3. SURVEY OF EXISTING NOISE LEVELS

3.1 The first step in the assessment of potential noise impact is to measure and describe the existing noise levels affecting the site. It was determined that the site was not sufficiently secure to leave equipment over a long period of time. An attended survey was therefore conducted following the shortened measurement procedure described in the Calculation of Road Traffic Noise report published by the Department of Transport, Welsh Office.

3.2 A noise survey was undertaken on Tuesday 6th July 2004, between 12.30 and 15.30

3.3 A Norsonic 116 sound level meter was set up, approximately 2m in front of Flat 3. The microphone was located at a height of approximately 1.6m above ground level, and had a clear line of sight to Bishopsfield Road.

3.4 The equipment was configured to measure 1-hour samples of the following acoustic parameters:

L_{Aeq} The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level which, over the sample period, contains the same acoustic energy as the time-varying signal being recorded.

L_{Amax} The A-weighted maximum sound pressure level recorded during each sample period (as measured on fast response).

L_{A10} A statistical parameter representing the A-Weighted noise level exceeded for 10% of each sample period. This is commonly used to describe road traffic noise levels.

3.5 The equipment was calibrated before and after the survey. The weather during the survey was fine, with a light breeze from the west.