



**REACH FESTIVAL**

# **Sound Management Plan 2016**

## **Reach Festival**

Piked Edge Farm, Skipton Old Road  
Colne, BB8 7EP  
Saturday 6th August 2016  
Version 1.1

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## **1.Intro**

We have been asked by Environmental Health officer Carmela Lo Presti to consider the management and control of noise from Reach Festival 2016.

We have committed to proactively manage noise and ensure that noise does not cause a public nuisance and any sound complaints are dealt with.

## **2. Site**

The Reach Festival Site is situated at Piked Edge Farm, Colne, BB8 7EP. We are fortunate that this is a low residential area residing 4 miles away from the nearest highly populated town (Colne). The event will be held on Saturday 6th August and event time will be 14:00 - 2:00.

The site will consist of 3 sound stages inside tents, one main tent, a secondary tent and a 3rd bar/chillout tent. All 3 sound systems will point in the same direction (North East) in order to take advantage of the natural terrain which acts as a barrier to noise transmission. All tents this year will all be air inflated tents which consist of a 500mm surrounding of air which severely reduces sound transmission from the PA systems. In addition to last year extra bails of hay will also be placed around the tents to act as sound barriers which also double up as site decor.

## **3. Permitted Noise Levels**

The maximum Music Noise Level is expressed as an LAeq & should not exceed 65 dB(A) over a 15 minute period. This will be regularly checked in accordance to the law to ensure this level is not breached.

## **4. Low Frequency Noise**

Low frequency noise can be seen as one of the main disturbances to surrounding communities and the organisers acknowledge this. Research and guidance concludes that a level of up to 65dB in either of the 63hz or 125Hz octave frequency band is satisfactory; whilst a level of 80dB or more in either of those octave frequency bands causes disturbance at distances over 2km. This will be regularly monitored and any anomalies will be rectified during the event to minimise impact on the surrounding areas.

## **5. Sound System Design and Setup**

Our systems will be setup in such a way that will minimize noise pollution on the external environment.

The sound system will be configured where possible to have a narrow horizontal dispersion to reduce overspill from the intended coverage areas. Careful positioning and alignment of the system will be ensured for optimal coverage on the intended audience areas and balance this against off site environmental noise impact.

The use of delay speakers where possible will also be used to be able to limit the need for excessive sound from the main stages.

## **6. Noise control procedures - Noise control monitoring during the event**

Prior to the event, all sound engineers and stage managers will be briefed by the organisers on the importance on minimizing any noise on the external environment.

All sound engineers on site have performed previous duties at similar or previous events. On site noise levels will always reflect the size of the audience (for example earlier on in the festival the levels will be relatively low and will gradually increase in accordance to crowd size)

Our onsite sound engineers will be advised to leave some “headroom” early on in the event to provide a safety margin to allow for some upward movement of levels, whether that's to maintain audience satisfaction or to permit headline acts.

Throughout the event relevant personnel will remain responsible for noise safety, this will be achieved through conducting measurements at predetermined locations both internally and externally to the venue. Such locations will be determined upon the completion of the site layout. This person/persons will also make personal observations and react accordingly to issues of public nuisance and noise.

Measurements will be conducted over a 15 minutes period, although shorter measurement periods may be undertaken. All measurements will be recorded and made available for inspection at anytime by the regulatory authority during the course of the event.

## **7. Noise control procedures - Complaint management**

Complaints may and can occur due to persons in the surrounding area can hear music, consequently, they perceive it to be loud. In fact topographical and climatic conditions can often influence this and this will be closely monitored throughout the event. The purpose of the monitoring is to determine the nature of the impact.

The event organisers ensure that appropriate means of communications will be open with local residents through facebook, newspaper and door advertisement prior to the event; informing them of the start and finish times of the festival and a dedicated phone line to voice any concerns. A dedicated contact number will be provided for noise complaints. Should a complaint be received it'll be investigated immediately and if noise levels are deemed to be unacceptable, necessary action will be implemented to reduce the level of the noise source through the sound engineers. The event organiser will have full control over the sound levels at all times throughout the event and will liaise with sound engineers to control sound levels in the event of complaints/decibel limit breaches.

A complaints log will be maintained by the site manager, the log will contain addresses of complaints, times and the necessary actions that were taken in dealing with the issue. This will be available to the relevant regulatory bodies upon request.

## **8. Post event reporting**

Following completion of the event, a report will be made detailing sound observations and any actions taken.

## **9. Conclusion**

The North of England has a diverse and well established music festival sector, which have been established for a number of years with the most notable in the surrounding areas being Beacons Festival & Beat-Herder. Reach Festival has chosen to reach its fulfil its ambitions and return to Piked Edge Farm.

The noise and feasibility plan presented above aims to address all challenges and ensure that an acceptable equilibrium is maintained between the needs of the event organisers and the local residents.

As discussed all relevant actions have been taken to reduce the noise impact on the surrounding area, sound monitoring will also be taking place throughout the event and complaints will be recorded and dealt with accordingly.