



BS8233 ASSESSMENT OF 5 BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM, RG40 1AX

18 September 2024

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5 BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM RG40 1AX

BS8233 NOISE ASSESSMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Airtight Building Solutions have been commissioned to undertake a noise impact survey and assessment for 5 Broad street, Wokingham RG40 1AX.

The methodology used for this assessment will be BS8233:2014 as this is a new converted development within the designated area.

The report will also issue recommendations of acoustic performance of glazing and, if required, ventilation proposals in order for the future dwelling to meet all necessary criteria.

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

The proposed dwellings are located in what is currently an office-use building on the corner of Rose Street and Broad Street in the centre of Wokingham, Berkshire.

The development consists of a two-storey set of residential dwellings in the old bank building.

This involves residential dwellings on the ground, first floor and second floor with some commercial use still on the ground floor.

The main noise sources likely to disrupt the proposed building are traffic and patron noise to the front of the building.

With the above sources in mind the monitoring took place at the front of the existing building to ascertain the façade levels around the proposed dwellings.

Locations of Monitors

One Type 1 sound level meter was installed in the areas covering the front of the building at second floor level (as there was no first-floor access).

Figure 1 & 2 shows the area where the monitor was installed

All locations are displayed on site map in figure 3

Figure 1 – Rear Industrial



Figure 2 - Front



Measurements were made in 15 minute periods, on 1 second averaging, to allow for the removal of anomalies and increased accuracy. The data was averaged into LAeq_16hr daytime and LAeq_8hr night-time with data also recorded for LAMax in both day and night periods for the BS8233:2014 assessment.

The monitoring was conducted using 1 x Norsonic 140 sound level meters, outdoor case with batteries and outdoor microphone protection.

The measurements were taken by a fully qualified engineer with MIOA status with the institute of Acoustics.

All measurements were taken after a field calibration was undertaken to ensure accuracy and repeatability of measurements. Drift was also checked post measurement to validate the data collected.

Further data such as wind speed, wind direction, rainfall intensity, temperature and cloud cover were all recorded at the beginning and end of the assessment at the monitoring location.

Any anomalies (such as noise by the engineer during setup and collection of the kit) were removed from the survey for a true reflection of the ambient levels in the vicinity. This was done by recording audio throughout the survey at each location and listening back through the files during the analysis process to confirm what was recorded manually during the survey.

Care was taken to inform any residents in the area that audio recording was taking place.

Plan Views of Site with Designated Work Areas

Figure 3



Proposed Layout (First Floor)

Figure 4



NOISE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England and "these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development." In respect of noise, Paragraph 174 of the NPPF states the following:

"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability."

Paragraph 185 goes on to mention:

"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;"

The NPPF reinforces the March 2010 DEFRA publication, “Noise Policy Statement for England” (NPSE), which states three policy aims, as follows:

“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.”

Together, the first two aims require that no significant adverse impact should occur and that, where a noise level which falls between a level which represents the lowest observable adverse effect and a level which represents a significant observed adverse effect, then according to the explanatory notes in the statement:

“... all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life whilst also taking into consideration the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such effects cannot occur.”

It is possible to apply objective standards to the assessment of noise and the effect produced by the introduction of a certain noise source may be determined by several methods, as follows:

The effect may be determined by reference to guideline noise values. British Standard (BS) 8233:2014 and World Health Organisation (WHO) “Guidelines for Community Noise” contain such guidelines.

Another method is to compare the resultant noise level against the background noise level (LA90) of the area. This is the method employed by BS 4142:2014 to determine the likelihood of complaint from noise of an industrial nature. It is best suited to the assessment of steady or pseudo-steady noise.

British Standard 8233:2014 is principally intended to assist in the design of new dwellings; however, the Standard does state that it may be used in the assessment of noise from new sources being brought to existing dwellings.

The WHO guideline values are appropriate to what are termed “critical health effects”. This means that the limits are at the lowest noise level that would result in any psychological or physiological effect.

The WHO/BS 8233 guideline noise values are summarised in the following table:

Table 1

Guidance Document	L _{AeqT}	L _{AMax}	Outcome
World Health Organisation “Community Noise 2000”	55dB		Serious annoyance, daytime and evening. (Continuous noise, outdoor living areas)
	50dB		Moderate annoyance, daytime and evening. (Continuous noise, outdoor living areas).
	35dB		Moderate annoyance, daytime and evening. (Continuous noise, dwellings, indoors)
	30dB		Sleep disturbance, night-time (indoors)
		60dB	Sleep disturbance, windows open at night. (Noise peaks outside bedrooms, external level).
		45dB	Sleep disturbance at night (Noise peaks inside bedrooms, internal level)
BS 8233:2014 “Sound Insulation and noise reduction for buildings”	55dB		Upper limit for external steady noise. (gardens and patios).
	50dB		Desirable limit for external steady noise. (gardens and patios).

	L _{Aeq} 16 hours = 35 dB		Resting, living room day. (Internal – steady noise)
	L _{Aeq} 16 hours = 40 dB		Dining, dining room day. (Internal – steady noise)
	L _{Aeq} 16 hour = 35 dB		Sleeping, bedroom day (Internal – steady noise)
	L _{Aeq} 8 hours = 30 dB		Sleeping, bedroom day (Internal – steady noise)

For L_{AeqT} criteria the time base (T) given in the documents is 16 hours for daytime limits and 8 hours for night time limits. All surveys are conducted on 1 hour daytime and 15 minute night values – based on 1 second readings on a Type 1 sound level meter. The readings are taken every 5 mins for noise to allow the elimination of erroneous data if required.

The WHO guidelines are also concerned with the $L_{A_{Max}}$ for night-time sleep disturbance. The guideline states:

“For a good sleep, it is believed that indoor sound pressure levels should not exceed approximately 45 dB $L_{AF_{max}}$ more than 10-15 times per night”

On this basis, for the purpose of assessing night-time $L_{AF_{max}}$ noise events, it is considered appropriate to adopt the 10th highest $L_{AF_{max}}$ noise event occurring in a typical night-time (23:00 – 07:00) period.

Audio recordings are taken throughout the measurements to allow for further assessments on high levels. Listening to the audio and performing tonal analysis will allow anomalies to be removed from the data, if required.

RESULTS

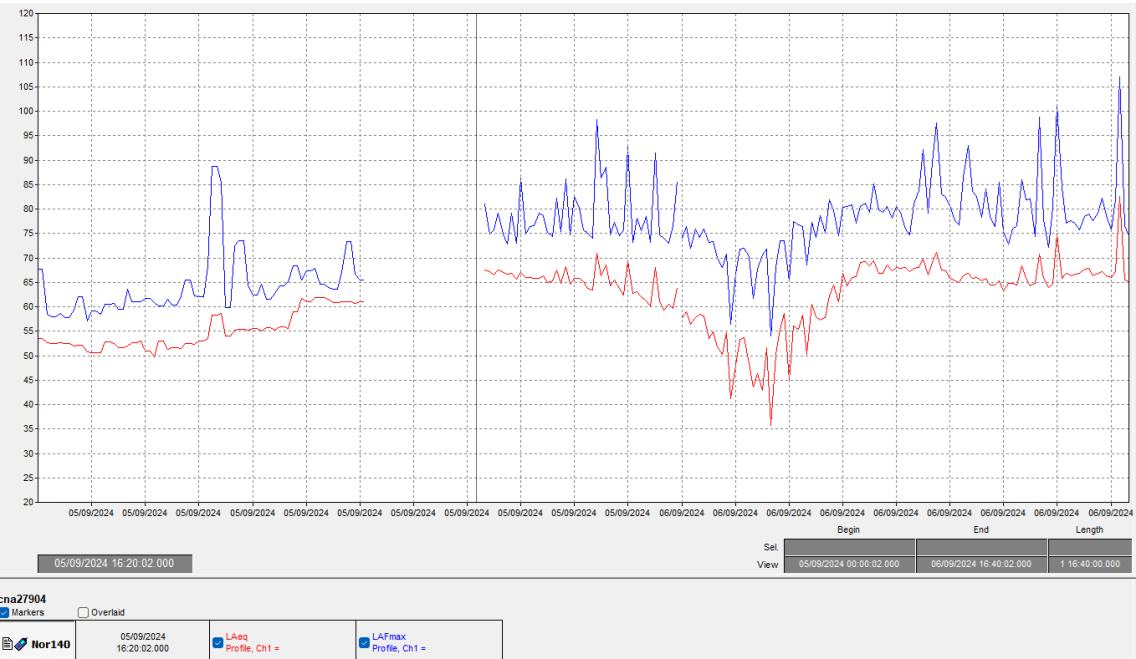
Noise Assessment – 00.00am 05/09/24 – 16.40pm 06/09/24

Table 3

Location	L _{Aeq_16hr}	L _{Aeq_8hr}	L _{Amax} (10th highest)
Day	65.1dBA		
Night		55.4dBA	78.6dBA

Comments: Mainly traffic pass-by noise. No tonal features

Figure 4



Day/Time	Cloud Cover	Temperature (Celcius)	Prescence of fog/snow/ice	Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction
Installation	1	22	No	1.2	NW
Collection	3	20	No	1.7	SSW

Comparison of Results to BS8233

Table 4

Location/ Time Period	L _{AeqT} (16hr Day & 8hr Night)	L _{AMax}	BS8233 & WHO Internal noise	BS8233 & WHO External Noise	Difference to L _{Aeq} (internal/external) limit	Difference to Max (internal/external)
Day (0700-2300)	65dBA		35dBA	55dBA	(+30dBA/ +10dBA)	-
Night (2300-0700)	55dBA	79dBA (10 th Highest)	30dBA (45dBA L _{AMax})	(60dBA L _{AMax})	(+25dBA)	(+34dBA)

OBSERVATIONS AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

The measured L_{Aeq} values for both the day and the night periods are shown in table 4. The day period is 30dBA above the limit for indoor noise levels to the front of the building.

The night value is also 25dBA above the recommended value for internal noise to prevent sleep disturbance to the front of the proposed dwelling.

BS8233 assumes that a standard double-glazed window will provide up to 15dB reduction when open (with some council guidelines leaning on the side of caution and assuming a 10dB reduction). Either option would mean that any modern double-glazed window in the building cannot be the main source of ventilation with a low chance of sleep disturbance being had by the inhabitants of the proposed dwellings. Trickle vents/acoustic vents will therefore be required throughout the proposed building to prevent overheating in accordance with document O of the building regs.

The L_{AMax} value to prevent the likelihood of sleep disturbance is set at 60dBA external and 45dBA internal. Based on the highest value from the tenth-highest daily value measured during the week the reading for L_{AMax} night was 79dBA at the front. This value is 34dBA above the required value externally for sleep disturbance. This therefore increases the required specification of windows to the front of the building slightly, and will be used as the figures for the BS8233 Annex G calculation procedure to provide specific product examples for the glazing and ventilation in the proposed dwelling. The night L_{Aeq} comparison value will be used to the rear of the building as the highest potential difference.

BS8233:2014 Annex G Calculations

Time Period		Overall dBA	Octave Band Frequency (Hz)					
			125	250	500	1000	2000	4000
LAMax	Night	78.6	68	69	70	72	73	71

Room Details	(m)	Bedroom Front
Height	2.2	
Width	2.6	
Length	4.12	
Sample Room Volume	23.5664	
Sample Room Surface Area	29.568	

Element	Area/No.of	Element Specification
External Wall	5.72	Traditional brick and block with ties and insulation
Windows	1.5	8 mm / (6 - 16 mm) / 6 mm
Ceiling	10.712	
Ventilation	1	DucoMax acoustic trickle ventilator $\geq$ Dn,e,w 45dB

Element SRI

Element	Area/No.of	Octave Band Frequency (Hz)						Single Figure Rating
		125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	
Walls	4	41	49	56	63	67	72	60
Windows	1	20	21	33	40	36	48	35
Ceiling	1	28	34	40	45	49	52	
Ventilation (Dn,e)	1	32	34	41	50	42	41	45

Overall Sound Reduction

Calculated Internal SPL		Overall	Octave Band Frequency (Hz)					
			125	250	500	1000	2000	4000
Leq,2	43.7		33.0	38.0	35.7	34.6	38.1	33.2
Limit	45							
Value under limit	1.3							

GLAZING, STRUCTURAL AND VENTILATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

External Walls

External walls of the proposed building are understood to be traditional 9" brick:

Table 5

Description	Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz) Sound Reduction Index <i>R</i> dB					
	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k
Traditional solid 300mm brick & insulation	41	49	56	63	67	72

Glazing

Suitable sound insulation performance of all windows and patio doors of the development may be achieved the example product for noise reduction shown in table 6.

Table 6

Description	Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz) Sound Reduction Index <i>R</i> dB						Rw (C; Ctr)
	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	
8 mm / (6 - 16 mm) / 6 mm Pilkington	20	21	33	40	36	48	35 (-2,-6)

Ventilation

It is anticipated that a ventilation system will be needed to be incorporated into the scheme design, such that residents of the properties are able to have background ventilation without necessarily needing to open windows.

If ventilation is provided where windows are decided not to be openable the specification will need to meet or exceed that provided in table 7. Any mechanical ventilation will also need to make sure the internal levels within rooms are not increased as this may exceed the BS8233:2014 limits post glazing specification.

Table 7

Description	Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz) Sound Reduction Index $D_{n,e}$ dB					
	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k
DucoMax acoustic trickle ventilator $\geq D_{n,e,w}$ 45dB	32	34	41	50	42	41

CONCLUSION

The use of the suggested configuration specification in section 6 will allow the proposed site to meet the regulations for acoustic performance in accordance with BS8233:2014.

There was no identified plant noise, and none that is due to be introduced into the scheme, that has been deemed likely to impact the proposed dwellings. Therefore a further BS4142:2014 assessment has not been required.

CREDENTIALS

Name	Title	Credentials
James Flitton BSc AMIOA	Acoustic Consultant	CSCS Professionally Qualified person
		Associate Member Institute of Acoustics
		IOA Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control
		Affiliate Member of IDE
		Affiliate Member of IOR
Signed		

APPENDIX A – ACOUSTIC TERMINOLOGY

Parameter	Description
Ambient Noise Level	The totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually composed of a sound from many sources both distant and near ($L_{Aeq,T}$).
Decibel (dB)	A scale for comparing the ratios of two quantities, including sound pressure and sound power. The difference in level between two sounds s_1 and s_2 is given by $20 \log_{10}(s_1/s_2)$. The decibel can also be used to measure absolute quantities by specifying a reference value that fixes one point on the scale. For sound pressure, the reference value is $20\mu\text{Pa}$. The threshold of normal hearing is in the region of 0 dB and 140 dB is the threshold of pain. A change of 1 dB is only perceptible under controlled conditions.
dB(A), L_{Ax}	Decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sounds of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with people's assessment of loudness. A change of 3 dB(A) is the minimum perceptible under normal conditions, and a change of 10 dB(A) corresponds roughly to halving or doubling the loudness of a sound. The background noise in a living room may be about 30 dB(A); normal conversation about 60 dB(A) at 1 metre; heavy road traffic about 80 dB(A) at 10 metres; the level near a pneumatic drill about 100 dB(A).
Free-field	Sound pressure level measured outside, far away from reflecting surfaces (except the ground), usually taken to mean at least 3.5 metres
Façade	Sound pressure level measured at a distance of 1 metre in front of a large sound reflecting object such as a building façade.
$L_{Aeq,T}$	A noise level index called the equivalent continuous noise level over the time period T. This is the level of a notional steady sound that would contain the same amount of sound energy as the actual, possibly fluctuating, sound that was recorded.
$L_{max,T}$	A noise level index defined as the maximum noise level recorded during a noise event with a period T. L_{max} is sometimes used for the assessment of occasional loud noises, which may have little effect on the overall L_{eq} noise level but will still affect the noise environment. Unless described otherwise, it is measured using the 'fast' sound level meter response.
$L_{10,T}$	A noise level index. The noise level exceeded for 10% of the time over the period T. L_{10} can be considered to be the "average maximum" noise level. Generally used to describe road traffic noise. $L_{A10,18h}$ is the A-weighted arithmetic average of the 18 hourly $L_{A10,1h}$ values from 06:00-24:00.
$L_{90,T}$	A noise level index. The noise level exceeded for 90% of the time over the period T. Generally used to describe background noise level.

APPENDIX B - NOISE SURVEY INSTRUMENTATION

Name	Serial Number	Last Calibrated	Calibration Due
Norsonic Precision Sound Analyser Type 140	1404768	Nov 2022	Nov 2024
Norsonic Type 1209 Pre-amplifier	31313	Nov 2022	Nov 2024
Norsonic Type 1225 Microphone	157320	Nov 2022	Nov 2024
Rion Type NC-74 Acoustic Calibrator	35046846	Feb 2024	Feb 2025

APPENDIX C – WEATHER CONDITIONS CHART USED

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Weather Conditions				
Measurement Location	Date/Time	Description	Beginning of Survey	End of Survey
		Temperature:		
Cloud Cover Symbol Scale in oktas (eighths) ○ 0 Sky completely clear ◐ 1 ◑ 2 ◒ 3 ◓ 4 Sky half cloudy ◔ 5 ◕ 6 ◖ 7 ◗ 8 Sky completely cloudy ⊗ (9) Sky obstructed from view		Precipitation:		
		Cloud cover (oktas - see guide)		
		Presence of fog/snow/ice		
		Presence of damp roads/wet ground		
		Wind Speed (m/s)		
		Wind Direction		
		Conditions that may cause temperature inversion (i.e. calm nights with no cloud)		

APPENDIX D – BS8233:2014 ANNEX G CALCULATIONS

		Octave Band Frequency (Hz)					
		125	250	500	1000	2000	4000
Leq,ff	A	68	69	70	72	73	71
Dn,e		32	34	41	50	42	41
$\frac{A_o}{S} 10^{\frac{-Dn,e}{10}}$	B	0.00038	0.00024	0.00005	0.00001	0.00004	0.00005
Rwi		20	21	33	40	36	48
$\frac{S_{wi}}{S_f} 10^{\frac{-Rwi}{10}}$	C	0.00262	0.00208	0.00013	0.00003	0.00007	0.00000
Rew		41	49	56	63	67	72
$\frac{S_{ew}}{S_f} 10^{\frac{-Rew}{10}}$	D	0.00006	0.00001	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Rrr		28	34	40	45	49	52
$\frac{S_{rr}}{S_f} 10^{\frac{-Rrr}{10}}$	E	0.00297	0.00075	0.00019	0.00006	0.00002	0.00001
10log10(B+C+D+E)	F	-22.2	-25.1	-34.3	-40.4	-38.9	-41.9
A (furnished)		11	14	16	16	15	14
$\text{Log}10 \frac{S}{A}$		0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Leq,2	A+F+G+3	49.0	47.0	38.7	34.6	37.1	32.2
A-weighting		-16	-9	-3	0	1	1
L _{Aeq,2}		33.0	38.0	35.7	34.6	38.1	33.2
Total		43.7					