

POST EVENT REPORT

BROCKWELL PARK EVENTS 3RD, 4TH & 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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R00

17TH NOVEMBER 2021

VANGUARDIA
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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. MUSIC NOISE LEVELS	5
3. MNL MANAGEMENT DURING THE EVENTS	7
4. ACTIONS	9
5. CONCLUSIONS	11

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Vanguardia Ltd were commissioned to support Event Lambeth by providing technical support in relation to noise associated with the three consecutive concerts events in Brockwell Park, SW2 on the 3rd, 4th and 5th September 2021.
- 1.2. This report provides details of the actions taken in relation to noise management over the three days of events.

2. MUSIC NOISE LEVELS

2.1. The events in Brockwell Park are subject to noise Music Noise Limits (MNLs) as prescribed in the LB Lambeth Events Policy, with the same adopted in the Noise Management Plan approved under the Premises Licence conditions¹, of:

- 75 dBA Leq, 15 min - to control overall sound,
- And;
- 90 dBC Leq, 15 min - to provide a further cap on how loud low frequency “bass” noise could be.

2.2. The above MNLs apply outside any noise sensitive premises under “free-field”² conditions.

2.3. The NMP for the events approved under the premises licence included several fixed monitoring locations where noise levels would be monitored during each event by the event organisers acoustic consultants. These locations are where noise levels were anticipated to be highest based on previous experience of events in the park and noise modelling of the specific events and are considered generally representative of broader impacts in the communities around the park. These locations are listed in the table below.

TABLE 1: NOISE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS IDENTIFIED IN THE NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Location	MNL limit LAeq, 15 min dB	MNL limit LCeq, 15 min dB
MP1 – Parkview Towers	75	90
MP2 – Norwood Rd/Rosedale Rd	75	90
MP3 – Brockwell Park Gardens	75	90
MP4 – Dulwich Rd	75	90

2.4. In addition, sample measurements were taken at complainants’ homes if they wished or in the vicinity of their property if no visit was requested.

2.5. The above MNLs apply at all sensitive locations e.g. residential properties, at any distance around the Park. Consequently, the nearest residential locations become the Critical Control

¹ Similar limits apply at several other parks in London e.g. Victoria Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Hyde Park and Beckenham Place Park

² “Free-field”, in acoustics, is a situation or space in which sound is assessed with no or only minimal sound reflections from the vertical plane e.g. building facades, boundary wall or fences.

Points (CCPs) i.e. the levels at locations further from the event are always lower than those at the CCPs nearest to the event.

- 2.6. Even under the minority of weather and atmospheric conditions that can mean those parts of the sound wave that would normally not be heard at ground level can be refracted so that they are bent back down to the ground, the reduction in level over distance due to geometric spreading still occurs. Consequently, controlling levels at noise sensitive CCPs nearest to the event so they are below the licence requirements also means the levels comply with the licence requirements further from the event where increased distance means the levels are lower than at positions closer to the event.
- 2.7. However, during the events it became clear that whilst the locations in the table above were broadly representative of noise impacts in those areas, the worst affected locations were directly on axis i.e.in-line with, the main stage PA. The highest music noise level off site occurred at the Brockwell Gate Estate adjacent to the western boundary of the park, off Tulse Hill. The properties here on Brockwell Park Row overlooking the park were subject to the highest MNLs.

3. MNL MANAGEMENT DURING THE EVENTS

- 3.1. Vanguardia staff liaised with the officers monitoring the event on behalf of LB Lambeth and with the personnel from Electric Star who were monitoring and managing the MNLs on behalf of the event promoter. All three parties shared data and information to facilitate continual and comprehensive assessment of noise levels and rapid adjustment if necessary to avoid breach of the Licence requirements.
- 3.2. Consequently, no breach of the licence requirements occurred.
- 3.3. The receptors in table 1 above and Brockwell Park Row are closest to the park at distances between around 125 metres to 300 metres from the main stage and approximately 0 to 270 degrees axis i.e. directly in line with the main PA to 90 degree to the side of the PA. At such distances wind direction and strength has little impact on the noise levels at these receptors. These locations are therefore CCPs that would have received the highest noise levels for these events, with locations further away receiving lower music noise levels, albeit influenced by wind strength and direction.
- 3.4. The Easterly to North-easterly winds on each day of the event were a significant factor influencing the noise complaints from locations more than around 500 metres from the park, as these locations will have either heard low levels of music noise or slightly more music noise compared to similar events in previous years when the wind was from the more usual prevailing southerly to south westerly direction.
- 3.5. The MNLs at the CCPs and further away compared to previous years appeared to be correlated with an increase and concentration in complaints from residents in these areas. Although MNLs were within the licence limits at all the CCPs and at complainant's properties when visited, double figure numbers of complaints were received from locations adjacent to the park and to the west and northwest broadly in line and on axis with the main stage PA during each event.
- 3.6. However, it is well established that non-acoustic factors have a significant, if not a controlling effect on the response to noise, and many events across the UK this year are reporting that the covid-19 pandemic has had an effect in increasing sensitivity to noise in a proportion of the population, and therefore more complaints than normal have been received although established noise limits have not been exceeded.
- 3.7. The noise management team for the event organiser consisted of only two staff. There were 6 arenas on site and Vanguardia staff had to take on board at least 50% of the complaint investigations as well as audit the noise management on site. Furthermore, unlike similar

events on Clapham Common, there was no permanent continual noise monitoring at the NMP off site that was wirelessly linked back to a dedicated control point on site.

- 3.8. Similarly, although noise monitoring was provided at the mixing desk for each arena this was not remotely accessible from a dedicated control point on site. This meant that the organisers noise management team were at times overloaded with complaint investigation and having to try and manage multiple noise sources on site.
- 3.9. It was fortunate that most sound engineers were compliant with noise management requests and effectively self-regulated the levels, but it would have been easy for levels to have got out of control and taken longer than necessary to get them back in check.
- 3.10. Consequently, it is recommended for future events that continual noise monitoring at the NMPs off site wirelessly linked back to a dedicated control point on site is provided. Similarly, the noise monitoring at the mixing desk for each arena should be remotely accessible from the dedicated control point on site.

4. ACTIONS

- 4.1. The table below notes, observations and actions by Vanguardia staff during the events. All noise levels are 15 minute measurements unless otherwise stated.

TABLE 2: NOTES, OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIONS BY VANGUARDIA STAFF DURING THE EVENTS

Friday 3rd September 2021
03/09/2021, 12:39 - The levels at all monitoring points in the NMP around the perimeter of the park are within the limits. Those further away are more so. At Trinity Rise junction with Brockwell Park Gardens when main stage was active levels were 59 dBA (limit 75) and 72 dBC (limit 90).
03/09/2021, 13:12 - Herbert Mews 60 dBA and 82 dBC.
03/09/2021, 13:22 - Helix Road 60 dBA and 82 dBC
03/09/2021, 13:35 - At Herbert Close to West of site opening Idles track was 91 dBC, 5 min and 70 dBA, 5 min.
03/09/2021, 13:40 - Levels have dropped slightly and are heading to below 90 dBC.
03/09/2021, 13:41 - Now below 90 dBC, 1 min.
03/09/2021, 13:45 - 1st 15 mins of The Idles was 89 dBC 1 min (limit 90) and 70 dBA 1 min (limit 75)
03/09/2021, 15:24 - At Helix Gdns getting 49 dBA and 63 dBC.
03/09/2021, 16:30 - From 1615 the 15 min levels at the rear Trinity Gdns facing the site were 57 dBA (limit 75) and 73 dBC (limit 90).
03/09/2021, 16:59 - No event noise audible at Strathleven Road.
03/09/2021, 18:17 - In courtyard At Blenheim studios, Stewarts Town place SW2 at 1818 hrs got 51 dBA and 65 dBC. Faint music and crowd noise just audible.
03/09/2021, 18:28 - At Holmewood gdns 48 dBA and 59 dBC.
03/09/2021, 18:44 - At Endymion Road 64 dBA and 74 dBC. Music and crowd noise audible.
03/09/2021, 20:33 - At Barnwell Rd getting 52 dBA and 62 dBC.
03/09/2021, 20:59 - At Brockwell Park Gdns 59 dBA and 77 dBC.
03/09/2021, 21:35 - At junction of Herbert mews and Brockwell Park Row on western perimeter of park measured 87 dBC and 71 dBA.
03/09/2021, 21:39 - Has dropped to 86 dBC and 69 dBA.
03/09/2021, 21:41 - Now 86 dBC and 67 dBA. Mainly main stage but stage 2 also adding a decibel or 2.
03/09/2021, 22:18 - At top of Brockwell Park Gdns levels are 63 dBA and 77 dBC.
Saturday 4th September 2021
04/09/2021, 13:58 - At junction of Bascombe St and Brockwell Park Row on perimeter of Park (near Leigh Ct, but louder) with 1st act on main stage got 59 dBA and 76 dBC.
04/09/2021, 14:45 - At Brockwell Park Row junction with Bascombe Street (on perimeter of Park on axis to main stage) getting 78 dBC and 64 dBA. A decibel or two is crowd noise. Subjectively significantly less noisy than yesterday.
04/09/2021, 18:39 - Brockwell Park gdns 56 dBA and 72 dBC 5 min. No main stage and some local noise included as well as festival.
04/09/2021, 18:48 - Brockwell Park Gdns with main stage on getting 79 dBC and 62 dBA 5 min.
04/09/2021, 19:03 - At junction of Bascombe Street and Brockwell Park Rd (Leigh Ct is behind and further from the event). Getting 65 dBA and 84 dBC 5 min.
04/09/2021, 19:09 - At junction of Bascombe Street and Brockwell Park Rd main stage and other arenas giving 82 dBC and 65 dBA 5 min.
04/09/2021, 20:13 - At Helix Gardens getting 71 dBC and 61 dBA. Includes some traffic noise.
04/09/2021, 20:39 - Dani Fiumicelli: At Roupel Park Estate (Fairview Place, near Telford Hse). Faint music noise and muffled vocal intermittently audible. Getting 57 dBA and 69 dBC 5 min.
04/09/2021, 21:06 - Dani Fiumicelli: Endymion Rd 68 dBC and 54 dBA 5 min.
04/09/2021, 21:23 - At Hydethorpe Road V. faint and muffled music barely audible. Estimated as being below ambient. Can't take a measurement as residents and their guests are socialising on front door step
04/09/2021, 21:54 - 87 dBC and 66 dBA 5 min at.
04/09/2021, 22:06 - At junction of Bascombe Street and Brockwell Park Row, 85 dBC and 67 dBA 1 min.
04/09/2021, 22:10 - At junction of Bascombe Street and Brockwell Park Row 84 dBC and 66 dBA 5 min.
04/09/2021, 22:17 - At junction of Bascombe Street and Brockwell Park Row Currently at 84 dBC and 65 dBA 5 min
Sunday 5th September 2021
05/09/2021, 19:00 - At Fairmount Rd got 65 dBC and 55 dBA with main stage on. When main stage went quiet got 62 dBC and 53 dBA SPL slow.
05/09/2021, 20:13 - At Brockwell Park Row junction with Bascombe St during "good times" by Sister Sledge got 82 dBC and 65 dBA. Small contribution from stage 2, mainly main stage.

05/09/2021, 20:44 - At Helix Gdns getting 64 dBC and 51 dBA. Music faintly audible and a general murmur no rhythm or beat detectable. Levels also include contributions from pedestrians, local traffic including uber drop offs and take away deliveries.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1. Music noise levels were controlled in relation to the requirements of the Noise Management Plan approved under the premises licence, which in turn reflects LB Lambeth's adopted events noise policy.
- 5.2. Sample measurements were made during each event at four critical control point locations representative of noise sensitive receptors around the common highlighted in the noise management plan for the events. An additional location not included in the noise management plan was identified early in the first event as the worst affected.
- 5.3. Supplementary measurements were made at or in the vicinity of complainant's properties.
- 5.4. No breaches of the licence requirements were established.
- 5.5. Complaint numbers reached double figures each day.
- 5.6. Complaint numbers were higher than in previous years. This appears to be due to factors including the following:
 - Wind conditions leading to higher MNLs to the west of the site compared to previous years.
 - The Covid pandemic leading to increased sensitivity in a proportion of the population
- 5.7. It is recommended that for future events of this nature that continual noise monitoring at the critical control points off site, wirelessly linked back to a dedicated control point on site is provided. Similarly, the noise monitoring at each arenas mixing desk should be remotely accessible from the dedicated control point on site.

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