

Construction Noise and Vibration Monthly Report – May 2023

Birmingham City Council

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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 Council during the month of May 2023.

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 material deliveries, storage and movement, wheel wash operation and maintenance, deck hardstanding construction, pile cap construction works, pier construction works, concrete segment demolition, steel fixing and stockpiling were underway.
- Noise monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Lawley Middleway worksite (ref.: LMW), where pile cap construction works, stockpiling, material movement and pier construction works were underway.
- Noise monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Saltley Viaduct Satellite worksite (ref.: SVS), where piling platform completion, pile cap construction works, excavation and embankment construction preparation works, scaffolding and bridge assembly, grinding works, de-vegetation, completion of remediation boreholes, removal works and utility verification of trial holes were underway.
- Noise and vibration monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Washwood Heath Depot worksite (ref.: WWHD), where haul road operations, delivery area works, stockpiling management, concrete crushing and batching plant operations were underway.
- Noise and vibration monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Twisted Oak Stables worksite (ref.: TOS), where construction of access road, electrical workshop platform preparation works, steel works, muck bin access works and cooling tower slab extension works were underway.

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 not exceeded 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.

No complaints were received during the monitoring period.

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 +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;
- investigating 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 Council for the period 1st to 31st May 2023.

1.1.3 Active 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:
 - Material deliveries, storage and movement.
 - Wheel wash operation and maintenance.
 - Deck hardstanding construction, including excavation, compaction, shuttering and concrete casting.
 - Pile cap construction works, including pile cap backfill, compaction, sheet pile removal works, sheet piling, excavation, pile cropping and concrete casting works.
 - Pier construction works, including formwork, scaffolding erection and concrete casting.
 - Concrete segment demolition.
 - Steel fixing works including concrete pour.
 - Use of haul road.

- Stockpiling, including removal of arising stockpiles off-site.
- Lawley Middleway worksite, ref.: LMW (see plan 1 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
 - Pile cap construction works, including excavation, pile cropping and concrete casting.
 - Stockpiling, including removal of arising stockpiles off-site.
 - Pier construction works, including formwork, scaffold erection and concrete casting.
- Saltley Viaduct Satellite worksite, ref.: SVS (see plan 2 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
 - Piling platform works.
 - Pile cap construction works, including steel fixing and casting.
 - Embankment construction preparation works, including excavation.
 - Scaffolding and bridge assembly works.
 - Grinding works.
 - De-vegetation works.
 - Remediation borehole works.
 - Removal works, including asbestos remedial, cables, palisade fencing and street furniture.
 - Utility trial holes works
 - Excavation works
 - Site setup
 - Housekeeping works.
- Washwood Heath Depot worksite, ref.: WWHD (see plan 3 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
 - Haul road operations, including maintenance, excavation and compaction works.
 - Delivery area works, including loading and unloading deliveries of plant and materials.
 - Stockpile management, including tipping and loading of wagons.
 - Concrete crushing.
 - Batching plant operations, including delivery of aggregates, operating plant and concrete wagons.

- Twisted Oak Stables worksite, ref.: TOS (see plan 4 in Appendix A) where work activities included:
 - Construction of access road, including stoning works.
 - Electrical workshop platform construction works, including striking shuttering and ground levelling works.
 - Steel works, including reinforcing bar.
 - Muck bin access road works, including waste clearing and burial of water main.
 - Cooling tower slab extension works, including stone laying 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 Seven (7) noise and four (4) vibration monitoring installations were active in May in the Birmingham City area. Table 2 summarises the position of noise and vibration monitoring installations within the Birmingham City area in May 2023.

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

Table 2: Monitoring Locations

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Address
TOS	TOS-N1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham
	TOS-V1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham
WWHD	WWHD-N1	114 Drews Lane, Birmingham
	WWHD-V1	Drews Lane, Birmingham
	WWHD-N2	93 Common Lane, Birmingham
	WWHD-V2	93 Common Lane, Birmingham
	WWHD-N3	154 Warren Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham
	WWHD-V3	154 Warren Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham
SVS	SVS-N1	Duddeston Mill Road, Saltley Business Park Area, Birmingham
LMW	LMW-N1	Lawford Close, Digbeth, Birmingham
CS	CS-N1	Curzon Street, Birmingham

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 $L_{Aeq,T}$ 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_{Aeq} Data over the Monitoring Period

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Site Address	Free-Field or Façade measurement	Weekday Average L _{Aeq,T} (Highest Day L _{Aeq,T})					Saturday Average L _{Aeq,T} (Highest Day L _{Aeq,T})					Sunday / Public Holiday Average L _{Aeq,T} (Highest Day L _{Aeq,T})	
				0700 - 0800	0800 - 1800	1800 - 1900	1900 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 0800	0800 - 1300	1300 - 1400	1400 - 2200	2200 - 0700	0700 - 2200	2200 - 0700
TOS	TOS-N1	B4118-Birmingham Road	Free-field	62.1 (71.4)	67.3 (71.3)	60.8 (64.2)	59.7 (70.3)	57.7 (65.0)	62.6 (64.8)	65.3 (68.7)	60.4 (62.5)	58.6 (62.9)	53.9 (59.1)	57.8 (63.2)	55.5 (61.2)
WWHD	WWHD-N1	114 Drews Lane	Free-field	60.3 (64.8)	63.6 (67.8)	58.1 (63.9)	55.9 (59.9)	54.4 (60.6)	55.2 (58.5)	61.5 (62.7)	53.3 (55.3)	53.0 (56.9)	53.0 (61.6)	55.0 (58.5)	54.0 (58.7)
	WWHD-N2	93 Common Lane	Free-field	55.6 (58.6)	58.4 (62.0)	56.8 (61.7)	54.5 (58.1)	53.1 (59.2)	52.5 (56.0)	55.9 (59.1)	51.8 (54.8)	52.1 (56.3)	51.3 (57.8)	52.7 (57.6)	52.6 (58.9)
	WWHD-N3	154 Warren Road	Free-field	58.1 (62.3)	62.8 (66.1)	58.9 (64.9)	54.0 (57.9)	53.0 (59.7)	52.9 (58.8)	61.5 (62.8)	50.8 (53.5)	51.1 (54.7)	50.9 (55.3)	52.5 (56.2)	52.5 (59.1)
SVS	SVS-N1	Duddeston Mill Road	Free-field	57.2 (64.1)	59.7 (64.3)	58.6 (65.1)	56.9 (60.4)	55.2 (62.4)	54.2 (56.4)	56.0 (58.9)	58.4 (62.6)	56.9 (62.2)	54.4 (64.7)	58.1 (68.0)	54.2 (60.2)
LMW	LMW-N1	Lawford Close, Digbeth	Free-field	66.6 (69.0)	67.8 (73.2)	65.4 (74.9)	65.4 (73.4)	63.7 (68.1)	63.6 (66.0)	65.1 (66.2)	64.5 (66.4)	65.2 (67.8)	64.8 (67.9)	64.2 (66.8)	64.3 (67.5)
CS	CS-N1	Curzon Street	Free-field	65.5 (68.3)	67.3 (69.2)	67.5 (74.9)	65.4 (69.6)	63.0 (68.5)	62.2 (63.0)	64.6 (66.0)	65.6 (66.4)	65.9 (68.2)	63.2 (66.2)	64.8 (72.4)	62.5 (64.6)

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.

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

Worksite Reference	Measurement Reference	Monitor Address	Highest PPV measured in any axis, mm/s
TOS	TOS-V1	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton, Birmingham	3.55 (Z-axis)*
WWHD	WWHD-V1	Drews Lane, Birmingham	2.53 (Z-axis)**
	WWHD-V2	93 Common Lane, Birmingham	0.39 (X-axis)
	WWHD-V3	154 Warren Road	1.46 (X-axis)

*High vibration levels measured due to heavy plant movement and deliveries on haul road close to monitoring station, the nearest residential receptors are further away and therefore HS2 vibration levels are expected to be lower at receptors.

**High vibration levels measured due to works undertaken close to monitoring station, the nearest residential receptors are further away and therefore HS2 vibration levels are expected to be lower at receptors.

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_{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). 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.

Table 5: 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
CS	CS-N1*	Curzon Street, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
LMW	LMW-N1*	Lawford Close, Digbeth	Saturdays	1400-2200	1	No exceedance
SVS	SVS-N1*	Duddeston Mill Road, Saltley Business Park Area	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
WWHD	WWHD-N1*	114 Drews Lane, Birmingham	Weekdays	0700-0800	1	No exceedance
	WWHD-N2*	93 Common Lane, Birmingham	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance
	WWHD-N3	154 Warren Road	Weekdays	0800-1800	2	No exceedance
TOS	TOS-N1*	B4118-Birmingham Road, Water Orton	All days	All periods	No exceedance	No exceedance

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

2.2.6 Exceedances of the LOAEL were recorded at three (3) noise monitors, LMW-N1, WWHD-N1 and TOS-N1. The LOAEL exceedances were recorded during weekdays and Saturday periods.

2.2.7 No exceedances SOAEL were recorded due to HS2 construction works during the reporting period.

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.

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
-	-	-	-	-	-

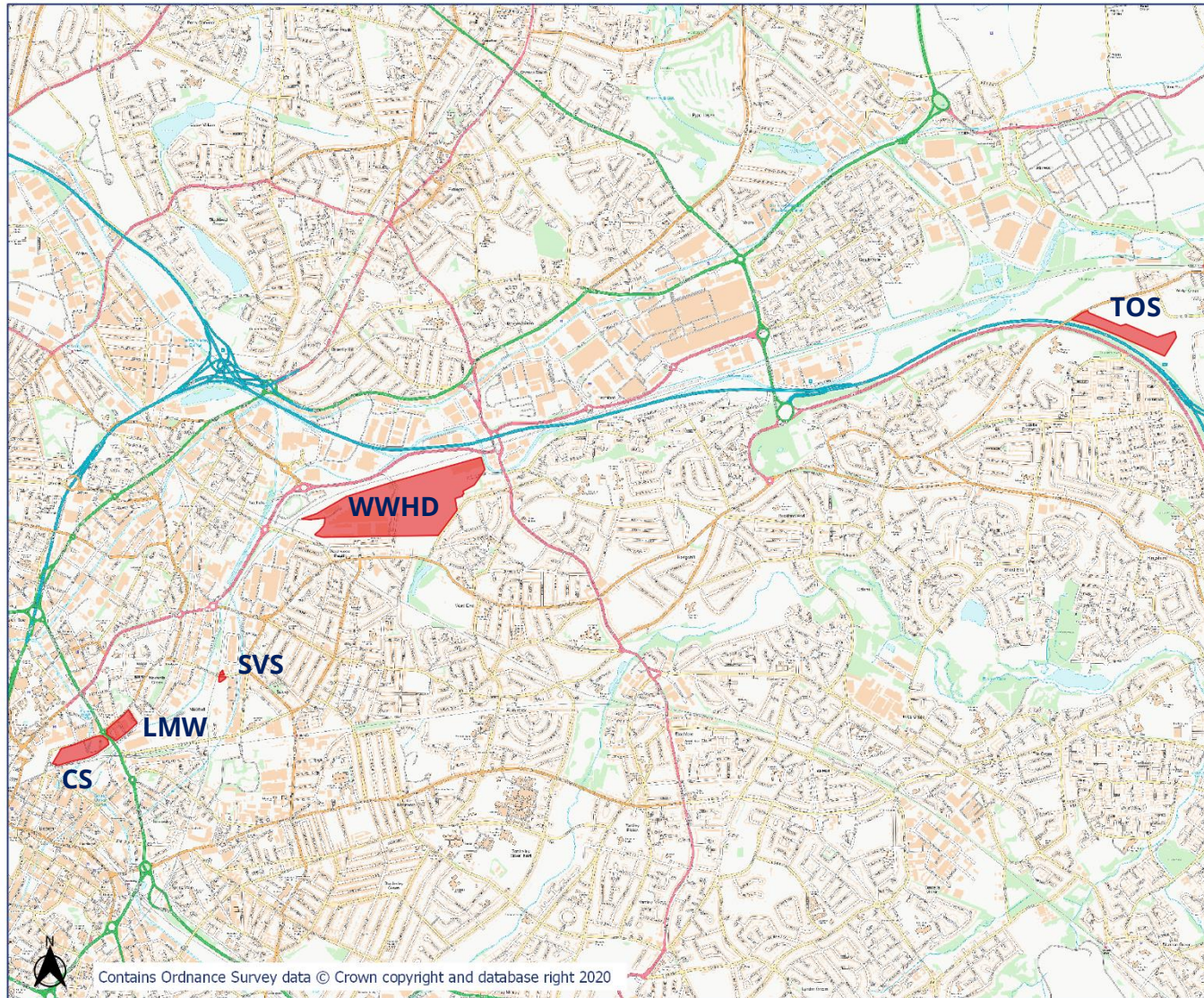
2.4 Complaints

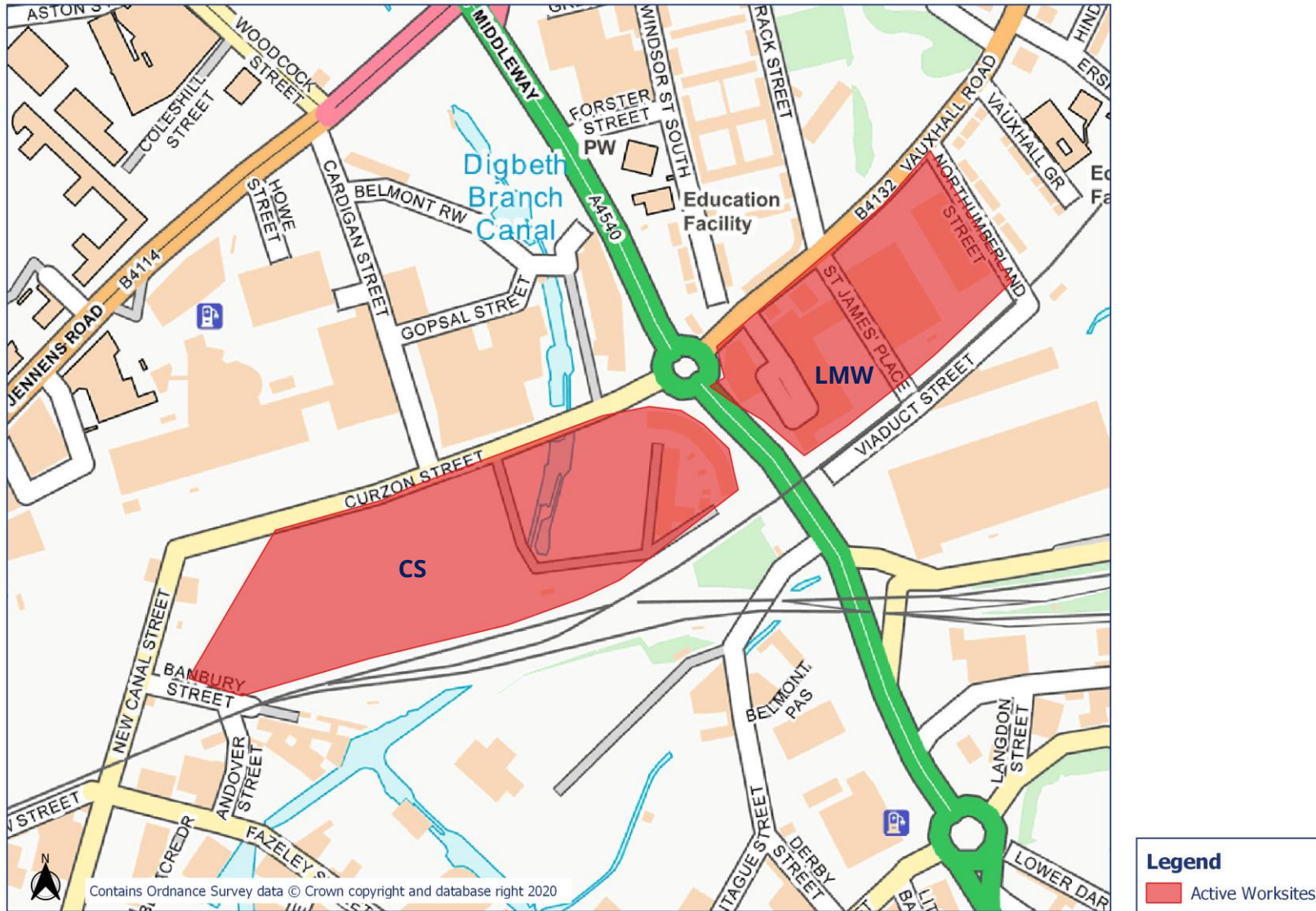
2.4.1 Table 7 provides a summary of complaint information related to noise and vibration received during the reporting period, along with the findings of any investigation.

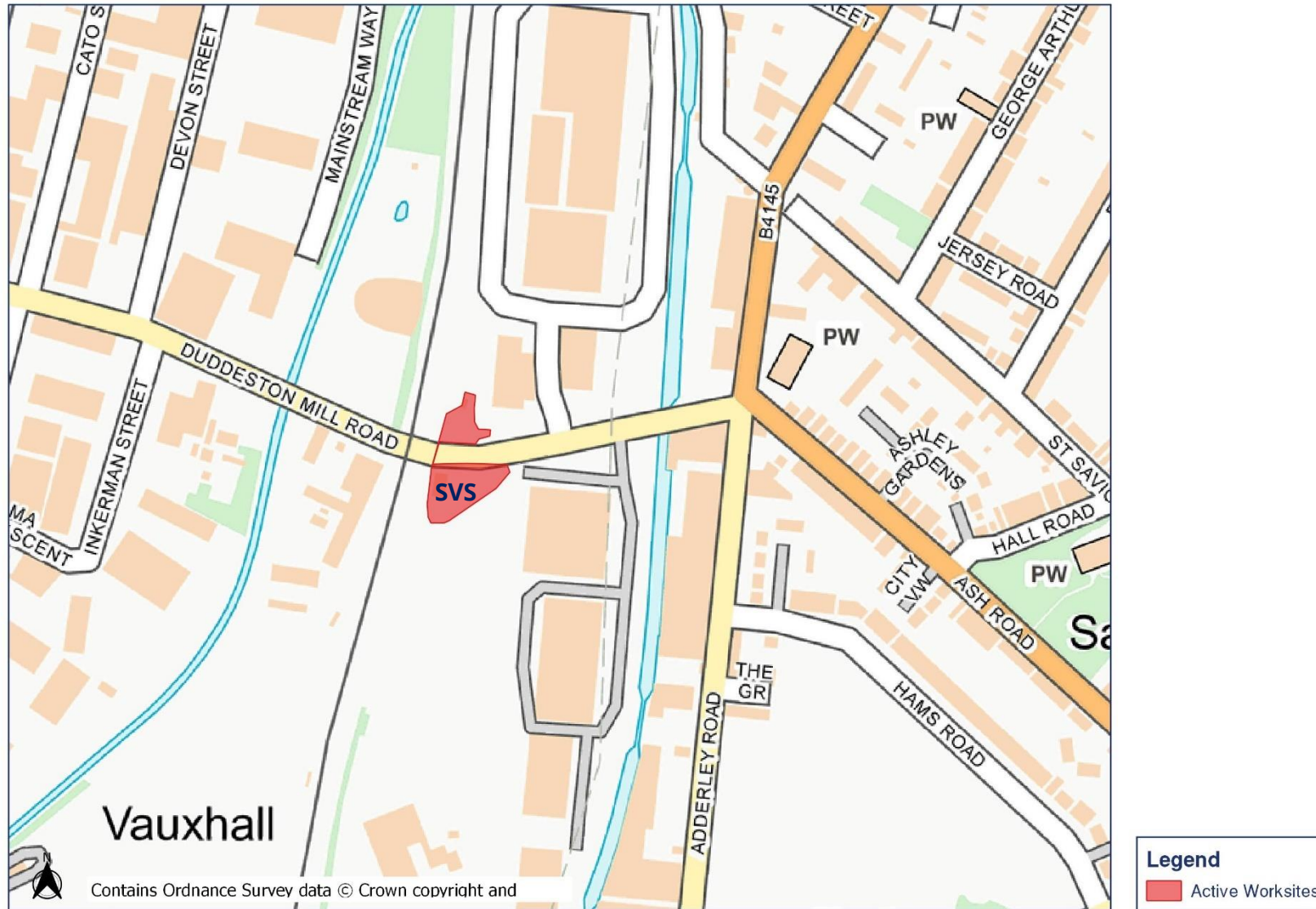
Table 7: Summary of Complaints

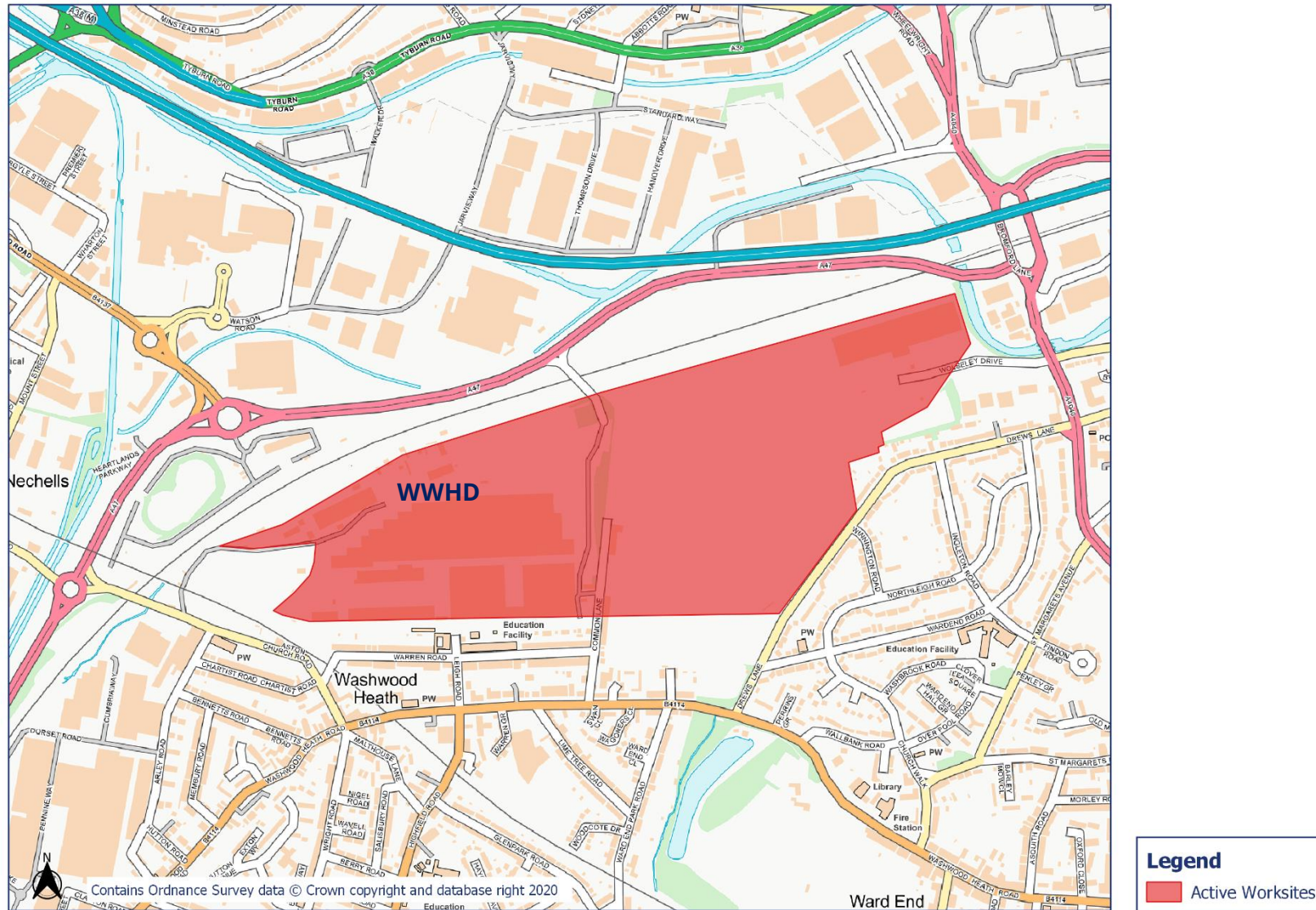
Complaint Reference Number	Worksite Reference	Description of Complaint	Results of Investigation	Actions Taken
-	-	-	-	-

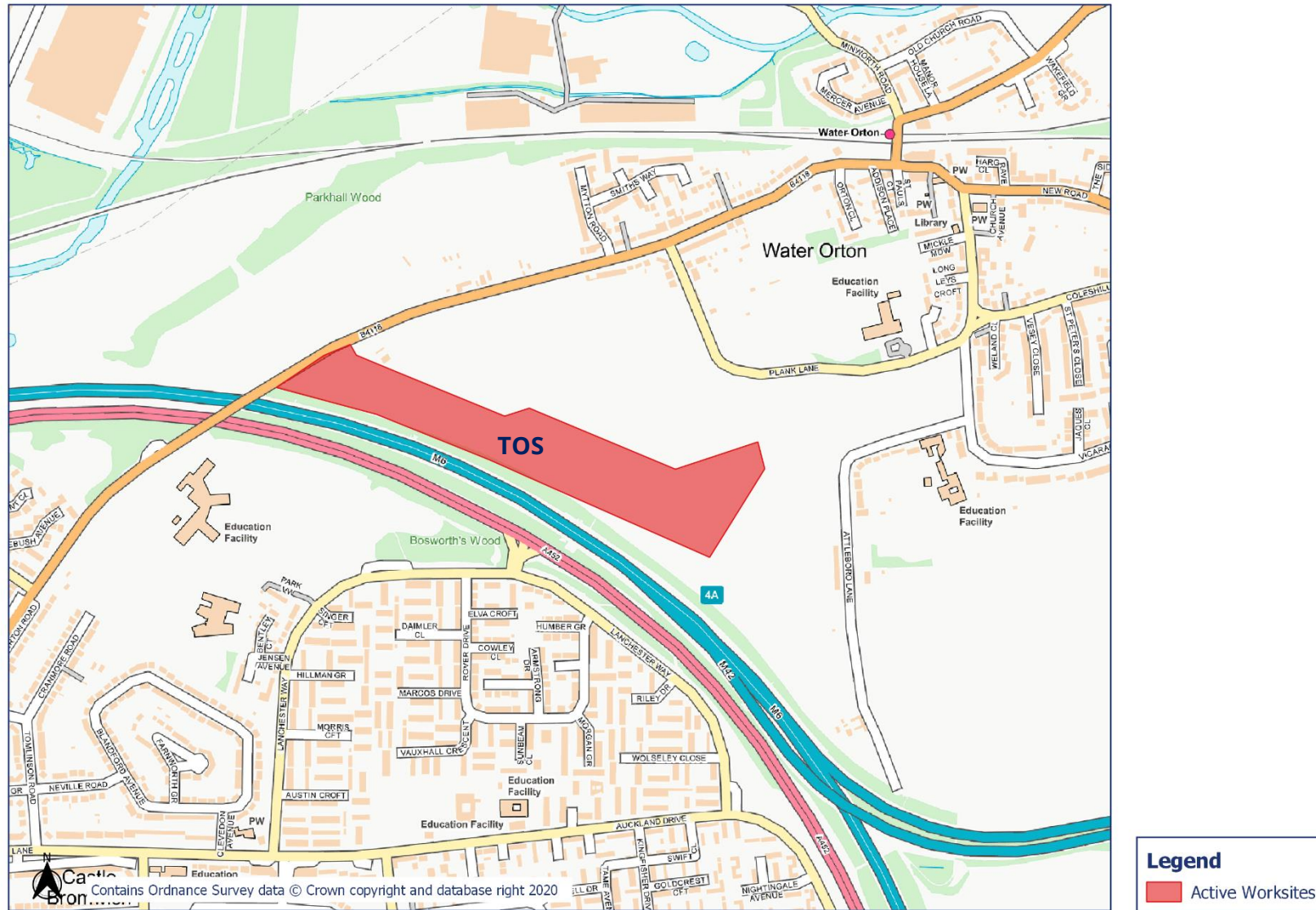
Appendix A Site Locations



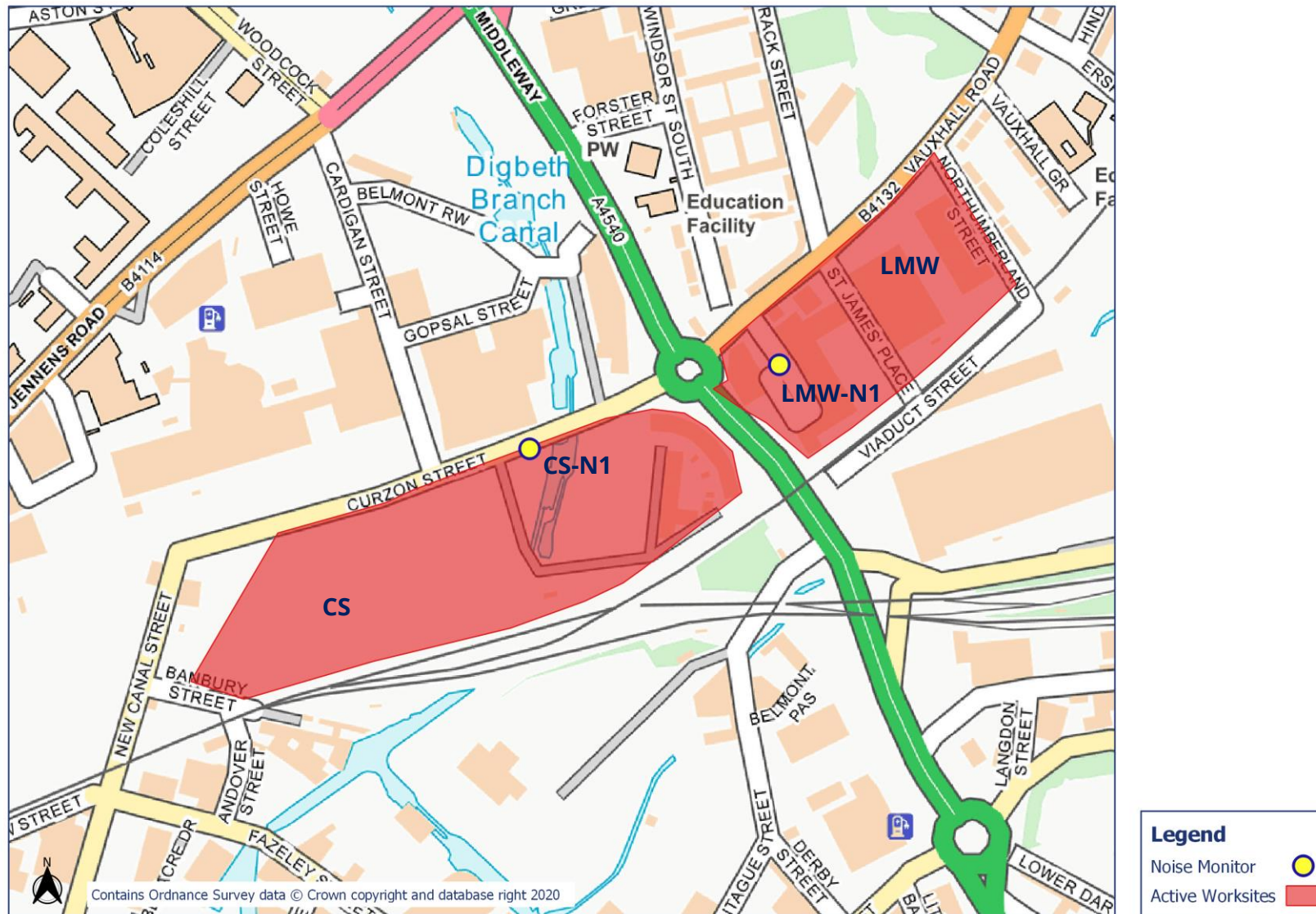




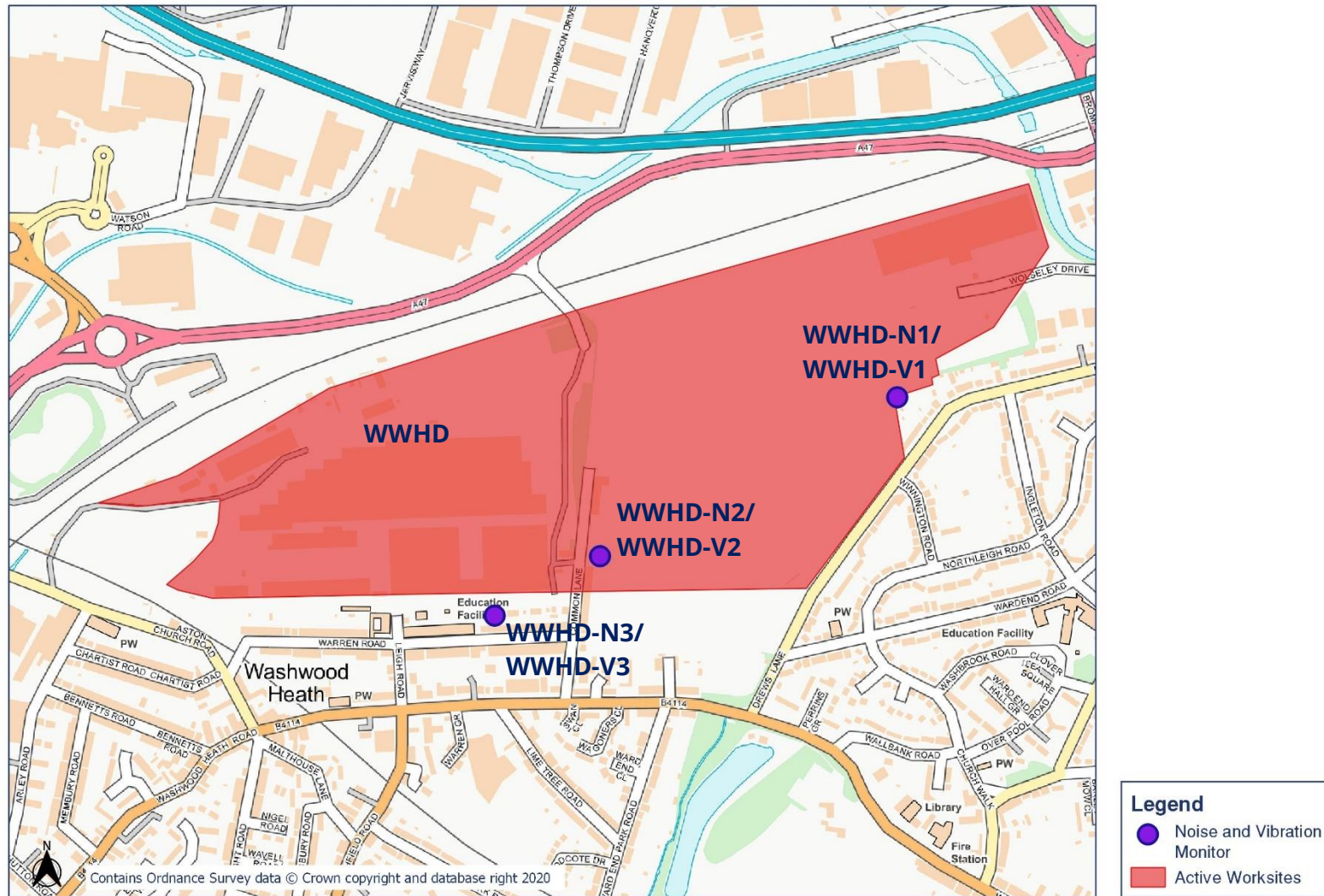




Appendix B Monitoring Locations

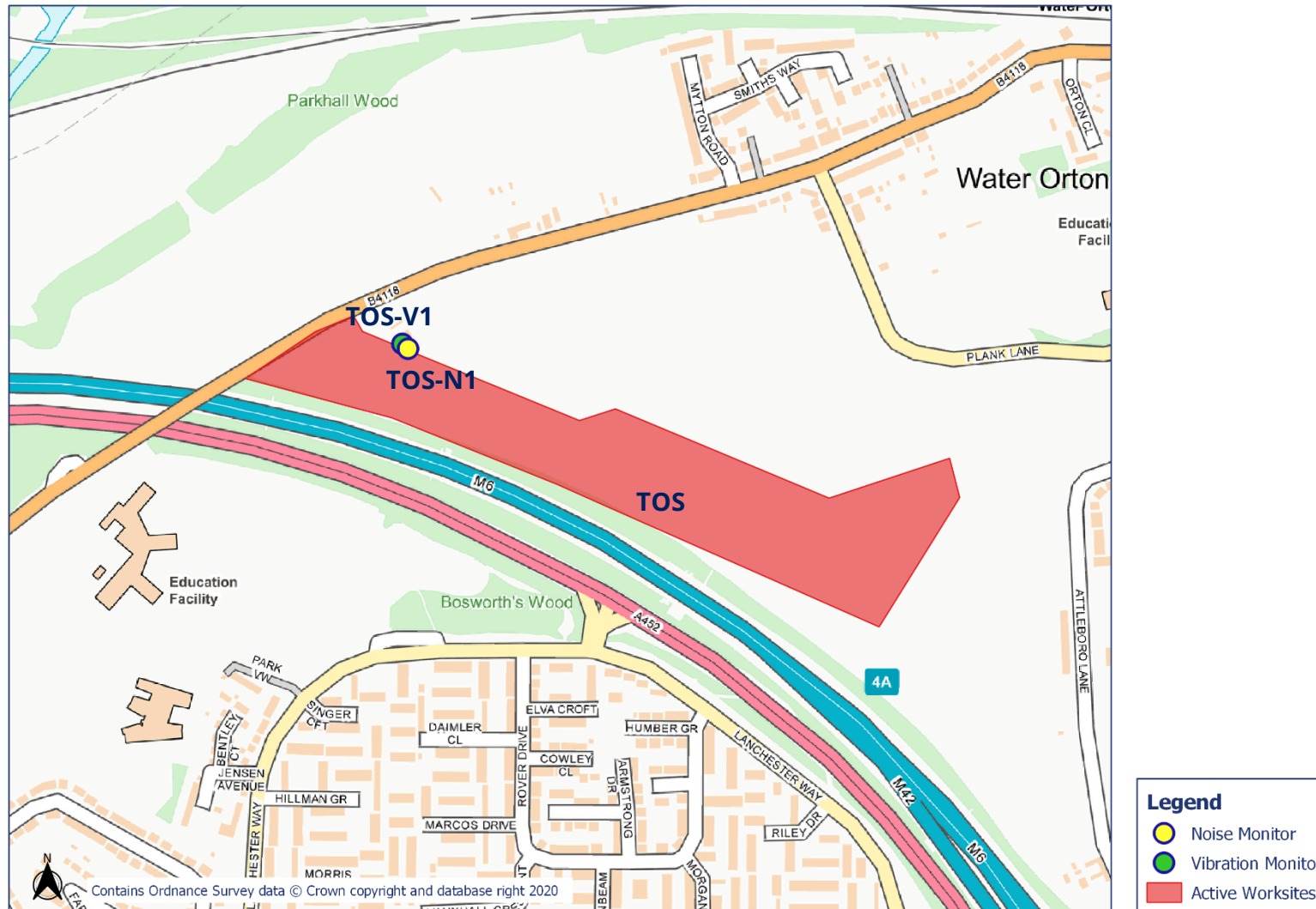






HS2

Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan - 4

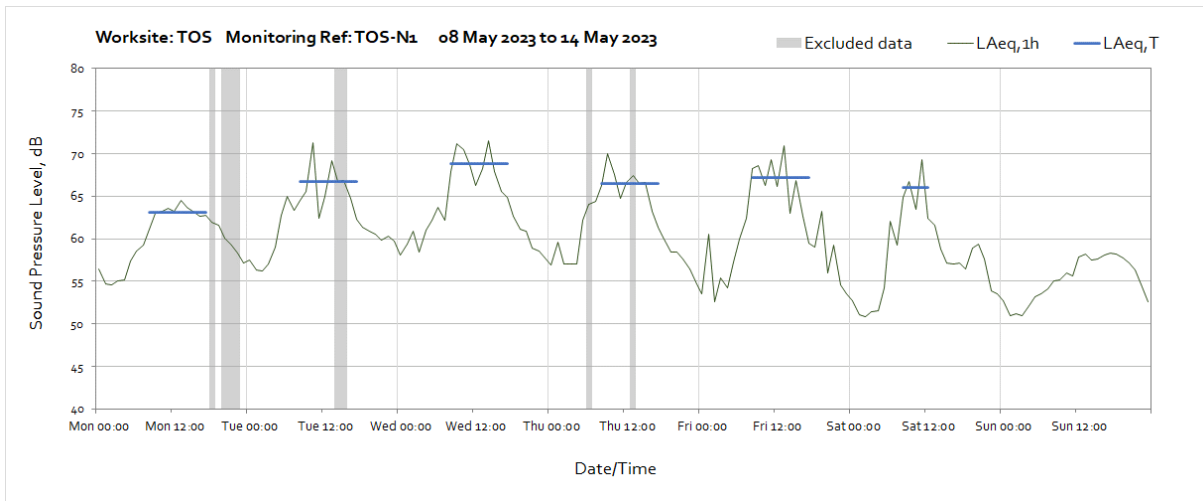
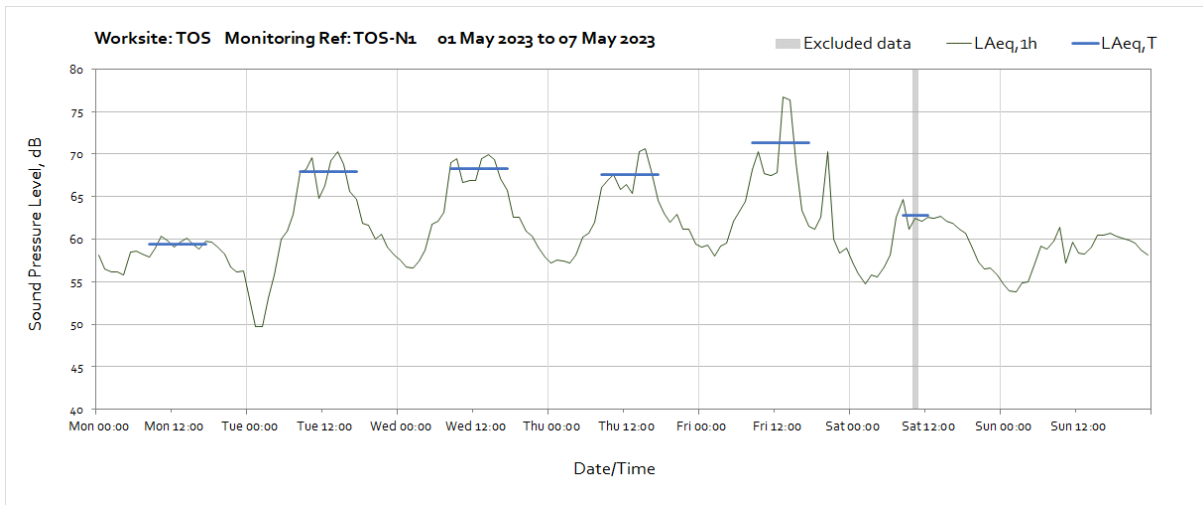


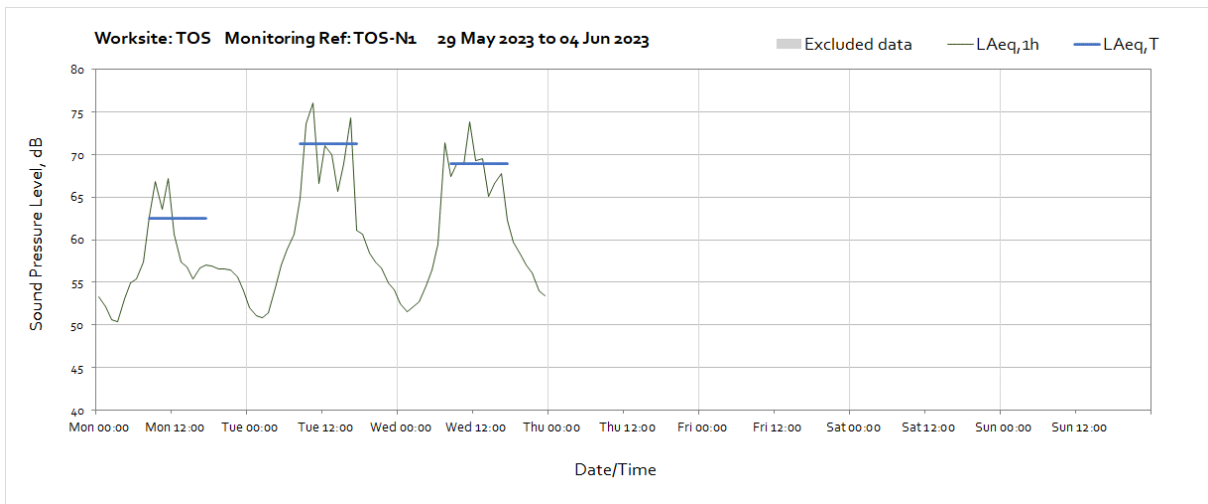
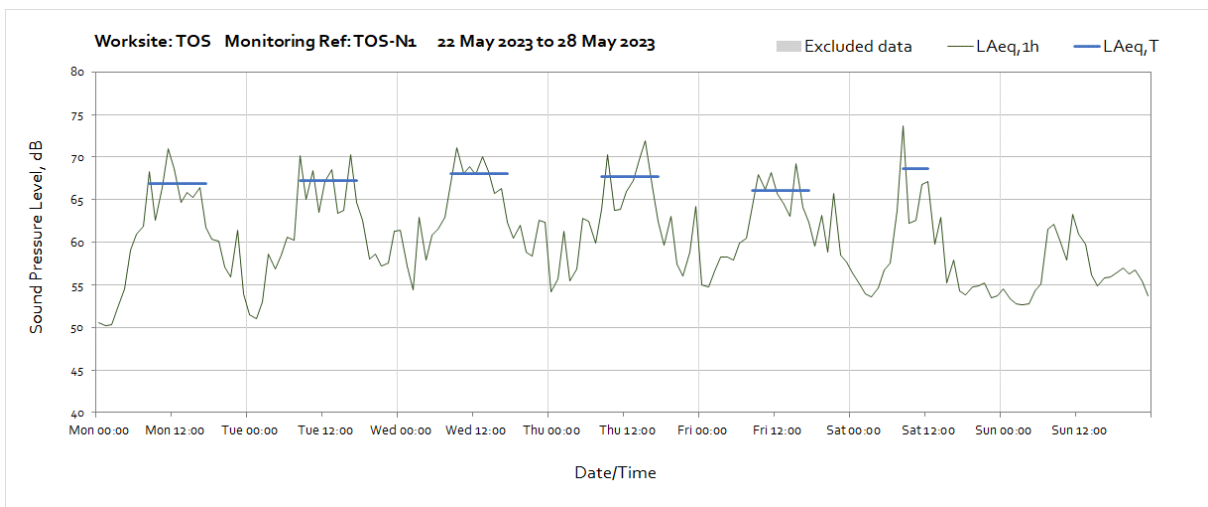
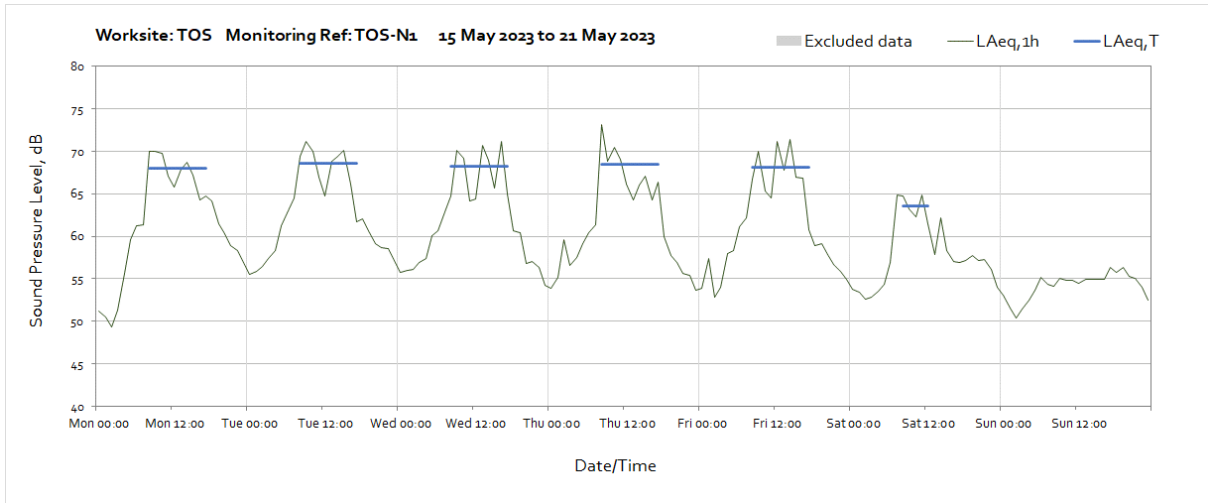
Appendix C Data

Noise

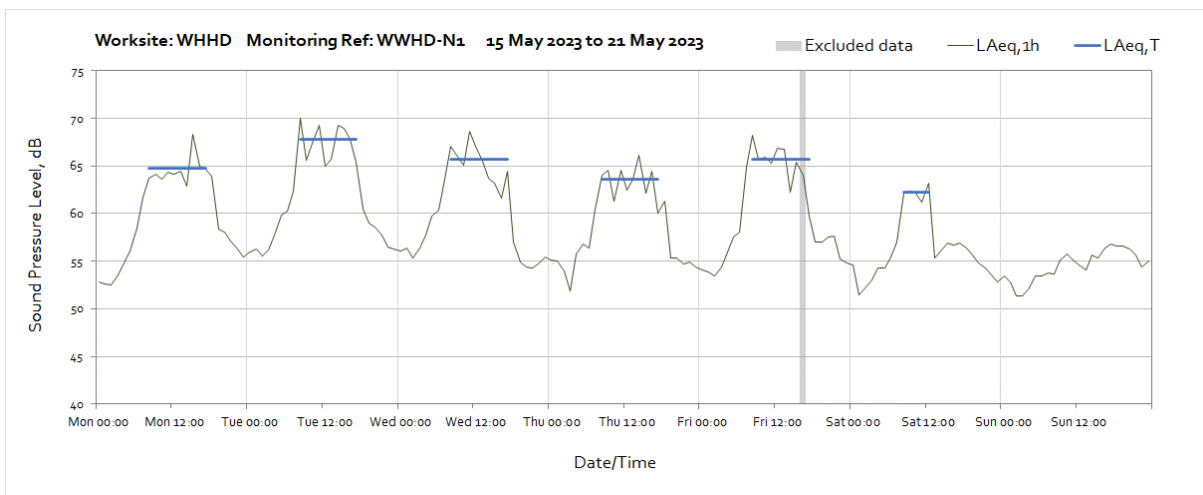
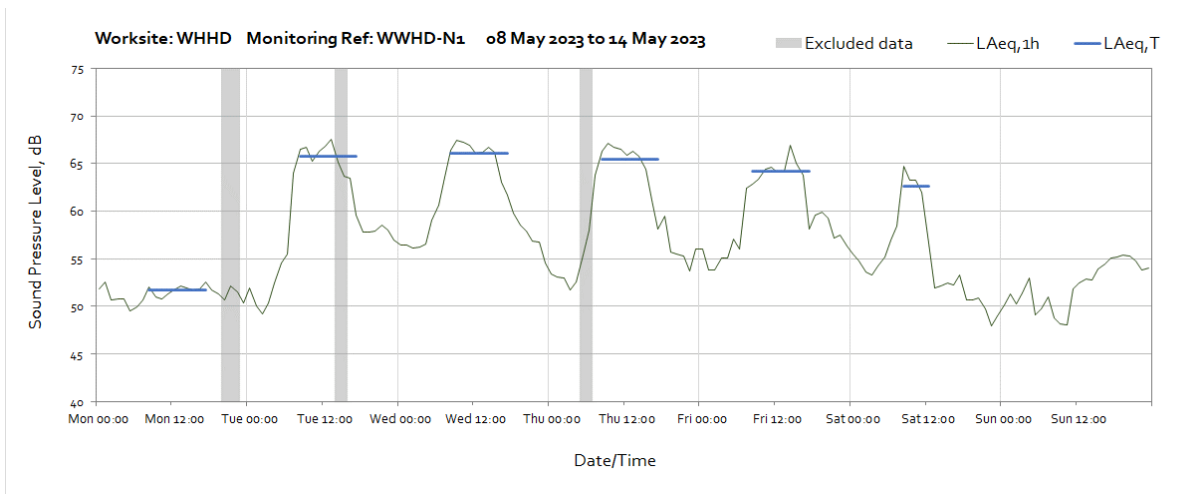
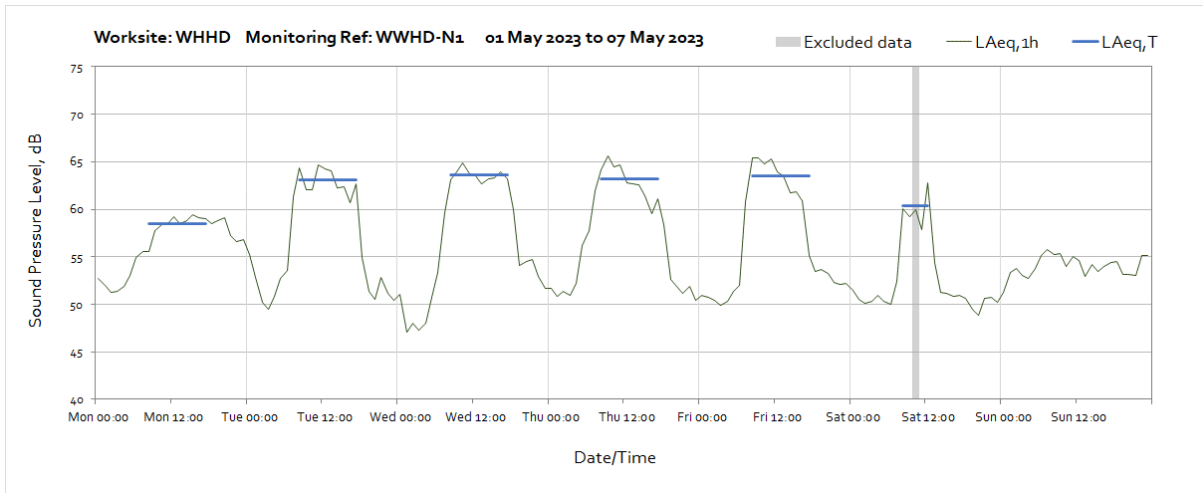
The following graphs show the hourly measured ambient noise level $L_{Aeq,1h}$ and, where relevant, the averaged noise level $L_{Aeq,T}$ values, where the time period T is as specified in Table 1 of HS2 Information Paper E23. Periods with adversely weather affected noise levels are greyed out and have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

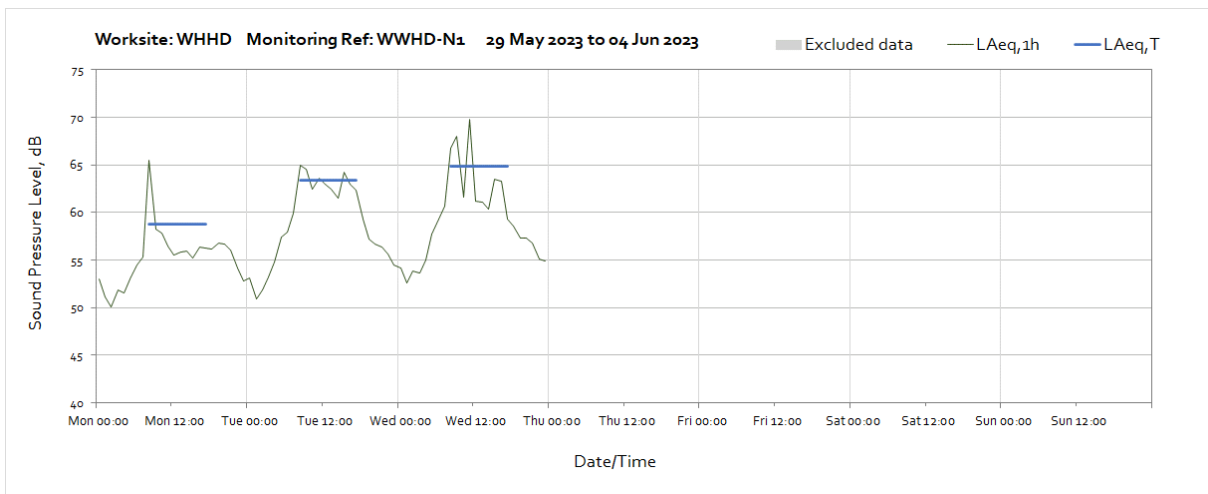
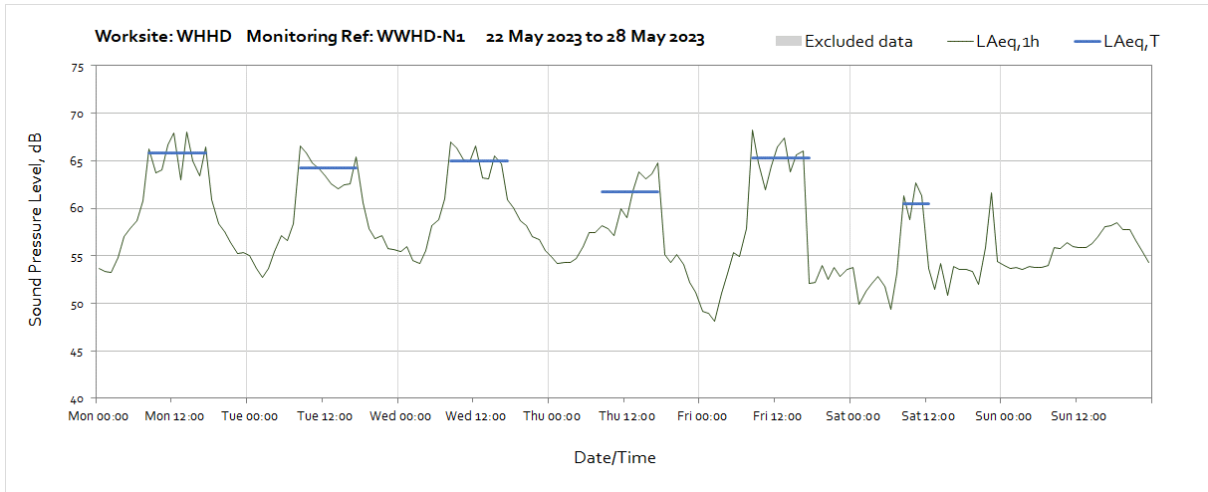
Worksite: TOS – Monitoring Ref: TOS-N1



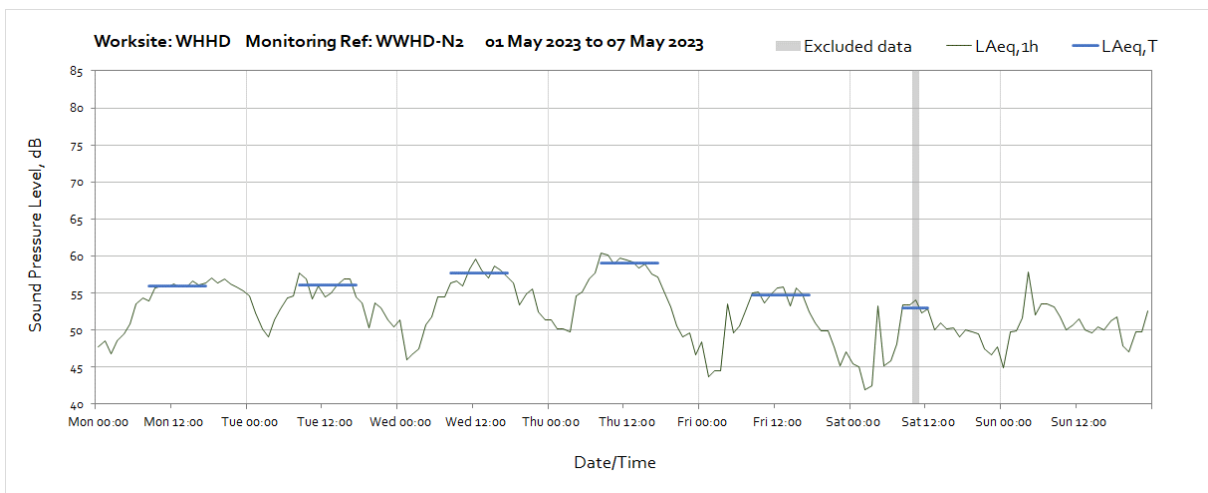


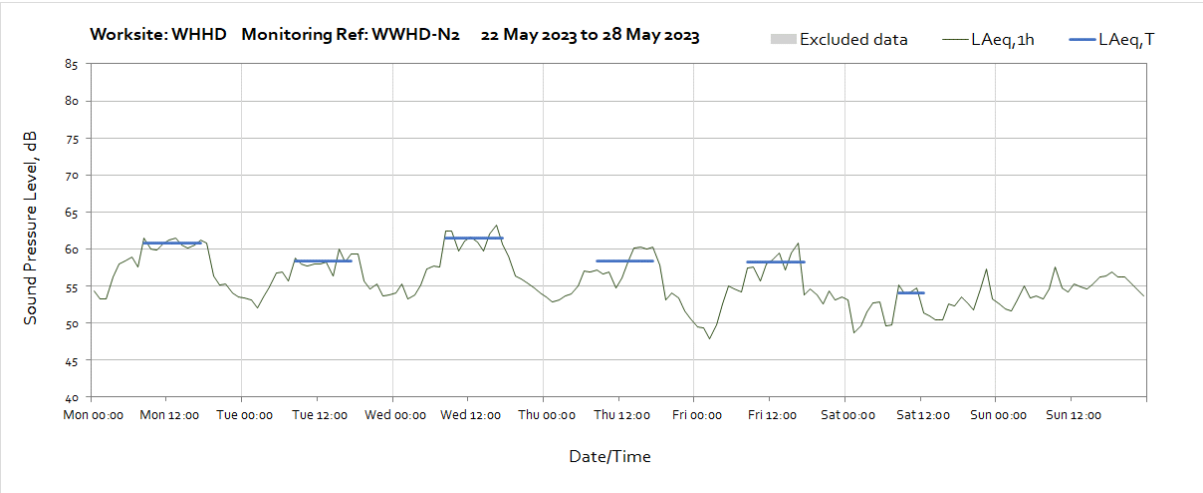
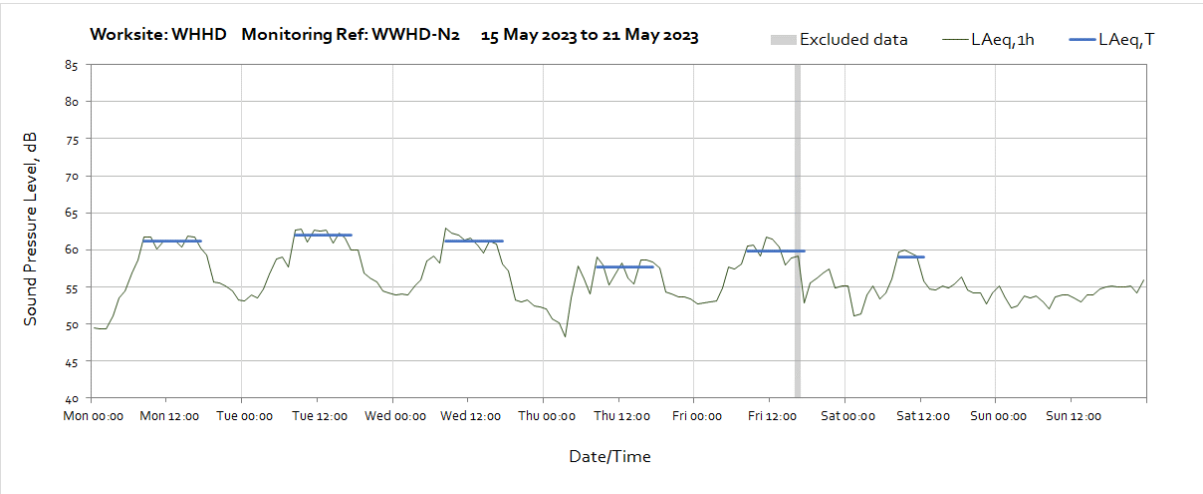
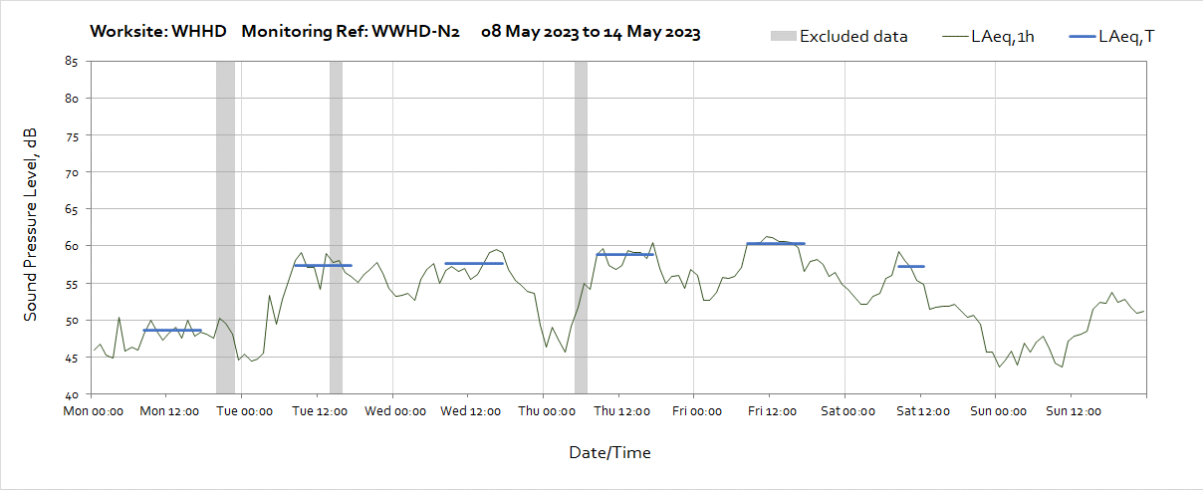
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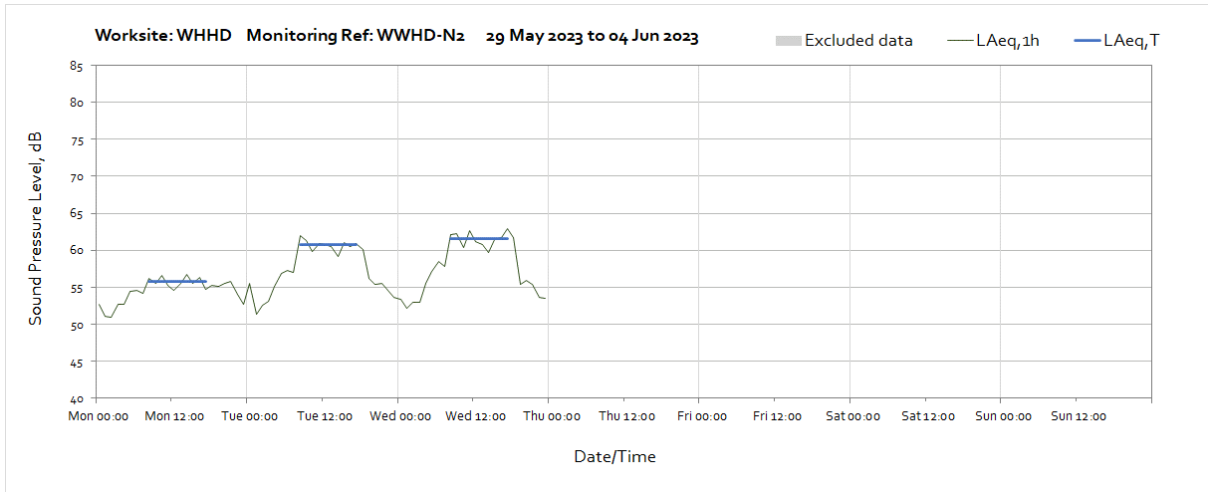




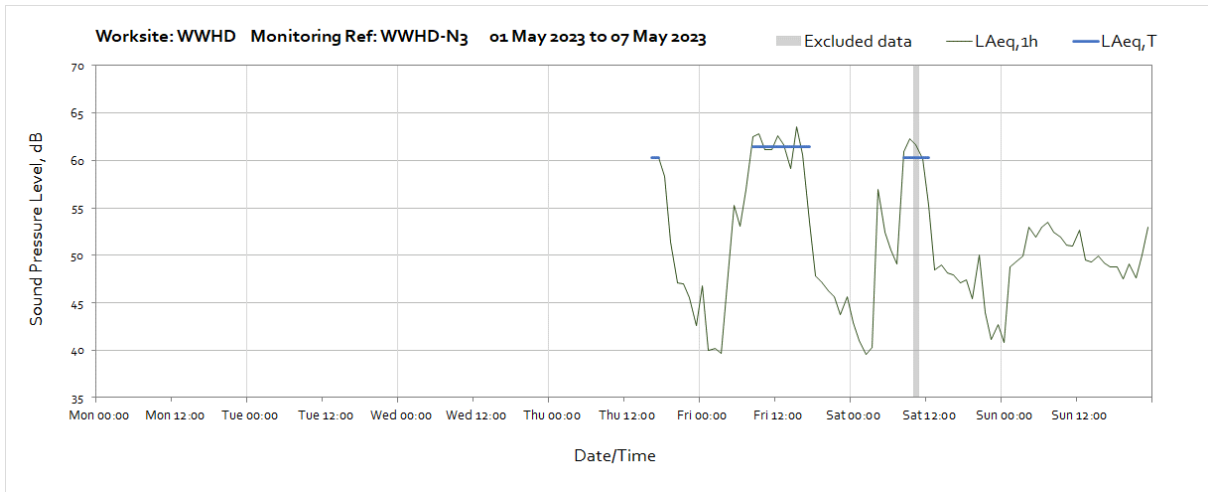
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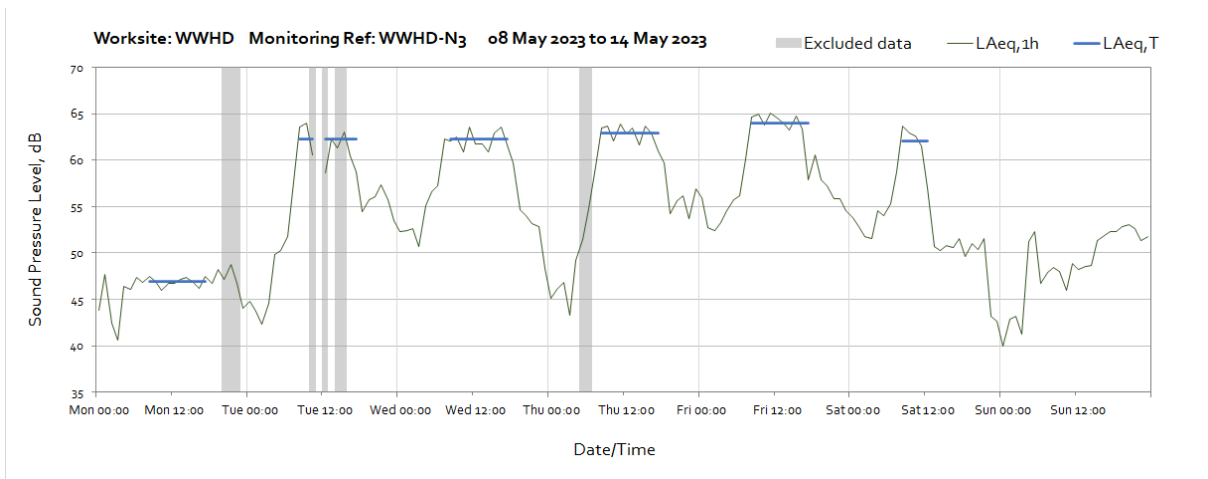




Worksite: WWHD – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-N3

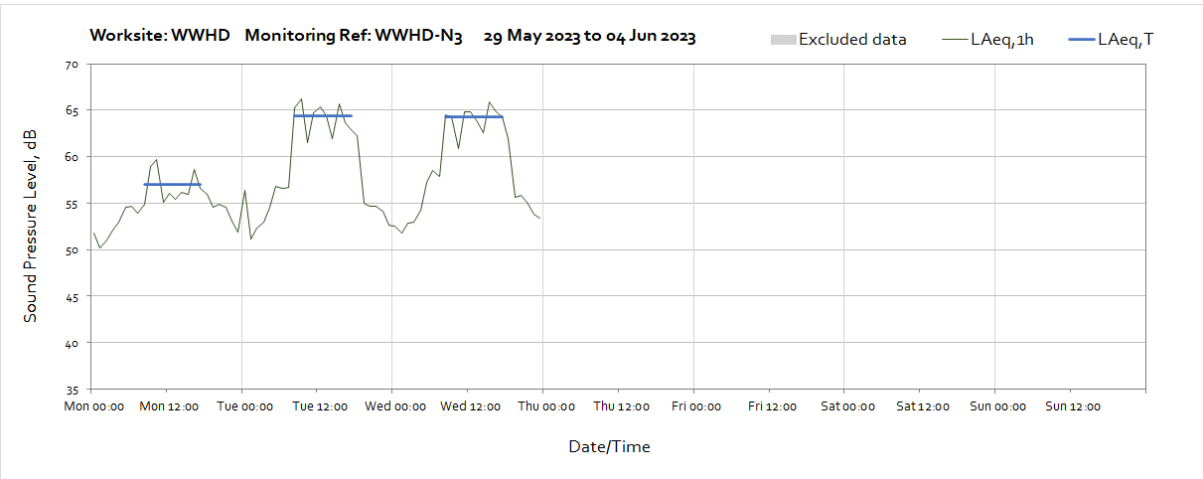
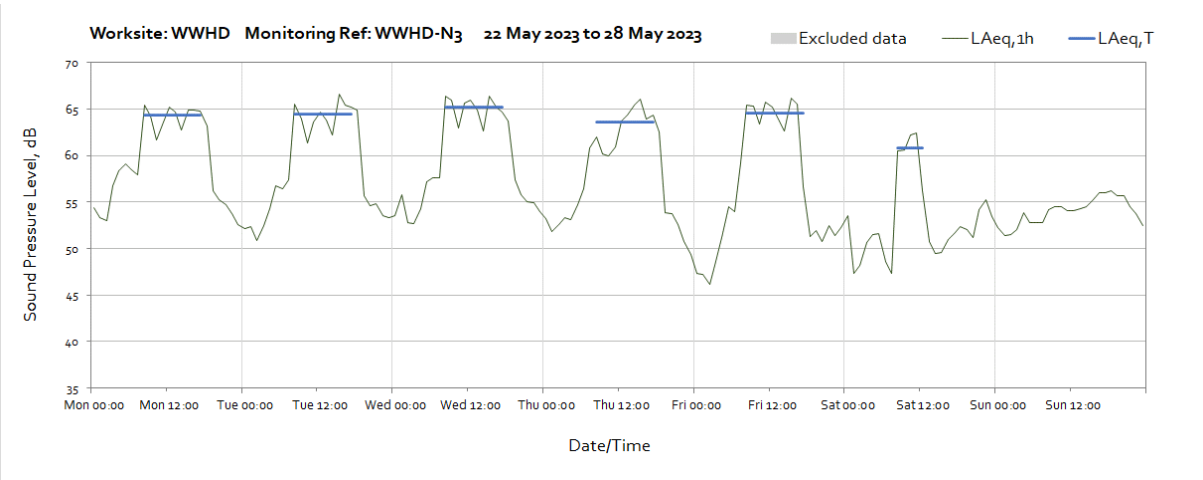
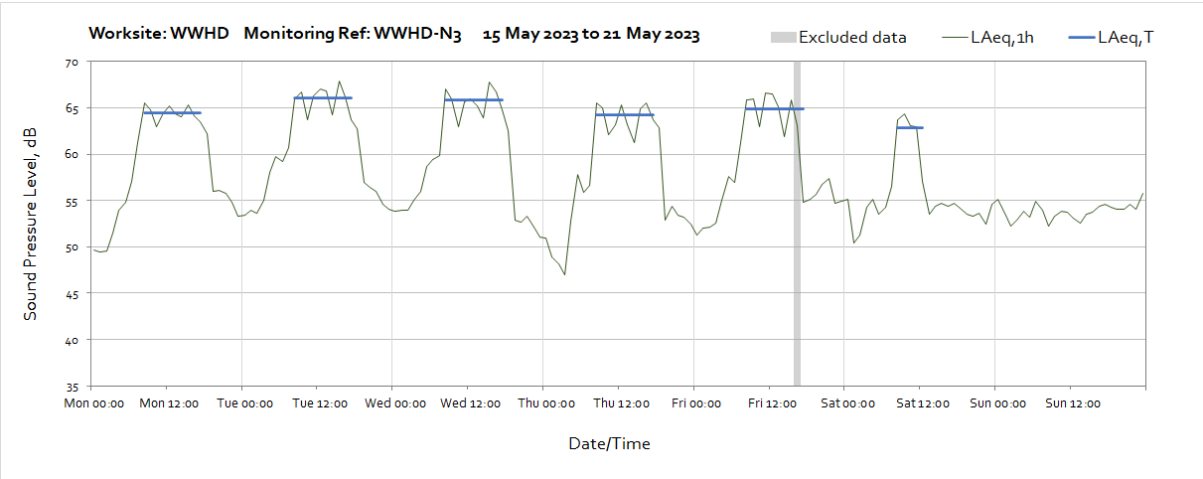


Note: Missing data between 00:00 on Monday 1st May and 16:00 on Thursday 4th May was due to loss of battery power to the monitor.

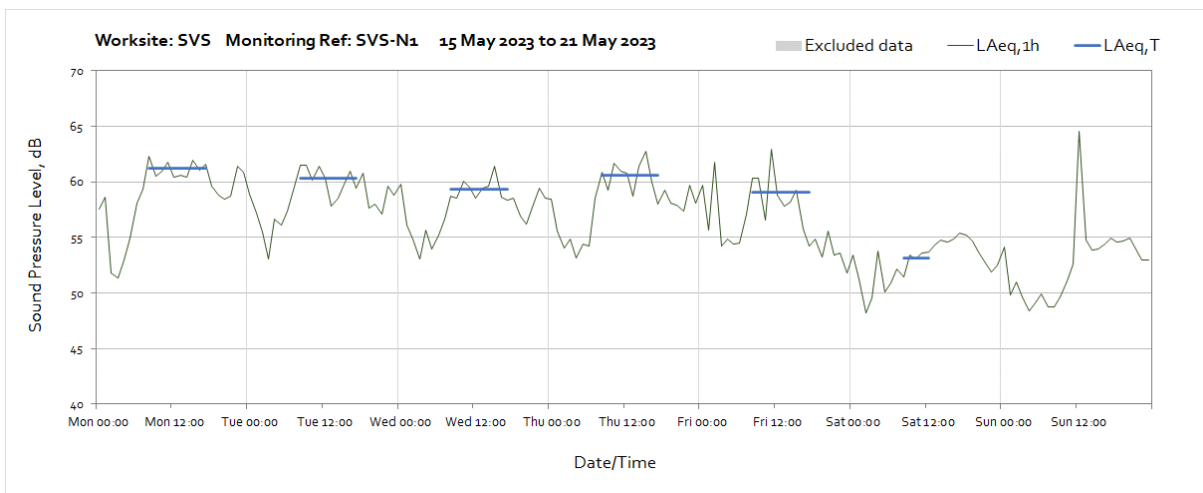
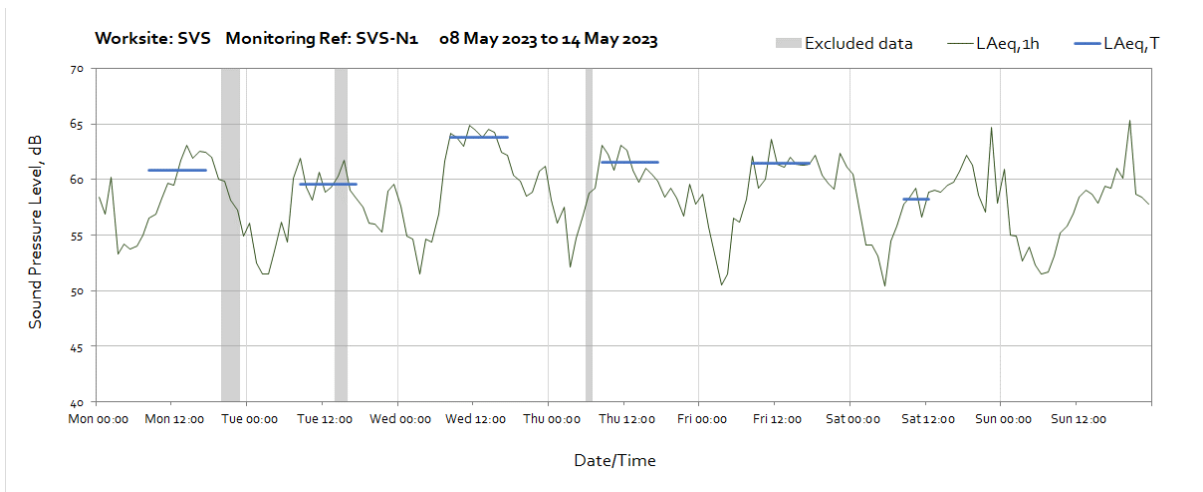
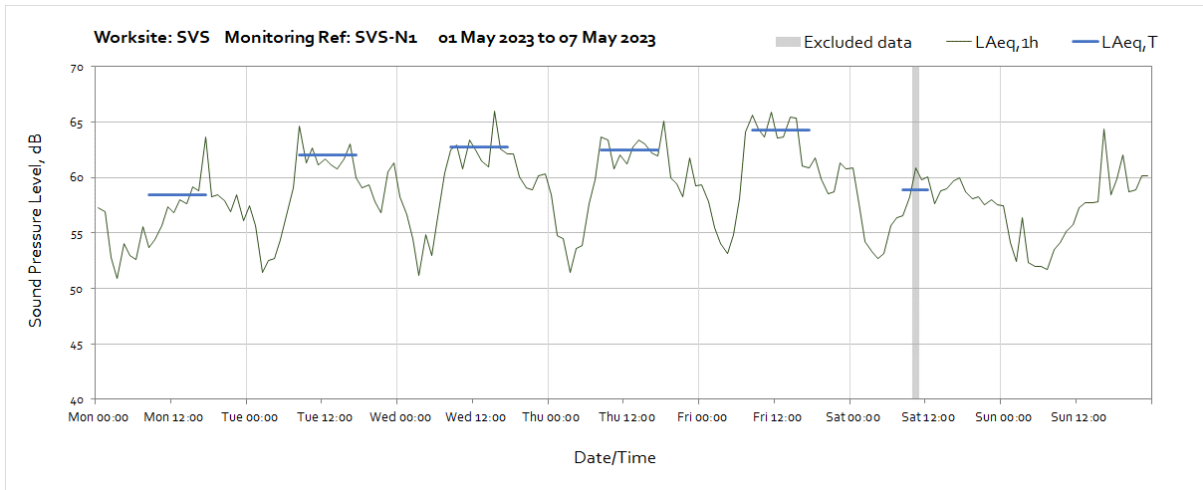


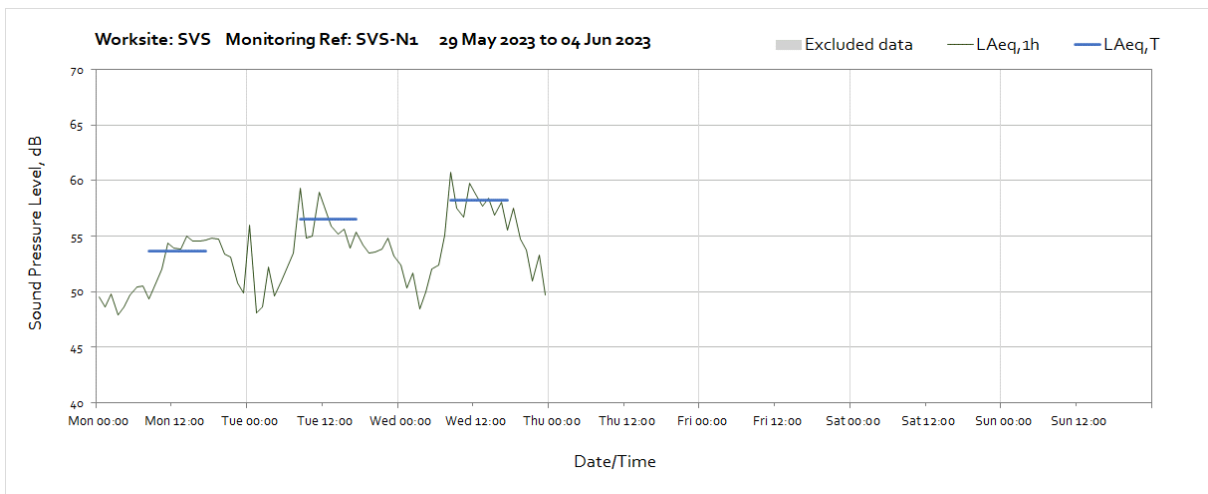
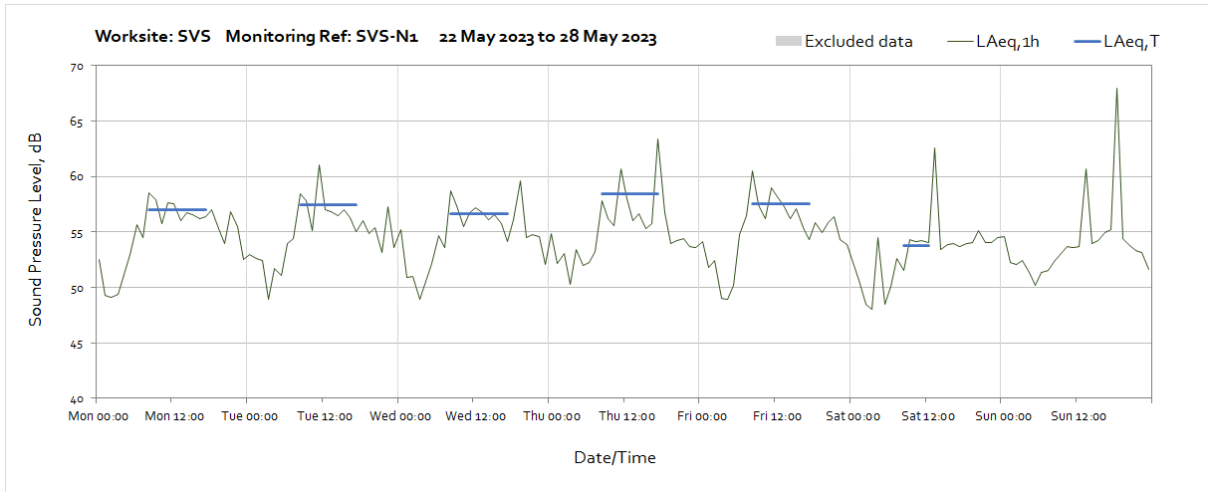
Note: Missing data between 11:00 and 12:00 on Tuesday 9th May was due to monitor being restarted in order to convert power source to solar.

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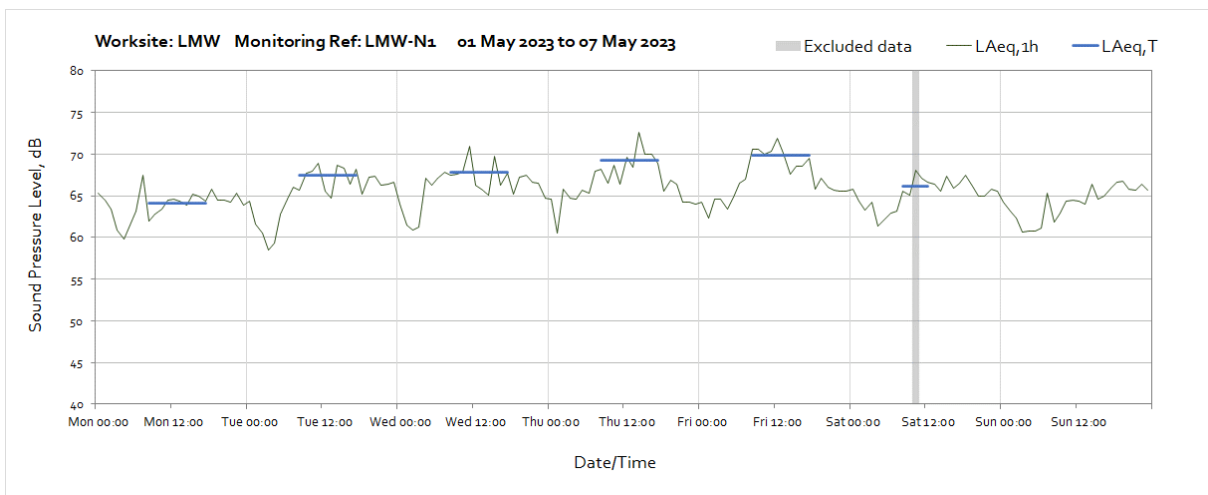


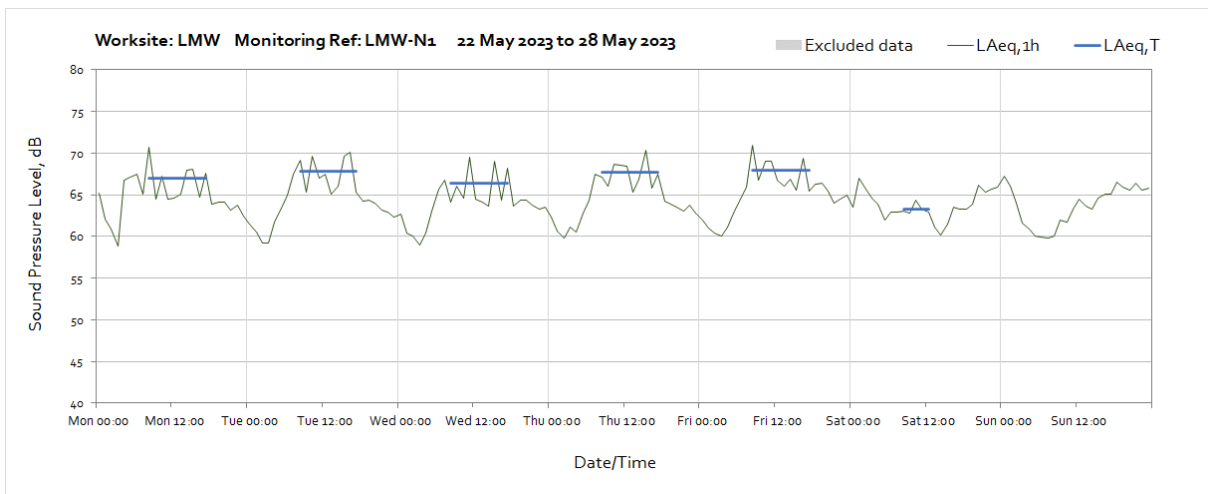
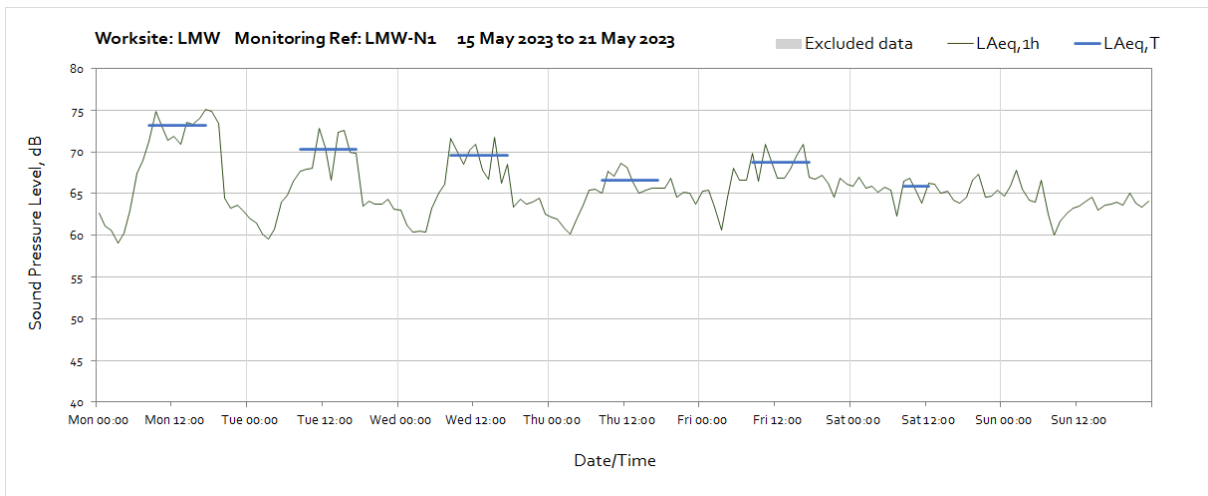
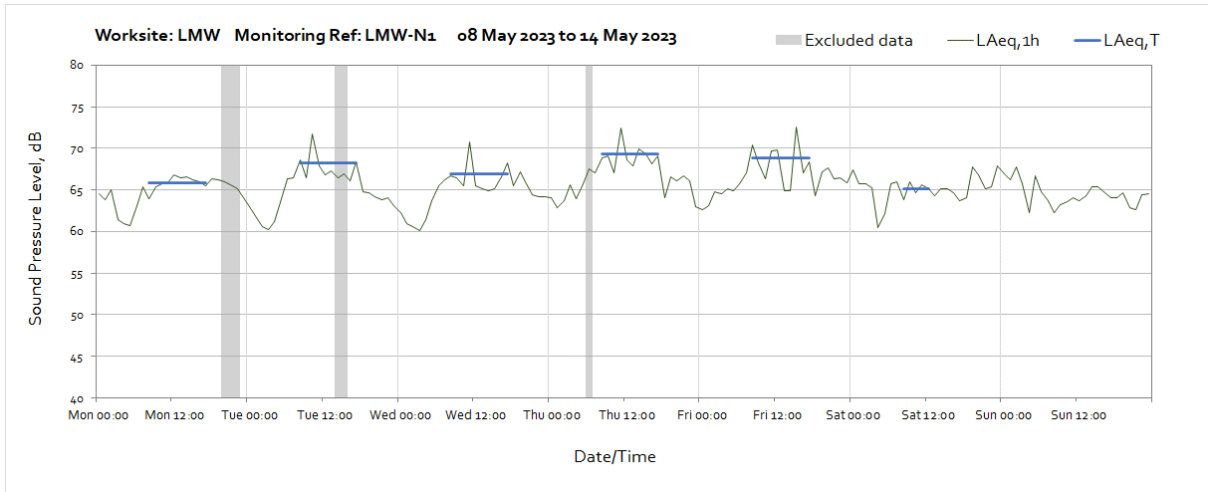
Worksite: SVS – Monitoring Ref: SVS-N1

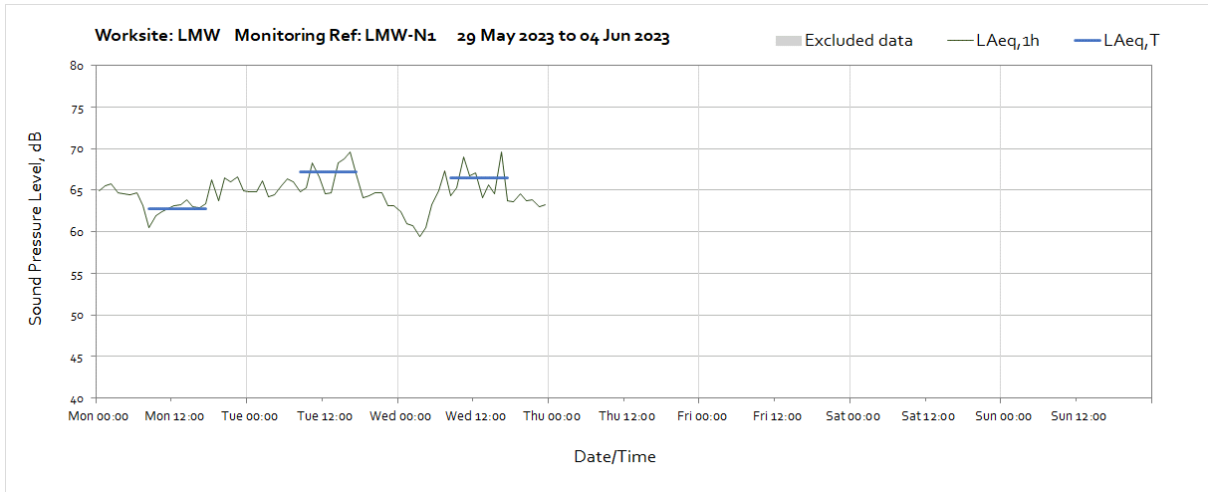




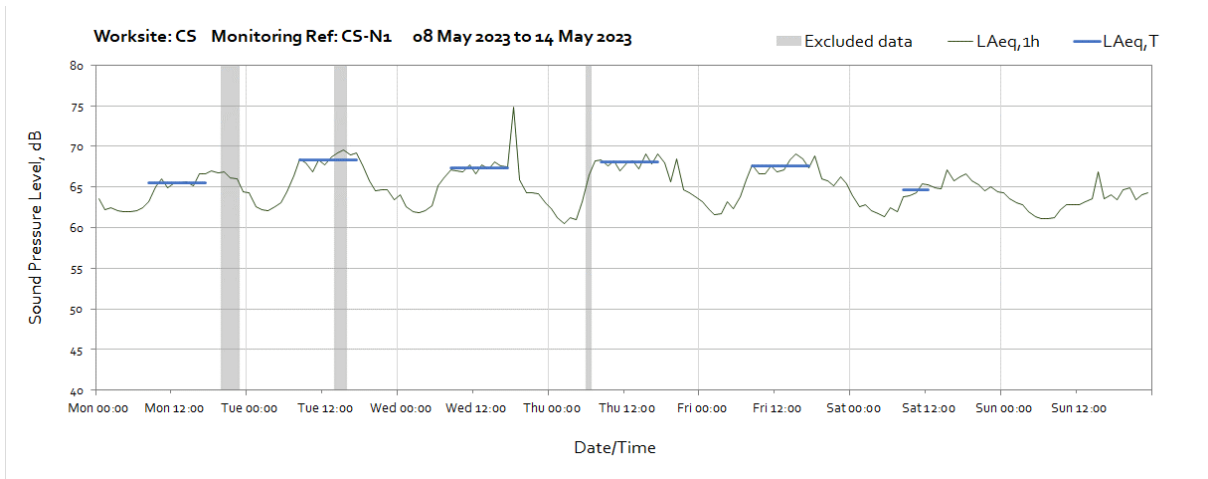
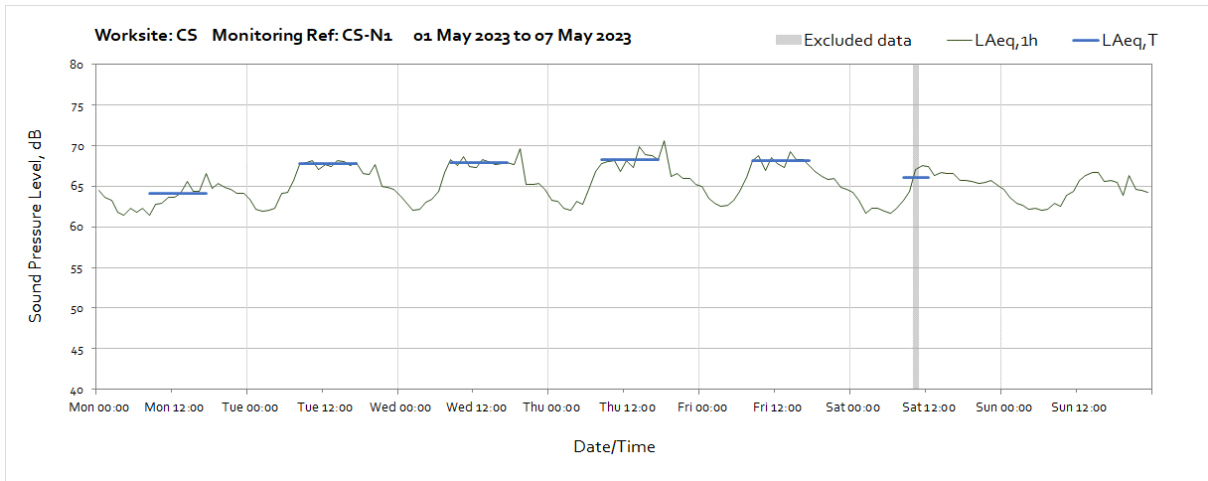
Worksite: LMW - Monitoring Ref: LMW-N1

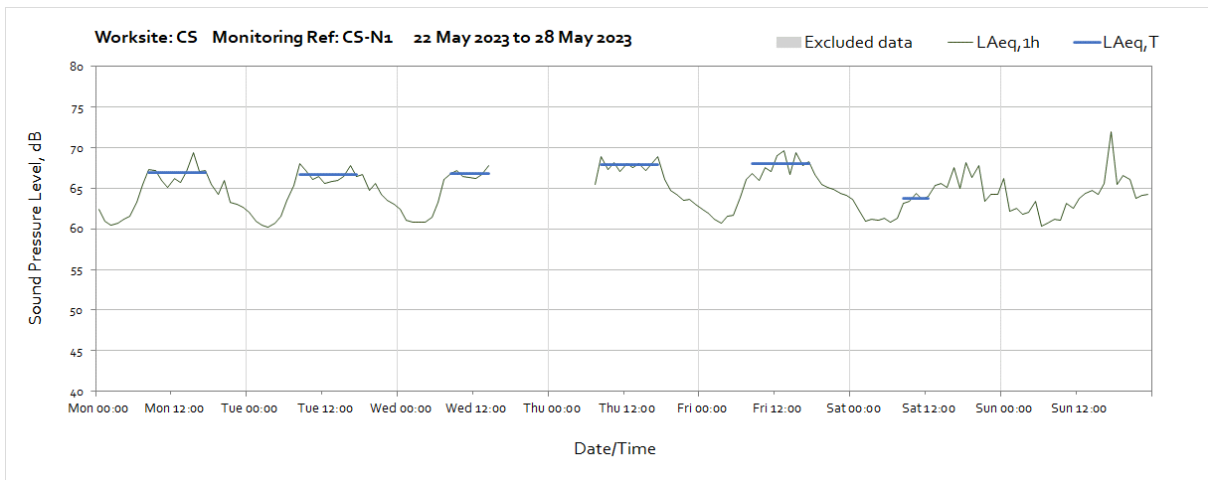
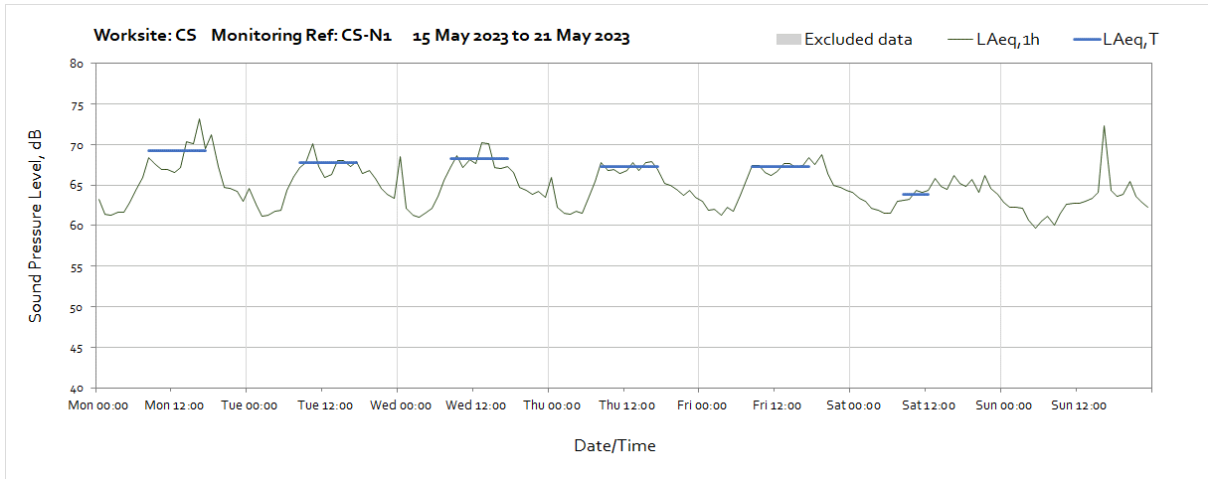




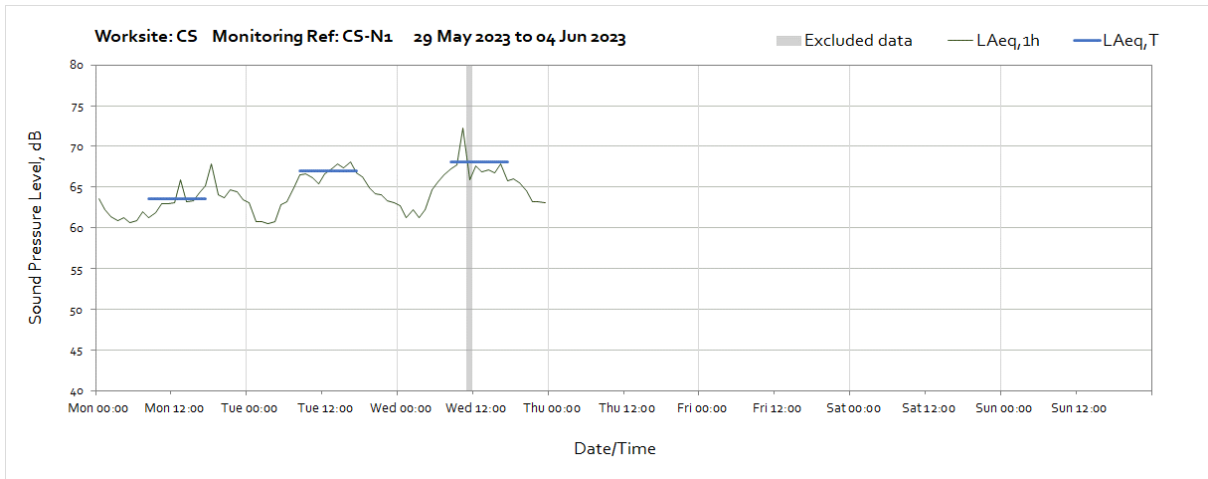


Worksite: CS – Monitoring Ref: CS-N1





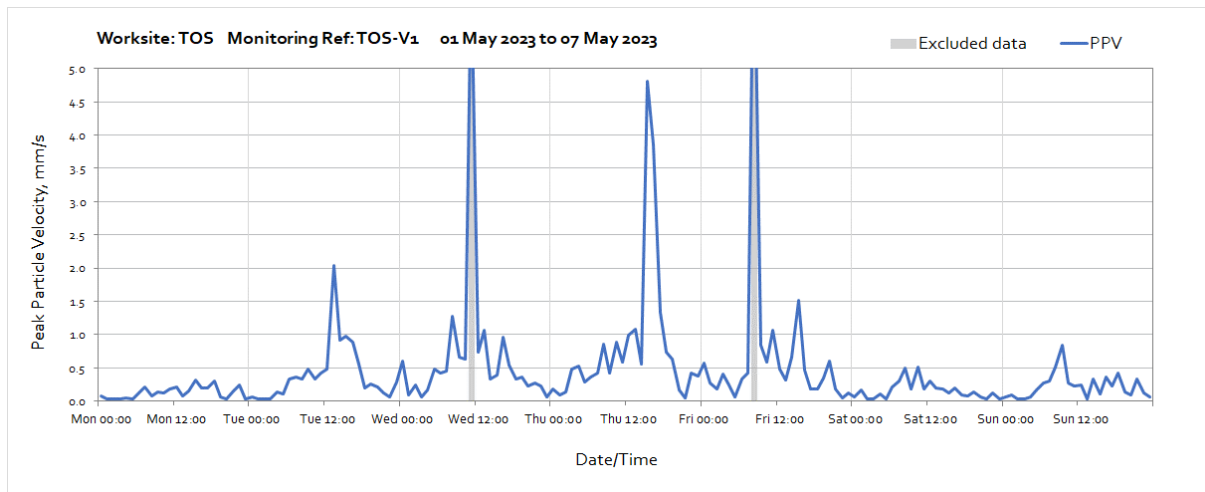
Note: Missing data between 15:00 on Wednesday 24th and 06:00 on Thursday 25th May was due to monitor connectivity issues.



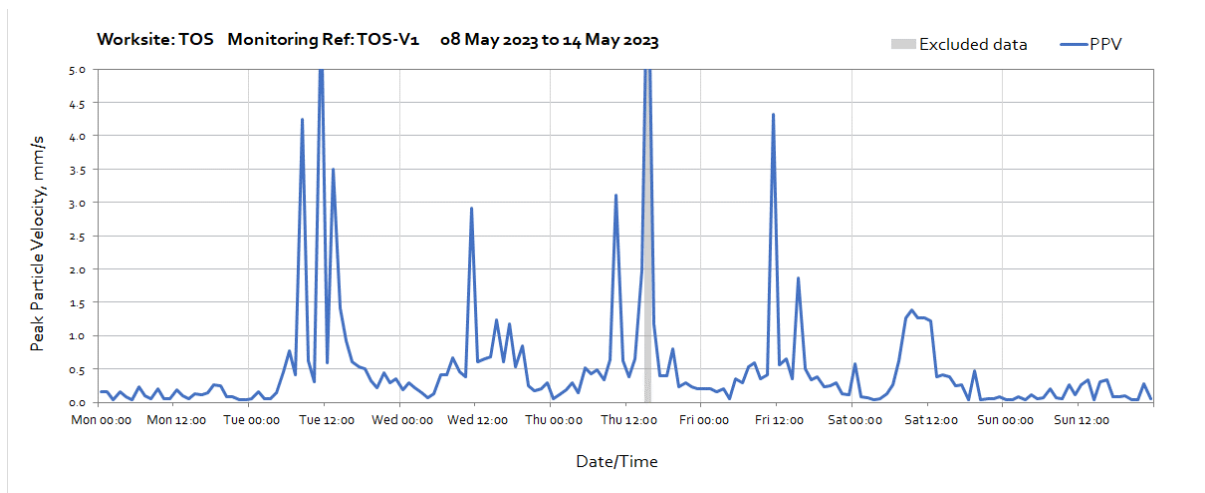
Vibration

The following graphs show the hourly measured peak particle velocity PPV recorded during the monitoring period. The graphs show the resultant PPV due to vibration components on 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.

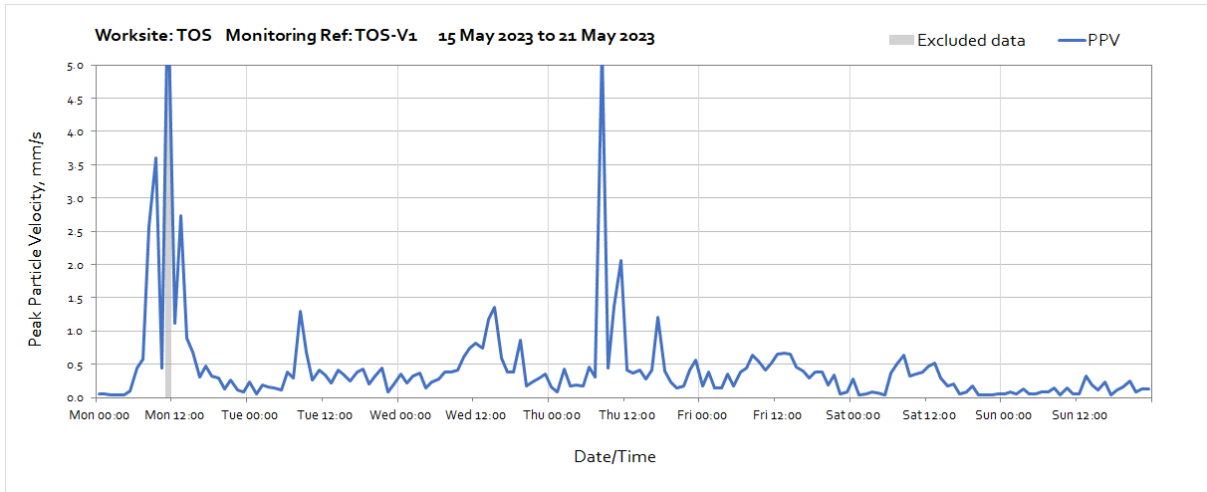
Worksite: TOS – Monitoring Ref: TOS-V1



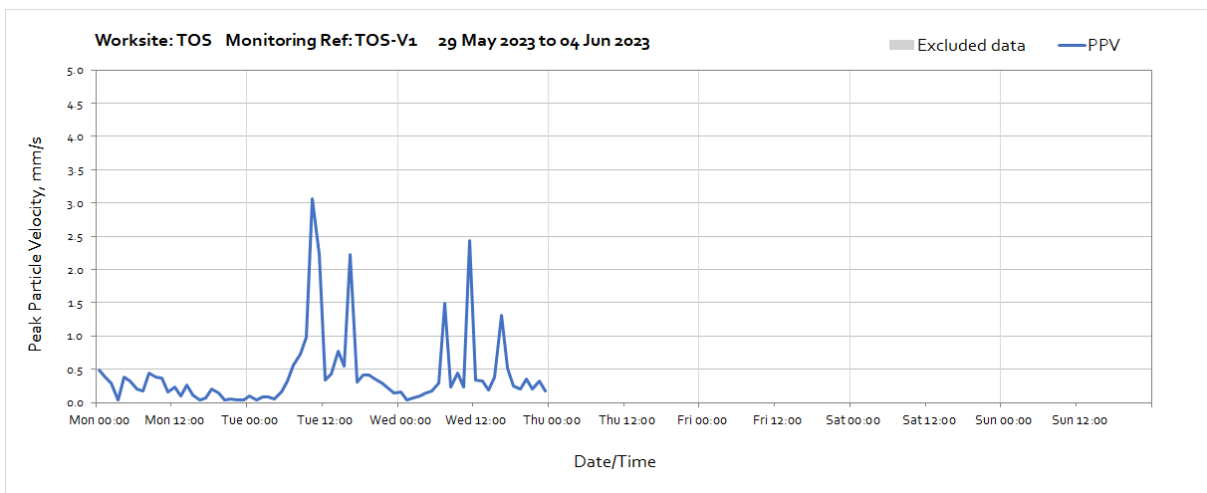
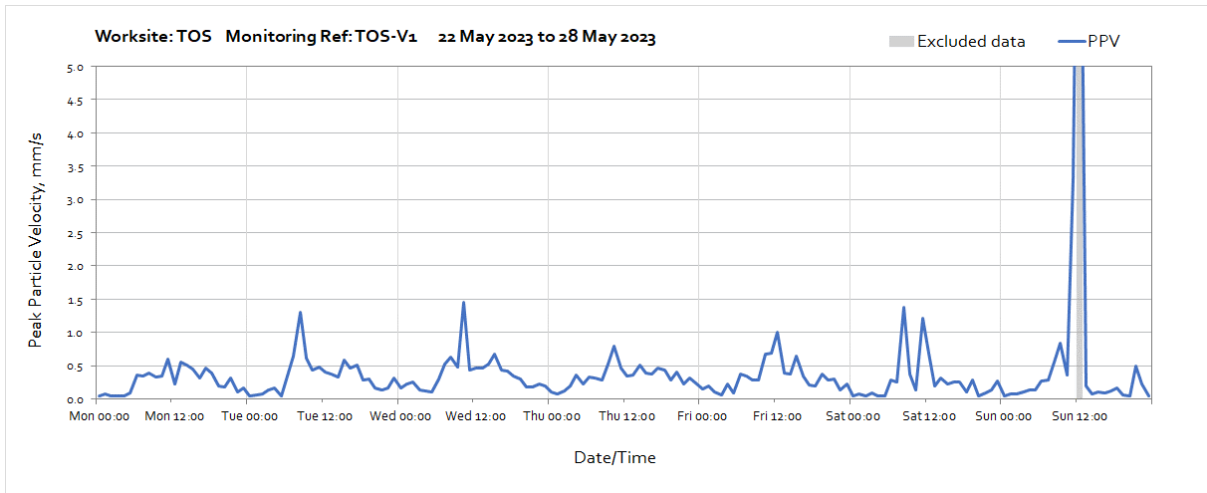
Note: High vibration levels measured throughout the week were due to excavation works, heavy plant movement and deliveries taking place close to the monitoring station.



Note: High vibration levels measured throughout the week were due to heavy plant movement, access road works and deliveries on haul road close to the monitoring station.

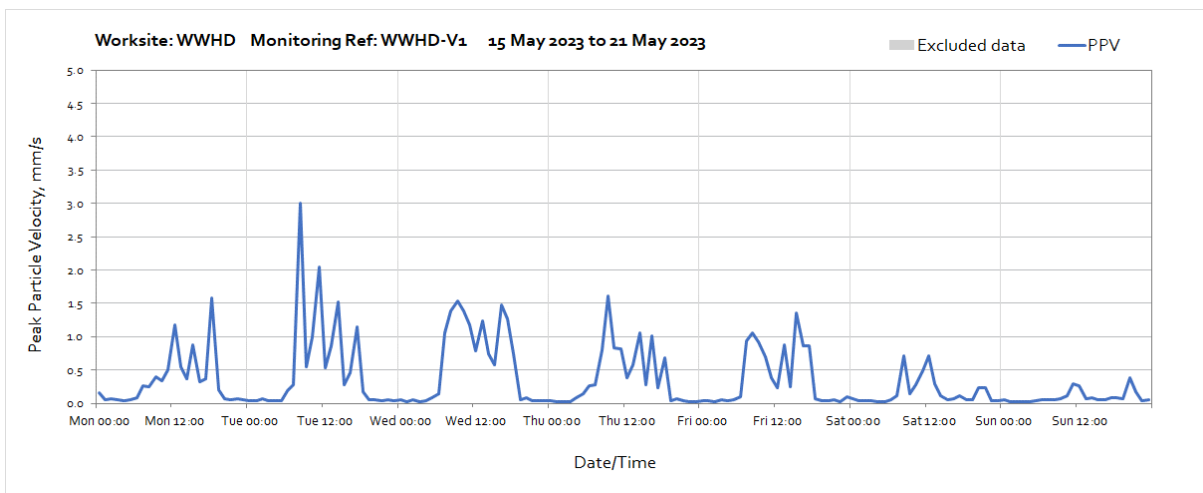
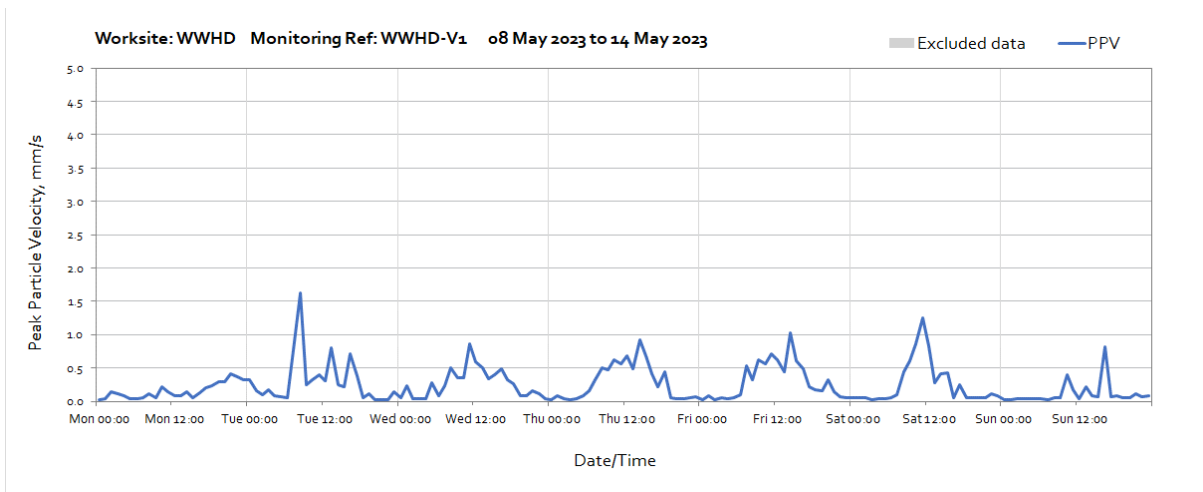
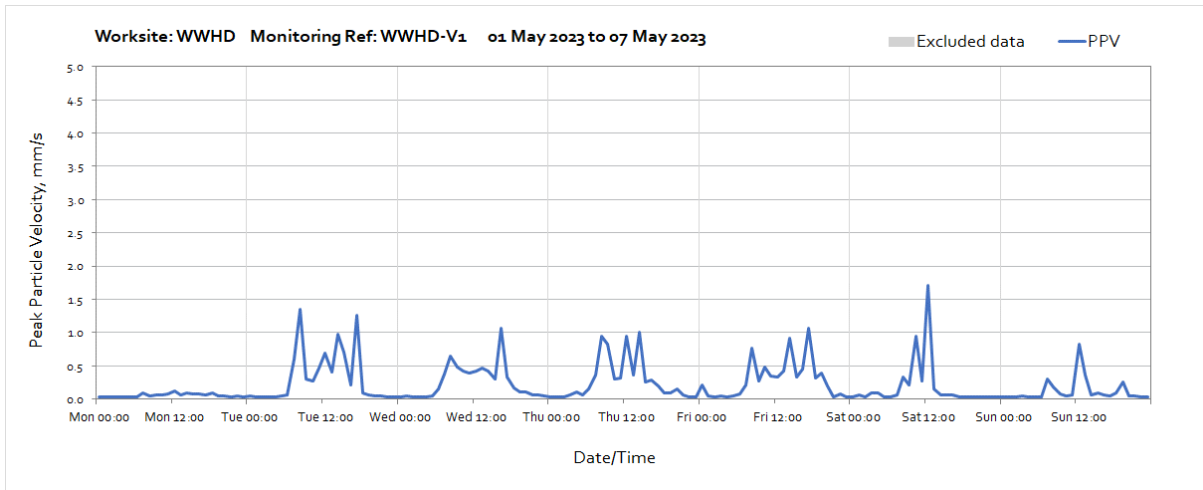


Note: High vibration levels measured throughout the week were due to access road works and concrete pouring taking place close to the monitoring station.

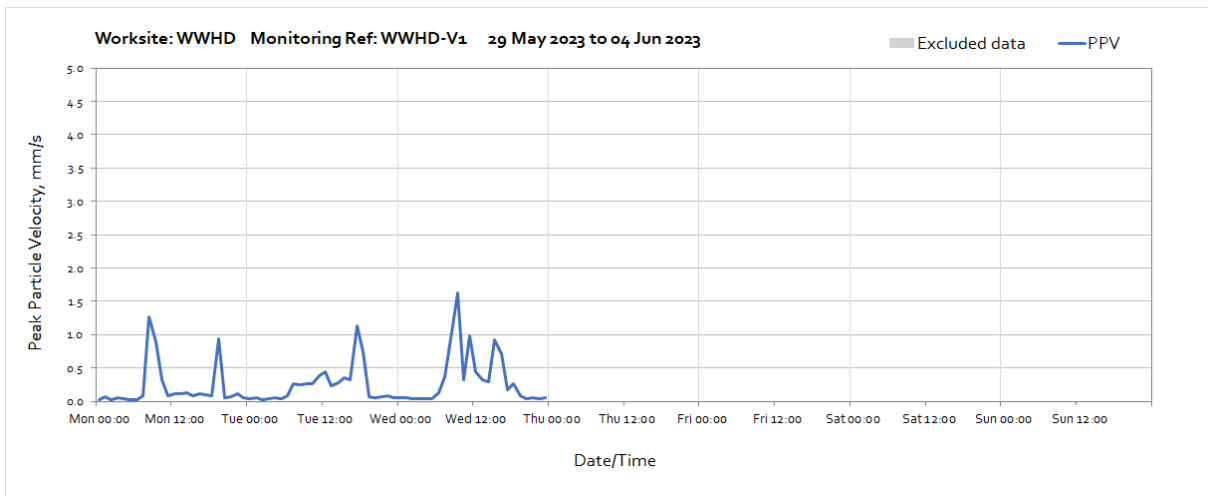
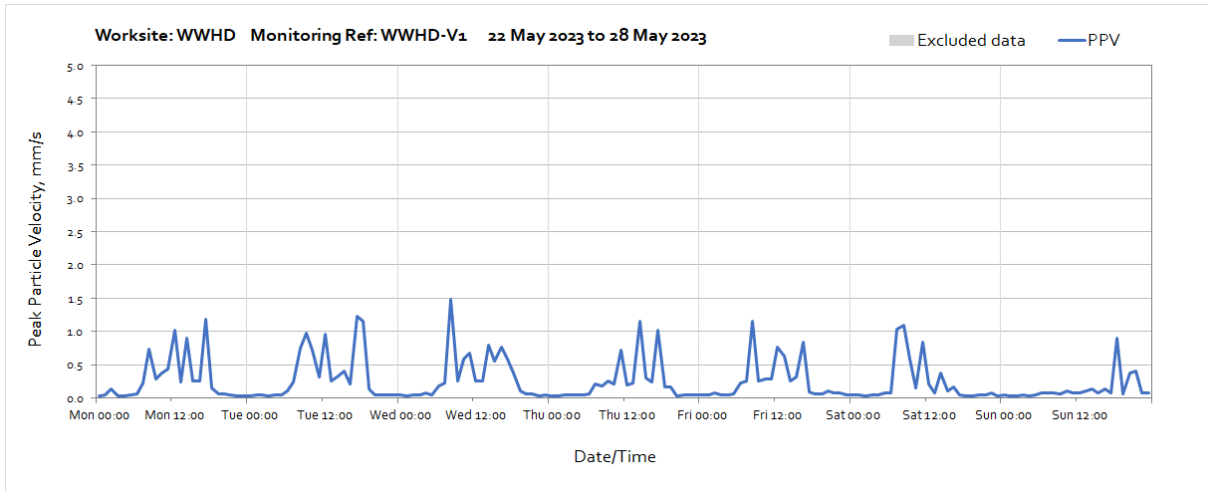


Note: High vibration levels measured throughout the week were due to slab instalation works, including drilling taking place close to the monitoring station.

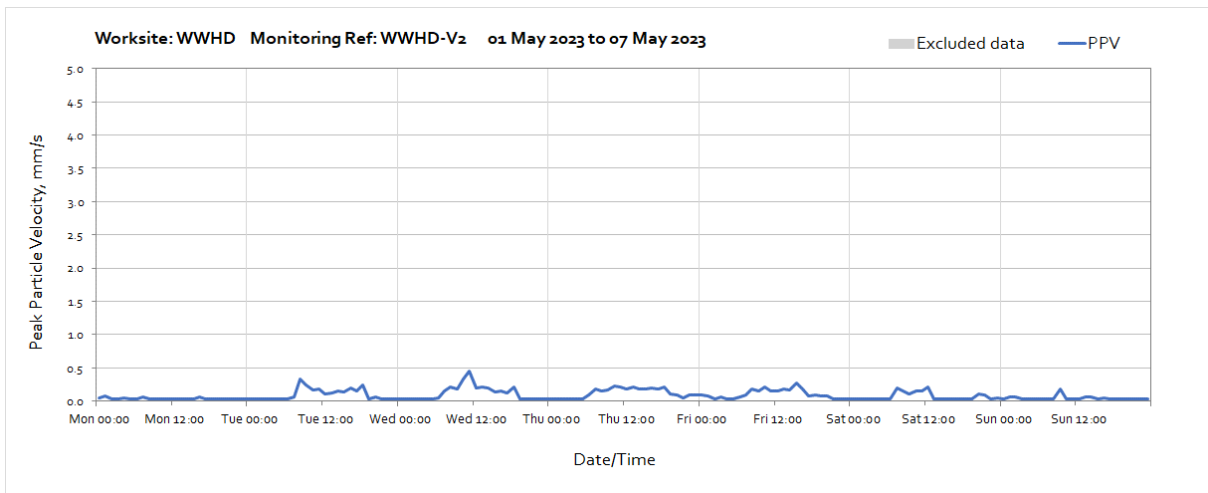
Worksite: WWHD – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-V1

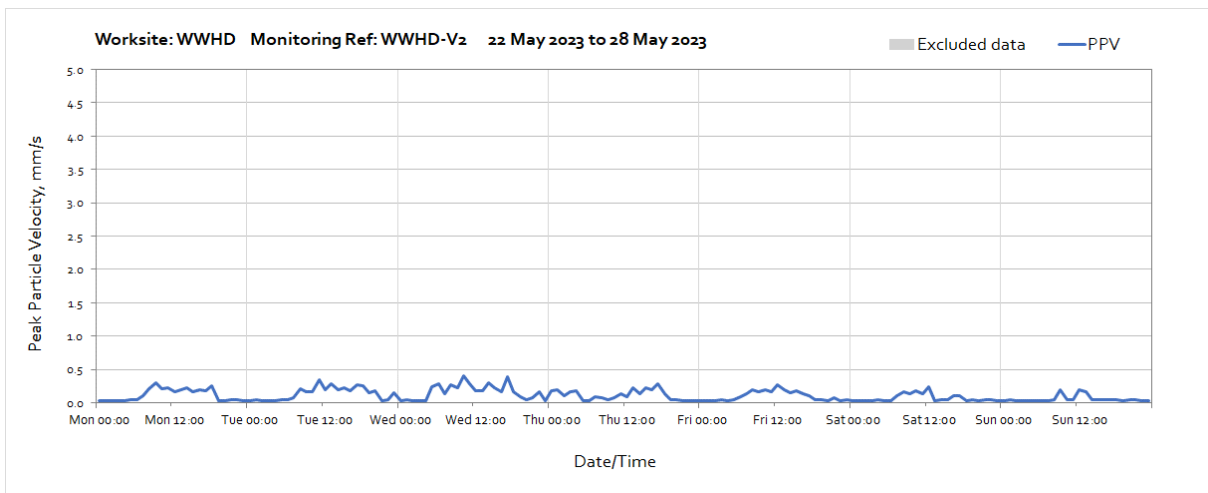
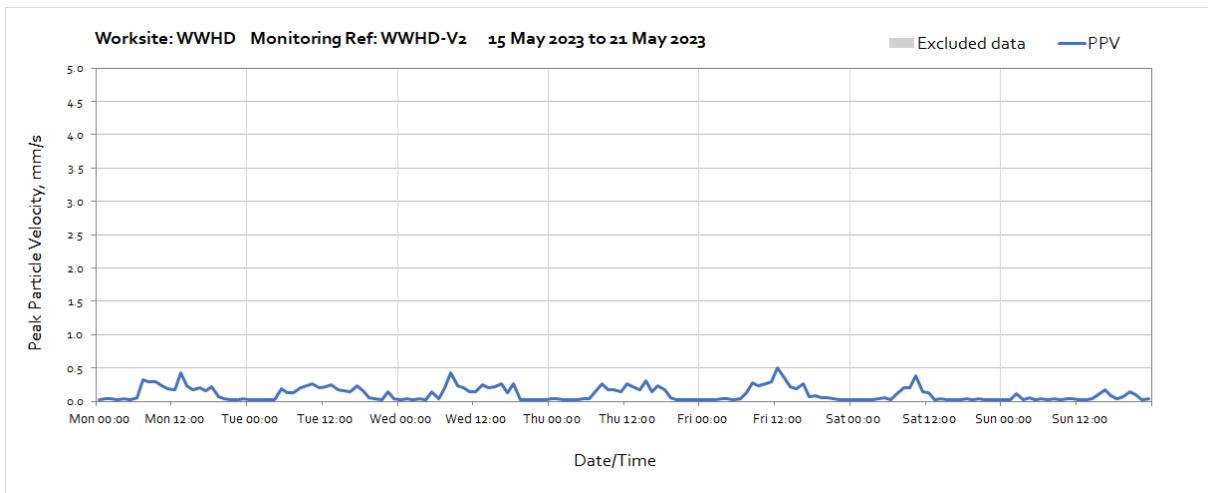
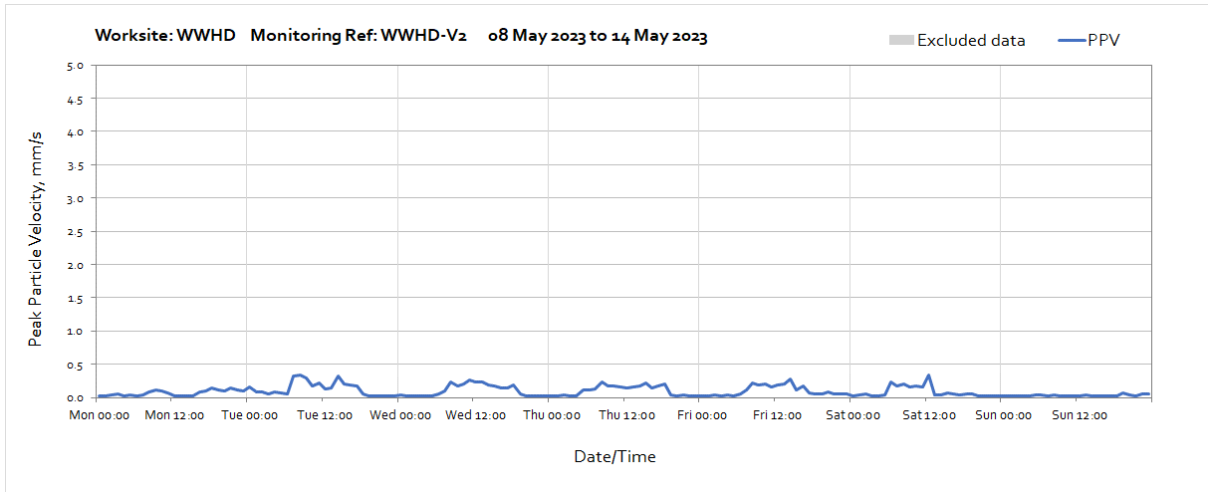


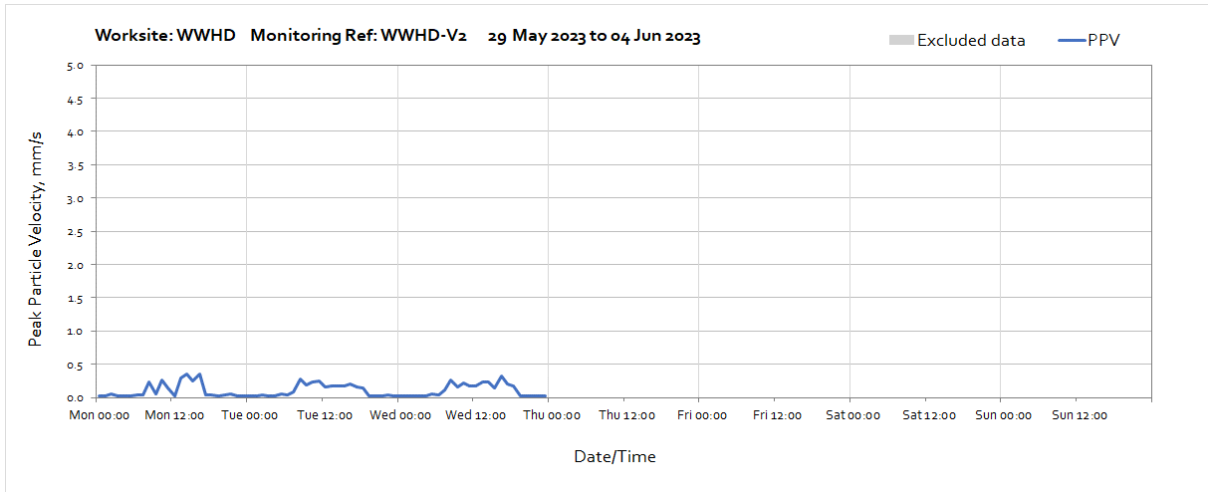
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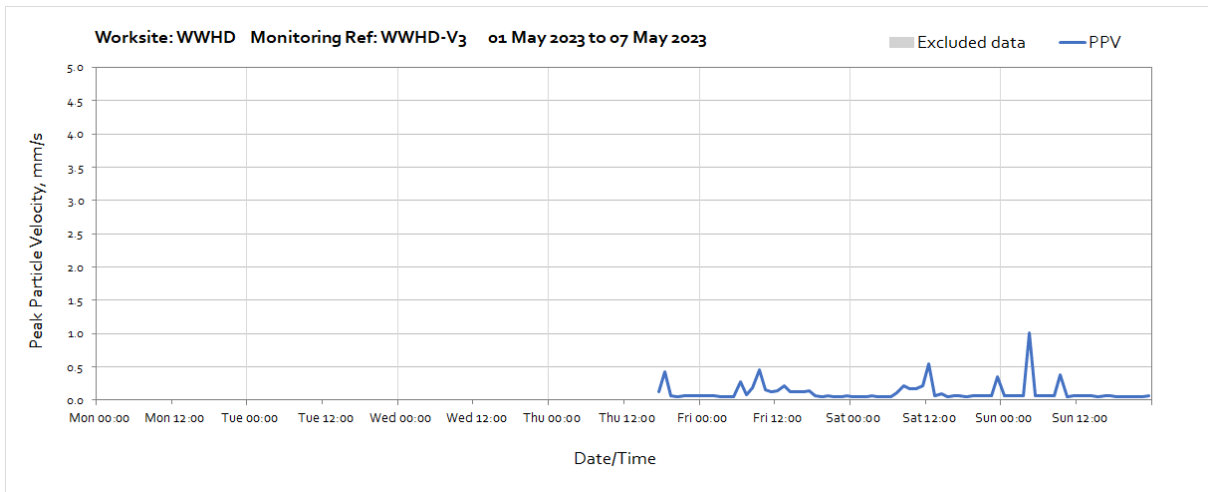
Worksite: WWHD – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-V2



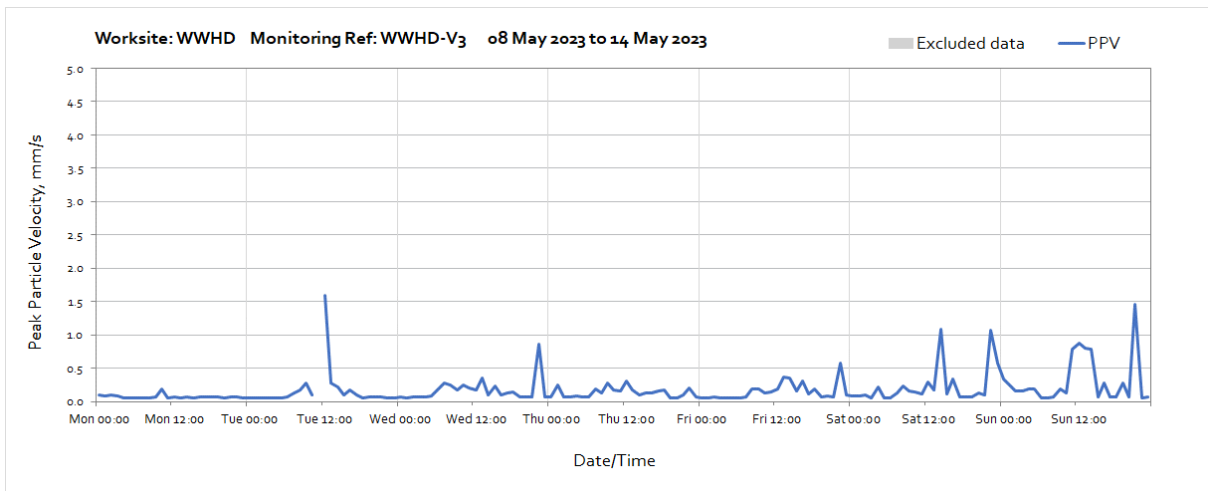




Worksite: WWHD – Monitoring Ref: WWHD-V3



Note: Missing data between 00:00 on Monday 1st May and 16:00 on Thursday 4th May was due to loss of battery power to the monitor.



Note: Missing data between 11:00 and 12:00 on Tuesday 9th May was due to monitor being restarted in order to convert power source to solar.

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