



## Noise Assessment – Maida Vale TE – Roof Units

Report: 4961-1-R1 – Maida Vale TE, 138 Maida Vale, London, W9 1QD.

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## Table of Contents

1.	Introduction .....	3
2.	Scope.....	3
3.	Site Description.....	4
4.	Survey Information .....	7
5.	Survey Results.....	9
6.	Noise Prediction.....	11
7.	Noise Assessment .....	14
8.	Conclusion.....	17
9.	Appendix.....	18

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4961-1-R1	26/11/2024	Initial Report	
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## 1. Introduction

Cllover Acoustics Ltd has been appointed by EMCOR Group (UK) Ltd to carry out a noise prediction assessment in preparation for cooling equipment with associated external dry air coolers to be installed at the Maida Vale Telephone Exchange, 138 Maida Vale, London, W9 1QD. The external dry air coolers are to be located on the roof area of the exchange building.

An extended background noise survey has been carried out during a representative 4 day- and night-time period commencing on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in order to establish the existing background levels prior to the installation of the units.

The purpose of this report is to provide a noise prediction of the proposed installations and complete a noise impact assessment with reference to achieving the local authority planning requirements.

## 2. Scope

### **BS4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound.**

British Standard BS4142 provides a method for rating sound from industrial and commercial sources affecting people inside or outside dwellings or premises used for residential purposes. An initial estimate of the significance of the sound from the industrial/commercial nature can be assessed by subtracting the measured background noise level from the rating level (this is the specific sound level of the source with any corrections or penalties for distinctive acoustic characteristics).

Typically, the greater the difference, the greater the magnitude of the impact.

- A difference of around +10dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- A difference of around +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.
- The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.

### 3. Site Description

Maida Vale TE is a large sized telephone exchange building situated in Maida Vale, London. The site is located on the *A5 Maida Vale* and the area is mixed commercial and residential usage. The external dry air coolers are to be located on the fifth-floor flat roof area towards the south-western aspect of the building. The units will provide cooling to critical data equipment within the exchange building. The proposed equipment includes:

- 12 x Airsys CMEH50.BT Dry Air Coolers
- 4 x Airsys CMEH40.BT Dry Air Coolers
- 6 x PUG20 Pumps Units (*Located within plant room*)
- 4 x PUG10 Pumps Units (*Located within plant room*)

Extended background sound measurements were conducted at a location representative of the nearest noise sensitive receptors to the proposed installations. Subjectively the existing background sound was moderate with road traffic noise from the *A5 Maida Vale* and the surrounding area.

Figure 1 shows the site location, proposed units, proposed acoustic screen and background monitoring location. Figure 2 shows the proposed roof layout plan. Figure 3 shows the existing elevation plan.



Figure 1 – Site Location with external coolers and background monitoring location



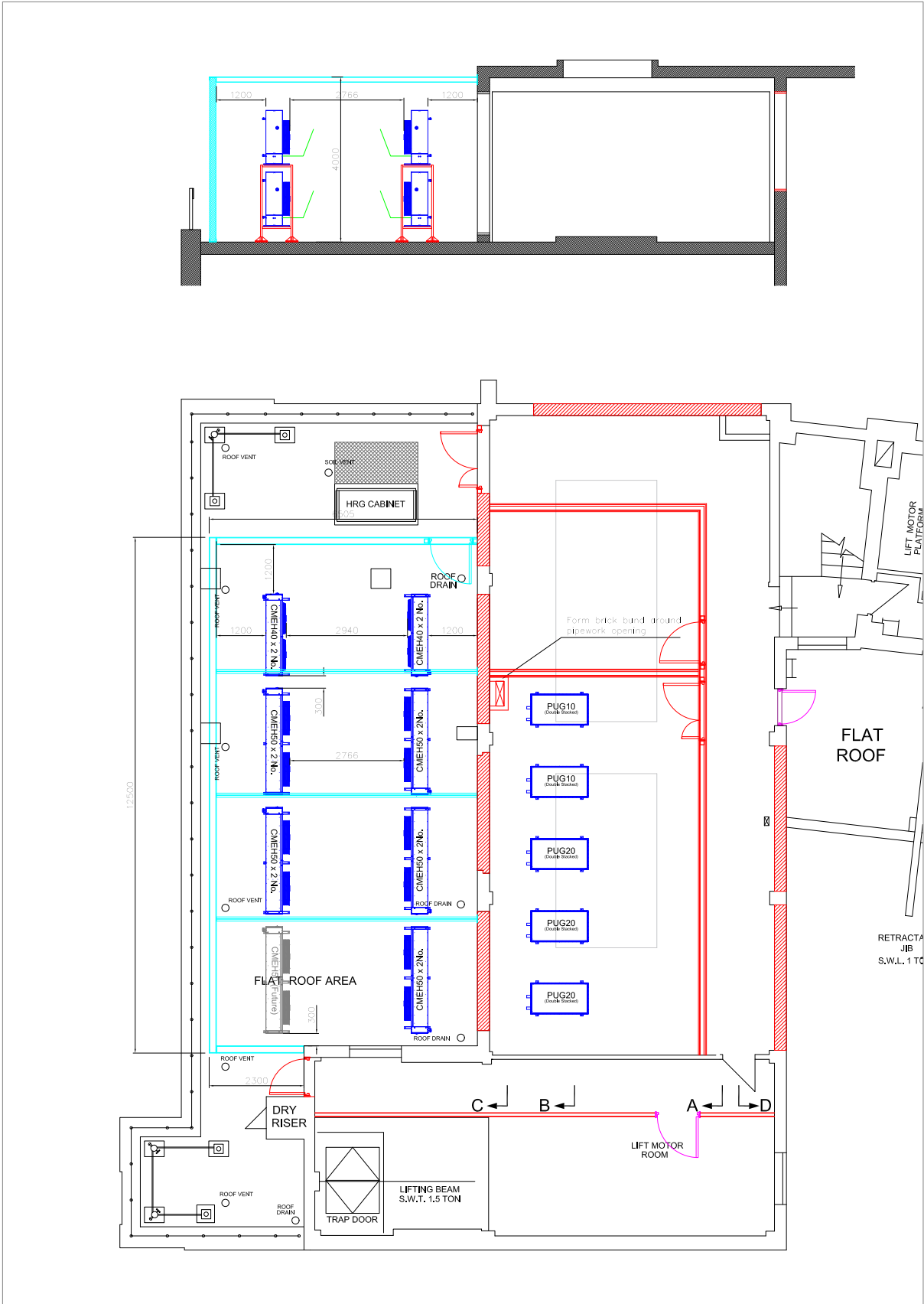


Figure 2 – Maida Vale TE – Proposed Roof Layout Plan

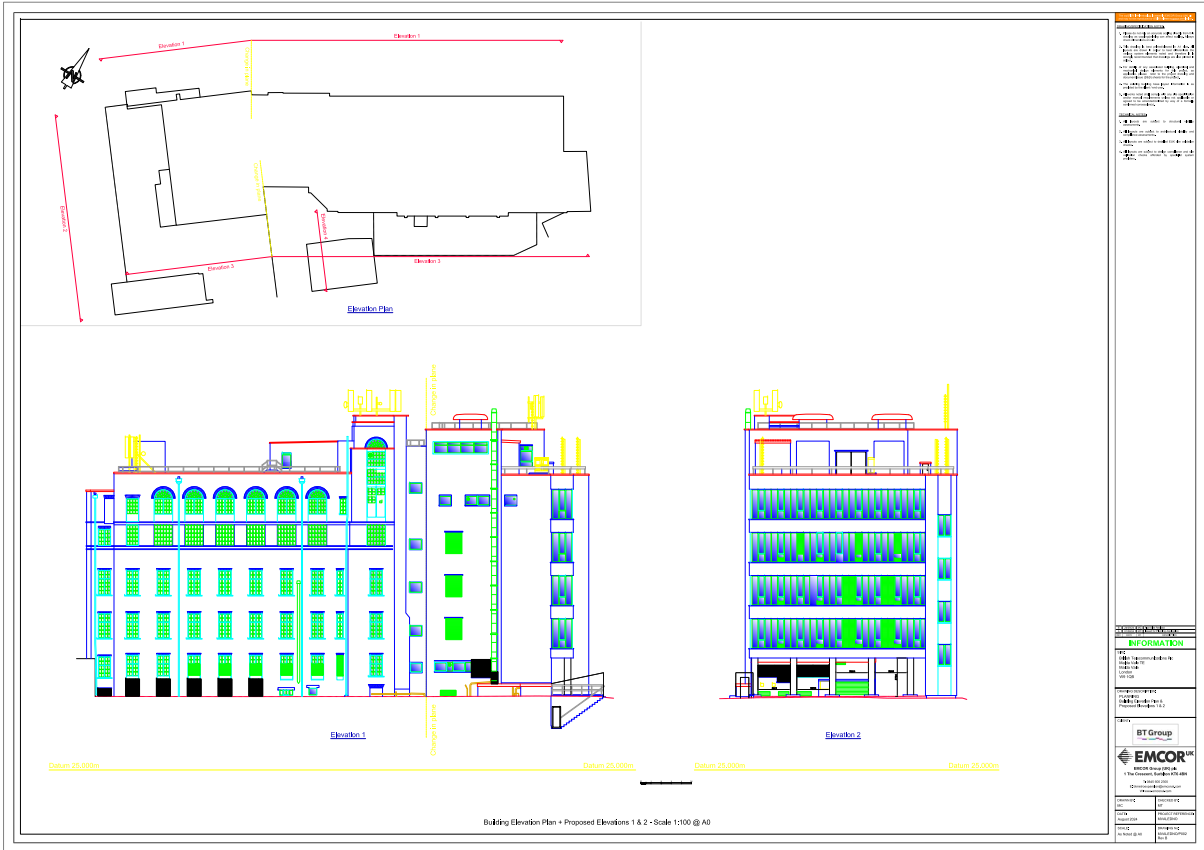


Figure 3 – Maida Vale TE – Elevation Plan

## 4. Survey Information

### Measurement Instrumentation

The measurement instrumentation used on the survey was as follows:

Equipment	Manufacturer & Type	Serial Number	Calibration Certificate
Sound Level Meter	Norsonic 139	1392706	22/1652
Acoustic Calibrator	Norsonic 1251	32856	24/1333

The equipment was calibrated to comply with section 4.2 of BS7445:1-2003 before and after the surveys. The calibration was as follows:

Meter	Serial	Before		After	
Norsonic 139	1392706	114.1	-27.2	114.1	-27.2

### Measurements & Timescales

During the background survey 15-minute measurements were made during typical day- and night-time periods. The survey commenced on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at a location representative of the nearest sensitive receivers to the exchange building at roof level. Survey monitoring was conducted over an aggregated 4-day monitoring period.

The following measurements are reported:  $L_{Aeq,T}$ ,  $L_{A90,T}$ ,  $L_{Amax,T}$

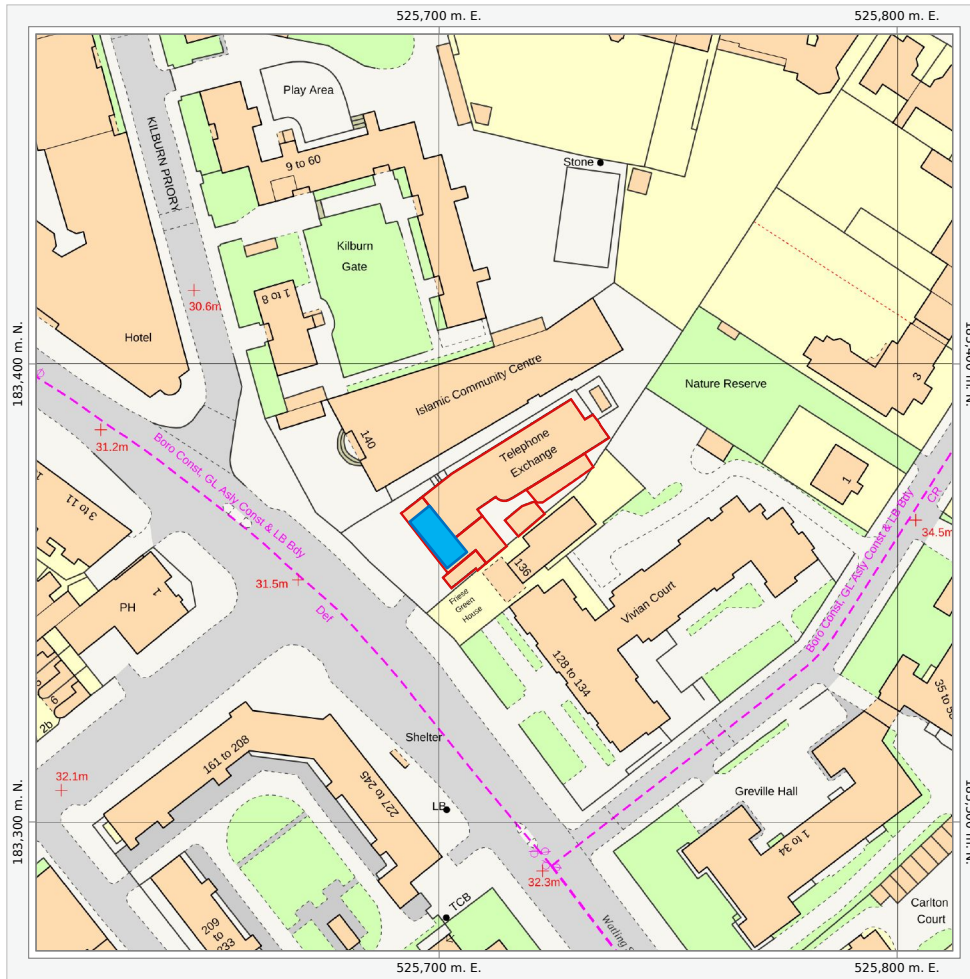
The measurements and their interpretation shall be in accordance with BS 7445: Parts 1 and 2. All sound pressure levels are in dB (re 20 $\mu$ Pa).

### Meteorology

The daily average temperature was 18°C with a low of 12°C and high of 24°C. Adverse weather conditions where either precipitation or average wind speeds above 5m/s occurred are indicated on the background monitoring summary. These periods have been excluded from the  $L_{A90}$  background averages.

### Position of Monitoring Equipment

The monitoring equipment was mounted at a location representative of the opposite receivers. Figure 4 shows the site location plan with the location of the proposed external coolers.

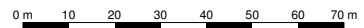


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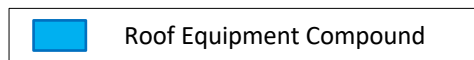
Ground Scale: 1:1250  
Bottom Left: 525612 183272 Top Right: 525812 183472  
Center: 525712 183372  
Area: 200m x 200m

Maida Vale TE

**Stanfords**  
EST. 1853



Figure 4 – Site Location Plan with Proposed Exhaust Flue





## 5. Survey Results

### Background Sound Monitoring Summary

The following table shows the summary of the ambient sound levels monitored. The reported results represent the free field sound pressure levels at the receivers.

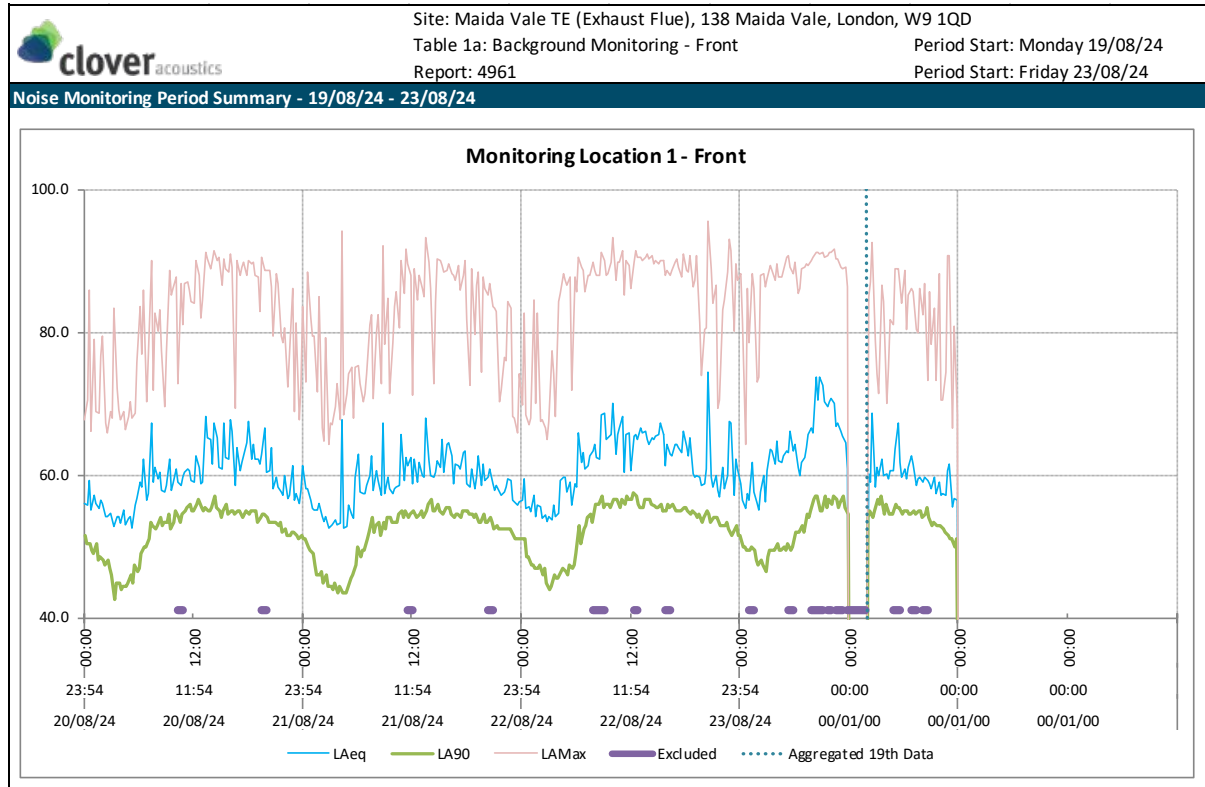


Table 1a – Monitoring Position 1 – Background Sound Measurements

### Background L<sub>A90</sub> Sound Summary

The modal average background L<sub>A90</sub> sound level during the daytime hours was 55dB L<sub>A90,07:00-23:00</sub>. The median average background L<sub>A90</sub> sound level during the night-time hours was 48dB L<sub>A90,23:00-07:00</sub>. A median average has been considered for the night-time period for a more conservative approach than model background.

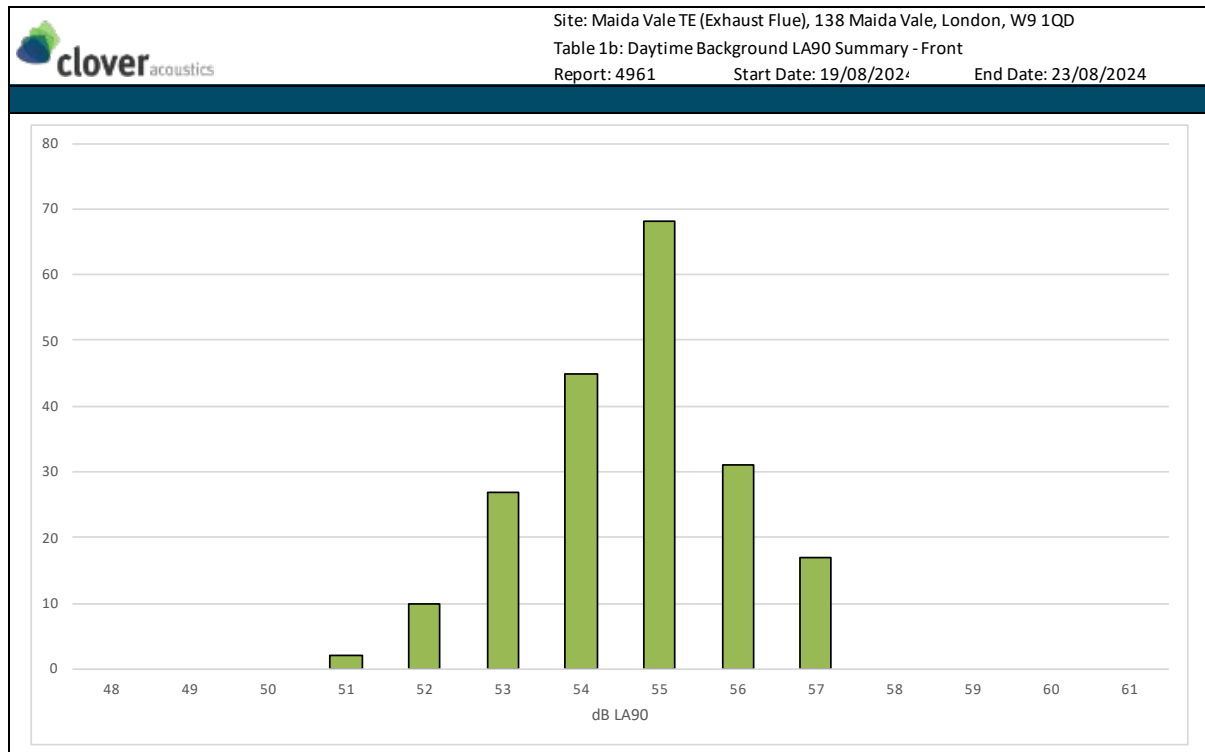


Table 1b – Monitoring Position 1 – Daytime Hours Background L<sub>A90</sub> Summary

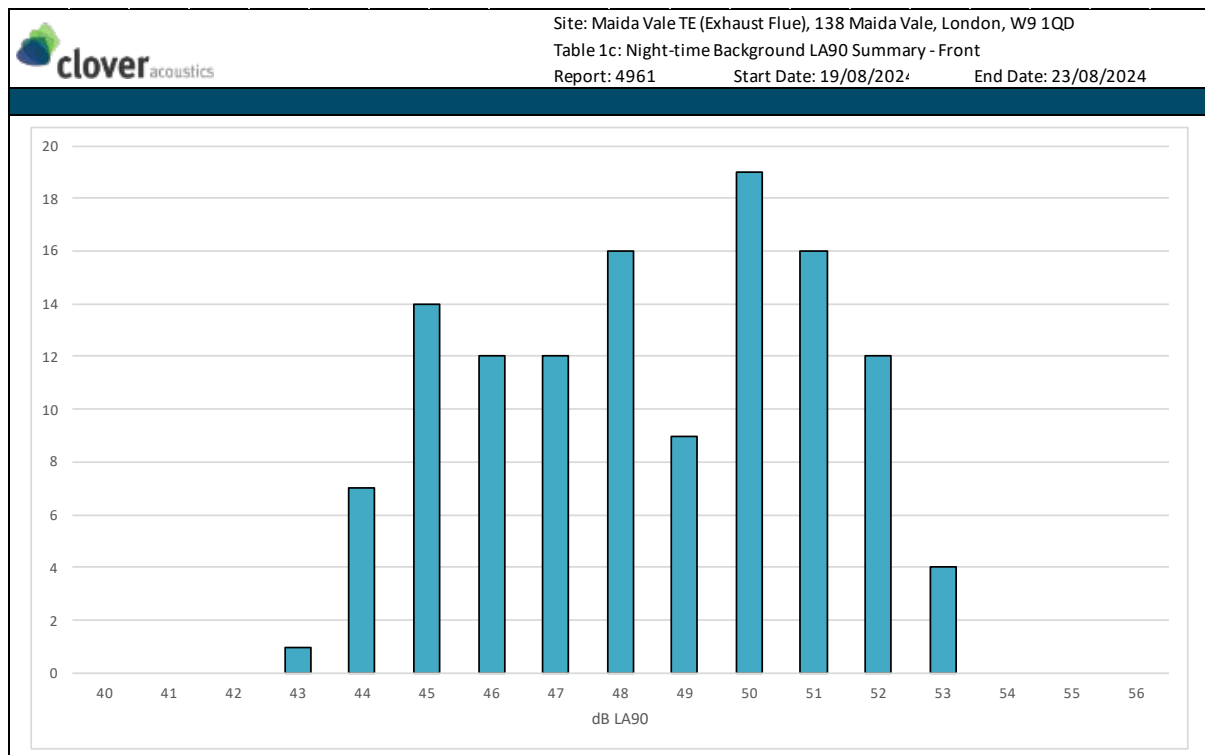


Table 1c – Monitoring Position 1 – Night-time Hours Background L<sub>A90</sub> Summary

## 6. Noise Prediction

### Noise Model Criteria

A SoundPlan noise model has been produced to predict the potential sound levels from the proposed installations at the nearest sensitive receivers. The modelling software undertakes its calculations according to ISO9613-2:1996 "Acoustics - Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors". To model the area surrounding the proposed units, an AutoCAD DXF drawing was imported to SoundPlan which is based on data provided by the Ordnance Survey. The ground absorption between the source and receivers has been modelled as hard ground. The buildings have been modelled as hard reflective.

The noise model source levels have been based on the following:

- 12 x CMEH50.BT Units – 100% Operational Speed - Sound Pressure Level 72dB(A) at 2m
- 4 x CMEH40.BT Units – 100% Operational Speed - Sound Pressure Level 70dB(A) at 2m
  - Unit directivity corrections have been applied for horizontal discharge.
  - On-time corrections have not been applied.
- 6 x PUG20 Pumps 70% Max – Sound Pressure Level 46dB(A) at 1m
- 4 x PUG10 Pumps 70% Max – Sound Pressure Level 46dB(A) at 1m
- *The pump units are to be located within a plant room area and have been considered low noise. The pump units have been considered unlikely to cause adverse impact and excluded from the noise prediction.*

The proposed drawings include for a 4m high acoustic screen to be located around the perimeter of the roof area which will provide screening to the units which has been included within the model.

BS4142 allows for an on-time correction, the reference time period for daytime is 1-hour and for night-time is 15-min. The modelled sources have been assumed in constant operation during reference time periods to represent a worst-case scenario.

The receiver points are modelled at each floor height for the individual buildings. The highest case predicted level at each receiver building is presented below. As the outdoor space would not be used for amenity, the incident noise level on the receiver point has been assessed.

### Proposed External Coolers – Predicted Specific Level Summary

NSR	Description	Usage	Elevation	Floor	dB(A)
1	Vivian Court	Residential	NW	F7	37
2	243 Maida Vale	Residential	NE	F4	37
3	Friese Green House	Residential	NW	F4	36
4	Marriott Hotel	Residential	SE	F5	35
5	Islamic Community Centre	Worship	SE	F1	34
6	Queens Arms (Upper)	Residential	NE	F1	34
7	1-8, Kilburn Gate	Residential	E	F2	32
8	9-60, Kilburn Gate	Residential	S	F4	32

## Specific Noise Level Maps

Figures 5 and 6 show the SoundPlan model map with the predicted specific sound level emissions from the proposed plant equipment. The grid noise map levels are presented at 20m height to represent the source emissions at the upper floor receiver heights. The individual receiver point levels are predicted at the appropriate receiver heights.

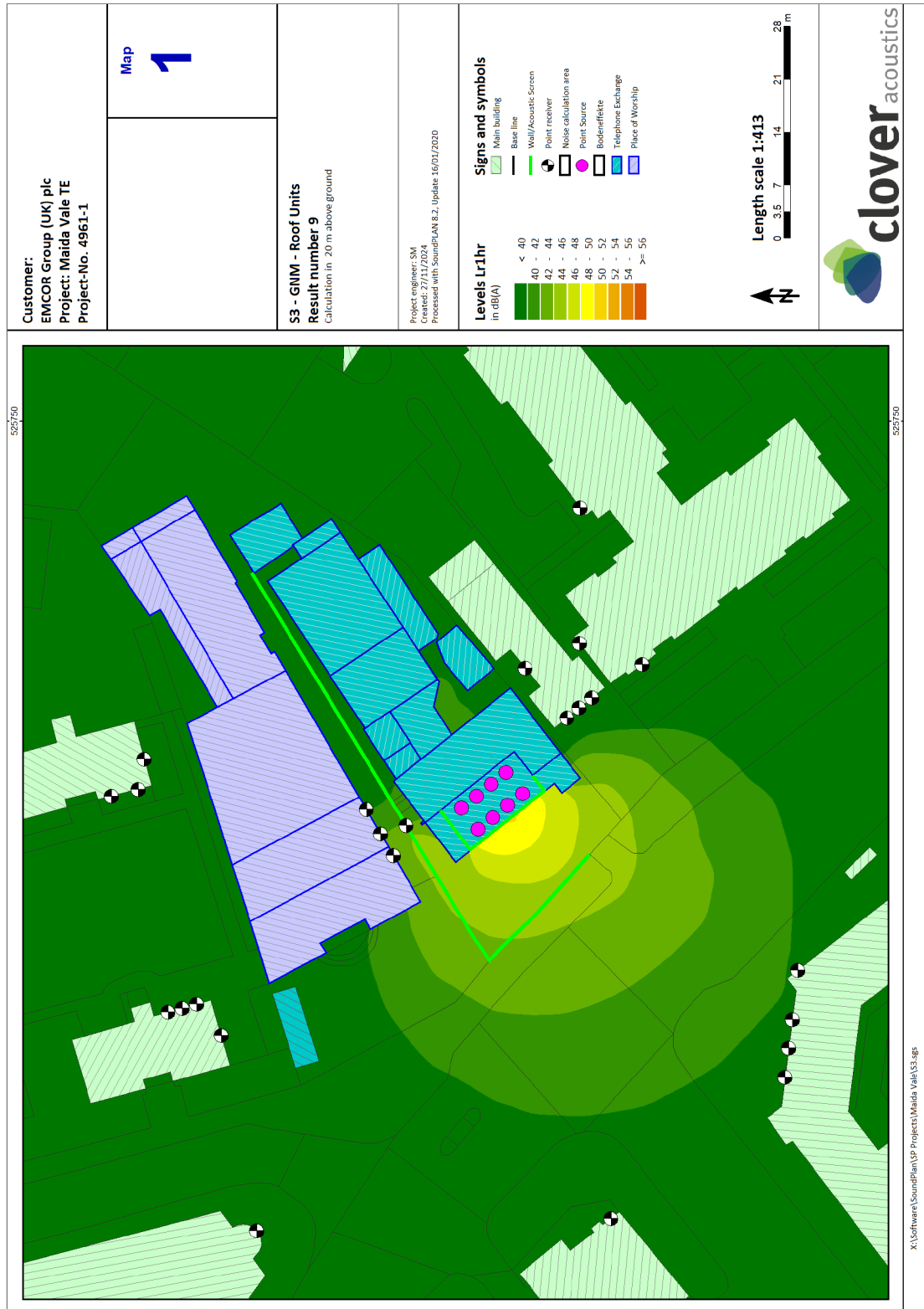
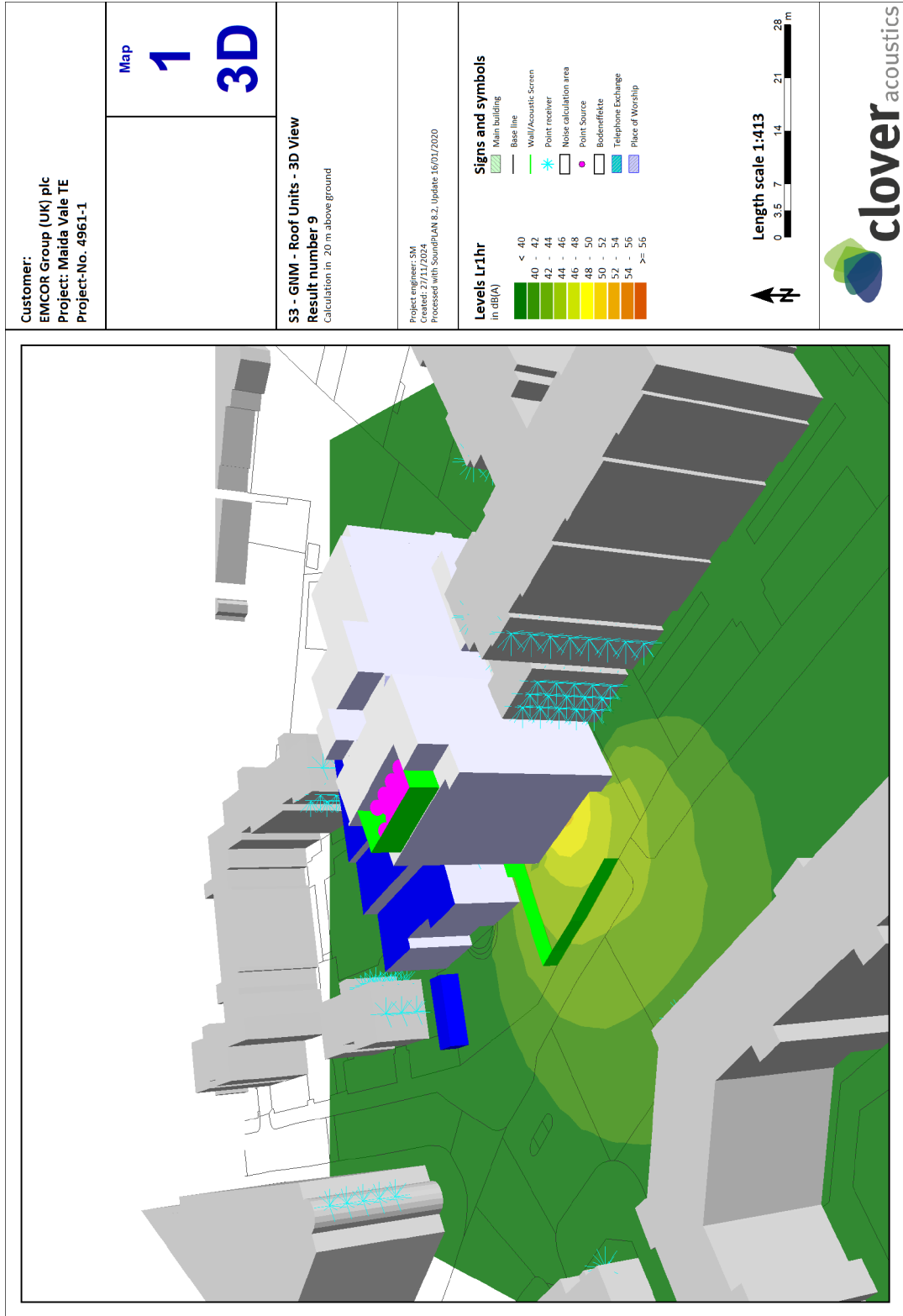


Figure 5 – Grid Noise Map – Proposed Roof Coolers




X:\Software\SoundPlan\SP Projects\Maida Vale\53.ags

Figure 6 – Grid Noise Map 3D Render – Proposed Roof Coolers



## 7. Noise Assessment

### BS4142:2014 – Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound

#### *Noise Source Description*

The specific source levels and frequency data for the proposed units are based on manufacturers technical data and library source data.

- 12 x CMEH50.BT Units – 100% Operational Speed - Sound Pressure Level 72dB(A) at 2m
- 4 x CMEH40.BT Units – 100% Operational Speed - Sound Pressure Level 70dB(A) at 2m

#### *Predicted Specific Source Level Summary*

A SoundPlan noise prediction model has been calculated at the nearest sensitive receivers. The highest case predicted source level at the nearest sensitive receivers is as follows:

NSR	Description	Elevation	Floor	dB(A)
1	Vivian Court	NW	F7	37

#### *Acoustic Feature Correction*

BS4142:2014 allows a character correction to be applied to the specific sound level where acoustic features are present at the assessment location. BS4142 considers that certain acoustic features can increase impact of a new noise source over that expected from a straight comparison between the specific noise level and the background noise level.

These features and the penalties applied to calculate a rating level when assessing subjectively as defined by BS4142 are as follows:

*Tonality:* For sound ranging from not tonal to prominently tonal the Joint Nordic Method gives a correction of between 0 and +6dB for tonality.

- 2dB for a tone that is just perceptible
- 4dB where it is clearly perceptible
- 6dB where it is highly perceptible

*Impulsivity:* A correction of up to 9dB can be applied for sound that is highly impulsive, considering both the rapidity of change in sound level and the overall change in sound level.

- 3dB just perceptible impulsivity
- 6dB clearly perceptible impulsivity
- 9db highly perceptible impulsivity

*Distinctive:* Where the specific sound features characteristics that are neither tonal nor impulsive, though otherwise are readily distinctive from the residual acoustic environment a 3dB penalty can be applied.

*Intermittency:* Where the specific sound has identifiable on/off conditions the specific sound level should be representative of the time period of length equal to the reference time period which contain the greatest amount of 'on' time. If the intermittency is readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment, a penalty of 3dB can be applied.

*Corrections Applied:* Subjectively, other similar installations have been considered broadband and comparing sample measurements of similar units against the objective method for assessing the audibility of tones in sound: One-third octave method from BS4142:2014 Annex C considered the units were not tonal. Typically air handling equipment would not be considered impulsive. If the units were to be considered distinctive at the receivers location it prudent to include a 3dB penalty.

**Site Context**

The dominant noise source is road traffic noise from the surrounding area. A general background hum is apparent in the close vicinity of the exchange building. The area is of mixed commercial and residential usage in an urban environment.

**Screening Attenuation**

Screening to prevent line of sight to the source would reduce noise levels at the receiver. In this instance, screening from the proposed 4m acoustic screen will offer screening attenuation which has been replicated within the noise model.

**On-time Correction**

It is unlikely all sources would simultaneously be at maximum duty and in constant operation. BS4142 allows for an on-time correction but for the assessment purposes all equipment has been assessed in constant operation to represent a worst-case scenario.

**BS4142 Assessment 1 – Highest Predicted Receiver Level – 16 x External Roof Coolers**

The noise model predicts a highest case receiver level of 37dB(A) at the Vivian Court receivers. With the above considerations this would predict a rating level of 40dB(A) which is -15dB below the *daytime average* measured background sound level and -8dB below the *night-time average* measured background sound level.

<b>BS4142 Assessment 1 – Vivian Court</b>		<b>dB(A)</b>
Predicted Specific Sound Level at Receiver		37
Acoustic Feature Correction		3
Rating Level at Assessment Location		40
Average Daytime Background Level $L_{A90}$		55
Rating Below Daytime Background		-15
Average Night-time Background Level $L_{A90}$		48
Rating Below Night-time Background		-8

**Assessment Context**

BS4142 advises, *“The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context”*.

The assessment predicts a rating level significantly below the existing background sound levels where it is likely the specific source will not have an adverse impact on the nearby receivers.

BS4142 advises the importance of considering the context in interpreting assessment results. Context consideration should be given to the prediction is based on a worst-case with all units in maximum operation. It is unlikely that the equipment would operate at maximum capacity during the late-night periods. Maximum operation if it was to occur would be more likely to occur during daytime periods when ambient temperatures are higher, and usage load on the exchange is increased.

During night-time, when cooling requirements are reduced, it is reasonable to assume that the equipment would not frequently need to operate at maximum speed.

## 8. Conclusion

A noise prediction assessment has been carried out at Maida Vale TE, 138 Maida Vale, London, W9 1QD to assess the impact of proposed dry air coolers to be installed on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor roof area towards the south-western aspect of the building.

A prediction assessment has been made in accordance with BS4142:2014 which has shown that the proposed units result in a predicted rating level of -15dB below the average measured daytime background sound levels and +8dB below the average measured night-time background sound levels

According to BS4142:2014:

- *“The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context”*
- *“A difference of around +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context”.*
- *“A difference of around +10dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context”.*

Considerations for the context of the assessment have been provided.



**Steve McKeever** AMIOA  
Acoustic Consultant

## 9. Appendix

### Glossary of Terms

#### **Specific Noise Source**

The noise source under investigation for assessing the likelihood of complaints.

#### **Specific Noise Level, $L_{Aeq,T}$**

The equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level at the assessment position produced by the specific noise source over a given reference time interval.

#### **Rating Level, $L_{A,T}$**

The specific noise level plus any adjustment for the characteristic features of the noise.

#### **Background Noise Level, $L_{A90,T}$**

The A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise at the assessment position that is exceeded for 90 % of a given time interval, T.

#### **Residual Noise**

The ambient noise remaining at a given position in a given situation when the specific noise source is suppressed to a degree such that it does not contribute to the ambient noise.

#### **Ambient Noise**

Totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time usually composed of sound from many sources near and far.

#### **Reference Time Interval, T**

The specified interval over which an equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level is determined.

#### **$L_{Aeq,T}$**

The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level – the sound level of a notionally steady sound having the same energy as the fluctuating sound over a specified measurement period, T.

#### **$L_{A10,T}$**

The A-weighted sound level exceeded for 10% of the specified measurement period, T.

#### **$L_{Amax}$**

The highest short duration A-weighted sound level recorded during a noise event.

#### **A-Weighting**

The 'A' weighting is a correction term applied to the frequency range in order to approximate to the sensitivity of the human ear to noise. It is generally used to obtain an overall noise level from octave or third octave band frequencies.

#### **Octave Band**


A frequency band in which the upper limit of the band is twice the frequency of the lower limit.

#### **One-third-octave Band**

A frequency band in which the upper limit of the band is 1/3 times the frequency of the lower limit.



## Data Appendix

					Site: Maida Vale TE (Exhaust Flue), 138 Maida Vale, London, W9 1QD Monitoring Location: 1      Period Start: Monday 19/08/2024 Report: 4961                      Period Start: Friday 23/08/2024	
Date	Time	LAeq	LAMax	LA90	Daily Summary - 20/08/24 (Tuesday)	
20/08/24	00:00:00	56.9	86.0	50.5		
20/08/24	01:00:00	56.3	79.0	49.0		
20/08/24	02:00:00	54.8	79.4	47.6		
20/08/24	03:00:00	53.8	83.3	44.6		
20/08/24	04:00:00	53.8	69.0	44.5		
20/08/24	05:00:00	55.2	75.7	46.3		
20/08/24	06:00:00	59.6	85.9	49.0		
20/08/24	07:00:00	63.0	90.1	52.5		
20/08/24	08:00:00	59.0	83.2	53.4		
20/08/24	09:00:00	59.7	88.7	53.5		
20/08/24	10:00:00	59.6	87.8	54.3		
20/08/24	11:00:00	60.3	87.1	55.4		
20/08/24	12:00:00	60.7	90.0	55.8		
20/08/24	13:00:00	65.5	91.3	55.1		
20/08/24	14:00:00	64.6	91.4	55.8		
20/08/24	15:00:00	63.9	90.2	54.9		
20/08/24	16:00:00	65.2	91.0	54.9		
20/08/24	17:00:00	62.7	89.8	54.6		
20/08/24	18:00:00	64.7	90.1	54.9		
20/08/24	19:00:00	63.8	90.5	54.1		
20/08/24	20:00:00	61.3	88.7	53.6		
20/08/24	21:00:00	58.3	88.2	53.0		
20/08/24	22:00:00	59.2	86.1	51.9		
20/08/24	23:00:00	57.0	81.4	51.5		
Date	Time	LAeq	LAMax	LA90	Daily Summary - 20/08/24 (Tuesday)	
					<b>Daytime - 07:00 - 23:00</b>	
					Minimum dB LAeq,1hr	58      21:00:00
					Maximum dB LAeq,1hr	65      13:00:00
					dB LAeq,16hr / Rank	63      3rd
					<b>Night-time - 23:00 - 07:00</b>	
					Minimum dB LAeq,1hr	54      03:00:00
					Maximum dB LAeq,1hr	60      06:00:00
					dB LAeq,8hr / Rank	56      4th
Date	Time	LAeq	LAMax	LA90	Daily Summary - 21/08/24 (Wednesday)	
21/08/24	00:00:00	58.9	88.5	50.4		
21/08/24	01:00:00	55.4	84.9	47.1		
21/08/24	02:00:00	53.6	79.3	45.5		
21/08/24	03:00:00	53.2	72.7	44.3		
21/08/24	04:00:00	62.2	94.1	43.8		
21/08/24	05:00:00	56.6	75.2	46.0		
21/08/24	06:00:00	59.7	75.4	49.4		
21/08/24	07:00:00	60.2	82.5	52.3		
21/08/24	08:00:00	63.0	92.2	52.9		
21/08/24	09:00:00	58.3	84.8	53.5		
21/08/24	10:00:00	61.6	90.1	54.1		
21/08/24	11:00:00	61.6	91.7	54.4		
21/08/24	12:00:00	60.7	88.8	54.5		
21/08/24	13:00:00	63.9	93.2	55.0		
21/08/24	14:00:00	60.6	90.3	55.6		
21/08/24	15:00:00	63.1	90.1	55.0		
21/08/24	16:00:00	62.4	89.6	54.6		
21/08/24	17:00:00	62.3	90.1	54.6		
21/08/24	18:00:00	59.2	88.8	54.5		
21/08/24	19:00:00	60.9	88.4	54.0		
21/08/24	20:00:00	59.7	86.8	53.6		
21/08/24	21:00:00	57.9	83.4	52.6		
21/08/24	22:00:00	58.7	84.3	52.5		
21/08/24	23:00:00	56.2	74.1	51.1		
					<b>Daytime - 07:00 - 23:00</b>	
					Minimum dB LAeq,1hr	58      21:00:00
					Maximum dB LAeq,1hr	64      13:00:00
					dB LAeq,16hr / Rank	61      4th
					<b>Night-time - 23:00 - 07:00</b>	
					Minimum dB LAeq,1hr	53      03:00:00
					Maximum dB LAeq,1hr	62      04:00:00
					dB LAeq,8hr / Rank	58      3rd

Date	Time	LAeq	LAMax	LA90	Daily Summary - 22/08/24 (Thursday)
22/08/24	00:00:00	57.0	82.7	49.8	
22/08/24	01:00:00	55.6	84.6	47.3	
22/08/24	02:00:00	54.4	67.8	46.4	
22/08/24	03:00:00	54.5	77.5	45.0	
22/08/24	04:00:00	58.7	88.3	46.4	
22/08/24	05:00:00	58.1	87.8	47.0	
22/08/24	06:00:00	63.1	90.6	51.3	
22/08/24	07:00:00	62.2	89.9	53.8	
22/08/24	08:00:00	65.1	91.1	56.3	
22/08/24	09:00:00	66.4	90.0	55.8	
22/08/24	10:00:00	67.0	93.2	56.3	
22/08/24	11:00:00	65.9	91.5	56.5	
22/08/24	12:00:00	64.6	91.5	56.8	
22/08/24	13:00:00	66.0	91.0	56.0	
22/08/24	14:00:00	65.1	90.8	56.0	
22/08/24	15:00:00	65.5	90.1	55.4	
22/08/24	16:00:00	63.6	89.8	55.8	
22/08/24	17:00:00	64.5	90.9	55.1	
22/08/24	18:00:00	63.4	90.8	55.0	
22/08/24	19:00:00	59.5	90.8	54.1	
22/08/24	20:00:00	68.9	95.5	54.3	
22/08/24	21:00:00	58.4	86.6	53.8	
22/08/24	22:00:00	63.3	93.0	53.0	
22/08/24	23:00:00	63.5	91.5	52.0	
Date	Time	LAeq	LAMax	LA90	Daily Summary - 23/08/24 (Friday)
23/08/24	00:00:00	57.2	88.2	50.3	
23/08/24	01:00:00	58.6	88.2	49.3	
23/08/24	02:00:00	57.7	88.3	47.4	
23/08/24	03:00:00	62.5	89.4	49.3	
23/08/24	04:00:00	62.9	89.6	49.9	
23/08/24	05:00:00	64.2	90.7	49.9	
23/08/24	06:00:00	62.1	89.8	52.3	
23/08/24	07:00:00	65.0	90.0	53.9	
23/08/24	08:00:00	71.9	91.1	56.4	
23/08/24	09:00:00	70.8	91.2	56.0	
23/08/24	10:00:00	69.0	91.6	56.3	
23/08/24	11:00:00	64.7	89.2	55.8	
00/01/00	00:00:00	-	-	-	*
00/01/00	00:00:00	-	-	-	*
19/08/24	14:00:00	63.9	92.6	54.5	
19/08/24	15:00:00	60.9	86.5	56.0	
19/08/24	16:00:00	60.2	81.7	54.9	
19/08/24	17:00:00	64.1	89.0	55.4	
19/08/24	18:00:00	61.1	88.7	54.8	
19/08/24	19:00:00	60.0	86.1	54.9	
19/08/24	20:00:00	59.2	86.9	54.5	
19/08/24	21:00:00	58.7	88.3	53.1	
19/08/24	22:00:00	58.4	90.7	52.3	
19/08/24	23:00:00	58.3	90.7	50.8	

\* Monitoring Interrupted

Table 1d – Background Monitoring Data Summary – Monitoring Position 1

**Photo Appendix**



Figure 7 – View of Maida Vale TE Frontage



Figure 8 – View towards South-East Receivers Adjacent (Taken from 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Roof)





Figure 9 – View towards South-West Maida Vale Receivers Opposite



Figure 10 – View towards North-West Maida Vale Receivers Opposite