



**Padel Pod Crouch End
The Hornsey Club
Tivoli Road
Hornsey
London**

Noise Impact Assessment Report

12 February 2025

For
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SUMMARY

It is proposed to install four permanent padel courts on existing hardstanding at the site at The Hornsey Club, Tivoli Road, Hornsey, London.

Residential properties are located nearby, therefore a noise impact assessment has been undertaken to determine the effect of typical noise emissions from the proposed use.

auricl has been commissioned to undertake a detailed environmental noise survey to determine the existing baseline ambient and background noise levels representative of the nearest noise sensitive (residential) properties during periods when the development is proposed to be operating.

Activity noise measurements have also been undertaken at an existing permanent padel site in order to determine typical representative noise levels from the padel courts when in use.

Subsequently, calculations have been undertaken to predict the levels of external noise emissions associated with the proposed use, to the adjacent residential properties.

Results of the calculations show that by comparison with the proposed significance criteria, the predicted levels of external padel noise transmission correlates with a **substantial** noise level change for noise levels at the nearest window of the property at 1 View Crescent, a **negligible** noise level change for the property at 6 View Crescent, and a **negligible** noise level change for the property at 36 Tivoli Road, in comparison with the IEMA guidance criteria.

The implications of the assessment have been discussed, and it is concluded that in the context of the site and its history, and the level of padel noise predicted at the nearest noise sensitive properties, it is unlikely that any complaints would be received from the neighbouring properties in relation to padel noise. An example noise management plan is presented in an appendix, implementation of which could provide additional mitigation if necessary.

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1.0 Introduction

It is proposed to install four permanent padel courts on existing hardstanding at the site at The Hornsey Club, Tivoli Road, Hornsey, London.

Residential properties are located nearby, therefore a noise impact assessment has been undertaken to determine the effect of typical noise emissions from the proposed use on the neighbouring properties.

This report presents the methodology and results of a baseline noise survey, and a subsequent assessment of the potential noise impact from the proposed use of the site.

Appendix A presents an explanation of the various acoustic terminology used in this report.

2.0 Description of Site, Surroundings and Proposals

The site is located at The Hornsey Club, Tivoli Road, Hornsey, London, in a mixed area, with residential properties making up the majority of the area to the south of the site, as well as directly adjacent to the east and north-east of site. Recreational land is located adjacent to the north and west of the site including a Leisure Centre, swimming pool, and the Hornsey Cricket Club. The cricket club car park is publicly accessible and is located directly adjacent to the south of the site, with various vehicle related businesses (fuel, rental, repair etc.) located approximately 50m to the east of the site, opposite a small retail parade along A1201 Park Road.

The Highgate Wood secondary school is located approximately 200m to the west of the site. Alexandra Palace is located approximately 1km to the north of the site which is understood to hold large events throughout the year which can involve live amplified music.

The existing site comprises an area of hard-standing understood to previously have been used as tennis courts, but which is currently used for padel, with two temporary padel courts of modular constructions, comprising portable plastic flooring, Perspex rear/side panels and metal fencing.

Figure 2.1 shows the approximate existing site extent in **red**, and the nearest noise sensitive properties highlighted in **green** at 1-8 View Crescent, and 36 Tivoli Road.

Figure 2.1 Site Extent and Surrounding Properties

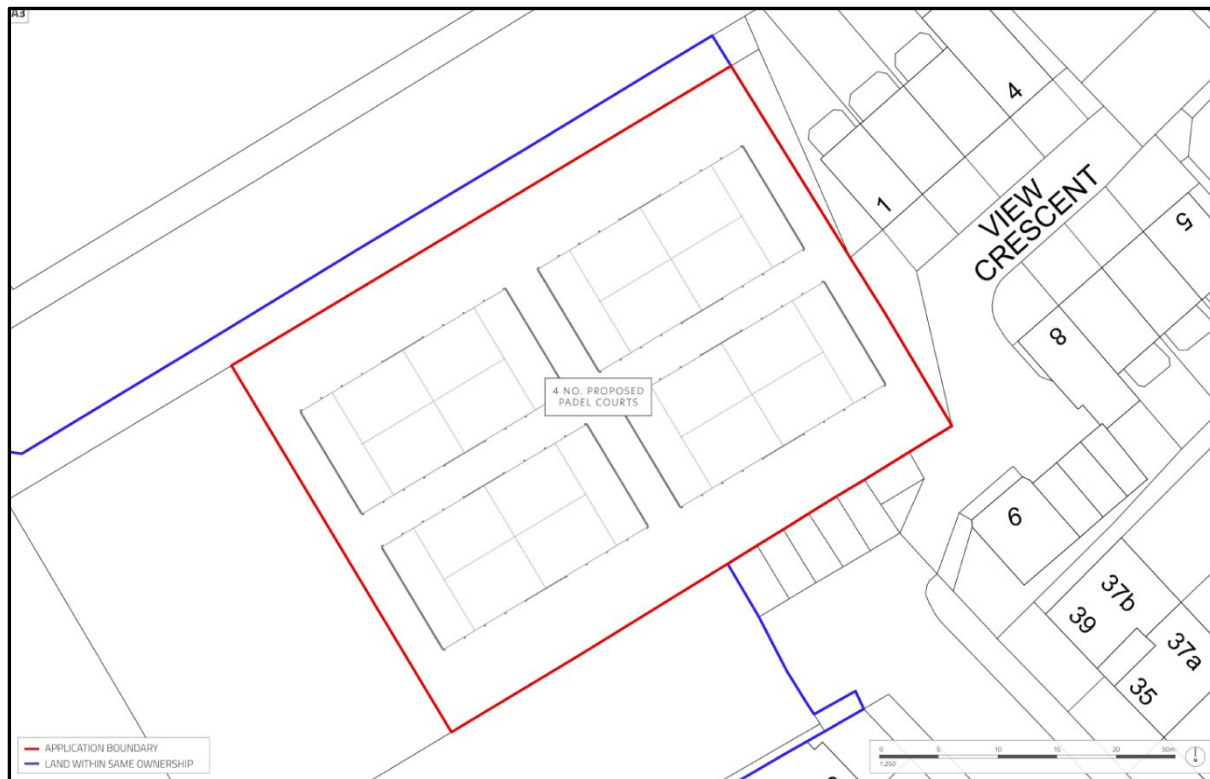


It is proposed to install four permanent padel courts at the site which it is understood would be constructed with permanent astro-turf, glass side and rear panels, and steel mesh fencing.

The proposed operating hours are 08:00 – 20:00 hours weekdays and weekends.

The proposed site layout is shown in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2 Proposed Site Plan – Ground Floor



3.0 Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's core policies and principles with respect to land use planning in England. In respect to noise, the Framework states at paragraph 180 that planning policies and decisions should aim to:

- 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 quality of life; and
- Identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.

The Noise Policy Vision 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 effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development, there are the following aims:

- 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.

3.2 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Noise

The Planning Practice Guidance on Noise (PPG) ensures noise be considered when new developments may create additional noise and when new developments would be sensitive to the prevailing

acoustics environment. When preparing local or neighbourhood plans, or taking decisions about new development, there may also be opportunities to consider improvements to the acoustic environment.

Local planning authorities' plan-making and decision taking should take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider:

- Whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur;
- Whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and
- Whether or not a good standard or amenity can be achieved.

3.3 Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)

In line with the Explanatory Note of the Noise Policy Statement for England, this would include identifying whether the overall effect of the noise exposure (including the impact during the construction phase wherever applicable) is, or would be, above or below the significant observed adverse effect level and the lowest observed adverse effect level for the given situation.

The Observed Effect Levels are as follows:

- Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL): This is the level of noise exposure above which adverse effects on health and quality of life occur;
- Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL): This is the level of noise exposure above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected; and
- No Observed Effect Level (NOEL): This is the level of noise exposure below which no effect at all on health or quality of life can be detected.

Table 3.1 summarises the noise exposure hierarchy, based on the likely average response.

Table 3.1 Noise Exposure Hierarchy

Perception	Examples of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Level	Action
Not noticeable	No effect	No observed effect	No specific measures required
Noticeable and not intrusive	Noise can be heard but does not cause any changes 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			
Noticeable 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. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life.	Observed adverse effect	Mitigate and reduce to a minimum
Significant observed adverse effect level			
Noticeable 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 effect	Avoid
Noticeable 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 harm, e.g. auditory and non-auditory.	Unacceptable adverse effect	Prevent

3.4 Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

In assessing noise due to music and human speech, we have sought guidance from the IEMA document “*Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment*” (November 2014) which states the noise impact criteria shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

Noise Level Change (dB, L_{Aeq})	Noise Impact
< 3	Negligible
3 – 5	Moderate
5 – 10	Substantial
> 10	Very Substantial

As the site operates during daytime periods only, (08:00 – 20:00 hours) we have considered hourly periods as is standard practice e.g. as recommended by BS 4142: 2014+A1: 2019.

4.0 Baseline Noise Survey

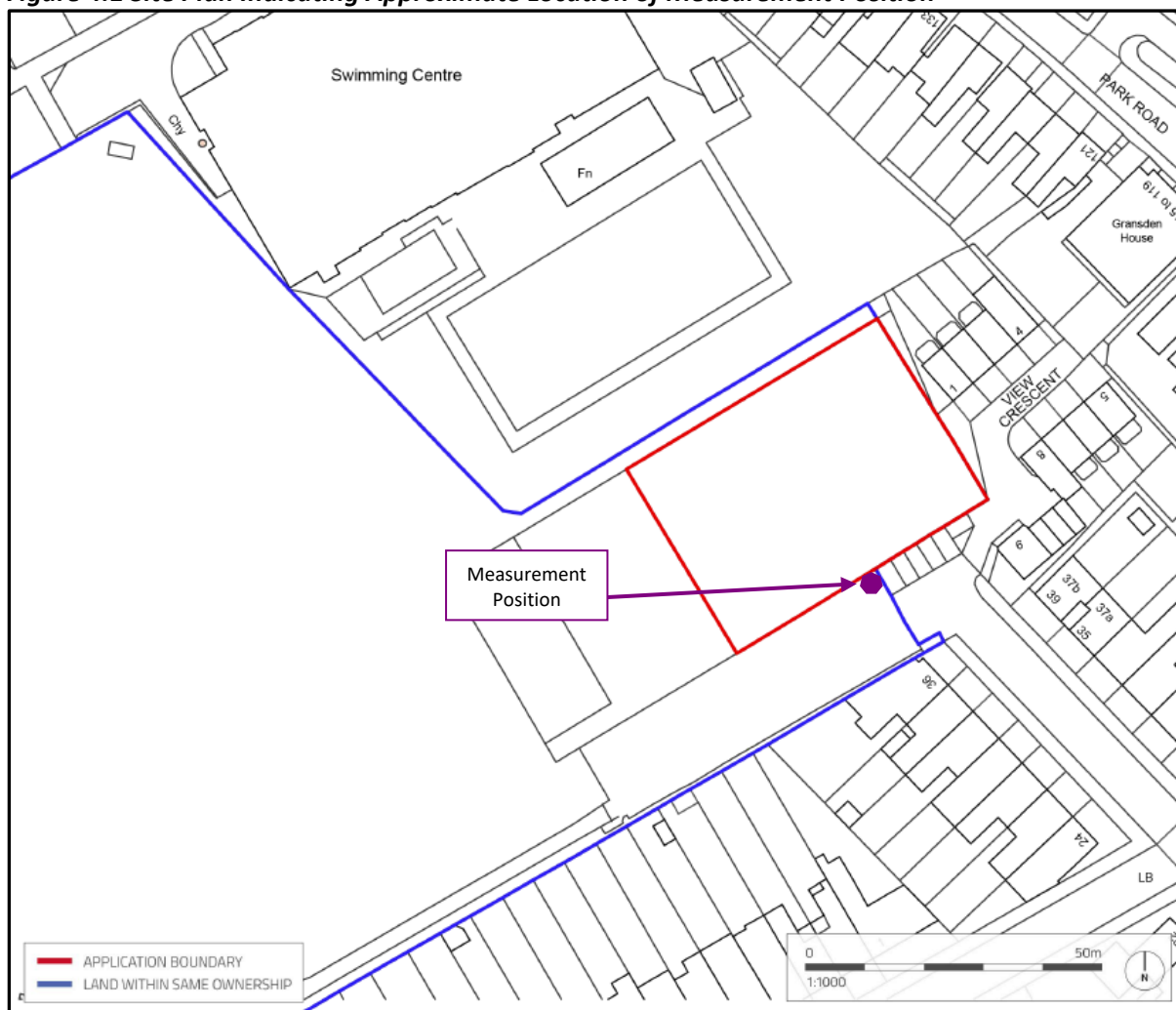
4.1 Methodology

An unmanned environmental noise survey was undertaken at the site over a 4-day period including a weekend between Thursday 23 January 2025 and Monday 27 January 2025.

The noise survey period was selected to determine existing baseline ambient and background noise levels over weekday and weekend periods when the proposed site will be operating.

The measurement position is indicated in **purple** on Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1 Site Plan Indicating Approximate Location of Measurement Position



At the measurement position, the microphone was mounted on a tripod approximately 3.5m above ground level in free-field conditions, on top of a shipping container that is used for storage of the temporary padel court accessories, within the cricket-club car park.

The measurement position was selected as being most secure and accessible position that is considered to be representative of ambient and background noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive properties which are located adjacent to the south and east of the site.

The equipment used for the noise survey is listed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Description of Equipment used for Noise Survey

Item	Make & Model	Serial Number
Type 1 automated logging sound level meter	01dB FUSION	12032
Type 1 ½" microphone	GRAS 40CD	330829
Calibrator	01dB CAL31	87267

L_{Aeq} and L_{A90} sound pressure levels were measured throughout the noise survey over contiguous 125-milliseconds intervals.

Due to the nature of the noise survey, i.e. unmanned, we are unable to comment on the weather conditions throughout the entire noise survey period. However, at the beginning and end of the survey, there was noted to be generally dry conditions with full cloud coverage, and light wind. At the end of the survey there was also noted to be evidence of rainfall having occurred, therefore weather history data for Hornsey has been consulted which indicates that intermittent light rain occurred during the morning of Friday 24 January 2025, and the afternoon of Sunday 26 January 2025. Survey periods that are considered to have been affected by rainfall have therefore been omitted from further analysis. Weather conditions during the remainder of the survey period are considered to be appropriate for undertaking environmental noise measurements.

The noise monitoring equipment was calibrated before and after the noise survey period. No significant change was found to have occurred. Laboratory equipment calibration certificates can be provided upon request.

4.2 Noise Survey Results

Appendix B presents a time history graph showing the L_{Aeq} and L_{A90} sound pressure levels measured throughout the noise survey (shown as 15-minute periods).

We would consider the levels measured to be reasonable, taking into account the location of the measurement position and the dominant nearby noise sources.

Periodic audio recordings were undertaken at intervals throughout the survey in order to determine which periods the temporary padel courts had been in use, as these will no longer remain in place once the permanent courts have been installed. We have therefore omitted periods where the temporary padel courts were in use from our analysis of typical ambient and background noise levels at the site.

Also, using the periodic audio recordings, it was noted that the noise climate at the site during the survey period is typically affected by distant road traffic noise from surrounding roads, intermittent aircraft noise, and noise arising from children at the Highgate Wood secondary school to the west of the site, and only occasional vehicles using the cricket-club car park.

A summary of the typical (modal) ambient $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$, and typical (modal) background $L_{A90, T}$ noise levels measured during the proposed operating hours (08:00 – 20:00 hours Monday to Sunday) is presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Summary of Measured Noise Levels During Proposed Operating Hours

Typical (Modal) Measured Noise Levels (dB) During Operating Hours	
Ambient $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$	Background $L_{A90, 1 \text{ hour}}$
51	45

5.0 Noise Impact Assessment

5.1 Basis of Assessment

The proposed site layout showing the locations of the proposed permanent padel courts in relation to surrounding properties are presented in Figure 2.2.

As described above, the proposed operating hours are 08:00-20:00 weekdays and weekends.

As a worst-case, our assessment assumes that all four courts could be in-use simultaneously during a given 1-hour assessment period.

Noise sources associated with use of the courts is understood to involve primarily vocalisations from the players, impacts between the ball and padel, and impacts between the ball and the padel court enclosure.

The proposed padel court constructions are understood to be as follows:

- Astro-turf floor surface
- Glass rear and side panels
- Steel mesh fencing to mid-court side walls

Activity noise measurements were undertaken at a representative site with permanent external courts of the same constructions as described above (located at The Barns at Wellington, Reading, RG7 2BT) between Monday 3 February 2025 to Thursday 6 February 2025. At the measurement position, the measurement microphone was attached to a lamppost approximately 2.5m above ground level and 8m from the permanent external padel court at the representative site. The measurements were undertaken using a laboratory calibrated Type 1 sound level meter and associated equipment – additional survey details are available upon request.

Padel-court bookings are understood typically to last at least an hour or more, and numerous bookings were noted by the operators to have taken place throughout the measurement period.

The typical ambient $L_{Aeq, 1\text{-hour}}$ noise level measured during use of the representative courts has been corrected for residual environmental noise, to obtain the specific padel noise level during a booking.

The typical specific noise level during use of the representative permanent padel court, was **54 dB $L_{Aeq, 1 \text{ hour}}$ at 8m.**

5.2 Nearest Noise Sensitive Properties

Our calculations have taken into account the following approximate distances from the proposed padel courts to the nearest existing noise sensitive properties shown on Figure 2.1 as follows:

- Edge of nearest padel courts to 1 View Crescent 6m
- Edge of furthest padel courts to 1 View Crescent 30m
- Edge of nearest padel courts to 6 View Crescent 13m
- Edge of furthest padel courts to 6 View Crescent 27m
- Edge of nearest padel courts to 36 Tivoli Road adjacent to the south 25m
- Edge of furthest padel courts to 36 Tivoli Road adjacent to the south 39m

In our assessment of noise emissions externally, we have considered the existing ambient noise levels at the site measured during the proposed operating periods (08:00 – 20:00 hours) which are presented in Table 4.2. The ambient and assessment noise levels shall be compared with the IEMA guidance criteria presented in Section 3.4 to determine the level of associated noise impact.

5.3 Noise Transmission Predictions – External Facade

Our noise transmission calculations are presented in Tables 5.1 to 5.3.

Table 5.1 Padel Noise Transmission Calculations – 1 View Crescent

Element	Level (dB)	
	Nearest Two Courts	Furthest Two Courts
Source Noise Level (L_{Aeq} (1 hour) at 8m)	54	54
Quantity Correction	+3	+3
Distance Correction	+2	-11
Predicted L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level at Residential Window	59	46
Total L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Predicted Noise Level at Residential Window	59	
Typical Measured Existing Ambient L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level	51	
<i>Difference</i>	<i>+8</i>	

Table 5.2 Padel Noise Transmission Calculations – 6 View Crescent

Element	Level (dB)	
	Nearest Two Courts	Furthest Two Courts
Source Noise Level (L_{Aeq} (1 hour) at 8m)	54	54
Quantity Correction	+3	+3
Distance Correction	-4	-11
Predicted L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level at Residential Window	53	46
Total L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Predicted Noise Level at Residential Window	54	
Typical Measured Existing Ambient L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level	51	
<i>Difference</i>	+3	

Table 5.3 Padel Noise Transmission Calculations – 36 Tivoli Road

Element	Level (dB)	
	Nearest Two Courts	Furthest Two Courts
Source Noise Level (L_{Aeq} (1 hour) at 8m)	54	54
Quantity Correction	+3	+3
Distance Correction	-10	-14
Predicted L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level at Residential Window	47	43
Total L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Predicted Noise Level at Residential Window	48	
Typical Measured Existing Ambient L_{Aeq} (1 hour) Noise Level	51	
<i>Difference</i>	-3	

It can therefore be seen that the predicted levels of external padel noise transmission correlates with a **substantial** noise level change for noise levels at the nearest window of the property at 1 View Crescent, a **negligible** noise level change for the property at 6 View Crescent, and a **negligible** noise level change for the property at 36 Tivoli Road, in comparison with the IEMA guidance criteria.

6.0 Discussion

The assessment presented in the previous section shows that a change in L_{Aeq} (1 hour) ambient noise levels of up to 8 dB is predicted to potentially occur at the worst-case property, during the worst-case scenario when all four proposed courts are in full use simultaneously for the full assessment period, which is shown to correlate with a potential ‘substantial’ noise impact.

It is considered that for the majority of the time, a smaller number of courts than assessed are likely to see simultaneous use at any one time, and therefore in context, the noise impact is likely to be less than shown in the worst-case assessment.

For the next-nearest residential properties, it is shown that a 'negligible' noise impact is likely to occur. Padel noise therefore has the potential to only affect a very small number of the surrounding properties i.e. the worst-case windows at 1 View Crescent, if at all.

It should be noted that as is advised in BS 4142:2014+A1: 2019, *"not all adverse impacts will lead to complaints and not every complaint is proof of an adverse impact"*.

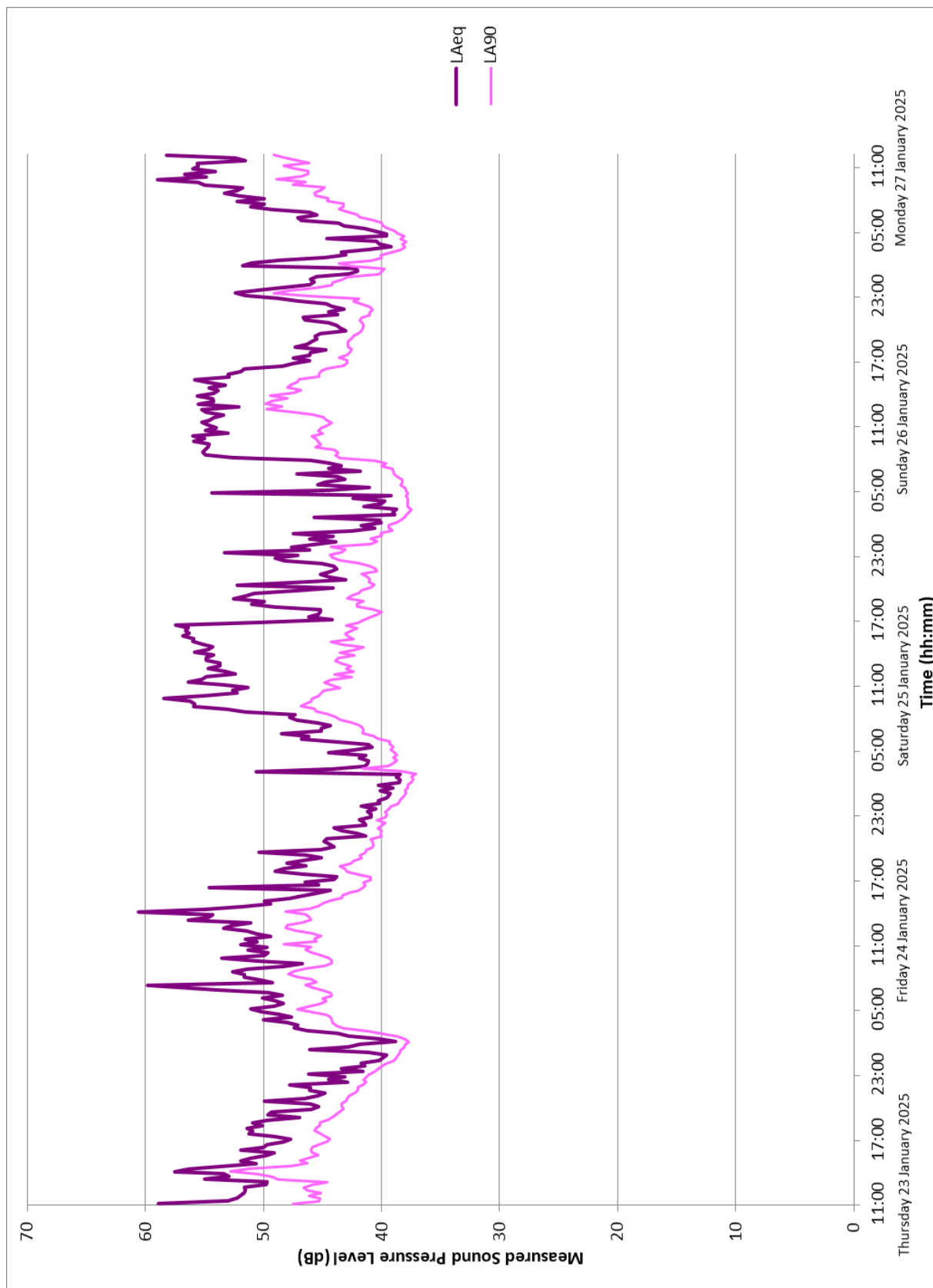
Additionally, in the context of the site, the worst-case windows at 1 View Crescent directly overlook the existing hard standing and cricket ground and will have had a direct view of sport-related activity in these areas for many years. The existing hard standing has been used for tennis, and more recently as temporary padel courts, for a significant time period, and with the land under the same ownership as the adjacent cricket grounds, the use of these areas for sporting activities is well established with the neighbouring properties, and the likelihood of noise complaints in relation to sport/padel noise is therefore much lower for this reason.

If it is deemed to be necessary, additional mitigation could be achieved via a suitable noise management plan for the proposed use of the courts. An example noise management plan is included in Appendix C.

Appendix A – Acoustic Terminology

Parameter	Description
Decibel (dB)	A logarithmic scale representing the sound pressure or power level relative to the threshold of hearing (20×10^{-6} Pascals).
Sound Pressure Level (L_p)	The sound pressure level is the sound pressure fluctuation caused by vibrating objects relative to the threshold of hearing.
A-weighting (L_A or dBA)	The sound level in dB with a filter applied to increase certain frequencies and decrease others to correspond with the average human response to sound.
L_{Amax}	The A-weighted maximum noise level measured during the measurement period.
$L_{Aeq,T}$	The A-weighted equivalent continuous noise level over the time period T (typically T = 16 hours for daytime periods, T = 8 hours for night-time periods). This is the sound level that is equivalent to the average energy of noise recorded over a given period.
L_{A90} (15 min)	The noise level exceeded for 90% of the time (also referred to as the background noise level), measured over a 15-minute period
$L_{Ar,Tr}$	The rating sound level as described in BS 4142:2014+A1:2019. This is the specific sound level including corrections for acoustic features such as tonality, impulsivity, or intermittency, used in the assessment of industrial and commercial applications.

Appendix B – Time History Graph



Appendix C – Example Noise Management Plan

In order to maintain the findings of the above assessments and ultimately to limit noise emissions associated with operation of the site, the noise management measures outlined in the following sections could be adhered to.

Noise Emissions from the Premises

- The site will only be used during the consented operating hours
- No amplified music shall be permitted to be played on the premises at any time
- Bookings should be well managed such that there is minimal overlap between separate bookings, to minimise the potential number of people waiting on-site
- Spectating should be discouraged, otherwise any clapping/cheering should not be permitted on site from spectators
- All visitors will be made aware of the sensitivity of the site neighbours by way of clear signage at the main site entrance, and at the main access points
- Signage will request that visitors respect the privacy and peace of the site neighbours during their arrival and departure
- Site staff will work with visitors to reduce the potential for any excessive raised voices externally and to discourage loitering at the site entrance when arriving/departing from the site

Deliveries

- Deliveries will only take place during the consented operating hours
- Delivery drivers will be made aware of the sensitivity of the site neighbours by way of clear signage at the main site entrance and in the main delivery areas
- Signs in these areas will request that delivery drivers respect the privacy and peace of the site neighbours during their arrival, loading/unloading and departure
- Signage in the delivery area will request that drivers close doors quietly, do not use horns or reverse alarms at all and that engines are not left to idle

Procedure for Handling Noise Complaints

Any complaints that are received in relation to noise associated with the site will be acted upon promptly and positively.

Contact details (telephone, email) shall be displayed on the outside of the premises (or on the website) to ensure that any complaints can be communicated directly.

The following details shall be recorded for any complaint:

- Date and time of event
- Name of complainant
- Receptor location/s (address, internal/external)
- Specific noise issue causing the problem
- Observations and nature of the issue (continuous/intermittent, character of noise)
- Effect of the issue on the receptor (nuisance, sleep disturbance, outside/inside, etc.)
- Longevity of the issue (ongoing, short-term, etc.)
- Weather conditions at time of issue
- Relevant staff name/s
- Any complaints will be acted upon immediately to understand the extent of the issue and to take all necessary action to mitigate the problem.