

NOISE ASSESSMENT

Wellington House,
Uxbridge, UB8 2XW

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Approval for issue

Matthew Hyden

M.B. Hyden

16 February 2023

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Prepared by:

RPSStephen Hale
Consultant - Acoustics6-7 Lovers Walk
Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6AHT +44 1273 546 800
E stephen.hale@rpsgroup.com

Prepared for:

RPS Planning

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1 INTRODUCTION

Overview

- 1.1 The Acoustics team of RPS Planning and Environment (RPS) has been appointed by RPS Planning to provide a noise assessment a part of a prior approval application under Class AA for the construction of two additional storeys of new dwellinghouses above Wellington House, Cowley Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2XW.
- 1.2 The site is located within the administrative area of Hillingdon Council (HC).
- 1.3 For development covered under Class AA permitted development, it is not necessary to undertake a full noise impact assessment. However, the Planning Act does require that '*impacts of noise from any commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the new dwellinghouses*' is assessed.
- 1.4 This report describes the findings of a site visit and attended acoustic survey at the development site identify if the propose development is likely to be impacted by noise from existing commercial premises.
- 1.5 RPS is a member of the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC), the representative body for acoustics consultancies, having demonstrated the necessary professional and technical competence. The assessment has been undertaken with integrity, objectivity and honesty in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) and ethically, professionally and lawfully in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the ANC.
- 1.6 The technical content of this assessment has been provided by RPS personnel, all of whom are corporate (MIOA) members or noncorporate associate members (AMIOA) of the IOA (the UK's professional body for those working in acoustics, noise and vibration). This report has been peer reviewed within the RPS team to ensure that it is technically robust and meets the requirements of our Integrated Management System.

2 POLICY & GUIDANCE

2.1 Class AA Permitted Development

- 2.1 Class AA Permitted Development 'Enlargement of a dwellinghouse by construction of additional storeys covers' the following types of development:

'The enlargement of a dwellinghouse consisting of the construction of:

- a) up to two additional storeys, where the existing dwellinghouse consists of two or more storeys; or*
- b) one additional storey, where the existing dwellinghouse consists of one storey.'*

- 2.2 Although this is permitted development and a full noise impact assessment is not required as part of a planning application, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) requires the following:

'impacts of noise from any commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the new dwellinghouses'

- 2.3 Therefore, where site are not subject noise form commercial premises, noise from other sources does not need to be considered. However, should the site be subject to commercial noise, a noise impact assessment will be required. Noise impact from commercial and industrial noise can be assessed using 'British Standard 4142 Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound. 2014+A1:2019'.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The existing Wellington House building is located on land of Wellington House, Cowley Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2XW.
- 3.1.2 The building is currently used as a commercial property (offices), with a carpark to rear. A smaller commercial office building is located at the rear (east) of the car park (this will be retained if / when the proposed development is completed). The building is located to the east of Cowley Road (A408) and to the south of the A408 and A4020 junction.
- 3.1.3 A Kwik Fit car repair centre is located on the opposite side of Cowley Road, approximately 27 m to the west with 4 garage doors facing towards the development and a further 2 garage doors facing Wellington Road. Approximately 13 m to the south of the development is The Salvation Army church. There is land in residential use immediately to the east, to the south and south-east and to the west of the site on the opposite side of Cowley Road. The site is approximately 15 km from Heathrow Airport.
- 3.1.4 Figure 3-1 below illustrates the local surrounding area and proposed development's location.

Figure 3-1 – Site Location and Surroundings



4 SITE INSPECTION AND SURVEY

- 4.1.1 A site visit and attended sound survey was undertaken at the site to understand and quantify the existing local sound climate at the development site. The site visit commenced at 10:40 hours on Tuesday 7th February and concluded at 12:50 hours on Tuesday 7th February 2023.
- 4.1.2 The main aim of the site visit was to identify if proposed development was likely to be impacted by noise of a commercial nature. In addition to a subjective assessment of the site conditions, sound measurements were undertaken at two locations, labelled as ST1 and ST2 in and described below:
- ST1 – Free-field measurement position at a height of 1.2 m, on hard ground located in a position on the front façade of Wellington House on Cowley Road (A408)
 - ST2 – Free-field measurement position at a height of 1.2 m, on hard ground located in the rear car park of Wellington House.
- 4.1.3 Measurement position ST1 was chosen to capture road traffic noise from A408 and is representative of noise incident on the front façade of the Wellington House building. LT2 was chosen to quantify sound levels to the rear of the Wellington House building.

4.2 Measurement Details

The table below summarises the measurements start dates / times and durations used in this assessment.

Table 4.1: Baseline Sound Survey Durations

Measurement Location	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time	Duration
ST1	07/02/2023	10:40	07/02/2023	11:40	1 hour
ST2	07/02/2023	10:50	07/02/2023	12:50	1 hour

- 4.2.1 The equipment listed in Table 4.2 below was used to undertake the sound measurements:

Table 4.2: Equipment Used During the Attended Sound Survey

Measurement Location	Make / Model	Serial Number	Calibration Ref / Start / End	Last Calibration Date
ST1 / ST2	Rion NL-52	998567	94.0 / 93.7 / 93.7	02/03/2022
Calibrator	Rion NC-74	34472822	N/A	27/09/2022

- 4.2.2 All sound level measurements were made using 'Class 1' Rion NL-52 sound level meter (SLM). The sound level meter was calibrated before and after all measurements and no significant drift was observed.
- 4.2.3 Meteorological conditions were monitored during the survey period using an RPS anemometer.
- 4.2.4 At the start and end of the survey the meteorological conditions were observed as:

Table 4.3: Meteorological Conditions

Time	Temperature (C)	Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (Oktas)
Start of Survey	2.3	0.7	Southeast	90	8
End of Survey	11	0.5	Southeast	60	1

4.2.5 The weather conditions were considered appropriate for noise monitoring.

4.3 Site Inspection and Measurement Results

Subjective Assessment

- 4.3.1 The sound climate at the front of the Wellington House building (adjacent to Cowley Road) was dominated by road traffic noise from movements on A408 and A4020. It was noted that during the survey period Kwik Fit car repair garage was in operation, with the 4 garage doors facing Wellington House open. Work was being undertaken within the garage but was not audible at the proposed development as the sound climate was dominated by road traffic noise. No other sources of commercial noise were audible.
- 4.3.2 The sound climate at the rear of the Wellington House was also dominated by road traffic noise from movements on A408 and A4020, however, the level was reduced due to shielding provided by Wellington House. Noise from overflying aircraft was also audible at the rear of Wellington House. No sources of commercial sound were audible. Other noise sources to the rear of Wellington House included pedestrians using local footpaths and natural sounds such as wind in trees and bird song.
- 4.3.3 There were a number of small items of building services equipment located on / serving the Wellington House building. These were not audible during the survey due to the existing traffic noise levels at site. Notwithstanding the above, these items of equipment form part of the development itself and will be removed / relocated as part of the proposed residential conversion / extension. In addition, plant / equipment that forms part of the development is not noise from commercial premises and therefore not relevant to this permitted development application¹.
- 4.3.4 The overall finding of the site visit and subjective assessment was that the site is dominated by road traffic noise and no commercial sound was audible.

Measurement Results

4.3.5 The results of the attended sound survey are presented in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Summary of Baseline Sound Level Data

Location	Daytime		
	Ambient Sound Level, dB LAeq,T	Background Sound Level, dB LA90,15min	Maximum Sound Level, dB LAFmax
ST1	71	60	92
ST2	52	48	72

4.3.6 From the results presented in Table 4.4 it can be seen that sound levels at the front of the building are significantly higher than those at the rear of the building.

¹ Although not a planning requirement, it is recommended that any plant and equipment that forms part of the development itself is assessed during the design stage to avoid adverse impacts on future occupants

4.4 Discussion

- 4.4.1 The site inspection has found that the site is not impacted by noise from existing commercial premises.
- 4.4.2 The main potential commercial noise source located close to the site is the Kwik Fit car garage across Cowley Road. However, due to the high levels of road traffic noise at the site commercial sound from Kwik Fit is not audible at the proposed development site. Whilst on site it was also noted that that Kwik Fit opening hours 08:00 to 18:00 hrs on weekdays (with reduced hours during the weekend). Therefore, the business will not operate in the evening or night-time when the level of traffic noise at the site could be reduced (although as this is a town centre location it is unlikely traffic noise levels will be significantly reduced outside normal working hours).
- 4.4.3 Inspection of the other land uses in close proximity of the site (residential buildings and Salvation Army office) also found no evidence of plant / activities likely to generate significant commercial noise.
- 4.4.4 Therefore, as the site it is not affected by noise from commercial premises, noise does not need to be considered further as part of this permitted development application.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Acoustics team of RPS Planning and Environment (RPS) has been appointed to provide a noise assessment as part of a prior approval application under Class AA for the construction of two additional storeys of new dwellinghouses above Wellington House, Cowley Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2XW.
- 5.2 For development covered under Class AA permitted development, it is not necessary to undertake a full noise impact assessment. However, the Planning Act does require that '*impacts of noise from any commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the new dwellinghouses*' is assessed.
- 5.3 A site visit and noise measurements have been undertaken at the site. It has been found that the site is not impacted by noise from commercial premises. Therefore, noise does not need to be considered further as part of this permitted development application.