Part of the KP Acoustics Group

102 Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge

Noise Impact Assessment Report
Report 31718.NIA.01

Milan Babic Architects
151B Bermondsey Street,
London, SE1 3UW

1 Galena Road, W6 0LT London, UK
info@kpacoustics.com | +44 (0) 208 222 8778 | www.kpacoustics.com

Report 31718.NIA.01 Revision History		
Revision	**Written by**	**Checked by**
First Issue 26/01/2026	**Carlos Vaccarezza MSc** Graduate Acoustic Consultant	**John Cane MSc MIOA** Principal Consultant

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List of Attachments

1.0 INTRODUCTION

KP Acoustics Ltd has been commissioned by Milan Babic Architects, to assess the suitability of the site at 102 Cowley Mill Rd, Uxbridge, UB8 2QB for residential use in accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE).

This report presents the results of the environmental survey undertaken in order to measure prevailing background noise levels and outlines any necessary mitigation measures.

2.0 SITE SURVEYS

2.1 Site Description

The site is bounded by existing residential properties to the north, existing residential properties and Mill Avenue to the west, Cowley Mill Road to the south, and existing residential properties to the east. Entrance to the site is located on Cowley Mill Road. At the time of the survey, the background noise climate was dominated by road/rail traffic noise from Cowley Mill Road.

2.2 Environmental Noise Survey Procedure

A noise survey was undertaken on the proposed site as shown in Figure 2.1. The location was chosen in order to collect data representative of the worst-case levels expected on the site due to all nearby sources.

Continuous automated monitoring was undertaken for the duration of the survey between 13:00 on 16/01/2026 and 10:00 on 19/01/2026.

Weather conditions were generally dry with light winds and therefore suitable for the measurement of environmental noise. The measurement procedure complied with ISO 1996-2:2017 Acoustics '*Description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise - Part 2: Determination of environmental noise levels*'.

2.3 Measurement Positions

Measurement positions are as described within Table 2.1 and shown within Figure 2.1.

Icon	Descriptor	Location Description
1	Noise Measurement Position 1	The microphone was installed on a window on the first floor of the front façade, as shown in Figure 2.2. The microphone was located within 3.5 metres of the nearest surface and therefore includes local reflections.

Icon	Descriptor	Location Description
2	Noise Measurement Position 2	The microphone was installed on a pole at the rear façade at ground-floor level, as shown in Figure 2.2. The microphone was positioned within free-field conditions at least 3.5 metres from the nearest surface.

Table 2.1 Measurement positions and descriptions

Figure 2.1 Site measurement positions (Image Source: Google Maps)

2.4 Equipment

The equipment calibration was verified before and after use and no abnormalities were observed. The equipment used is described within Table 2.2.

Measurement instrumentation		Serial no.	Calibration Date	Cert no.
Noise Kit 23	NTI Audio XL2 Class 1 Sound Level Meter	A2A-21143-E0	11/07/2024	TCRT24/1526
	Free-field microphone NTI Acoustics MC230A	A23539		
	Preamp NTI Acoustics MA220	11025		
	NTI Audio External Weatherproof Shroud	-	-	-
Noise Kit 26	NTI Audio XL2 Class 1 Sound Level Meter	A2A-21130-E0	23/07/2024	TCRT24/1572
	Free-field microphone NTI Acoustics MC230A	A25902		
	Preamp NTI Acoustics MA220	5522		
	NTI Audio External Weatherproof Shroud	-	-	-
B&K Type 4231 Class 1 Calibrator		2147411	10/09/2025	UCRT25/2295

Table 2.2 Measurement instrumentation

3.0 RESULTS

The $L_{Aeq,5min}$, $L_{Amax,5min}$ and $L_{A90,5min}$ acoustic parameters were measured throughout the duration of the survey. Measured levels are shown as a time history in Figure 31718.TH1-2.

The measured noise levels, as shown in Table 3.1, are considered representative of the noise exposure levels expected to be experienced all facades of the proposed development.

Time Period	Noise Measurement Position 1 (Measured Noise level – dBA)	Noise Measurement Position 2 (Measured Noise level – dBA)
Daytime $L_{Aeq,16hour}$	64	53
Night-time $L_{Aeq,8hour}$	57	53

Table 3.1 Site average noise levels for daytime and night time

Noise Measurement Position 1 was located at a distance less than 3.5 metres from the nearest reflective surface and therefore a 3dB correction has been applied, as per ISO1996 Part 2, to obtain the free-field measurements shown in Table 3.1.

4.0 NOISE ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

4.1 National Planning Policy Framework 2024 & Noise Policy Statement for England 2010

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has superseded and replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 24 (PPG24), which previously covered issues relating to noise and planning in England. Paragraph 187 of NPPF 2024 states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to the natural and local environment by:

> "*preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.*"

In addition, Paragraph 198 of the NPPF states that '*Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should':*

- Mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life
- Identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason

The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) was developed by DEFRA and published in March 2010 with the aim to 'Promote good health and good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.'

Noise Policy Statement England (NPSE) noise policy aims are as follows:

Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.

- *Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;*
- *Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and*
- *Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life*

The Noise Policy Statement England (NPSE) outlines observed effect levels relating to the above, as follows:

- NOEL – No Observed Effect Level
    - This is the level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise.
- LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level
    - This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.
- SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level
    - This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.

As stated in The Noise Policy Statement England (NPSE), it is not currently possible to have a single objective based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all sources of noise in all situations. Specific noise levels are not stated within the guidance for this reason, and allow flexibility in the policy until further guidance is available.

4.2 Planning Practice Guidance – Noise (PPG-N)

Planning Practice Guidance – Noise (PPG) was introduced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in March 2014 and revised in July 2019. It is an online digital resource that "advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development". It gives guidance on establishing whether noise will likely cause a concern, factors of influence on noise impact and methods by which planning can address adverse effects of noise sources.

A noise exposure hierarchy table is provided within the guidance that follows the same observed effect descriptors given within the NPSE guidance, i.e. NOEL, NOAEL and LOAEL and SOAEL.

For a NOAEL descriptor: "A noise has no adverse effect so long as the exposure does not cause any change in behaviour, attitude or other physiological responses of those affected by it. The noise may slightly affect the acoustic character of an area but not to the extent there is a change in quality of life"

4.3 BS 8233:2014

BS 8233:2014 *'Sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings'* describes recommended internal noise levels for residential spaces. These levels are shown in Table 4.1.

Activity	Location	07:00 to 23:00	23:00 to 07:00
Resting	Living Rooms	35 dB(A)	-
Dining	Dining Room/area	40 dB(A)	-
Sleeping (daytime resting)	Bedrooms	35 dB(A)	30 dB(A)

Table 4.1 BS8233 recommended internal background noise levels

The external building fabric would need to be carefully designed to achieve these recommended internal levels.

In addition to guidance on internal levels, BS8233:2014 also states the following with regards to noise within external amenity spaces:

'For traditional external areas that are used for amenity space, such as gardens and patios, it is desirable that the external noise level does not exceed 50 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$, with an upper guideline value of 55 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$, which would be acceptable in noisier environments. However, it is also recognized that these guideline values are not achievable in all circumstances where development might be desirable. In higher noise areas, such as city centres or urban areas adjoining the strategic transport network, a compromise between elevated noise levels and other factors, such as the convenience of living in these locations or making efficient use of land resources to ensure development needs can be met, might be warranted. In such a situation, development should be designed to achieve the lowest practicable levels in these external amenity spaces, but should not be prohibited.'

As outlined above, the resulting noise levels in external amenity areas should not be a reason for refusal, providing that the noise levels are designed to be as low as practically possible within external amenity areas.

Expected levels within the proposed external amenity areas are outlined in Section 7.0 in more detail.

4.4 WHO Guidelines for Community Noise (1999) & Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (2009)

WHO Guidelines for Community Noise (1999) recommend that internal noise levels for individual events should not exceed 45dB L_{Amax} more than 10-15 times per night.

WHO Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (2009) presents guidelines for noise levels outside dwellings and discusses the relationship between these and the criteria for internal noise

presented in Guidelines for Community Noise. The document states that the two should be considered complimentary and that the 1999 guidelines should be considered valid to achieve the 2009 guidelines.

5.0 EXTERNAL BUILDING FABRIC SPECIFICATION

Sound reduction performance calculations have been undertaken in order to specify the minimum performance required from glazed and non-glazed elements in order to achieve the recommended internal noise levels shown in Table 4.1, taking into account average and maximum noise levels monitored during the environmental noise survey.

L_{Amax} spectrum values of night-time peaks have also been considered and incorporated into the glazing calculation in order to cater for the interior limit of 45 dB L_{Amax} for individual events, as recommended in WHO Guidelines.

Please note that the glazed and non-glazed element calculations would need to be finalised once all design proposals are finalised.

5.1 Non-Glazed Elements

It is currently understood that the non-glazed building façade is comprised of the elements as shown within Table 5.1 based on the construction detail provided. The anticipated sound reduction index has been calculated, and would be expected to provide the minimum figures shown in the following table when tested in accordance with the BS EN ISO 10140 series of standards.

Element	Sound Reduction Index , dB, at Octave Band Centre Frequency, Hz					
	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k
Brickwork Cavity Wall	41	43	48	50	55	55

Table 5.1 Assumed sound reduction performance for non-glazed elements

5.2 Glazed Elements

Minimum octave band sound reduction index (SRI) values required for all glazed elements to be installed are shown in Table 5.2. The performance is specified for the whole window unit, including the frame, seals, etc. as appropriate. Sole glass performance data would not demonstrate compliance with this specification.

Glazing performance calculations have been based both on average measured night-time noise levels as well as verified against the L_{Amax} spectrum of individual events in order to

comply with a maximum internal noise level of 45dB(A) in bedrooms as recommended by World Health Organisation Guidelines. The combined most robust results of these calculations are shown in Table 5.2.

Elevation	Sound Reduction Index , dB, at Octave Band Centre Frequency, Hz						R_w ($C;C_{tr}$), dB
	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	
Front Elevations	23	26	32	37	40	40	36 (-1;-4)
Rear Elevations	21	23	26	39	34	39	32 (-1;-4)

Table 5.2 Required glazing performance

The nominated glazing supplier should verify that their proposed window system meets the attenuation figures shown at each centre frequency band as shown in Table 5.2.

Example glazing types that would be expected achieve the above spectral values are shown in Table 5.3.

Elevation	Example Glazing Type
North Elevations	6/16/6.4
Rear Elevations	8/16/6

Table 5.3 Example glazing types

All major building elements should be tested in accordance with the BS EN ISO 10140 series of standards.

Independent testing at a UKAS accredited laboratory will be required in order to confirm the performance of the chosen system for an 'actual' configuration.

6.0 VENTILATION AND OVERHEATING RELIEF

6.1 Ventilation Strategy

Approved Document F 2021 describes the following system types for background and extract ventilation:

Ventilation System Type	Whole Dwelling Ventilation	Extract Ventilation
Natural Ventilation	Trickle ventilators	Intermittent extract fans

Ventilation System Type	Whole Dwelling Ventilation	Extract Ventilation
Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (MEV)	Continuous mechanical extract (low rate) and trickle vents for supply	Continuous mechanical extract (high rate) with trickle vents providing inlet air
Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR)	Continuous mechanical supply and extract (low rate)	Continuous mechanical supply and extract (high rate)

Table 6.1 Ventilation system types as described in ADF 2021

Based on the results of the noise survey, the suitability of each system type and the required trickle ventilator performance (where appropriate) is shown in Table 6.2 below.

Elevation	ADF Ventilation System Type Suitable?			Minimum Trickle Ventilator Performance (dB $D_{n,e,w}$)
	Natural Vent	MEV	MVHR	
North Elevations	Yes	Yes	Yes	42
Rear Elevations	Yes	Yes	Yes	38

Table 6.2 Suitability and required performance of ventilation systems

For our assessment of trickle ventilator performance, we have assumed 2no. vents are proposed in the assessed rooms. As trickle vents introduce a weak point in the building façade, increasing the number of trickle vents will reduce the composite performance of the facade. If trickle vents are proposed, the total number of trickle vents for each sensitive space should be confirmed so that calculations can be accurately revised.

Where mechanical ventilation is proposed, systems should be designed so that the combined internal noise levels from external sources and from the mechanical ventilation meet the BS 8233: 2014 criteria shown in Table 4.1.

In all cases, purge ventilation would be provided by openable windows. As outlined in Section 4.5, the internal noise level requirement would not be applicable during purge conditions as this would only occur occasionally.

7.0 EXTERNAL AMENITY AREA ASSESSMENT

A communal external amenity area in the form of a rear garden is proposed for use by the occupants of the development.

Based on the measured noise levels provided in Table 3.1, the ambient noise level within the proposed communal rear garden is considered to be:

- Rear Façade – 53dB $LA_{eq,T}$

This meets the BS 8233:2014 upper guideline value for noise in external amenity areas and therefore the proposed external amenity area is considered suitable.

8.0 CONCLUSION

An environmental noise survey has been undertaken at 102 Cowley Mill Rd, Uxbridge, UB8 2QB allowing the assessment of daytime and night-time levels likely to be experienced by the proposed development.

Measured noise levels allowed a robust glazing specification to be proposed which would provide internal noise levels for all residential environments of the development commensurate to the design range of BS8233:2014.

An assessment of the external amenity areas with the development has been undertaken. The noise levels within the external amenity areas are in line with the guidance presented within BS8233:2014.

102 COWLEY MILL ROAD, LONDON - Position 1
Environmental Time History
16/01/2026 to 19/01/2026

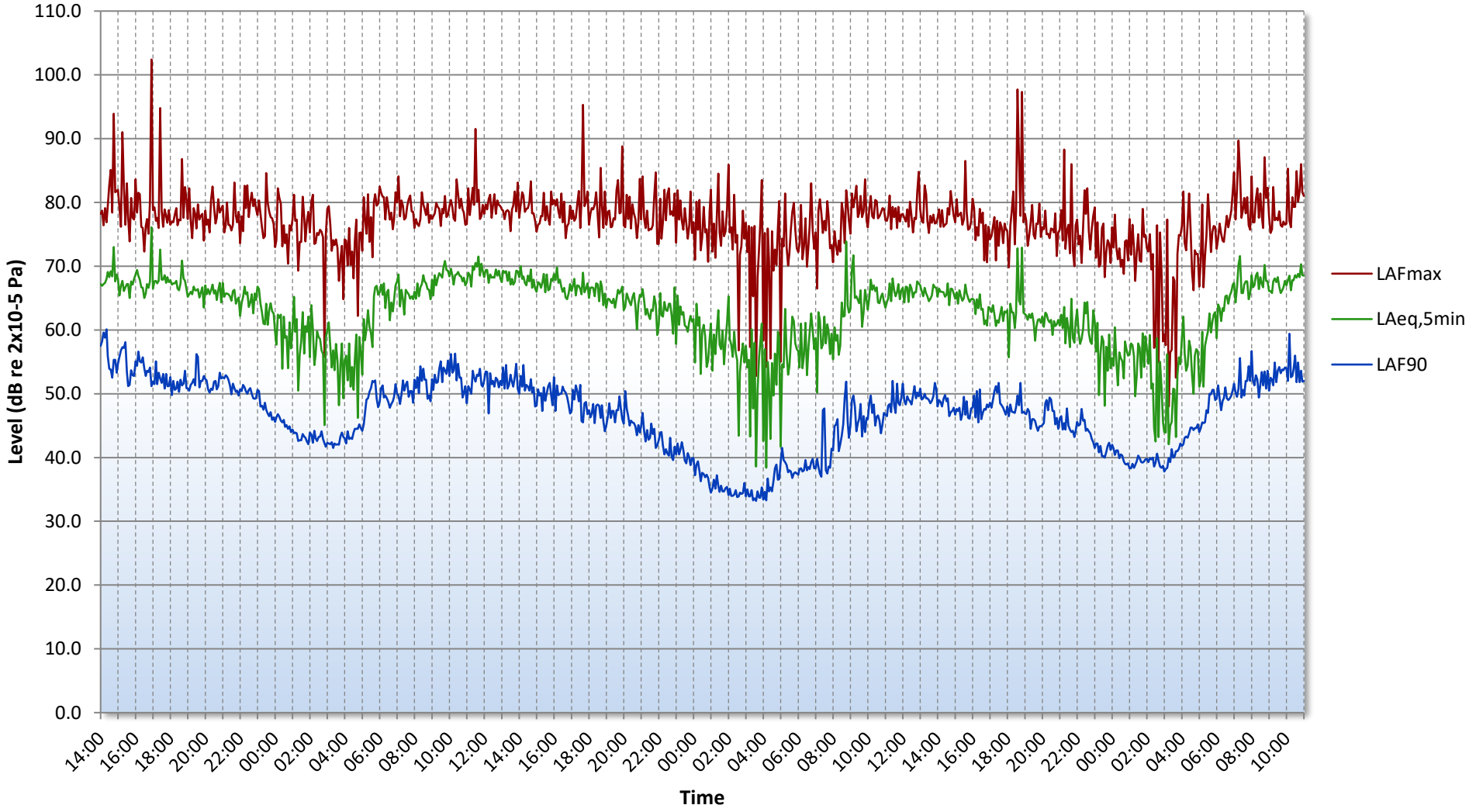

Figure 31718.TH1

102 COWLEY MILL ROAD, LONDON - Position 2
Environmental Time History
16/01/2026 to 19/01/2026

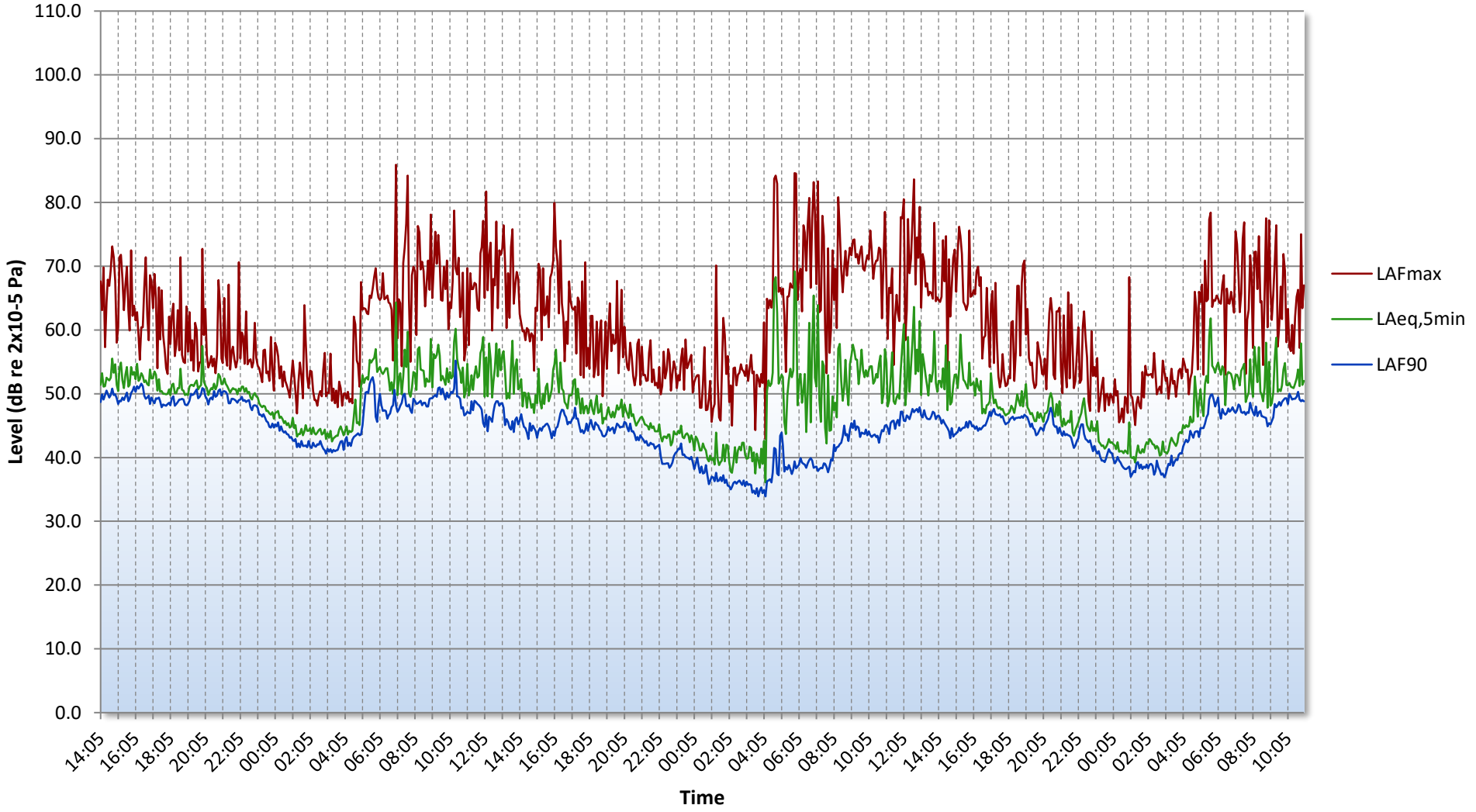

Figure 31718.TH2

APPENDIX A

GENERAL ACOUSTIC TERMINOLOGY

Decibel scale - dB

In practice, when sound intensity or sound pressure is measured, a logarithmic scale is used in which the unit is the 'decibel', dB. This is derived from the human auditory system, where the dynamic range of human hearing is so large, in the order of 10^{13} units, that only a logarithmic scale is the sensible solution for displaying such a range.

Decibel scale, 'A' weighted - dB(A)

The human ear is less sensitive at frequency extremes, below 125Hz and above 16Khz. A sound level meter models the ears variable sensitivity to sound at different frequencies. This is achieved by building a filter into the Sound Level Meter with a similar frequency response to that of the ear, an A-weighted filter where the unit is dB(A).

L_{eq}

The sound from noise sources often fluctuates widely during a given period of time. An average value can be measured, the equivalent sound pressure level L_{eq}. The L_{eq} is the equivalent sound level which would deliver the same sound energy as the actual fluctuating sound measured in the same time period.

L_{10}

This is the level exceeded for no more than 10% of the time. This parameter is often used as a "not to exceed" criterion for noise.

L_{90}

This is the level exceeded for no more than 90% of the time. This parameter is often used as a descriptor of "background noise" for environmental impact studies.

L_{max}

This is the maximum sound pressure level that has been measured over a period.

Octave Bands

In order to completely determine the composition of a sound it is necessary to determine the sound level at each frequency individually. Usually, values are stated in octave bands. The audible frequency region is divided into 11 such octave bands whose centre frequencies are defined in accordance with international standards. These centre frequencies are: 16, 31.5, 63, 125, 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 8000 and 16000 Hertz.

Environmental noise terms are defined in BS7445, *Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise*.

APPENDIX A

APPLIED ACOUSTIC TERMINOLOGY

Addition of noise from several sources

Noise from different sound sources combines to produce a sound level higher than that from any individual source. Two equally intense sound sources operating together produce a sound level which is 3dB higher than a single source and 4 sources produce a 6dB higher sound level.

Attenuation by distance

Sound which propagates from a point source in free air attenuates by 6dB for each doubling of distance from the noise source. Sound energy from line sources (e.g. stream of cars) drops off by 3dB for each doubling of distance.

Subjective impression of noise

Hearing perception is highly individualised. Sensitivity to noise also depends on frequency content, time of occurrence, duration of sound and psychological factors such as emotion and expectations. The following table is a guide to explain increases or decreases in sound levels for many scenarios.

Change in sound level (dB)	Change in perceived loudness
1	Imperceptible
3	Just barely perceptible
6	Clearly noticeable
10	About twice as loud

Transmission path(s)

The transmission path is the path the sound takes from the source to the receiver. Where multiple paths exist in parallel, the reduction in each path should be calculated and summed at the receiving point. Outdoor barriers can block transmission paths, for example traffic noise. The effectiveness of barriers is dependent on factors such as its distance from the noise source and the receiver, its height and construction.

Ground-borne vibration

In addition to airborne noise levels caused by transportation, construction, and industrial sources there is also the generation of ground-borne vibration to consider. This can lead to structure-borne noise, perceptible vibration, or in rare cases, building damage.

Sound insulation - Absorption within porous materials

Upon encountering a porous material, sound energy is absorbed. Porous materials which are intended to absorb sound are known as absorbents, and usually absorb 50 to 90% of the energy and are frequency dependent. Some are designed to absorb low frequencies, some for high frequencies and more exotic designs being able to absorb very wide ranges of frequencies. The energy is converted into both mechanical movement and heat within the material; both the stiffness and mass of panels affect the sound insulation performance.