

Parameter	Description
Acoustic Environment	Sound from all sound sources as modified by the environment.
Ambient Sound	The totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually composed of sound from many sources near and far.
Ambient Sound Level, $L_a=L_{Aeq,T}$	The equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level of the totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually from many sources, near and afar, at the assessment location over a given time interval, T.
Background Sound Level, $L_{A90,T}$	A-weighted sound pressure level that is exceeded by the residual sound at the assessment location for 90% of a given time interval, T, measured using time weighting F and quoted to the nearest whole number of decibels.
Daytime	The period 07:00 - 23:00 hours.
Decibel (dB)	A scale for comparing the ratios of two quantities, including sound pressure and sound power. The difference in level between two sounds s_1 and s_2 is given by $20 \log^{10} (s_1/s_2)$. The decibel can also be used to measure absolute quantities by specifying a reference value that fixes one point on the scale. For sound pressure, the reference value is 20 μ Pa. The threshold of normal hearing is in the region of 0 dB and 140 dB is the threshold of pain. A change of 1 dB is only perceptible under controlled conditions.
dB(A), L_{Ax}	Decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sounds of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with people's assessment of loudness. A change of 3 dB(A) is the minimum perceptible under normal conditions, and a change of 10 dB(A) corresponds roughly to halving or doubling the loudness of a sound. The background noise in a living room may be about 30 dB(A); normal conversation about 60 dB(A) at 1 metre; heavy road traffic about 80 dB(A) at 10 metres; the level near a pneumatic drill about 100 dB(A).
F, Fast Time Weighting	Setting on sound level meter, denoted by a subscript F, that determines the speed at which the instrument responds to changes in the amplitude of any measured signal. The fast time weighting can lead to higher values than the slow time weighting when rapidly changing signals are measured. The average time constant for the fast response setting is 0.125 (1/8) seconds.
Free-field	Sound pressure level measured outside, far away from reflecting surfaces (except the ground), usually taken to mean at least 3.5 metres
Façade	Sound pressure level measured at a distance of 1 metre in front of a large sound reflecting object such as a building façade.

Parameter	Description
Insertion Loss	Insertion loss is the difference in sound pressure level at a single fixed position before and after a noise control element (e.g. enclosure, barrier etc) is installed.
$L_{Aeq,T}$	The equivalent continuous noise level over the time period T. This is the level of a notional steady sound that would contain the same amount of sound energy as the actual, possibly fluctuating, sound that was recorded.
L_{eq}	The equivalent continuous sound pressure level in dB.
$L_{max,T}$	The maximum sound level recorded during a noise event with a period T. L_{max} is sometimes used for the assessment of occasional loud noises, which may have little effect on the overall L_{eq} noise level but will still affect the noise environment. Unless described otherwise, it is measured using the 'fast' sound level meter response.
$L_{10,T}$	A noise level index. The noise level exceeded for 10 % of the time over the period T. L_{10} can be considered to be the "average maximum" noise level. Generally used to describe road traffic noise. $L_{A10, 18 h}$ is the A – weighted arithmetic average of the 18 hourly $L_{A10,1 h}$ values from 06:00 - 24:00.
L_{90}	The noise level exceeded for 90 % of the measured period.
Night-time	The period 23:00 - 07:00 hours.
$ms^{1.75}$	Metres per second to the power of 1.75.
Rating Level	Specific sound level plus any adjustments for the characteristic features of the sound, i.e. acoustic feature corrections.
Reference Time Interval, T_r	Specified time interval over which the specific sound level is determined
Reference Time Interval, T	Specified time interval over which a measurement has been undertaken.
Residual Sound	Ambient sound remaining at the assessment location when the specific sound source is suppressed to such a degree that it does not contribute to the ambient sound.
Residual Sound Level, $L_r=L_{Aeq,T}$	Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual sound at the assessment location over a given time interval, T.
Specific Sound Level $L_s=L_{Aeq,T_r}$	Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level produced by the specific sound source at the assessment location over a given reference time interval, T_r .
Specific Sound Source	Sound source being assessed.
Noise Policy Statement for England	National policy document that seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation and guidance that relate to noise

Parameter	Description
CRTN	Calculation for Road Traffic Noise
Peak Particle Velocity (PPV's)	instantaneous maximum velocity reached by a vibrating element as it oscillates about its rest position
Allocation Test Scenario	This is the 'with development' scenario and includes the total allocated development at Heyford including 1,600 residential dwellings, 1,500 jobs and ancillary uses
World Health Organisation (WHO)	This document is the outcome of the WHO-expert task force meeting held in London, United Kingdom, in April 1999. The scope of WHO's effort to derive guidelines for community noise is to consolidate actual scientific knowledge on the health impacts of community noise and to provide guidance to environmental health authorities and professional trying to protect people from the harmful effects of noise in non-industrial environments
British Standards Institution	National standards body of the United Kingdom