

01 INTRODUCTION

This Noise Assessment has been produced to assess the impact of noise from the new Concrete Skate park on the surrounding area when compared to the existing facility and especially in relation to the proximity of the Skate park to the housing surrounding the Park on Methleigh Parc and opposite, on Methleigh Bottoms.

Whilst this paper does not constitute a formal Acoustic Assessment of the proposals it is derived from historic data and sets out how the design is aimed at mitigating the possible issues of the provision of a replacement skate park in Porthleven.

02 ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSALS

What type of development is proposed and where will it be located?

- A new concrete skate park at Porthleven Playing Fields, Porthleven, the new park will be located on the site of the existing flat tarmac pad and skate park which had steel framed ramps and a grind rail.
- The site is broadly flat but the tarmac pad has a fall estimated to be 1:100 falling towards the brook, the level of the existing tarmac will be retained.
- The plan below shows the distance from the closest edge of the new skate park to the closest houses on Methleigh Parc.
- The orientation of the park has been designed to afford noise protection to these closest houses which in turn are also protected by a stone wall and a dense line of bushes and trees.



Local Residents

- 25m Zone – None.
- 25m - 50m Zone – One – Protected by a stone wall and a tree and bush line.
- 50m - 75m Zone – Small number of dwellings located on Methleigh Parc although protected line of sight by walls, trees and other buildings.
- 75m – 100m Zone - Small number of dwellings located in Methleigh Bottoms and surrounding area continuing to be protected by existing walled features and the other houses.
- 100m – 125m Zone – Increased number of dwellings on Methleigh Parc and Methleigh Bottoms.

03 LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

The council engaged in a lengthy engagement and consultation process to put across their ideas for Porthleven and the users in turn expressed their wishes for a more modern style of facility which is why concrete was chosen as their preferred construction medium.

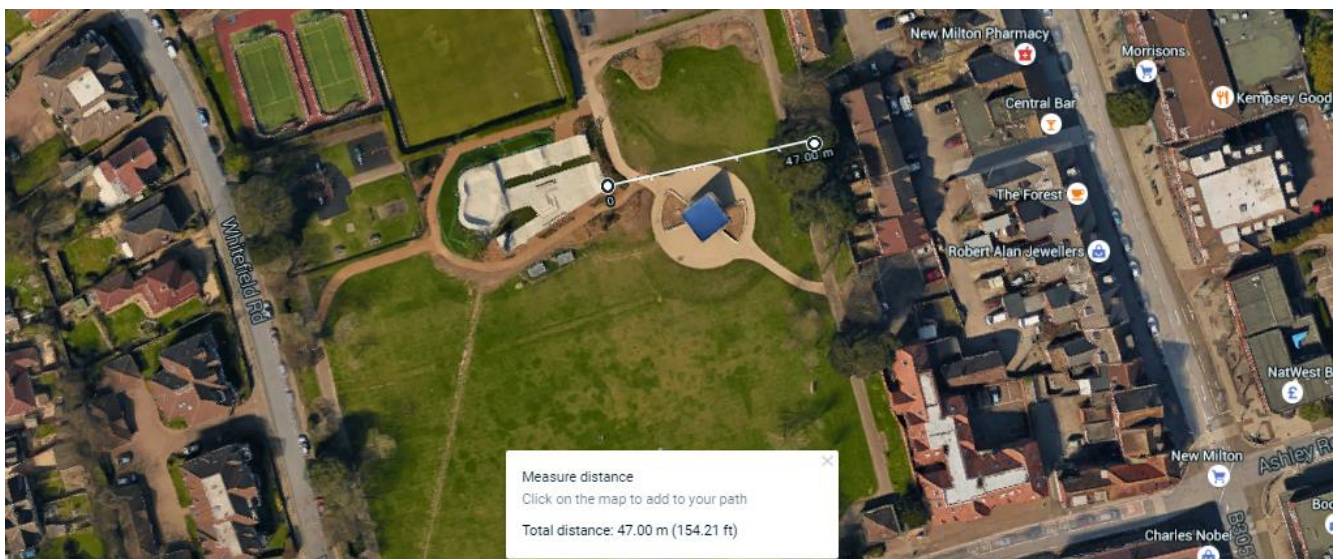
Local residents were likewise informed of this choice as it is proven to be so much quieter and this news was received very well.

04 HISTORIC STUDIES

We are lucky that we have access to historical projects' noise assessment surveys as well as written confirmation from very local councils who recently had concrete skate parks installed. In all cases the parks (in the noise assessments) and the local skate parks – Ashburton and Chudleigh - were larger than the one under consideration and generally they all had significantly more houses closer to the skate park.

In the acoustic reports, all of them were for significantly larger facilities and some had to contend with housing much closer to the site and without the benefit of any walls to act as a barrier. In New Milton the distance to the closest house is 47m and in the 18 months since it was commissioned we know that the council have had no complaints over the loudness of the park.

We have provided below a visual showing the relative distance to the housing from the skate park which also shows the position of the old steel skate park (to the north) which has now been decommissioned.



PORTHLEVEN SKATEPARK NOISE ASSESSMENT



Additionally, we completed a skate park in Carvers Field in Ringwood in January 2016. This previously had a larger sized steel skate park manufactured by the same company as the skate park Porthleven had until very recently. Further similarity with your situation is the proximity of the closest housing. In Ringwood the distance to the windows of the nearest house from the skate park was 39m with no barriers, trees or walls in between.

Prior to the units being decommissioned in Ringwood, noise level readings were taken with the skate park in use by 12 riders on a mixture of BMX, Scooters and Skate Boards at the boundary of the nearest house. The readings averaged out to be in the 80 to 85dB range.

Part of the reason they wished to replace their old skate park was to provide a facility that would be significantly quieter which is why concrete was chosen. We know that since it was commissioned the council have had no complaints over noise, and I can personally testify that when a BMX bike is using the facility, at that distance from the park it is effectively silent. This assertion is further bolstered by speaking to one of the residents in this group of houses during its formal opening event. They directly confirmed to me how much quieter the new park was, to the degree that they are often completely unaware that anyone is using it.



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PORTHLEVEN SKATEPARK NOISE ASSESSMENT



We also have access to several Noise Assessment surveys completed for other local authorities where larger sized projects were being proposed with very similar surroundings and proximity to private dwellings. The difference is the assessor also visited a large concrete skate park (Midsomer Norton) and took readings from that whilst in use and was able to provide predicted noise levels at the relevant and nearest houses. This makes for very interesting reading - we have taken the liberty of providing both sets for your perusal. They refer to a Noise Assessment Survey for St Dennis carried out by Halcrow Ltd.

The predicted average noise levels (LAeq) in St Dennis range between

- 43.0 / 31.7 dB @ MP1 (29m from edge of skate park)
- 41.7 / 30.4 dB @ MP2 (44m from edge of skate park)
- 41.3 / 30.0 dB @ MP3 (39m from edge of skate park)

The highest single noise event predictions were

- 48.0 dB @ MP1
- 46.7 dB @ MP2
- 46.3 dB @ MP3

This project was built in 2012 and the council have not had complaints over noise - exactly in line with the predictions of the noise assessment.

Below is a visual showing the park along with the receptor positions, you will note how much larger this facility is than the one under consideration.



FIGURE 1 - NOISE MEASUREMENT POSITIONS



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To allow comparisons for which one can relate to, the following chart has been provided.

Relative sound values

- Whisper Quiet Library 30dB
- Normal conversation 60 - 70dB
- Normal piano practice 60 - 70dB
- Telephone dial tone 80dB
- City Traffic (inside car) 85dB
- Chainsaw 100dB
- Loud Rock Concert 115dB

The primary mitigating factor in all of this is the often relatively high ambient noise levels surrounding the site. Methleigh Bottoms is a main artery road into the town centre and the industrial units and associated trades all add to the overall base level sounds of the area.

05 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The proposals have been developed and discussed with Town Council, Local Council, schools, pre-schools, Councillors, Police, Local Residents and Youth Groups and support has been received from all parties to ensure the success of the project.

The ambient noise levels surrounding the proposed site are often relatively high.

The proposals for this new Concrete Skate park are proven to provide a quieter surface than the previous tarmac and steel ramp park and as such it is considered this application will significantly reduce the levels of sound the old skate park produced (which itself had no additional sound mitigation measures). The orientation of the design means that any sound generated by the park in use will be either deflected away from the closest housing or the end of the park will act as a functional sound barrier and to many of the residents it will effectively be silent when in use.

With the data freely available to us we are confident no additional noise attenuation measures will be needed for this proposal.

Mark Clogg



H&S Officer Maverick Industries

23.06.16