

**Proposed Installation of
Mechanical Plant**

**32-34 Avenue Road,
London, NW8 6BU.**

Environmental Noise Assessment



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Acoustics Plus Ltd (APL) is an independent firm of multi-disciplinary acoustic engineers. APL is engaged by both private and public sector clients. APL is a registered member of The Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and the author is a corporate member of The Institute of Acoustics (IOA).
- 1.2 APL has been instructed by the applicant's agent SHH Architects, to consider and advise upon the noise implications of a proposed installation of mechanical plant.
- 1.3 It is understood the Local Planning Authority (LPA) require further information on noise levels from the proposed installation in order to fully assess the noise impact upon the surrounding neighbourhood. This report provides the response to the LPA, on behalf of the Applicant.
- 1.4 This report has been prepared by Acoustics Plus Limited (APL) with all reasonable skill, care, and diligence in accordance with generally accepted acoustic consultancy principles and taking account the services and terms agreed between APL and our client.
- 1.5 Any information provided by third-parties and referred to herein may not have been checked or verified by APL unless expressly stated otherwise. Certain statements made in the report are predictions based on reasonable assumptions and good industry practice.
- 1.6 Such statements involve risk and uncertainty which could cause measured and predicted results to differ materially. APL does therefore not guarantee or warrant any prediction contained in this report.

2. BASELINE SITUATION

- 2.1 The Application Site (the “site”) is situated at 32-34 Avenue Road, London, NW8 8BU. The site is a single detached house located on the northern side of Avenue Road at the junction with Acacia Road.
- 2.2 The site is to undergo full redevelopment and it is now the intention to install a number of items of external mechanical plant.
- 2.3 The scheme is still under development and the number of items of mechanical plant and their final location are yet to be confirmed.
- 2.4 The hours of operation of the system will be on demand and as such could operate at any time during the daytime and night-time periods.
- 2.5 The nearest noise sensitive façades to any proposed mechanical plant could be the adjacent neighbouring properties located at 30 and 36 Avenue Road or the dwelling located behind the site accessed via Radlett Place.
- 2.6 The surroundings can be seen in Figures 1-8 included within the appendix section of this report.
- 2.7 The measurement position is indicated within Figure 6.

3. NOISE OUTLINE

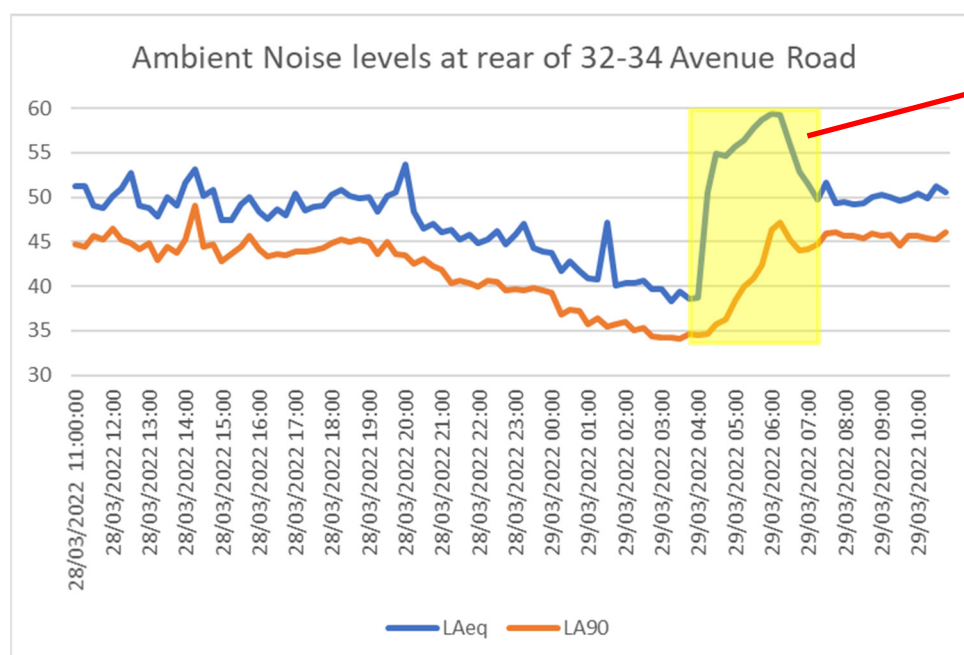
- 3.1 In order to produce an environmental noise assessment, consideration must be given to the prevailing background noise in the locality of the installation.
- 3.2 Measurements of background noise were obtained over a 24 hour period at a location deemed representative of background noise levels experienced at the nearest noise sensitive façades. The data obtained during the exercise was captured at ground floor roof level at the rear of the property, indicative of the noise climate experienced at the noise sensitive façades that would need to be considered. The measurement position is highlighted in Figure of this report.
- 3.3 The particulars of the measurement exercise are recorded below. The weather conditions were considered appropriate to monitor environmental noise.

Date: 28th & 29th March 2022.
 Start Time: 11:00 hrs.
 Location: Rear ground floor level.

- 3.4 Minimum background and average noise levels over the day and night-time periods are shown in Table 1 below with the full 24 hour level vs time history shown in Diagram 1 (L_{Aeq} and L_{A90}).

Time period	Lowest L _{A90,15min}	Average L _{Aeq,T}
07:00 to 23:00hrs	40	50
23:00 to 07:00	34	52 ¹

Table 1



Unidentified anomalous event highlighted in yellow– see footnote.

Diagram 1

¹ The measurement data during the period between 04:00 and 07:00 was contaminated by an anomalous event that was not able to be identified as audio recordings were not obtained, it may be prudent to investigate this further to ensure this was an atypical event and not due to any adjacent installation of mechanical plant operating as this clearly and significantly impacts on the amenity of neighbouring receptors.

4. DESIGN CRITERIA

- 4.1 Information regarding the noise levels not to be exceeded by the proposed installation was extracted from the LPA (London Borough of Camden) Local Plan Adopted version June 2017 (Appendix 3 Noise thresholds).

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).

Table C: Noise levels applicable to proposed industrial and commercial developments (including plant and machinery)

Existing noise sensitive receptor	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 57dB L _{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 88dB L _{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.

- 4.2 The procedure contained in BS4142 is to quantify the “specific sound level”, which is the measured or predicted level of sound from the source in question over a one hour period for the daytime and a 15 minute period for the night-time. Daytime is defined in the standard as 07:00 to 23:00 hours, and night-time as 23:00 to 07:00 hours.
- 4.3 The specific sound level is converted to a rating level by adding penalties to account for either tonality or impulsivity. The standard sets out objective methods for determining the presence of tones or impulsive elements, but notes that it is acceptable to subjectively determine these effects.
- 4.4 The commentary to paragraph 9.2 of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 suggests the following subjective methods for the determination of the rating penalty for tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent specific sounds:

Intermittency

- 4.5 When 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 interval which contains the greatest total amount of on time. If the intermittency is readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment, a penalty of 3 dB can be applied.

Impulsivity

- 4.6 A correction of up to +9 dB can be applied for sound that is highly impulsive, considering both the rapidity of the change in sound level and the overall change in sound level. Subjectively, this can be converted to a penalty of 3 dB for impulsivity which is just perceptible at the noise receptor, 6 dB where it is clearly perceptible, and 9 dB where it is highly perceptible.

Tonality

- 4.7 For sound ranging from not tonal to prominently tonal the Joint Nordic Method gives a correction of between 0 dB and +6 dB for tonality. Subjectively, this can be converted to a rating penalty of 2 dB for a tone which is just perceptible at the noise receptor, 4 dB where it is clearly perceptible, and 6 dB where it is highly perceptible.
- 4.8 If the subjective method is not sufficient for assessing the audibility of tones in sound or the prominence of impulsive sounds, BS4142:2014 suggests using the one-third octave method and/or the reference methods, as appropriate.

4.9 The $\frac{1}{3}$ octave method tests for the presence of a prominent, discrete-frequency spectral component (tone) and typically compares the LZeq,T sound pressure level averaged over the time when the tone is present in a $\frac{1}{3}$ octave band with the time-averaged linear sound pressure levels in the adjacent $\frac{1}{3}$ octave bands. For a prominent, discrete tone to be identified as present, the time-averaged sound pressure level in the $\frac{1}{3}$ octave band of interest is required to exceed the time-averaged sound pressure levels of both adjacent $\frac{1}{3}$ octave bands by some constant level difference. The level differences between adjacent $\frac{1}{3}$ octave bands that identify a tone are:

- 15 dB in the low-frequency one-third-octave bands (25Hz to 125Hz);
- 8 dB in the middle-frequency one-third-octave bands (160Hz to 400Hz);
and
- 5 dB in the high-frequency one-third-octave bands (500Hz to 10,000Hz).

Other Sound Characteristics

4.10 Where the specific sound features characteristics that are neither tonal nor impulsive, nor intermittent, though otherwise are readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment, a penalty of 3 dB can be applied.

4.11 An initial estimate of the impact of the specific sound is obtained by subtracting the measured background sound level from the rating level of the specific sound. In the context of the Standard, adverse impacts include, but are not limited to, annoyance and sleep disturbance. Typically, the greater this difference, the greater is the magnitude of the impact:

- *A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.*
- *difference of around +5 dB 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 a 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.*

4.12 The background noise levels were assessed using statistical analysis of the measured data, as directed in BS4142. The histogram can be seen in Diagram 2.

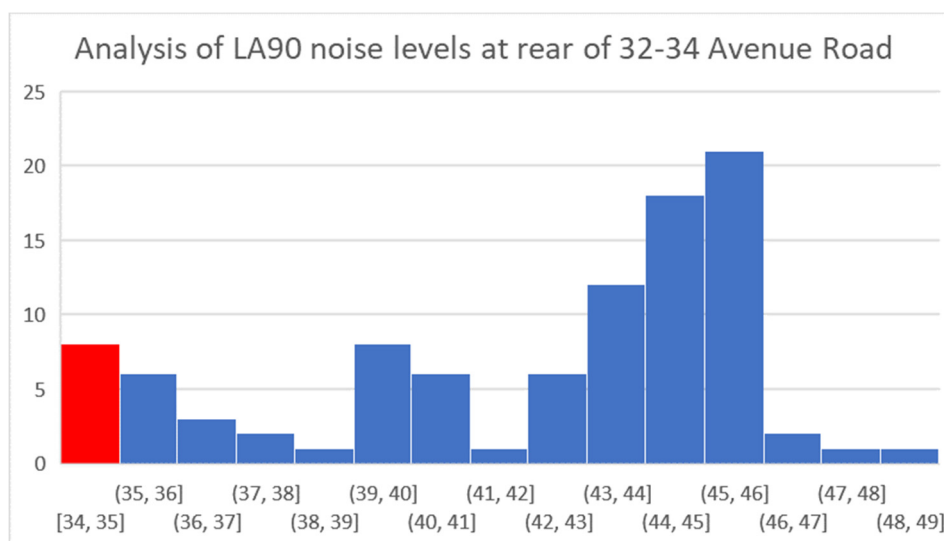


Diagram 2

4.13 The background noise level varied during the measurement period and consideration was given that the unit could operate on demand at any given time. The most commonly occurring background noise level during the measurement period was 45dB $L_{A90,15min}$ but in this instance consideration has been given to 34dB $L_{A90,15min}$ as being indicative of the noise climate during the more noise sensitive night-time period.

4.14 The plant noise emission criteria that should not be exceeded is therefore based on Table 1 and is shown in Table 2 below. This level should not be exceeded at the nearest noise sensitive façade and is indicative of being 10dB less than the considered measured background noise. At such a level, there is an indication that the specific sound source will have a low impact.

Noise emission limit for mechanical plant
$L_{Aeq} \leq 24dB$

Table 2

5. EQUIPMENT

5.1 All background noise measurements were obtained using the following equipment:

- Svantek Svan 958 Class 1 Serial No. 45530
- Rion Calibrator Type NC-74 Class 1 Serial No. 00410215

5.2 The relevant equipment carries full and current traceable calibration. The equipment, where necessary, was calibrated prior to and after the measurements were carried out.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The foregoing assessment indicates that any proposed installation of mechanical plant should not result in a noise impact greater than L_{Aeq} 24dB at the nearest considered noise sensitive receptor. At such a level, there is an indication that the specific sound source will have a low impact and would meet the London Borough of Camden's planning requirements.

Figures

Rear of 32-34 Avenue Road and surrounding area

Looking west from rear of 32-34 Avenue Road



Figure 1



Figure 2

36 Avenue Road



Figure 3



Figure 4

Looking north east toward dwelling located behind 32-34 Avenue Road



Figure 5



Figure 6

Measurement position at rear of 32-34 Avenue Road

Looking south east towards 30 Avenue Road



Figure 7



Figure 8