

## How to Guide – Heat Pump Location

Each Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installation will require an MCS Noise Assessment to be completed to ensure neighbouring properties/occupants will not be affected by the heat pump installation and to comply with Permitted Development.

### **Critical Requirements:**

- ASHP total volume must be less than or equal to  $0.60\text{m}^3$  – this means two or more ASHP's cascaded together will require planning permission.
- ASHP must be at least 1 metre asway from any boundary.
- ASHP usually needs to be a minimum distance of 3-5metres unobscured from the assessment position (distance varies depending on the local conditions and ASHP manufacturer).

### **Additional Requirements you may wish to consider:**

- Ensuring there is enough space around the unit according to the manufacturers requirement (usually estimated 150mm minimum to rear, 300-500mm at sides, 1m clear space at front).
- Is the unit near to the property or remote? How will the pipes and cables be run from the ASHP into the building and to relevant services?
- Are there any specific requirement relating to the ASHP position, e.g. personal preferences, blocking windows, away from children.

### **Definitions for the purpose of the Noise Assessment:**

- Assessment position means a position one metre external to the centre point of any door/window to a habitable room of a neighbouring property as measured perpendicular to the plane of the door or window.
- Habitable room means a room other than a bathroom, shower room, water closet, utility, hall/landing or kitchen.
- Neighbouring property means any building used for any purposes of Class C of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) (includes dwellings, houses, hotels, residential institutions and houses in multiple occupation). In instances where the ASHP would be installed on a block of flats, neighbouring property includes flats within the same bloc of flats (excluding the flat of the "owner(s)" of the ASHP.

### **Assessment Positions**



Photo 1



Photo 2

**Please provide the following:**

1. Photo 1 – showing the property with the proposed location of the ASHP included (sketched on top), with neighbouring window/door evident (see above example).
2. Photo 2 – taken from the location of the ASHP (corner of the unit nearest the neighbouring window/door) showing the neighbouring window/door and any items between, e.g. wall, fence (see above example).
3. Measurement 1 – distance from nearest corner of proposed ASHP unit to the assessment position (centre of the neighbouring window/door of a habitable room).
4. Measurement 2 – same as above if multiple openings available.

We will then use this information following our heat loss calculations in an attempt to size a unit that both meets the heat loss of the dwelling and passes the Noise Assessment based on the location provided.

If the proposed location does not meet the noise assessment, or the building is listed/in conservation area or area of natural beauty, it doesn't mean you cannot install an ASHP, but you should apply for planning permission – this can often be just a formality.

It should be noted that the heat pump provided at the end of our assessment is a suggestion only, based upon the total heat loss of the property. The total heat loss summary should be provided to your design team who can size the unit accordingly. Were a different system selected, the Noise Assessment would require updating.