



**Amplitude
Acoustics**

Prospect House

Planning Stage Acoustic Design Statement

D210108RP1 R1

Monday, 25 April 2022

Document Information

Project	Prospect House
Client	MSJA Ltd
Report title	Planning Stage Acoustic Design Statement
Project Number	D210108

Revision Table

Report revision	Date	Description	Author	Reviewer
0	14 April 2022	For Issue	Dominic Parkinson	Dr. Emmet English
1	25 April 2022	For Issue	Dominic Parkinson	Dr. Emmet English
2	25 May 2022	For Issue	Dominic Parkinson	Dr. Emmet English

Glossary

A-weighting	A spectrum adaption that is applied to measured noise levels to represent human hearing. A-weighted levels are used as human hearing does not respond equally at all frequencies.
dB	Decibel—a unit of measurement used to express sound level. It is based on a logarithmic scale which means a sound that is 3 dB higher has twice as much energy. We typically perceive a 10 dB increase in sound as a doubling of that sound level.
dB(A)	Units of the A-weighted sound level.
Frequency (Hz)	The number of times a vibrating object oscillates (moves back and forth) in one second. Fast movements produce high frequency sound (high pitch/tone), but slow movements mean the frequency (pitch/tone) is low. 1 Hz is equal to 1 cycle per second.
L_{eq}	Equivalent Noise Level—Energy averaged noise level over the measurement time.
L_{90}	Noise level exceeded for 90 % of the measurement time. The L_{90} level is commonly referred to as the background noise level.
R_w	Weighted Sound Reduction Index—A laboratory measured value of the acoustic separation provided by a single building element (such as a partition). The higher the R_w the better the noise isolation provided by a building element.
Reverberation Time (RT)	Of a room, for a sound of a given frequency or frequency band, the time that would be required for the reverberantly decaying sound pressure level in the room to decrease by 60 decibels.
$D_{n,e,w}$	Element normalised level difference, weighted - A laboratory measured value of the acoustic separation provided by a small building element.
L_{den}	(day-evening-night noise level) is the A-weighted, L_{eq} (equivalent noise level) over a complete day, but with a penalty of +10 dB(A) for night-time noise (22:00-07:00) and +5 dB(A) for evening noise (19:00-23:00).
L_{day}	(day noise level), is the A-weighted, L_{eq} (equivalent noise level) over the 16-hour day period of 07:00-23:00 hours, also known as the day noise indicator.
L_{night}	(night noise level), is the A-weighted, L_{eq} (equivalent noise level) over the 8-hour night period of 23:00-07:00 hours, also known as the night noise indicator.

Executive Summary

Amplitude Acoustics were commissioned to undertake a noise impact assessment of the proposed residential development at Prospect House, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, D16. The proposed development consists of the construction of a residential apartment block, comprising 22 units, with basement parking and 4 residential floors, and the refurbishment of the existing Prospect House and Gate Lodge.

The traffic noise at the site has been measured using a noise logger deployed on site for 3 days, undertaken between Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th March 2021.

A traffic noise model has been developed and calibrated using the measured noise levels and traffic count data available. Using the measured noise levels, the acoustic performance requirements for the building have been developed to achieve the internal noise levels defined in BS 8233 and ProPG. This approach is in accordance to the requirements of South Dublin County Council Development Noise Action December 2018 – July 2023 Volume 4.

A 'Stage 1: Initial Site Noise Risk Assessment' and a 'Stage 2: Full Assessment', in line with advice on Professional Practice Guidance (ProPG) – Planning & Noise were undertaken.

Interior noise levels for the whole development are predicted to comply with interior noise level criteria (including both L_{Aeq} and L_{AFMax}) from BS 8233 and ProPG provided that the construction requirements detailed in Section 7 are implemented. Sleep disturbance due to the predicted internal noise levels is unlikely to occur.

The main external amenity area and the majority private balconies/terraces are predicted to comply with the desirable external amenity noise level criteria. It is concluded that the future residents would have a suitably quiet amenity space.

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1 Introduction

Amplitude Acoustics have been engaged to conduct a planning stage acoustic assessment for the planning application for a proposed development consisting of the construction of residential apartment block comprising 22 units, with basement parking and 4 residential floors, the refurbishment of Prospect House and Gate Lodge at Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, D16.

As the land is located in close proximity to the M50, an acoustic report is required assessing the noise intrusion from road noise on the proposed development. This report details the acoustic assessment of the site including internal and external amenity noise levels based on noise levels measured at the site and predicted noise levels based on future traffic growth. Implementing the acoustic design guidance in this report is predicted to achieve acceptable internal noise levels for the proposed use of the site.

2 Site Description

The proposed development is located at Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

2.1 Existing Site

The existing site comprises of Prospect House and the existing single storey Gate Lodge
The site is bounded by.

- Mixed residential and commercial properties to the North
- Residential properties followed by the M50 to the South
- Residential properties followed by agricultural lands and a golf course to the East
- Stocking lane followed by residential properties and the Ballyboden Water Treatment Plant to the West

Figure 1 below shows an aerial view of the proposed development site in relation to the M50 and surrounding area



Figure 1: Site Location Map Image © Google Earth

2.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the following:

- Apartment building – 11no. 1bed and 11no. 2 bed apartments with basement parking
- Existing Prospect House to refurbished
- Existing Gate Lodge

Figure 2 below presents the proposed development site.



Figure 2: Site plan of proposed development

3 Acoustic Criteria

3.1 South Dublin County Council

The criteria for the project have been developed with regard to the requirements of South Dublin County Council Development Noise Action December 2018 – July 2023 Volume 4. Within Section 7.10.1.2 Planning and Development the following text is provided.

When new developments are being constructed it is important that both houses and apartments are designed, orientated and located in such a way so as to limit the impacts of noise from traffic. All new applications for residential developments will be assessed and where there is the likelihood of an adverse noise impact the applicant will be required to produce a noise impact assessment carried out by appropriately qualified acousticians and competent persons. The noise impact assessment should demonstrate that all facets of the UK "Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise" (2017) (ProPG) have been followed.

3.2 ProPG: Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise

ProPG was published on 22 June 2017 and the scope is restricted to new residential development exposed predominantly to airborne noise from transport sources. The guidance encourages better acoustic design for new residential development and aims to protect people from the harmful effects of noise. The guidance was prepared by the Institute of Acoustics, the Association of Noise Consultants and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. It encourages a holistic design process where acoustics is integral to the living environment. This covers careful site layout and better orientation of rooms within dwellings. ProPG acknowledges and reflects the Noise Policy Statement for England, the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Policy Guidance – Noise.

The recommended approach for new residential development is in two stages. Stage 1 is an initial noise risk assessment of the proposed development site for an early indication of the initial suitability of the site for new residential development.

3.2.1 Stage 1 Assessment

For reference, the indicative noise levels for the initial site noise risk assessment as presented in ProPG are illustrated below.

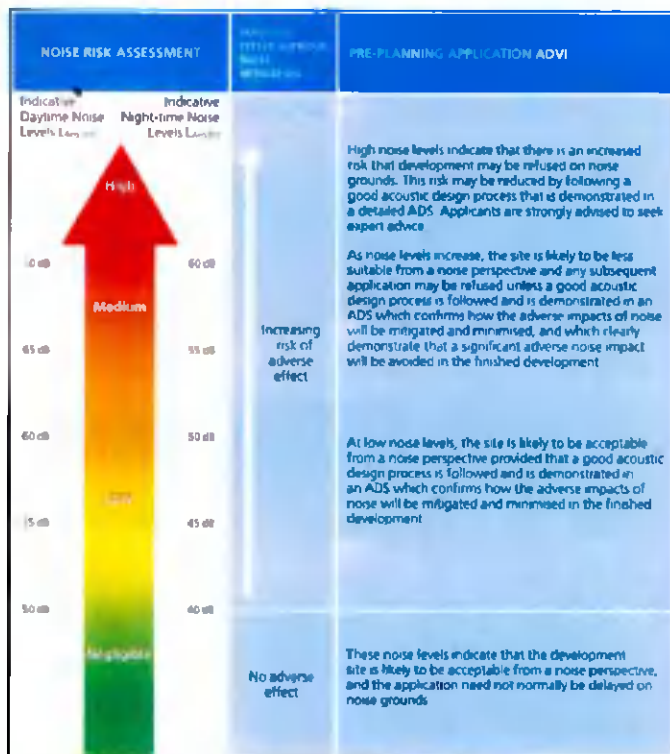


Figure 3: Stage 1 – Initial Site Noise Risk Assessment

3.2.2 Stage 2 Assessment

Stage 2 is a systematic consideration of four key elements:

- Demonstrating a "Good Acoustic Design Process."
- Observing internal "Noise Level Guidelines."
- Undertaking an "External Amenity Area Noise Assessment"
- Consideration of "Other Relevant Issues"

Good Acoustic Design Process

General principles (in order of preference):

- Maximising spatial separation of noise sources and receptors.
- Reducing existing noise levels or relocating noise sources, if possible.
- Using existing topography and existing structures.
- Incorporating noise barriers as part of the scheme.
- Using layout to reduce noise propagation across the site.
- Using orientation to reduce noise exposure of sensitive rooms.
- Using building envelope to mitigate noise.

Internal Noise Level Guidelines

ProPG guidance is based on BS 8233 2014 and World Health Organisation recommendations. Internal ambient noise levels (IANL) are provided in Table 1. In addition to these values, there is a recommendation for individual noise events to not normally exceed 45 dB $L_{Amax,F}$ more than ten times a night in bedrooms.

Table 1: BS 8233:2014 internal noise criteria – Commercial and Residential Buildings.

Activity	Location	07:00 to 23:00 Hrs	23:00 to 07:00 Hrs
Resting	Living Room	35 dB L _{Aeq, 16 hour}	-
Dining	Dining Room/Area	35 dB L _{Aeq, 16 hour}	-
Sleeping (daytime resting)	Bedroom	35 dB L _{Aeq, 16 hour}	30 dB L _{Aeq, 8 hour} 45dB L _{AFmax} (See Note 1)

Note 1 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 L_{Amax,F}, depending on the character and number of events per night. Sporadic noise events could require separate values. In most circumstances in noise sensitive rooms at night (e.g. bedrooms) good acoustic design can be used so that individual noise events do not normally exceed 45dB L_{Amax,F} more than 10 times a night

External Amenity Areas

External amenity areas which are an intrinsic part of the overall design should ideally not be above 50-55 dB L_{Aeq,16hr}, or designed to achieve the lowest practicable noise levels (BS 8233:2014).

If significant adverse noise impacts remain on any private external amenity space, then this is partially offset if residents are provided with access to a "relatively quiet" alternative external amenity space.

BS 8233:2014 provides a much more detailed narrative on noise levels in external amenity areas and acknowledges that it may not always be necessary or feasible to ensure that noise levels remain within these guideline values. In respect of gardens and patios, BS 8233:2014 states, "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."

It is clear from the narrative of BS 8233:2014, that proposed development within noisy environments should be designed to ensure that the recommended internal design standards are achieved, and that noise levels in external amenity areas are designed to effectively control and reduce noise levels, although it acknowledges that in certain circumstances meeting the external design recommendations may not be feasible, or necessary, especially where the provision of such spaces is desirable for other technical, planning or policy reasons.

Consideration of Other Relevant Issues

- Compliance with relevant national/local policy.
- Magnitude and extent of compliance with ProPG
- Likely occupants of the development.
- Acoustic design versus unintended adverse consequences
- Acoustic design versus planning objectives.

4 Noise Measurements

4.1 Details

The prevailing noise conditions in the area have been determined by a detailed environmental noise survey. Measurements were conducted between Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th March 2021.

4.2 Measurement Location

Unattended sound measurements were undertaken at a fixed location at approximately 25m from Stocking Lane. The microphone was located at a height of approximately 4m from ground level. The measurement locations were all considered to be free field.

The measurement location shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Measurement Location Image © Google Earth

4.3 Noise Survey Methodology

As detailed above, the noise survey comprised automated unattended measurements, undertaken at one fixed measurement position. Noise monitoring was undertaken over sequential 15-minute periods for the duration of the survey. A wind shield was used during all measurements, where appropriate extraneous noise due to wind exceeding 5m/s and/or rain was filtered from the measured data.

The sound indices measured during the sound survey are shown below.

- $L_{Aeq,T}$ - The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a period of time, T
- $L_{Amax,T}$ - The A-weighted maximum sound pressure level that occurred during a given measurement period, Measured using the fast time weighting in accordance with the requirements of BS8233 2014.

- $L_{A10,T}$ - The A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for 10% of the measurement period.
- $L_{A90,T}$ - The A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for 90% of the measurement period. Indicative of the background sound level.

Third octave band L_{Aeq} sound pressure levels were also measured during the survey period.

4.3.1 Instrumentation

A Class 1 sound level meter/noise logger in accordance with IEC 61672-1:2013 was used for all measurements. Table 2 below summarises the measurement equipment used.

Table 2: Measurement Equipment

Description	Manufacturer	Model
Noise Logger	Sinus Messtechnik	Tango Plus
Acoustic Calibrator	Larson Davis	CAL200

All equipment has calibration certificates traceable back to the relevant Standard. A calibration check of the sound level meter was conducted prior to and following the assessment using an external acoustic calibrator, with no significant drift in calibration measured.

4.3.2 Subjective Impression on Noise Climate

Since the survey was largely unattended it is not possible to comment on the specific nature of the noise climate for the entire duration of the survey, however whilst on site the noise climate was noted as being dominated by local road movements along Stocking Lane and to a lesser extent the M50.

4.4 Noise Monitoring Results

The table presents a summary of the measured daytime and night-time L_{Aeq} noise levels (presented as logarithmically averaged values) and the 10th highest L_{Amax} night-time noise level.

Table 3: Traffic noise measurements at noise monitor location.

Date	Daytime L_{Aeq} (07:00 – 23:00) dB	Night-time L_{Aeq} (23:00 – 07:00) dB	10 th Highest Night-time L_{Amax} (23:00 – 07:00) dB
Tuesday 16/03/2021	54*	48	60
Wednesday 17/03/2021	53	48	62
Thursday 18/03/2021	55	48	62
Friday 19/03/2021	53*	-	
Average	54**	48**	61***

*Part period level

**Logarithmically average

***Arithmetic average

The measured L_{Aeq} , L_{Amax} , and L_{A90} noise levels are also presented graphical form in Appendix A.

5 Noise Modelling

Noise emissions on the proposed site have been modelled using SoundPLAN 8.2 which implements the 'Calculation of road traffic noise (CORTN) algorithm'. The model accounts for the following factors:

- Traffic Flow in terms of Average Daily Traffic (AADT).
- Percentage Heavy Vehicles.
- Traffic Speed and road gradient.
- Distance attenuation, including source and receptor heights.
- Barrier effects due to facility structures and other buildings.
- Ground effects and absorption.
- Atmospheric attenuation.

Traffic data for both M50 and Stocking Lane were used to in the model and validated against the measured noise levels. Good agreement between measured and predicted existing noise levels shown.

Using the calibrated model, the development was added, and boundary walls removed where necessary. The model was then rerun and the noise levels at the façade of the development building predicted.

6 ProPG Stage 1 – Initial Noise Risk Assessment

The results of the noise model have been used to plot the daytime and night-time $L_{Aeq,T}$ noise levels across the proposed development site in the absence of any buildings.

The noise maps shown in Appendix B identify the noise risk categories across the site for day and night-time period due to the noise emissions from Stocking Lane at heights 1.5 and 4m from ground level. It can be seen that at 1.5m the predicted noise contours are at less risk due to the perimeter boundary wall which in the most part, is understood to be retained. A summary of the predicted noise risk categories is provided below:

6.1 1.5m Grid

During the daytime, the risk categories are in the Low to Medium risk band for facades up to 15m from Stocking Lane. Low to Negligible risk for facades further away from Stocking Lane.

During the night-time, the risk categories are in the Low to Negligible range.

6.2 4m Grid

During the daytime, the risk categories range are in the Medium to High-risk band for facades up to 4m from Stocking Lane, Medium risk for facades 4m to 14m, Low to Medium risk for facades 14m to 30m and Low to Negligible for facades further away.

During the night-time, the risk categories are in the Low to Medium risk band for facades up to 15m from Stocking Lane. Low to Negligible risk for facades further away.

From this initial noise risk assessment, it can be concluded that the site will require acoustic mitigation to reduce control the noise levels to acceptable levels.

7 ProPG Stage 2 – Full Noise Assessment

In accordance with Stage 2 of Professional Practice Guidance (ProPG) – Planning & Noise, a full noise assessment of the proposed development has been undertaken. Elements 1 to 4 of the Stage 2 Assessment have been addressed in this section of the report.

7.1 Good Acoustic Design Process

ProPG states that 'Good acoustic design should provide an integrated solution whereby the optimum acoustic outcome is achieved, without design compromises.'

Where feasible and practical, the following measures would provide an acoustic benefit to the scheme and would constitute good acoustic design.

- Maximise the distance between the proposed dwellings and the nearby roads.
- Locate external amenity space behind or between the proposed dwellings, away from the surrounding roads.
- Provide an appropriate ventilation strategy, as detailed later in this report; and
- Provide enough building envelope sound reduction, as detailed later in this report.

It is essential to note that the above recommendations will not be possible in all cases, and that it is possible and acceptable to provide suitable acoustic conditions without having to implement all the guidelines set out above.

Further to the above, in this case further maximising spatial separation of noise sources and receptors is not considered feasible, given the shape and location of the site.

7.2 Predicted Façade Noise Conditions

To assess the impact of noise on the proposed dwellings, the noise model was updated to include the proposed buildings. Modelling calculations were re-run, providing cumulative daytime and night-time $L_{Aeq,T}$ noise level predictions at the proposed façade locations.

As shown Appendix C, the noise model has been used to determine worst-case daytime (07:00 - 23:00) and night-time (23:00 to 07:00) L_{Aeq} noise levels at various façade locations around the site for use in the following assessment. Please note that the façade incident noise level indicators shown in Appendix C indicate the relevant daytime $L_{Aeq, 16\text{ hour}}$ and/or night-time $L_{Aeq, 8\text{-hour}}$ noise levels, respectively.

Night-time L_{Amax} noise levels at each building façade have also been assessed by using the measured 10th highest L_{Amax} levels given for each day and logarithmically averaged as given in Table 3.

7.3 External Building Fabric Assessment

7.3.1 Internal Noise Level Guidelines

In order to achieve appropriate noise levels within internal living spaces, the dwellings themselves need to be considered regarding the level of façade mitigation required. BS 8233:2014 states internal noise level criteria of <35 dB(A) in living rooms and bedrooms during the daytime (07:00 – 23:00) and <30 dB(A) in bedrooms during the night-time (23:00 – 07:00). In addition, ProPG recommends that individual noise events should not normally exceed 45 dB L_{Amax,F} more than 10 times a night in bedrooms.

7.3.2 Assumptions

The assessment assumes the following room sizes (l x w x h):

- Bedroom – 3.6m x 3.1m x 2.7m (l x w x h)
- Living Room/Kitchen – 5.9m x 5.2m x 2.7m

Glazing dimensions have been taken from the supplied drawings. It has also been assumed that bedrooms are to be acoustically 'soft,' with carpets, curtains and other soft furnishings and living rooms to be less acoustically absorptive. For the purposes of analysis, we have assumed the following internal reverberation times:

Table 4: Mid-frequency reverberation time for specific room types.

Room	Mid-Frequency Reverberation Time (Seconds)
Bedroom	0.6
Living Room	0.8

As a reference, the following standard constructions and associated acoustic performance have been considered for the external wall and roof.

Table 5: Sound reduction of example external wall and roof, R (dB)

Description	Sound Reduction Indices (dB) at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								R _w
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
External Wall – Brick/Block Cavity	31	36	40	41	45	52	52	46	52
Roof – Tiled-slatted roof, acoustic plasterboard ceiling, sound absorbing layer	31	36	40	41	45	52	52	46	52

7.4 Façade Mitigation

7.4.1 Glazing Requirements

Based on the predicted noise levels incident on the facades, the following glazing types and the corresponding sound reduction indices have been proposed.

Table 6: Proposed glazing sound insulation performance

Glazing Type	Example Configuration	Sound Reduction Indices (dB) at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								R _w (+C _{tr})
		63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
GL1	6 5mm lam/10mm/10mm	28	30	28	38	43	51	59	57	41 (-5)
GL2	8mm/10mm/5mm	21	28	28	29	38	38	34	34	35 (-3)

The glazing system performance specifications detailed above apply to the glazing package as a whole, inclusive of glazing, framing, spandrel panels, etc. The performance of the glazing systems will depend on many factors, such as the glazing configuration, size of window panels, quality of framing, quality of sealing, etc. Performance specifications are frequency specific. Overall performance values are given for guidance purposes only. Any ventilation element which penetrates the façade will need to be selected to ensure the specified glazing performance values are not compromised.

7.4.2 Background Ventilation Requirements

The table below sets out the performance requirement for the ventilation elements to comply with the 'whole dwelling ventilation' condition when windows need to be closed to avoid noise ingress.

Table 7: Acoustic performance of example ventilation options, D (dB)

Ventilation Type	Element Level Difference at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								D _{n,ew}
	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
Vent 1	25	30	33	38	37	36	36	36	38
Vent 2	28	33	32	31	37	47	47	47	37
Vent 3	28	33	34	33	41	29	32	32	34

One trickle ventilator or air inlet has been assumed per room. Where more ventilators are used, the acoustic performance of the ventilators would need to be upgraded by $10 \cdot \log(N)$: being N the number of ventilators per room.

7.4.3 Opening Windows during Summer Months

Openable windows typically provide a level of 10 to 15dB reduction. Based on the measured and predicted daytime L_{Aeq} , night-time (L_{night}) and L_{Amax} incident noise levels the internal noise criteria are unlikely to be met.

In order to determine the risk of overheating and therefore the likelihood of windows being required to be open on a regular basis an TM59 overheating assessment should be undertaken. TM59 assessment would identify which facades might experience overheating and the necessary measures to mitigate it. If overheating is found to be a frequent risk, then mitigations should be coordinated with acoustics to control excessive noise ingress during the overheating condition.

Typical measures for the mitigation of overheating may include the following:

- Reduced window sizes,
- Increased solar control in the glazing (lower G values);
- Solar shading;
- Enhanced provision of thermal mass.

If additional ventilation is still deemed to be necessary to mitigate overheating, then the following measures may need to be considered:

- Incorporating oversized acoustic ventilators
- Design a system where windows may be open in unoccupied or quieter rooms
- Using an MVHR boost system with a heat recovery bypass system for warmer weather
- Using comfort cooling.

Windows may be openable for purge ventilation purposes at the user's discretion, as this is applicable only to occasional occurrences, such as to remove smoke from burnt food, and not subject to acoustic assessment.

7.5 External Amenity Area Noise Assessment

7.5.1 Balconies/Terraces

BS 8233:2014 advise that the acoustic environment of external amenity areas that are an intrinsic part of the overall design should always be assessed and noise levels should ideally not be above the range 50 – 55 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$. But they also recognise that these guideline values are not achievable in all circumstances where development might be desirable, such as city centres or urban areas adjoining the strategic transport network. In such a situation the guidance advises that the development should be designed to achieve the lowest practicable levels in these external amenity spaces but should not be prohibited.

On review of the predicted daytime noise levels across the facades of the apartment block the majority of balconies and ground floor are comfortably within the design range of 50 to 55dB dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$. The western facing balconies at first floor level are expected to experience noise levels in the order of 60 dB.

Given that there is a large amenity area provided within the development away from the road it is considered that a suitably quiet amenity space has been provided.

7.5.2 Dedicated Amenity Space

The predicted daytime noise levels noise levels at 1.5 metres above existing ground level show that amenity areas to the houses and the large open areas of the site are typically below 50 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the future residents would have a suitably quiet amenity space.

8 Conclusions

Amplitude Acoustics were commissioned to undertake a noise impact assessment of the proposed residential development at Prospect House, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, D16.

The traffic noise at the site has been measured using a noise logger deployed on site for 3 days. A traffic noise model has been developed and calibrated using the measured noise levels and traffic count data available. Acoustic performance requirements for the development have been developed to achieve the internal noise levels defined in BS 8233 and ProPG. This approach is in accordance to the requirements of South Dublin County Council Development Noise Action December 2018 – July 2023 Volume 4.

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Interior noise levels for the whole development are predicted to comply with interior noise level criteria (including both L_{Aeq} and L_{AFMax}) from BS 8233 and ProPG provided that the construction requirements detailed in Section 7 are implemented. Sleep disturbance due to the predicted internal noise levels is unlikely to occur.

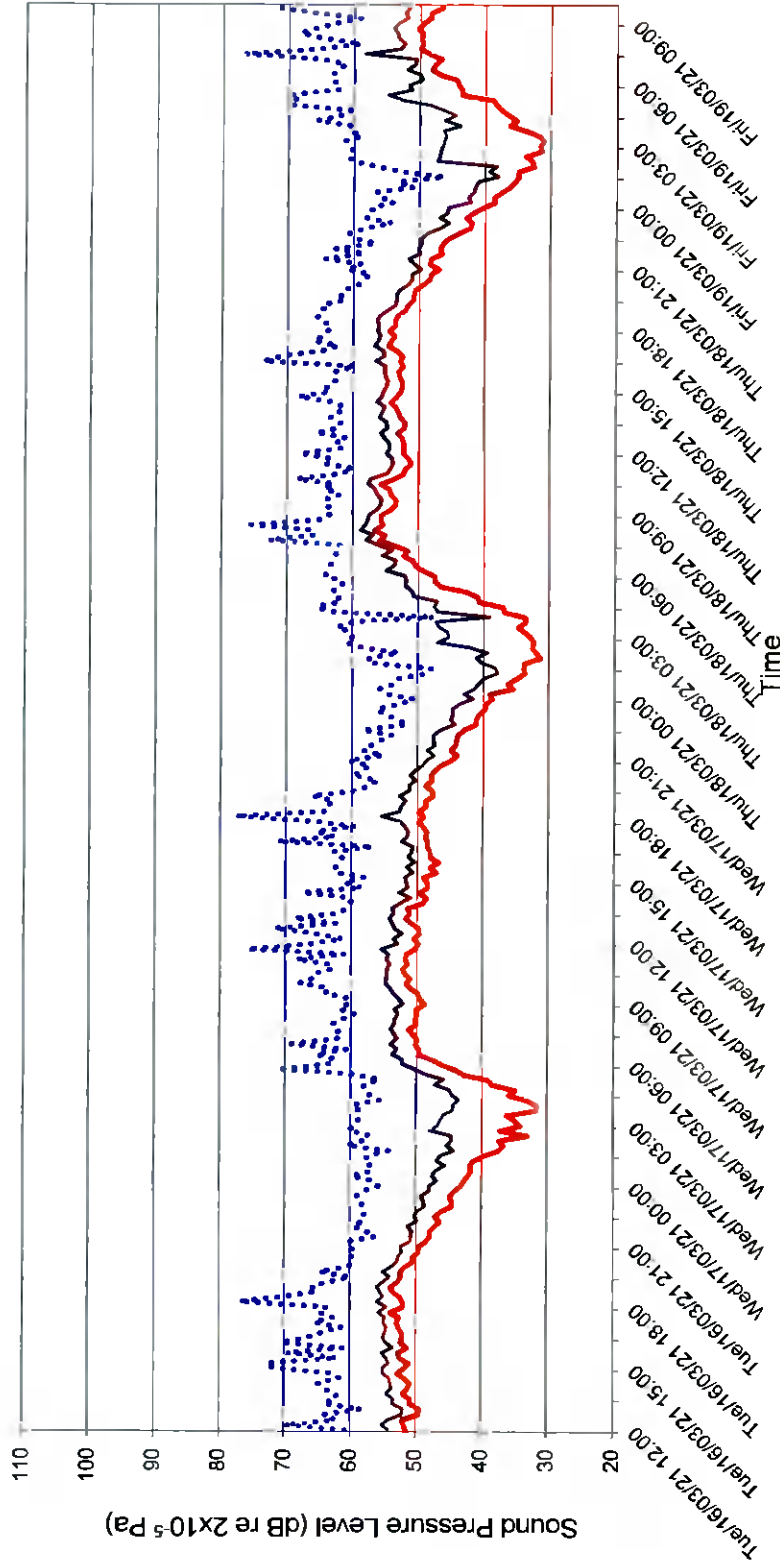
The main external amenity area and the majority private balconies/terraces are predicted to comply with the desirable external amenity noise level criteria. It is concluded that the future residents would have a suitably quiet amenity space.

Appendix A –Noise Monitoring Results

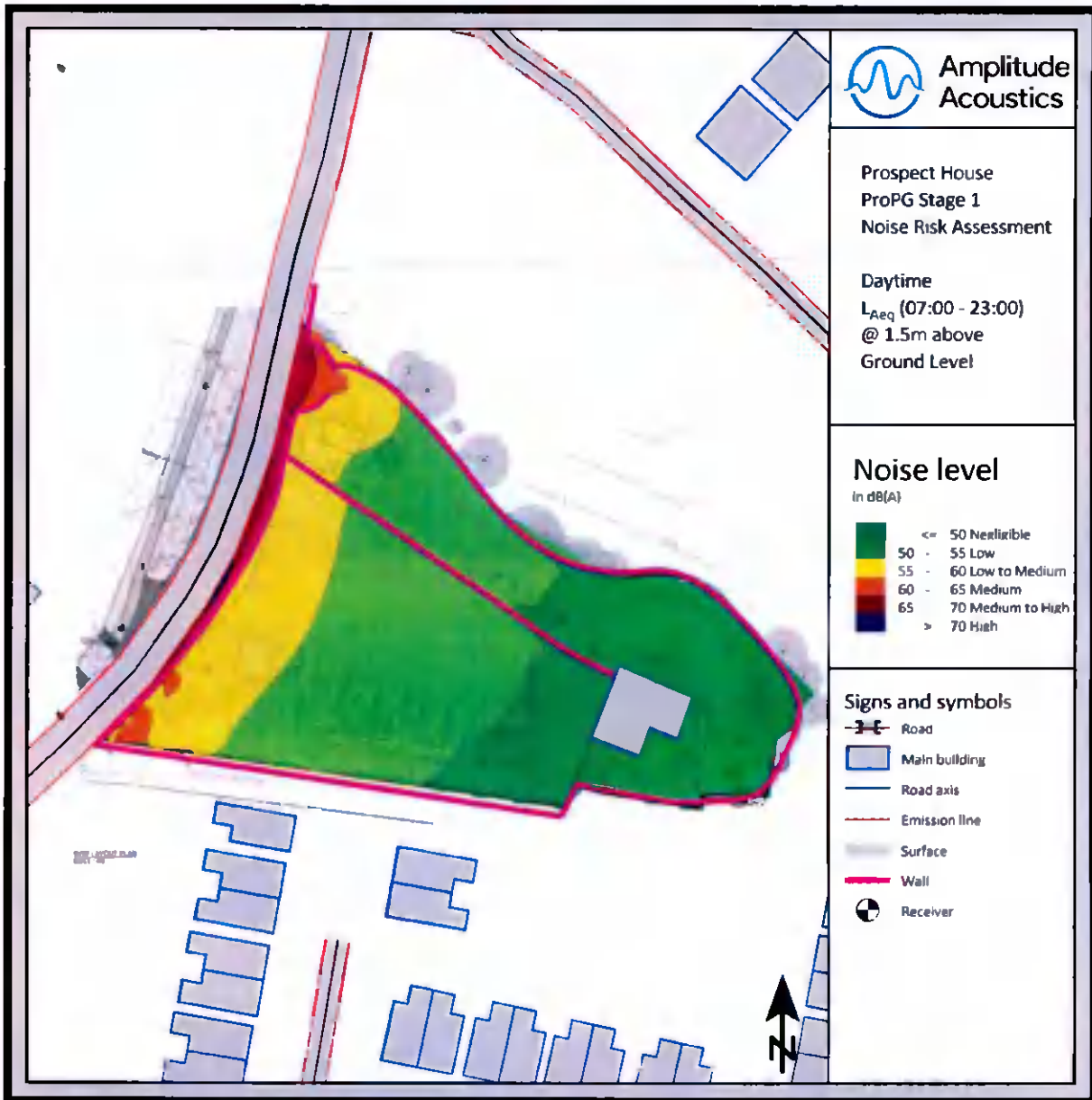


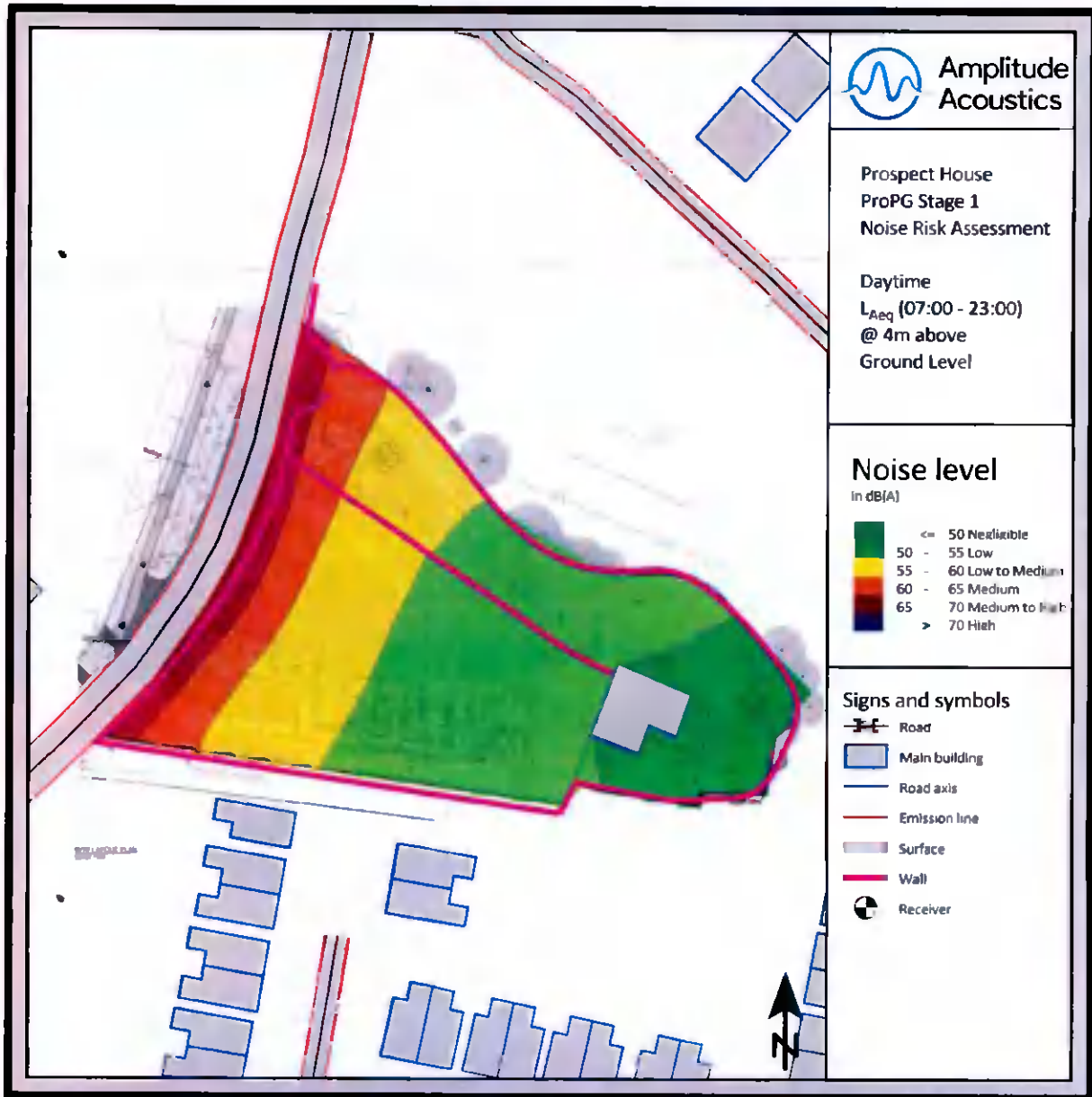
Monitoring Position 1
Measured L_{Aeq} , L_{A90} and L_{AFmax} Time History

— L_{Aeq} — L_{A90} L_{AFmax}



Appendix B – ProPG Stage 1 Assessment

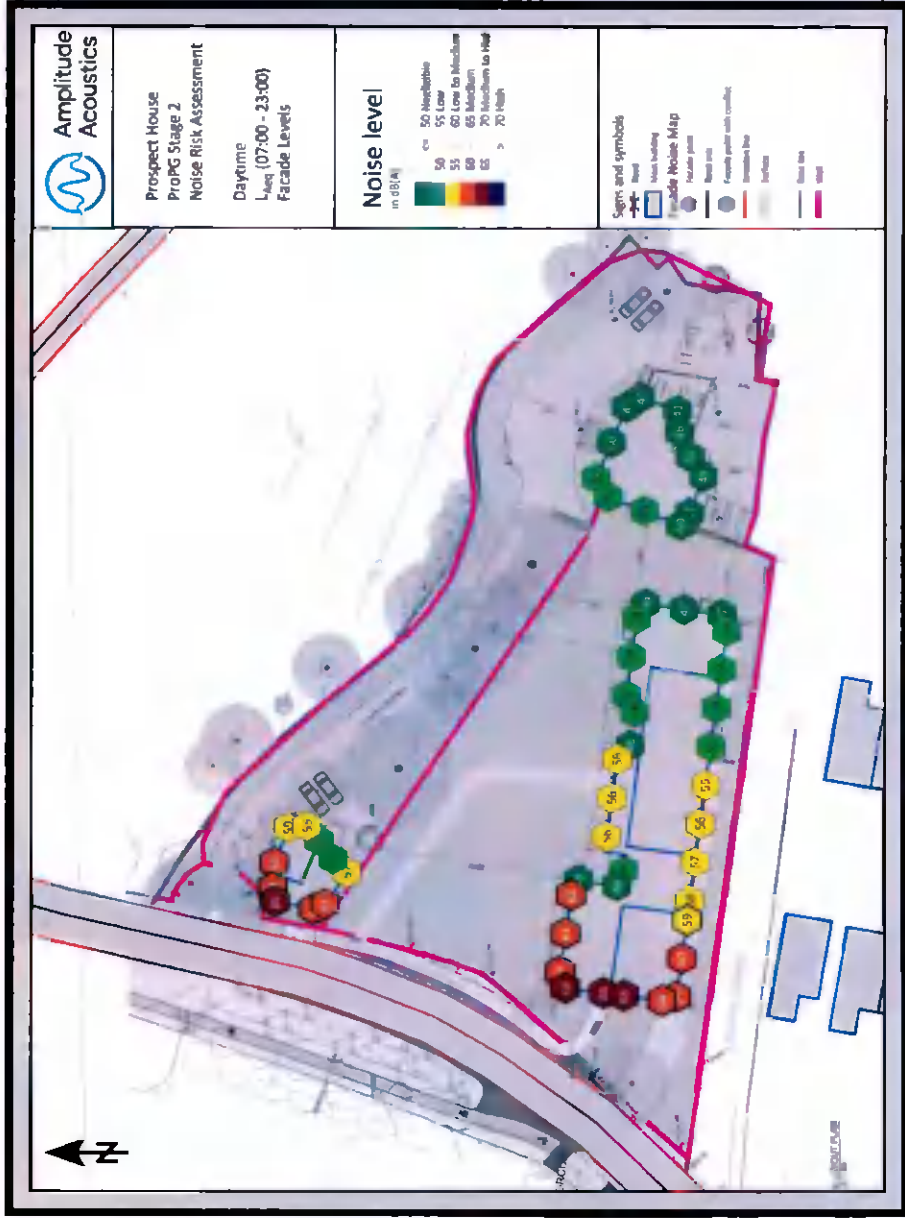








Appendix C – Predicted Façade Noise Levels





Appendix D – Façade Mitigation Requirements

