire 2026 season. Residents will be informed via letter as noise may escape the venue as we do a number of tests to work holistically. Set over 3 days to test during varied conditions.

Charlie Elcock of C.Elcock Production- Deployment

Speaker placement and configuration will be such to maximise coverage of audience area and minimise off site spill.

Main dome

Hi/Mid Tops to be deployed higher than previous years
aimed down at the audience

Subs to be deployed with the intention of an increased cardioid coverage pattern

System processor with presets for general use and reduced power/low range option

Secondary Dome

Subs to be deployed above dance floor to minimise spill

Tops to be deployed to minimise lateral spill

Clare Kelly - OTG Events Manager - Sound Checks and setting ambient levels and 'triggers'

To take sound readings at points across the site and neighboring properties throughout and provide feedback to the site team, allowing adjustments to be tested and refined based on what proves most effective.

To take detailed readings and notes on audibility based on a number of tests.

Mal - Coppice Audio - Sound & Insulation Testing

To test and amend sound insulation panels and make any adjustments required.

Andy Bayliss - House Sound Engineer - Sound desk and frequency presets

To test current speaker deployment, frequency sensitivities and directional sensitivities.

To test effectiveness of limiters

To set pre-sets based on sound testing into the sound desk for the season.

Hotline and consultation with residents

Timescale of Implementation: End of April 2026

Financial Impact: £800 in extra staffing

Residents will be posted a letter detailing the events occurring this season, the proposed changes and details of this plan. This will give details of our hotline which is the main number for

OTG which is diverted to the Events Manager. This number will be manned from 10am until 2am Friday-Monday and during regular office hours during the week.

The Events Manager or OTG representative will conduct regular visits to residents to check on the progress of this action plan and to seek feedback on changes as they are implemented.

In house sound engineer at all events

Timescale of Implementation: Already in place

Financial Impact: £800 per weekend

Although OTG has always employed sound engineers for events involving live music or DJs, particularly larger or multi-stage events, we previously did not require an engineer for one-day events such as weddings where only a playlist was played through the sound system. In addition, we worked with a pool of engineers who had varying levels of familiarity with the site.

Following a recommendation, we have appointed Andy Bayliss, whose extensive knowledge and experience made him the ideal choice. Andy has now been booked as the dedicated sound engineer for all OTG events in 2026, regardless of size or type.

This ensures a consistent and professional approach to sound management. Andy is fully familiar with all aspects of our Noise Management Plan (NMP) and has worked with us directly in developing both the NMP and this action plan. Having a single, dedicated engineer will be essential as we implement incremental changes, carry out consultation, and gather feedback in order to identify and maintain the most effective long-term solutions.

Incremental improvements to be tested throughout 2026

Upgrade of sound check equipment

Timescale of Implementation: By start of season 2026

Financial Impact: £1700-£2500

Conditions for implementation: To be implemented if it is felt that the current equipment is not capturing enough specific data during testing and consultation.

Sound Monitoring Equipment

- At the moment we use CEMDT815
- We have been recommended NTi Audio XL2

Sound Check frequency and locality

- See current sound check sheet,
- Increase number of sound checks to 2 per hour and 1 per hour for larger events
- Increase the numbers of check points to be monitored

New sound limiting devices - Various Options

Timescale of Implementation: Testing throughout May-June

Financial Impact: £500-£3000 dependant on solution

Aim: To limit the sound at source

This can be implemented if we feel that our current mitigation method of having an on site sound engineer at every event proves to fail at managing artists 'pushing' the current system.

Current Sound Limiters: In 2025 and previous years we have used various equipment for this including AUC Flash Box and Red Alert RC audio. These had limited success.

Upgrade Options: RC Audio Tolon (TLM 1)

RC Audio Tolon (TLM 1) is an advanced, transparent audio processor designed for professional sound management, whereas a "Flash Box" typically refers to a standard sound limiter that visually warns users before cutting power to the equipment.

Reduced levels/frequencies between 12-3pm and 11pm-2am (or suitable time based on feedback and testing).

Timescale of Implementation: Testing throughout May-June

Financial Impact: Sound Engineer time only

Aim: To reduce the daily duration of noise impact

Limit larger events to 5 per year

Timescale of Implementation: Testing throughout May-June

Financial Impact: Unknown, possibly in the thousands based on decreased footfall and economy of scale, running costs don't vary between small and large events.

Events with over 300 and running 3 days with a full schedule of music limited to 5 per year.

Soundproofing of the second dome

Timescale of Implementation: End of 2026 season, sooner if required

Financial Impact: up to £4000+vat

Aim: Further reduce sound escaping from the dome for overall sound monitoring improvements

Following testing on sound proofing the main dome we can make an analysis of whether soundproofing the second dome is going to make an overall difference.

Silent Disco Headphones from 11pm

Timescale of Implementation: End of 2026 season, sooner if required

Financial Impact: £3 per headset per night of event

Aim: To reduce the duration of noise impact

For events with more than one stage we can decrease the overall impact and length of noise impact by using silent disco headphones on the second stage. We have links with a local company who can provide these.

For smaller events that have DJ's after midnight we could do a tapered cross over to headphones with the sound being dropped at 11pm and headphones being offered to those who wish to listen to the music louder. Cost implication per event and the quality of sound through the headphones is not excellent. Current events have also been booked under the terms of our current licence so may cause some negative feedback from clients.
