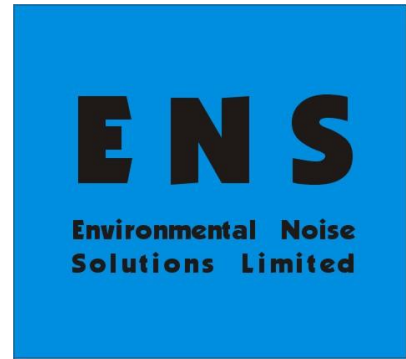




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Proposed Wedding Venue Middleton Conservative Club, Long Street, Middleton, M24 6UN

Noise Impact Assessment

**For:
Architecture Unknown Ltd.**

21st August 2025

Ref: NIA-12182-25-12471-v2 Middleton Conservative Club
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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Environmental Noise Solutions Ltd (ENS) has been commissioned by Architecture Unknown Ltd. to undertake a noise impact assessment for a proposed wedding venue at land at Middleton Conservative Club, Long Street, Middleton, M24 6UN (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

The objectives of the noise impact assessment were to:

- Measure the baseline noise levels at the site and its surrounding environs
- Assess the potential impact of the proposed development with reference to pertinent guidelines
- Provide recommendations for structural and management controls, as necessary, to protect the noise amenity of the nearest residential dwellings

This report details the methodology and results of the noise assessment. It has been prepared to accompany a planning application to be submitted to Rochdale Borough Council (RBC).

The report has been prepared for Architecture Unknown Ltd. for the sole purpose described above and no extended duty of care to any third party is implied or offered. Third parties referring to the report should consult Architecture Unknown Ltd. and ENS as to the extent to which the findings may be appropriate for their use.

A glossary of acoustic terms used in the main body of the text is contained in Appendix 1.

1.2 Site Description

The site is located in a mixed-use setting in Middleton, near Rochdale, and comprises the former Middleton Conservative Club and associated bowling green to the rear of the building

The site is bound by:

- Long Street to the east
- Nos. 10–18 Sadler Street and Nos. 71–73 Long Street to the south
- Light industrial units to the west
- Nos. 79–79A Long Street, The Old School Rooms wedding venue and vehicle yard to the north

See Figure 1.1 for site boundary outlined in red.

Figure 1.1: Location of Site



The ambient and background noise climate at the site is formed by local and distant road traffic, with music/patron noise associated with the nearby New Inn present until 0130 hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

The nearest noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) to the site are considered to be (see Appendix 2 for locations of NSRs):

- Nos. 79–79A Long Street to the north-east (NSR1)
- Nos. 40A Long Street to the east (NSR2)
- Nos. 71–73 Long Street to the south (NSR3)
- Nos. 6–10 Sadler Street to the south (NSR4)
- No. 18 Sadler Street¹ to the south-west (NSR5)
- Residential dwellings on Grey Street to the north-west (NSR6)

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Currently offices, but planning permission for the change of use to residential is pending (ref: 22/00288/FUL)

In relation to relevant planning history in the vicinity of the site, it is noted that planning permission (ref: 17/01310/FUL) for The Old School Rooms wedding venue directly to the north was granted by RBC in August 2018.

It is evident that the principle of events venue development in the locality has been established.

1.3 Development Proposals

Development proposals are for the refurbishment and extension of the existing club building to form a 350 capacity multi-use function space for events such as weddings, ceremonial gatherings, and other community events.

A new car parking area will be provided at the rear of the building to increase parking provision to 58 no. spaces in total.

The proposed floor plan for the wedding venue is contained in Appendix 3 for reference.

Events will typically take during the afternoon/evening, finishing no later than 0000 hours. For reference, these opening hours are consistent with the opening hours of the consented wedding venue directly to the north.

Deliveries to the venue will take place in a dedicated loading bay on the southern elevation of the existing club building. Delivery hours are understood to be 0800–2000 hours.

No external sound reinforcement systems are proposed.

2 Assessment Guidance

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)² was updated in February 2025 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Where issues of noise impact are concerned the NPPF provides brief guidance in paragraph 187 where it states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

'preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of.....noise pollution'.

Paragraph 198 advises that:

'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.....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'.

The NPPF also refers to the 2010 DEFRA publication, the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) which reinforces and supplements the NPPF.

2.2 Noise Policy Statement for England

The Noise Policy Statement for England³ (NPSE) sets out the long-term vision of promoting good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development. This long-term vision is supported by the following aims:

- Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life
- Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life
- Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life

The NPSE describes the following levels at which noise impacts may be identified:

- NOEL – No Observed Effect Level. This is the level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise
- LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level. This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected
- SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level. This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur

According to the explanatory notes in the statement, where a noise level falls between the lowest observable adverse effect level (LOAEL) and a level which represents a significant observable adverse effect level (SOAEL):

'....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.'

2 National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021)

3 Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Noise Policy Statement for England (2010)

2.3 Planning Practice Guidance on Noise

Planning Practice Guidance⁴ (PPG) is an online resource providing additional guidance and elaboration on the NPPF. It advises that the Local Planning Authority should consider the acoustic environment in relation to:

- 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
- Whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved

In line with the Explanatory Note of the NPSE, the PPG references the LOAEL and SOAEL in relation to noise impact. It also provides examples of outcomes that could be expected for a given perception level of noise, plus actions that may be required to bring about a desired outcome. However, in line with the NPSE, no objective noise levels are provided for LOAEL or SOAEL although the PPG acknowledges that: ‘...the subjective nature of noise means that there is not a simple relationship between noise levels and the impact on those affected. This will depend on how various factors combine in any particular situation’.

Table 2.1 summarises the PPG noise exposure hierarchy.

Table 2.1: PPG 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 change 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 Adverse 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

2.4 Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts

Principles and guidelines for the control of environmental noise at concerts are contained in the Noise Council's 1995 publication 'Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts' (CoP). This is considered to be the most relevant guidance on noise from music events.

The purpose of the CoP is to give guidance on how potential disturbance or annoyance to those living in the vicinity of music events can be minimised.

The CoP considers that the Music Noise Level (MNL) (defined as the L_{Aeq} of the music noise measured at a particular location) when assessed at the prediction stage or measured during sound checks or concerts should not exceed the guidelines shown in Table 2.2 below at any NSRs.

Table 2.2: Music Noise Level guidelines

Concert Days Per Calendar Year, Per Venue	Venue Category	Guideline
1 to 3	Urban stadia or arenas	The MNL should not exceed 75 dB(A) over a 15-minute period
1 to 3	Other urban and rural venues	The MNL should not exceed 65 dB(A) over a 15-minute period
4 to 12	All venues	The MNL should not exceed the background noise level ¹ by more than 15 dB(A) over a 15-minute period
1. The value used should be the arithmetic average of the hourly L_{A90} measured over the last four hours of the proposed music event or over the entire period of the proposed music event if scheduled to last for less than four hours.		

Note 5 to the above table recommends that for indoor venues used for up to about 30 events per year, the MNL should not exceed the background noise level by more than 5 dB(A) over a 15-minute period.

However, this element of the guidance is not necessarily appropriate to the site, as a permanent change of use is sought without restrictions on the number of events per year. Therefore, with respect to music noise levels, it is considered robust for the music noise level at the premises not to exceed the representative evening background noise level at the nearest NSRs.

This is consistent with guidance contained in the 'Good Practice Guide on the Control of Noise from Pubs and Clubs' published by the Institute of Acoustics. The annex to the guidance states that for > 30 events per year, the $L_{Aeq (15 \text{ min})}$ EN (entertainment noise level) shall not exceed the L_{A90} WEN (background noise level in the absence of entertainment noise) at the nearest NSRs.

2.5 British Standard BS 4142:2014+A1:2019

BS 4142:2014+A1-2019 'Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound' (BS 4142)⁵ describes methods for determining, at the outside of a building, noise levels from factories or industrial premises and a method for assessing whether the noise is likely to give rise to adverse impacts, and states:

'The significance of sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature depends upon both the margin by which the rating level of the specific sound source exceeds the background sound level and the context in which the sound occurs. Typically, the greater this difference, the greater the magnitude of the impact. For example:

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

A 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'

The rating level is described as the specific sound level (the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level at the assessment position (NSR) produced by the specific sound source over the given reference time interval) plus any adjustment for the characteristic features of the sound. The character correction relates to whether and to what degree the specific sound is assessed to have an element of tonality, impulsivity and/or characteristics that are readily distinctive against the residual acoustic environment.

The background noise level is the A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise at the assessment position that is exceeded for 90 percent of a given time interval, T, measured using time weighting 'F' and quoted to the nearest whole number of decibels.

The reference time interval of the specific sound is 1 hour during the daytime and 15 minutes during the night-time.

2.6 IEMA Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment

The IEMA Guidelines for Environmental Noise Impact Assessment provide recommendations for approaches to noise impact assessment in the context of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. However, the principles in the guidelines are relevant to all types of project where noise effects are likely to occur, regardless of size including small developments which are not screened as EIA development.

The guidelines provide a number of examples regarding approach to impact assessment. In circumstances where a noise environment may be altered by addition or removal of a noise source, considered to be within the prevailing acoustic character of an area, assessment of impact magnitude may be performed by considering the relative change in ambient noise level, as shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Example Noise Impact Magnitude Descriptors

Relative Change (dB(A))	Magnitude / Scale of Change
≤ 2.9	Negligible
3.0 – 4.9	Small
4.9 – 9.9	Medium
≥ 10.0	Large

3 Noise Survey

3.1 Overview

In order to establish ambient and background noise levels in the vicinity of site, baseline noise measurements were undertaken on Friday 25th July through to Monday 28th July 2025.

For the purpose of the assessment, the following noise monitoring positions were adopted (see Appendix 2 for monitoring locations):

- MP1 was located at the front of the building
- MP2 was located at the rear of the building

Noise measurements were undertaken in free field conditions at 1.5 metres above ground level using NTi XL3 and Bruel & Kjaer 2250 Type 1 integrating sound level meters. Each meter was connected to a windshield covered microphone positioned at the locations detailed above.

The measurement system calibration was verified immediately before and after the survey period using a Bruel & Kjaer Type 4231 calibrator. No drift in calibration levels greater than 0.5 dB was noted. The noted weather conditions during the survey were dry with wind speeds < 5 m/s. Weather conditions were therefore considered appropriate for noise monitoring.

Measurements consisted of A-weighted broadband parameters including L_{Aeq} and L_{A90} , together with linear octave and 1/3rd octave band data.

3.2 Baseline Summary

Table 3.1 below presents a summary of the noise data for each measurement session, at each measurement position, rounded to the nearest decibel.

Table 3.1: Summary of Noise Measurement Data

Position	Date	Time	$L_{Aeq, T}$ (dB)	Typical L_{A90} (15 min) (dB)
MP1	25/07/2025	1100–2300	66	61
	26/07/2025	0700–2300	66	61
	27/07/2025	0700–2300	65	60
	28/07/2025	0700–0900	67	62
	25-26/07/2025	2300–0700	64	43
	26-27/07/2025	2300–0700	63	44
	27-28/07/2025	2300–0700	61	37
MP2	25/07/2025	1015–2300	53	50
	26/07/2025	0700–2300	52	50
	27/07/2025	0700–2300	52	49
	28/07/2025	0700–0900	53	51
	25-26/07/2025	2300–0700	48	39
	26-27/07/2025	2300–0700	49	43
	27-28/07/2025	2300–0700	48	38

3.3 Analysis

The ambient and background noise climate at the site is formed by local and distant road traffic, with music/patron noise associated with the nearby New Inn present until 0130 hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

Background Noise Levels for Plant Assessment

As anticipated, worst-case (lowest) background noise levels at the site were measured on Sunday, with typical (most commonly occurring) background noise levels **61 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** during the daytime and **37 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** during the night-time at MP1.

These levels are adopted for the assessment of noise at NSR1, NSR2 and the road-fronting elevation of NSR3.

Typical background noise levels at MP2 were measured at **49 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** during the daytime and **38 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** during the night-time.

These levels are adopted for the assessment of noise at NSR4, NSR5, NSR6 and the rear-fronting elevation of NSR3.

Background Noise Levels for Music Noise Assessment

As described in the CoP, the value used for the assessment of music noise break-out from the development is the arithmetic average of the hourly L_{A90} measured over the last four hours of the event (2000–0000 hours in the case of the proposed development).

Table 3.2 below presents a summary of the noise data at each measurement position, rounded to the nearest decibel.

Table 3.2: Ambient and Background Noise Levels (2000–0000 hours)

Position	Date	Ambient Noise Level	Background Noise Level
MP1	Friday 25-26/07/2025	67 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	61 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
	Saturday 26-27/07/2025	66 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	61 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
	Sunday 27-28/07/2025	64 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	54 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
MP2	Friday 25-26/07/2025	52 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	49 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
	Saturday 26-27/07/2025	51 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	49 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
	Sunday 27-28/07/2025	50 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)	46 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)

4 Noise Assessment

4.1 Overview

The principal noise sources potentially associated with the proposed development are considered to be:

- Noise associated with fixed external plant
- Music noise breakout
- Noise associated with the car park

The following sections of the noise impact assessment discuss the potential noise impacts of the above activities on the amenity of the nearest NSRs.

4.2 Fixed External Plant

Detailed information regarding item(s) of fixed external plant required was not available at the time of writing and therefore this report should be used to aid in the specification of any external plant.

The daytime and night-time background sound levels at the front of the site have been measured at **61 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** and **37 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** respectively.

The daytime and night-time background sound levels at the rear of the site have been measured at **49 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** and **38 dB L_{A90} (15 min)** respectively.

Based upon the principles of BS 4142, it is considered appropriate that sound rating levels from fixed installations do not exceed the background sound rating levels detailed above in a free field position at the location of the nearest NSRs.

It is considered that this is amenable to suitably worded planning condition, and that appropriate noise control can be achieved by the judicious selection and siting of plant and/or standard noise mitigation techniques.

4.3 Music Noise Breakout

The venue will feature a main wedding hall (Wedding Hall 1) at ground floor, with an additional overflow space (Wedding Hall 2) at first floor level. It is understood that wedding receptions are to be held in Wedding Hall 1 and it is assumed that this may include musical entertainment.

In order to undertake the assessment, reference has been made to the ENS database of noise sources, which includes entertainment noise within wedding venues. During an event, the internal reverberant sound pressure level (SPL_{rev}) ranged from 85 to 89 dB(A) and included a band and DJ with karaoke.

Reference is also made to measurements undertaken by ENS within the function room of a working men's club, which were circa 89 dB(A) during a disco and circa 90 dB(A) during a live band.

On this basis, designing to an internal music noise level (MNL) of 90 dB(A) within Wedding Hall 1 is considered appropriate.

Table 4.1 presents the corresponding octave band frequency data for the measurement, rounded to the nearest decibel.

Table 4.1: Music Noise Octave Band Frequency Data

Octave Band L_{eq}								dB L_{Aeq}
63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1 kHz	2 kHz	4 kHz	8 kHz	
87	93	89	88	85	80	76	70	90

In order to assess the propagation of noise from the venue to the nearest receptors, noise level predictions have been performed using iNoise acoustic modelling software. This is a software program specifically developed for the prediction and assessment of environmental noise.

The model calculates noise levels on horizontal and vertical grids with a user defined spacing of receiver points. From these levels, calculated at thousands of points, contour lines of constant noise levels are generated and printed as noise maps. All scaling was based on direct import from Google Earth, with 2nd order reflections considered and absorption coefficients based on the iNoise default for brick-built structures.

The weakest acoustic elements of the building envelope are considered to be the glazed areas. Wedding Hall 1 has circa 10.6 m² of glazing on the eastern (road-fronting) elevation and circa 7.2 m² of glazing on the northern elevation.

It is assumed that standard thermal double glazing (with a sound reduction performance of circa 28 dB R_w+C_{tr}) is to be installed.

A noise level contour map is contained in Appendix 4. The predicted resultant music noise levels and existing background noise levels at the nearest receptors are contained in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Resultant Music Noise Levels at the Nearest Receptors

Receptor	Music Noise Level	Background Noise Level
NSR1: 79/79A Long Street	36 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	54 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR2: 40A Long Street	33 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	54 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR3: 71–73 Long Street (front)	23 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	54 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR3: 71–73 Long Street (rear)	12 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	46 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR4: 6–10 Sadler Street	20 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	46 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR5: 18 Sadler Street	9 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	46 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)
NSR6: Grey Street	12 dB L_{Aeq} (1 minute)	46 dB L_{A90} (1 hour)

The resultant MNLs at the nearest NSRs are significantly (at least 18 dB) below the existing late evening/night-time background noise levels at the NSRs.

It should also be noted that music noise associated with the nearby New Inn public house was audible across the site until 0130 hours (later than the operating hours sought for the proposed venue). Music noise from the venue would not therefore significantly affect the acoustic character of the area.

With reference to Table 2.1, music noise breakout is considered to represent a No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) in that such noise is noticeable and not intrusive i.e. noise may be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude and such noise may slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life. The noise impact is therefore considered to be negligible.

To minimise any potential noise the operator has proposed a noise management plan which includes keeping doors and windows of the Wedding Hall closed except for access and egress, a specialist glass bolt system to ensure fire doors remain closed except in an emergency and prohibiting the playing of music in any outdoor areas (see Appendix 6 for noise management plan).

4.4 Noise Associated with the Car Park

Based on previous measurements at other car parks, the following Sound Exposure Level (SEL) values have been determined at 10 metres distance.

Table 4.3: Car Park Noise Sound Exposure Levels (SELs)

Noise Event	SEL at 10 metres
Door slams	52 dB(A)
Car ignition and depart	62 dB(A)

As an extreme worst-case, it is assumed that a vehicle is departing from every car parking bay in a single 30-minute period at the end of an event.

The following formula is used for calculating the ambient noise level (L_{Aeq}) from measured activity SELs:

$$L_{Aeq, T} = 10 \times \log_{10} [((n \times 10^{SEL_1/10}) + (n \times 10^{SEL_2/10})) / T] \text{ where:}$$

- T is reference time interval (i.e. 1800 seconds)
- SEL_1 is the single event level of door slams (i.e. 52 dB(A))
- SEL_2 is the single event level of a vehicle departure (i.e. 62 dB(A))
- n is the number of occurrences of the SELs

Processing the above, the resultant noise level associated with a departing vehicle is calculated at **30 dB L_{Aeq} (30 min)** at 10 metres, which equates to a sound power level of **58 dB L_{WA}** per bay.

Plans indicate that there are 37 no. parking bays at the rear of the site and 21 no. parking bays at the front. The correction from 1 no. bay to 37 no. bays is +16 dB [i.e. = $10 \times \log(37)$] and therefore the worst-case cumulative sound power level for the rear car park is taken as **74 dB L_{WA}** . The correction from 1 no. bay to 21 no. bays is +13 dB and therefore the worst-case cumulative sound power level for the front car park is taken as **71 dB L_{WA}** .

In order to assess the propagation of car park noise to the nearest receptors, noise level predictions have been performed using iNoise acoustic modelling software. To reiterate, it is robustly assumed that every bay is departed from within a single 30-minute period.

A noise level contour map is contained in Appendix 5. The predicted resultant car park noise levels at the nearest receptors are contained in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Resultant Music Noise Levels at the Nearest Receptors

Receptor	Car Park Ambient Noise Level	Existing Ambient Noise Level
NSR1: 79/79A Long Street	32 dB L _{Aeq} (30 min)	64 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR2: 40A Long Street	33 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	64 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR3: 71–73 Long Street (front)	26 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	64 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR3: 71–73 Long Street (rear)	36 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	50 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR4: 6–10 Sadler Street	34 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	50 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR5: 18 Sadler Street	41 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	50 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)
NSR6: Grey Street	31 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)	50 dB L _{Aeq} (2000-0000)

As predicted noise levels associated with the car park are at least 9 dB below the existing evening/night-time ambient noise levels, there is no increase to the ambient noise level at any receptor. With reference to Table 2.3, the impact is deemed to be ‘Negligible’.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to mitigate and reduce noise levels associated with the venue to a minimum, the operator has proposed a noise management plan which includes management controls to minimise noise from patrons within the car park (see Appendix 6 for noise management plan).

5 Miscellaneous

5.1 Construction Noise

Best Practicable Means (BPM) of noise control should be applied during construction works to minimise noise (including vibration) at neighbouring residential properties receptors arising from construction activities. BPM are defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as those measures which are:

‘reasonably practicable having regard among other things to local conditions and circumstances, to the current state of technical knowledge and to financial implications.’

The Contractor should adopt the following measures in accordance with the recommendations set out in British Standard 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 ‘Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites. Noise’ (BS5228-1)⁶:

Control Measures

- Vehicles and mechanical plant are to be maintained in a good and effective working order and operated in a manner to minimise noise emissions.
- HGV and site vehicles should be equipped with broadband, non-tonal reversing alarms.
- Compressor, generator and engine compartment doors are to be kept closed and plant turned off when not in use.
- All pneumatic tools should be fitted with silencers/mufflers (where practicable).
- Care will be taken when unloading vehicles to avoid un-necessary noise.
- The use of particularly noise plant will be limited, i.e. avoiding use of particularly noisy plant early in the morning.
- Restrict the number of plant items in use at any one time.
- Plant maintenance operations will be undertaken at the greatest possible distance from noise-sensitive receptors.
- Minimise the speed of on-site vehicle movements.
- Ensure that operations are designed to be undertaken with any directional noise emissions pointing away from noise-sensitive receptors.
- When replacing older plant, consider the quietest available plant as a substitute.
- Drop heights are to be minimised when loading and unloading vehicles.
- Vehicles should be prohibited from waiting within the site with their engines running or alternatively, located in waiting areas away from sensitive receptors.
- Site perimeter hoarding (solid, 2.4-metre-high with a mass per unit area $\geq 10 \text{ kg/m}^2$) should be erected around the site, where practicable

Notifications

Occupiers of adjacent properties should be informed by the Contractor up to two weeks in advance of the works taking place, including the duration and likely noise effects. Potentially affected residents will also be notified of the helpline number for the Contractor.

5.2 Noise Management Plan (NMP)

For reference, the provision of a NMP was a requirement under Condition 6 of Planning Permission ref: 17/01310/FUL for the consented wedding venue directly to the north. A NMP based on management controls and structural mitigation measures is therefore set out in Appendix 6.

6

BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites. Noise. BSI (2014)

6 Summary and Conclusions

A noise survey and assessment has been performed for a proposed wedding venue at land at Middleton Conservative Club, Long Street, Middleton, M24 6UN.

Baseline noise monitoring was carried out on Friday 25th July through to Monday 28th July 2025 to determine prevailing ambient and background noise levels in the vicinity of the site.

An assessment of the noise impact of the proposed development has been undertaken, in line with pertinent guidance.

Provided the recommendations contained within this noise impact assessment are implemented, noise is not considered to represent a constraint to the development.

Appendix 1 – Abbreviations and Definitions

Sound Pressure Level (L_p)

The basic unit of sound measurement is the sound pressure level. As the pressures to which the human ear responds can range from 20 μPa to 200 Pa, a linear measurement of sound levels would involve many orders of magnitude. Consequently, the pressures are converted to a logarithmic scale and expressed in decibels (dB) as follows:

$$L_p = 20 \log_{10}(p/p_0)$$

Where L_p = sound pressure level in dB; p = rms sound pressure in Pa; and p_0 = reference sound pressure (20 μPa).

A-weighting

A frequency filtering system in a sound level meter, which approximates under defined conditions the frequency response of the human ear. The A-weighted sound pressure level, expressed in dB(A), has been shown to correlate well with subjective response to noise.

Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level, $L_{Aeq, T}$

The value of the A-weighted sound pressure level in decibels of continuous steady sound that within a specified time interval, T , has the same mean-square sound pressure as a sound that varies with time. $L_{Aeq, 16h}$ (07:00 to 23:00 hours) and $L_{Aeq, 8h}$ (23:00 to 07:00 hours) are used to qualify daytime and night-time noise levels.

$L_{A10, T}$

The A-weighted sound pressure level in decibels exceeded for 10% of the measurement period, T . $L_{A10, 18h}$ is the arithmetic mean of the 18 hourly values from 06:00 to 24:00 hours.

$L_{A90, T}$

The A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise in decibels exceeded 90% of a given time interval, T . L_{A90} is typically taken as representative of background noise.

$L_{AF \max}$

The maximum A-weighted noise level recorded during the measurement period. The subscript 'F' denotes fast time weighting, slow time weighting 'S' is also used.

Single Event Level / Sound Exposure Level (SEL or L_{AE})

The energy produced by a discrete noise event averaged over one second, regardless of the event duration. This allows for comparison between different noise events which occur over different lengths of time.

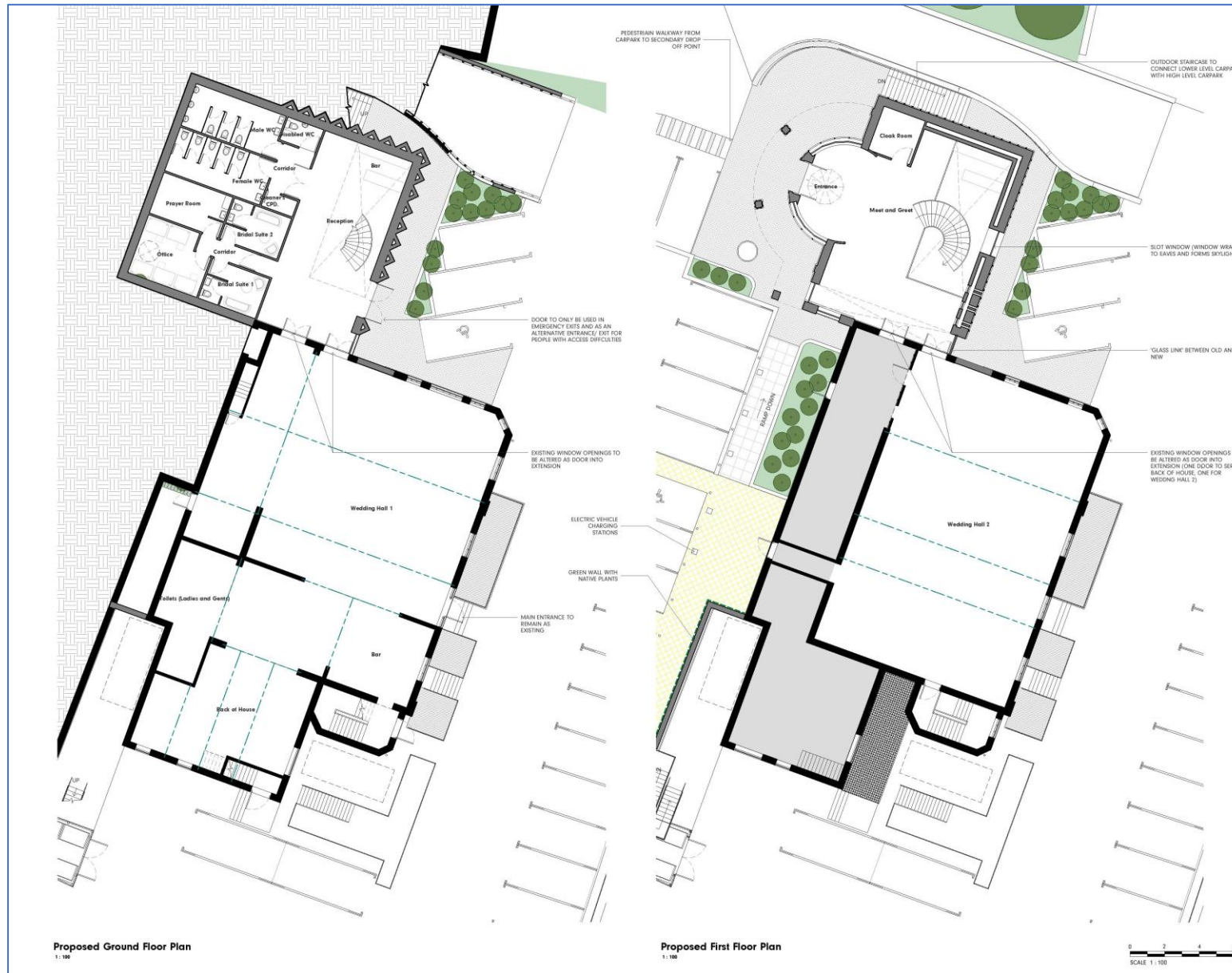
Weighted Sound Reduction Index (R_w)

Single number quantity which characterises the airborne sound insulation properties of a material or building element over a defined range of frequencies (R_w is used to characterise the insulation of a material or product that has been measured in a laboratory).

Appendix 2 – Approximate Noise Measurement Positions



Appendix 3 – Proposed Floor Plans

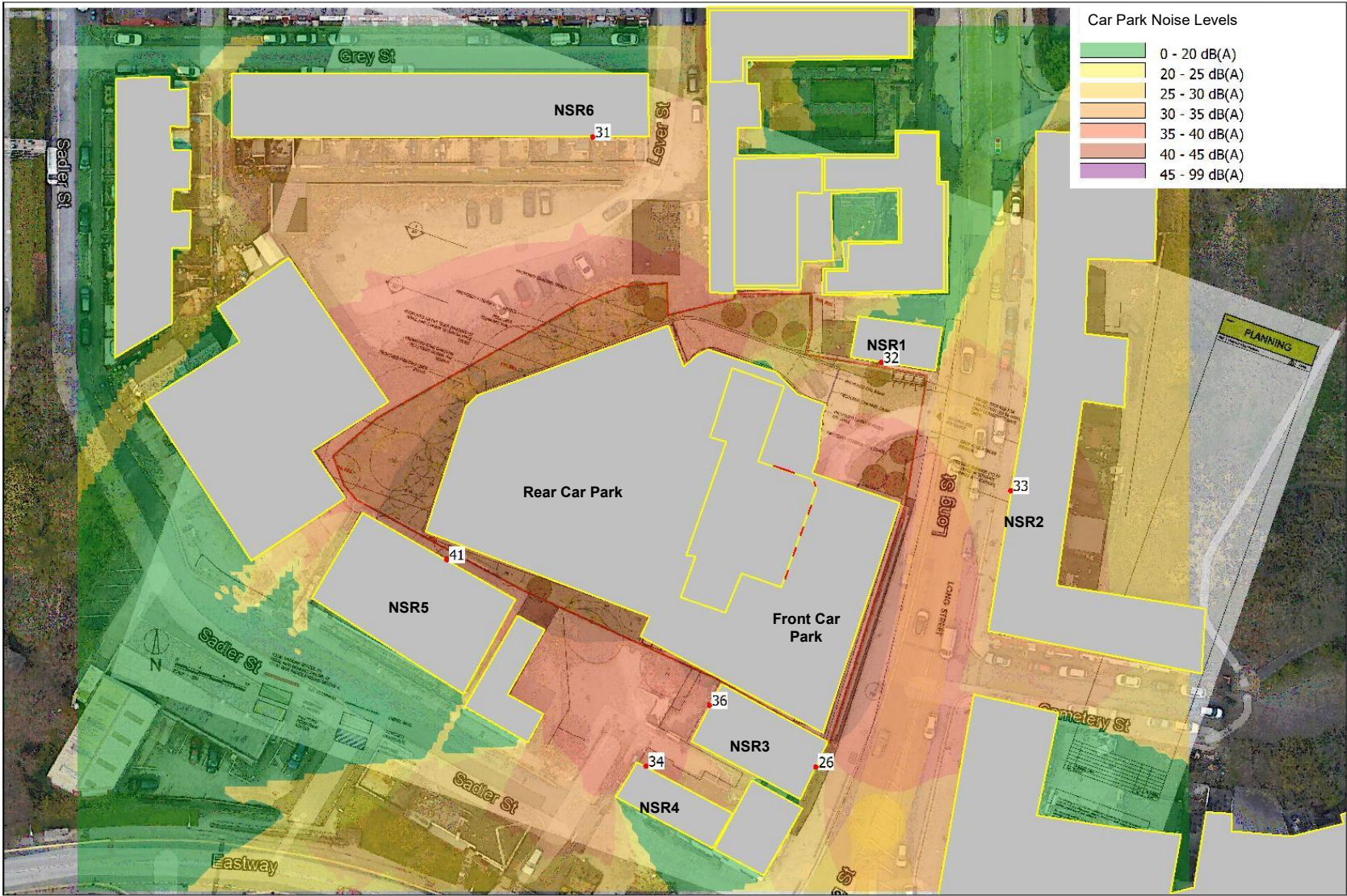


Appendix 4 – Music Noise Contour Plot



ISO 9613-2:2024, [version of Area - initial model] , iNoise V2024.3 Free Licensed to Tom Crabb - Environmental Noise Solutions

Appendix 5 – Car Park Noise Contour Plot



ISO 9613-2:2024, [version of Area - initial model] , iNoise V2024.3 Free Licensed to Tom Crabb - Environmental Noise Solutions

Appendix 6 – Noise Management Plan

Site Noise Policy Management

Ownership of the Noise Management Policy (NMP) lies with the General Manager. The General Manager will be responsible for the monitoring of the procedures specified and ensuring their continued compliance.

In instances of potential non-compliance, steps will be taken by the General Manager to ensure that the incident is recorded and the correct procedures put in place.

Regular training will be provided by the General Manager (or a member of the Management Team) to General Staff to ensure that the NMP is adhered to at all times.

In instances of potential non-compliance, steps will be taken by the General Manager to ensure that the incident is recorded and the correct procedures put in place.

All staff are to be made aware of the importance of preserving good relations with surrounding neighbours, particularly residential neighbours.

Instructions for Duty Management and General Staff

Music Noise

The playing of music at the site shall not be permitted after 0000 hours.

All windows and doors must remain closed during noise-generating events except for access/egress.

Specialist 'glass bolts' installed on fire exit doors to help prevent fire doors being opened except in an emergency.

No amplified music is permitted in any outdoor areas.

Carry out periodic listening tests (particularly in the late evening) to subjectively assess the acceptability of music break out.

Assign a senior member of staff as a point of contact for local residents.

Guests Entering / Leaving the Premises

Signs to be located on the exits / toilets / prominent places asking guests to be quiet and courteous to local residents when leaving the premises.

Parking attendants will supervise the car park at the beginning and end of an event.

Signs to be located around the car park / prominent places advising that excessive revving, engine noise and car stereo noise is prohibited within the car park.

Guests will be asked by staff to not loiter outside the premises.

General

If a complaint arises, management and employees will follow a set of guidelines which set out how to deal with complaints quickly and effectively and to address any issues raised.

Complaints from neighbouring residents (by letter, telephone or in person) should be met with a concerned, polite reply sympathetic to the residents' concerns. The complaint should be logged and reviewed with Site Management and/or General Staff with a noted action taken.

Put signs in prominent places asking guests to be quiet when leaving the venue.

Annual reviews of the noise management plan will be undertaken by the premises to ensure appropriate action is taken and that the noise management plan is relevant / up to date. Where potential improvements to noise management are identified by the premises, the noise management plan should be updated accordingly.