

Appendix 10-A GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY

In order to assist the understanding of acoustic terminology and the relative change in noise, the following background information is provided.

The human ear can detect a very wide range of pressure fluctuations, which are perceived as sound. In order to express these fluctuations in a manageable way, a logarithmic scale called the decibel, or dB scale, is used. The decibel scale typically ranges from 0dB (the threshold of hearing) to over 120dB. An indication of the range of sound levels commonly found in the environment is given in the following table.

Table 10.A

Noise Levels Commonly Found In the Environment

Sound Level	Location
OdB(A)	Threshold of hearing
20 to 30dB(A)	Quiet bedroom at night
30 to 40dB(A)	Living room during the day
40 to 50dB(A)	Typical office
50 to 60dB(A)	Inside a car
60 to 70dB(A)	Typical high street
70 to 90dB(A)	Inside factory
100 to 110dB(A)	Burglar alarm at one metre away
110 to 130dB(A)	Jet aircraft on take off
140dB(A)	Threshold of Pain

Acoustic Terminology

L_{Aea}

L₁₀ & L₉₀

dB (decibel) The scale on which sound pressure level is expressed. It is defined as 20 times the logarithm of the ratio between the root-mean-square pressure of the sound field and a reference pressure (2x10⁻⁵ Pa).

dB(A) A-weighted decibel. This is a measure of the overall level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (i.e. 'A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear

to sound at different frequencies.

L_{Aeq} is defined as the notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time, would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the A-weighted fluctuating sound measured over that

period.

If a non-steady noise is to be described it is necessary to know both its level and the degree of fluctuation. The L_n indices are used for this purpose, and the term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time. Hence, L_{10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as the 'average maximum level'. Similarly, L_{90} is the 'average minimum level' and is often used to describe

the background noise. It is common practice to use the L_{10} index to describe traffic noise.

L_{Amax} is the maximum A-weighted sound pressure level recorded over the period stated. L_{Amax} is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise where occasional loud noises occur, which may have little effect on the overall L_{eq} noise level but will still affect the noise environment. Unless described otherwise, it is measured using the 'fast' sound level meter response.



Appendix 10-B

Table 10B.1 Operational Noise Levels at Rossmore Quarry – All Quarry Operations

Receptor	Maximum L _{Aeq} dB(A)	Partial Screening (dB(A)	Reflection (dB(A)	Activity distance (m)	Attenuation with distance dB(A)	Operational Noise Level at Receptor L _{Aeq} dB(A)
R1	53.0	-5	+3	98	-20	31
R2	53.0	-5	+3	63	-16	35
R3	53.0	-5	+3	117	-21	30
R4	63	-5	+3	246	-28	33
R5	63	-5	+3	227	-27	34
R6	63	-5	+3	219	-27	34
R7	63	-5	+3	240	-28	33



Table 10B.2 Concrete Plant Out of Hours Operation – Operational Noise Levels (Without Mitigation)

Activity	Receptor	Activity LAeq (dB) at 10m Distance		Reflection	Screening	Activity	Noise Attenuated	Activity LAeq (dB)		Operational Noise Levels
		Concrete Plant	Concrete Lorry	dB(A)	dB(A)	Distance (m)	with Distance dB(A)	Plant	Dumper	dB(A)
	R 1	79	75	3	-15	283	-29	38	34	39
	R 2	79	75	3	-15	319	-30	37	33	38
ies	R 3	79	75	3	-15	262	-28	39	35	40
Readymix Night-time Activities	R 4	79	75	3	-15	385	-32	35	31	37
	R 5	79	75	3	-15	427	-33	34	30	36
	R 6	79	75	3	-15	448	-33	34	30	35
	R 7	79	75	3	-15	462	-33	34	30	35
	R8	79	75	3	-15	482	-34	33	29	35
	R9	79	75	3	-15	523	-34	33	29	34
	R10	79	75	3	-15	587	-35	32	28	33
	SAC	79	75	0	-15	71	-17	47	43	48

