

NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PROPOSED LIGHTWEIGHT EXTERNAL STRUCTURES

SITE ADDRESS

58 St Johns Road

REPORT TYPE

Noise Impact Assessment in Support of Planning Application

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Assessment of potential noise impact arising from open pergola seating areas and a contained acoustic dining enclosure designed to mitigate external disturbance.

PREPARED BY

KM Renovations & Surveys

REFERENCE

NR-58SJ-001

STATUS

For Planning Submission

1. INTRODUCTION

This Noise Impact Assessment has been prepared in support of the proposed lightweight external structures at 58 St Johns Road. The purpose of this report is to assess the potential impact of the development on the surrounding environment, with particular focus on noise generation and mitigation.

The site is located within a busy urban setting, characterised by an active road network and surrounding mixed-use activity. As such, the baseline noise environment is already influenced by existing traffic movement, pedestrian activity, and general day-to-day operations within the area.

Given this context, it is important to evaluate how the proposed development interacts with the existing acoustic environment, rather than considering it in isolation.

The proposal introduces a combination of open pergola seating areas and a contained dining enclosure, both of which have been carefully designed to manage and control noise output. The open pergola areas are external in nature and consistent with the existing outdoor character of the site, while the enclosed structure incorporates acoustic panel systems specifically intended to limit sound transmission.

The purpose of this report is therefore to assess the existing noise environment, evaluate the potential noise impact arising from the proposed use, demonstrate how the design and material choices mitigate noise disturbance, and confirm that the proposal does not give rise to unacceptable harm to neighbouring amenity.

It is also important to note that the revised scheme has been developed in response to prior concerns, with particular emphasis on reducing scale, controlling activity zones, and introducing acoustic measures where required.

Overall, the report seeks to provide a clear and reasoned assessment demonstrating that the proposed development is appropriate within its context, and that any potential noise impacts are suitably controlled and proportionate to the existing environment.

2. BASELINE NOISE LEVELS

The baseline noise environment at the site has been assessed based on site observations and surrounding context. The property is positioned adjacent to a busy road, which contributes a consistent level of background noise from vehicular movement, including cars, buses, and general traffic flow throughout the day and evening periods.

In addition to road noise, the surrounding area reflects a typical mixed-use suburban environment, where ambient sound levels are influenced by pedestrian activity, nearby residential occupation, and general day-to-day operations. As such, the site is not considered to be within a low-noise or sensitive acoustic setting.

Existing conditions on site already include semi-enclosed external seating areas. These are currently formed using lightweight structures with plastic sheeting and zip-line style enclosures, which are not fully sealed. As a result, sound generated within these areas is able to dissipate freely into the surrounding environment.

It is also noted that decorative lighting and temporary boundary treatments are installed, further indicating that the existing use of the space is already external in nature. The current arrangement does not provide any significant acoustic containment, and therefore represents a worst-case baseline condition in terms of noise breakout.

The introduction of the proposed development, which incorporates acoustic panel systems within the enclosed dining structure, represents an improvement over the existing situation. These panels are specifically designed to reduce sound transmission and provide a degree of noise attenuation that is not currently present on site.

Overall, the baseline noise levels are already elevated due to the site's proximity to a busy road and existing external use. The proposed scheme, through the introduction of partial enclosure and acoustic treatment, is expected to maintain or improve the current noise environment rather than worsen it.

3. NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The potential noise impact of the proposed development has been assessed in the context of the existing baseline conditions. The site is already subject to elevated ambient noise levels due to its proximity to a busy roadway and surrounding activity, which reduces the relative impact of additional noise sources introduced by the proposal.

The proposed use consists of a combination of open pergola seating areas and a contained dining enclosure. The pergola areas are external and dispersed, meaning that any noise generated is not concentrated and will dissipate naturally into the surrounding environment. This is consistent with the current use of the site and does not introduce a new form of noise generation.

The enclosed dining structure has been specifically designed to control noise breakout through the use of acoustic panel systems. These panels will provide a level of sound attenuation that is not currently present on site, reducing the transmission of internal noise to the surrounding area.

In comparison to the existing situation, where plastic sheeting and temporary enclosures allow sound to escape freely, the proposed development represents a more controlled acoustic environment. This results in a reduction in peak noise breakout and improved management of sound within the site boundary.

Given the nature of the surrounding environment, including traffic noise and general urban activity, any additional noise generated by the proposed use is unlikely to be distinguishable or result in a material increase in overall noise levels.

Overall, the proposed development is not expected to give rise to significant adverse noise impacts. The combination of dispersed external areas and a partially enclosed acoustic structure ensures that noise levels remain proportionate to the existing environment and do not result in unacceptable harm to neighbouring amenity.

4. NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES

A range of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the proposed development to ensure that noise generation is appropriately controlled and does not result in adverse impact on the surrounding environment.

The primary mitigation measure is the introduction of an enclosed dining structure incorporating acoustic panel systems. These panels are specifically selected to reduce sound transmission and contain noise within the structure, thereby limiting breakout to neighbouring areas.

In contrast to the existing arrangement, which utilises lightweight plastic sheeting and zip-style enclosures that do not provide acoustic resistance, the proposed acoustic panels offer a substantial improvement in noise containment.

The layout of the development also contributes to noise mitigation. The use of three separate pergola structures ensures that external seating is distributed across the site, preventing the concentration of noise in a single location and allowing sound to dissipate naturally.

The pergola areas remain open in design, which reduces reverberation and prevents amplification of sound. This approach aligns with the existing use of the site while maintaining a low-impact acoustic profile.

Additional mitigation is provided through the orientation of the structures, which are positioned to direct activity away from the most sensitive neighbouring boundaries where possible. The presence of boundary treatments and existing site features further assists in diffusing sound transmission.

Operational controls may also be implemented as part of the management of the site, including reasonable limits on amplified music, supervision of external areas, and general good practice to minimise disturbance.

Overall, the combination of physical design measures and operational management ensures that noise levels are effectively controlled. The proposed development therefore represents an improvement over the existing situation and provides a more structured and mitigated acoustic environment.

5. CONCLUSION

This Noise Impact Assessment has considered the existing site conditions, the proposed development, and the potential effects on the surrounding environment. The site is already subject to elevated background noise levels due to its proximity to a busy roadway and general urban activity.

The current arrangement, which includes semi-enclosed areas formed using plastic sheeting and temporary structures, provides minimal acoustic containment and represents a worst-case scenario in terms of noise breakout.

The proposed development introduces a more controlled and considered design through the use of acoustic panel systems within the enclosed dining area, alongside dispersed open pergola structures. This combination ensures that noise is both contained where necessary and allowed to dissipate naturally where appropriate.

As a result, the development is not expected to give rise to any significant increase in noise levels. On the contrary, the introduction of acoustic measures is likely to improve the existing situation by reducing uncontrolled noise breakout.

Taking all factors into account, it is concluded that the proposed development will not result in unacceptable harm to neighbouring amenity. The scheme is therefore considered to be acceptable from a noise and acoustic perspective and suitable for approval.