Report VA3392.200922.NIA

27-29 Winchester Road, Belsize Park, London

Noise Impact Assessment

25 September 2020

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Attachments

1. Introduction

It is proposed to install new condenser units on the rear wall at 27-29 Winchester Road, Belsize Park, London to service the pharmacy.

Venta Acoustics has been commissioned by Rapeed Design to undertake an assessment of the potential noise impact of these proposals in support of an application for planning permission.

An environmental noise survey has been undertaken to determine the background noise levels at the most affected noise sensitive receptors. These levels are used to undertake an assessment of the likely impact with reference to the planning requirements of Camden Council.

2. Design Criterion and Assessment Methodology

2.1 Requirements of the Local Authority

Camden Council's Local Plan (adopted June 2017), Appendix 3, provides the following guidance regarding noise from Industrial and Commercial Noise Sources

> *A relevant standard or guidance document should be referenced when determining values for LOAEL and SOAEL for non-anonymous noise. Where appropriate and within the scope of the document it is expected that British Standard 4142:2014 'Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound' (BS 4142) will be used. For such cases a 'Rating Level' of 10 dB below background (15dB if tonal components are present) should be considered as the design criterion).*

Existing Noise sensitive receiver	Assessment Location	Design Period	LOAEL (Green)	LOAEL to SOAEL (Amber)	SOAL (Red)
Dwellings**	Garden used for main amenity (free field) and Outside living or dining or bedroom window (façade)	Day	'Rating level' 10dB* below background	'Rating level' between 9dB below and 5dB above background	'Rating level' greater than 5dB above background
Dwellings**	Outside bedroom window (façade)	Night	'Rating level' 10dB* below background and no events exceeding 57dBL_{Amax}	'Rating level' between 9dB below and 5dB above background or noise events between 57dB and 88dB L_{Amax}	'Rating level' greater than 5dB above background and/or events exceeding 88dBL_{Amax}

**10dB should be increased to 15dB if the noise contains audible tonal elements. (day and night). However, if it can be demonstrated that there is no significant difference in the character of the residual background noise and the specific noise from the proposed development then this reduction may not be required.*

In addition, a frequency analysis (to include, the use of Noise Rating (NR) curves or other criteria curves) for the assessment of tonal or low frequency noise may be required.

***levels given are for dwellings, however, levels are use specific and different levels will apply dependent on the use of the premises.*

The periods in Table C correspond to 0700 hours to 2300 hours for the day and 2300 hours to 0700 hours for the night. The Council will take into account the likely times of occupation for types of development and will be amended according to the times of operation of the establishment under consideration.

There are certain smaller pieces of equipment on commercial premises, such as extract ventilation, air conditioning units and condensers, where achievement of the rating levels (ordinarily determined by a BS:4142 assessment) may not afford the necessary protection. In these cases, the Council will generally also require a NR curve specification of NR35 or below, dependant on the room (based upon measured or predicted $L_{eq,5mins}$ noise levels in octave bands) 1 metre from the façade of affected premises, where the noise sensitive premise is located in a quiet background area.

2.2 BS8233:2014

BS8233 *Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings* provides guidance as to suitable internal noise levels for different areas within residential buildings.

The relevant section of the standard is shown below in Table 2.1.

Activity	Location	07:00 to 23:00	23:00 to 07:00
Resting	Living Room	35 dB $L_{Aeq, 16 hour}$	-
Dining	Dining Room	40 dB $L_{Aeq, 16 hour}$	-
Sleeping (daytime resting)	Bedroom	35 dB $L_{Aeq, 16 hour}$	30 dB $L_{Aeq, 8 hour}$

Table 2.1 - Excerpt from BS8233: 2014 **[dB ref. 20µPa]**

3. Site Description

As illustrated on attached site plan VA3392/SP1, the site building is located in a parade of shops at ground floor level with flats above. To the rear is a grassed open space.

At the rear of the building, the ground floor has been extended to step out from the building line, providing line of sight screening from the proposed plant location to the windows above.

Existing plant was noted at the rear of the row of buildings, including an extract fan which dominated the background noise levels in the locality.

The most affected noise sensitive receivers are expected to be the window of the flat directly above.

4. Environmental Noise Survey

4.1 Survey Procedure & Equipment

In order to establish the existing background noise levels at the site, a noise survey was carried out between Friday 18th and Monday 21st September 2020 at the location shown in site plan VA3392/SP1. This location was chosen to be representative of the background noise level at the most affected noise sensitive receivers.

Continuous 5-minute samples of the L_{Aeq}, L_{Amax}, L_{A10} and L_{A90} sound pressure levels were undertaken at the measurement location.

The weather during the survey period was generally dry with light winds. The background noise data is not considered to have been compromised by these conditions.

Measurements were made generally in accordance with ISO 1996 2:2017 *Acoustics - Description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise – Part 2: Determination of sound pressure levels*.

The following equipment was used in the course of the survey:

Manufacturer	Model Type	Serial No	Calibration	
			Certificate No.	Date
NTi Class 1 Integrating SLM	XL2	A2A-15993-E0	FL-19-122	14/3/19
Larson Davis calibrator	CAL200	13049	UCRT19/1501	18/4/19

Table 4.1 – Equipment used for the tests

The calibration of the sound level meter was verified before and after use with no significant calibration drift observed.

4.2 Results

The measured sound levels are shown as time-history plots on the attached charts VA3392/TH1-3.

The background noise level is determined by plant noise from the nearby extract fan and traffic on the surrounding streets.

The typical background noise levels measured were:

Monitoring Period	Typical[1] $L_{A90,5min}$
07:00 – 23:00 hours	44 dB
23:00 – 07:00 hours	42 dB
Operational Hours (09:00-18:30)	46 dB

Table 4.2 – Typical background noise levels **[dB ref. 20 µPa]**

[1] The typical L_{A90} value is taken as the 10th percentile of all L_{A90} values measured during the relevant period.

4.3 Plant Noise Emission Limits

On the basis of the measured noise levels and the planning requirements of the Local Authority, and considering that it is not expected that tonal noise will be generated by the proposed plant units, the following plant specific sound levels should not be exceeded at the most affected noise sensitive receivers:

Monitoring Period	Design Criterion (L_{Aeq})
07:00 – 23:00 hours	34 dB
23:00 – 07:00 hours	32 dB
Operational Hours (09:00-18:30)	36 dB

Table 4.3 – Specific sound pressure levels not to be exceeded at most affected noise sensitive receivers

5. Predicted Noise Impact

5.1 Proposed plant

The following plant is proposed for installation at ground level at the rear of the building at the location indicated on site plan VA3392/SP1.

This location benefits from line of sight screening, provided by the roof edge, from all noise sensitive receptors.

Plant Item	Quantity	Proposed Model	Notes
Condensers	1	Fujitsu ARYG45LETL	L_p 55 dB @ 1m
Condensers	3	Fujitsu ARYG36LETL	L_p 54 dB @ 1m

Table 5.1 – Indicative plant selections assumed for this assessment.

Consulting the manufacturer's datasheets, the sound levels are quoted as single values. The spectral shape has been based upon other units of similar size with the same overall sound level.

Plant Item	Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz) Sound Pressure, L_p@1m (dB)								dB(A)
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
Fujitsu ARYG45LETL	62	59	56	53	49	45	40	33	55
Fujitsu ARYG36LETL	61	58	55	52	48	44	39	32	54

Table 5.2 – Advised plant noise data used for the assessment.

5.2 Recommended Mitigation Measures

On the basis of the plant operating during the operational hours only, it is not envisaged that any additional mitigation measures beyond the sites inherent geometry will be required for external noise emissions.

5.3 Predicted noise levels

The cumulative noise level at the most affected noise sensitive receiver, some 4 meters away, has been calculated on the basis of the above information with reference to the guidelines set out in ISO 9613-2:1996 *Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors - Part 2: General method of calculation.*

A summary of the calculations are shown in Appendix B.

Description	dB(A)
Plant noise criterion	36 dB
L_p 1m from receiver	36 dB

Table 5.3 – Predicted noise and level and design criteria at noise sensitive location

5.4 Comparison to NR35 Curve

As can been seen from the following comparison in Table 5.4, the predicted noise levels at 1m from the most affected receiver are comfortably below the NR35 curve.

Frequency (Hz)	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k
NR35	63	52	45	39	35	35	30	28
Predicted Noise Levels	48	44	39	34	28	21	14	6

Table 5.4 – Comparison of predicted noise levels against the NR35 criterion

5.5 Structureborne Noise

All plant and ductwork should be fitted with anti-vibration mounts in accordance with the manufacturer guidelines.

5.6 Comparison to BS8233:2014 Criteria

BS8233 assumes a loss of approximately 15dB for a partially open window. The external noise level shown in Table 5.3 would result in internal noise levels that achieve the guidelines shown in Table 2.1.

6. Conclusion

A baseline noise survey has been undertaken by Venta Acoustics to establish the background noise climate in the locality of 27-29 Winchester Road, Belsize Park, London in support of a planning application for the proposed introduction of new building services plant.

This has enabled noise emission limits to be set at the most affected noise sensitive receiver such that the proposed installation meets the requirements of Camden Council .

The cumulative noise emission levels from the proposed plant have been assessed to be compliant with the plant noise emission limits, with necessary mitigation measures specified.

The proposed scheme is not expected to have a significant adverse noise impact and the relevant planning requirements have been shown to be met.

Steven Liddell MIOA


Noise monitoring location
Most Affected Receiver
Proposed New Plant Location

27-29 Winchester Road, Belsize Park, London

Environmental Noise Time History: 1

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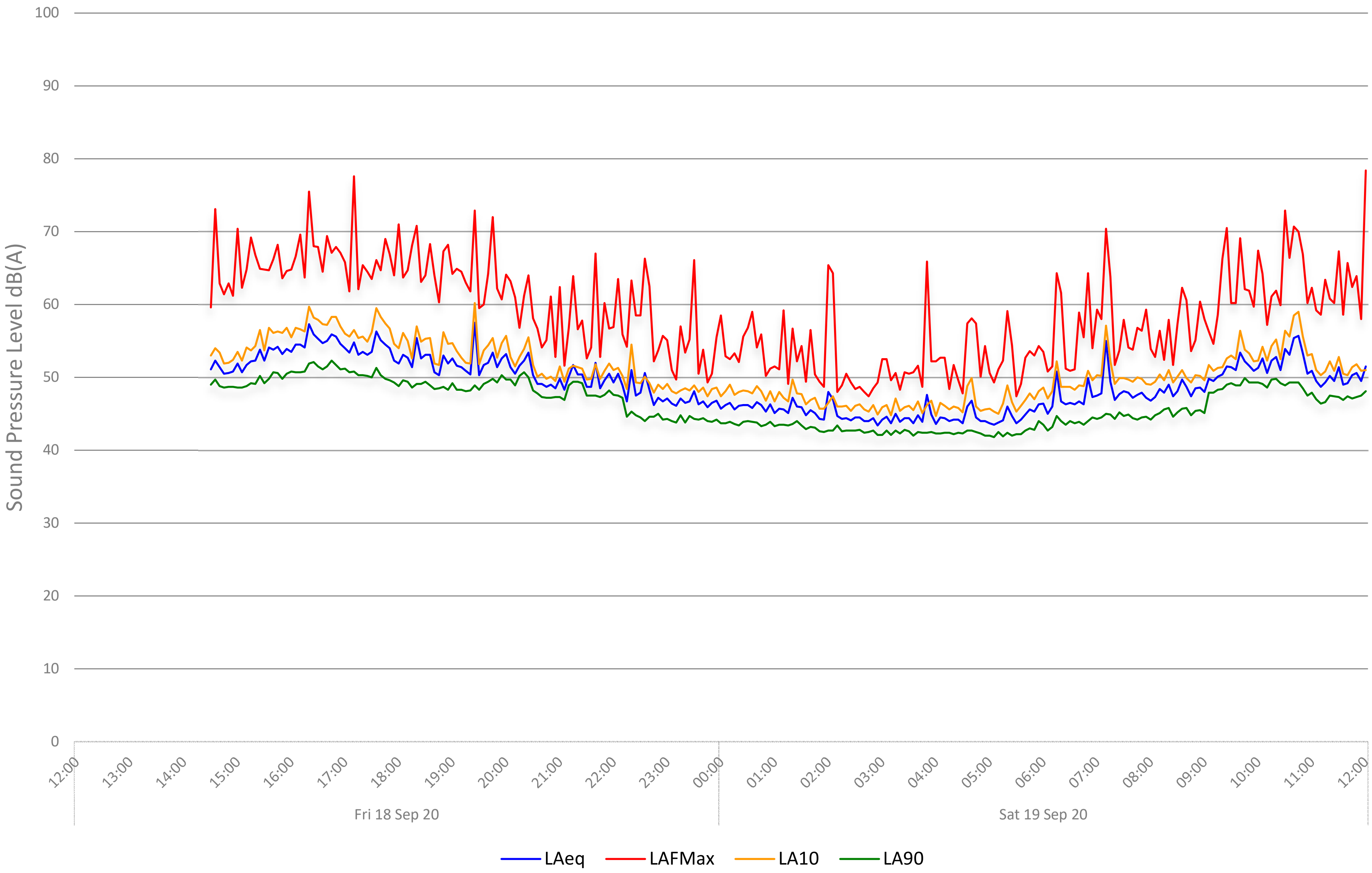
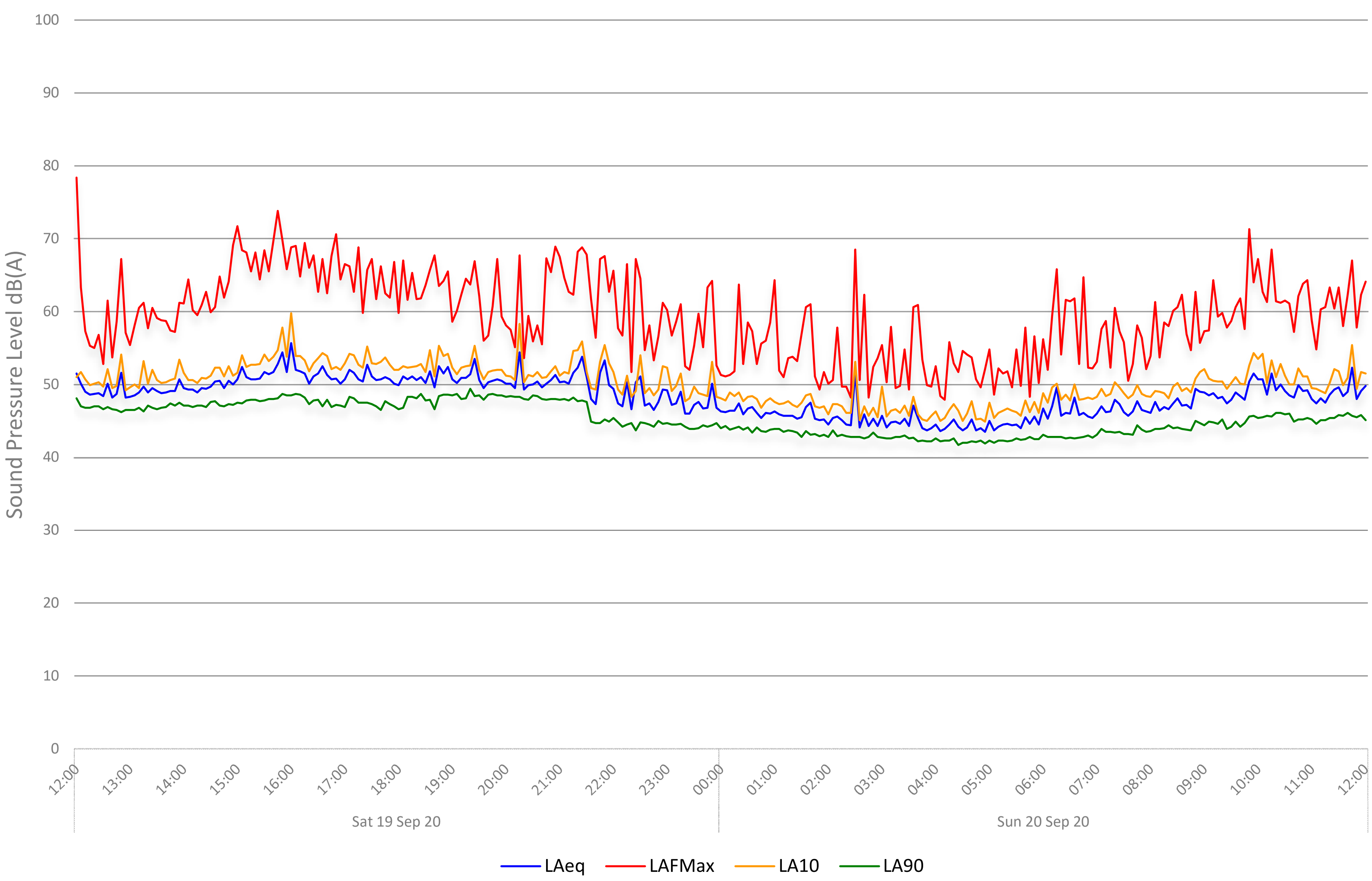
Figure VA3392/TH1



27-29 Winchester Road, Belsize Park, London

Environmental Noise Time History: 2

Figure VA3392/TH2



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Environmental Noise Time History: 3

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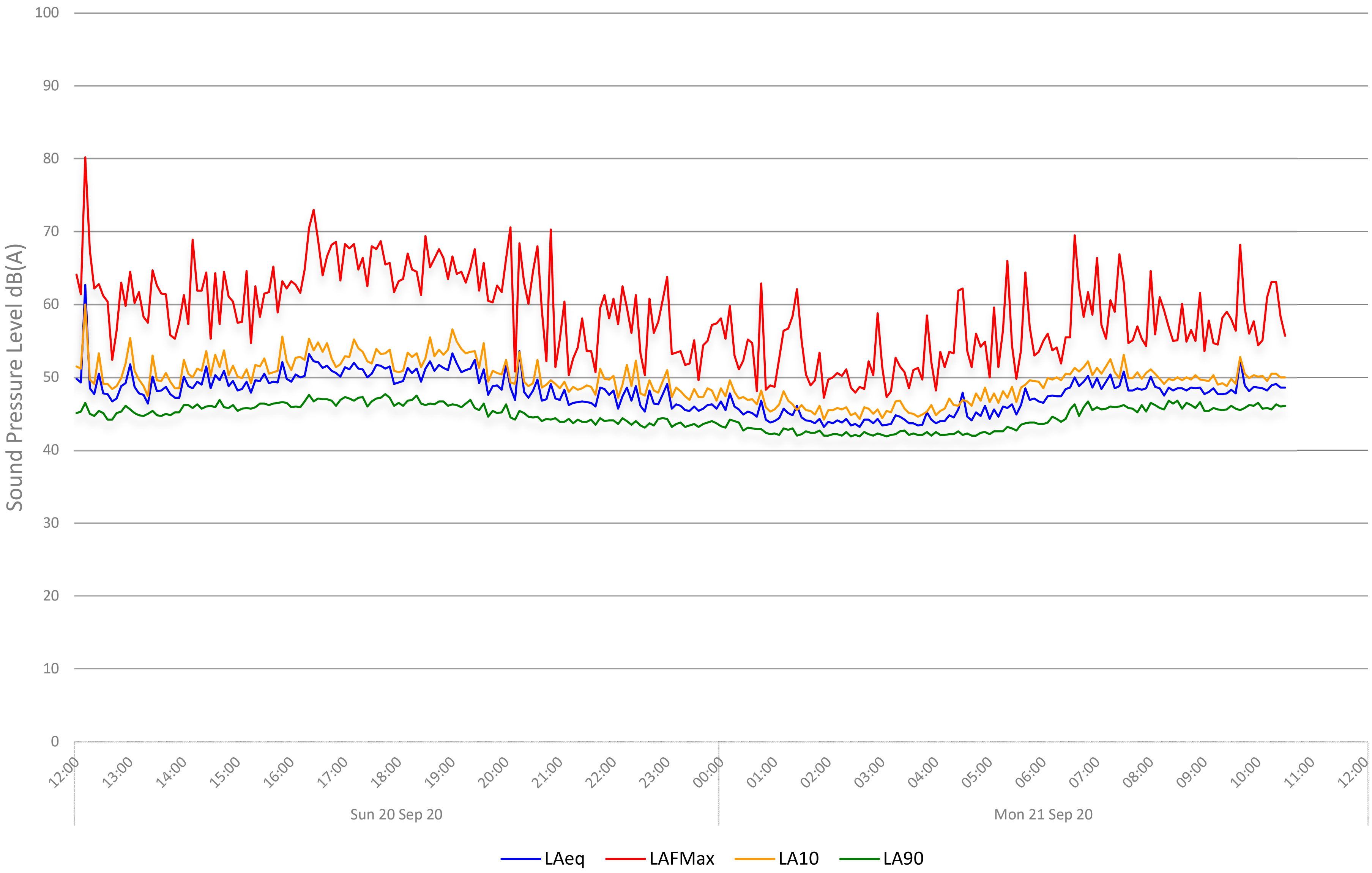
Figure VA3392/TH3



APPENDIX A

Acoustic Terminology & Human Response to Broadband Sound

1.1 Acoustic Terminology

The human impact of sounds is dependent upon many complex interrelated factors such as ‘loudness’, its frequency (or pitch) and variation in level. In order to have some objective measure of the annoyance, scales have been derived to allow for these subjective factors.

Sound	Vibrations propagating through a medium (air, water, etc.) that are detectable by the auditory system.
Noise	Sound that is unwanted by or disturbing to the perceiver.
Frequency	The rate per second of vibration constituting a wave, measured in Hertz (Hz), where 1Hz = 1 vibration cycle per second. The human hearing can generally detect sound having frequencies in the range 20Hz to 20kHz. Frequency corresponds to the perception of ‘pitch’, with low frequencies producing low ‘notes’ and higher frequencies producing high ‘notes’.
dB(A):	Human hearing is more susceptible to mid-frequency sounds than those at high and low frequencies. To take account of this in measurements and predictions, the ‘A' weighting scale is used so that the level of sound corresponds roughly to the level as it is typically discerned by humans. The measured or calculated ‘A' weighted sound level is designated as dB(A) or L_A.
L_{eq} :	A notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the actual, fluctuating sound measured over that period (e.g. 8 hour, 1 hour, etc). The concept of L_{eq} (equivalent continuous sound level) has primarily been used in assessing noise from industry, although its use is becoming more widespread in defining many other types of sounds, such as from amplified music and environmental sources such as aircraft and construction. Because L_{eq} is effectively a summation of a number of events, it does not in itself limit the magnitude of any individual event, and this is frequently used in conjunction with an absolute sound limit.
L_{10} & L_{90} :	Statistical L_n indices are used to describe the level and the degree of fluctuation of non-steady sound. The term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time. Hence, L_{10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as a typical maximum level. Similarly, L_{90} is the typical minimum level and is often used to describe background noise. It is common practice to use the L_{10} index to describe noise from traffic as, being a high average, it takes into account the increased annoyance that results from the non-steady nature of traffic flow.
L_{max} :	The maximum sound pressure level recorded over a given period. L_{max} is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise, where occasional loud events occur which might not be adequately represented by a time-averaged L_{eq} value.

1.2 Octave Band Frequencies

In order to determine the way in which the energy of sound is distributed across the frequency range, the International Standards Organisation has agreed on "preferred" bands of frequency for sound measurement and analysis. The widest and most commonly used band for frequency measurement and analysis is the Octave Band. In these bands, the upper frequency limit is twice the lower frequency limit, with the band being described by its "centre frequency" which is the average (geometric mean) of the upper and lower limits, e.g. 250 Hz octave band extends from 176 Hz to 353 Hz. The most commonly used octave bands are:

Octave Band Centre Frequency Hz	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000

1.3 Human Perception of Broadband Noise

Because of the logarithmic nature of the decibel scale, it should be borne in mind that sound levels in dB(A) do not have a simple linear relationship. For example, 100dB(A) sound level is not twice as loud as 50dB(A). It has been found experimentally that changes in the average level of fluctuating sound, such as from traffic, need to be of the order of 3dB before becoming definitely perceptible to the human ear. Data from other experiments have indicated that a change in sound level of 10dB is perceived by the average listener as a doubling or halving of loudness. Using this information, a guide to the subjective interpretation of changes in environmental sound level can be given.

Change in Sound Level dB	Subjective Impression	Human Response
0 to 2	Imperceptible change in loudness	Marginal
3 to 5	Perceptible change in loudness	Noticeable
6 to 10	Up to a doubling or halving of loudness	Significant
11 to 15	More than a doubling or halving of loudness	Substantial
16 to 20	Up to a quadrupling or quartering of loudness	Substantial
21 or more	More than a quadrupling or quartering of loudness	Very Substantial

1.4 Earth Bunds and Barriers - Effective Screen Height

When considering the reduction in sound level of a source provided by a barrier, it is necessary to establish the "effective screen height". For example if a tall barrier exists between a sound source and a listener, with the barrier close to the listener, the listener will perceive the sound as being louder if he climbs up a ladder (and is closer to the top of the barrier) than if he were standing at ground level. Equally if he sat on the ground the sound would seem quieter than if he were standing. This is explained by the fact that the "effective screen height" is changing with the three cases above. In general, the greater the effective screen height, the greater the perceived reduction in sound level.

Similarly, the attenuation provided by a barrier will be greater where it is aligned close to either the source or the listener than where the barrier is midway between the two.

APPENDIX B

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Noise Impact Assessment

Assessment

Fujitsu ARYG45LETL		63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1 kHz	2 kHz	4 kHz	8 kHz	dB(A)
Level measured	Lp @ 1m	62	59	56	53	49	45	40	33	**55**
Number of Plant	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Distance Loss	To 4.5m	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	
Screening loss*		-6	-7	-9	-11	-14	-16	-19	-22	
Level at receiver		**43**	**39**	**34**	**29**	**22**	**16**	**8**	**-2**	**31**

* Screening loss limited to 18dB

Fujitsu ARYG36LETL		63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1 kHz	2 kHz	4 kHz	8 kHz	dB(A)
Level measured	Lp @ 1m	61	58	55	52	48	44	39	32	**54**
Number of Plant	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Distance Loss	To 4.5m	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	
Screening loss*		-6	-7	-9	-11	-14	-16	-18	-18	
Level at receiver		**46**	**42**	**38**	**33**	**26**	**19**	**13**	**6**	**34**

* Screening loss limited to 18dB

Cumulative Level	**48**	**44**	**39**	**34**	**28**	**21**	**14**	**6**	**36**