

**Client:** Big Mamma Group  
**Project:** Circolo Popolare, 36 Jackson's Row, Manchester  
**ACA Ref:** 241024-R004  
**Report date:** July 21, 2025  
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## Circolo Popolare, Manchester

### 1. SUMMARY

ACA Acoustics Limited has undertaken acoustic commissioning testing relating to the installation of mechanical plant and operational/entertainment noise at Circolo Popolare, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

The mechanical equipment scheme has been installed in accordance with the requirements of Manchester City Council's criteria, requiring that the rating level of the proposed equipment does not exceed a sound level 5dB below the measured background sound level at the nearest noise-sensitive properties, when assessed in accordance with British Standard BS 4142:2014+A1:2019.

Music and operational noise emissions from the restaurant have been designed to comply with the requirements of Manchester City Council's criteria, requiring that the entertainment noise is at least 10dB below the background sound level at the nearest noise-sensitive property.

Sound level surveys have been carried out and confirm that the above criteria have been achieved and it is recommended that conditions 34 and 35 may be discharged.

### 2. ACOUSTIC CRITERIA

Planning consent has been granted for the wider development, subject to various planning conditions.

Condition 34 relates to noise from mechanical plant and requires:

*Externally mounted ancillary plant, equipment and servicing shall be selected and/or acoustically treated in accordance with a scheme designed so as to achieve a noise level of 5dB below the existing background (LA90) in each octave band at the nearest noise sensitive location.*

*The scheme should be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as local planning authority prior to the first occupation of each part of the development, in order to secure a reduction in the level of noise emanating from the site.*

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Condition 35 relates to music (operational) noise and requires:

*Where entertainment noise is proposed the LAeq (entertainment noise) should be controlled to 10dB below the LA90 (without entertainment noise) at the façade of the nearest noise sensitive location.*

Condition 32 relates to music or amplified sound played in any part of external areas of the development. The restaurant does not have any external music or amplified noise and therefore this condition may be discharged.

### 3. ACOUSTIC COMMISSIONING TESTING OF THE INSTALLED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

Following the installation of the mechanical plant, ACA Acoustics have undertaken measurements of the plant at the nearest noise-affected windows during the late evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

The survey was conducted by Rob Cant of ACA Acoustics Limited.

Measurements were taken at a position close to the closest corner at the front façade of The Old Nags Head, previously identified as being the closest noise-sensitive receptor to the new development site. The existing soundscape in the vicinity comprises of third-party mechanical plant and it was not possible to distinguish noise from the new plant being considered as part of this development from other third-party plant. The installed plant includes catering condensers which can operate at any time and therefore specific sound levels were undertaken close to the external plant louvres, allowing the plant sound level at the receptor to be calculated.

Weather conditions during the survey were noted to be warm and muggy with no breeze and 90% cloud cover. Meteorological conditions will not have adversely effected the survey results.

Summary results of the survey are shown in the table below.

| Measurement Location                           | Measured Sound Level   |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| The Old Nags Head with all plant operating     | LAeq 56dB<br>LA90 54dB |
| 2m from plant louvres with all plant operating | LAeq 60dB<br>LA90 59dB |

Table 1: Measured sound levels of installed mechanical plant

The closest noise-sensitive receptor (The Old Nags Head) is at least 70m from the plantroom louvres. Allowing a distance correction between the measurement and receptor locations, this corresponds to a

correction of 31dBA to account for the geometrical divergence, and a specific sound level for the installed equipment of **LAeq 29dB**.

A background sound level survey undertaken by Hoare Lea in support of the original planning application confirmed that background sound levels in the vicinity were measured at LA90 55dB during the daytime and LA90 53dB overnight.

These levels correspond to the survey measurement results of ACA Acoustics, with background sound levels measured at LA90 54dB to the latest opening times of the restaurant.

Specific sound levels from the new plant in terms of octave band levels and comparison against the measured background sound levels from the Hoare Lea report are included below. As the restaurant is open to 00:00 hours. to ensure a robust assessment the background level measured overnight has been used.

| Description                                    | LAeq      | 63Hz | 125Hz | 250Hz | 500Hz | 1kHz | 2kHz | 4kHz | 8kHz |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 2m from plant louvres with all plant operating | 60dB      | 67dB | 67dB  | 63dB  | 56dB  | 55dB | 49dB | 41dB | 32dB |
| Distance correction to receptor                | -31       | -31  | -31   | -31   | -31   | -31  | -31  | -31  | -31  |
| Specific sound level at receptor               | 29dB      | 36dB | 36dB  | 32dB  | 25dB  | 24dB | 18dB | 10dB | 1dB  |
| Hoare Lea background overnight                 | LA90 52dB | 57dB | 54dB  | 53dB  | 50dB  | 48dB | 42dB | 34dB | 22dB |
| Criteria (L90 – 5dB)                           |           | 52dB | 49dB  | 48dB  | 45dB  | 43dB | 37dB | 29dB | 17dB |
| Excess over criteria                           |           | -    | -     | -     | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    |

Table 2: Assessment of mechanical plant sound levels

Analysis of the measured plant sound levels corresponds with the subjective opinion of the author; specific sound levels from the plant associated with the new restaurant are low, not discernible at the closest receptors, and fully comply with the requirements of Manchester City Council. It is recommended that planning condition 34 may be discharged.

## 4. ACOUSTIC COMMISSIONING TESTING OF MUSIC/OPERATIONAL NOISE EMISSIONS

The restaurant is now trading, and the music system has been set. The audio engineer has set the physical sound compressor limits and software limiters to the required music volumes. These are locked and not accessible to the restaurant staff.

It is therefore possible to carry out measurements of music/operational noise emissions. Two surveys were conducted; during the evening of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July and the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. This enables an assessment both on a weekday when background sound levels are likely to be lower, and a weekend evening when source sound levels inside the restaurant will be higher.

As with the survey of mechanical plant, noise from the restaurant was not subjectively audible at the receptor. The soundscape also includes noise from The Old Nags Head public house on the Thursday evening, and noise from the public house and two other bars/clubs (The Venue and Sic). Therefore the survey on Friday evening also included measurement of sound levels 3m from the entrance door to allow specific operational noise levels to be calculated to the receptor.

Summary results of the survey are shown in the table below.

| Measurement Location                                                                       | Measured Sound Level on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July | Measured Sound Level on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| The Old Nags Head around 21:00 hours with restaurant at full capacity                      | LAeq 56dB<br>LA90 54dB                                 | LAeq 59dB<br>LA90 55dB                               |
| Inside restaurant around 21:00 hours.<br>Restaurant at full occupancy with music playing   | LAeq 79dB<br>LA90 75dB                                 | LAeq 82dB<br>LA90 79dB                               |
| Inside restaurant around 23:30 hours.<br>Restaurant around 50% capacity with music playing |                                                        | LAeq 80dB<br>LA90 76dB                               |
| The Old Nags Head around 23:30 hours                                                       |                                                        | LAeq 60dB<br>LA90 55dB                               |
| The Old Nags Head around 00:20 hours after restaurant had closed.                          | LAeq 55dB<br>LA90 51dB                                 | LAeq 59dB<br>LA90 55dB                               |
| 3m from open front door to restaurant at around 23:30                                      |                                                        | LAeq 61dB<br>LA90 59dB                               |

Table 3: Measured sound levels of music and operational noise

The closest noise-sensitive receptor (The Old Nags Head) is around 45m from the front entrance door to the restaurant. Allowing a distance correction between the measurement and receptor locations, this corresponds to a correction of 24dBA to account for the geometrical divergence, and a specific sound level for music and operational noise emissions with the door open of **LAeq 37dB**.

Hoare Lea measured background sound levels in the vicinity of LA90 55dB during the daytime and LA90 53dB overnight. ACA Acoustics' measured background sound level on the quieter weekday night was LA90 51dB. This is 2dBA lower than that measured by Hoare Lea and provides a robust assessment.

A specific sound level of music and operational noise emissions of LAeq 37dB is around 14dBA below the background sound level.

Analysis of the measured music and operational noise emissions corresponds with the subjective opinion of the author; music and operational noise emissions associated with the new restaurant are low, not discernible at the closest receptors, and fully comply with the requirements of Manchester City Council. It is recommended that planning condition 35 may be discharged.