EventLambeth

Guidance on the control of sound at outdoor events

Definitions

In this guidance:

The Council means the Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Lambeth.

EventLambeth means the London Borough of Lambeth's events service.

Licensing Sub-Committee means a sub-committee established by the licensing committee to determine and review applications as required by the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and any other licensing functions as required.

Premises means a designated area within a Lambeth park or open space being hired.

Event means event or function.

Major Event means an event as defined as major in the current version of the Lambeth Events Policy.

Licence means a premises licence or Temporary Event Notice as required under the Licensing Act 2003.

Document Control

Issue Version	Status	Prepared by	Checked	Date
V1	Final			2016
V2	DRAFT	KC	JB	December 2025
V2	Final	KC	JB	January 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This document was created in 2016 and replaced the previous guidance on the control of noise at outdoor events (2008), which is now superseded and is therefore no longer in effect. The guidance was reviewed and updated in 2025.

1.2 The setting of sound levels at outdoor events held in parks and open spaces is carried out and regulated by the London Borough of Lambeth in consultation with external acoustic consultants.

1.3 This document was originally produced following the public consultation over the Lambeth Events Strategy in January 2015.

1.4 The aims and objectives of this guidance are to provide event organisers, sound engineers, acoustic consultants, residents and other interested parties with information on acceptable sound levels at outdoor events held in parks and open spaces across Lambeth.

1.5 This guidance, which applies to events from April 2016 onwards, recognises that there are competing and often conflicting interests relating to the use of Lambeth's key parks and open spaces, and that there is a need to manage expectations from residents and stakeholders.

1.6 To help achieve a sensible compromise, a number of informed tools are used to assist in striking a reasonable balance between the need to protect the public interest from unreasonable or excessive noise whilst at the same time supporting the business need to successfully hold viable events.

1.7 It is not unreasonable to expect residents living close to a park, common or other open space to experience some degree of disturbance during an event. On the other hand, event organisers and those attending events must also accept the fact that sound restrictions have to be imposed to protect the community.

1.8 This guidance will be referred to as part of any premises licence application process. Any infringements or breaches of the guidance or licence conditions may lead to action being taken by EventLambeth and/or referral to the council's Licensing Sub-Committee.

1.9 In 2022 the Council's external acoustic consultant produced a report with recommendations based on the 2021 music events in Brockwell Park. A benchmarking table was included within this report citing maximum sound levels for a number of outdoor venues across the country. The table is included within this updated version of the guidance as Appendix G.

2. Maximum sound levels

Key parks and open spaces

2.1 The maximum sound levels outlined below will form part of any premises licence condition for major events held in the five key Lambeth parks and open spaces (Brockwell Park, Clapham Common, Kennington Park, Norwood Park and Streatham Common).

2.2 These are the maximum sound levels permitted for events taking place within these five key open spaces and will only be granted for major events as outlined in Lambeth's current Events Policy.

2.3 All other events taking place in the five key Lambeth parks and open spaces will have

lower levels set on a case-by-case basis by Lambeth, which may involve consultation with an external acoustic consultant.

Other locations

2.4 All other non-major events taking place outside of the five key parks and open spaces will have lower levels set on a case-by-case basis by Lambeth, which may involve consultation with an external acoustic consultant.

2.5 The events referenced in 2.3 and 2.4 above may also be referred to Lambeth's Licensing Sub-Committee in the following instances to determine the appropriate noise level:

- Premises licence application subject to representation(s) (made by local residents, community groups etc.).
- Premises licence application subject to representation(s) (made by responsible authorities – as defined within the Licensing Act 2003).
- Objection to a Temporary Event Notice (made by responsible authorities).

3. Guidance for event organisers

3.1 The licensee shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced sound control consultant, no later than four months prior to the event. The sound control consultant shall liaise between all parties including the Licensee, Promoter, sound system supplier, sound engineer, EventLambeth and the licensing authority on all matters relating to sound control.

3.2 Full details of the proposed sound control regime are to be submitted to EventLambeth at least three months before the event and submitted as part of the licence application.

3.3 A pre-arranged sound test should be carried out prior to each event day to ascertain the maximum level that can prevail at the mixing desk(s) to enable the permitted sound levels to be met. This allows prevailing weather conditions to be taken into account. This should take place at a time agreed with EventLambeth.

3.4 The sound limit at the mixing desk(s) should be determined, monitored continuously and brought to the attention of EventLambeth to assist with compliance monitoring. During the event, the acoustic consultant must carry out regular sound monitoring at agreed monitoring locations to demonstrate compliance with agreed limits.

3.5 Sound data from all monitoring positions must be submitted to EventLambeth within a month of the event taking place and with any information or programmes required to read the sound levels.

For further information on this guidance please contact:

EventLambeth on 0207 926 6207 during office hours or email: events@lambeth.gov.uk

Address: EventLambeth
London Borough of Lambeth
PO Box 80771
London
SW2 9QQ

Maximum sound levels and sound level monitoring locations for Lambeth

The maximum sound levels outlined below are intended to be used for major events in the five key parks and open spaces within Lambeth (Clapham Common, Brockwell Park, Kennington Park, Norwood Park and Streatham Common). Only event organisers who have obtained approval agreements in advance will be permitted to operate using maximum sound levels. In the absence of such an agreement, events will be expected to operate at lower sound levels, which will be determined on a case-by-case basis by EventLambeth, which may involve consultation with an external acoustic consultant.

The maximum Music Noise Level (MNL) shall be 75dB L(A) eq 15 minutes (free field) outside any noise sensitive premises.

The maximum low frequency Music Noise Level (LFMNL) shall be 90 dB L(C) eq 15 minutes (free field) outside any noise sensitive premises.

The above outlines the maximum sound levels that may be granted for any major event taking place within the five key parks and open spaces within Lambeth.

Sound levels for major events taking place within the five key parks and open spaces will be monitored at the following locations:

Clapham Common (Map at Appendix B)	
Location 1	8a Windmill Drive
Location 2	14 Clapham Common West Side
Location 3	Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side
Location 4	53 Clapham Common South Side
Brockwell Park (Map at Appendix C)	
Location 1	Parkview Towers
Location 2	c/o Norwood Road and Rosendale Road
Location 3	33 Brockwell Park Gardens
Location 4	r/o 56 Dulwich Road
Streatham Common (Map at Appendix D)	
Location 1	32 Streatham Common South Side
Location 2	24 Streatham Common North Side
Location 3	233 Covington Way
Kennington Park (Map at Appendix E)	
Location 1	1 Kennington Park Place
Location 2	o/s Vicarage, 37 St Agnes Place
Location 3	Kennington Park Road – opp. Blythe House
Location 4	3 Prima Road
Norwood Park (Map at Appendix F)	
Location 1	34 Salters Hill
Location 2	Junction of Salters Hill with the A214, outside Virgo Fidelis Convent
Location 3	Junction of Elder Road and Stable Mews
Location 4	Corner of Norwood Park Road and Benton's Rise

The sound levels for events at locations outside of the five key Lambeth parks and open spaces may be set at the MNL or LFMNL set for the five key sites – this will be determined by EventLambeth and assessed by the Lambeth Licensing Sub-Committee if required.

Appendix A – Acoustic Terminology

The human ear can detect a very wide range of pressure fluctuations, which are perceived as sound. In order to express these fluctuations in a manageable way, a logarithmic scale called the decibel, or dB scale is used. The decibel scale typically ranges from 0dB (the threshold of hearing) to over 120dB.

dB (decibel) - The scale on which sound pressure level is expressed.

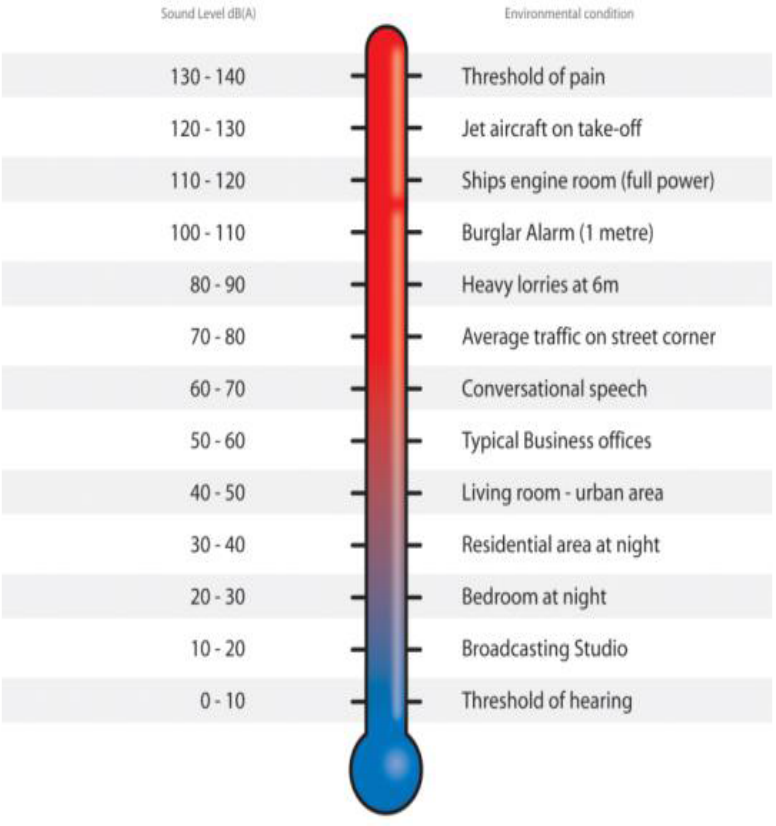
dB(A) A-weighted decibel - This is a measure of the overall level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting ('A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies.

dB(C) C-weighted decibel - This is a measure of the overall sound taking into account the low (bass) frequencies.

LAeq - This can be described in simplistic terms as the 'average' sound level over a given time period.

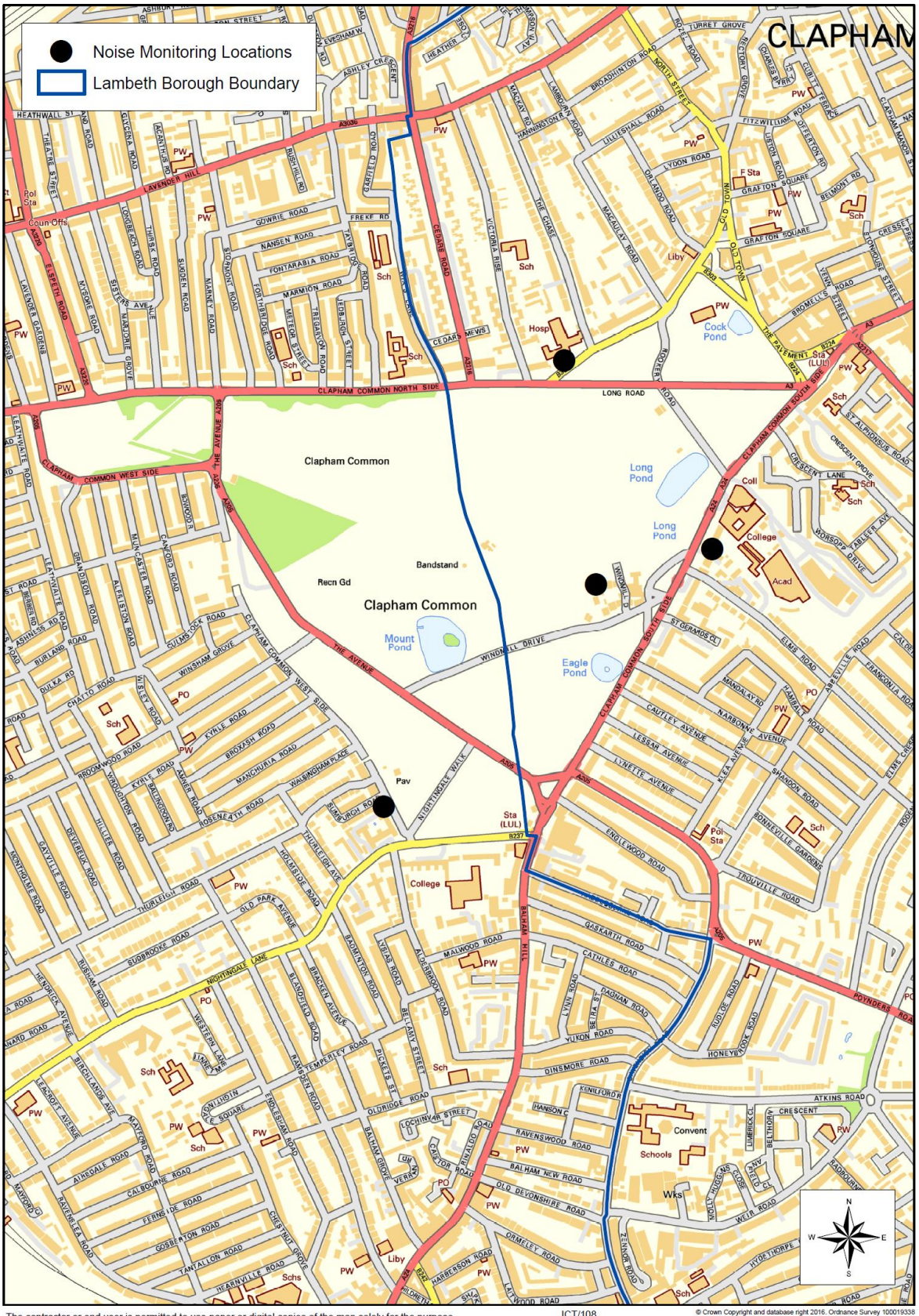
MNL – Music Noise Level - This is the (A-weighted) monitoring sound level of the music played at an event and is normally determined off-site, for example outside the nearest residential premises.

LFMNL – Low Frequency Music Noise Level - This is the (C-weighted) monitoring sound level of the music played at an event and is normally determined off-site, for example outside the nearest residential premises.



Appendix B – Map of the Monitoring Locations for Clapham Common

Noise Monitoring Locations - Clapham Common



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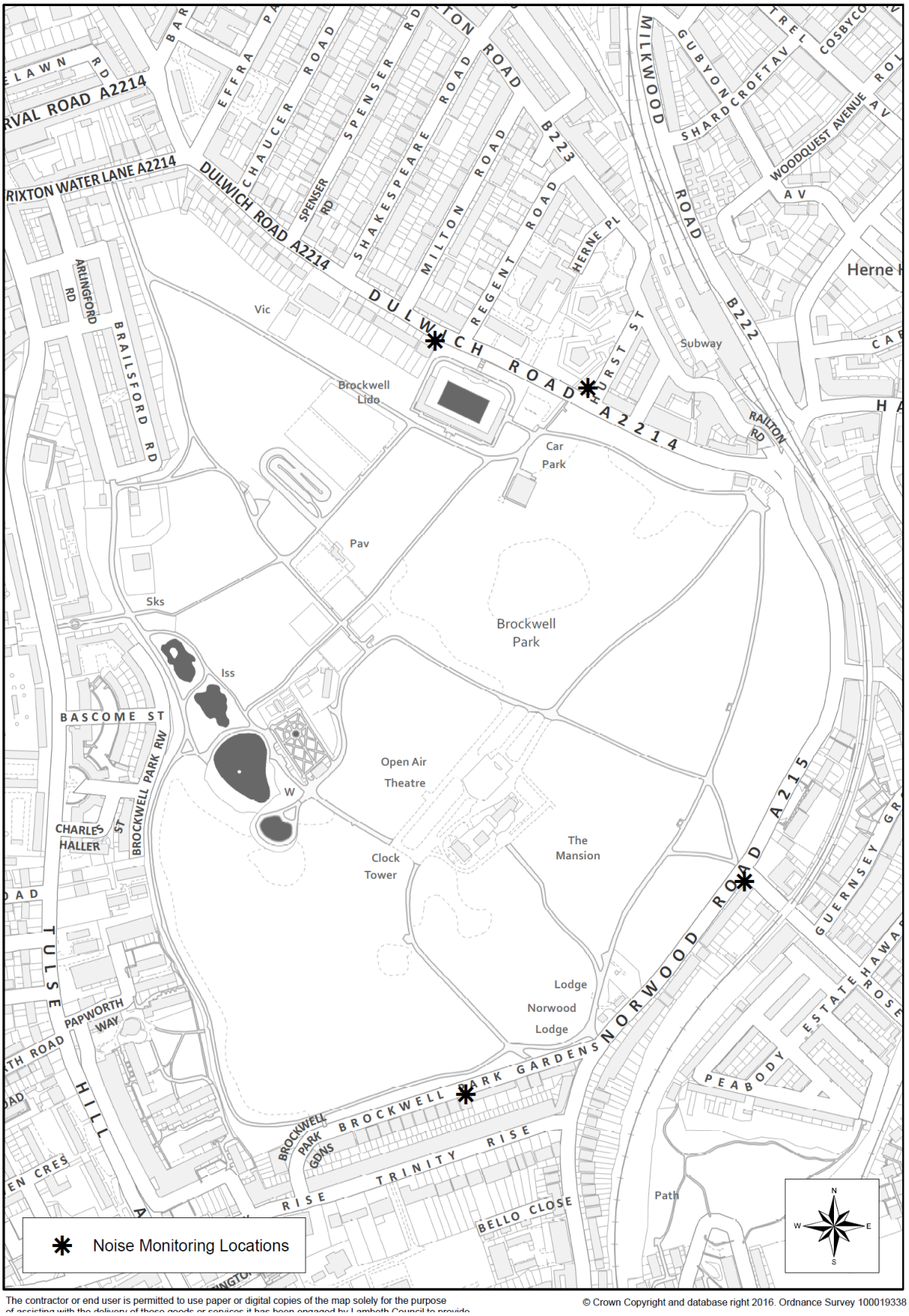
Appendix C – Map of the monitoring Locations for Brockwell Park

Noise Monitoring Locations Brockwell Park



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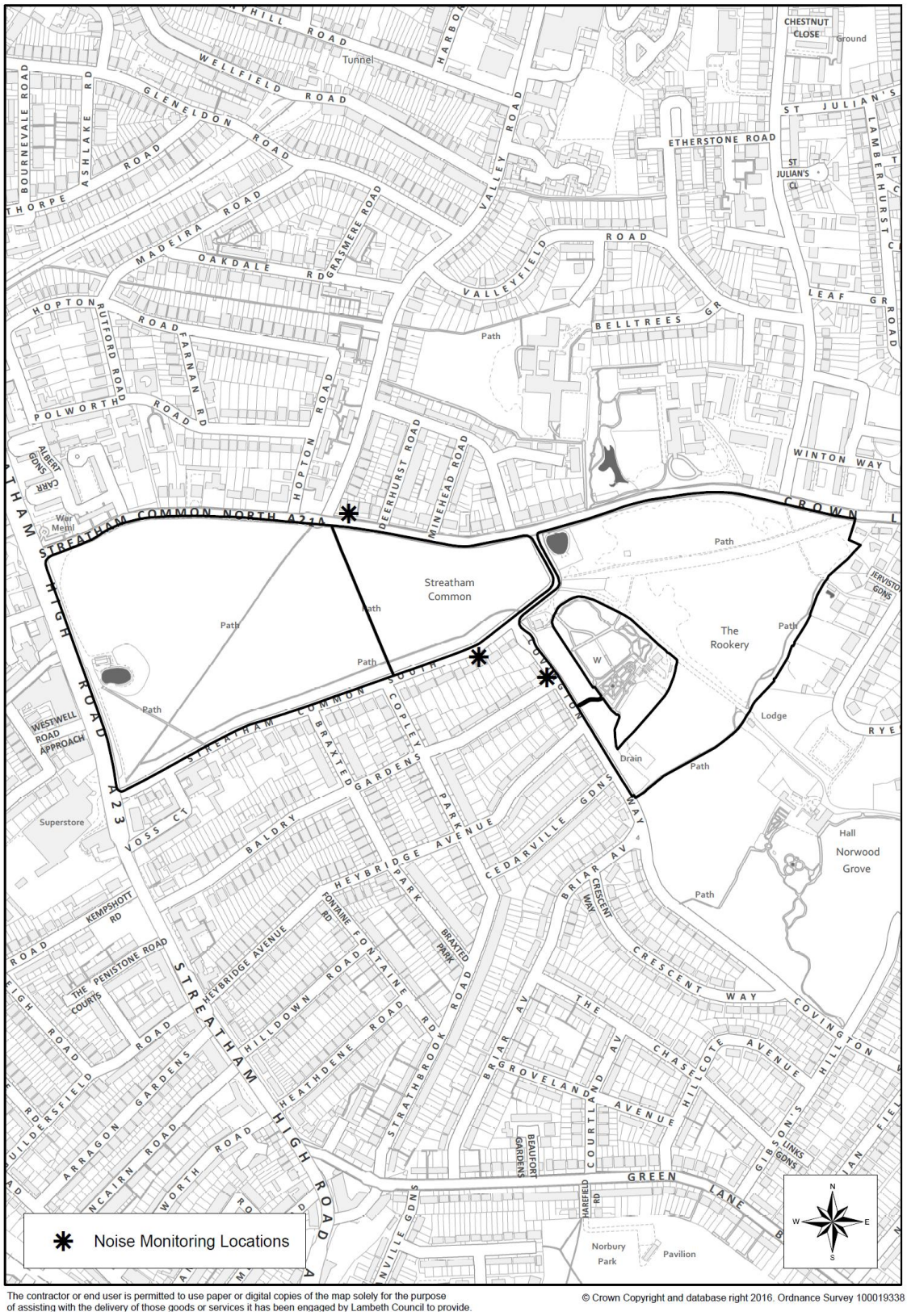
Appendix D – Map of the Monitoring Locations for Streatham Common

Noise Monitoring Locations Streatham Common



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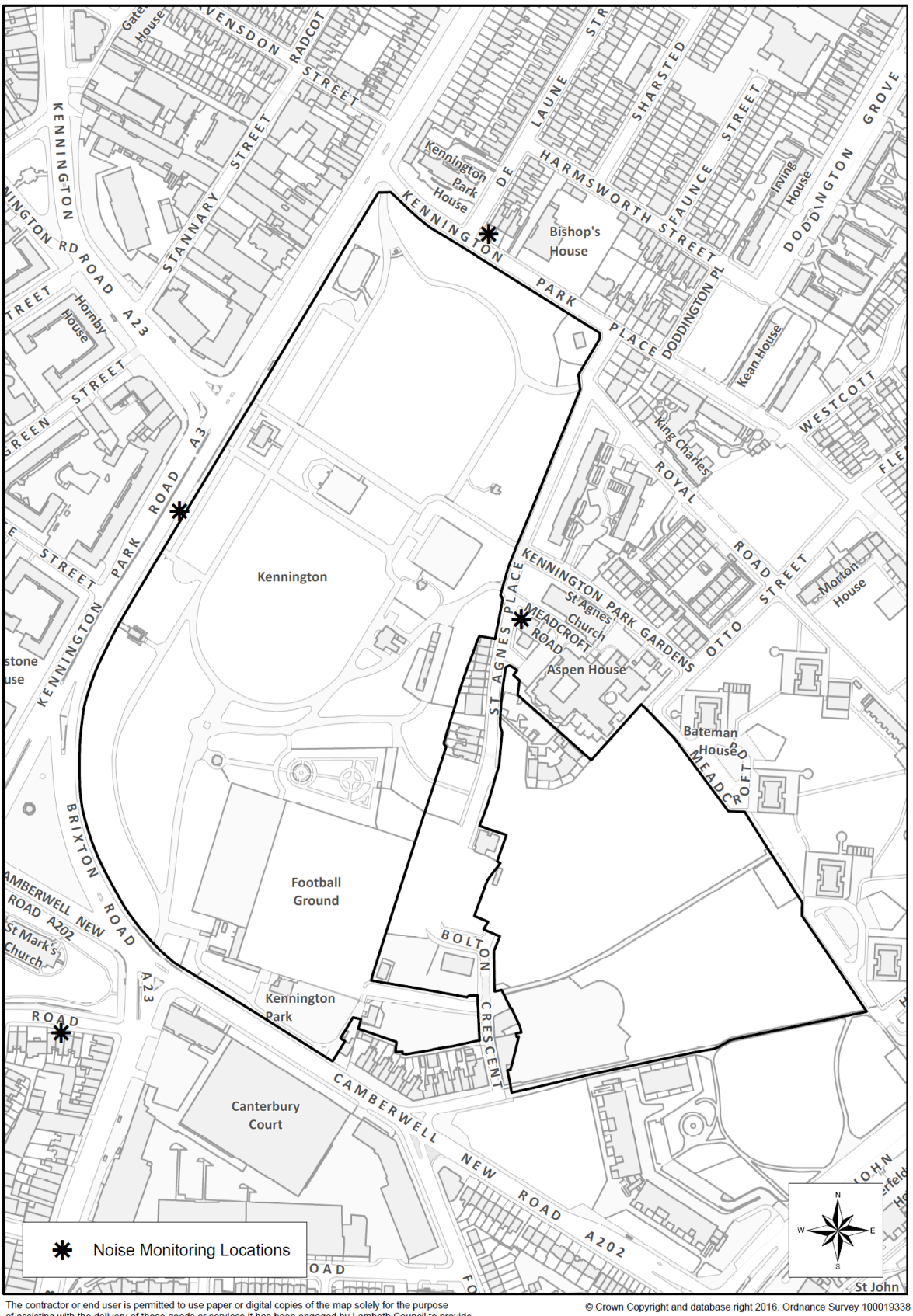
Appendix E – Map of the Monitoring Locations for Kennington Park

Noise Monitoring Locations Kennington Park



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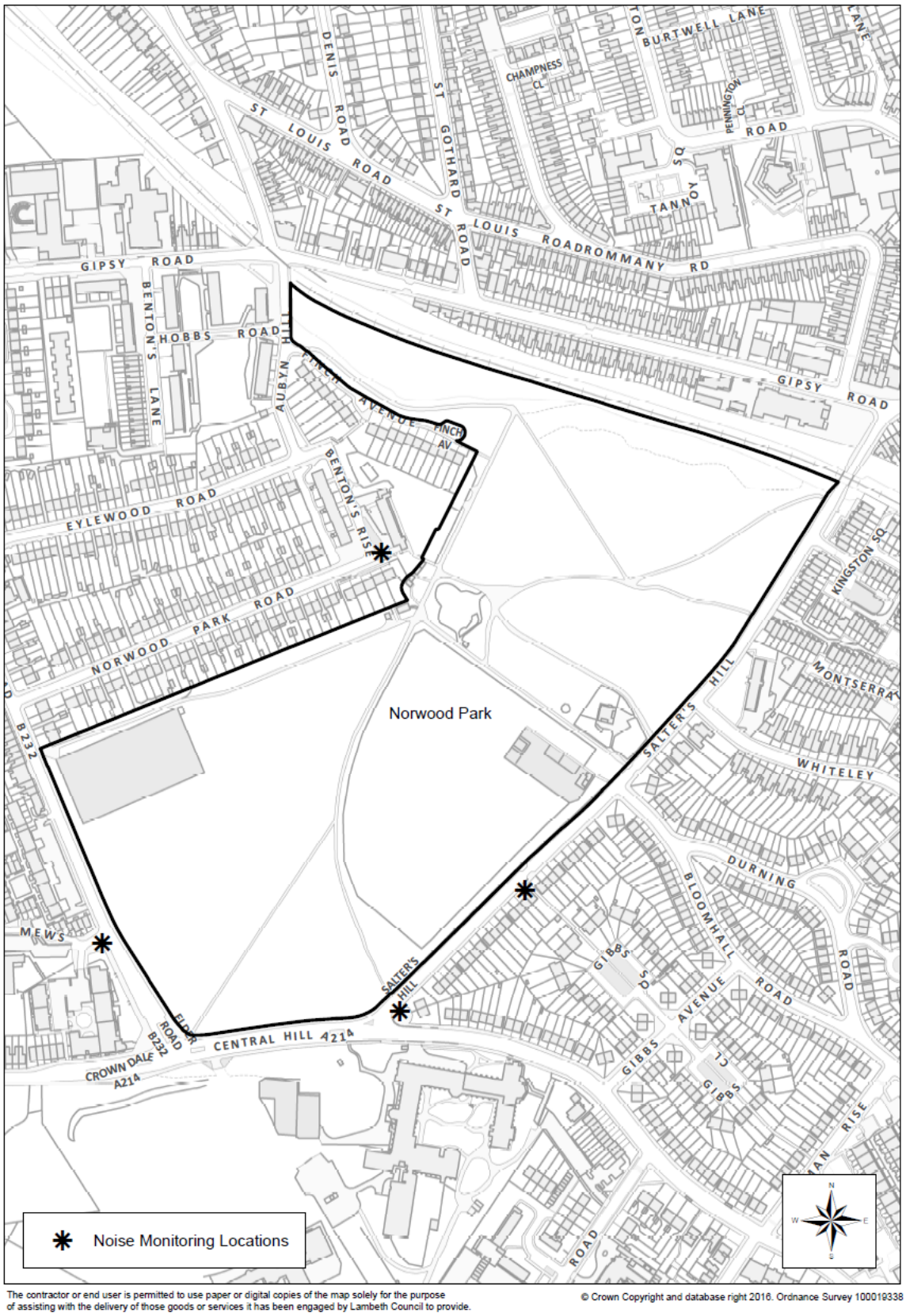
Appendix F – Map of the Monitoring Locations for Norwood Park

Noise Monitoring Locations Norwood Park



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Appendix G – Maximum permitted sound levels at outdoor venues across the UK

Venue	Concert days per year	Noise levels agreed	Reference year
Crystal Palace Park	16+	75dBLAeq, 15 min and 90dBLCeq, 15 min	2021
Hyde Park, London	6	75dBLAeq, 5 min	2019
Victoria Park, London	6	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
Heaton Park, Manchester	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
The Den, Teignmouth	2	84dBLAeq, 15 min	2009
Godiva Festival, Coventry	3	70dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
South Park, Oxford	Unknown	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2017
Trafalgar Square, London	40	79dBLAeq, 5 min	2017
Alexandra Palace Park, London	3 / 4 / 23 (by level)	75dB / 65dB / 55dB LAeq, 15 min	2018
Bellahouston Park, Glasgow	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
Glasgow Green Glasgow	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
Southsea Common, Portsmouth	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2018
Otterspool Park, Liverpool	2	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2018
Isle of Wight Festival	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2018
V Festival, Telford	2	70dBLAeq, 15 min	2013
Reading Festival	3	68dBLAeq, 15 min (70dBLAeq, 15 mins for last 2 acts of each day)	2018
Bestival	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2016
London Stadium, London	6	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2018
White Hart Lane, London	6	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2019
Lancashire County Cricket Ground	7	80dBLAeq, 15 min	2021
Central Park, East Ham, London	4	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2007

Venue	Concert days per year	Noise levels agreed	Reference year
Platt Fields Park, Manchester	2	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2012
Edgeley Park, Stockport	2	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2019
Gunnersbury Park, London	6	Target: 71dB LAeq, 15 min Max: 73dB LAeq	2019
Lloyd Park, Croydon, London	4	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2019
Beckenham Place Park, London	3	75dBLAeq, 15 min	2021