

December 2021

# **Construction noise and vibration Monthly Report – October 2021**

**Birmingham City** 

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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 and vibration monitoring carried out within Birmingham City during the month of October 2021.

Within this period monitoring was undertaken at the following worksites:

- Noise monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Curzon Street worksite (ref.: CS), where installation of handrail, pouring of concrete works, offloading material deliveries and storage, CCTV camera installation, pilling and platform works, general maintenance of platform area, water treatment plant installation and operation, cabling works, stockpiling works, movement of materials, plant movement, white lining works, installation of bogmats, concrete breaking works, hoarding erection works, unexploded ordinance (UXO) surveys, vacuum excavation of water main, asphalt and concrete breaking for utility trail holes and excavation of arising removal off-site works were underway.
- Noise and vibration monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Twisted Oak Stables worksite (ref.: TOS), where basic earthworks for the slurry treatment plant base slab, site set-up excavating trenches and installing ducting, cutting of blinding, continuation with diaphragm walls and guide wall construction, removal of guide walls and prefabricating steel and blinding for capping beams were underway.
- Noise and vibration monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Washwood Heath Depot worksite (ref.: WWHD), where obstruction removal and platform construction at portal and diaphragm wall area works, construction of pond, unloading of sheet piles, piezometer installation, bentonite plant setup, demobilization from bentonite plant, demolition works, continuation on west side breakout and crushing works, unexploded ordinance (UXO) surveys, haul road, platform construction and batching plant construction were underway.
- Noise monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the SAS13 Bridge Replacement worksite in Washwood Heath (ref.: SAS13), where ongoing construction of pile caps, steel fixing and constructing shuttering for the west abutment, ongoing construction of the east abutment, steel fixing and construction shuttering, vegetation clearance, laying aggregate for crane platform, fabrication works and installation of the bridge deck in the east fabrication yard were underway.

Further works, where monitoring did not take place, were also undertaken at:

- Dorset Road, Saltley Business Park and Network Park (water utility works);
- Hills precision, Saltley Business Park (power utility works);
- Duddeston Mill Road (water and power utility works);
- Erskine Street (water utility works);
- B4114 Saltley Viaduct (water and power utility works); and
- Curzon Street Substation (power utility works).

There were no exceedances of the HS2 threshold levels for significant noise impacts, which are defined in Information Paper E23 (<u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-information-papers-environment</u>), during the reporting period.

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 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 <sub>Aeq,T</sub>	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 <sub>Aeq,T</sub>	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 <sup>1.75</sup> .

# 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.
- 1.1.2 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 vibration data, and interpretation thereof, for monitoring carried out by HS2 within Birmingham City for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- 1.1.3 Construction sites in the local authority area where monitoring was undertaken during this period include:
  - Curzon Street worksite ref.: CS (see plan 1 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
    - installation of handrail along canal towpath;
    - pouring of concrete works;
    - offloading material deliveries and storage;
    - CCTV camera installation;
    - pilling and platform works;
    - general maintenance of platform area;
    - water treatment plant installation and operation;
    - cabling works;
    - stockpile works, including stockpiling of deliveries, from excavations across site, and removal of stockpiles off-site;

- movement of materials for storage;
- plant movement;
- white lining for parking spaces works
- installation of bogmats;
- earthworks for piling platform;
- hoarding erection works;
- unexploded ordinance (UXO) surveys;
- vacuum excavation of water main works;
- asphalt and concrete breaking for utility trial holes;
- cabling works, including cable pulling and connections for electricity supply areas; and
- excavation arising removal off-site works.
- Twisted Oak Stables worksite, ref.: TOS (see plan 3 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
  - basic earthworks for the slurry treatment plant base slab;
  - site set-up excavating trenches and installing ducting;
  - cutting of blinding;
  - continuation with diaphragm walls and guide wall construction; and
  - removal of guide walls and prefabricating steel and blinding for capping beams.
- Washwood Heath Depot worksite, ref.: WWHD (see plan 2 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
  - obstruction removal and platform construction at portal and diaphragm wall area;
  - construction of pond;
  - unloading of sheet piles;
  - installation of sensors;
  - bentonite plant setup;
  - demobilization from bentonite plant;
  - demolition works;

- continuation on west side breakout and crushing works;
- unexploded ordinance (UXO) survey at portal and diaphragm wall area;
- haul road, platform construction; and
- batching plant construction works.
- SAS13 Bridge Replacement worksite, ref.: SAS13 (see plan 3 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
  - ongoing construction of pile caps for the West Abutment site;
  - steel fixing and construction shuttering for the West and East Abutment sites;
  - vegetation clearance completed for the bridge swept path;
  - laying aggregate for crane platform;
  - ongoing fabrication of replacement steel bridge, involving bolting, welding and grit blasting of bridge joints; and
  - installation of the bridge deck (steel fixing, installing glass reinforced plastic (GRP) panels and shuttering).
- 1.1.4 Further work where monitoring did not take place, were also undertaken at the following locations:
  - Dorset Road, Saltley Business Park and Network Park (water utility works);
  - Duddeston Mill Road (water and power utility works);
  - Erskine Street (water utility works);
  - Curzon Street West Midlands Fire Station (grayscourt mobilise);
  - B4114 Saltley Viaduct (water and power utility works); and
  - Curzon Street Substation (power utility works).
- 1.1.5 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 <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitoring-the-environmental-effects-of-hs2</u>. Noise and vibration monitoring reports for previous months can also be found at this location.

### **1.2 Measurement Locations**

1.2.1 Six noise and three vibration monitoring installations were active in October in the Birmingham City area.

- 1.2.2 Table 2 summarises the position of noise and vibration monitoring installations within the Birmingham City area in October 2021.
- 1.2.3 Maps showing the position of noise and vibration monitoring installations are presented in Appendix B.

Worksite Reference	Measurem ent Reference	Address			
Curzon Street (CS)	CS-N1	Curzon Street, Birmingham			
Twisted Oak	TOS-N1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham			
Stables (TOS)	TOS-V1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham			
Washwood Heath	WWHD-N1	-N1 Drews Lane, Birmingham			
Depot (WWHD)	WWHD-V1	Drews Lane, Birmingham			
	WWHD-N2	Common Lane, Birmingham			
	WWHD-V2	Common Lane, Birmingham			
SAS13 Bridge Replacement	SAS13-N1 (East)	Taroni Avenue, off Aston Church Road, Birmingham			
(SAS13)	SAS13-N2 (West)	Heartlands Parkway, Nechells, Birmingham			

#### Table 2: Monitoring Locations

## 2 Summary of Results

## 2.1 Summary of Measured Noise and Vibration Levels

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

#### Table 3: Summary of Measured dB $\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{Aeq}}$ Data over the Monitoring Period

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Site Address	Free-field or Façade Measurement	Weekday 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> )					:			
				0700 - 0800	0800 - 1800	1800 - 1900	1900 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 0800	0800 - 1300	1300 - 1400	1400 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 2200	2200 - 0700
CS	CS-N1	Curzon Street, Birmingham	Free-field	67.0 (68.1)	68.3 (71.2)	66.4 (67.6)	63.8 (67.3)	61.7 (67.9)	63.1 (64.4)	64.4 (65.4)	64.3 (64.3)	64.8 (67.7)	62.0 (65.4)	62.5 (63.6)	60.7 (64.2)
TOS	TOS-N1	B4118- Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham	Free-field	67.1 (72.0)	68.6 (71.9)	65.9 (70.3)	65.6 (69.6)	64.4 (72.0)	65.9 (68.1)	68.2 (71.2)	67.9 (68.3)	66.0 (68.3)	62.5 (66.3)	67.1 (71.0)	65.1 (69.5)
WWHD	WWHD-N1	Drews Lane, Birmingham	Free-field	54.5 (58.7)	56.7 (58.5)	52.4 (55.9)	53.6 (58.5)	50.9 (59.0)	52.1 (55.0)	54.2 (57.0)	56.1 (56.1)	52.4 (57.9)	49.8 (53.5)	53.6 (56.0)	51.8 (57.8)
	WWHD-N2	Common Lane, Birmingham	Free-field	52.3 (58.6)	54.1 (56.7)	50.5 (54.3)	51.4 (58.4)	49.2 (58.0)	50.8 (52.6)	51.4 (54.6)	54.0 (54.0)	50.5 (55.6)	48.1 (53.4)	52.0 (56.3)	49.8 (58.8)
SAS13	SAS13-N1 (East)	Taroni Avenue, off Aston Church Road, Birmingham	Free-field	64.5 (66.3)	68.1 (69.4)	68.4 (70.4)	67.3 (70.1)	63.7 (69.3)	61.6 (62.3)	66.1 (66.9)	68.0 (69.6)	67.6 (70.2)	64.1 (68.9)	66.8 (69.6)	64.2 (70.2)
	SAS13-N2 (West)	Heartlands Parkway, Nechells, Birmingham	Free-field	59.0 (60.7)	61.6 (64.5)	60.9 (64.5)	59.4 (62.0)	56.2 (62.9)	54.0 (55.1)	57.4 (60.2)	60.1 (61.8)	59.7 (62.0)	56.6 (61.1)	59.2 (64.2)	58.5 (63.8)

2.1.2 Table 4 presents a summary of the measured vibration levels at each monitoring location over the reporting period. The highest component PPV measured during periods of works along any axis is presented in the table.

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Monitor Address	Highest PPV measured in any axis, mm/s
TOS	TOS-V1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham	2.04 (Z-axis)*
WWHD	WWHD-V1	Drews Lane, Birmingham	0.97 (X-axis)
WWHD	WWHD-V2	Common Lane, Birmingham	2.13 (Y-axis)**

Table 4: Summary of Measured Component PPV Data over the Monitoring Period

\* Higher vibration levels are due to the proximity of some construction activities to the vibration monitor and machinery passing by vibration monitor. The nearest residential receptors are further away from the works and vibration levels at the receptor will therefore be lower.
\*\* Higher vibration levels are due to machinery working near to the monitoring equipment.

2.1.3 Appendix C presents graphs of the noise and vibration monitoring data over the month for each of the measurement locations. Noise data presented consists of the hourly L<sub>Aeq</sub> values and, where relevant, the L<sub>Aeq,T</sub> values (where the time period T has been taken to be the averaging period as specified in Table 1 of HS2 Information Paper E23). Vibration data presented consist of hourly PPV values. 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 reported construction noise levels exceed the LOAEL and SOAEL, relevant periods will be identified. Summary statistics to evaluate ongoing qualification for noise insulation and temporary rehousing are also presented where relevant.
- 2.2.5 Table 5 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.

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Site Address	Day (Weekday, Saturday, Sunday, Night)	Time period	Number of exceedances of LOAEL	Number of exceedances of SOAEL
CS	CS-N1	Curzon Street, Birmingham	Weekday Saturday	0800-1800 0800-1300	9 3	No exceedance No exceedance
TOS	TOS-N1*	B4118- Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
WWHD	WWHD-N1*	Drews Lane, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
WWHD	WWHD-N2*	Common Lane, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
SAS13	SAS13-N1 (East)	Taroni Avenue, off Aston Church Road, Birmingham	Weekday	0800- 1800	3	No exceedance
SAS13	SAS13-N2 (West)	Heartlands Parkway, Nechells, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance

Table 5: Summary of Exceedances of LOAEL and SOAEL

\* A distance correction has been applied when calculating exceedances of the LOAEL and SOAEL.

2.2.6 15 exceedances of the LOAEL were recorded across the Curzon Street and SAS13 Bridge Replacement East worksites. No exceedances of the SOAEL were recorded during October 2021.

### 2.3 Exceedances of Trigger Level

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

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

Table 6: Summary of Exceedances of Trigger Levels

## 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
HS2-21-42755-C	WWHD	Noise disturbance from construction works, vibrations cracking windows.	Monitoring data checked & levels within agreed threshold. Noise & Vibration Lead to review data in relation to the cracks.	Timeline of evidence of the cracks appearing requested.

# **Appendix A Site Locations**

## **HS2** Worksite Identification Plan - Overview





# **HS2** Worksite Identification Plan - 1





## **HS2** Worksite Identification Plan - 2





## **HS2** Worksite Identification Plan - 3



# **Appendix B Monitoring Locations**

## HS2 Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan - 1









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# **Appendix C Data**

## Noise

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: Curzon Street (CS) – Monitoring Ref: CS-N1





### Worksite: Washwood Heath Depot (WWHD) - Monitoring Ref: WWHD-N1









#### Worksite: Washwood Heath Depot (WWHD) - Monitoring Ref: WWHD-N2













### Worksite: Twisted Oak Stables (TOS) – Monitoring Ref: TOS-N1





### Worksite: SAS13 Bridge Replacement (SAS13) – Monitoring Ref: SAS13-N1





Note: Missing data between 11:00 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October and 11:00 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October was due to loss of battery power due to the installation of mains power wiring at the monitor station.





#### Worksite: SAS13 Bridge Replacement (SAS13) – Monitoring Ref: SAS13-N2



Note: Missing data between 13:00 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October and 16:00 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October was due to loss of battery power due to the installation of mains power wiring at the monitor station.







### Vibration

The following graphs show the hourly measured peak particle velocity PPV recorded during the monitoring period. The graphs show the highest PPV of the three orthogonal axis x, y and z. Where high values of PPV were caused by local interference with the vibration monitor, which are not representative of HS2 construction works, these values have been greyed out in the following charts and have been excluded to calculate values in Table 4 of the main report.



#### Worksite: Twisted Oak Stables (TOS) - Monitoring Ref: TOS-V1

Note: High vibration levels between 08:00 and 17:00 on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October were due to backfiling and levelling work activites around the Slurry Treatment Plant (STP) platform area for the concrete blinding extension over duct runs taking place near to the monitoring equipment.

Higher Vibration levels measured at 12:00 on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October was due to machinery passing by the monitoring equipment.



Note: High vibration levels measured at 12:00 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October was due to continued installation and backfiling work activites from the STP platform taking place near to the monitoring equipment. Higher Vibration levels measured during the rest of the week were due to machinery passing by the monitoring equipment.



Note: Higher vibration levels measured at 12:00 and 15:00 on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October and at 08:00 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October were due to levelling and installation of lids to the STP draw pit chambers near to the monitoring equipment.

Higher Vibration levels measured at 11:00, between 14:00 and 16:00 on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October were due to machinery passing by the monitoring equipment.



Note: Higher Vibration levels measured during the week were due to machinery passing by the monitoring equipment.



Note: Higher Vibration levels measured during the week were due to machinery passing by the monitoring equipment.

#### Worksite: Washwood Heath Depot (WWHD) – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-V1









Note: High vibration levels measured at 16:00 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October was due to Tipper machine, which was tipping soil in close proximity to the monitoring equipment.



Note: Higher vibration levels measured at 15:00 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October and at 11:00 on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October were due to Machine stock piling and labours in close proximity to the monitoring equipment and Roller machine working nearby at the concrete plant.Higher Vibration levels measured at 12:00, between 14:00 and 16:00 on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October were due to machinery working by the monitoring equipment.



#### Worksite: Washwood Heath Depot (WWHD) – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-V2







Note: High vibration levels measured at 16:00 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October was due to Tipper machine, which was tipping soil in close proximity to the monitoring equipment.

