

## **Construction noise and vibration Monthly Report – July 2020**

**London Borough of Hillingdon**

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# Non-Technical Summary

This Noise and Vibration Monitoring Report fulfils HS2 Limited's commitment detailed in the Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs), Annex 1, Code of Construction Practice, to present the results of noise monitoring carried out within the London Borough of Hillingdon during the month of July 2020.

Within this period noise monitoring was undertaken at the following worksites:

- Load Test Pile worksite (ref.: LPT #2), where site maintenance, piling works and tests, mobilisation, welding, concrete pour and construction activities were underway.
- West Ruislip Portal worksite (ref.: West Ruislip Portal), where site set-up and enabling works activities were underway.

Further works were also undertaken at:

- Copthall/Harvil Road as part of site set-up works.
- Harvil Road and Ickenham Road where utility works took place.

The HS2 threshold levels for significant noise impacts, which are defined in Information Paper E23 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-information-papers-environment>) were exceeded on two occasions due to HS2 works in the Local Authority Area during July 2020. These were due to activities being undertaken in proximity to the monitors, however in consideration of the large separation distance noise levels at the nearest receptors are calculated to be below the criteria.

There were no exceedances of trigger levels as defined in section 61 consents during the reporting period at any monitoring position.

One complaint was received during the monitoring period. A description of the complaint, the results of investigations and any actions taken are detailed in Table 7 of this report.

# Abbreviations and Descriptions

The abbreviations, descriptions and project terminology used within this report can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Table of Abbreviations

Acronym/Term	Definition
$L_{Aeq,T}$	See equivalent continuous sound pressure level
Ambient sound	A description of the all-encompassing sound at a given location and time which will include sound from many sources near and far. Ambient sound can be quantified in terms of the equivalent continuous sound pressure level, $L_{pAeq,T}$
Decibel(s), or dB	Between the quietest audible sound and the loudest tolerable sound there is a million to one ratio in sound pressure (measured in Pascal (Pa)). Because of this wide range, a level scale called the decibel (dB) scale, based on a logarithmic ratio, is used in sound measurement. Audibility of sound covers a range of approximately 0-140dB.
Decibel(s) A-weighted, or dB(A)	The human ear system does not respond uniformly to sound across the detectable frequency range and consequently instrumentation used to measure sound is weighted to represent the performance of the ear. This is known as the 'A weighting' and is written as 'dB(A)'.
Equivalent continuous sound pressure level, or $L_{Aeq,T}$	An index used internationally for the assessment of environmental sound impacts. It is defined as the notional unchanging level that would, over a given period of time (T), deliver the same sound energy as the actual time-varying sound over the same period. Hence fluctuating sound levels can be described in terms of an equivalent single figure value, typically expressed as a decibel level.
Exclusion of data	Measurement of noise levels can be affected by weather conditions such as prolonged periods of rain, winds speeds higher than 5m/s and snow/ice ground cover. Noise levels measured during these periods are considered not representative of normal noise conditions at the site and, for the purposes of this report, are excluded from the assessment of exceedances and calculation of typical noise levels and are also greyed out in charts. Identifiable incongruous noise and vibration events not attributable to HS2 construction noise are also excluded.
Façade	A facade noise level is the noise level 1m in front of a large reflecting surface. The effect of reflection, is to produce a slightly higher (typically +2.5 to +3 dB) sound level than it would be if the reflecting surface was not there.
Free-field	A free-field noise level is the noise level measured at a location where no reflective surfaces, other than the ground, lies within 3.5 metres of the microphone position.
LOAEL	Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level - the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.
Peak particle velocity, or PPV	Instantaneous maximum velocity reached by a vibrating element as it oscillates about its rest position. The PPV is a simple indicator of perceptibility and risk of damage to structures due to vibration. It is usually measured in mm/s.
SOAEL	Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level - the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.
Sound pressure level	The parameter by which sound levels are measured in air. It is measured in decibels. The threshold of hearing has been set at 0dB, while the threshold of pain is approximately 120dB. Normal speech is approximately 60dB at a distance of 1 metre and a change of 3dB in a time varying sound signal is commonly regarded as being just detectable. A change of 10dB is subjectively twice, or half, as loud.
Vibration dose value, or VDV	An index used to evaluate human exposure to vibration in buildings. While the PPV provides information regarding the magnitude of single vibration events, the VDV provides a measure of the total vibration experienced over a specified period of time (typically 16h daytime and 8h night-time). It takes into account the magnitude, the number and the duration of vibration events and can be used to quantify exposure to continuous, impulsive, occasional and intermittent vibration. The vibration dose value is measured in $m/s^{1.75}$ .

# 1 Introduction

1.1.1 HS2 is required to undertake noise (and vibration) monitoring as necessary to comply with the requirements of the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Environmental Minimum Requirements, including specifically Annex 1: Code of Construction Practice, in addition to any monitoring requirements arising from conditions imposed through consents under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act, 1974 or through Undertakings & Assurances given to third parties. Such monitoring may be undertaken for the following purposes:

- monitoring the impact of construction works;
- to investigate complaints, incidents and exceedance of trigger levels; or
- monitoring the effectiveness of noise and vibration control measures.

Monitoring data and interpretive reports are to be provided to each relevant local authority on a monthly basis and shall include a summary of the construction activities occurring, the data recorded over the monitoring period, any complaints received, any periods in exceedance of agreed trigger levels, the results of any investigations and any actions taken or mitigation measures implemented. This report provides noise data, and interpretation thereof, for monitoring carried out by HS2 within the London Borough of Hillingdon for the period 1st to 31st July 2020

1.1.2 Active construction sites in the local authority area during this period include:

- Load Test Pile, Worksite reference LPT #2 (see plan 2 in Appendix A), where work activities included:
  - Piling, including mobilisation of piling equipment, installation of casings, excavation of pile, removals of chalk, reinforcement installation, concreting of pile.
  - Ground investigation works near the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre.
- West Ruislip Portal, Worksite reference West Ruislip Portal (see plan 3 in Appendix A), where work activities included:
  - Site set-up, including hoarding, fencing installation, site security and aggregate deliveries via freight train (during core hours).
  - Pile trimming from mid-July onwards.

1.1.3 Further works were underway in the Copthall/Harvill road area including:

- hoarding and fencing installation
- site security.

Site preparation was also underway at Harvil Road overbridge south abutment.

Further utilities works were also undertaken on Ickenham Road near West Ruislip Golf Course (excavations at junctions), Harvil Road overbridge west (gas pipeline works) and west of the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre (electricity diversion works).

- 1.1.4 The applicable standards, guidance, and monitoring methodology is outlined in the construction noise and vibration monitoring methodology report which can be found at the following location <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitoring-the-environmental-effects-of-hs2>. Noise and vibration monitoring reports for previous months can also be found at this location.

## 1.2 Measurement Locations

- 1.2.1 Three noise monitoring installations were active in July in the London Borough of Hillingdon area. Table 2 summarises the position of noise monitoring installations within the London Borough of Hillingdon area in July 2020.

- 1.2.2 Maps showing the position of noise monitoring installations are presented in Appendix B.

Table 2: Monitoring Locations

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Address
LTP #2	NMP1	Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, Dews Lane, Harefield, Uxbridge
	NMP2	LTP #2 Worksite, Harvil Road, Harefield, Uxbridge
West Ruislip Portal	N048	West Ruislip Golf Club, Ickenham Rd, Ruislip

## 2 Summary of Results

### 2.1 Summary of Measured Noise Levels

- 2.1.1 Table 3 presents a summary of the measured noise levels at each monitoring location over the reporting period. The  $L_{Aeq,T}$  is presented for each of the relevant time periods averaged over the calendar month, along with the highest single period  $L_{Aeq,T}$  that was found to occur within the month.

Table 3: Summary of Measured dB L<sub>Aeq</sub> Data over the Monitoring Period.

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Site Address	Free-field or Façade Measurement	Weekly Average L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> (Highest Day L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> )					Saturday Average L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> (highest day L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> )					Sunday / Public Holiday Average L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> (highest day L <sub>Aeq,T</sub> )	
				0700 - 0800	0800 - 1800	1800 - 1900	1900 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 0800	0800 - 1300	1300 - 1400	1400 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 2200	2200 - 0700
LTP #2	NMP1	Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, Dews Lane, Harefield, Uxbridge	Free-field	60.9 (66.9)	63.4 (74.3)	55.8 (66.2)	57.9 (61.8)	56.4 (67.1)	55.8 (59.0)	56.6 (59.8)	58.9 (60.5)	56.3 (61.5)	57.7 (62.1)	57.1 (62.2)	57.1 (61.2)
	NMP2	LTP #2 Worksite, Harvil Road, Harefield, Uxbridge	Free-field	61.8 (70.5)	66.4 (73.0)	57.7 (61.6)	57.8 (66.6)	57.6 (72.6)	57.7 (58.2)	58.3 (61.9)	56.9 (57.6)	56.7 (57.2)	56.8 (57.7)	57.0 (59.0)	56.8 (57.8)
West Ruislip Portal	N048	West Ruislip Golf Club, Ickenham Rd, Ruislip	Free-field	61.1 (63.0)	61.5 (66.3)	60.6 (63.2)	59.0 (62.4)	54.9 (60.6)	59.6 (61.2)	60.7 (64.6)	60.3 (66.7)	57.2 (60.1)	52.7 (58.2)	57.0 (60.5)	53.4 (58.4)

2.1.2 Appendix C presents graphs of the noise monitoring data over the month for each of the measurement locations. Noise data presented consists of the hourly  $L_{Aeq}$  values and, where relevant, the  $L_{Aeq,T}$  values (where the time period T has been taken to be the averaging period as specified in Table 1 of HS2 Information Paper E23). The full data set for the monitoring equipment can be found at the following location:  
<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/24542ae7-dd44-444f-b259-871c4cc43b5e/environmental-monitoring-data>.

## 2.2 Exceedances of the LOAEL and SOAEL

2.2.1 The lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) is defined in the Planning Practice Guidance – Noise (PPG) as the level above which "noise starts to cause small changes in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life".

2.2.2 The significant observed adverse effect level (SOAEL) is defined in the 'Planning Practice Guidance – Noise' as the level above which "noise causes a material change in behaviour and/or attitude, e.g. avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. 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."

2.2.3 HS2 Phase One Information Paper E23: Control of Construction Noise and Vibration sets out the LOAELs and SOAELs for construction noise.

2.2.4 Where construction noise levels exceed the SOAEL, relevant periods will be identified, and summary statistics provided in order to evaluate ongoing qualification for noise insulation and temporary rehousing.

2.2.5 Table 4 presents a summary of recorded exceedances of the LOAEL and SOAEL at each measurement location over the reporting period, including the number of exceedances during each time period.



Table 4: Summary of Exceedances of LOAEL and SOAEL.

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Site Address	Day (Weekday, Saturday, Sunday, Night)	Time period	Number of exceedances of LOAEL	Number of exceedances of SOAEL
LTP #2	NMP1	Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, Dews Lane, Harefield, Uxbridge	Weekday	0800-1800	16	1*
	NMP2	LTP #2 Worksite, Harvil Road, Harefield, Uxbridge	Weekday	0800-1800	21	2*
West Ruislip Portal	N048	West Ruislip Golf Club, Ickenham Rd, Ruislip	Weekdays	0800-1800	2	No exceedance

\* Exceedance of the SOAEL at monitoring positions NMP1 and NMP2 are not considered as representative of HS2 works at nearby receptors. Considering the large distance between the works and the receptors (approximately 100m from NMP1 and 225m from NMP2) the noise levels at the receptors are calculated to be below the SOAEL.

2.2.6 For the purpose of assessing eligibility for noise insulation or temporary rehousing, multiple exceedances of the SOAEL in a 24-hour period would be counted as a single exceedance during that day. Over the reporting period, the overall number of SOAEL exceedances at each measurement location is shown in Table 5 and may be lower than the total sum of individual exceedances reported in Table 4 for each location.

Table 5: Summary of Total Exceedances of SOAEL

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Monitor Address	Total of SOAEL exceedances in the month
LTP #2	NMP1	Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, Dews Lane, Harefield, Uxbridge	No exceedance
	NMP2	LTP #2 Worksite, Harvil Road, Harefield, Uxbridge	No exceedance

## 2.3 Exceedances of Trigger Level

2.3.1 Table 6 provides a summary of exceedances of the S61 trigger noise levels determined to be due to HS2 related construction noise measured during the reporting period, along with the findings of any investigation.

Table 6: Summary of Exceedances of Trigger Levels.

Complaint Reference Number (if applicable)	Worksite Reference	Date and Time Period	Identified Source	Results of Investigation (including noise monitoring results)	Actions Taken
-	-	-	-	-	-

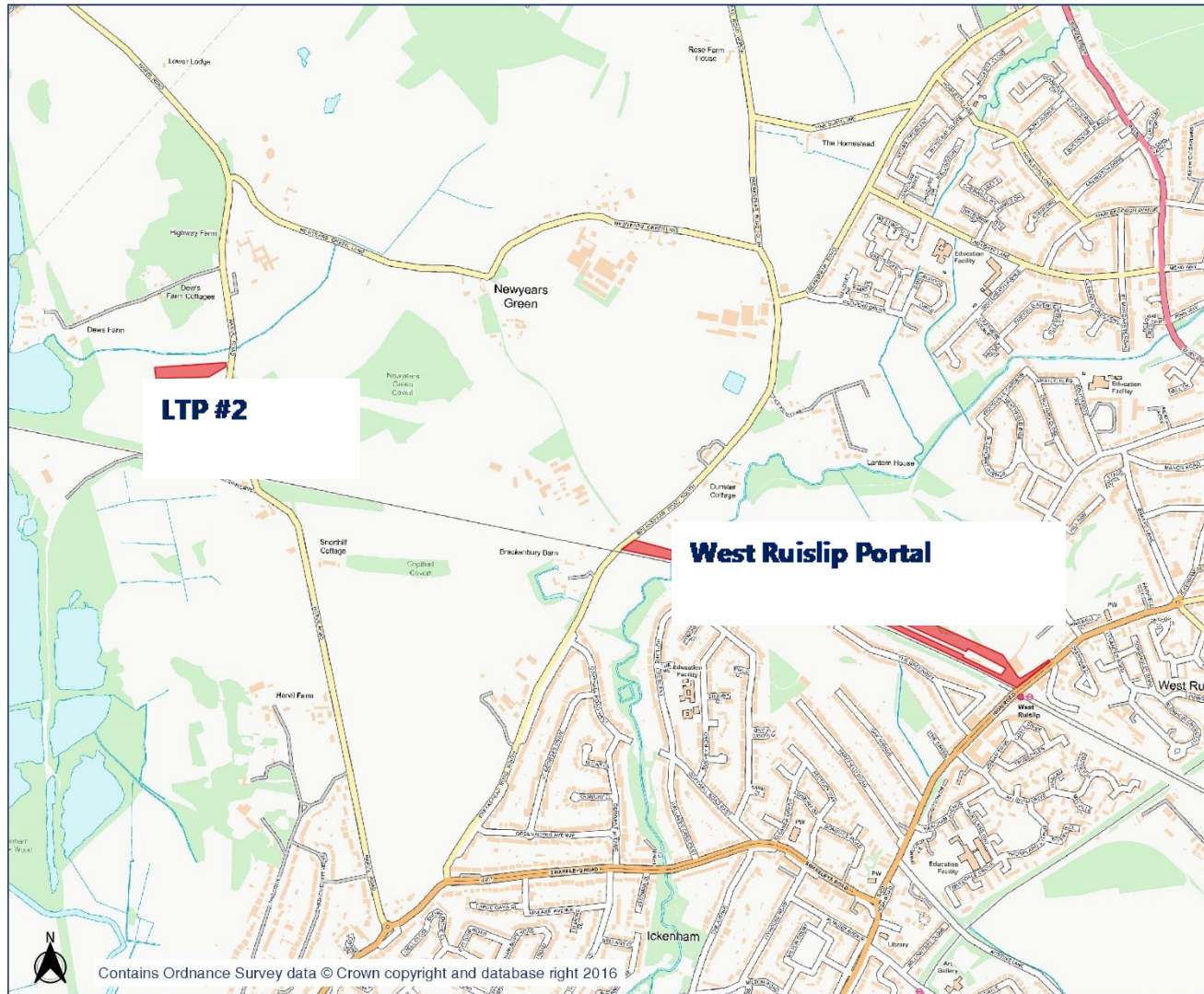
## 2.4 Complaints

2.4.1 Table 7 provides a summary of complaint information related to noise and vibration received during the reporting period, along with the findings of any investigation.

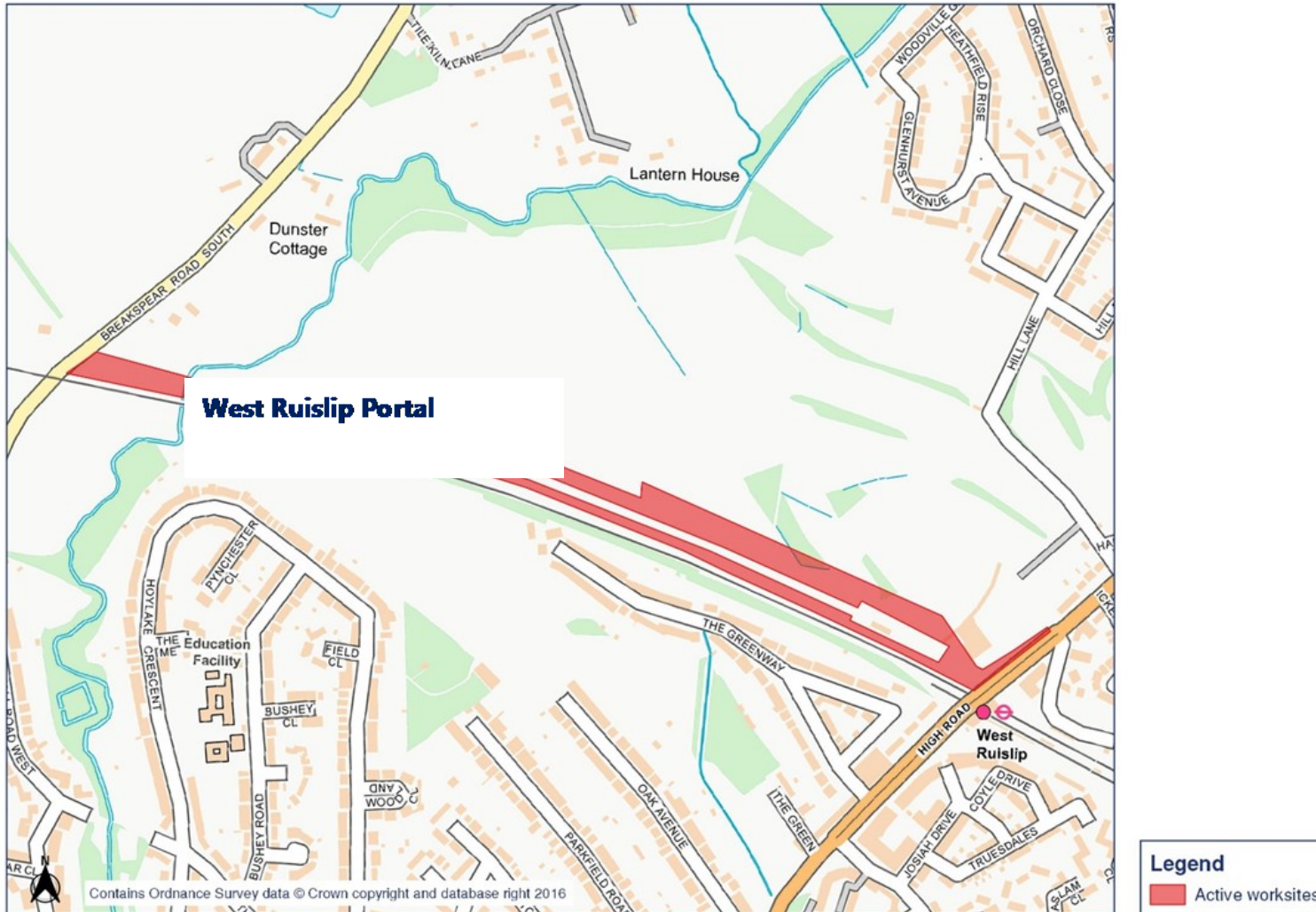
Table 7: Summary of Complaints.

Complaint Reference Number	Worksite Reference	Description of Complaint	Results of Investigation	Actions Taken
HS2-20-43128-E	LPT #2	Noise complaint due to noise from road sweeper and loud conversations from site operatives.	Road sweeper was used to remove mud on the road (due to non HS2-related works) which had been the subject of a separate complaint. The road sweeper was operated in compliance with the section 61 conditions.	Information provided to complainant about use of road sweeper. Concerns regarding noise from conversations notified to works manager.

# Appendix A Site Locations



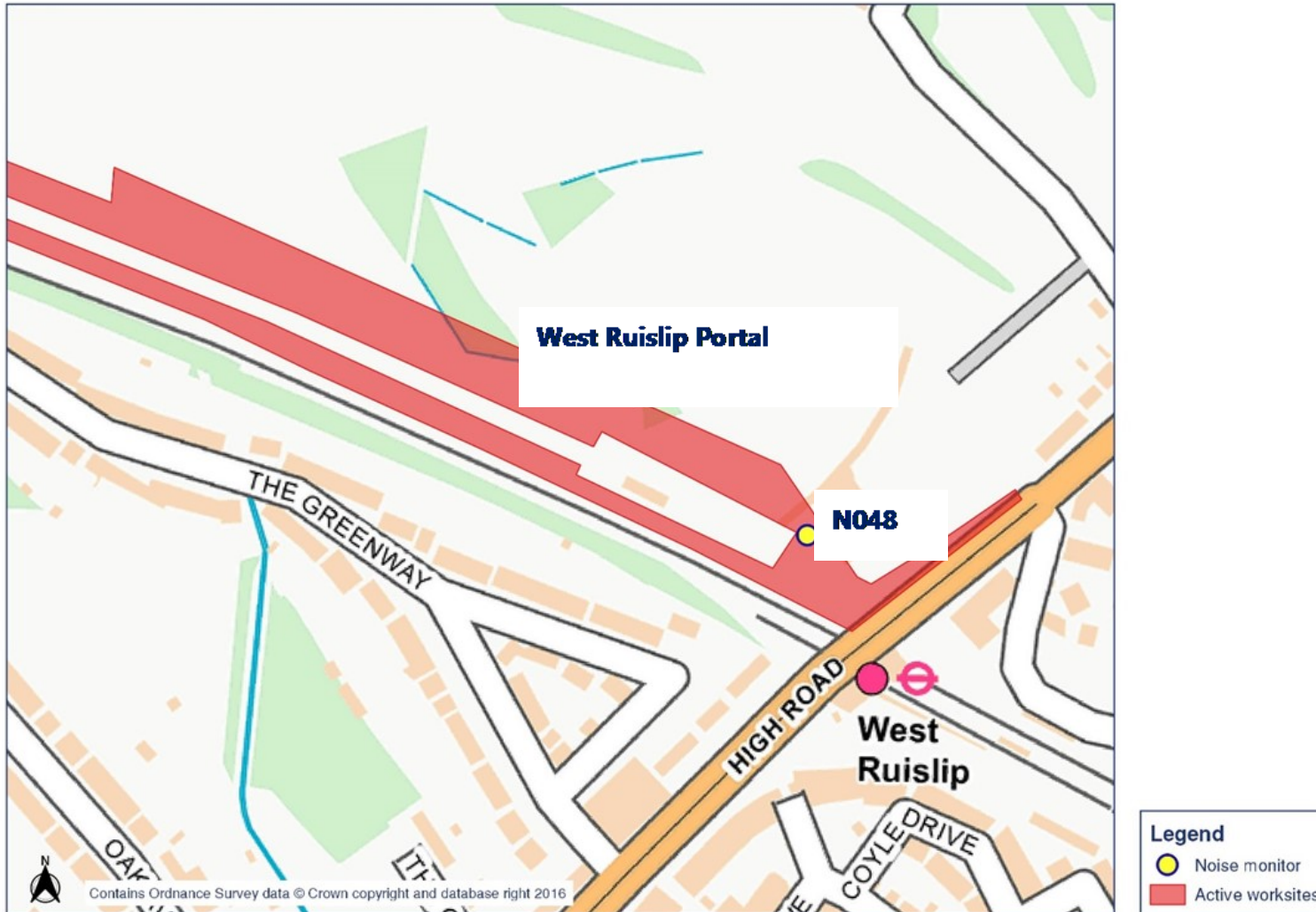




# Appendix B Monitoring Locations



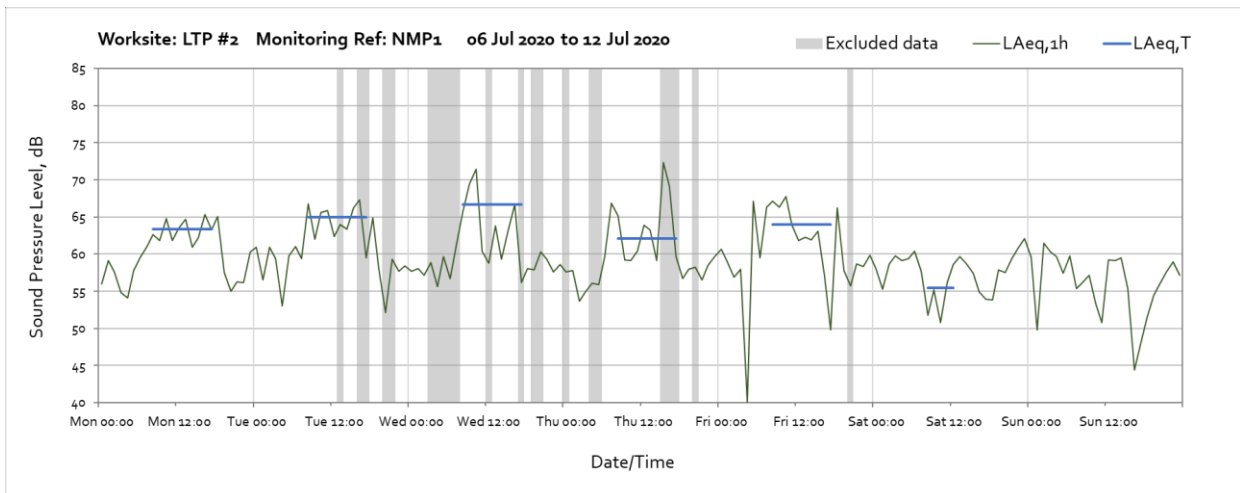
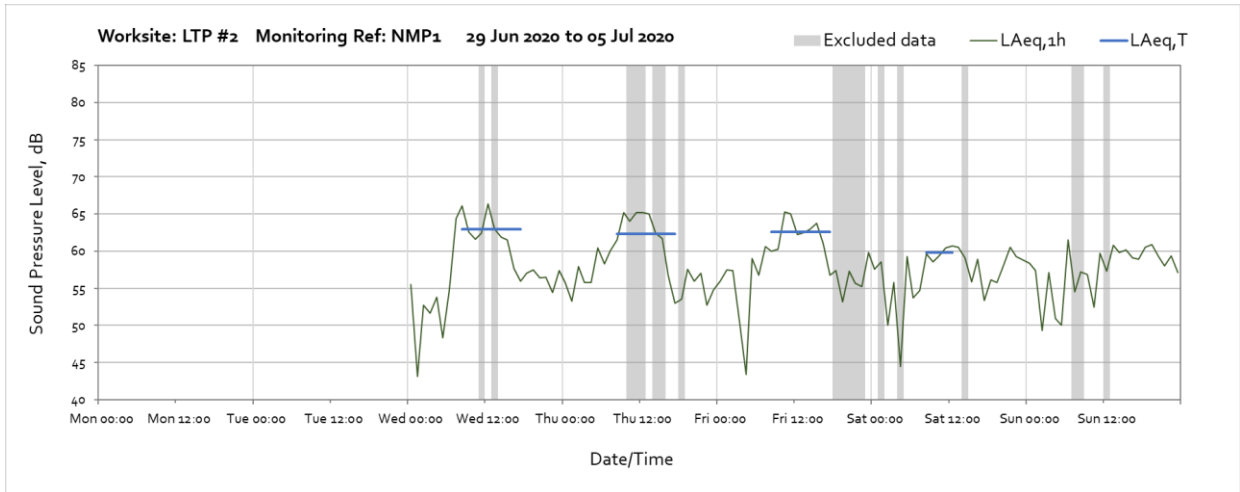


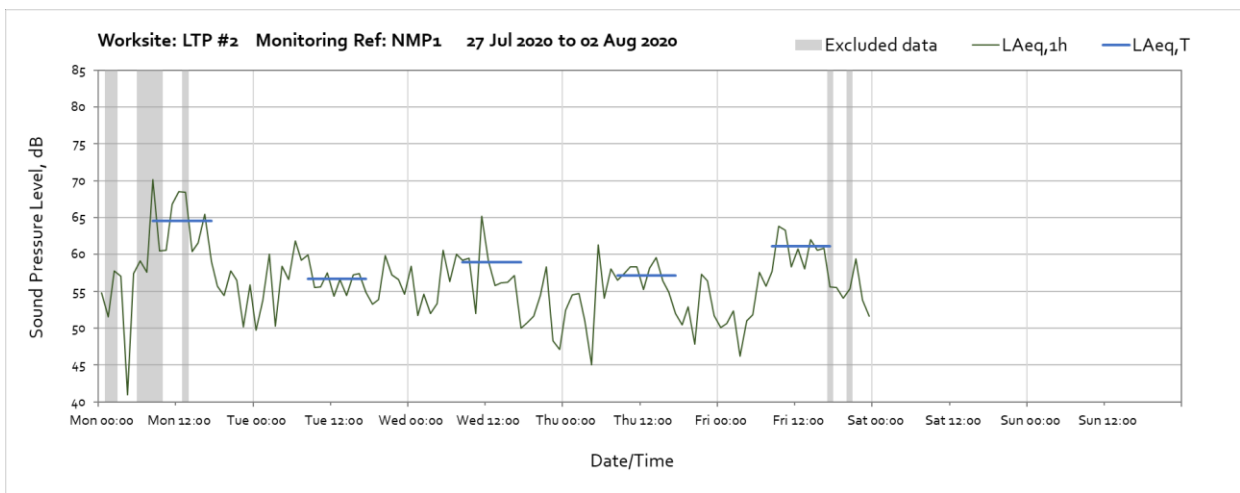
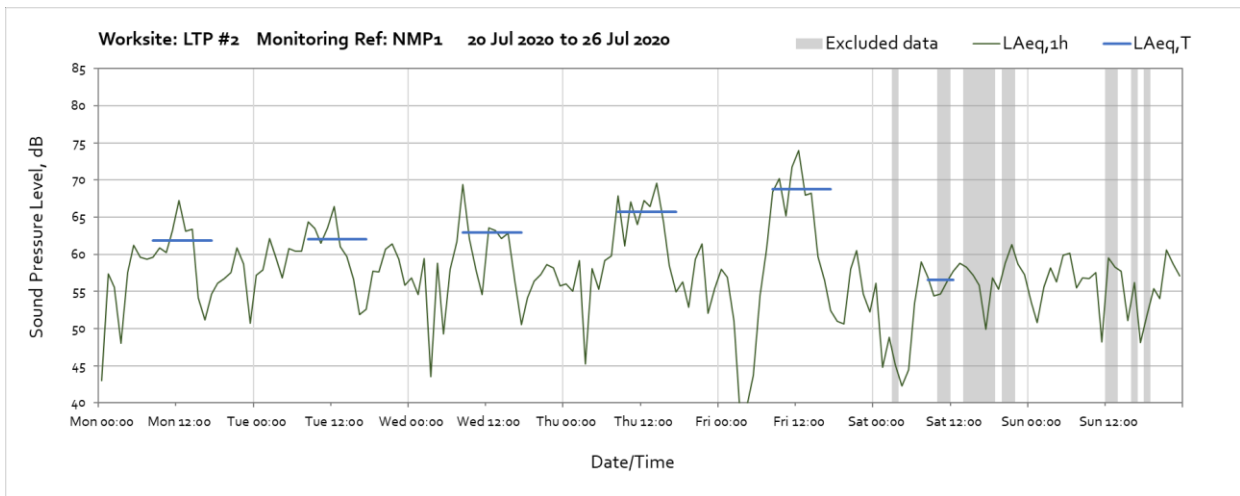
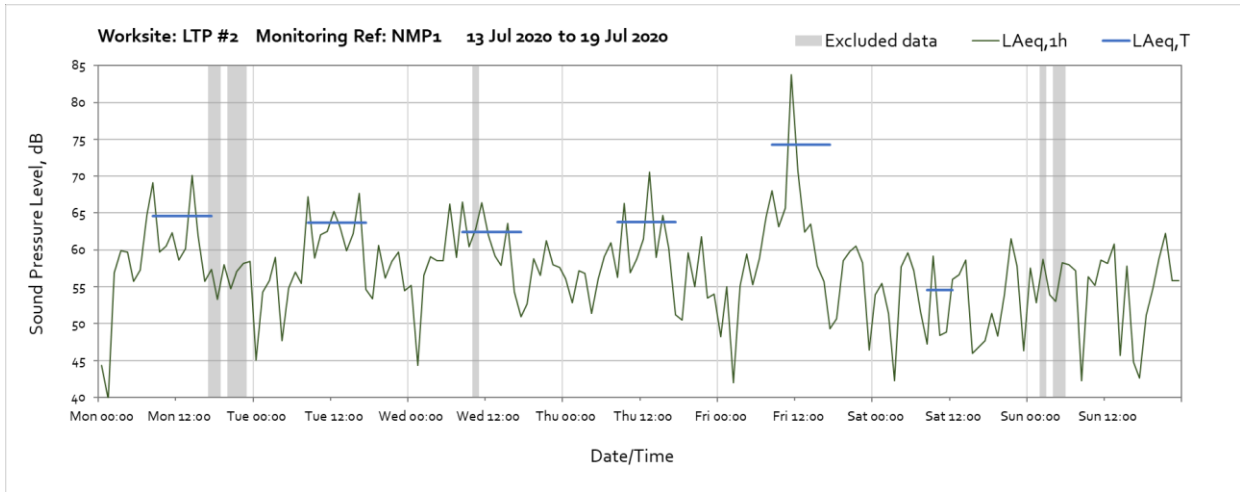


# Appendix C Data

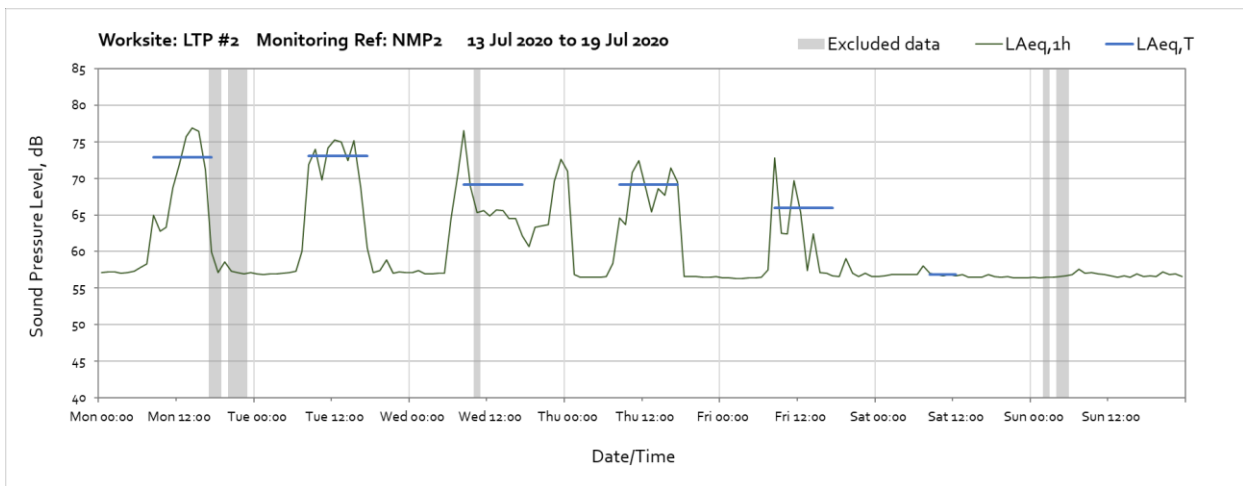
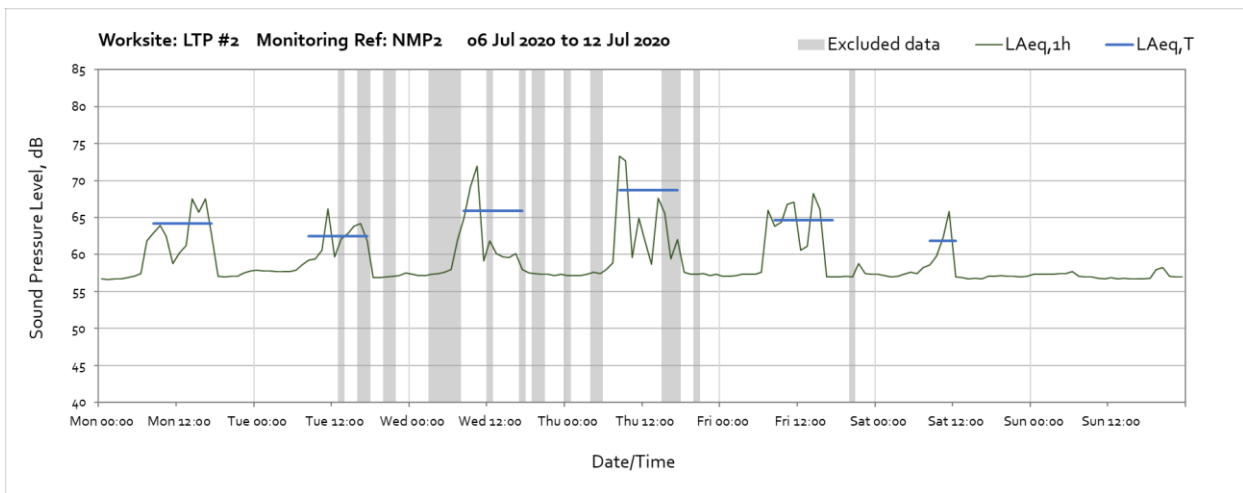
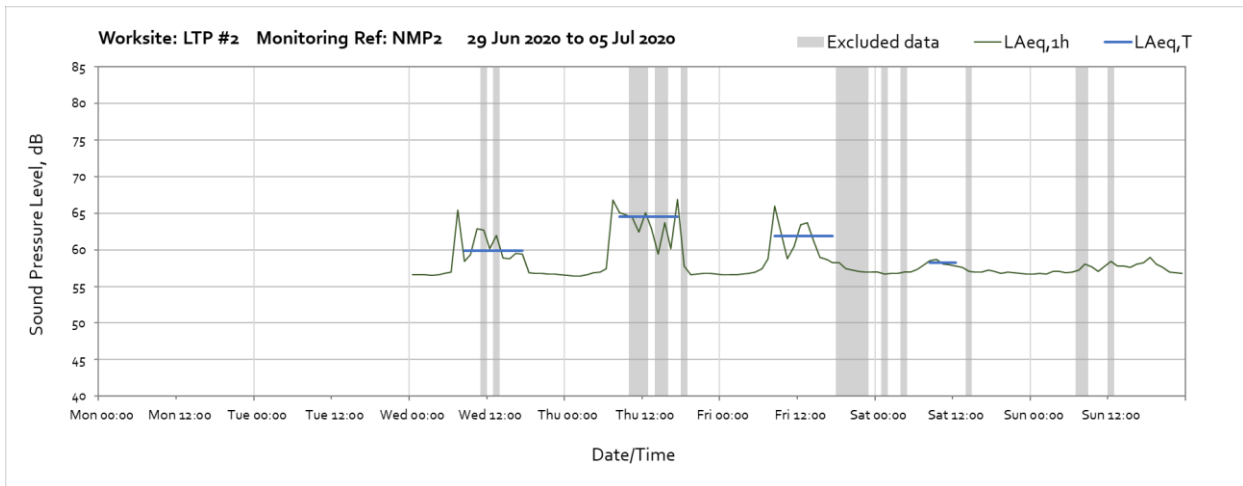
The following graphs show the hourly measured ambient noise level  $L_{Aeq,1h}$  and, where relevant, the averaged noise level  $L_{Aeq,T}$  values, where the time period T is as specified in Table 1 of HS2 Information Paper E23. Periods with adversely weather affected noise levels are greyed out and have been excluded from the calculation of the  $L_{Aeq,T}$  values in Table 3 of the main report.

## Worksite: LPT #2 – Monitoring Ref: NMP1

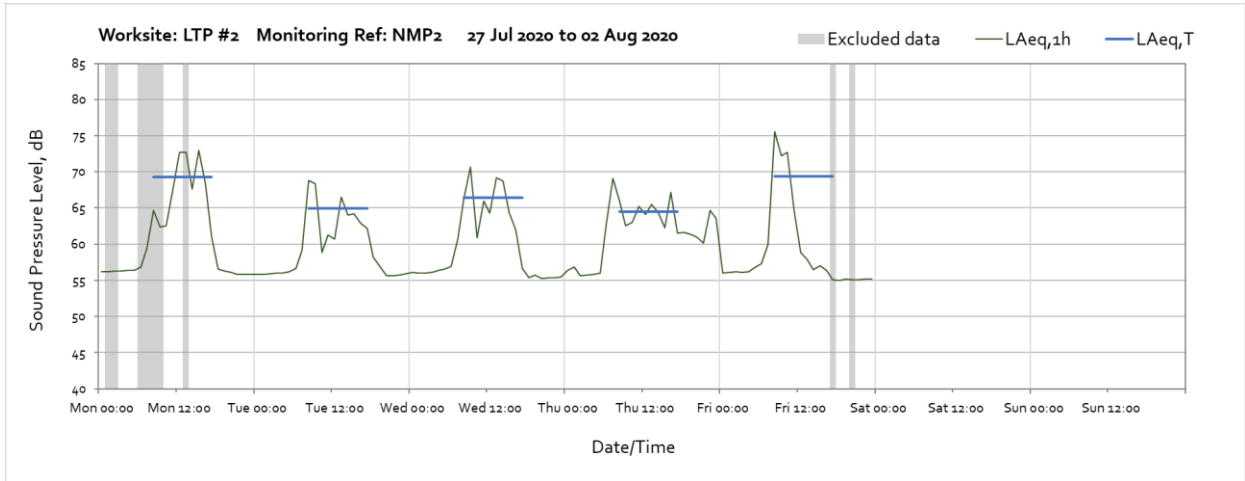
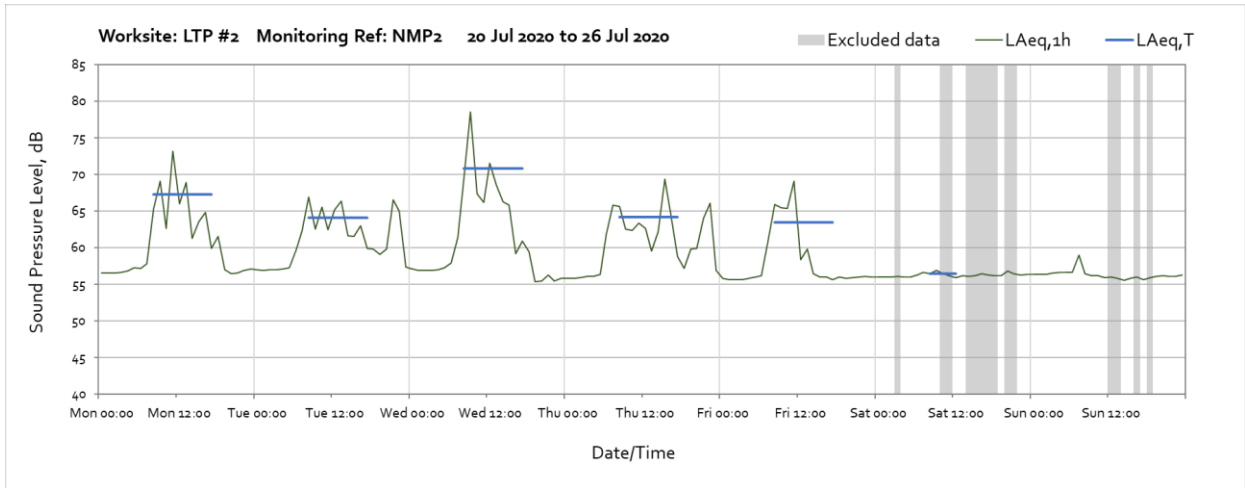




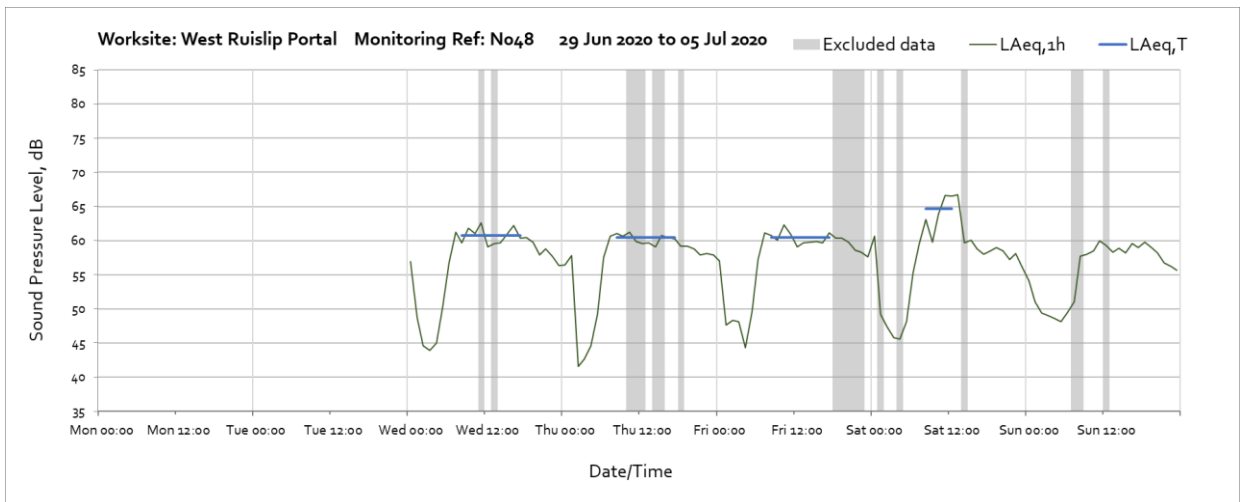
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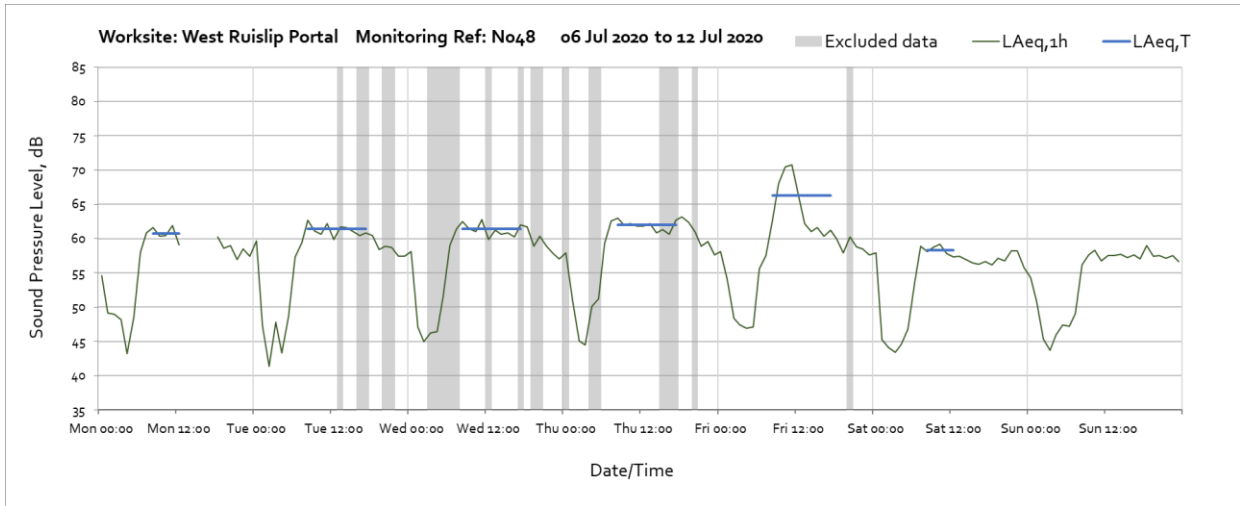


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**Worksite: West Ruislip Portal – Monitoring Ref: N048**





Note: Missing data between 13:00 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July and 17:00 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July was due to routine maintenance of the monitoring station.

