

Report VA6356.260909.NIA1.2

Dog Kennels, Braydon, Wiltshire

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Braydon Dogs

01962 461016
0203 8650332
mail@ventaacoustics.com

registered company no. 10139494

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VA6356/SP1	Indicative Site Plan
VA6356/TH1 - TH8	Environmental Noise Time Histories
Appendix A	Acoustic Terminology

Report Version	Author	Approved	Changes	Date
NIA1.2	Steven Liddell	Ben Alexander	Night time assessment included	15/09/2026

The interpretations and conclusions summarised in this report represent Venta Acoustics' best technical interpretation of the data available to us at the time of assessment. Any information provided by third parties and referred to in this report has not been checked or verified by Venta Acoustics, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. Venta Acoustics cannot accept any liability for the correctness or validity of the information provided. Due to a degree of uncertainty inherent in the prediction of all parameters, we cannot, and do not guarantee the accuracy or correctness of any interpretation and we shall not, except in the case of gross or wilful negligence on our part, be liable for any loss, cost, damages or expenses incurred or sustained by anyone resulting from any interpretations, predictions or conclusions made by the company or employees. The findings and conclusions are relevant to the period of the site survey works, and should not be relied upon to represent site conditions at later dates. Where additional information becomes available which may affect the findings of our assessment, the author reserves the right to review the information, reassess the findings and modify the conclusions accordingly.

1. Introduction

Venta Acoustics has been commissioned by Moore Allen & Innocent LLP, on behalf of Braydon Manor Farm Services, to undertake a noise assessment and prepare a Noise Management Plan in connection with the retrospective change of use of part of the agricultural yard at Braydon Manor Farm, The Common, Swindon, SN5 0AG, to a dog kennel facility.

An environmental noise survey has been undertaken at the site to characterise the existing background and ambient noise climate during normal operation of the facility. The measured levels, together with operational information provided by the applicant and agent, have informed the assessment of the kennel use against the relevant local planning guidance, and have informed the operational controls set out in the Noise Management Plan.

All staff at Venta Acoustics are members of the Institute of Acoustics, the recognised UK professional body for acoustics, noise and vibration professionals.

2. Site Description

The site is located at Braydon Manor Farm, The Common, Swindon, SN5 0AG, an existing agricultural site with agricultural buildings and facilities.

The kennel use is located within the farm complex, immediately to the west of an existing barn, on a historic concrete pad that was previously used as a stable block and dog grooming facility. The use comprises ten individual dog kennels arranged as a single run, with adjacent farm buildings and the wider farmyard immediately surrounding.

The site is set within a rural setting on the edge of Braydon. The Common runs to the north of the farm and provides the principal vehicular access. The wider area is predominantly agricultural grassland with scattered dwellings.

The principal noise-sensitive properties in the locality are residential dwellings within and immediately surrounding the farm holding. The closest dwelling is the farmhouse at Braydon Manor Farm itself, located approximately 50 metres to the northwest of the kennels. This dwelling is occupied by the applicant and is functionally associated with the kennel operation and the wider farm holding; it is not therefore considered to represent a third-party noise-sensitive receptor for the purposes of this assessment, although predicted levels at this position are reported below for completeness.

The next-nearest residential property identified on the Location Plan is Braydon Manor, located to the east of the kennels at a distance of approximately 70 metres and well screened by the intervening farm buildings. The nearest third-party residential receptor unrelated to the farm holding is the dwelling on The Common, approximately 170 metres to the northwest and partially screened by intervening vegetation.

Beyond these, the surrounding land is open agricultural grassland with further dwellings at greater distances.

The application is retrospective and seeks consent for the change of use of part of the agricultural yard to dog kennels. Braydon Dogs has operated since early 2023. The site contains ten individual kennels on an existing concrete pad. Access is by appointment only, with gates set back from the road to allow vehicles to wait off the carriageway.

The applicant has confirmed that the facility provides day and overnight boarding and operates throughout the year. General customer access is between 08:00 and 19:00, with overnight arrivals before 19:00. Feeding normally takes place between 07:30 and 08:00 and between 17:00 and 18:00. A final supervised toilet break is undertaken at approximately 22:00.

The boarding kennels are constructed from 30 mm composite insulated panels. Each has a hatch to an external run and ventilation openings in the end doors. The hatches are closed overnight. CCTV within the kennels allows the applicant to check the dogs from the farmhouse during the evening.

The applicant also keeps fourteen dogs in separate kennels (not a part of this application) at the end of the Manor Farm property, adjacent to the applicant site.

3. Design Criterion and Assessment Methodology

3.1 Local Planning Policy

The Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted 2015) provides the relevant local planning policy framework. The Design and Access Statement identifies Core Policy 34 (employment land) and Core Policy 48 (supporting rural life) as relevant to this application. Core Policy 48 requires that relevant rural development should not be detrimental to the amenities of residential areas.

Wiltshire Council's *Noise and Planning Technical Guidance* (Environmental Control and Protection, Version 1, October 2023) supplements the Core Strategy and provides direct technical guidance on the assessment of noise from commercial dog kennelling and boarding establishments.

The guidance recognises that dog vocalisation is highly intermittent and characterful, and states that BS 4142 is not considered an appropriate sole assessment method for barking from kennels and boarding establishments. The Wiltshire approach instead places emphasis on the predicted maximum barking level at the receptor relative to the representative background sound level, the duration and frequency of barking events, the separation distance and any screening between source and receptor, the time of day at which barking occurs, and the operational controls in place to limit sustained or repeated barking.

For kennels, the guidance adopts L_{AFmax} 95 dB as the source level for a barking medium sized dog. As a design standard for a new kennelling operation, the L_{Amax} at the nearest receptors should not exceed the representative background sound level L_{A90} between 08:00 and 20:00, and should remain 5 dB below the representative night-time L_{A90} between 20:00 and 08:00. The guidance notes

that, unless otherwise demonstrated, this is likely to mean that dogs need to be housed within an insulated building during the evening and night-time periods.

This assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Wiltshire technical guidance and the Core Strategy amenity test.

3.2 South Holland District Council Guidance

The Wiltshire guidance sets these receptor criteria but does not prescribe a propagation method or a time-averaged assessment. The source levels and the calculation framework set out in South Holland District Council's guidance, *Location of Premises for the Boarding and Breeding of Dogs and other Animals* (1999), have therefore been used as a supplementary daytime check. The South Holland guidance is widely cited in UK kennel planning assessments and provides published source levels and a dog-number correction.

The South Holland method has been applied here to derive an indicative time-averaged barking level for comparison with the measured background, with the caveat that the resulting levels are deliberately conservative and should be considered alongside the qualitative factors set out in the Wiltshire guidance and the operational controls. The South Holland guidance also assumes that dogs are housed in insulated kennels at night, which is consistent with this operation.

The assessment methodology states that noise from dogs at the nearby receivers, based upon a medium size dog barking for a cumulative time of 10 minutes in any hour, corrected for the number of dogs (levels of which are provided in the document), should be assessed against the arithmetic average of the L_{A90} during the operational period of the facility.

3.3 BS8233:2014

BS 8233:2014 *Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings* provides internal residential sound level guidance and has been considered.

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

Table 3.1 - Excerpt from BS8233: 2014

[dB ref. 20μPa]

3.4 WHO Guidelines for Community Noise (1999)

The guidance in this document details suitable noise levels for various activities within residential and commercial buildings.

The relevant sections of this document are shown in Table 1.1.

Criterion	Environment	Design range $L_{Aeq,T}$ dB
Maintain speech intelligibility and avoid moderate annoyance, daytime and evening	Living Room	35 dB
Prevent sleep disturbance, night time	Bedrooms	30 dB

Table 1.1 – Excerpt from WHO

[dB ref. 20µPa]

This guidance also states:

For a good sleep, it is believed that indoor sound pressure levels should not exceed approximately 45dB L_{Amax} more than 10-15 times a night (Vallet & Vernet 1991).

3.5 ProPG Draft Guidance

The Association of Noise Consultants, the Institute of Acoustics and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health have issued in draft form *ProPG: Guidance for the Assessment and Management of Noise from Dog Kennels*. As the document has not been formally adopted, it is not used as the assessment methodology in this report but does provide an indication of emerging professional consensus on the assessment of noise from kennel facilities, which supports the approach taken in this report.

In particular, the draft endorses the South Holland source level of approximately L_{Aeq} 65 dB at 10 m as a reasonable basis for assessment and supports an on-time correction based on ten minutes of barking per hour. Furthermore, for night-time assessments, the draft guidance references criteria for individual noise events, advising that internal maximum noise levels from dog barks should not exceed L_{AFmax} 45 dB within residential bedrooms to prevent sleep disturbance.

The draft also recognises that receptors with a financial involvement in the kennel operation, including family members of the operator living adjacent to the facility, may be excluded from the third-party noise impact assessment, which is consistent with the treatment of Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse in this report. The draft further identifies the operational history of an established facility, the implementation of best practicable means and the character of the area as material contextual considerations.

4. Environmental Noise Survey

4.1 Survey Procedure & Equipment

In order to establish the existing noise levels at the site, a noise survey was carried out between Tuesday 14th and Tuesday 21st April 2026 at the location shown in site plan VA6356/SP1. This location was chosen to be representative of the noise levels at the most affected dwellings.

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

Continuous audio was recorded throughout the survey and has been reviewed alongside the logged sound levels to identify and characterise barking events.

The weather during the survey period was generally dry with light winds. The background noise data is not considered to have been compromised by these conditions. The kennel facility was operating normally throughout the survey period. The measured ambient and background levels therefore characterise the existing acoustic environment at the survey position with the kennel use in operation.

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

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

Manufacturer	Model Type	Serial No	Calibration	
			Certificate No.	Date
Svante Class 1 SLM	971A	162020	1517067-1	12/3/26
Larson Davis calibrator	CAL200	22561	1516263-1	6/2/26

Table 4.1 – Equipment used for the tests

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

4.2 Results – Noise Climate

The measured sound levels are shown as time-history plots on the attached charts VA6356/TH1-8.

The average and background noise levels for the daytime and night-time periods, as measured at the automated monitoring position were:

Monitoring Period	$L_{Aeq,T}$	Typical ¹ $L_{A90,5min}$	Median L_{AFmax}
Daytime, 07:00 to 23:00	60 dB	30 dB	74 dB
Daytime, 07:00 to 19:00	60 dB	35 dB	75 dB
Evening, 19:00 to 23:00	55 dB	26 dB	65 dB
Full Night-time, 23:00 to 07:00	55 dB	21 dB	49 dB
Night, 23:00 to 05:00	39 dB	20 dB	46 dB
Early Morning, 05:00 to 07:00	60 dB	34 dB	74 dB
General day-to-day operating period, 08:00 to 19:00 ²	60 dB	40 dB	75 dB

Table 4.2 – Average ambient and typical background noise levels

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

² The L_{A90} value for the operating period is the arithmetic average of all $L_{A90,5min}$ values measured during that period.

The measured noise climate is characteristic of a quiet rural location. In accordance with the Wiltshire Council Noise and Planning Technical Guidance, which requires background levels to be representative of the existing noise levels at the most sensitive time during the proposed period of operation, a representative background sound level of L_{A90} 35 dB has been adopted for the primary assessment. This is the 10th percentile of the measured levels and is therefore conservative. The median over the 08:00 to 20:00 period was L_{A90} 39 dB.

The South Holland method specifies the arithmetic average of the L_{A90} over the operating period, which for 08:00 to 20:00 was L_{A90} 40 dB.

4.3 Results – Barking Events

The monitor was located adjacent to the applicant's own kennels and approximately 45 m from the boarding kennels. The recordings include both groups of dogs. The review therefore considered the source of the barking as well as its measured level.

Review of the audio identified barking from the boarding kennels. Measured levels were generally below L_{AFmax} 70 dB at the monitor and typically L_{AFmax} 51 to 53 dB between 23:00 and 07:00. The following values characterise the measured boarding-kennel events.

Period	Typical L_{AFmax}	Highest L_{AFmax}	Notes
Evening, 19:00 to 23:00	66 dB	70 dB	Occasional events primarily between 20:00 and 21:00. These values may include barking from the applicant's own dogs and may therefore overstate the boarding kennel levels.
Night-time, 23:00 to 05:00	51 dB	60 dB	Only a single night saw meaningful dog barks between 23:00 and 05:00, and these were limited to short periods of time at modest levels
Early morning, 05:00 to 07:00	53 dB	68 dB	Primary period of night time barking

Table 4.4 – Kennel dog bark event analysis as measured at approx. 45m from accommodation kennels

Accommodation barking duration, 19:00-07:00
Active duration (minutes per hour) [L_{AFmax} in dBA]

Survey night	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00
	0.1 [52 dB]	0.1 [52 dB]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8 [52 dB]	2.9 [52 dB]
	0.6 [51 dB]	2.1 [51 dB]	13.2 [52 dB]	2.1 [51 dB]	10.2 [51 dB]	1.8 [53 dB]	0.6 [50 dB]	8.8 [52 dB]	—	0.7 [51 dB]	3.5 [52 dB]	20.2 [55 dB]
	0.2 [59 dB]	0.3 [49 dB]	<0.1 [48 dB]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.0 [51 dB]	4.9 [51 dB]
	<0.1 [50 dB]	<0.1 [59 dB]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2 [50 dB]	3.3 [51 dB]
	2.4 [55 dB]	0.6 [55 dB]	3.7 [56 dB]	1.0 [58 dB]	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1 [51 dB]	11.8 [52 dB]
	2.8 [54 dB]	0.1 [51 dB]	0.1 [55 dB]	<0.1 [46 dB]	0.1 [57 dB]	0.1 [46 dB]	—	<0.1 [46 dB]	<0.1 [50 dB]	—	1.9 [52 dB]	0.2 [55 dB]
	0.1 [50 dB]	0.2 [53 dB]	0.6 [48 dB]	<0.1 [45 dB]	0.1 [57 dB]	—	—	<0.1 [47 dB]	—	—	0.2 [53 dB]	0.3 [52 dB]
Evening-to-morning one-hour slot (local time, BST)												

Boarding-kennel barking occurred infrequently between 23:00 and 05:00. The measured events after 05:00 were generally higher in level and coincided with higher background sound levels during the dawn chorus.

These measurements describe the external sound from the kennels as occupied and operated during the survey, including the effect of the enclosed accommodation.

4.4 Adopted Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria and calculation bases adopted in this report are summarised in Table 4.5.

Period	Criterion Source	Calculation basis	Adopted criterion
07:00–08:00	Wiltshire external L_{AFmax}	95 dB L_{AFmax} at source, medium dog	$L_{AFmax} \leq 16$ dB (L_{A90} 21 dB – 5 dB)
08:00–20:00	Wiltshire external L_{AFmax}		$L_{AFmax} \leq 35$ dB (L_{A90} 35 dB)
20:00–23:00	Wiltshire external L_{AFmax}		$L_{AFmax} \leq 16$ dB (L_{A90} 21 dB – 5 dB)
23:00–07:00	Wiltshire external L_{AFmax}	As above, with measured events as context	$L_{AFmax} \leq 16$ dB (L_{A90} 21 dB – 5 dB)
08:00–19:00	South Holland time-averaged $L_{Aeq,T}$	65.6 dB at 10 m, 60% of 10 dogs, 10 min/h	Compared with L_{A90} 40 dB
23:00–07:00, Inside bedrooms	ProPG Draft Guidance	External L_{AFmax} – 15 dB open window	Internal L_{AFmax} 45 dB

Table 4.5 Summary of criteria

The background-related comparisons are considered together with the frequency and duration of barking, separation and screening, time of day and the operational controls set out in the Noise Management Plan.

5. Predicted Sound Levels

Distance corrections have been applied to the published and measured boarding-kennel values as well as 18 dB screening by intervening buildings at Braydon Manor and 5 dB attenuation at The Common for intervening sheds, fences, vegetation and ground effects. Internal predictions allow 15 dB attenuation through a partially open window.

5.1 Based on Published Data

The Wiltshire guidance recommends assuming an L_{AFmax} source level of 95 dB for a medium sized dog.

Receptor	Period	Source L_p	Distance	Screening	Predicted L_{Amax}	Criterion
Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	95 dB	–34 dB	0 dB	61 dB	n/a (applicant)
Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse	Evening / night, 19:00–07:00	95 dB	–34 dB	0 dB	61 dB	n/a (applicant)
Braydon Manor	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	95 dB	–37 dB	–18 dB	40 dB	≤ 35 dB
Braydon Manor	Evening / night, 19:00–07:00	95 dB	–37 dB	–18 dB	40 dB	≤ 16 dB
The Common dwelling	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	95 dB	–45 dB	–5 dB	45 dB	≤ 35 dB
The Common dwelling	Evening / night, 19:00–07:00	95 dB	–45 dB	–5 dB	45 dB	≤ 16 dB

Table 5.1 – Predicted maximum barking levels at the nearest residential receptors, published source

Following the approach set out in the South Holland guidance, predicted daytime barking levels have been calculated at the nearest surrounding residential receptors.

The guidance provides a source level of $L_{Aeq,T}$ 65.6 dB at 10 m for one dog barking. For boarding kennels, the assessment number of barking dogs is taken as 60% of the total number of dogs. On the basis of ten kennels, this gives six barking dogs and a source level of $L_{Aeq,T}$ 73 dB at 10 m.

Receptor	Distance	Source level @ 10 m	Distance correction	Screening correction	Predicted level	Relevant Criterion
Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse	50 m	73 dB	-14 dB	0 dB	59 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$	n/a (applicant)
Braydon Manor	70 m	73 dB	-17 dB	-18 dB	38 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$	≤ 40 dB
The Common Dwelling	170 m	73 dB	-25 dB	-5 dB	43 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$	≤ 40 dB

Table 5.2 – Predicted barking noise levels at the nearest residential receptors, published data

5.2 Based on Measured Data

While the suggested source levels in the published data have been considered, the barking levels measured on site over several nights are considered more representative of the operating conditions, kennel construction and propagation paths present at this specific site.

At the 45 metre measurement distance, the Wiltshire source level corresponds to approximately L_{AFmax} 62 dB. The typical levels measured between 23:00 and 07:00, when the dogs are housed within the enclosed kennels, are 9 to 11 dB lower than this, which reflects the attenuation provided by the kennel construction.

Receptor	Period	Source @ 45 m	Distance	Screening	Predicted L_{Amax}	Criterion
Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse (applicant)	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	66 dB	-1 dB	0 dB	65 dB	n/a
	Evening, 19:00–23:00	66 dB	-1 dB	0 dB	65 dB	n/a
	Night, 23:00–05:00	51 dB	-1 dB	0 dB	50 dB	n/a
	Early morning, 05:00–07:00	53 dB	-1 dB	0 dB	52 dB	n/a
Braydon Manor	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	66 dB	-4 dB	-18 dB	44 dB	≤ 35 dB
	Evening, 19:00–23:00	66 dB	-4 dB	-18 dB	44 dB	≤ 16 dB
	Night, 23:00–05:00	51 dB	-4 dB	-18 dB	29 dB	≤ 16 dB
	Early morning, 05:00–07:00	53 dB	-4 dB	-18 dB	31 dB	≤ 16 dB
The Common dwelling	Daytime, 08:00–20:00	66 dB	-12 dB	-5 dB	49 dB	≤ 35 dB
	Evening, 19:00–23:00	66 dB	-12 dB	-5 dB	49 dB	≤ 16 dB
	Night, 23:00–05:00	51 dB	-12 dB	-5 dB	34 dB	≤ 16 dB
	Early morning, 05:00–07:00	53 dB	-12 dB	-5 dB	36 dB	≤ 16 dB

Table 5.3 – Predicted maximum barking levels at the nearest residential receptors, Measured Levels

6. Assessment

The predicted L_{Aeq} levels at Braydon Manor and The Common are 2 dB below and 3 dB above the representative daytime background of L_{A90} 40dB respectively. A 3 dB exceedance above background is considered marginal, particularly in the context of the active rural ambient sound climate at the site.

These levels are well below the measured daytime ambient sound level at the site, and barking events would not be expected to be the controlling source of audible sound at the receptor outside of quiet residual periods. It should be noted that at The Common, this value applies to the south (road facing) façade of the building, which does not include external amenity areas.

The amenity areas to the north of the dwelling are expected to be well screened and experience significantly lower sound levels, likely below the background. Allowing 15dB for a partially open window, sound levels within the building would be approximately L_{Aeq} 28dB, well below the BS8233 suggested internal levels¹.

The above calculation is intentionally conservative in that it assumes six dogs each barking for a cumulative 10 minutes in every hour, at full occupancy. The Noise Management Plan includes controls to limit sustained or repeated barking, including staff supervision, controlled exercise, appointment-only access and intervention where individual dogs fail to settle.

The predicted L_{Amax} sound levels at Braydon Manor and The Common are 40dB and 45dB respectively based on the advised source sound levels from the Wiltshire Guidance. The predicted levels based on the measured sound levels are up to 4 dB above this during the daytime and evening, and 9 to 11 dB below it between 23:00 and 07:00.

While these levels are above the background sound levels, and would therefore be audible outside the dwellings, they are not high in absolute terms being below the ambient L_{Aeq} levels and well below the typical existing L_{Amax} noise levels.

Allowing 15dB reduction for a partially open window, typical internal L_{Amax} levels would be up to 34dB during the evening and 21 dB or lower between 23:00 and 07:00, well below the L_{AFmax} 45 dB reference level. Using the highest measured levels and a 10 dB reduction through a partially open window, internal levels would be up to approximately 43 dB at The Common, so the 45 dB level would still not be exceeded.

Boarding kennel barking was generally infrequent between 23:00 and 05:00. Most measured activity occurred after 05:00, against the higher dawn background sound level. The actual background from 05:00 to 07:00 was materially higher than during the core night time period.

The wider context of the site and operations, including the rural agricultural setting, the position of the external amenity areas, and the three-year operational record of the facility, would support a lower impact than the initial numeric output would suggest and these factors are discussed further in Section 7.

Therefore, while barking is expected to be audible and above the published criteria outside the facing facades of the surrounding buildings, the levels are modest and would be well controlled internally and at the amenity spaces of the dwellings. Measurements have shown that night time

¹ It is accepted that BS8233 is intended to be applied to anonymous sound sources. The intent in this instance is to show that the absolute internal sound levels are relatively low even under robust assumptions.

noise is infrequent. On this basis the impact within the dwellings, in amenity spaces and during the night is expected to be low.

6.1 Access and Vehicle Activity

The Design and Access Statement confirms that access is by appointment only, that the gates have been installed set back from the public road to allow vehicles to wait clear of the carriageway, and that there is no public or unscheduled access to the holding. This arrangement limits the potential for unmanaged arrivals and roadside waiting, and reduces the visual and audible stimulus that can trigger barking from dogs in the kennels.

Vehicle movements associated with drop-off and collection are not expected to be the controlling acoustic source when compared with the potential for barking. The Noise Management Plan in Section 8 nevertheless includes specific controls on appointment scheduling, supervision and prompt handling of dogs during arrivals and departures to limit secondary barking triggers.

7. Discussion

The assessments predict L_{AFmax} barking levels above the representative background at both third-party receptors, and $L_{Aeq,T}$ levels above it at The Common, with night time maximum levels also exceeding Wiltshire's background related external criterion. The corresponding internal levels are below L_{AFmax} 45 dB and provide a more direct indication of the potential for sleep disturbance.

The evening, early morning and night-time criterion equates to an external L_{AFmax} of 16 dB. This is below the typical night-time background of L_{A90} 20 dB measured between 23:00 and 05:00, and well below the median maximum level of L_{AFmax} 46 dB already occurring between 23:00 and 05:00. At a site this quiet the criterion would be exceeded by almost any audible sound, and the internal level therefore provides the more meaningful indication of the potential for sleep disturbance. No individual barking event is predicted to reach L_{AFmax} 45 dB within the dwellings, so the WHO reference of 10 to 15 such events per night is not engaged. The measured background between 07:00 and 08:00 was also typically L_{A90} 36 dB, well above the night-time value on which the criterion for that hour is based.

Barking was generally infrequent between 23:00 and 05:00, with most activity occurring after 05:00 when the contemporaneous dawn background was higher. The L_{AFmax} figures describe isolated maximum events rather than sustained sound. The Noise Management Plan includes active supervision, prompt intervention where individual dogs fail to settle, dog suitability assessment, controlled use of the exercise field and appointment-only access. The applicant resides immediately adjacent to the kennel run and is able to respond promptly to sustained or repeated barking.

The operation accords with the principal management practices set out in the Wiltshire guidance. Feeding takes place within the 07:30 to 18:00 window, exercise normally takes place between 09:00 and 17:00, access to the kennels is restricted to staff, a responsible person lives immediately adjacent to the kennels, the dogs are housed in insulated kennels with the hatches closed overnight, and a complaint procedure is secured through the Noise Management Plan.

The Wiltshire criteria are framed as a design standard for new kennelling operations. The application relates to an established facility, which has allowed its effect to be measured in operation over a full week including a weekend, consistent with the guidance on reflecting variations in operating practice.

The kennels are located within an established farm holding in open countryside. Agricultural activity, vehicle movements, livestock and other transient sources contribute to the rural noise climate.

Barking is distinguishable from these sources, but the measured levels and limited duration indicate that it would not normally dominate the existing rural noise climate.

The predicted levels apply to the most exposed façade of each dwelling. The primary external amenity areas associated with Braydon Manor and the dwelling on The Common are understood to lie on the opposite, screened sides of the buildings and would experience appreciably lower levels.

The final toilet break at approximately 22:00 falls within the 20:00–23:00 sensitive period. The assessment acknowledges that the predicted external maximum barking level exceeds the Wiltshire background-related criterion during this period. The break is, however, a short, directly supervised animal-welfare activity, after which the dogs are returned promptly to the enclosed kennels and settled for the night. Its limited purpose and duration, together with the controls secured through the Noise Management Plan, have been taken into account in the overall judgement.

The facility has operated continuously as a licensed boarding kennel since early 2023 and is understood not to have given rise to substantiated noise complaints from neighbouring residents during that period. This provides practical evidence of the effect of the use under the existing operational regime.

8. Noise Management Plan

8.1 Purpose and Status

This Noise Management Plan sets out the practical operational controls adopted at Braydon Dogs to limit the potential for adverse noise effects on neighbouring residential receptors.

It is intended to be a live management document, and is to be reviewed by the Operator if the operation changes materially, if substantiated complaints are received, or if Wiltshire Council reasonably requires a review.

8.2 Management Responsibility

The operator of Braydon Dogs is responsible for implementing this Noise Management Plan. The named responsible person is the applicant, contactable via the agent in the first instance.

The responsible person will ensure that all staff and family members involved in the operation are aware of the noise control requirements and that the controls are followed during normal

operation. The applicant resides at Braydon Manor Farm farmhouse, immediately adjacent to the kennel run, and a responsible person is therefore available on site, or otherwise on call, at all times that dogs are present on the premises.

8.3 Operating Hours

Braydon Dogs provides day and overnight boarding throughout the year. Customer arrivals and collections will be by appointment between 08:00 and 19:00, with overnight arrivals before 19:00. Feeding will normally take place between 07:30 and 08:00 and between 17:00 and 18:00. Exercise on the secure field will normally be between 09:00 and 17:00. A final supervised toilet break will take place at approximately 22:00.

8.4 Dog Numbers

The site contains ten kennels and a maximum of ten dogs will be accommodated on site at any one time, consistent with the ten-kennel configuration. The number of dogs accommodated will not exceed the number permitted by the operator's licence and the planning consent. The operator will avoid uncontrolled group barking by limiting the number of dogs that are moved, exercised or transferred between areas at any one time.

8.5 Dog Suitability

Dogs will be accepted for boarding only where the operator is satisfied that they are suitable for the kennel environment. New dogs will, where practicable, be subject to an initial assessment or trial period. Dogs that show repeated distress, persistent barking or an inability to settle will not be accepted for continued boarding unless additional measures can be agreed and shown to be effective. A brief written record will be kept of any dog removed from the regular booking list on noise-related grounds.

8.6 Supervision and Barking Response

Dogs will be actively supervised when outside the kennels, during exercise and during transfers. If barking occurs, staff will intervene promptly. Appropriate interventions include:

- calm verbal control of the dog;
- moving the dog away from the trigger;
- returning the dog to a quieter area;
- separating dogs that are encouraging each other to bark;
- delaying further transfers until the dogs have settled; and
- contacting the owner where a particular dog repeatedly fails to settle.

Persistent or repeated barking will not be allowed to continue without intervention.

8.7 Kennel Management

The kennels will be operated to limit unnecessary triggers for barking. Operational measures include:

- keeping dogs settled within kennels when not being walked or exercised;
- avoiding unnecessary congregating of dogs near entrances, gates or the site boundary;
- reducing visual stimulus from visitors, vehicles or adjacent land where practicable;
- avoiding raised voices and unnecessary shouting by staff; and
- maintaining kennel doors, gates and latches so that avoidable impact noise is minimised.

8.8 Exercise Field and Outdoor Activity

Outdoor exercise on the secure field is supervised. The number of dogs exercised together will be controlled so that group barking is avoided. Dogs that bark repeatedly in the exercise field will be removed from the field and returned to a quieter area until settled. Where practicable, the operator will use the exercise field in a way that avoids placing dogs close to the most sensitive boundaries for extended periods.

8.9 Arrivals, Departures and Visitors

Access to the site is by appointment only, with permanently closed gates set back from the public road. The operator will:

- schedule drop-off and collection by appointment to avoid clustering of arrivals;
- meet clients promptly on arrival so that dogs are not left waiting at the access;
- restrict access to the kennel run itself to staff, so that visiting clients and other third parties do not enter the kennel area;
- avoid unnecessary horn use, raised voices or prolonged vehicle idling.

8.10 Deliveries, Maintenance and Farm Activity

Routine deliveries and maintenance close to the kennels will be planned to limit unnecessary disturbance to the dogs. Where possible, noisy or unfamiliar activities near the kennels will be scheduled at times when fewer dogs are present or when dogs can be kept settled. This plan does not control normal agricultural activity on the wider holding, but the operator will manage the dogs accordingly when such activity is likely to trigger barking.

8.11 Neighbour Relations

The operator will endeavour to maintain a positive working relationship with the neighbouring occupiers and is available to discuss any specific noise concern that may arise.

A direct contact telephone number for the responsible person will be provided to the occupants of the nearest residential properties at Braydon Manor and on The Common, so that any noise concern can be raised directly with the operator without delay.

8.12 Complaint Procedure

The operator will maintain a written complaint log. Each entry in the log will record:

- the date and time of the complaint;
- the complainant details, where provided;
- a description of the noise reported;
- the dogs or activities on site at the time;
- staff observations;
- the immediate action taken;
- any follow-up action required; and
- the date on which the complaint was closed.

Complaints will be reviewed promptly by the responsible person. Where a complaint is substantiated, reasonable corrective action will be taken. Corrective action may include changes to dog handling, exercise timing, visitor management, screening, staff instruction or the acceptance of a particular dog.

8.13 Overnight Management

Boarded dogs will be housed within the enclosed kennels overnight. The access hatches will be closed after the final toilet break and will remain closed until at least 07:00. There will be no routine use of the external runs, exercise or transfers during the night-time period. Any necessary animal-welfare intervention will be supervised and kept as brief and quiet as practicable.

The final toilet break at approximately 22:00 will be undertaken solely to meet the dogs' welfare needs. It will be directly supervised and kept to the minimum duration reasonably necessary, after which the dogs will be returned promptly to the enclosed kennels and settled for the night. If barking occurs, staff will intervene immediately and return the affected dog or dogs indoors. Enrichment items will be provided where these assist settling. Doors, hatches and panel joints will be maintained in good condition.

A responsible person will remain on site or in close proximity overnight and will be able to identify and respond to sustained barking. CCTV will assist observation from the farmhouse. Where a dog is unsettled or barking repeatedly, the responsible person will attend promptly and take appropriate action, including settling or relocating the dog and contacting its owner where necessary.

Dogs will be accepted for overnight boarding following a prior meeting or trial sufficient to establish that they are likely to settle. A dog that repeatedly fails to settle will not be accepted for further overnight boarding unless additional measures have been shown to be effective.

There will be no routine customer access, deliveries or associated vehicle movements during the night-time period. Repeated overnight barking and the action taken will be recorded and reviewed under the complaint and management procedures.

9. Conclusion

The retrospective change of use of the agricultural yard at Braydon Manor Farm to a ten-kennel facility, including overnight boarding, has been assessed using published barking data, measured barking levels and an environmental noise survey undertaken with the facility in operation.

The published and measured assessments show that barking would be audible and that the Wiltshire external background-related criterion is exceeded at the most exposed third-party façades. The measured record nevertheless shows limited activity during most of the 23:00–05:00 periods, and most barking after 05:00 when the contemporaneous dawn background was higher.

The supplementary South Holland daytime check indicates levels below the average background at Braydon Manor and marginally above it at The Common. The operation also accords with the principal management practices set out in the Wiltshire guidance, including housing the dogs within insulated kennels overnight.

The internal noise level predictions show night-time maximum levels below L_{AFmax} 45 dB at both third-party dwellings, including at the conservative end of the partially open-window sensitivity range. The principal external amenity areas are also understood to lie on the screened sides of the dwellings. Taking the measured as-operated evidence, the enclosed overnight accommodation, the timing and duration of barking, the site context and the controls secured through the Noise Management Plan together, the kennel use is capable of operating without significant adverse noise effects, subject to continued compliance with those controls.

Steven Liddell MIOA



Figure VA6356/TH1

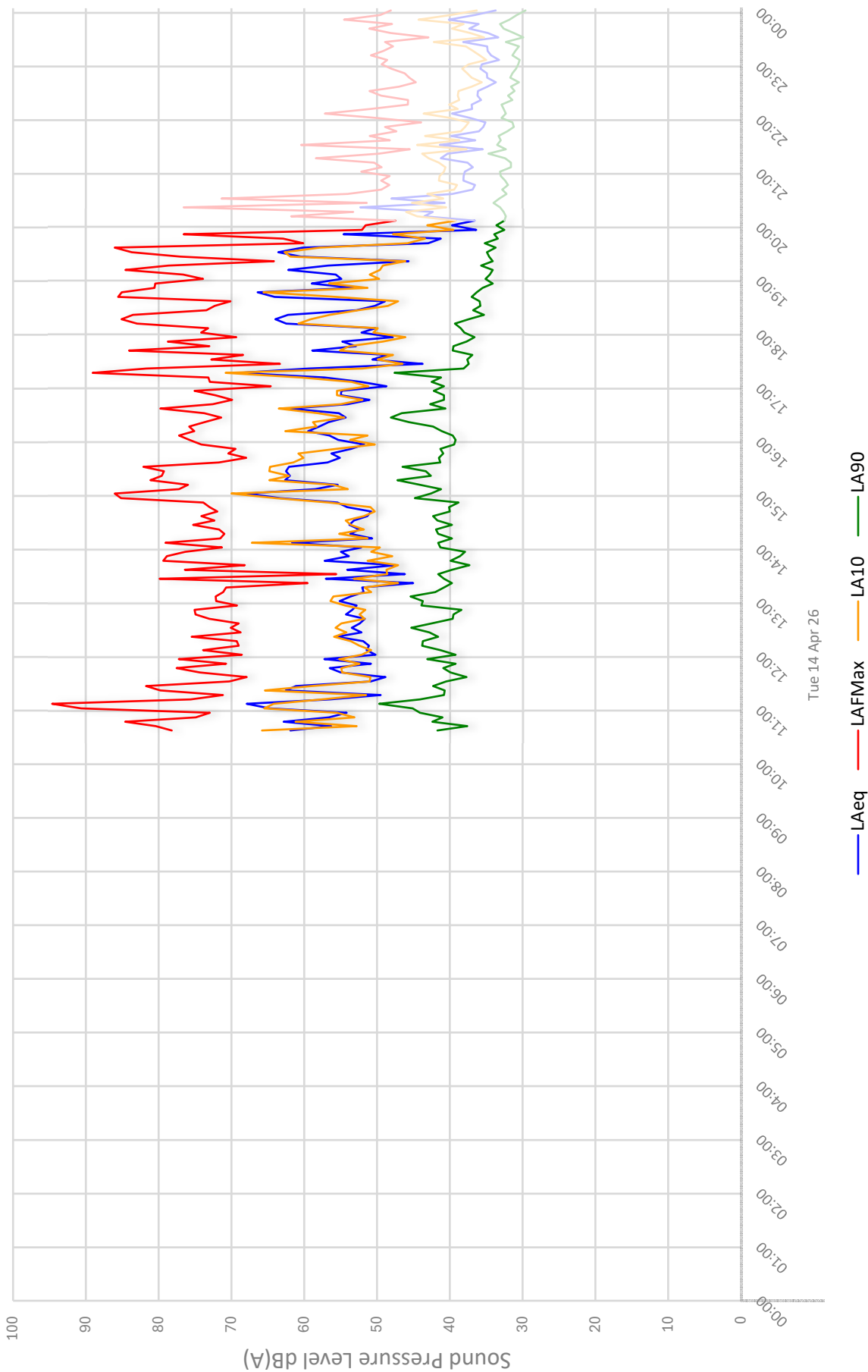
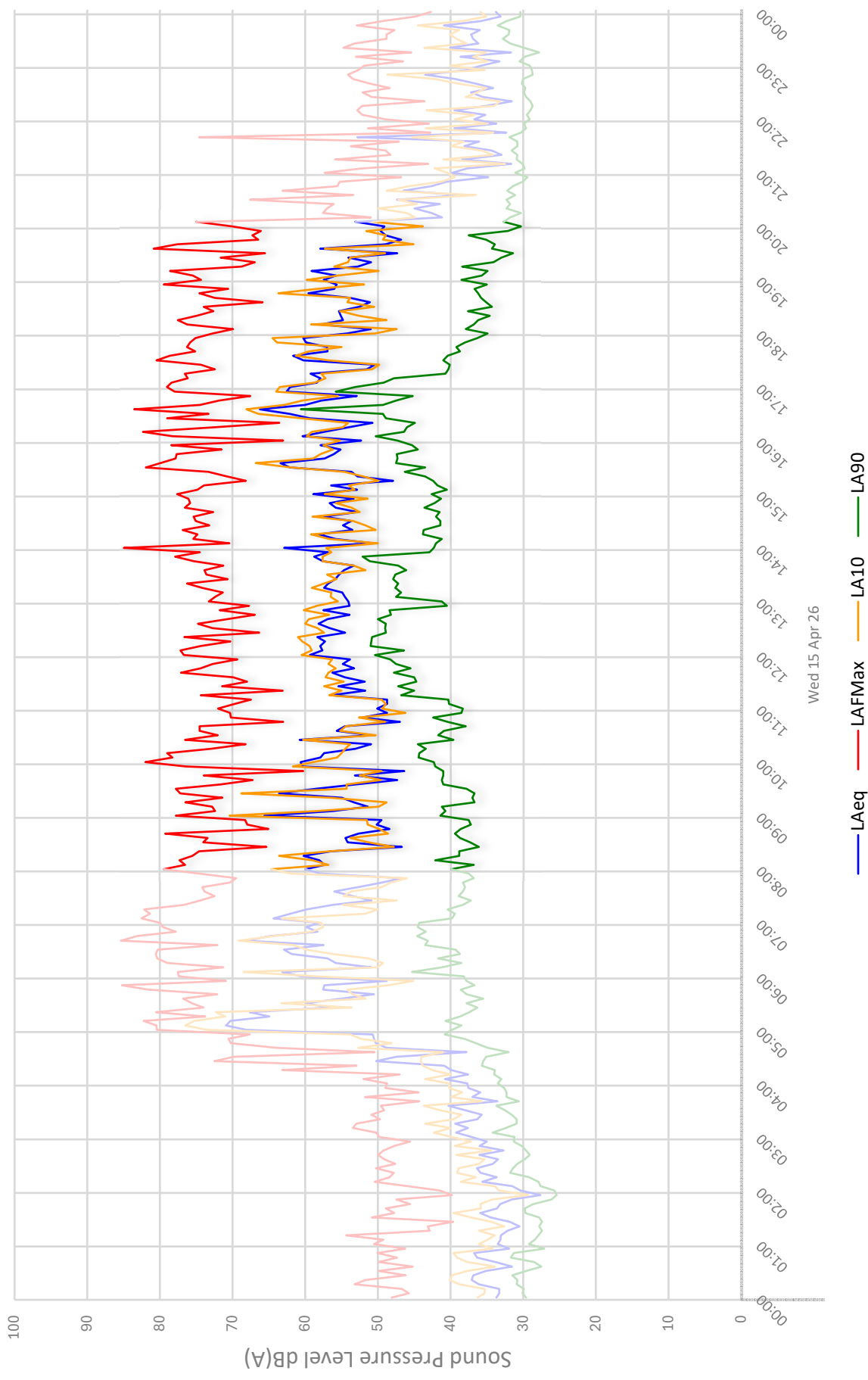
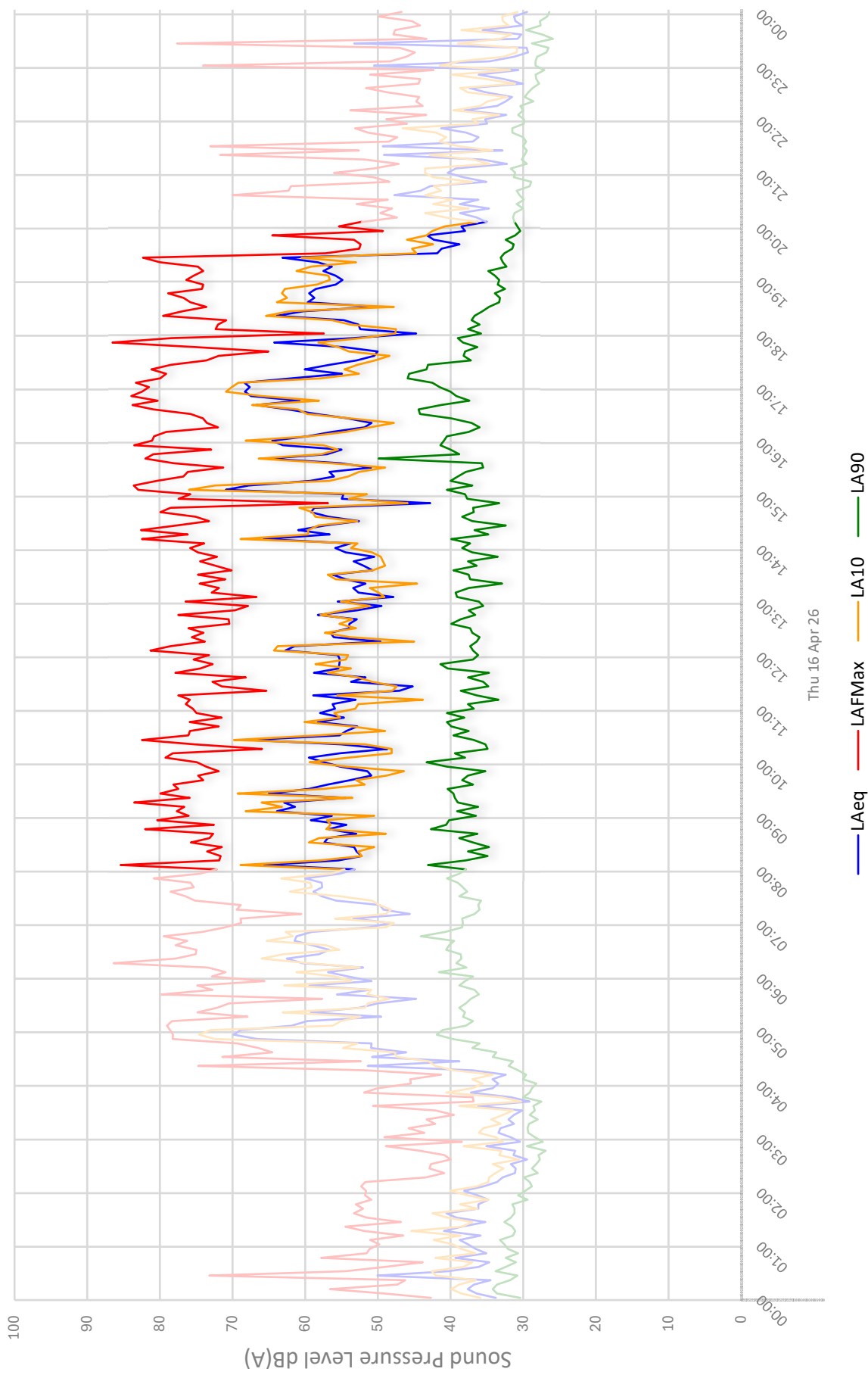


Figure VA6356/TH2





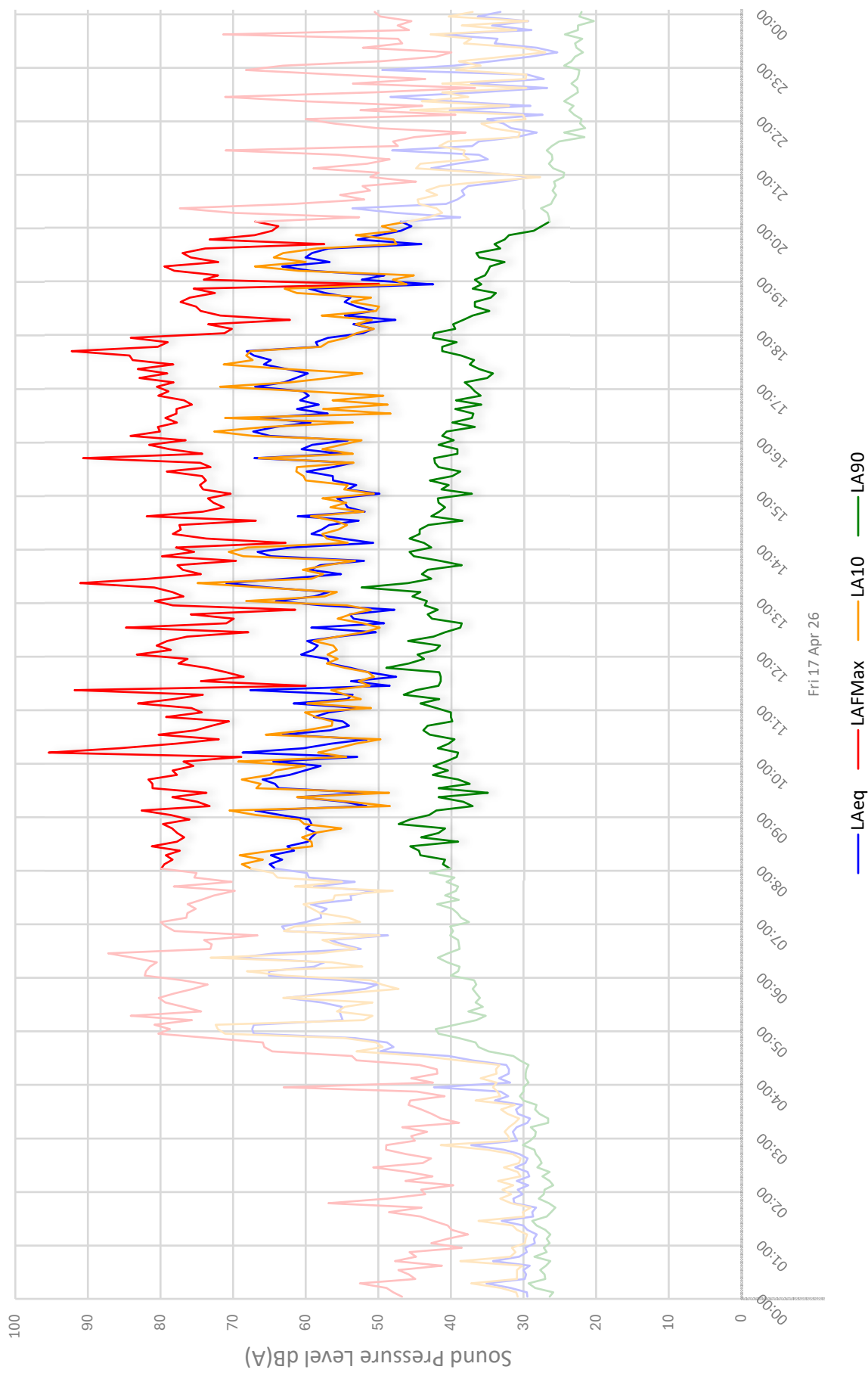


Figure VA6356/TH5

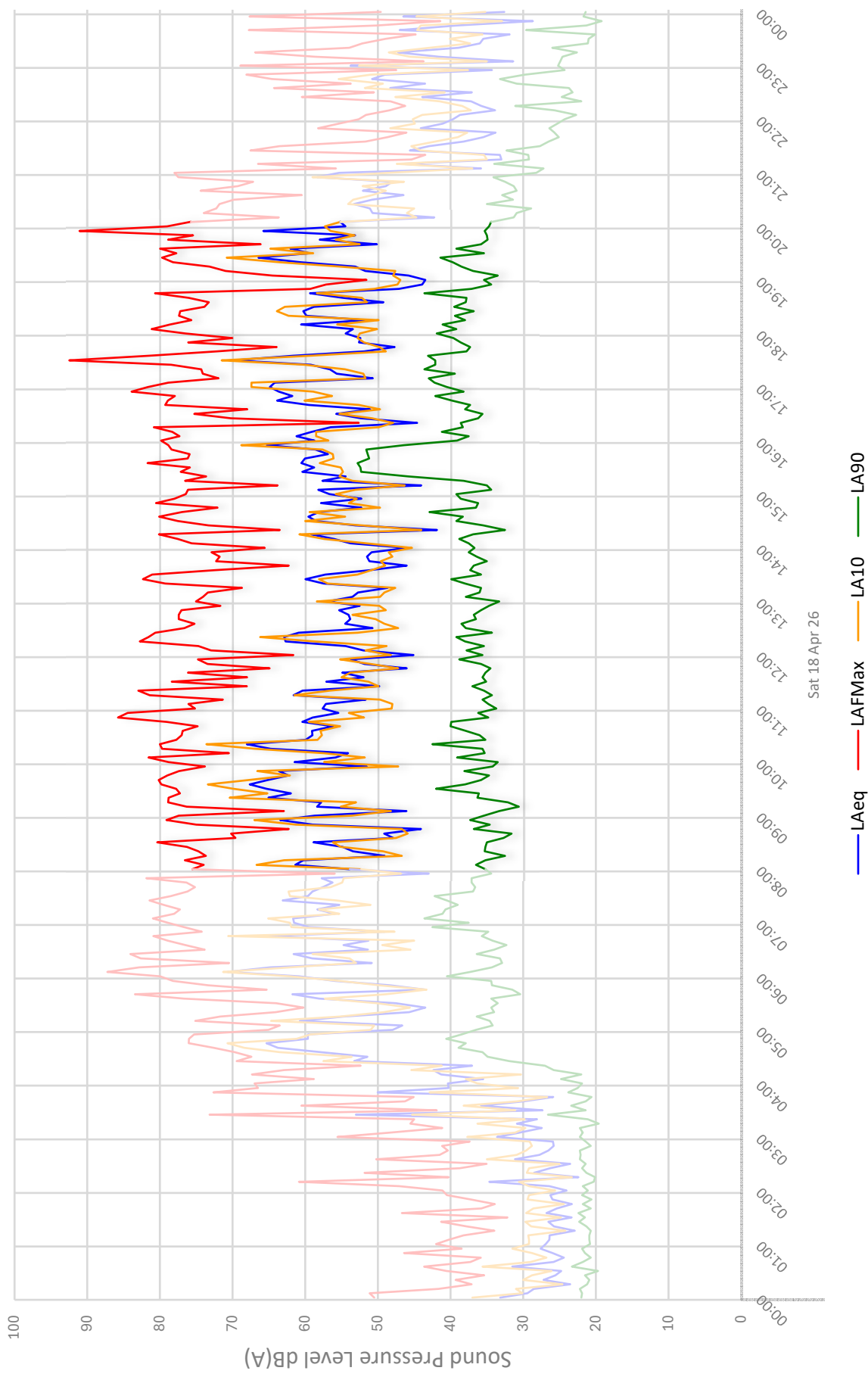
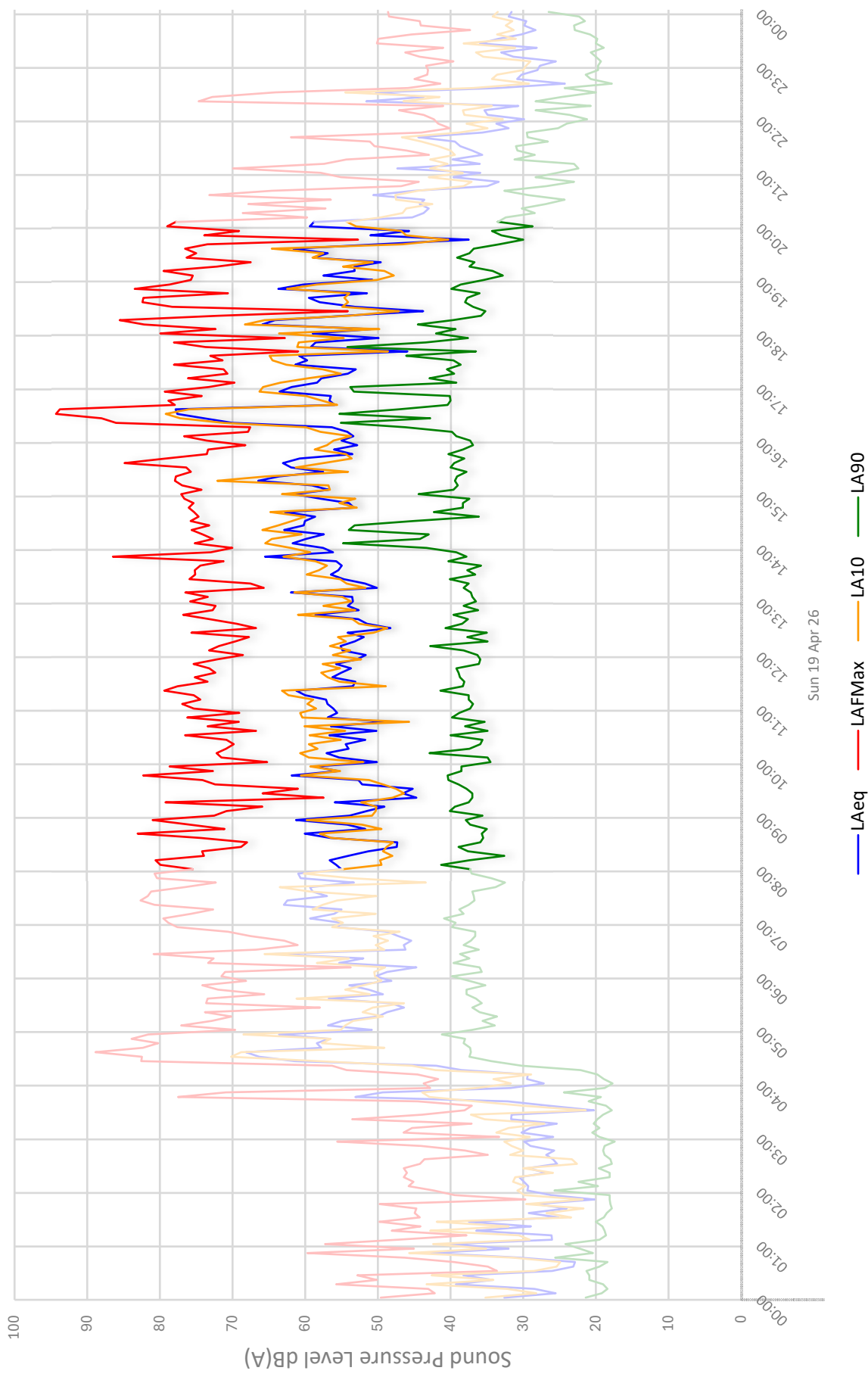
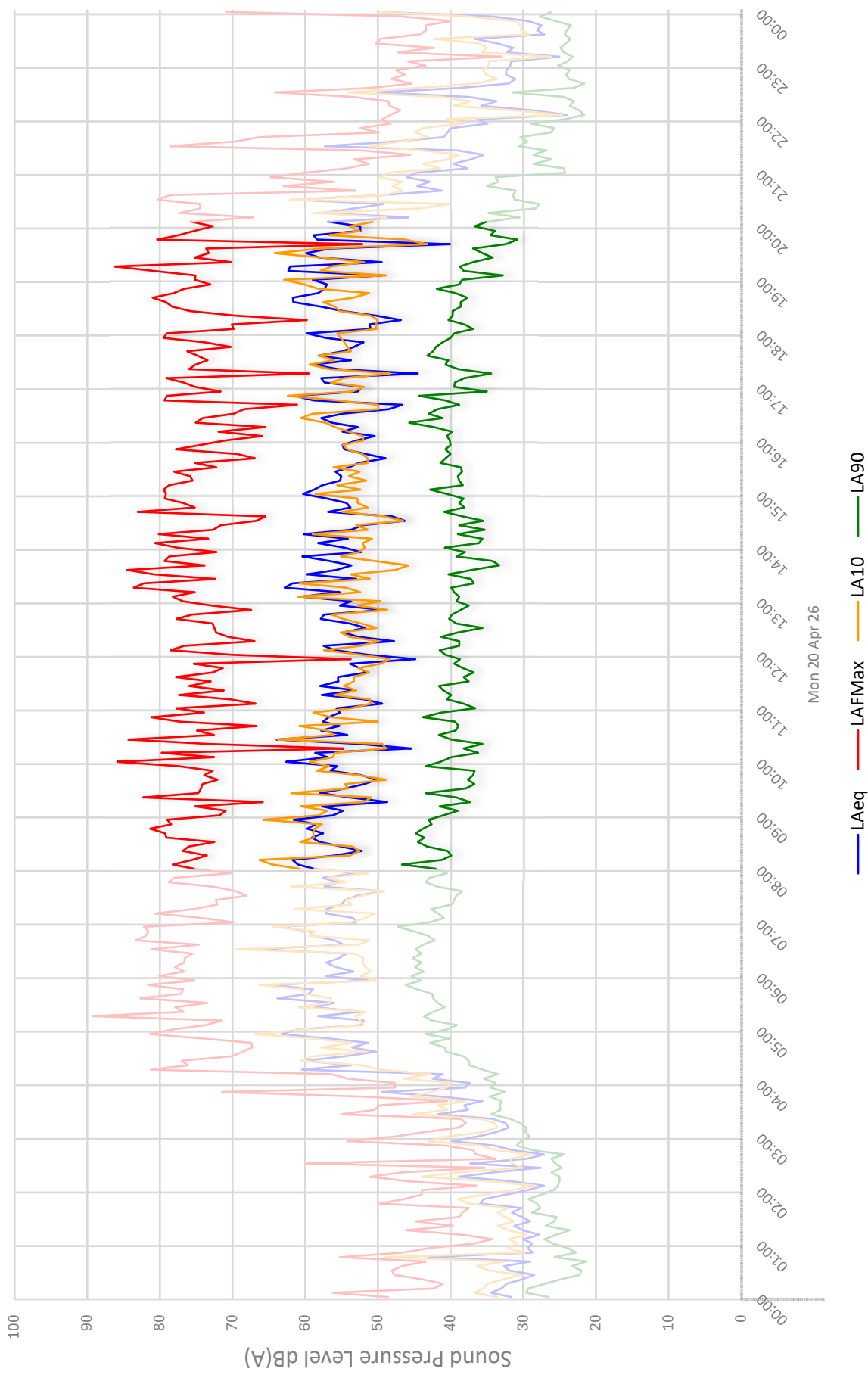
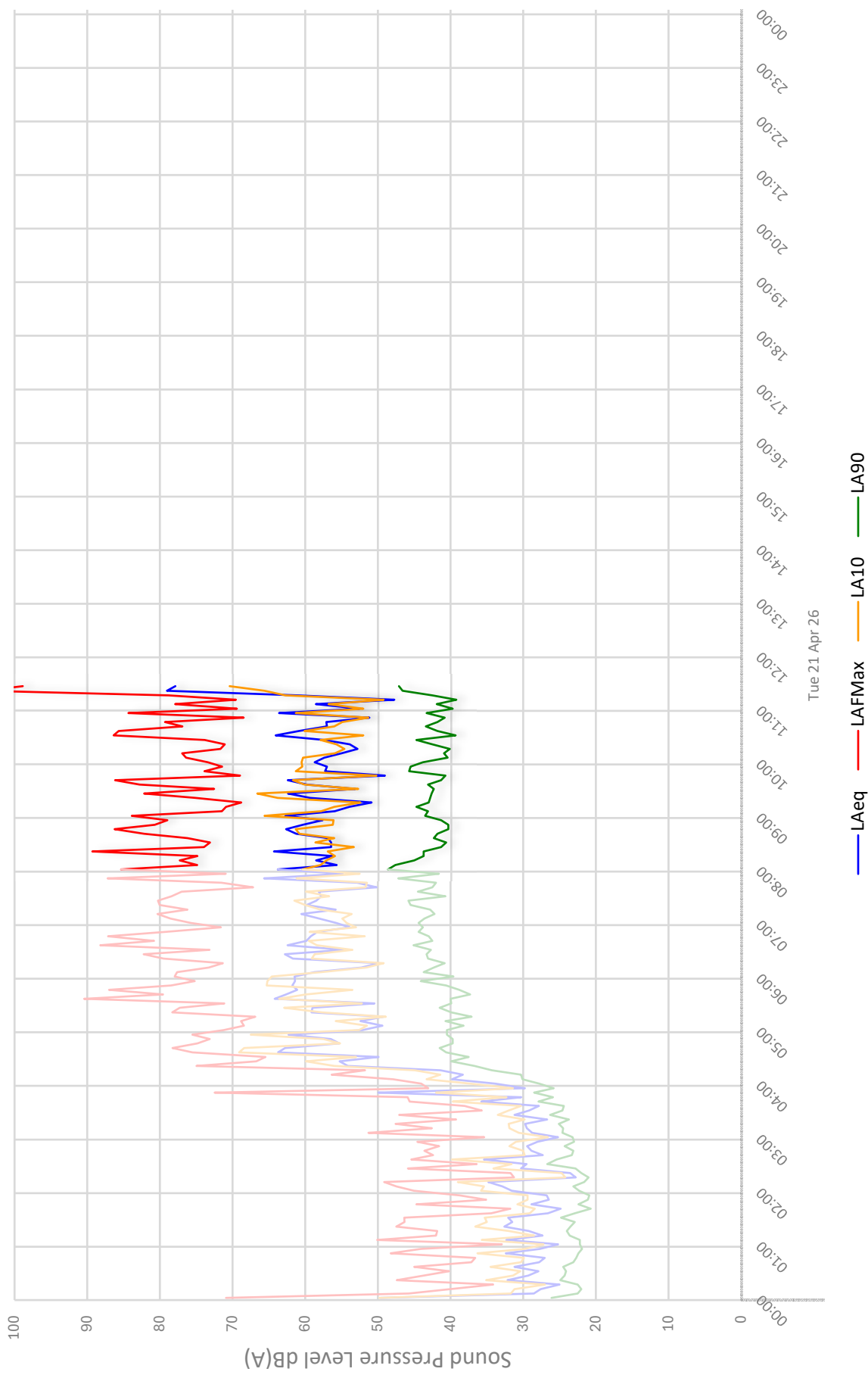


Figure VA6356/TH6







APPENDIX A

Acoustic Terminology & Human Response to Broadband Sound

A. Acoustic Terminology

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

Sound Vibrations propagating through a medium (air, water, etc.) that are detectable by the auditory system.

Noise Sound that is unwanted by or disturbing to the perceiver.

Frequency The rate per second of vibration constituting a wave, measured in Hertz (Hz), where 1Hz = 1 vibration cycle per second. The human hearing can generally detect sound having frequencies in the range 20Hz to 20kHz. Frequency corresponds to the perception of 'pitch', with low frequencies producing low 'notes' and higher frequencies producing high 'notes'.

dB(A): Human hearing is more susceptible to mid-frequency sounds than those at high and low frequencies. To take account of this in measurements and predictions, the 'A' weighting scale is used so that the level of sound corresponds roughly to the level as it is typically discerned by humans. The measured or calculated 'A' weighted sound level is designated as dB(A) or LA.

A notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the actual, fluctuating sound measured over that period (e.g. 8 hour, 1 hour, etc).

Leq : The concept of Leq (equivalent continuous sound level) has primarily been used in assessing noise from industry, although its use is becoming more widespread in defining many other types of sounds, such as from amplified music and environmental sources such as aircraft and construction.

Because Leq is effectively a summation of a number of events, it does not in itself limit the magnitude of any individual event, and this is frequently used in conjunction with an absolute sound limit.

L₁₀ & L₉₀ : Statistical Ln indices are used to describe the level and the degree of fluctuation of non-steady sound. The term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time. Hence, L₁₀ is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as a typical maximum level. Similarly, L₉₀ is the typical minimum level and is often used to describe background noise.

It is common practice to use the L₁₀ index to describe noise from traffic as, being a high average, it takes into account the increased annoyance that results from the non-steady nature of traffic flow.

L_{max} : The maximum sound pressure level recorded over a given period. L_{max} is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise, where occasional loud events occur which might not be adequately represented by a time-averaged Leq value.

R Sound Reduction Index. Effectively the Level Difference of a building element when measured in an accredited laboratory test suite in accordance with the procedures laid down in BS EN ISO 10140-2:2010 and corrected for its size and the reverberant characteristics of the receive room.

D The sound insulation performance of a construction is described in terms of the difference in sound level on either side of the construction in the presence of a sound source on one side and the reverberant characteristics of the adjoining 'receive' space. D is the arithmetic Level

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	Difference in decibels between the source and receive sound levels when filtered into frequency bands.
D_{nT}	Weighted Standardised Level Difference. As defined in BS EN ISO 717-1, representing the Weighted Level Difference, when standardised for reference receiving room reverberant characteristics.
$D_{n,e}$	Normalised sound insulation of small building elements of fixed dimensions, such as vents, measured in an accredited laboratory test suite in accordance with the procedures laid down in BS EN ISO 10140-2:2010.
$D_{n,f}$	Flanking sound insulation of lightweight elements, such as curtain wall mullions, measured in an accredited laboratory test suite in accordance with the procedures laid down in ISO 10848-2:2006
R_w D_w $D_{nT,w}$ $D_{n,e,w}$ $D_{n,f,w}$	Value of parameter, determined as above, but weighted in accordance with the procedures laid down in BS EN ISO 717-1 to provide a single-figure value.
C , C_{tr}	Spectral adaptation terms to be added to a single number quantity such as $D_{nT,w}$, to take account of the sound insulation within frequency ranges of particular interest.
$L'_{nT,w}$	Weighted Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level as defined in BS EN ISO 717-2, representing the level of sound pressure when measured within a space where the floor above is under excitation from a calibrated tapping machine, standardised for the receiving room reverberant characteristics.
ΔL_w	Change in impact sound pressure level when a floor is fitted with a 'soft' or resilient covering, as measured in an accredited laboratory test suite in accordance with the procedures laid down in BS EN ISO 10140-3:2010.

B. Octave Band Frequencies

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

Octave Band Centre Frequency Hz	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000
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C. Human Perception of Broadband Noise

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

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Acoustic Terminology & Human Response to Broadband Sound

is perceived by the average listener as a doubling or halving of loudness. Using this information, a guide to the subjective interpretation of changes in environmental sound level can be given.

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

D. Earth Bunds and Barriers - Effective Screen Height

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

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