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**Proposed Residential Development,  
Hill Street, Elsecar**

**Noise Assessment Report**

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**On behalf of**  
Monfredi Builders Ltd

**Prepared by**  
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Blue Tree Acoustics has been appointed by Monfredi Builders Ltd to carry out a noise assessment for a proposed residential development on land at Hill Street, Elsecar.
- 1.2 We understand that the Local Authority has requested a noise survey to be undertaken over a 24-hour period to assess the potential impact of the railway upon the proposed development.
- 1.3 The development site is situated on Hill Street in Elsecar, and is adjacent to Elsecar Station. The proposal is for residential development of the northeastern section of the site, off Hill Road, which is in long-established operation as a builder's yard storing materials, vehicles, and equipment. The development proposal involves conversion of the former ticket office building to form a single dwelling, and construction of new housing on the existing builder's yard. A new access road into the site will be formed from the existing site access from Hill Street. The new access road will run along the site boundary with the railway, and therefore the new house plots are positioned toward the southeastern boundary, further from the railway.
- 1.4 The surrounding area is primarily residential in character, with nearby residential properties on all sides. As well as Elsecar Station, other non-residential uses in the vicinity comprise The Fitzwilliam Arms, Elsecar Wesleyan Reform Church, and several small shops.
- 1.5 The noise impact assessment has included:
- i) Inspection of the site and surroundings.
  - ii) Noise monitoring surveys undertaken at locations on the site during daytime and nighttime.
  - iii) Evaluation of the site in accordance with relevant planning policy guidance.
  - iv) Consideration of noise control measures required to maintain acceptable noise levels within the proposed bedrooms and living rooms in accordance with *British Standard 8233: 2014, 'Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings'* (BS8233).

## 2.0 EXISTING NOISE SOURCES

### Road

- 2.1 Road traffic movements on Hill Street are frequent during daytime, and are audible on the development site, primarily at the northeastern boundary. Nighttime road traffic is sporadic, but passing vehicles are audible.

### Rail Noise

- 2.2 Elsecar Station is unstaffed, and therefore has no permanent buildings or ticketing facilities. The railway forms part of the Penistone Line and Hallam Line, which are served by the train operator Northern Rail, with passing trains typically comprising 2-carriage passenger services. The line is moderately busy, with regular passenger services to nearby stations, including Chapeltown, Wombwell, Barnsley, and Sheffield. Trains are less frequent during nighttime hours. Scheduled passenger services on the line operate approximately between 0500 hours and midnight. No passing freight services were observed during the survey periods.

### Commercial Premises

- 2.3 No significant noise generation from the nearby commercial premises was observed.

### 3.0 NOISE SURVEY

- 3.1 Environmental noise monitoring was undertaken by Blue Tree Acoustics to determine the existing ambient noise climate at the site. Measurements were taken during representative daytime and nighttime survey periods between Thursday 21/12/2017 and Friday 22/12/2017.
- 3.2 The instrumentation used for the survey was 1no Svan 971 sound level meter and 1no Rion NA-28 sound level meter, each of which is a Type 1/Class 1 Integrating Sound Level Meter. Each meter was within a valid period of laboratory calibration. A proprietary environmental windshield was fitted to the microphone in each case. Calibration checks were carried out both before and after the measurements, with no variance observed.
- 3.3 Unattended logging noise measurements were taken at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level from the former ticket office building over a 24-hour period. These measurements were made using the Svan 971 sound level meter with the microphone secured to a boom pole extended through a 1<sup>st</sup> floor window of the ticket office building, at approximately 1m from the building façade and overlooking the nearby station platform and railway.
- 3.4 Supplementary attended noise measurements were also taken at other locations representative of the proposed new housing on the development site, as indicated in Figure 1. These measurements were made with the Rion NA-28 sound level meter mounted on a tripod at approximately 1.5m from local ground level.
- 3.5 Weather conditions during the attended surveys were dry and calm. Weather data from a nearby weather station is presented in Appendix III, which indicates that conditions remained suitable throughout the survey periods.
- 3.6 The noise measurement results are detailed in Appendix II. Table 1 below sets out the averaged 24-hour noise levels at Location 1. The supplementary sample measurements at other locations indicate similar levels of noise across the site, albeit marginally greater at Location 3 (the boundary with Hill Street where greater road traffic noise is experienced), and lower at Location 2 (towards the southwest of the site and more distant from Hill Street and the station).

**Table 1: Typical 24-hour free-field sound levels at development site (Location 1)**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>dB L<sub>Aeq</sub></b>	<b>dB L<sub>Amax</sub></b>	<b>dB L<sub>A10</sub></b>	<b>dB L<sub>A90</sub></b>
Day 0700-2300 hours	54	85 *	52	43
Night 2300-0700 hours	48	82 *	41	34

\* Highest measured L<sub>AFmax,15min</sub>

## 4.0 NOISE ASSESSMENT

4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework came into force in 2012. This document replaced a great many planning guidance documents that previously informed the planning system in England. The new framework states that:

*The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

- *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;*
- *recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;*
- *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- *preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;*  
*and*
- *remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.*

*Planning policies and decisions should aim to:*

- *avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts<sup>27</sup> on health and quality of life as a result of new development;*
- *mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts<sup>27</sup> on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions;*
- *recognise that development will often create some noise and existing businesses wanting to develop in continuance of their business should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established;<sup>28</sup>*  
*and*
- *identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.*

<sup>27</sup> See Explanatory Note to the Noise Policy Statement for England (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

<sup>28</sup> Subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and other relevant law.

4.2 In addition, the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) states:

#### Noise Policy Vision

**Promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.**

#### Noise Policy Aims

**Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:**

- avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and
- where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.

#### Guiding principles of sustainable development

**Ensuring a Strong Healthy and Just Society** – Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

**Using Sound Science Responsibly** – Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

**Living Within Environmental Limits** – Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

**Achieving a Sustainable Economy** – Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

**Promoting Good Governance** – Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

Source: Securing the future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy, HM Government, March 2005.

4.3 The Noise Policy Statement for England Explanatory note states that:

*Noise is an inevitable consequence of a mature and vibrant society. For some the noise of city life provides a desirable sense of excitement and exhilaration, but for others noise is an unwanted intrusion that adversely impacts on their quality of life, affecting their health and well being.*

*The management of noise has developed over many years as the types and character of noise sources have altered and as people's attitude to noise has changed. The Noise Abatement Act came into law in 1960 and the Report from the Committee on the Problem of Noise was published in 1963 (the Wilson report). Since then, examples of noise management can be found in many areas including reducing noise at source; the use of the land use and transport planning systems, compensation measures, the statutory nuisance and licensing regimes and other related legislation.*

*Furthermore, the broad aim of noise management has been to separate noise sources from sensitive noise receivers and to 'minimise' noise. Of course, taken in isolation and to a literal extreme, noise minimisation would mean no noise at all. In reality, although it has not always been stated, the aim has tended to be to minimise noise as far as reasonably practical. This concept can be found in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, where, in some circumstances, there is a defence of 'best practicable means' in summary statutory nuisance proceedings.*

*By describing clear policy vision and aims the NPSE provides the necessary clarity and direction to enable decisions to be made regarding what is an acceptable noise burden to place on society.*

*The intention is that the NPSE should apply to all types of noise apart from noise in the workplace (occupational noise). For the purposes of the NPSE, "noise" includes:*

- *"environmental noise" which includes noise from transportation sources;*
  - *"neighbour noise" which includes noise from inside and outside people's homes;*
- and*
- *"neighbourhood noise" which includes noise arising from within the community such as industrial and entertainment premises, trade and business premises, construction sites and noise in the street.*

*The application of the NPSE should mean that noise is properly taken into account at the appropriate time. In the past, the opportunity for the cost effective management of noise has often been missed because the noise implications of a particular policy, development or other activity have not been considered at an early enough stage.*

*In addition, the application of the NPSE should enable noise to be considered alongside other relevant issues and not to be considered in isolation. In the past, the wider benefits of a particular policy, development or other activity may not have been given adequate weight when assessing the noise implications.*

*In the longer term, the Government hopes that existing policies could be reviewed (on a prioritised basis), and revised if necessary, so that the policies and any noise management measures being adopted accord with the vision, aims and principles of the NPSE.*

*Noise management is a complex issue and at times requires complex solutions. Unlike air quality, there are currently no European or national noise limits which have to be met, although there can be specific local limits for specific developments. Furthermore, sound only becomes noise (often defined as 'unwanted sound') when it exists in the wrong place or at the wrong time such that it causes or contributes to some harmful or otherwise unwanted effect, like annoyance or sleep disturbance. Unlike many other pollutants, noise pollution depends not just on the physical aspects of the sound itself, but also the human reaction to it. Consequently, the NPSE provides a clear description of desired outcome from the noise management of a particular situation.*

*The guiding principles of Government policy on sustainable development should be used to assist in its implementation. The development of further principles specifically to underpin implementation of noise management policy will be kept under review as experience is gained from the application of the NPSE.*

*There are several key phrases within the NPSE vision and these are discussed below.*

**Health and quality of life**

*The World Health Organisation defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, and recognises the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as one of the fundamental rights of every human being.*

*It can be argued that quality of life contributes to our standard of health. However, in the NPSE it has been decided to make a distinction between 'quality of life' which is a subjective measure that refers to people's emotional, social and physical well being and 'health' which refers to physical and mental well being.*

*It is recognised that noise exposure can cause annoyance and sleep disturbance both of which impact on quality of life. It is also agreed by many experts that annoyance and sleep disturbance can give rise to adverse health effects. The distinction that has been made between 'quality of life' effects and 'health' effects recognises that there is emerging evidence that long term exposure to some types of transport noise can additionally cause an increased risk of direct health effects. The Government intends to keep research on the health effects of long term exposure to noise under review in accordance with the principles of the NPSE.*

**Promote good health and good quality of life**

*This statement expresses the long term desired policy outcome, but in the use of 'promote' and 'good' recognises that it is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that is mandatory and applicable to all sources of noise in all situations.*

**Effective management of noise**

*This concept confirms that the policy applies to all types of 'noise' (environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood) and that the solution could be more than simply minimising the noise.*

**Within the context of Government policy on sustainable development**

*Sustainable development is a core principle underpinning all government policy. For the UK Government the goal of sustainable development is being pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment and a*

*just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. The goal is pursued in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and that use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.*

*There is a need to integrate consideration of the economic and social benefit of the activity or policy under examination with proper consideration of the adverse environmental effects, including the impact of noise on health and quality of life. This should avoid noise being treated in isolation in any particular situation, i.e. not focussing solely on the noise impact without taking into account other related factors.*

*There are several key phrases within the NPSE aims and these are discussed below.*

#### ***“Significant adverse” and “adverse”***

*There are two established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts, for example, by the World Health Organisation. They are:*

#### ***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.*

*Extending these concepts for the purpose of this NPSE leads to the concept of a significant observed adverse effect level.*

#### ***SOAEL . Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level***

*This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.*

*It is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all sources of noise in all situations. Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different*

*for different noise sources, for different receptors and at different times. It is acknowledged that further research is required to increase our understanding of what may constitute a significant adverse impact on health and quality of life from noise. However, not having specific SOAEL values in the NPSE provides the necessary policy flexibility until further evidence and suitable guidance is available.*

***The first aim of the Noise Policy Statement for England***

*Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.*

*The first aim of the NPSE states that significant adverse effects on health and quality of life should be avoided while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development.*

***The second aim of the Noise Policy Statement for England***

*Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life from environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.*

*The second aim of the NPSE refers to the situation where the impact lies somewhere between LOAEL and SOAEL. It requires that all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur.*

***The third aim of the Noise Policy Statement for England***

*Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.*

*This aim seeks, where possible, positively to improve health and quality of life through the proactive management of noise while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development, recognising that there will be opportunities for such measures to be taken and that*

*they will deliver potential benefits to society. The protection of quiet places and quiet times as well as the enhancement of the acoustic environment will assist with delivering this aim.*

- 4.4 Unfortunately, the above guidance gives no objective, tangible standards or criteria that enable planning decisions to be made. In the absence of such guidance, quantification of noise impact in terms of guidance such as BS8233, which presents noise limits and criteria based on World Health Organisation recommendations, can be considered as appropriately assessing the potential noise impact with regard to toxicology concepts and hence in line with the principles of the NPPF and NPSE. Therefore, if a site meets the recommendations of BS8233 and any associated Local Authority noise requirements, it can be considered as being below the level where there is no detectable adverse effect on health and quality of life due to noise, and this meets the NOEL (No Observed Effect Level) set out in the NPSE.
- 4.5 *British Standard 8233: 2014, 'Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings'* (BS8233:2014) provides information on the design of internal acoustics in buildings. It deals with control of noise from outside the building, noise from plant and services within it, and room acoustics for non-critical situations.
- 4.6 BS8233:2014 provides guidance regarding indoor ambient noise criteria for residential accommodation, as presented below.

**Table 2: BS8233:2014 Guidance Criteria for Indoor Ambient Noise Levels**

Activity	Location	0700-2300 hours	2300-0700 hours
Resting	Living rooms	35 dB LAeq (16 hour)	-
Dining	Dining room/area	40 dB LAeq (16 hour)	-
Sleeping (daytime resting)	Bedroom	35 dB LAeq (16 hour)	30 dB LAeq (8 hour),

- 4.7 BS8233:2014 does not stipulate any criteria for maximum noise levels within rooms in terms of dB LAmax, but does state that, *“Regular individual noise events (for example, scheduled aircraft or passing trains) can cause sleep disturbance. A guideline value may be set in terms of SEL or LAmax,F, depending on the character and number of events per night. Sporadic noise events could require separate values.”*

- 4.8 It is noted that BS8233:2014 also states that, where development is considered necessary or desirable, despite external noise levels above WHO guidelines, the internal target levels may be relaxed by up to 5dB and reasonable internal conditions still achieved.
- 4.9 In addition, the BS8233:2014 guidance relating to gardens makes reference to external noise levels in gardens and balconies, etc., as follows:

*“For traditional external areas that are used for amenity space, such as gardens and patios, it is desirable that the external noise level does not exceed 50 dB  $L_{Aeq,T}$ , with an upper guideline value of 55 dB  $L_{Aeq,T}$  which would be acceptable in noisier environments. However, it is also recognized that these guideline values are not achievable in all circumstances where development might be desirable. In higher noise areas, such as city centres or urban areas adjoining the strategic transport network, a compromise between elevated noise levels and other factors, such as the convenience of living in these locations or making efficient use of land resources to ensure development needs can be met, might be warranted. In such a situation, development should be designed to achieve the lowest practicable levels in these external amenity spaces, but should not be prohibited.*

*Other locations, such as balconies, roof gardens and terraces, are also important in residential buildings where normal external amenity space might be limited or not available, i.e. in flats, apartment blocks, etc. In these locations, specification of noise limits is not necessarily appropriate. Small balconies may be included for uses such as drying washing or growing pot plants, and noise limits should not be necessary for these uses. However, the general guidance on noise in amenity space is still appropriate for larger balconies, roof gardens and terraces, which might be intended to be used for relaxation. In high-noise areas, consideration should be given to protecting these areas by screening or building design to achieve the lowest practicable levels. Achieving levels of 55 dB  $L_{Aeq,T}$  or less might not be possible at the outer edge of these areas, but should be achievable in some areas of the space.”*

- 4.10 The following general noise mitigation advice is based on achieving the BS8233:2014 indoor noise level criteria to ensure a suitable level of protection for the future occupants of the development. Noise ingress calculations have been carried out in accordance with BS8233:2014. To provide additional protection from train noise, calculations have been undertaken to limit noise ingress to 50dB  $L_{AFmax}$  within bedrooms. Calculations are based on the

typical noise events occurring at the site. However, it must be acknowledged that there will always remain potential for atypical events, such as emergency sirens, police/ambulance helicopter, etc., that could result in  $L_{AFmax}$  noise levels exceeding 50dB within bedrooms.

## 5.0 NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 There are a variety of proportionate and reasonable techniques that could be introduced to mitigate the effects of noise, such as:

- **Engineering:** reduction of noise at source (e.g. use of quiet machinery and working methods), containment of generated noise, and protection of noise-sensitive buildings (e.g. by sound insulation and/or screening them by purpose-built barriers);
- **Layout:** adequate distance between source and noise-sensitive building; screening by natural barriers, other buildings or non-critical rooms in a building;
- **Administrative:** limiting operating time of source, restricting activities on site, specifying an acceptable noise limit.

5.2 The measured 54dB  $L_{Aeq}$  daytime noise level at Location 1 is below the 55dB  $L_{Aeq}$  upper limit suitable for garden areas defined in BS8233, and therefore noise levels in gardens will be within suitable limits. Private gardens to the new build houses are at greater distance from the railway, and are mostly positioned on the southeastern side of the houses, and therefore will benefit from acoustic shielding provided by the new buildings. For house plots situated near Hill Street, garden noise levels similar to Location 1 are expected to be experienced. Plots 1-4 at the eastern corner of the site are flats, and therefore have no external private garden space. House plots further to the southwest of the site will experience lower garden noise levels of around 50dB  $L_{Aeq}$ , or less. Use of close-boarded timber fencing of minimum 1.8m height to the perimeter of garden areas is also advised to provide additional acoustic screening. Further reduction of noise from trains could be achieved by providing 1.8m high close-boarded timber fencing along the site boundary with the railway. Increasing the barrier height above 1.8m will provide greater noise attenuation.

### Dwelling Protection

5.3 It is beneficial to consider noise impact in the design of the internal layout of the new dwellings. In this case, consideration should be given to positioning living rooms and bedrooms on southeast-facing elevations such that they are less exposed to noise from the nearby railway. Less sensitive rooms such as separate kitchens, bathrooms, hallways, stairs, landings, and corridors are better positioned on northwest-facing elevations.

- 5.4 The design of the building envelope of the new dwellings can incorporate suitable sound insulation to satisfy the internal noise criteria set out above. Indicative noise ingress calculations have been carried out in accordance with BS8233:2014 to determine appropriate sound insulation measures to satisfy the acoustic criteria set out above. Based on the noise ingress calculations, the following sound insulation measures are recommended.
- 5.5 A traditional pitched tile/slate construction is capable of providing suitable sound insulation. Ceilings in bedrooms or habitable rooms immediately below the roofspace should comprise minimum 2no layers of solid gypsum-based board (total minimum mass per unit area  $20\text{kg/m}^2$ ), overlaid with mineral fibre insulation of minimum 200mm thickness. Any flat roof constructions should be of suitably dense construction, with ceilings to rooms below comprising a minimum of 2no layers of solid gypsum-based board as described above.
- 5.6 External walls should preferably be of cavity masonry construction, or inner timber frame with an external masonry leaf. If any lightweight framed sections of outer wall are proposed within the dwellings, these should be designed to achieve acoustic performance comparable to a masonry construction; typically, this will require inclusion of additional mass layers and acoustic insulation within the wall build-up. This principle will also apply to room-in-roof constructions.
- 5.7 Our calculations indicate that enhanced acoustic glazing and ventilation specification will be required in order that BS8233 internal noise levels can be met.
- 5.8 The night  $L_{Amax}$  criterion is the most onerous performance requirement, particularly for bedrooms on elevations with a view to the railway, or overlooking Hill Street. Therefore, double glazing with sound insulation of the order of  $37\text{dB } R_w$  and acoustic ventilators of the order of  $42\text{dB } D_{n,e,w}$  will be required in order to meet the bedroom design criteria. Living rooms may have lower specification glazing, along with acoustic ventilators providing minimum sound insulation of  $36\text{dB } D_{n,e,w}$ . Example glazing acoustic performance specifications are given in the table below.

**Table 3: Glazing Minimum Octave Band Sound Reduction**

Glazing Configuration	Octave Band Minimum Sound Reduction Indices (dB)						
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k
Living Rooms: 6mm glass / 16mm airgap / 6mm glass (nominal $R_w$ 32dB)	19	20	20	30	40	35	44
Bedrooms: 10mm glass / 12mm airgap / 6.4mm laminated glass (nominal $R_w$ 39dB)	22	27	29	36	41	42	52

- 5.9 Examples of passive acoustic ventilators capable of minimum 42dB  $D_{n,e,w}$  are Rytons AAC635HMCW, Renson 771-AK + 787AK, Greenwood EAR42, or Greenwood EHA574. Ventilators with minimum 36dB  $D_{n,e,w}$  performance are available from a wide range of manufacturers.
- 5.10 It is also the case that the above specifications may be reduced where dwellings are less exposed to noise from road and rail sources, e.g. on southeast-facing elevations of Plots 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, with no direct line of sight to the railway, or not overlooking Hill Street. This shall be further reviewed at the detailed design stage.
- 5.11 Glazing and ventilators to non-habitable rooms or spaces do not require special acoustic measures, and these spaces may have standard trickle ventilation. (For the purposes of noise assessment, separate kitchens, bathrooms, WCs, etc., are considered as non-habitable spaces.)
- 5.12 The precise specifications will be calculated and stated during the detailed building design stage. Equivalent acoustic performance may be achieved by other materials or products, but acoustic performance data for all proposed systems should be checked by a competent acoustic consultant in order to ensure adequate acoustic performance will be achieved. Nonetheless, from the above, it is clear that the BS8233 criteria can be met by suitable design and therefore the site is suitable for residential development.
- 5.13 It should be acknowledged that careful design and close attention to detail, along with high standards of site supervision and workmanship, are essential in achieving the required acoustic performance, particularly in relation to controlling flanking sound transmission paths, air gaps,

and use of suitable materials. Therefore, effective work management plans will be needed to ensure all contractors and tradesmen are aware of the acoustic performance requirements and details to ensure works are implemented to the necessary standard.

- 5.14 All recommendations given above are for acoustic purposes only. Any other requirements, such as structural, thermal, fire safety, etc., should be checked by suitably qualified specialists.

## 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 A noise assessment has been carried out on behalf of Monfredi Builders Ltd for a proposed residential development on land at Hill Street, Elsecar.
- 6.2 The assessment has included measurements of the prevailing ambient noise levels at the site during representative daytime and nighttime periods. Rail traffic was found to be the dominant noise source impacting upon the development site.
- 6.3 Calculations indicate that the stated BS8233 noise criteria can be met within the new dwellings as high specification ventilation and glazing can provide sufficient sound attenuation.
- 6.4 The site is considered suitable for residential development in planning and noise terms, as acceptable noise levels in accordance with BS8233:2014 can be achieved following the design and implementation of suitable noise mitigation measures.
- 6.5 The above conclusions are also corroborated somewhat by the fact that there are existing residential properties in the vicinity that will experience broadly the same degree of noise exposure as experienced at the development site.
- 6.6 In addition, the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) and the *Noise Policy Statement for England* (NPSE). Appropriate noise assessment and design targets for internal noise levels have been used to quantify noise impact and determine suitability for residential development with due regard to effects on health and quality of life as set out in the NPSE. On this basis, we consider that the noise assessment methodology and conclusions meet the principles set out in the NPPF and NPSE.

**FIGURE 1 – SITE AERIAL VIEW AND APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENT LOCATIONS**



FIGURE 2 – RED LINE PLAN AND PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT



## APPENDIX I – NOISE UNITS AND INDICES

### a) Sound Pressure Level and the decibel (dB)

A sound wave is a small fluctuation of pressure in air. The human ear responds to these variations in pressure, producing the sensation of hearing. The ear can detect a very wide range of pressure variations. Due to the wide range of pressure variations detectable by the ear, a logarithmic scale is used to convert the values into manageable numbers. The dB (decibel) is the logarithmic unit used to describe sound (or noise) levels. The usual range of sound pressure levels is from 0 dB (threshold of hearing) to 120 dB (threshold of pain).

### b) Frequency and Hertz (Hz)

Frequency is a measure of the rate of fluctuation of a sound wave. The unit used is cycles per second, or Hertz (Hz). Sometimes large frequencies are often written as kilohertz (kHz), where 1kHz = 1000Hz.

Young people with normal hearing can hear frequencies in the range 20Hz to 20kHz. However, the upper frequency limit gradually reduces as a person gets older.

As the ear hears some frequencies better than others, the A-weighting scale is used to mimic human hearing. A-weighting applies a correction to the sound level at a given frequency depending on how well the ear hears that frequency.

### c) Glossary of Terms

In order to describe noise where the level is continuously varying, a number of other indices, including statistical parameters, are used. The indices used in this report are described below.

$L_{Aeq}$  This is the A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level which is an average of the total sound energy measured over a specified time period. In other words,  $L_{Aeq}$  is the level of a continuous noise which has the same total (A-weighted) energy as the real fluctuating noise, measured over the same time period.

$L_{Amax}$  This is the maximum A-weighted sound level that was recorded during the monitoring period.

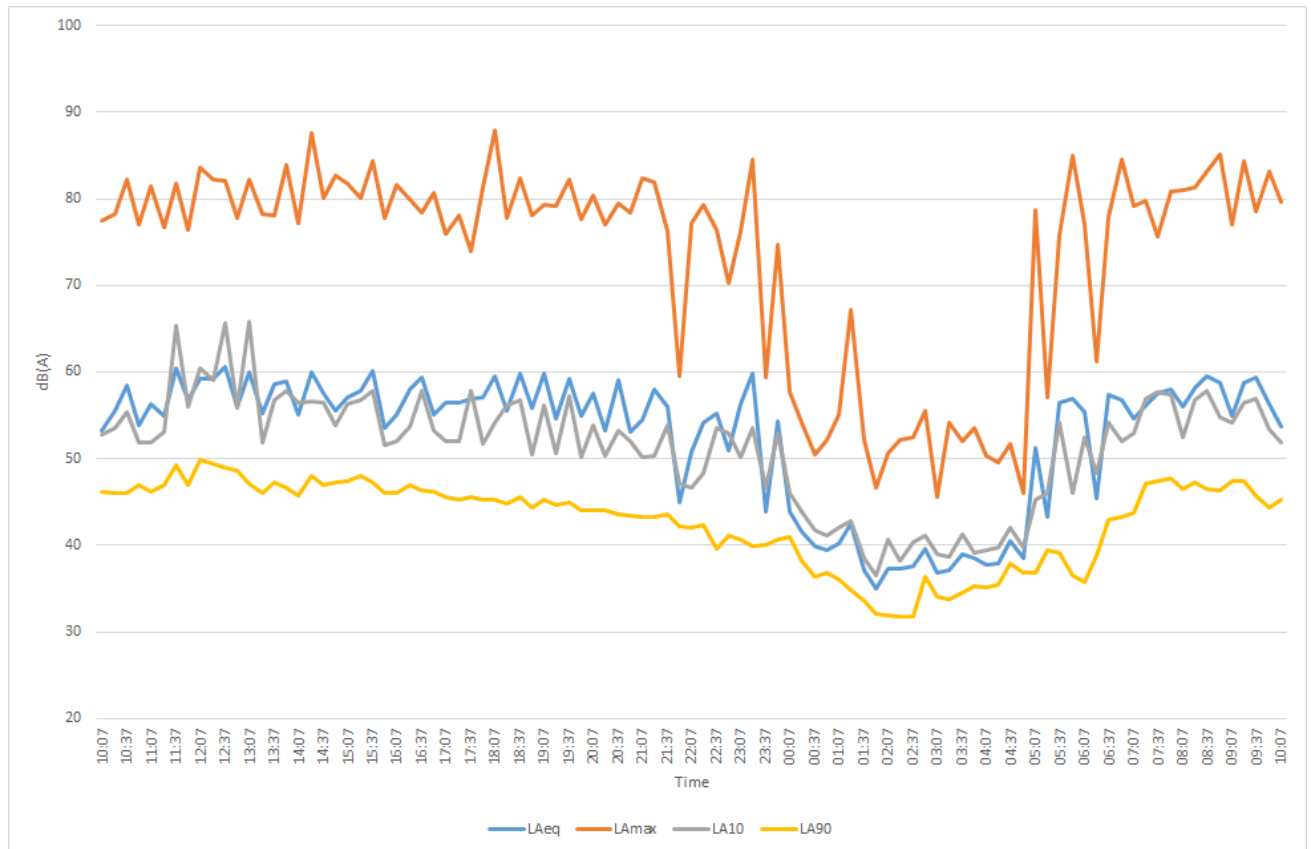
- $L_{A90}$  This is the A-weighted sound level exceeded for 90% of the time period.  $L_{A90}$  is used as a measure of background noise.
- $L_{A10}$  This is the A-weighted sound level exceeded for 10% of the time period and is often used in the assessment of road traffic noise.
- SEL This is the Single Event Level or Sound Exposure Level. The SEL is the total energy measured over the event, compressed into 1 second.  $SEL = L_{Aeq} + 10\log(t)$ , where  $t$  is time in seconds. Also  $L_{Aeq} = SEL - 10\log(t) + 10\log(n)$  where  $t$  is time in seconds and  $n$  is the number of events in the time period.
- $R_w$  A measure of the airborne sound insulation performance of a separating element, when tested in laboratory conditions.

**APPENDIX II – NOISE SURVEY DATA**

Measurement positions described as ‘free-field’ were suitably distant from acoustically reflecting surfaces and structures (other than the ground) to minimise the influence of reflections.

**Location 1**

Svan 971 sound level meter, all values dB(A), 15-minute duration, façade.  
21/12/2017 – 22/12/2017



N.B. There was additional noise contribution from commercial vehicles accessing the builder’s yard area to load/unload materials and equipment on Friday 22/12/2017 between approximately 0700-0800 hours. This has been excluded from the assessment.

**Location 2**

Rion NA-28 sound level meter, all values dB(A), 15-minute duration, free-field.  
21/12/2017 – 22/12/2017

Date	Time	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>A10</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>	Comments
21/12/17	10:04	50.4	74.1	47.6	42.2	Trains audible, regular passing vehicles on Hill Street
21/12/17	10:38	51.9	75.6	49.3	44.7	
22/12/17	06:35	57.7	85.4	47.6	43.2	Proxy location on opposite (northern) side of railway as site not accessible at this time
22/12/17	08:34	52.5	73.7	50.0	45.5	Trains audible, regular passing vehicles on Hill Street
22/12/17	09:27	52.1	74.2	50.4	43.4	

**Location 3**

Rion NA-28 sound level meter, all values dB(A), 15-minute duration, free-field.  
21/12/2017 – 22/12/2017

Date	Time	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>A10</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>	Comments
21/12/17	09:45	57.6	77.5	61.3	43.1	Trains audible, regular passing vehicles on Hill Street
21/12/17	10:21	57.9	79.8	60.3	42.2	
22/12/17	06:12	58.8	80.4	57.5	39.4	Proxy location on pavement outside entrance gates as site not accessible at this time
22/12/17	07:52	55.1	71.4	58.4	46.7	Trains audible, regular passing vehicles on Hill Street
22/12/17	09:03	58.1	80.7	61.6	46.8	
22/12/17	09:55	58.9	78.2	62.8	44.9	

### APPENDIX III – WEATHER DATA

Archival weather data from weather station in Hoyland between Thursday 21/12/2017 and Friday 22/12/2017.

