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Proposed Walled Garden Darton Tap, 70 Church Street, Darton, Barnsley

Noise Impact Assessment

For: J Murray Architectural Services

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Environmental Noise Solutions Ltd (ENS) has been commissioned by J Murray Architectural Services to undertake a noise impact assessment for a proposed external walled garden with retractable roof covering at the Darton Tap micropub, 70 Church Street, Darton, Barnsley, S75 5HQ (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

The objectives of the noise impact assessment were to:

- Establish the baseline noise levels at the site and its surrounding environs during representative periods of the daytime and night time
- Assess the potential impact of the proposed development with reference to pertinent guidelines
- Provide recommendations, 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 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The report has been prepared for J Murray Architectural Services 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 J Murray Architectural Services and ENS as to the extent to which the findings may be appropriate for their use.

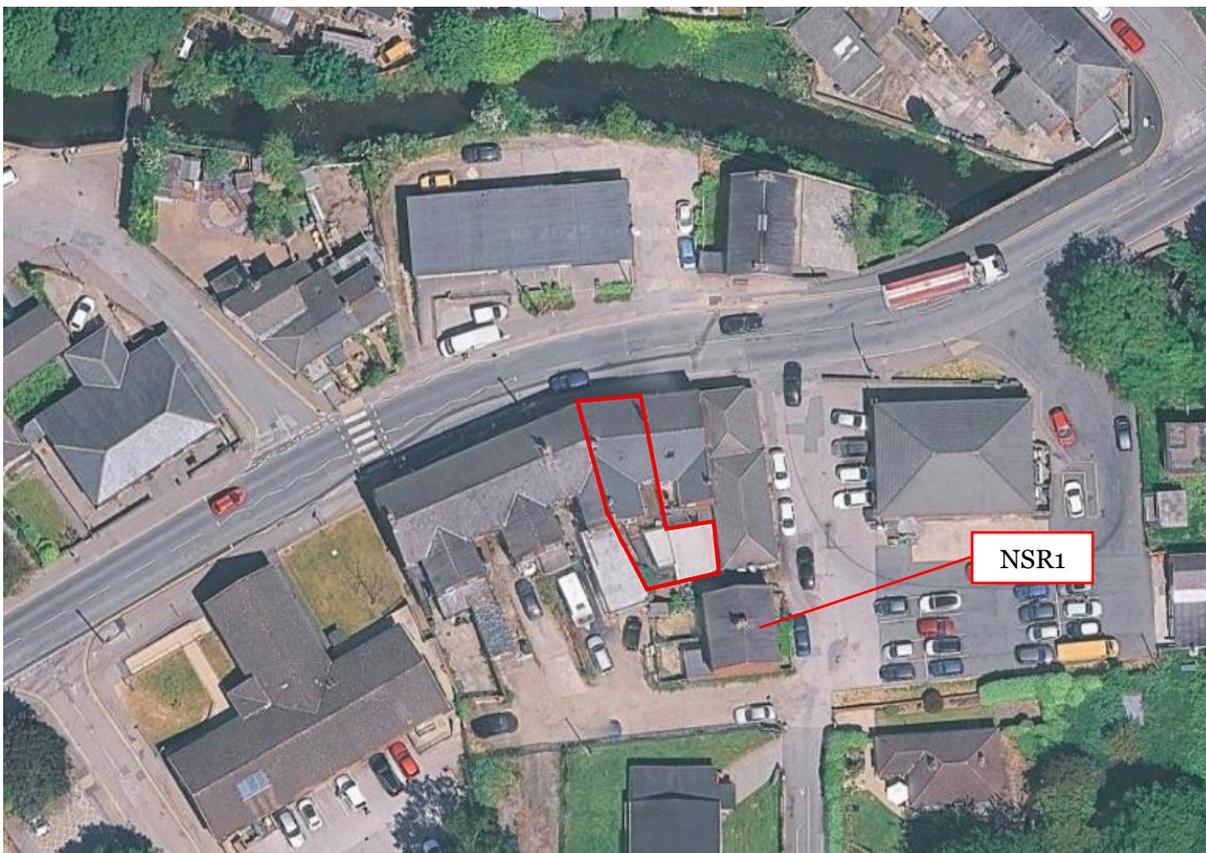
A glossary of acoustic terms used in the main body of the text is contained in Appendix 1.

1.2 Site Description

The site is located at the Darton Tap, an existing micropub located in the village of Darton, Barnsley. The site lies in a mixed-use area, with retail units along Church Street and nearby residential dwellings.

See Figure 1.1 for site location (outlined in red), with the nearest residential receptors also identified.

Figure 1.1: Location of Site



The site is bound by:

- Church Street to the north
- Hair Salon adjoining to the east (72 Church Street)
- Coffee shop adjoining to the west (68 Church Street)
- Residential dwellings to the south

The nearest noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) to the development are considered to be:

- NSR1 – Residential dwellings along Church Street, circa 5 metres south of the site.

1.3 Development Proposals

The proposals are for the change of use of existing storage areas (currently associated with the hair salon at 72 Church Street) to a walled garden for patrons of Darton Tap.

It is proposed that existing roof is removed to create an external walled space with a new retractable roof covering.

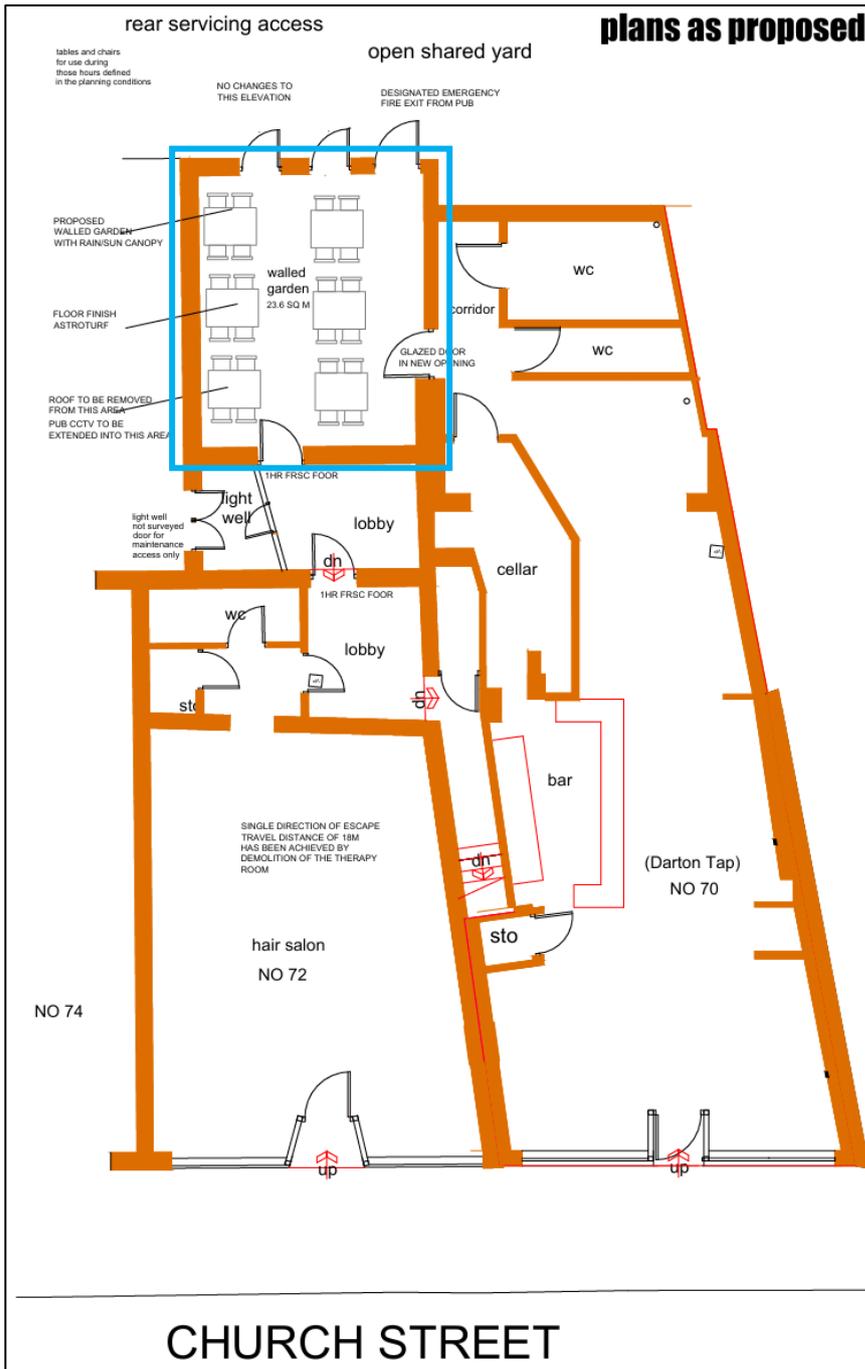
The capacity of the walled garden is understood to be circa 20 patrons. No amplified music is proposed externally at the development.

The site operates from 17:00 to 22:30 Tuesday to Thursday, 14:30 to 23:00 on Fridays, 12:00 to 23:00 on Saturdays and 12:00 to 22:00 on Sundays. The site does not operate on Mondays.

Proposals are for the retractable roof to be opened during the daytime on closed from 20:30 each day.

The proposed site layout is illustrated in Figure 1.2 below.

Figure 1.2: Proposed Site Layout



2 Assessment Guidance

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ 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 England² (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.'

1 National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023)

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

2.3 Planning Practice Guidance on Noise

Planning Practice Guidance³ (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 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 2.2.

Table 2.2: 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 18th July through to Sunday 20th July 2025.

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

- MP1 was located adjacent to NSR1

Noise measurements were undertaken at 4 metres above ground level, using an NTi Audio XL3 Type 1 integrating sound level meter. The meter was connected to a windshield covered microphone positioned at the location 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 average 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 1/3rd octave band data.

3.2 Summary

Table 3.1 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} (dB)	L_{A90} (dB)	Comment
MP1	18/07/25	1430-2300	55	52	Noise levels dominated by existing plant and road traffic noise.
	19/07/25	1830-2300	52	51	
	20/07/25	1700-2030	53	51	

Background noise levels at the site were found to be driven by existing fixed plant associated with Balti Palace and Darton Tap, with road traffic on Church Street also contributing.

Noise levels at MP1 (representative of NSR1) were measured at 51-57 dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$ during opening hours. A level of 53 dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$ has been adopted as the typical ambient noise level for the purpose of the assessment, based on the modal value.

Typical background noise levels were circa 51 dB $L_{A90,1hr}$ during opening hours.

4 Noise Assessment

4.1 Overview

The principal noise source associated with the proposed development is considered to be noise from patrons using the external walled garden, which has a capacity of 20 patrons. No amplified music is proposed externally.

4.2 Predicted Noise Levels

In order to assess the propagation of noise from the proposed walled garden 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.

Measurements of a public house external area of similar size and patron numbers have previously been undertaken by ENS, with noise levels associated with raised voices measured at up to **53 dB L_{Aeq} (1 hour)** at a distance of 5 metres. As a worst-case, it is assumed that the garden area would have the maximum 20no. patrons at once. The noise level outlined above has been used to calibrate the noise model on this basis.

The following assumptions were used in the model:

- Meteorological conditions: Temp. 20 °C, Relative Humidity 60%
- Foliage/woodland areas not considered to provide any reduction
- Reflections: set to two orders of reflection permitted in the model
- Ground absorption set to $G = 0.0$ (hard ground)

The predicted ambient noise level at the nearest receptor is **48 dB L_{Aeq} (1 hour)**. Noise level contour maps are contained in Appendix 3.

4.3 Noise Assessment

As far as ENS is aware, there is no national (or local) quantitative assessment guidance available to refer to when considering noise from patrons and the impact upon neighbouring existing residential dwellings. Consequently, the approach to this assessment has been qualitative, reviewing the likely perception and effect upon neighbouring receptors with regard to the PPG noise exposure categories detailed in Table 2.1.

The following table contains a comparison of the predicted noise levels and the representative ambient noise level at the nearest receptors.

Table 4.1: Patron Noise Assessment

Results	Noise Level (dB)
Receptor noise level	48 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)
Existing ambient level	53 dB L _{Aeq} (1 hour)
Existing background noise level	51 dB L _{A90} (1 hour)
Excess of rating over existing ambient sound level	-5 dB

The predicted development noise levels are at least 5 dB below existing ambient noise levels, and 3 dB below prevailing background noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive receptor.

The cumulative noise level at the receptor is taken to be 54 dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$, derived through the logarithmic summing of the representative ambient noise levels measured at MP1 (53 dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$), and the predicted garden noise (48 dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$).

Based on the above, the change in noise level at the NSR would be circa 1 dB. With reference to Table 2.2, the magnitude of change is considered to be negligible. On this basis, noise associated with patrons using the walled garden may be perceptible at the NSR, but would not be intrusive and would not result in a change of behaviour or attitude.

With reference to Table 2.1, noise from patrons would therefore be expected to fall under the NOAEL in the noise hierarchy table (i.e. noise may be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude). At this level, no specific mitigation measures are required.

The findings of the noise impact assessment are subject to a noise management plan being followed. Appendix 4 outlines good practice guidance for the operation of the walled garden.

5 Summary and Conclusions

A noise survey and assessment has been undertaken for the proposed external walled garden at Darton Tap, 70 Church Street, Darton, Barnsley, S75 5HQ.

Baseline noise measurements were undertaken on Friday 18th July through to Sunday 20th July 2025. Existing noise levels at the site were found to be

Assessment of noise associated with patrons in the proposed walled garden. Noise associated with the development is considered to be at the No Observed Adverse Effect Level.

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.

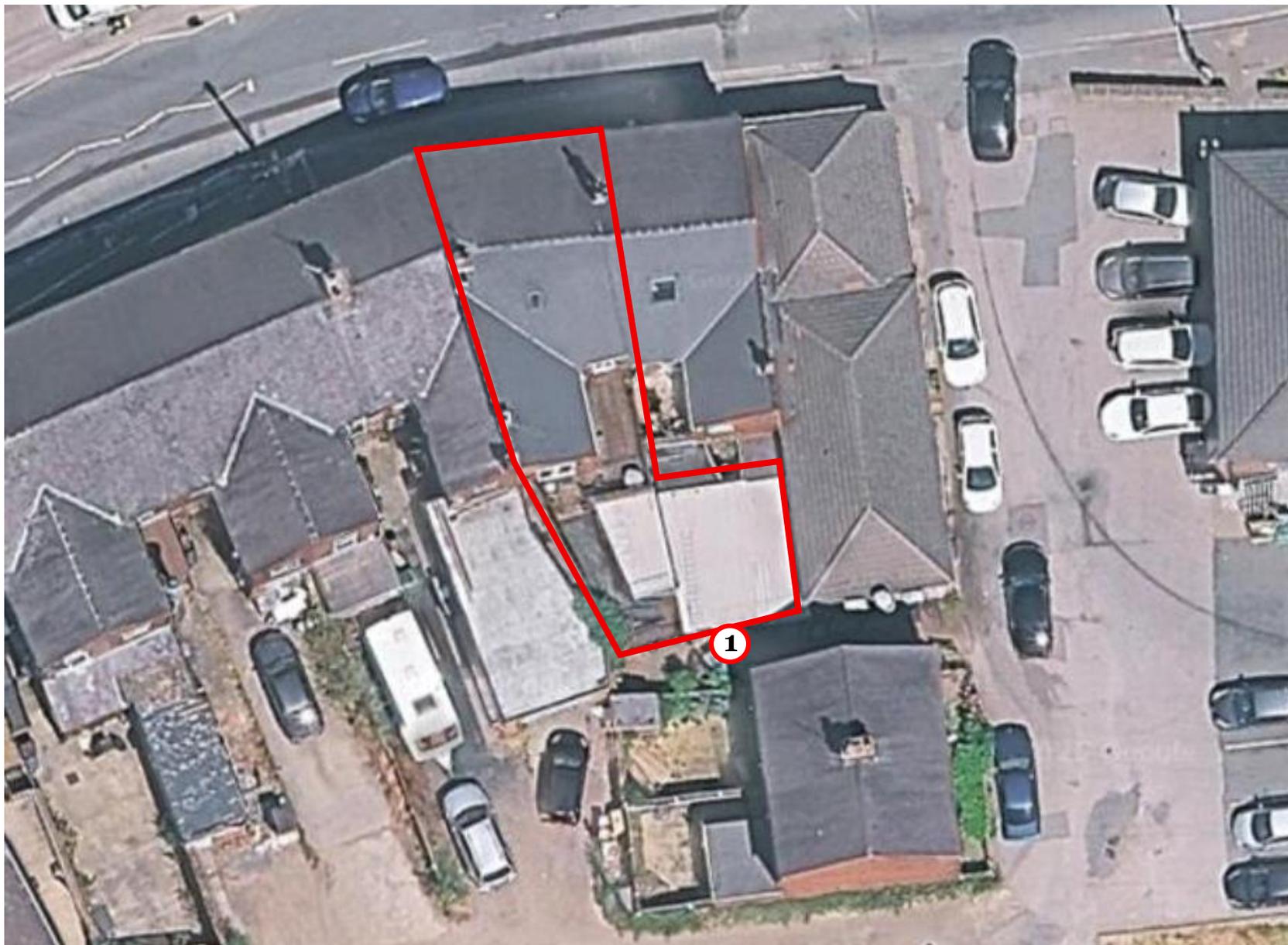
Single Event Level / Sound Exposure Level (SEL or L_{AE})

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 – Noise Contour Map (Patron Noise – $L_{Aeq,1hr}$)



Appendix 4 – Noise Management Plan

Site Noise Policy Management

Ownership of the Site Noise Management Policy (SNMP) 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 SNMP 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

Doors on the southern boundary of the walled garden must remain closed during opening hours (except for access)

Signs to be located in the walled garden / prominent places asking guests to be quiet and courteous to local residents

No music will be played within the walled garden

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

The retractable roof is to be closed at 20:30 each day

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