

62-64 CHURCHWAY LONDON NW1 1LT

Environmental Noise Survey and Noise Impact Assessment Report

14 July 2023

Client:

ABP Architectural Services Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to submit a prior approval application for the conversion of the two commercial units into two residential flats, at 62-64 Churchway, London.

The site currently has several established uses, including residential.

Quantum Acoustics Ltd have been appointed to undertake an environmental noise survey and subsequently prepare a detailed Noise Impact Assessment of commercial noise to accompany the application, in accordance with relevant planning policy and guidance.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The location of 62-64 Churchway, London is shown below.

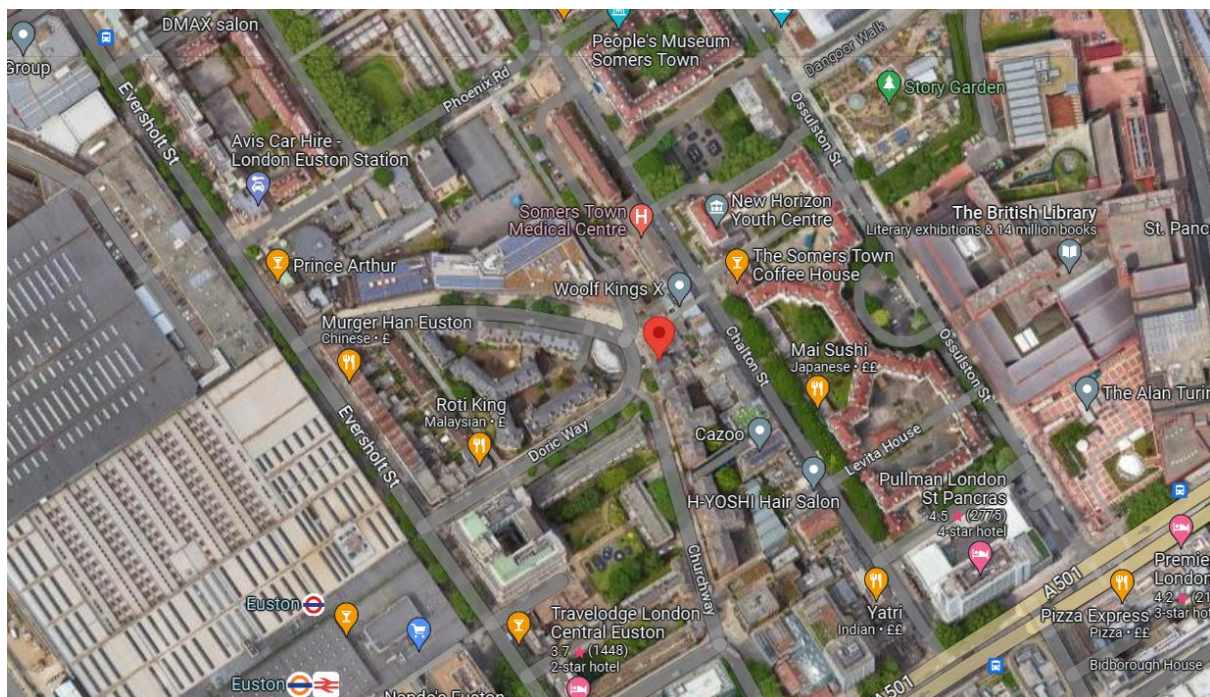


Figure 1. Site Plan (Google Imagery 2023, The GeoInformation Group)

The surrounding area is residential and some commercial uses.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE SURVEY

An unmanned fully automated environmental noise survey was undertaken from 21 June 2023 to 22 June 2023.

Weather conditions for most of the survey were dry with light winds and therefore deemed suitable for the measurement of environmental noise.

3.1 Measurement Positions

The sound level meters were located at:

Position 1 - 3m above ground level 1m in front of the front facade overlooking Doric Way.

Position 2 - 2nd floor level at 1m from the rear façade.



Figure 2. Site Measurement Position (Google Imagery 2023, The GeoInformation Group)

3.2 Equipment

The details of the equipment used for the survey are presented within the following table.

Description	Manufacturer	Type	Serial Number
Type 1 Sound Level Meters	Svantek	971A	124647 124770
Acoustic Calibrator	Svantek	SV 33B	125699

The sound level meters were located within environmental cases. The microphones were connected to the sound level meters with a microphone extension cable and fitted with a windshield.

The sound level meters, including the extension cables were calibrated prior to and on completion of the survey. No significant calibration drift was found to have occurred.

4.0 SURVEY FINDINGS

The following section uses the following acoustic terms:

A-weighted noise levels are frequency-weighted in a way that approximates the frequency response of the human ear and allows sound levels to be expressed as a single figure value. The A-weighted level is therefore a measure of the subjective loudness, rather than physical amplitude.

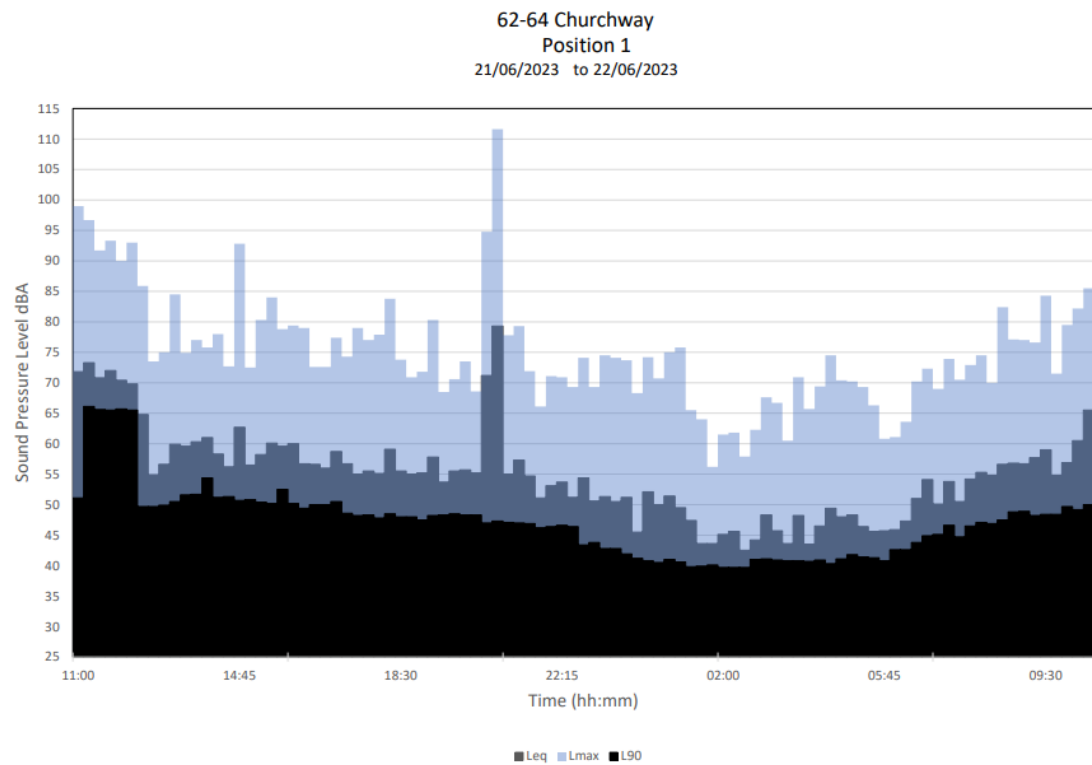
L₉₀ is the noise levels that is exceeded for 90% of the measurement period. It reflects the quiet periods during that time and is often referred to as the "background noise level". It is often used as a basis for setting noise emission criteria.

L_{eq} is the level of a notional continuous sound that would deliver the same sound energy as the actual fluctuating sound over the measurement period. This may be thought of as the "average" level during the measurement period.

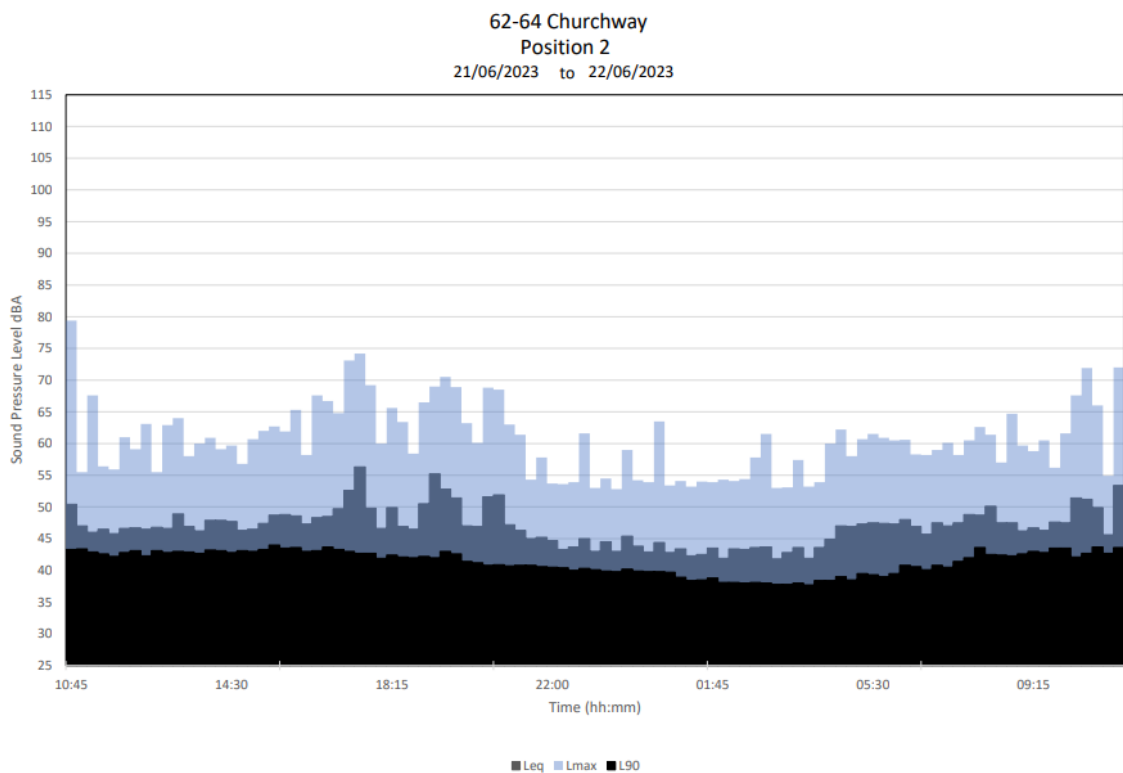
L_{max} is the maximum noise level during the measurement period.

4.1 Noise Level Results

The noise survey results are presented in the graph below, showing the A-weighted L₉₀, L_{eq} and L_{max} noise levels measured during each consecutive 15-minute period of the survey.



Graph 23182/G1



Graph 23182/G2

The measured daytime L_{Aeq} (16 hour) and night-time L_{Aeq} (8 hour) are presented in the table below:

Leq Noise Levels		
Position	Daytime (07:00 – 23:00)	Night-time (23:00 – 07:00)
Position 1	66 dBA	49 dBA
Position 2	49 dBA	44 dBA

During the periods we were present at site, the noise climate was local road traffic, in addition there was some temporary noise from local construction sites. No sources of commercial noise were noted.

5.0 RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES AND NOISE ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

5.1 Noise Policy Statement for England

The Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) was published in March 2010. The NPSE is the primary statement of noise policy for England and applies to all forms of noise other than occupational noise. The NPSE sets out the long term vision of Government noise policy which is to:

“Promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.”

“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 Explanatory Note to the NPSE introduces guidance to assist in defining the adverse impacts:

NOEL – No Observed Effect Level

This is the level below which no effect can be detected and below which there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise.

LOAEL – Lowest Observable 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.

These categories are further discussed in the Planning Practice Guidance section below.

The NPSE acknowledges that it is not possible to have a single objective noise level based measure that is mandatory and applicable to all sources of noise in all situations.

5.2 Planning Practice Guidance

The government's Planning Practice Guidance is a web based resource and provide advice on various issues, including noise (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2>). The advice (March 2014, latest update July 2019) states in the context of considering when noise is relevant to planning, "noise needs to be considered when new development may create additional noise, or would be sensitive to the prevailing acoustic environment (including any anticipated changes to that environment from activities that are permitted but not yet commenced)."

The Planning Practice Guidance pages also include more explanation of the effect level categories noted above, providing an explanatory Noise Exposure Hierarchy Table, which explores how actions such as a requirement for noise mitigation, or prevention of a development, might be assessed with respect to whether noise levels are considered above the category thresholds.

Response	Examples of outcomes	Increasing effect level	Action
No Observed Effect Level			
Not present	No effect	No Observed Effect	No specific measures required

Present and not intrusive	Noise can be heard but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.	No Observed Adverse Effect	No specific measures required
Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and intrusive	Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance.	Observed Adverse Effect	Mitigate and reduce to a minimum
Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level			
Present and disruptive	The noise causes a material change in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area.	Significant Observed Adverse Effect	Avoid
Present and very disruptive	Extensive and regular changes in behaviour and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress or physiological effects, e.g. regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable hard, e.g. auditory and non-auditory.	Unacceptable Adverse Effect	Prevent

5.4 National Planning Policy Framework

The following paragraphs are from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF was revised in February 2019.

“180. 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:

a) 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;

b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.

182. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or ‘agent of change’) should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.”

5.5 Permitted Development

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order 2021 provides details of permitted development in Part 3 of Schedule 2 – Class MA.

Conditions

MA.2.

(2) before beginning development under Class MA, the developer must apply to the local planning authority for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to—; (d) impacts of noise from commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the development;

6.0 Noise Impact Assessment

For the prior notification application, it is only necessary to consider noise impact from commercial premises upon the proposed residential dwellings.

Based upon our site visits and survey results there was no significant noise from any of the existing commercial properties.

The operation of all the current commercial properties including the Public House in Chalton Street is fettered by their location near to existing residential properties. The proposed application would not further fetter the operation of the commercial properties.

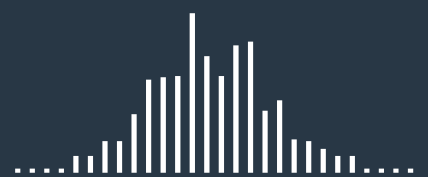
7.0 CONCLUSIONS

A fully automated environmental noise level survey has been undertaken.

The results have been used to assess the suitability of the site for residential purposes, in accordance with relevant national and local planning policy/guidance.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order 2021, impacts of noise from commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the development has been assessed.

The noise impact from the commercial premises is low and the proposed residential development would not fetter the continued operation of any commercial premises.



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