BURY COUNCIL

BURY PRU/AP SCHOOL, MILTON ROAD, RADCLIFFE

NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

R2498-REP01-PC

13 AUGUST 2026

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REPORT DETAILS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Red Acoustics Ltd has been commissioned by Bury Council to undertake a noise impact assessment for a proposed new school development on land off Milton Road, Radcliffe. The assessment considers both the impact of existing environmental sound on the proposed development and the potential noise associated with operation of the proposed multi-use games areas (MUGAs) at nearby noise sensitive receptors (NSRs). The MUGA assessment has been undertaken having regard to the June 2026 consultation draft of ProPG: Guidance for the Assessment of Sport and Leisure Noise.

The proposed development comprises a new pupil referral unit (PRU) / alternative provision school. Environmental sound surveys have been undertaken to establish the existing acoustic climate affecting both the proposed site and surrounding NSRs. The measured sound levels have been used to assess noise impacts and identify appropriate facade mitigation measures based on the current site layout prepared by the project architects.

Noise break-in calculations have been undertaken using the proposed general arrangement and elevation drawings. These calculations have informed the baseline acoustic design strategy and recommendations for the building envelope. The school will be of traditional brick/masonry construction and we understand that this will. Be fully mechanically ventilated, allowing the required indoor ambient noise levels to be achieved with windows closed in accordance with Building Regulations Requirement E4 and Building Bulletin 93 (BB93).

The development proposals comprise the construction of a new, two storey school building containing general teaching and learning spaces, offices, care and resource areas and ancillary accommodation. In addition, the scheme includes alternative provision learning spaces designed to provide a more tailored educational environment. External works include new vehicular access arrangements, car parking, hard and soft landscaped play areas and proposed MUGA pitches.

In line with the findings of this assessment, recommended sound emission limits for any proposed mechanical plant have been established to ensure that future site operations remain compliant with relevant guidance and maintain a low noise impact at nearby NSRs.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION & SURROUNDINGS

The proposed development site is located on open land adjacent to Milton Road, Bury. The scheme proposes the creation of a new school building with associated outdoor spaces which include parking, play areas and two MUGA pitches.

Figure 2.1 below shows the location of the site in relation to the surroundings and Figure 2.2 shows the proposed site layout.

The nearest noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) border the proposed development site to the north, east and west with NSRs also located on Milton Road to the south.

Figure 2.1: Site Location

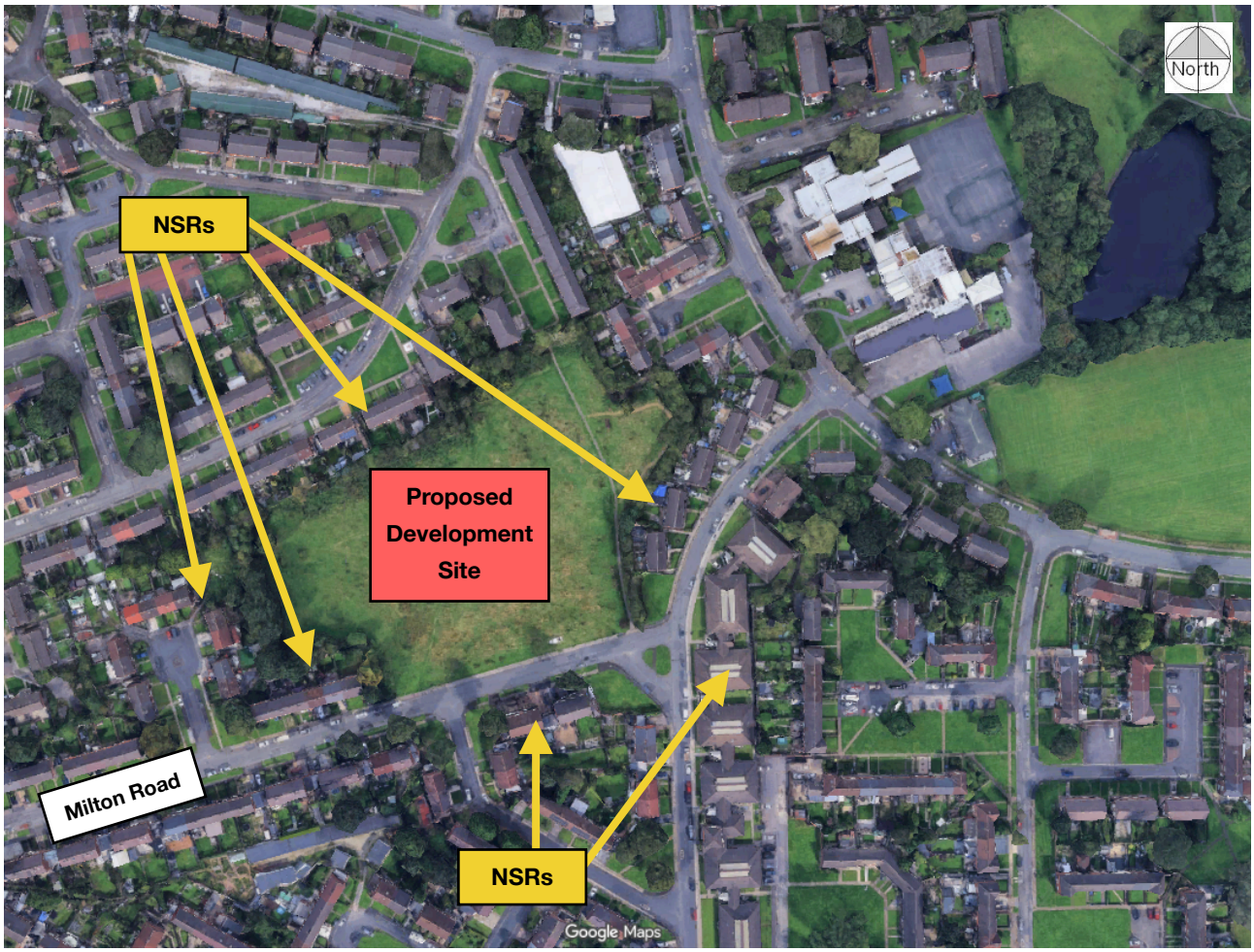
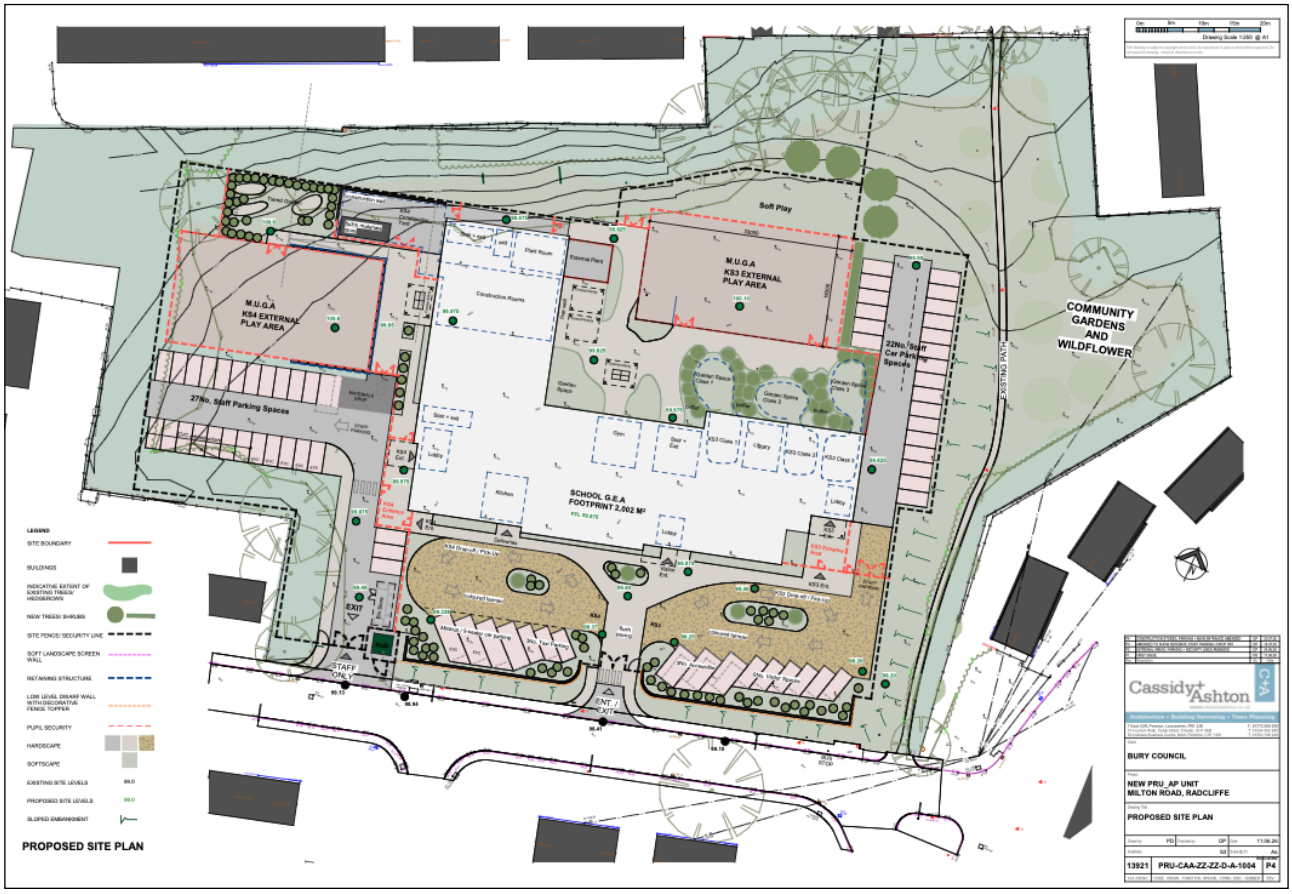


Figure 2.2: Site Layout



3.0 POLICY CONTEXT & ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF[1]) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. Where issues of noise impact are relevant the NPPF provides guidance. NPPF 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'.

NPPF also advises:

'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 quality of life'.

The NPPF also refers to the 2010 DEFRA publication, the Noise Policy Statement for England (NSPE) which reinforces and supplements the NPPF guidance.

Noise Policy Statement for England

The Noise Policy Statement for England[2] (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 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:

[1] National Planning Policy Framework. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023)

[2] Noise Policy Statement for England - Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2010)

- 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 LOAEL and a level which represents SOAEL then:

'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'.

Planning Practice Guidance on Noise

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) - Noise[3] is an online www.gov.uk resource to provide additional guidance on the NPPF. It discusses:

- *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 and;*
- *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, inline with the NPSE, no objective noise levels are provided although the PPG states that:

'the subjective nature of noise means that there is not a simple relationship between noise levels and impact on those effected. This will depend on how various factors combine in any particular situation'

Table 3.1 below summarises the PGG noise expose hierarchy.

[3] Planning Practice Guidance on Noise (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2). Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Table 3.1: Explanation of Noise Exposure Hierarchy - PPG

Perception	Examples of Outcomes	Increasing Effect Levels	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; closing windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for non-awakening 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. having to keep windows closed most of the time, avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion. 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

Building Bulletin 93 - Acoustic Design of Schools: Performance Standards

BB93[4] is the technical document enabling implementation of the Building Regulations Requirement E4. The normal method of compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations Requirement E4 is to demonstrate compliance with the guidance presented in BB93 by design and commissioning testing. This guidance relates primarily to the internal acoustic environment by managing noise break-in from the outside environment (Indoor Ambient Noise Level), internal sound separation between spaces (e.g. sound insulation performance of walls and floors) and acoustic quality of spaces (e.g. sound reverberation management).

[4] Acoustic Design of Schools: Performance Standards - Building Bulletin 93 - Department for Education (February 2015)

BB93 states that 'Whilst planning consents should not be subject to conditions that are covered by other legislation, such as the Building Regulations, local planning authorities may include conditions relating to noise and acoustics when granting consent. These could cover such aspects as noise from schools affecting nearby noise sensitive properties, or educational establishments where the acoustic conditions are not subject to Requirement E4 of the Building Regulations'.

While it is uncommon for the requirements of the Building Regulations 2010 to be duplicated in planning requirements, demonstrating that the design targets for indoor ambient sound levels can be met as part of the planning process provides good indication that the external environment can be one that is suitable for development of an education development.

British Standard 4142

BS 4142:2014+A1:2019[5] presents methods for rating and assessing the potential impact of commercial and industrial sound upon noise sensitive receptors. In order to assess impact using BS 4142, the Rating Level of the new sound source is compared with the existing contextual Background Sound Level.

- Typically, the greater this difference, the greater the magnitude of the impact.
- A difference of around +10 dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- A difference of around +5 dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.
- The lower the Rating Level is relative to the measured Background Sound Level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or a significant adverse impact. Where the Rating Level does not exceed the Background Sound Level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.

The Rating Level is determined by assessing the Ambient Sound Level, distinguishing the Specific Sound Level from the Residual Sound Level and applying any sound specific penalties for acoustic features that would subjectively cause the sound to be perceived differently.

The Specific Sound Level of the commercial / industrial sound source is determined by either; measurement or calculation with regard to the appropriate reference time interval (for daytime or nighttime periods). The standard requires separate analysis for daytime and nighttime periods, evaluating the Rating Level over an appropriate reference time interval (T_r) of: 1hr for daytime (07:00-23:00 hrs) and 15min for nighttime (23:00-07:00 hrs). The Specific Sound Level is defined as equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level produced by the specific sound source at the assessment location over a given reference time interval, *T* (determined either by calculation or deducting the measured Residual Sound Level from the measured Ambient Sound Level).

[5] BS4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound

'Ambient sound' is defined as the totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually composed of sound from many sources near and far (The ambient sound comprises the residual sound and the specific sound when present).

'Residual sound' is defined as the ambient sound remaining at the assessment location when the specific sound source is suppressed to such a degree that it does not contribute to the ambient sound.

Where appropriate, a rating penalty can be applied to the specific sound level to account for the character of the sound, namely: tonality, impulsivity and intermittency. Such acoustic feature corrections can be added together linearly.

Tonality can be determined objectively (using adjacent third octave band analysis or the Joint Nordic method) or subjectively as described below:

- +2dB penalty: Just perceptible
- +4dB penalty: Clearly perceptible
- +6dB penalty: Highly perceptible

Impulsivity can be determined objectively (using Fast Fourier Transform analysis) or subjectively as described below:

- +3dB penalty: Just perceptible
- +6dB penalty: Clearly perceptible
- +9dB penalty: Highly perceptible

Where intermittency is present, a +3dB penalty can be applied. Where the acoustic feature characteristics are neither tonal nor impulsive, but are clearly distinguishable against the residual sound, a +3dB penalty can be applied.

World Health Organisation, Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region 2018[6] (WHO) & Guidelines for Community Noise 1999[7]

The World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines provide advice in relation to noise in the community and the levels at which certain effects are likely. The WHO guidelines relate to the potential for health impacts relating to environmental noise and the impact of noise on uninterrupted speech and sleep. The suggested guideline values for daytime noise levels are repeated in Table 3.2 below as they are relevant to the assessment of noise impacts from the proposed development to the existing NSRs. The values presented in this case relate to the 1997 guidance as the 2018 guidance relates specifically to transportation, wind turbine and leisure industry sources.

Table 3.2: WHO Guideline Values

Environment	Critical effect	$L_{Aeq,t}$ (dBA)	Time period
Outdoor living areas	Serious annoyance	55	16 hrs (day/evening)
Outdoor living areas	Moderate annoyance	50	16 hrs (day/evening)
Dwelling, indoors	Speech intelligibility, moderate annoyance	35	16 hrs (day/evening)

ProPG: Guidance for the Assessment of Sport and Leisure Noise

The June 2026 consultation draft of ProPG: Guidance for the Assessment of Sport and Leisure Noise has been prepared by a working group comprising representatives of the Association of Noise Consultants, Institute of Acoustics and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. As the document remains a consultation draft, it has been treated as emerging professional practice guidance rather than as a final adopted standard.

The ProPG recommends that good acoustic design should be the starting point for all sport and leisure noise assessments. Relevant measures include maximising separation between activity areas and noise sensitive receptors, using buildings and topography to provide screening, incorporating suitable barriers, arranging the site to locate significant sources away from receptors and responding to the existing acoustic environment and proposed hours of use.

[6] https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/9789289053563

[7] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/a68672

The assessment has had regard to the approach set out in the draft ProPG, including good acoustic design, the existing acoustic environment, the type and timing of use and the equivalent continuous sound level, $L_{Aeq,t}$. The draft guidance identifies 50dB $L_{Aeq,t}$ at external residential receptors as a general reference value for reasonable enjoyment of external spaces.

The ProPG notes that a school pitch used only by a school during school hours may not normally require a noise impact assessment where the activity remains typical of a school site. A detailed assessment is more likely where a new activity is introduced, use is intensified or operating hours are extended, including floodlit evening or community use. The present assessment has nevertheless considered the two new MUGAs because they introduce sports activity close to existing dwellings.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SOUND SURVEY

An environmental sound survey has been carried out by Red Acoustics to determine the prevailing sound climate at the proposed development site.

Measurements were undertaken by Red Acoustics at monitoring position MP1 during typical daytime and nighttime periods. The measurements were manned between 04:00hrs to 10:00hrs on 16 June 2026. Measurements were undertaken to determine the typical sound climate both the proposed development and at a position representative of the NSRs to the proposed development.

Figure 4.1: Survey Monitoring Position

The sound survey was undertaken using a Class 1 Sound Level Meter (SLM) positioned on a tripod at a height of 1.8 m above ground level, in free field conditions, with the SLM logging data in 1 second intervals. During the surveys, the noted weather conditions were, dry, calm with wind speeds typically below <5m/s. Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 below summarise the measured data taken.

Figure 4.1: Survey Measurement Summary - MP1

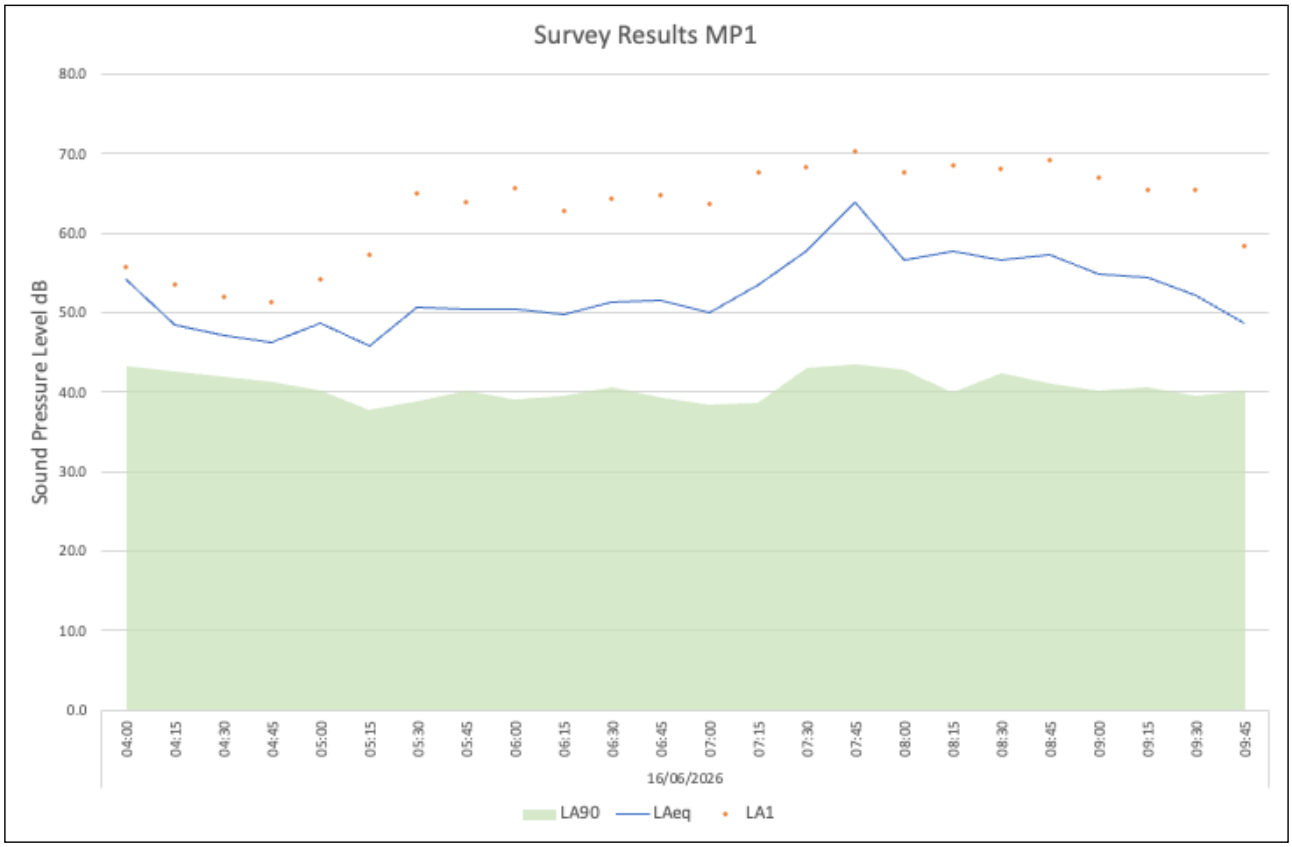


Table 4.1: Measured External Sound Level Summary

	Measured Sound Pressure Level, dB (re: 2x10-5 Pa)			
	Daytime Period 07:00hrs to 10:00hrs		Nighttime Period 04:00hrs to 07:00hrs	
Measurement Location	$L_{Aeq,3hr}$	$L_{A90,t}$	$L_{Aeq,3hr}$	$L_{A90,t}$
MP1	57	40 Typical	50	39 Typical

5.0 DETERMINATION OF MUGA SOUND LEVELS

Multi-use gaming areas are designed to be enclosed and to host a number of different sports activities. Sound levels generated by such facilities vary by activity, occupant and the surrounding fencing. The draft ProPG on sports and leisure sound identifies ball strikes on metal goals, fencing and hockey backboards as potentially significant impulsive events that should be considered separately from average activity sound levels. Red Acoustics holds scheme-relevant measurement data for a supervised school PE session using hockey equipment on a fenced MUGA.

Measurements were undertaken at a distance of 8m from the pitch enclosure and included hockey ball strikes and impacts with the perimeter fencing. The measured octave band $L_{Aeq,15min}$ data is presented in Table 5.1 and has been used to represent supervised school use of the proposed MUGAs in the noise propagation model prepared for the purpose of this assessment.

Table 5.1: Measured MUGA Operating Level

Item	dB $L_{Aeq,15min}$	Octave Band Centre Frequency (dB)					
		125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1.0 kHz	2.0 kHz	4.0 kHz
MUGA Hockey	56	57	52	50	53	50	43

The measured value of 56dB $L_{Aeq,15min}$ is considered representative of a supervised school session and is retained in preference to generic data. These measurements are also consistent with the range of average sound levels reported for comparable pitch based activities within the draft ProPG.

6.0 CADNAA SOUND PROPAGATION MODELLING

CadnaA 3D sound propagation modelling software has been used to predict specific sound levels from the proposed MUGA pitches. The software implements the calculation procedure specified within ISO9613-2.

The source sound level presented in Section 5.0 above has been used to predict sound propagation from both MUGA pitches simultaneously to the nearest NSRs.

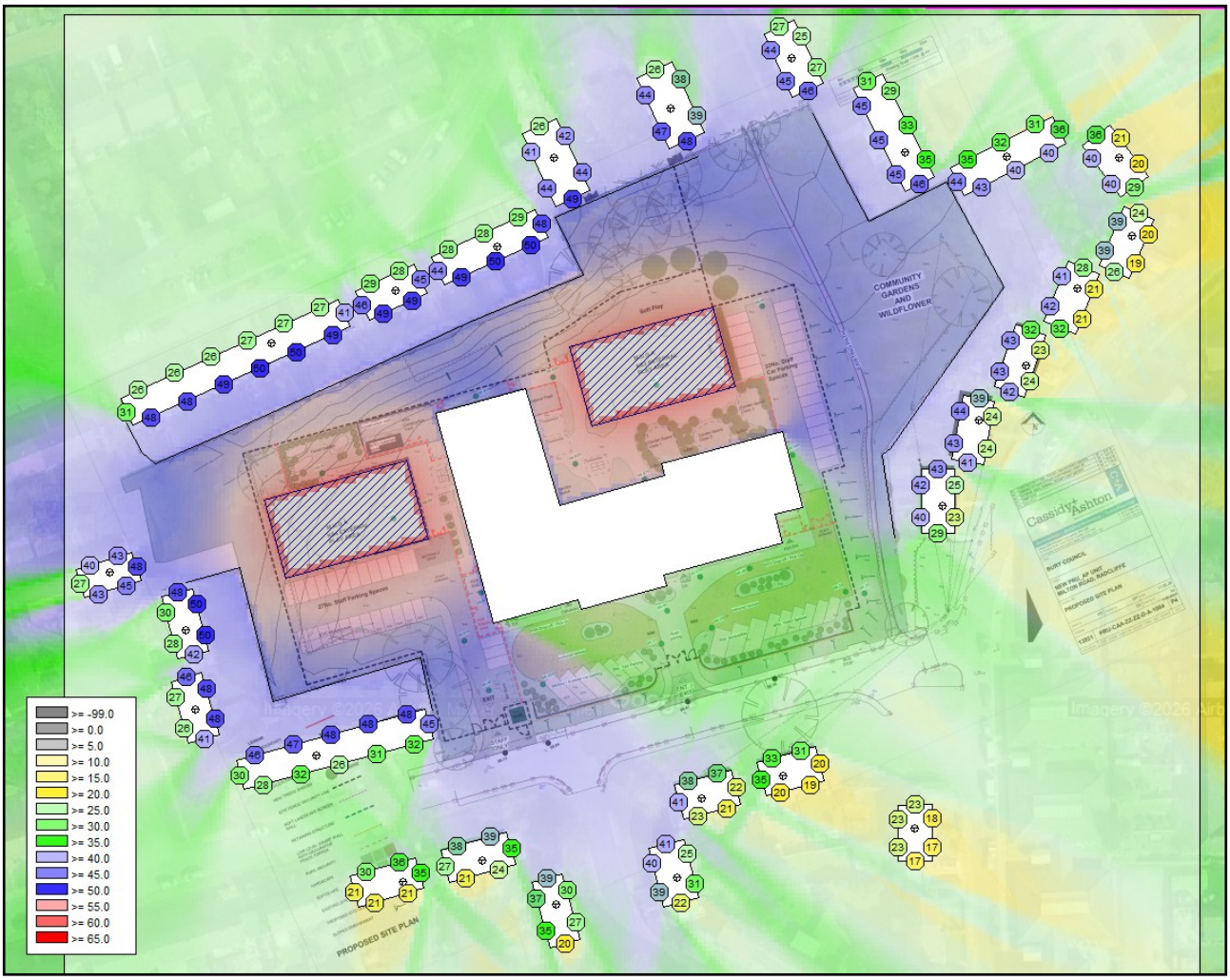
The modelling software utilises 1m resolution LIDAR topography data from the Defra Data Service Platform. The existing buildings, and the surroundings are modelled using Google Earth imagery and the proposed buildings are are based drawn details provided by the client. Buildings and were set as reflective surfaces in the model and the ground was set to 50% reflective to account for mixed ground. It was assumed that the proposed building location ground levels will be commensurate with the existing site levels.

The CadnaA 3D sound propagation model has been used to calculate the resultant sound level from the combined sound sources, taking into account reflections and attenuation from distance, ground, barriers etc. The resultant sound level is predicted to the nearest noise sensitive dwellings with highest facade levels shown as well as a coloured grid at a height of 1.8m. Figure 6.1 below presents the result of the model calculation.

It can be seen in Figure 6.1 that the resultant sound level from the combined MUGA sound sources impacting the nearest noise sensitive receptors is between 40dB and 50dB $L_{Aeq,t}$. The upper end of the predicted range is in line with the World Health Organisation and draft ProPG general external guideline of 50dB $L_{Aeq,t}$.

The measured daytime ambient sound level at MP1 was 57dB $L_{Aeq,3hr}$. In the context of the existing sound limit at the proposed development site, noise is not expected to cause undue disturbance to the the nearby NSRs.

Figure 6.1: Predicted Specific Sound Level (dB $L_{Aeq,t}$) - Simultaneous MUGA Use



7.0 NOISE BREAK-IN / BUILDING ENVELOPE SOUND INSULATION

A preliminary assessment of environmental sound ingress has been undertaken using the survey data presented in Section 4.0 above. The measured daytime sound level of 57dB $L_{Aeq,3hr}$ at MP1 has been adopted as representative of the external sound climate affecting the most exposed southern elevation of the proposed school building. Noise break-in calculations have been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in BS 8233:2014.

The calculations consider the combined sound transmission through the external wall and glazing elements with the calculation inputs comprising:

- Room volume in m^3
- Facade element surface areas m^2
- Facade element sound reduction indices in each octave band (125Hz - 2kHz).
- Room reverberation time in seconds to determine effective absorption area in m^2 in the receiving room.

The calculations have been undertaken for representative worst case teaching and learning spaces. The applicable indoor ambient noise level for each space should be confirmed against Table 1 of BB93 and the final room data sheets. Where spaces are intended specifically for pupils with special hearing or communication needs, the enhanced BB93 criteria should be applied.

The preliminary calculations indicate that the relevant BB93 indoor ambient noise levels can be achieved with the windows closed using conventional masonry external wall construction and standard thermal double glazing, such as a nominal 6 mm glass / 16 mm cavity / 6 mm glass configuration with a sound reduction performance of $27R_{w+Ctr}$. This conclusion is subject to confirmation once the final room layouts, facade constructions, glazing areas and ventilation proposals are made available.

The proposed elevations are understood to comprise a combination of brickwork and proprietary insulated cladding panels. The acoustic performance of the wall buidups, final cladding and glazing systems must therefore be reviewed at the detailed design stage. Laboratory acoustic data should be provided for each proposed facade element, including glazing, cladding panels, louvres and any other penetrations through the building envelope.

We understand at this stage that the school will be fully mechanically ventilated. We have therefore assumed that open windows will not be relied upon as part of the ventilation strategy for compliance with the BB93 indoor ambient noise level criteria.

A suitable mechanical ventilation system should be provided so that the required ventilation rates and thermal comfort conditions can be maintained with the windows closed. At the detailed design stage, the mechanical ventilation system should be designed to achieve he indoor ambient noise levels specified for each room type in Table 1 of BB93

8.0 RAIN NOISE

BB93 requires lightweight roof constructions and roof glazing to provide suitable control of rain generated sound within teaching and learning spaces. During heavy rainfall, the calculated reverberant sound pressure level within a space should not exceed the applicable BB93 indoor ambient noise level criterion by more than 25dB.

The resulting rain noise limits will therefore depend on the use of the room beneath the roof. For example, a space with a BB93 indoor ambient noise level criterion of 35dB $L_{Aeq,30min}$ should not exceed 60 dB $L_{Aeq,t}$ during heavy rainfall. Where an enhanced indoor ambient noise level criterion of 30dB $L_{Aeq,30min}$ applies, the corresponding rain noise limit would be 55dB $L_{Aeq,t}$.

The final roof construction has not been confirmed at this stage. During detailed design, the proposed roof build-up must be assessed using suitable laboratory test data obtained under the “heavy rainfall” test condition referenced by BB93. Where rooflights are proposed above teaching or other acoustically sensitive spaces, their individual rain noise performance should be reviewed carefully, as these elements can determine the overall internal rain noise level.

The roof construction must also provide sufficient airborne sound insulation against external environmental sound and should therefore be reviewed at the detailed design stage.

9.0 PLANT SOUND EMISSION LIMITS

Details of proposed externally mounted and venting plant items are not known at this stage. Plant noise emission limits have been proposed to enable design development of any mechanical plant so as to comply with expected LPA requirements and to reduce the likelihood of adverse impacts due to mechanical plant noise at the nearest NSRs.

Table 9.1 below presents the proposed plant sound emission limits at the nearest NSRs based on the survey data discussed in Section 4.0 above. Plant noise impacts should be assessed in accordance with the guidance BS4142:2014+A1:2019 as summarised in Section 3.0 above.

In line with expected requirements from the LPA, the targets represent a level 5dBA below the existing measured typical background sound level.

Table 9.1: Proposed Mechanical Plant Target Limits

	Sound Pressure Level, dB			
	Daytime Period 07:00hrs to 23:00hrs		Nighttime Period 23:00hrs to 07:00hrs	
Measurement Location	Existing $L_{A90,1hr}$	Proposed $L_{Aeq,1hr}$	Existing. $L_{A90,15min}$	Proposed $L_{Aeq,15min}$
Nearest NSR	40	35	39	34

The limits presented above apply to the cumulative rating level from all fixed plant at the nearest NSRs.

10.0 CONCLUSION

An assessment of the existing environmental sound climate and the potential noise impact of the proposed school development has been undertaken. The assessment indicates that suitable internal noise levels can be achieved through appropriate facade, roof and ventilation design. Noise from the proposed MUGA areas and future mechanical plant can also be controlled to acceptable levels at the nearest NSRs.

Subject to the recommendations set out in this report being incorporated into the detailed design, the assessment concludes that noise should not be a constraint to the proposed new school development.

APPENDIX A: NOISE SURVEY DETAILS

Location

Milton Road, Radcliffe

Survey Dates

16 June 2026

Weather

Conditions during the surveys were dry with wind speeds <5ms^{-1}

Personnel

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Johnathan Whittle BSc (Hons), Pg. Dip. IOA AMIOA MCIEH

Instrumentation

Table A1 below presents the instrumentation used during the surveys.

Methodology

Before and after the measurements the sound level meters were check calibrated to an accuracy of ±0.3dB using their associated Class 1 Calibrators. No drift in the instruments' sensitivities were noted across any of the survey periods.

Calibration Certificates

Copies of all calibration certificates are kept on file by Red Acoustics Ltd and can be supplied if requested.

Table A1: Survey Instrumentation

Kit No	Equipment Description	Type Number	Manufacturer	Serial Number	Date of Last Calibration	Calibration Certificate Number
RED02	Sound Level Meter	XL2-TA	Nti Audio	A2A-12587-E0	09 April 2026	1517309-1
	Sound Calibrator	Type 1251 IEC 60942-2003 Class 1	Norsonic	33007	31 October 2025	52540