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BY Email

TECHNICAL NOTE ON NOISE – RECORDING STUDIO 4B ALBANY ROAD, CHORLTON

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

E3P have been commissioned to produce a technical note that considers the potential impact of noise break-out associated with the recording studio, Airtight Studios, immediately adjacent to the development Site. E3P have previously provided a construction noise and vibration associated with the permitted development on this receptor (50-780-R2-1 dated 30th June 2023). However, following submission of this, along with the Noise Impact Assessment (50-780-R1-2 dated 24th April 2023), E3P understand that concerns have been raised by the Environmental Health Officer in relation to potential noise break-out from music associated with the studio during daytime and evening periods. Specifically, the following was noted via the Principal Planner at Manchester City Council:

We need data to be representative of the worst case for the studio, i.e. readings taken during the loudest/highest bass band in session. The time of day will depend on the hours that the studio operates. There is little variation in noise during the day but if sessions are held late evening into the night time (i.e. after 11pm) this will be more sensitive.

The duration will also depend on how long the sessions last for. If they do not know the type of bands in the studio they may need to attend on a number of days to determine the worst case or ask the studio to specifically pick a band that they think will be the worst case.

Accordingly, this technical note looks to consider the potential for noise from the studio, via attended noise measurements, and will assess, where applicable, its impact upon the development.

The technical note has been completed by Lee Faulkner, Associate Director at E3P, with over 12 years' experience in the measurement and assessment of noise and vibration. I hold the Post Graduate Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control and I am a full corporate member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA).



NOISE SURVEY RESULTS

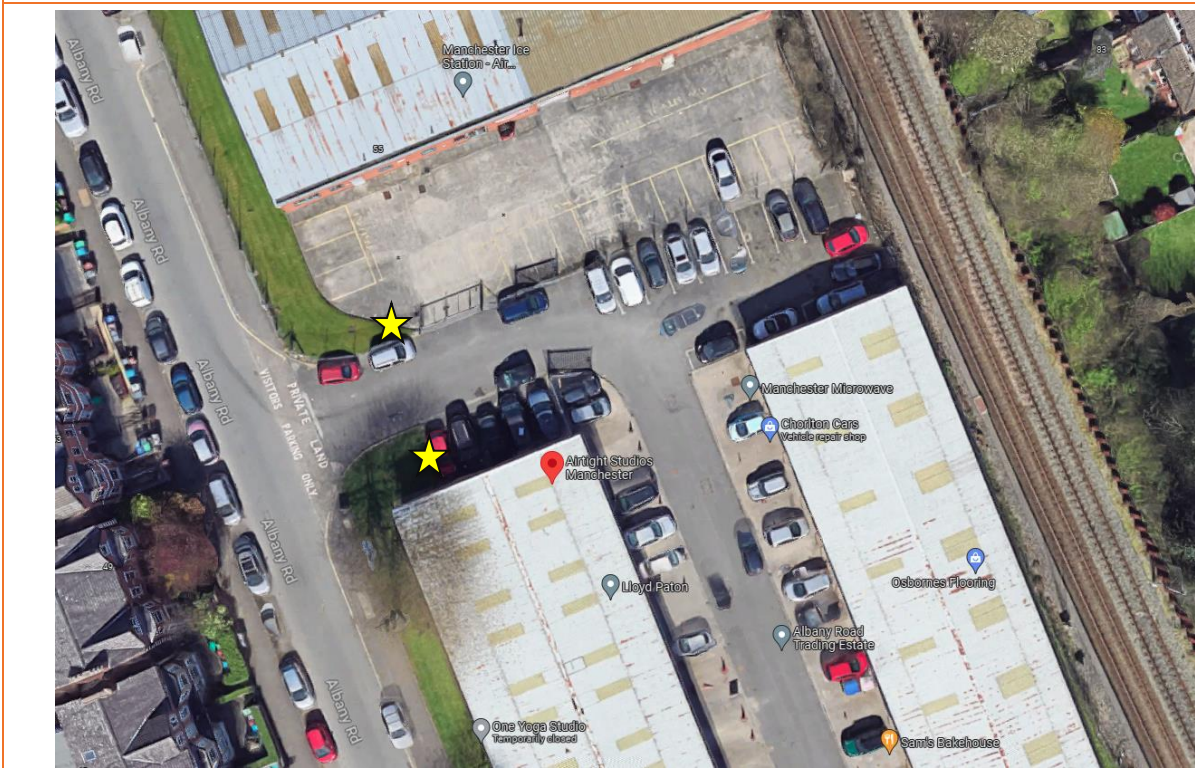
In order to fully consider the potential for noise break-out from Airtight Studios, the planner, Hourigan Planning, contacted the studio to determine when a best time to monitor would be and when bands would be in session. The following is noted from conversations over email on 18th September 2023:

We have music being played pretty much every day, this week Monday-Friday only, as one of our engineers is away. Next week Monday to Wednesday we have musicians in too, Thursday and Friday we will just be mixing.

Given the above, we aimed to attend on Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th September to capture the Monday and Wednesday noted above as having musicians present.

Two positions, one on the site boundary and one adjacent to the Airtight Studios was chosen for the survey with the surveyor also attending at the eastern façade of Airtight Studio to determine whether noise break-out was audible up close. Figure 1 details the location:

FIGURE 1 NOISE MEASUREMENT POSITIONS



The surveyor attended during the following periods:

- 📅 Monday 25th September 2023 08:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00 and 22:00-23:00.
- 📅 Wednesday 26th September 2023 08:00-11:00.



The following equipment was used for the survey:

TABLE 3.1 NOISE MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT AND CALIBRATION DATES

MEASUREMENT POSITION	EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER & TYPE NUMBER	SERIAL NUMBER	LAST CALIBRATION DATE
Attended Source	Sound Level Meter	01dB Fusion	14226	1 st December 2021
	Pre-amplifier	01dB Pre22	2135072	
	Microphone	GRAS 40CD	470570	
	Calibrator	Cirrus CR515	99204	2 nd August 2023

The sound level meter was field calibrated on site using the above-mentioned calibrator prior to and after noise measurements were taken. No significant drift was witnessed as noted above. Calibration certificates are available upon request.

The following commentary was given for each period:

- Monday 08:00-12:00 – unfortunately tree surgeons were working on an adjacent tree and this dominant the sound source. Checks were made at the studio, but no noise was noted nor audible over these operations.
- Monday 14:00-17:00 – no noise break-out was noted. Studio was open with some people arriving/leaving in this period.
- Monday 22:00-23:00 – studio was closed.
- Wednesday 08:00-11:00 – people noted entering and leaving, no noise break-out audible at site or façade.

The hourly measured noise levels ranged between 47 dB and 57 dB which concur with those previously measured and assessment.

As noted above, no noise break-out was noted at any period and nor would it be expected to as recording studios are significantly insulated to prevent external noise levels impacting upon recording. Given the elevated levels of noise due to road and tram traffic, it is expected that the studio would be heavily insulated thus preventing any noise break-out as a consequence of this.

In conclusion, the surveys support our initial consideration of this upon submission of the report and E3P can conclude that noise from the recording studio is not of concern upon the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of E3P Ltd

Lee Faulkner
Associate Director

