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**VANGUARDIA**

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A BURO HAPPOLD COMPANY

# **Brockwell Live 2025**

**Brockwell Park**

## **Noise Audit Report**

**0065613-VAN-PCR-YA-0001**

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Report Disclaimer

This Report was prepared by Vanguardia Limited ("VL") for the sole benefit, use and information of Lambeth Events for the confirmation of audit of the noise monitoring and management of Brockwell Live 2025 events by independent acoustic consultants appointed by the event organiser. VL assumes no liability or responsibility for any reliance placed on this Report by any third party for any actions taken by any third party in reliance of the information contained herein. VL's responsibility regarding the contents of the Report shall be limited to the purpose for which the Report was produced and shall be subject to the express contract terms with Lambeth Events. The Report shall not be construed as investment or financial advice. The findings of this Report are based on the available information as set out in this Report.

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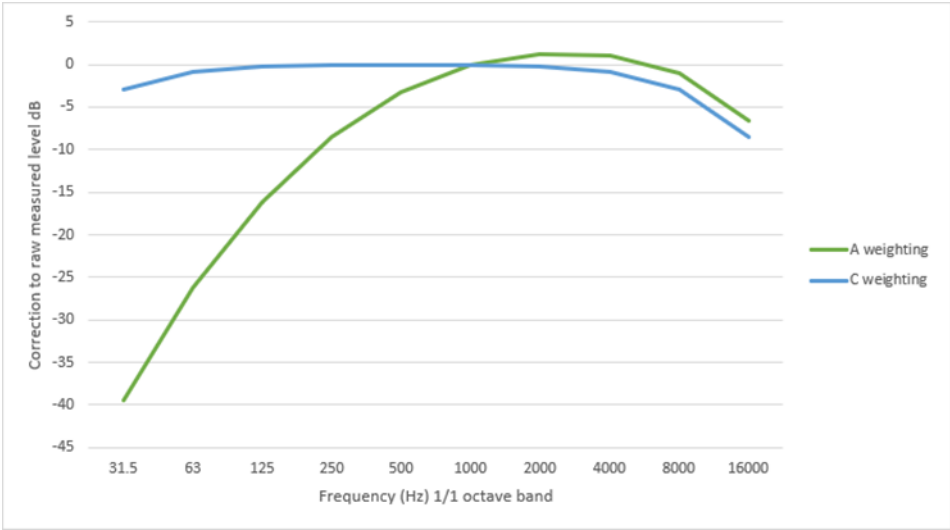
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4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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Glossary

Term	Definition
A-weighting	<p>The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies of sound. It is relatively much less sensitive to very low frequencies such as 'mains hum', and to very high frequencies such as the call of a bat, than to the 'mid-frequencies' important for human voice communication. To make sound level meters, which would otherwise be indiscriminate in registering sound pressures, respond in a way which reflects human perception of sound, they usually are fitted with a set of filters which progressively filter out the high and low frequency energy to varying degrees. The filters are made to an internationally standardised specification, and the most commonly used filtered noise level for environmental sound is said to be 'A-weighted'. Sometimes A-weighted decibel levels are denoted 'dB(A)', but the correct, internationally standardised format for reporting requires the 'A' to be appended to the noise descriptor, e.g. <math>L_{Aeq,T}</math>, <math>L_{Amax}</math>, etc.</p>
C-weighting	<p>Similarly to A-weighting, there are other weightings that apply different filters to the measured sound known as B, C and D weighting. The C-weighting measures almost uniformly over the frequency range of 30 to 10,000 Hz. Consequently, it can be more sensitive to impacts of sounds with substantial low frequency content e.g. sub-bass and bass for some music genres, than the A-weighted decibel. The figure below shows the differences between A and C weightings.</p> 
Decibels	<p>Noise conventionally is measured in decibels (dB). The decibel is a logarithmic unit and decibel levels do not add and subtract arithmetically. An increase or decrease of 3 dB in the level of a steady noise is about the smallest that is noticeable. It represents a doubling or halving of noise energy. An increase or decrease of 10 dB represents a ten-fold change in noise energy, and is perceived as a doubling or halving of loudness.</p>
$L_{Aeq}$	<p>The 'equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level' is an average of the fluctuating sound energy in a space. It is the value of the A-weighted sound pressure level of a continuous, steady sound that, over the specified time period <math>T</math>, has the same overall noise energy as the varying sound.</p>
$L_{ceq}$	<p>As for A-weighting above but using the C-weighting filter which is more sensitive to low frequency content of the sounds being measured.</p>
Music Noise Level (MNL)	<p>The <math>L_{Aeq,t}</math> or <math>L_{Ceq,t}</math> of the music noise measured over 15 minutes at a particular location without interference from extraneous ambient noise.</p>

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Preface

Vanguardia Ltd was commissioned to support Lambeth Events by providing technical advice in relation to noise associated with the seven Brockwell Live music events in Brockwell Park, SW2 between the 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Vanguardia's main role was to audit the noise monitoring and management systems and processes used by the Independent Acoustic Consultancy appointed by the event organiser<sup>1</sup>, to determine if they were suitable to ensure the London Borough of Lambeth event noise policy and the premises licence requirements were not breached.

Vanguardia also undertook sample noise monitoring independent of the organiser's consultants as a cross-check to ensure data being reported was reliable.

Lambeth Events

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<sup>1</sup> A requirement of the premises licence and a typically arrangement for virtually every outdoor music festival in the UK.

## 2 Music Noise Level (MNL) Limits

The events in Brockwell Park are subject to noise music noise limits as prescribed in the LB Lambeth Event Policy, with the same MNLs adopted in the Noise Management Plan for the Brockwell live events required by the Premises Licence<sup>2</sup>, 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 can be.

The above MNLs apply outside any noise sensitive premises under “free-field”<sup>3</sup> conditions.

When monitoring for compliance with the above requirements typically several consecutive 1 minute measurements or a 5 minute measurement is made to allow any adjustments in MNL to be requested should these data indicate a risk that the measurement over a 15 minute period might exceed the limits.

The NMP for the events required by the premises licence included several fixed monitoring locations where noise levels would be monitored during each event by the acoustic consultants appointed by the event organisers (Electric Star). 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 representative of impacts in the communities around the park. These locations are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Noise monitoring locations identified in the noise management plan

Location	MNL limit LAeq,15 min dB	MNL limit LCeq,15 min dB
MP1 – Meath Estate	75	90
MP2 – Rosedale Rd/Norwood Rd	75	90
MP3 – Brockwell Park Gardens	75	90
MP4 – Lido/Dulwich Rd	75	90
MP5 – Brockwell Park Row	75	90
MP6 – Brailsford Road	75	90

Note: the above list has been amended year on year to best reflect stage locations and orientations etc.

Consequently, as the above are residential locations are near to the park they are likely to receive the highest MNLs from events in the park, they therefore become Critical Control Points (CCPs), because the levels at locations further

<sup>2</sup> Similar limits apply at several other parks in London e.g. Victoria Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Hyde Park, Gunnersbury Park and Beckenham Place Park.

<sup>3</sup> “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 or boundary walls or fences.

from the event are normally lower than those at CCPs near to the event. Consequently, managing and monitoring sound from the events in regard to the permitted MNL limit at the CCPs ensures levels elsewhere will normally be lower.

Wind Speed and direction can influence the propagation of sound from outdoor music events.

Refraction of the sound wave can be caused by wind closer to the ground moving slower because of all the obstacles on the surface, such as buildings, trees and hills etc. than wind at higher altitudes. The difference in velocity can create a wind gradient with a rapid change in wind speed over a small difference in altitude, causing a sound signal travelling downwind from a source to bend towards the ground, while the sound wave traveling upwind will bend upwards. Consequently, under these conditions compared to neutral wind conditions, a person downwind of a sound source can hear more sound, while a person standing upwind will hear less sound. The effect is not symmetrical with the upwind suppression of noise propagation being greater than any downwind increase.

In addition, under a minority of weather and atmospheric conditions e.g. an "inversion", as altitude increases the air temperature is warmer compared to at ground level and then rapidly cools as altitude gets higher. This produces a "trapped" layer of warm air that can cause parts of the sound waves emitted from an outdoor event that would normally not be heard at ground level to be bent back down to ground level. The radius of this curvature of the sound wave is normally at least a kilometre or so. This can mean people at a distance from an event who hear nothing or very little when there is no inversion condition, hear something or hear a little more when an inversion occurs.

Consequently, in urban and suburban areas controlling music noise levels at noise sensitive CCPs nearest to the event so they are below the licence requirements, also means the levels everywhere else normally comply with the licence requirements further from the event, even if weather and atmospheric conditions are having an effect on propagation, as the increased distance still means the levels are lower than at the CCPs closer to the event where the effects of weather on propagation are usually negligible to minor.

In between the large music festival type events a series of smaller community focussed events and activities took place. Vanguardia advised that the following noise limits should apply to these events:

*"As the midweek events are smaller in scale and scope they can successfully operate at reduced levels off site as fewer arenas will be used, the nature of much of the entertainment/activities means a lower audience/participant MNL is adequate, and attendance will be significantly less than for the large events. Consequently, we advise that the maximum Music Noise Levels (MNL) [off site] shall be no more than:*

*65 dB L(A)<sub>eq</sub> 15 minutes (free field) outside any noise sensitive premises.*

*And,*

*75 dB L(C)<sub>eq</sub> 15 minutes (free field) outside any noise sensitive premises.*

*In locations where the above levels are already exceeded e.g. by traffic noise, the noise from the event shall cause no more than a 3 decibel increase in the typical L<sub>Aeq</sub>,15 min or L<sub>Ceq</sub>,15 min (free field) outside any noise sensitive premises."*

The above levels are equivalent to a halving of loudness overall and a more than three times reduction in the loudness of low frequency "bass" sound compared to the large events.

## 3 Noise Audit

### 3.1 Monitoring

Regular spot measurements were carried out by the Vanguardia at the offsite monitoring locations in the NMP over the duration of each of the events.

All measurements were undertaken using Class 1 sound monitoring equipment subject to certificates of periodic verification traceable to International and British Standards.

The sound level meters used were field calibrated prior to and following the measurements using a Class 1 acoustic calibrator subject to certificates of periodic verification traceable to International and British Standards, with no significant drift in calibration being indicated.

Measurements were also taken at locations from where complaints were received.

All measurements showed that the noise limits for the events were complied with.

### 3.2 Complaints

Prior to the run of Brockwell Live events 20,857 leaflets were delivered to addresses around Brockwell Park. These detailed how residents could raise complaints via email or telephone.

Complaints from both routes were fed to a WhatsApp group including Brockwell Live and Lambeth Council events staff, as well as Electric Star (noise control staff for the events) and Vanguardia staff.

Past years have seen noise complaints spread geographically around the perimeter of the Park, often influenced by prevailing wind direction and stage orientation. The 2025 events were characterised by light winds generally from a westerly or south-westerly direction. It was noticeable this year no complaints were received from the Brockwell Gardens/Trinity Rise area to the south of the park, which often experience some of the highest music noise levels and from where past complaints have been received. This change is attributed to both above factors.

As in previous years, complaints were received from residents of the Carver Road, Ruskin Walk, Hollingbourne Road and Holmdene Avenue areas to the east of the park. Monitoring at these locations was undertaken on each day of the events and measured levels were substantially below the required limits.

The locations exposed to the highest noise levels were those closest to and downwind of the main event stages: these were properties in Norwood Road, Stradella Road and Croxted Road to the east of the park.

Occasional noise complaints were received from much further afield on the main event days, from locations to the south-east towards the South Circular, and to the east towards Dulwich Village. Responding to these complaints took more time and found limited audibility of noise from the event with measured levels well below the limits varying with the ebb and flow of the wind.

Complaints about noise from locations at some distance from urban parks where music events are held are to be expected. It is not unusual for music noise to be audible at 3 to 4 km or further from such events, albeit at low levels and with negligible to minor impacts.



Vanguardia staff were the first responders to complaints on almost all occasions, with occasional support provided by Electric Star off-site staff (who were focussed on monitoring compliance at the locations around the perimeter of the park where limits are set under the noise management plan to comply with the Premises Licence). Noise data were collected and a qualitative opinion formed, both of which were fed back via the WhatsApp group to the staff on site and the hotline staff. This allowed:

- A real time record of the response to be collected.
- The hotline staff to have immediate access to results if repeat complaints were made, or complaints arose from nearby areas.
- As necessary, assisting the Electric Star noise team to intervene to control noise at source via their on-site staff.

Vanguardia and Electric Star staff also attended two 'noise' meetings on site during each event day, also attended by Brockwell Live and Lambeth Council staff. These were opportunities to discuss:

- Numbers and distribution of complaints and responses to them.
- On-site noise level management.
- Curfew times, which are often discussed with off-site residents and inquisitive pedestrians.

Throughout all events communication was maintained with the Electric Star team, and appropriate opportunities to apply noise control measures discussed.

Most complainants received a visit within an hour, often less, with data collected outside but near to their property.

Face to face conversations took place where callers wanted this to happen. In other cases, these conversations took place on the phone. The information including the following was provided to residents:

- The fact that events were licensed and a brief summary of noise limits in the licence.
- The results of the monitoring and the fact that the event was complying with licence conditions (which in all cases it was).
- A reminder of the number of events and the licenced and voluntary (earlier) curfew times.

Whilst Vanguardia staff were offsite monitoring noise, there were multiple unsolicited positive conversations with passing interested residents. Vanguardia staff were not approached to say how bad the noise was, but how good the events were, and how supporting as individuals they were about the use of Brockwell Park in this way, especially for the Lambeth Country Show which was near universally commented upon positively, even by complainants.

As was evident during the events, the location of complaints was largely driven by wind direction, with areas downwind of the park on any day generating the most complaints. This reflects the broad trend for the spread of noise from these types of events to be suppressed upwind of the site and moderately increased down wind.

Over the run of events 115 noise complaints were received by LB Lambeth giving an average of 16 per event day.

The number of noise complaints both overall and on average per day includes a minority of repeat complaints by the same person or household. However, notwithstanding this, the number of complaints is towards the bottom of the range Vanguardia found for outdoor music events in London in 2025, where Vanguardia have attended events in 6 parks and 3 sports stadia with between 0 and 89 noise complaints per day.

Normally where a venue or event is subject to local campaigns and objections covered in local, regional or national media, as was the case for Brockwell Live this year, there is a marked increase in the number of noise complaints compared to previous years. However, despite the high profile of the campaign and objections against Brockwell Live the number of complaints this year was similar to previous years.

## 4 Summary

Vanguardia Limited was appointed by Lambeth Events to audit the management of noise by the independent acoustic consultancy appointed by the event organiser for the Brockwell Live run of events as required by the premises licence.

Noise monitoring and management by the independent acoustic consultancy appointed by the event organiser was effective and ensured that the music noise level limits derived from Lambeth event policy and imposed by the noise management plan required by the premises licence were not exceeded.

The distribution of noise complaints, as in previous years, reflected the prevailing south westerly to westerly wind direction with most complaints coming from the east, northeast and southeast of the park.

Numbers of noise complaints overall and on each day were towards the bottom of the range experienced for music events in other parks in London in 2025.

Local campaigns and objection can lead to an increase in noise complaints. However, notwithstanding the high profile of the campaign against and objections to the Brockwell Live events, the numbers of noise complaints this year were similar to previous years.

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