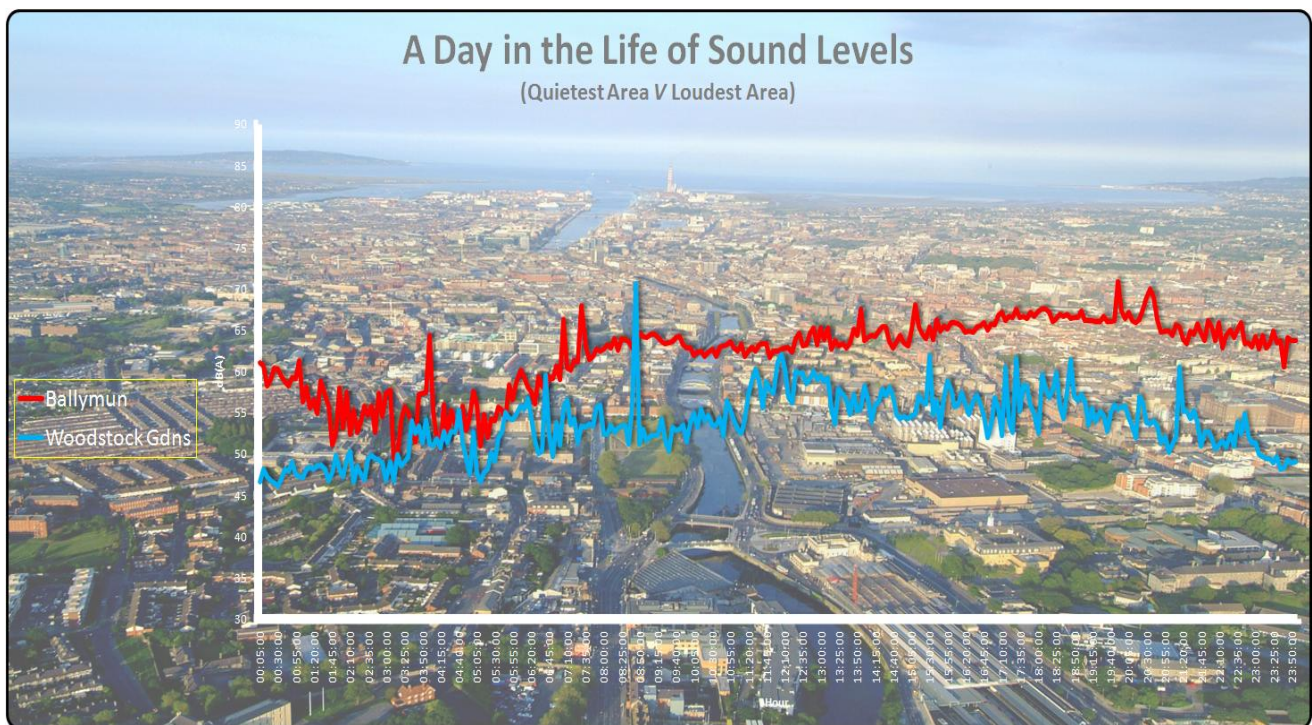


# DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

## AMBIENT SOUND MONITORING NETWORK

### Annual Report For 2010



*Produced by*  
**Traffic Noise & Air Quality Unit**  
**Roads and Traffic Department,**  
**Dublin City Council**



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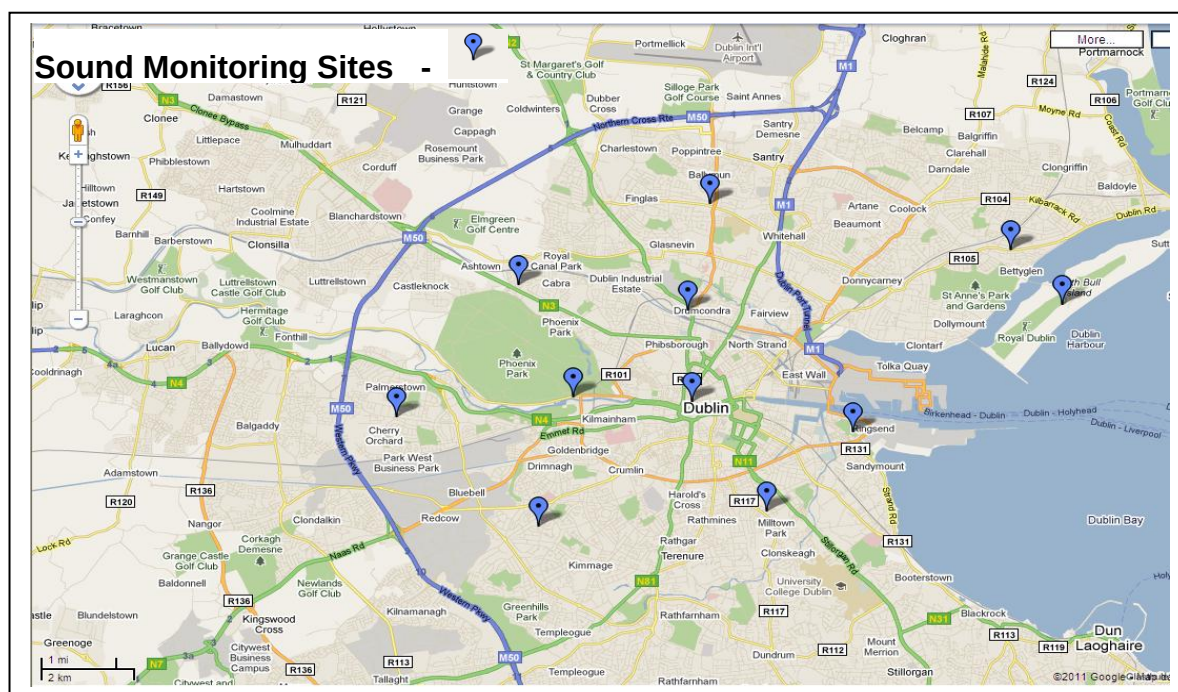
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## Introduction

This is the second Annual Report for the Dublin Ambient Sound Monitoring Network. Dublin City Council commenced the installation of a permanent ambient sound monitoring network in 2009. In 2010 an additional monitor was placed in the recently renovated Chancery Park, Dublin, close to the Luas Red Line. It is proposed to further upgrade the network over the coming years with additional monitors in the Kimmage\Terenure area on the Southside and the Belcamp\Artane areas on the Northside of Dublin. The purpose of the network is to measure outdoor ambient sound levels in the City, at sites which are representative of typical sound levels to which the citizen is being exposed.

Fig.1



It should be noted that the sound level meters are located so that there is no single dominant source such as major roads, road junctions, industrial sources etc. having a significant influence on the outdoor ambient sound levels being measured,

The network currently consists of eleven monitoring locations:

- Ashtown, off Navan Rd. D7, Private House
- Ballyfermot Road, D10, Civic Centre
- Ballymun Road, D11, Library
- Bull Island, D3, Interpretative Centre
- Chapelizod Road, D8, Dublin City Council Rowing Club
- Howth Road, D5, Raheny Library
- Millmount Avenue, D9, Drumcondra Library
- Percy French Road, D12, Walkinstown Library
- Ringsend, D4, Irishtown Stadium
- Woodstock Gardens, Ranelagh, D6, Snr. Citizens Residential Scheme
- Chancery Park, Public Park, Dublin 1

## Measurement Parameters

The European Commission requires the use of a parameter called the Lden (Sound Level for **D**ay, **E**vening and **N**ight) in population exposure assessment. This measurement parameter of *Day-evening-night level* is a descriptor of average sound levels over a whole day with the addition of a penalty of 5 dB(A) for evening sound (i.e. 19.00-23.00) and a penalty of 10 dB(A) for night time sound (23.00-7.00). Lden has been put forward as a single value parameter for the quantification of annoyance caused by noise.

The monitoring network measures continuously, 5 minute parcels of sound right throughout the year. These periods of 5 minute sound levels are then converted and presented as average hourly sound levels in decibels (dB(A)). This enables the compilation of *day, evening, night and Lden* statistics.

## Sound Sources

Work carried out by Dublin City Council on computer modelled noise maps has shown that traffic is the dominant sound source in Dublin. This sound comes from two aspects of traffic – the road surface i.e. wheel\tyre interface where sound levels increase with speed and secondly, engine\ gear change and body rattle sound, normally observed at lower speeds. Whilst measurements at the monitoring locations are influenced by traffic generated sounds the monitors are located so that the measurements are not totally dominated by this source. The aim is to measure total ambient sound without one source dominating another. So whilst the new location at Chancery Park – to the side of the Four Courts, is close to the Luas Red Line, measurements will include sound from the LUAS, sound from traffic on the Quays, sound from deliveries to the Markets area and sound from activities in the park itself. As this location is close to residential properties it gives a good representation of the overall sound, that people in that area are being exposed to throughout the year.

The site locations are displayed on maps to the rear of this report and give an indication as to the type of area they are situated in. Bull Island, again this year, tends to be the most erratic site in that there is no readily discernable pattern to the measured levels. This site would be impacted more by the time of the tides and weather rather than sounds from traffic and human activity.

The impact of extreme weather events in early January and December of 2010 can be easily be discerned in all the charts displaying measured sound levels. This was due to heavy snow, which resulted in reduced traffic volumes and traffic speeds throughout that period. The dips could also be due to snow lodging on the microphone assembly

## Data Loss

Loss of data is mainly due to the drifting of the correct calibration of the microphones. In 2010 the microphones were exposed to extreme weather conditions with temperatures falling to below minus 10 degrees Celcius. Most of them performed well but there were some failures identified after routine calibration checks. Data, which could not be verified with a correct calibration was disregarded. There was only one instance of vandalism at one site which resulted in ten days loss of data.



## Guidelines\ Standards for exposure to Ambient Sound levels

Sound emission levels from certain sources, outside of the work environment, can be applied and enforced through Integrated Pollution Prevention Control licences, Planning Control, or Section 107-108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. There are no legally binding statutory limits for ambient sound levels, similar to currently existing air quality standards. However the levels outlined below are used for guidance and comparison purposes.

### Areas with desirable\undesirable or high\low sound levels

The Dublin City Council Noise Action Plan Oct 2008-Nov2013 proposes that areas with undesirable high sound levels are areas with a night time sound level greater than 55 decibels and a daytime level greater than 70 decibels. Areas with desirably low sound levels are defined as areas with a night time level less than 50 decibels and/or a daytime level less than 55 decibels.

### The World Health Organisation Night Noise Guidelines (NNGL) for Europe

These guidelines propose a **Night Noise Guideline (NNGL)** Lnight for outside = 40 dB; Interim target (IT) Lnight, outside = 55 dB.

## Summary Results

The measurements for the year 2010 indicate that only one of the locations exceeded the undesirable values of 55dB night\70dB day - Chancery Park, with a night time value of 56.1dB(A). However this value is based only on the last three months of the year.

Six of the sites met the desirable criteria for night time levels (Drumcondra, Raheny, Ringsend, Bull Island, Walkinstown, Ranelagh).

The overall Network Average also met the desirable night time level with a value of 48.6dB(A).

Seven sites met the desirable value for daytime, (Navan Rd, Raheny, DCC Rowing Club\Chapelizod, Ringsend, Bull Island, Walkinstown, Woodstock Gdns\Ranelagh). The Network Average of 53.8dB(A) met the desirable daytime value also.

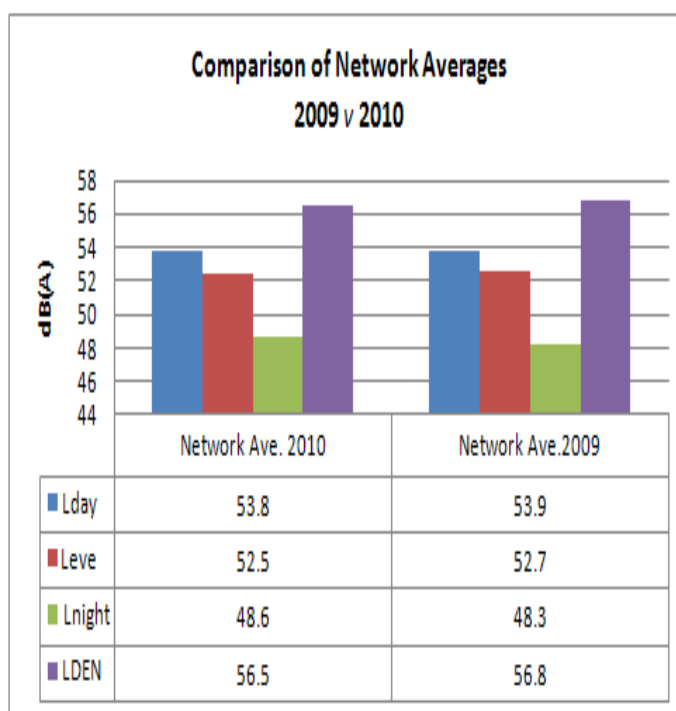


Fig.2

All of the sites except Chancery Park met the WHO NNGL interim target for exterior night time level of 55dB(A). Again, Chancery Park was only in situ for the last three months of the year.

Set out in *fig.2* is a comparison of the Network averages for 2009 and 2010. Figures 3&4 display more detail for the individual sites. The 2010 Network yearly average figures show no significant changes on year 2009.

Fig.3

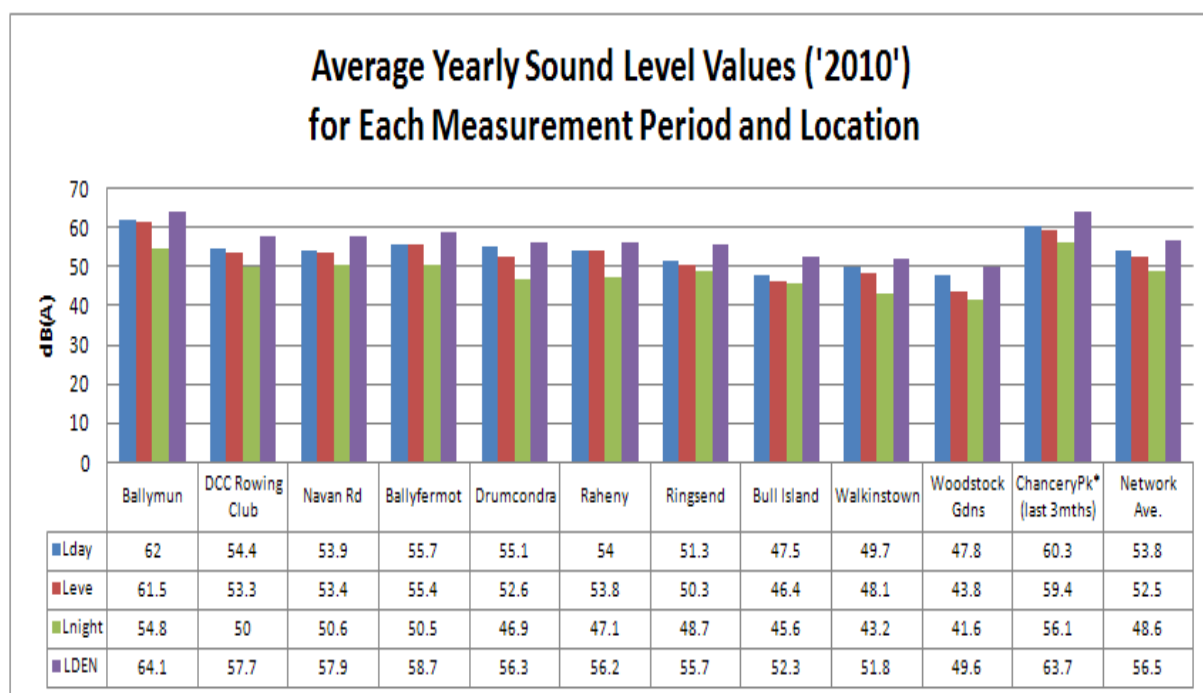
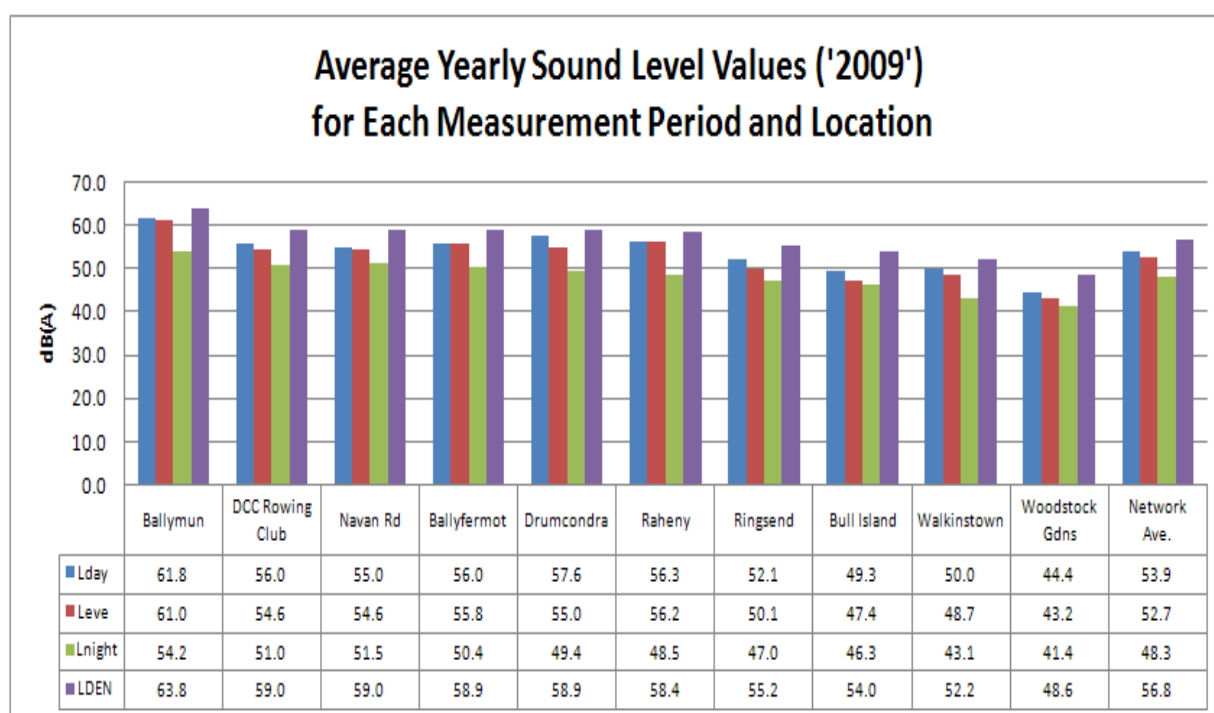


Fig.4



## Measurement Results

The ambient sound monitoring network measures all sound from all sources thus giving an indication of the amount of exposure the general population is exposed to from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Although mentioned in last year's report it is worth stating again that the ambient sound monitoring network measures sound levels in decibels (dB(A)). ***It does not measure noise.***

Noise is usually defined as "unwanted sound". "noise" and "sound" are often erroneously interchanged. However '*Noise Annoyance*', is a term generally used for all negative feelings such as disturbance, dissatisfaction, displeasure, irritation and nuisance (Guski 1999, Quis, 2002). Adverse effects of noise occur when intended activities of the individual are disturbed. The sound level of the acoustic stimulus, the time of its occurrence, its time domain, its frequency spectrum and its informational content modify the reaction. During sleep, however, unconscious activation of the autonomous system takes place without cognitive control, due to direct interaction between the hearing nerve and higher structures of the central nervous system. Noise indicators such as *Lden* and *Lnight*, in this respect, describe the exposure situation. (Dr. Wolfgang Babisch, Expert Panel on Noise, EEA).

The second year of long term measurements confirm traffic is the dominant sound source at most sites. Hourly sound values track traffic volumes as they vary throughout the day. As already mentioned weather has an important influence on sound measurements.

Figure 6 illustrates a comparison of the networks daily *Lden*

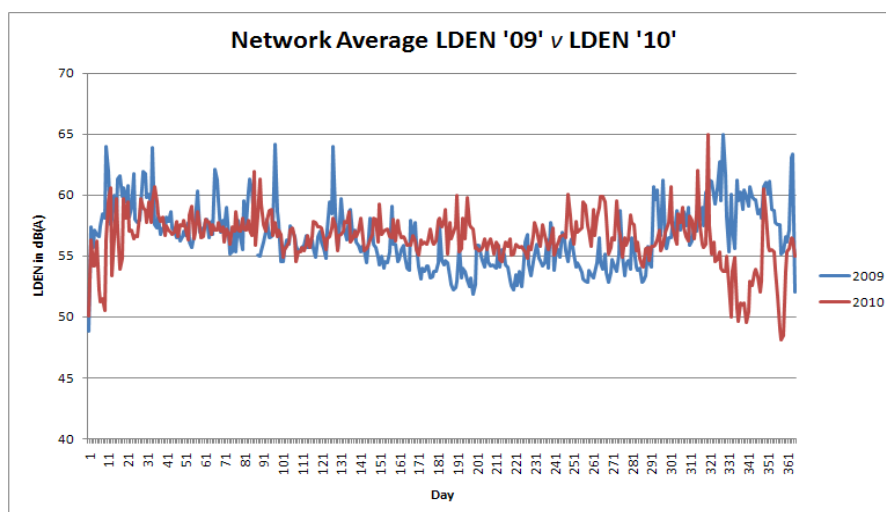
values between 2009 and 2010.

They are quite similar except for the dips in early January and December 2010.

These were due to the extreme weather events of heavy snow, which

resulted in reduced traffic volumes and traffic speeds throughout that period. The dips could also be due to snow lodging on the microphone assembly. Comparison of the Network *Lden* over the two years shows no significant changes, whereas on an individual site by site comparison, seven sites show a drop in sound levels, with the largest decrease at Drumcondra and Raheny. At these sites sound values dropped by an average 2.6 and 2.2 decibels respectively on 2009 figures.

Fig.6



This year, Ballymun is again the site with the highest Lden values, followed by the new site at Chancery Park – a City Centre location. As indicated, last year meteorological conditions had both a negative and positive impact on sound levels. In the middle of the year, during the summer period and good weather (no wind/rain), a dip in sound levels is apparent. Generally at the start and end of the year (extreme weather conditions excepted) levels are slightly higher than mid-year levels.

## Difference between 2010 and 2009 values

*(Minus values in dB(A), indicate a decrease on 2009)*

As can be seen from *figure 5*, the average difference between the Lden values for years 2009 and 2010 is approximately one decibel(-0.8dB(A)). Although it is encouraging to see some reductions in sound levels at most of the sites influenced by traffic sound sources, the extent of these reductions would not be noticeable to the general public. Generally a 3 decibel reduction would just barely be noticed. However, people may well note a reduction, in terms of traffic flow

The Ranelagh site displays the largest increase in daytime sound levels. As was indicated in last year's annual report this site had been giving erratic readings. In 2010 this was rectified by replacement with a new sound monitor. Although Ballymun and Ringsend also show increases, these are marginal and are insignificant at present.

Drumcondra had the most significant decrease in sound levels of all the individual sites- particularly at night-time. A drop in the Lden of 2.6dB(A) is verging on significant. As this site is close to schools, a health centre, a public park and a library, a drop in sound levels is to be welcomed.

Fig. 5

|                            | Lday | Leve | Lnight | LDEN |
|----------------------------|------|------|--------|------|
| <b>Ballymun</b>            | 0.2  | 0.5  | 0.6    | 0.3  |
| <b>DCC Rowing Club</b>     | -1.6 | -1.3 | -1.0   | -1.3 |
| <b>Navan Rd</b>            | -1.1 | -1.2 | -0.9   | -1.1 |
| <b>Ballyfermot</b>         | -0.3 | -0.4 | 0.1    | -0.2 |
| <b>Drumcondra</b>          | -2.5 | -2.4 | -2.5   | -2.6 |
| <b>Raheny</b>              | -2.3 | -2.4 | -1.4   | -2.2 |
| <b>Ringsend</b>            | -0.8 | 0.2  | 1.7    | 0.5  |
| <b>Bull Island</b>         | -1.8 | -1.0 | -0.7   | -1.7 |
| <b>Walkinstown</b>         | -0.3 | -0.6 | 0.1    | -0.4 |
| <b>Ranelagh</b>            | 3.4  | 0.6  | 0.2    | 1.0  |
| <b>Chancery Park</b>       | 0    | 0    | 0      | 0    |
| <b>Average. Difference</b> | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.4   | -0.8 |

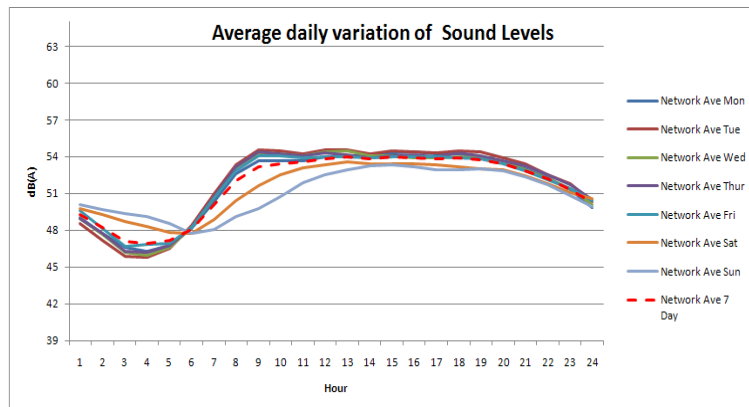
## Variation of Sound Levels

The site summaries *average LAeq* (sound levels) provide a more detailed view of how sound levels vary from hour to hour throughout the average day and between the different days of the week. During the average day sound levels (along with traffic levels) start rising at 6 a.m. After approximately 9 a.m. sounds levels at most sites, level off until 9pm when they start to fall. It is interesting to note early Saturday and Sunday morning sound levels are higher than the same periods during the week. The peak sound levels on weekend

mornings arise between ten and eleven a.m. It is thought these differences are due to different social activities at these times with less traffic on the road on late Saturday and Sunday mornings and more traffic coming from late night social events early Saturday and Sunday mornings. The days of

the week which record the average highest sound levels are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, with little variation between them. The average lowest sound levels are recorded on Sundays. Again these values mirror trends in traffic flows.

Fig.7



The top three sites with the lowest daytime sound values were Bull Island, Woodstock Gardens and Walkinstown. The top three sites with the highest daytime sound values were Ballymun, Chancery St and Ballyfermot. The sites with the lowest night time sound values were Woodstock Gardens, Bull Island and Walkinstown. The sites with the highest night time sound values were Chancery Park, Ballymun and Navan Road.

The Monthly Charts to the rear of this report present a detailed view of how average daily sound levels change from day to day and month to month. In 2009, the Network's highest average monthly sound levels were experienced at most stations in November followed by January. In 2010 September and February were the months with the highest average sound levels. The dips in early January and December 2010 were due to the extreme weather events of heavy snow and freezing temperatures.

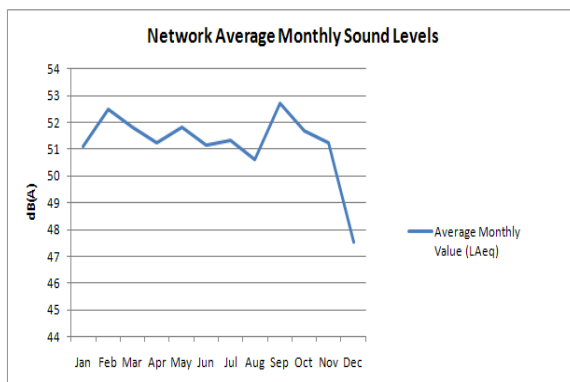


Fig.8

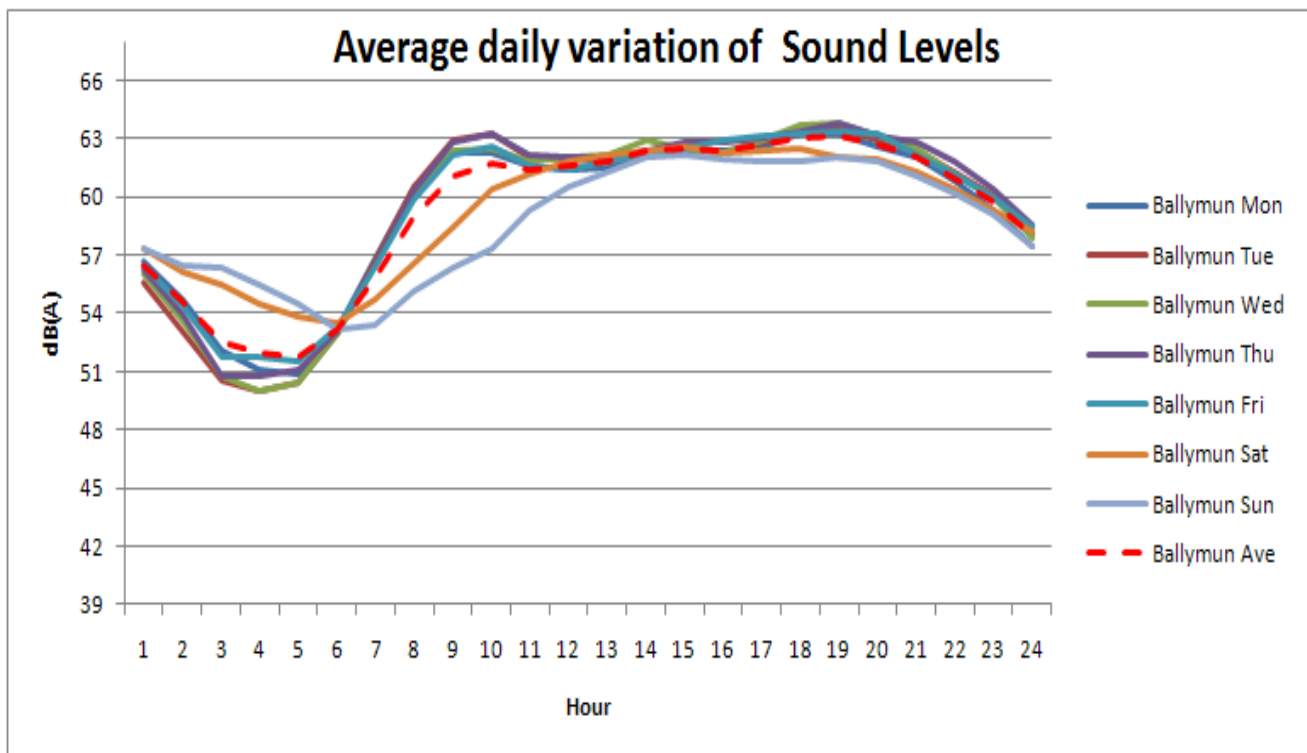


## **Average Daily Summary Charts**

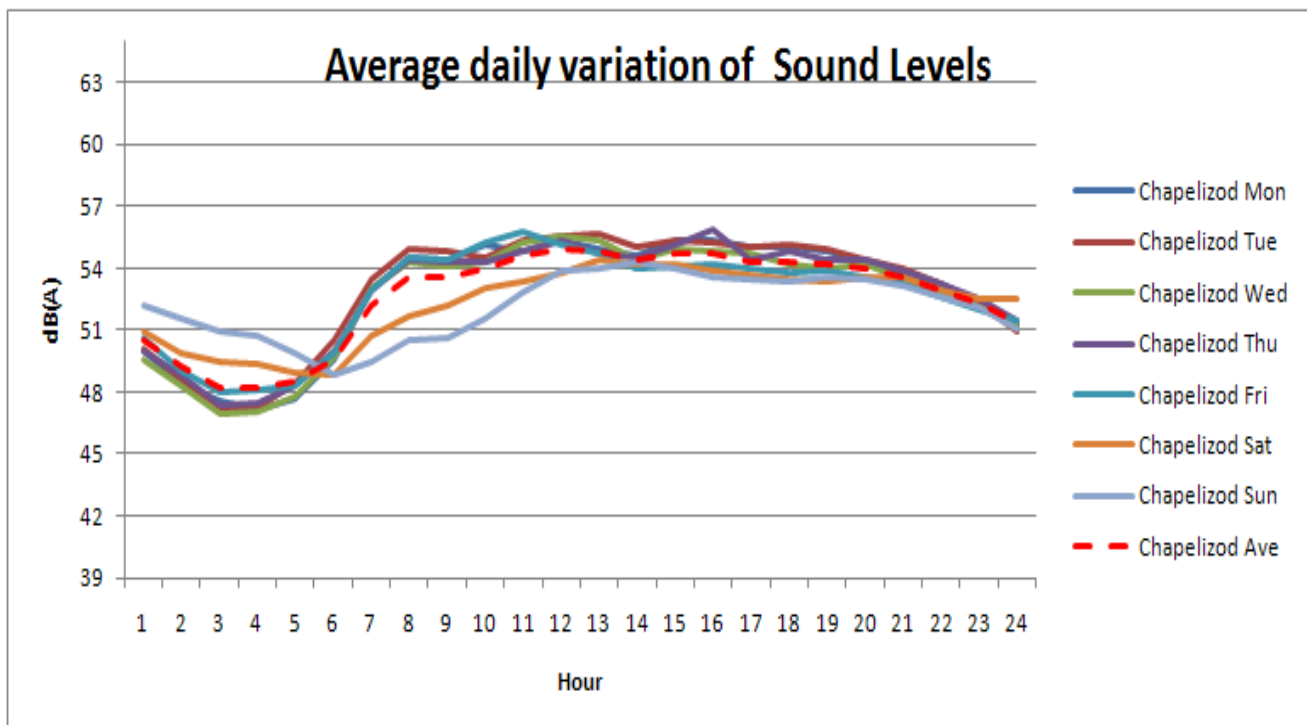




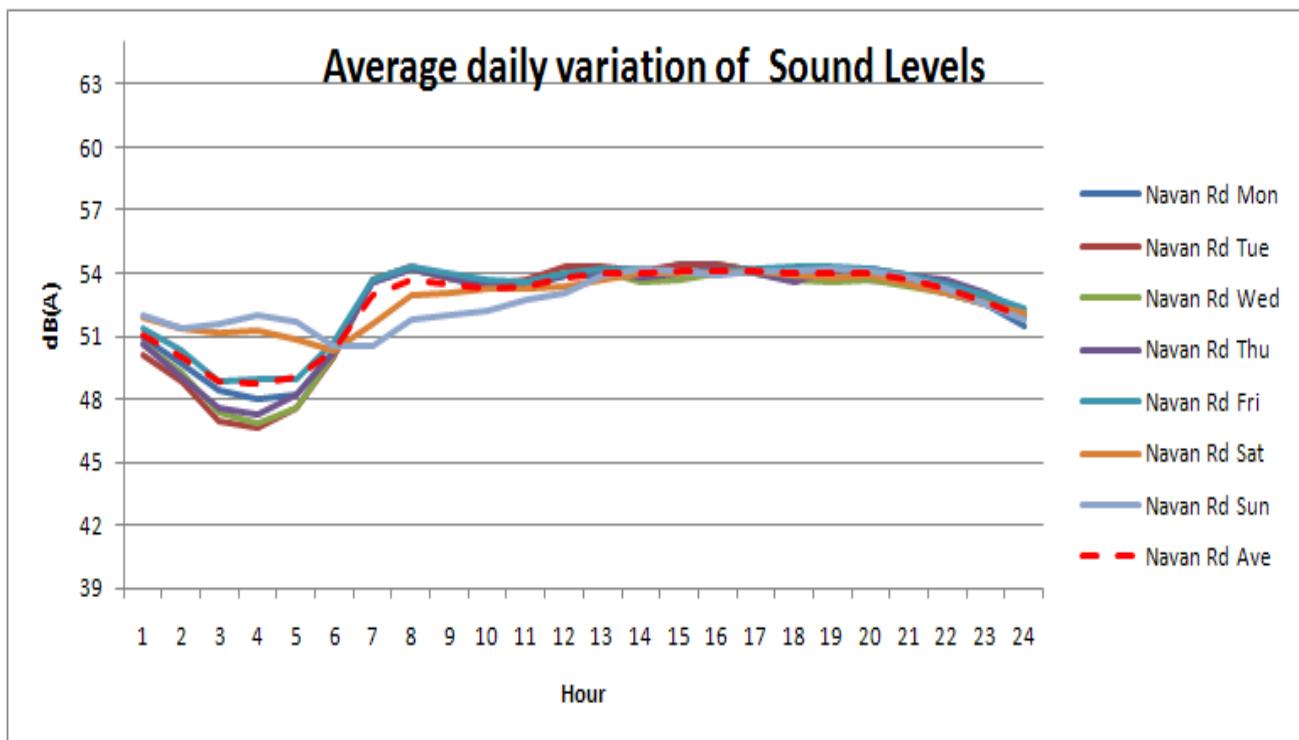
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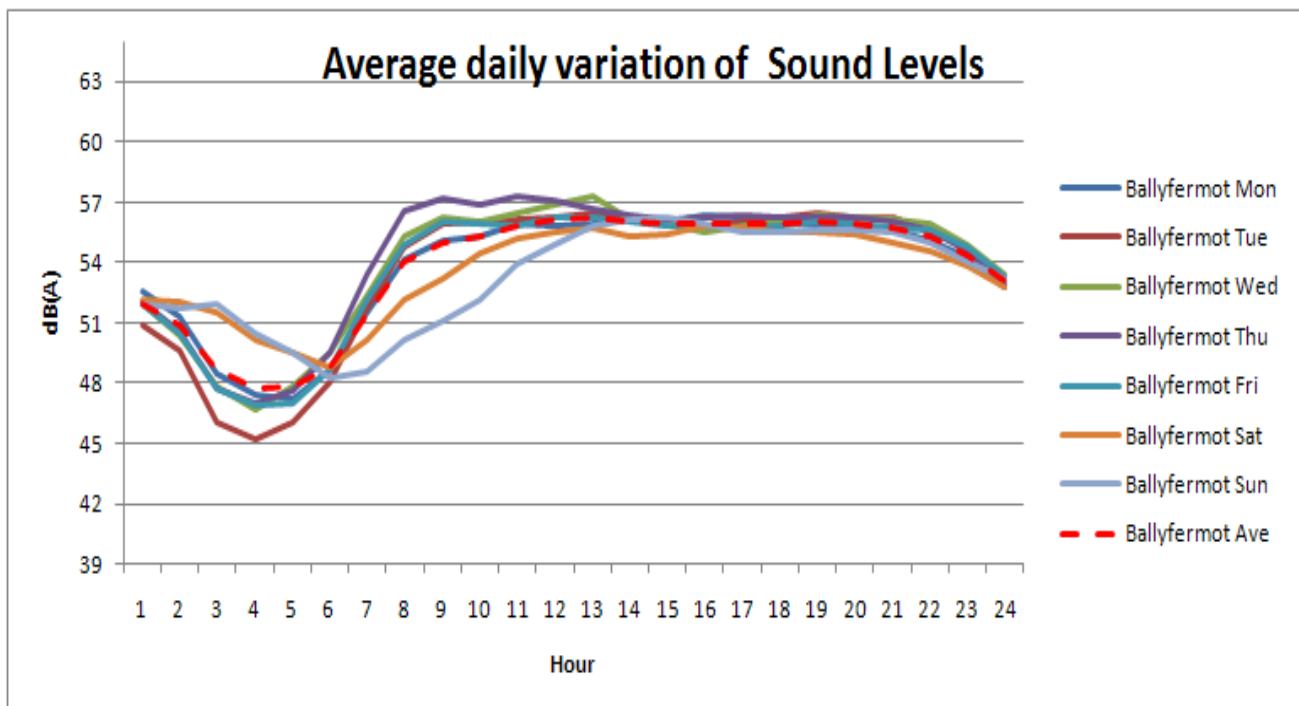
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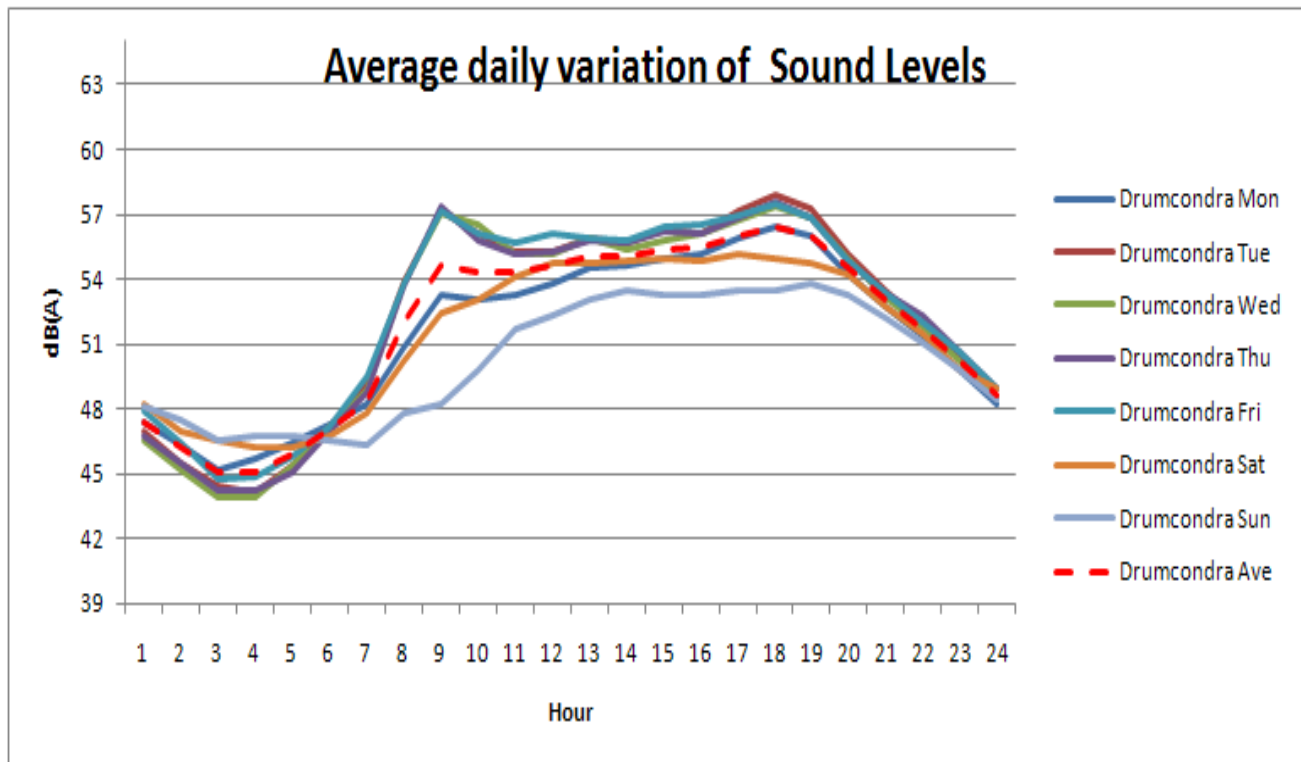
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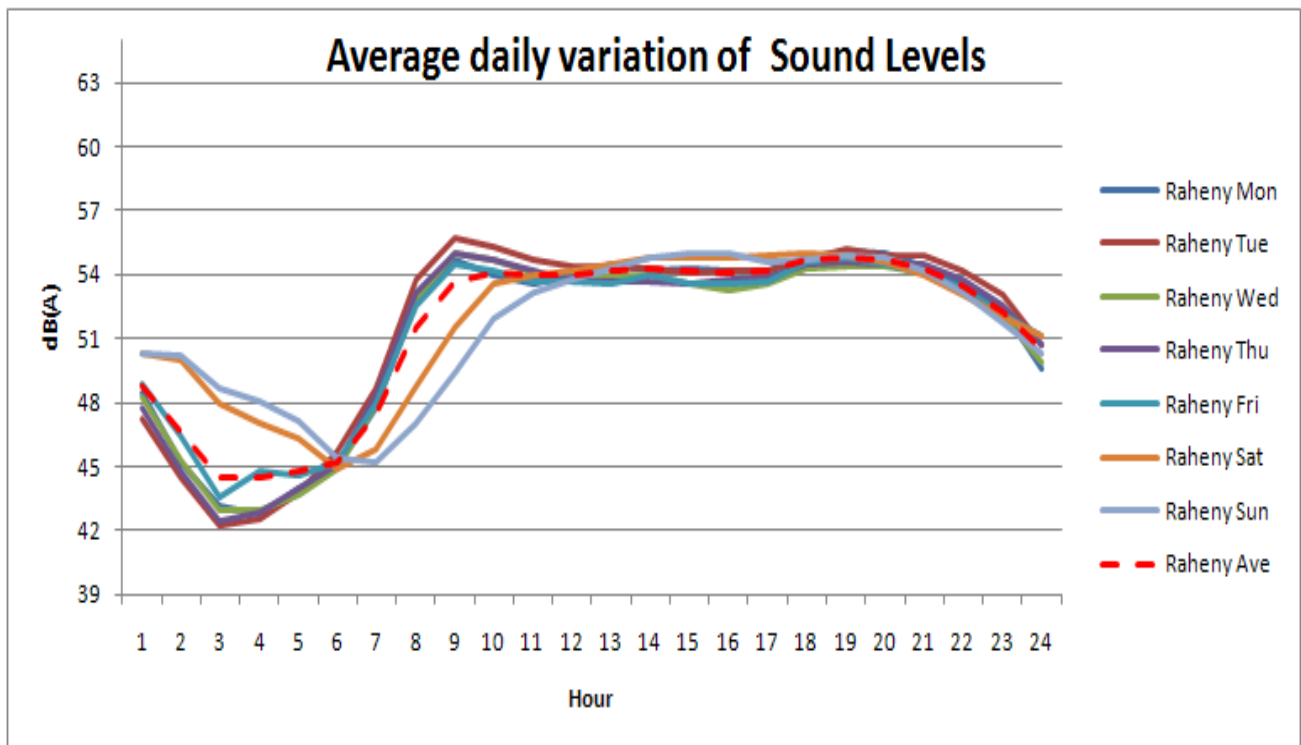
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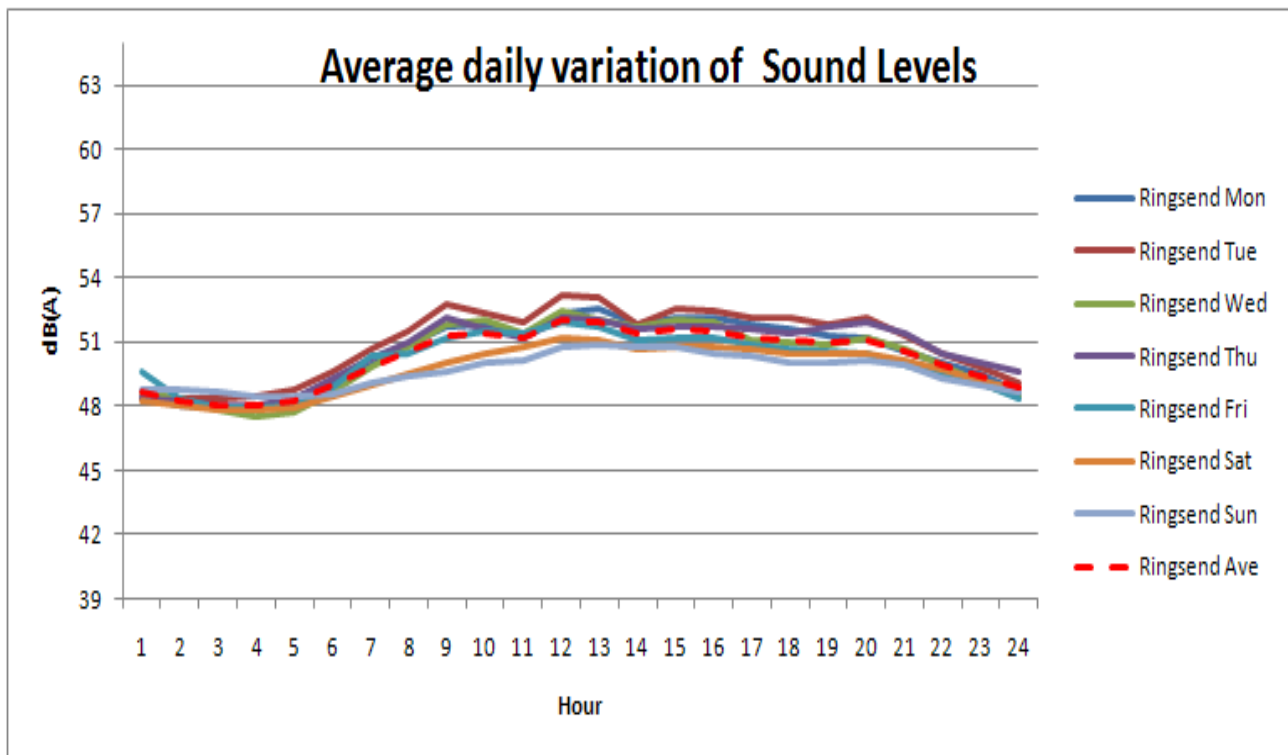
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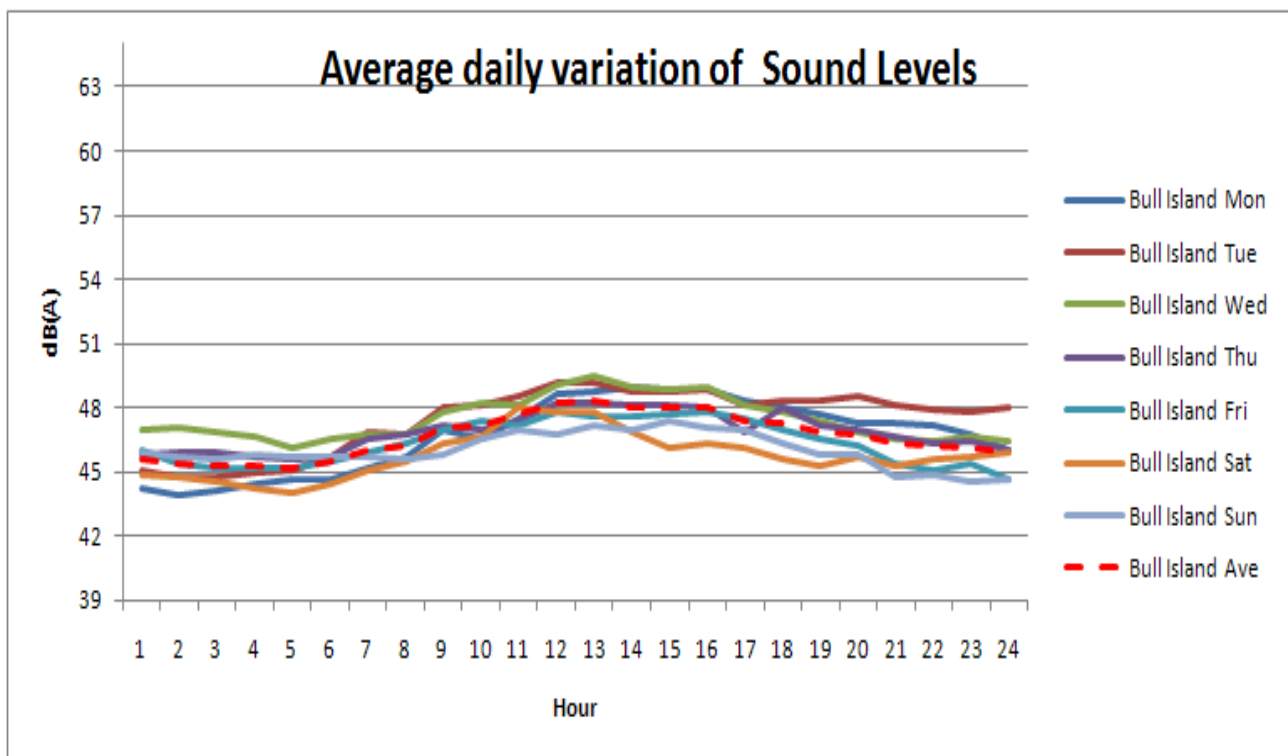
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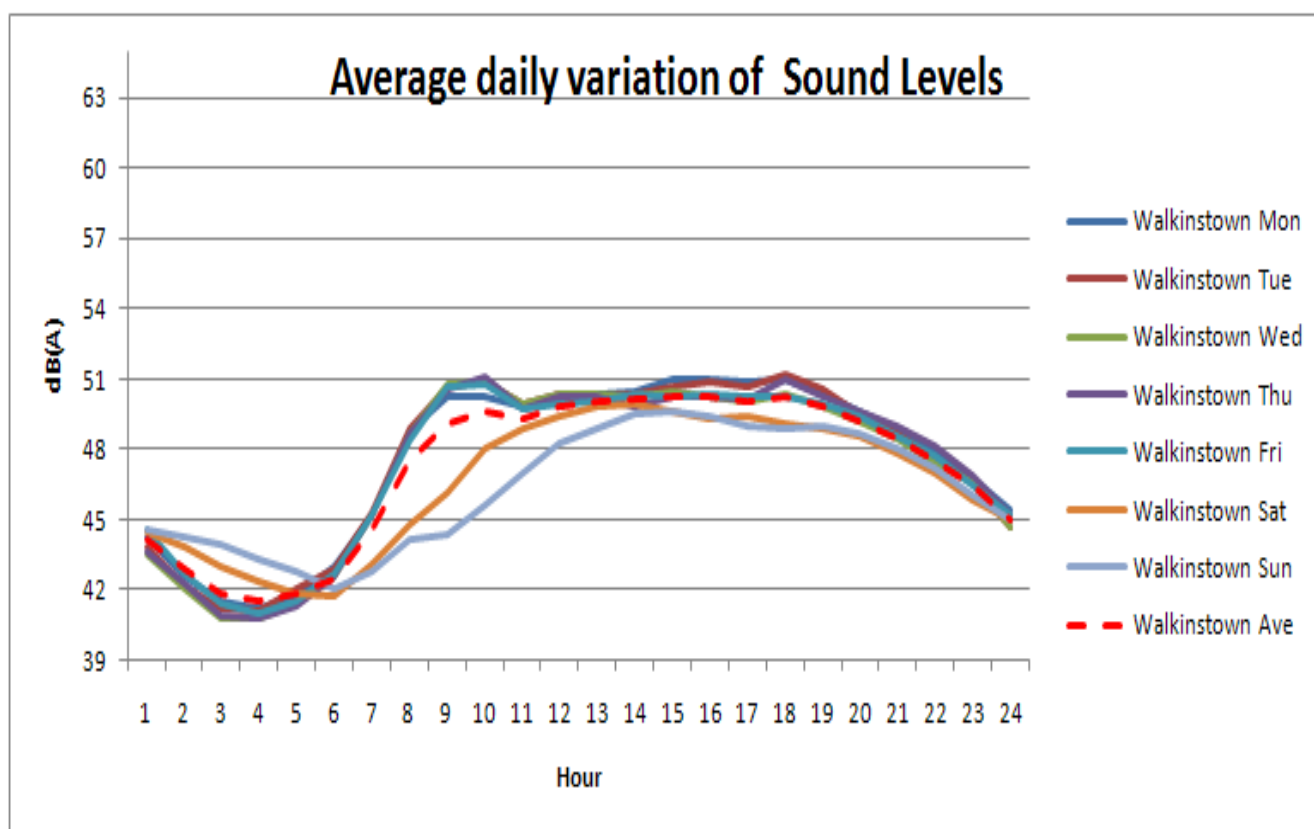
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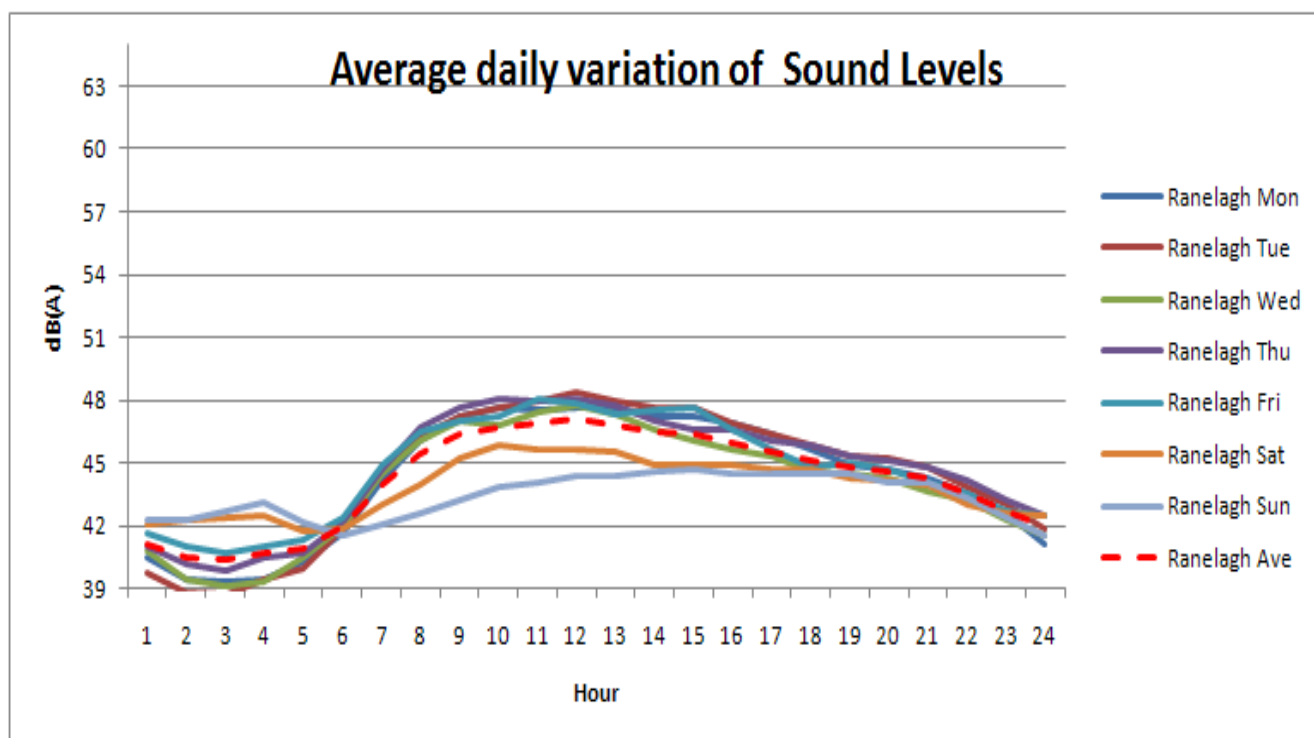
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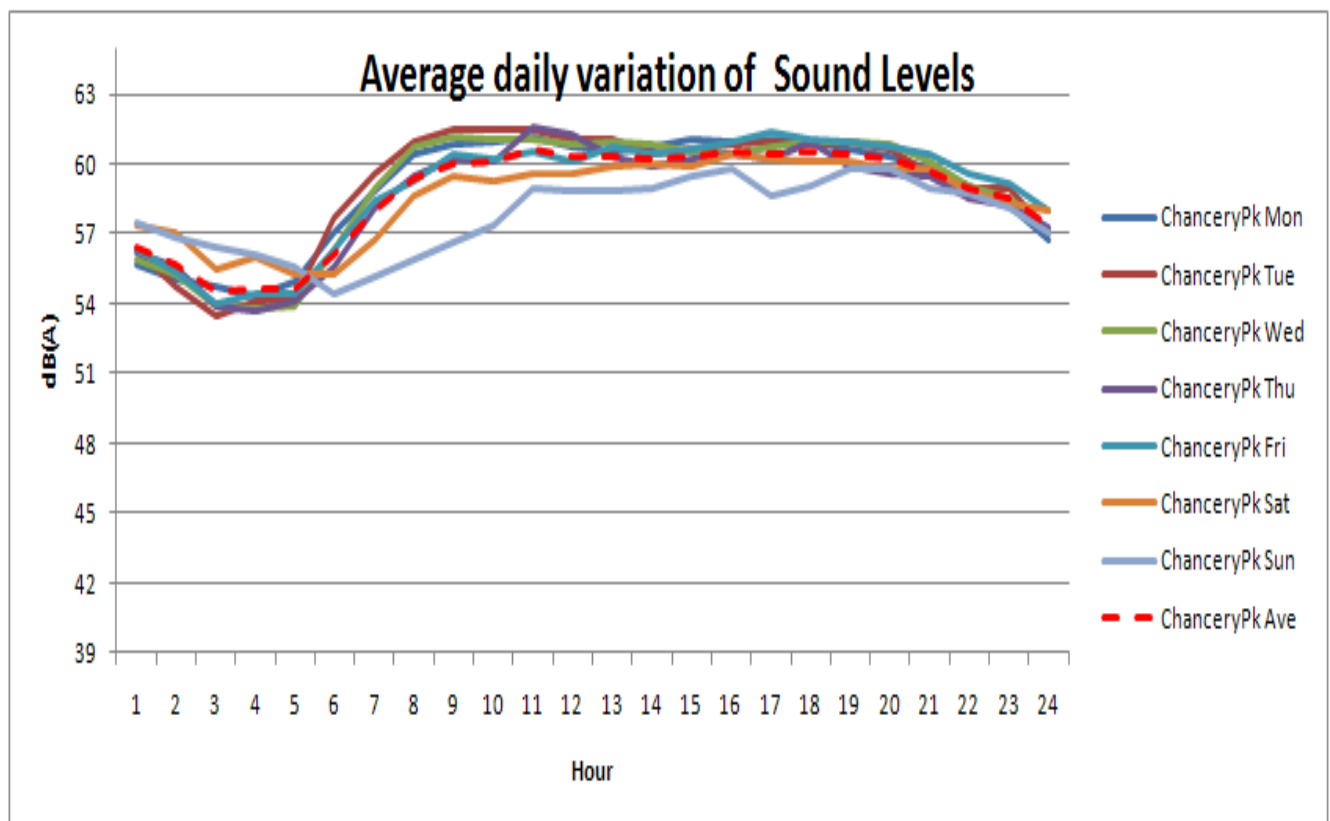
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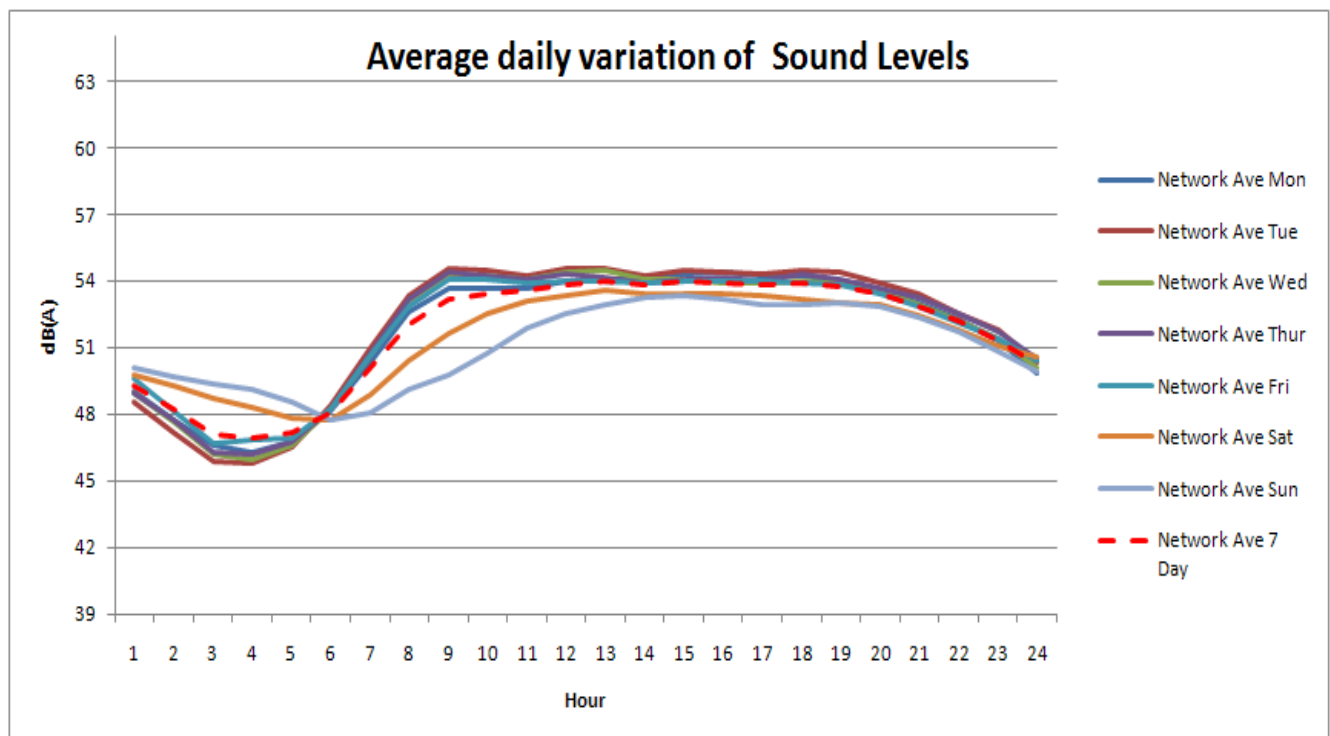
## RANELAGH



## CHANCERY PARK



## NETWORK

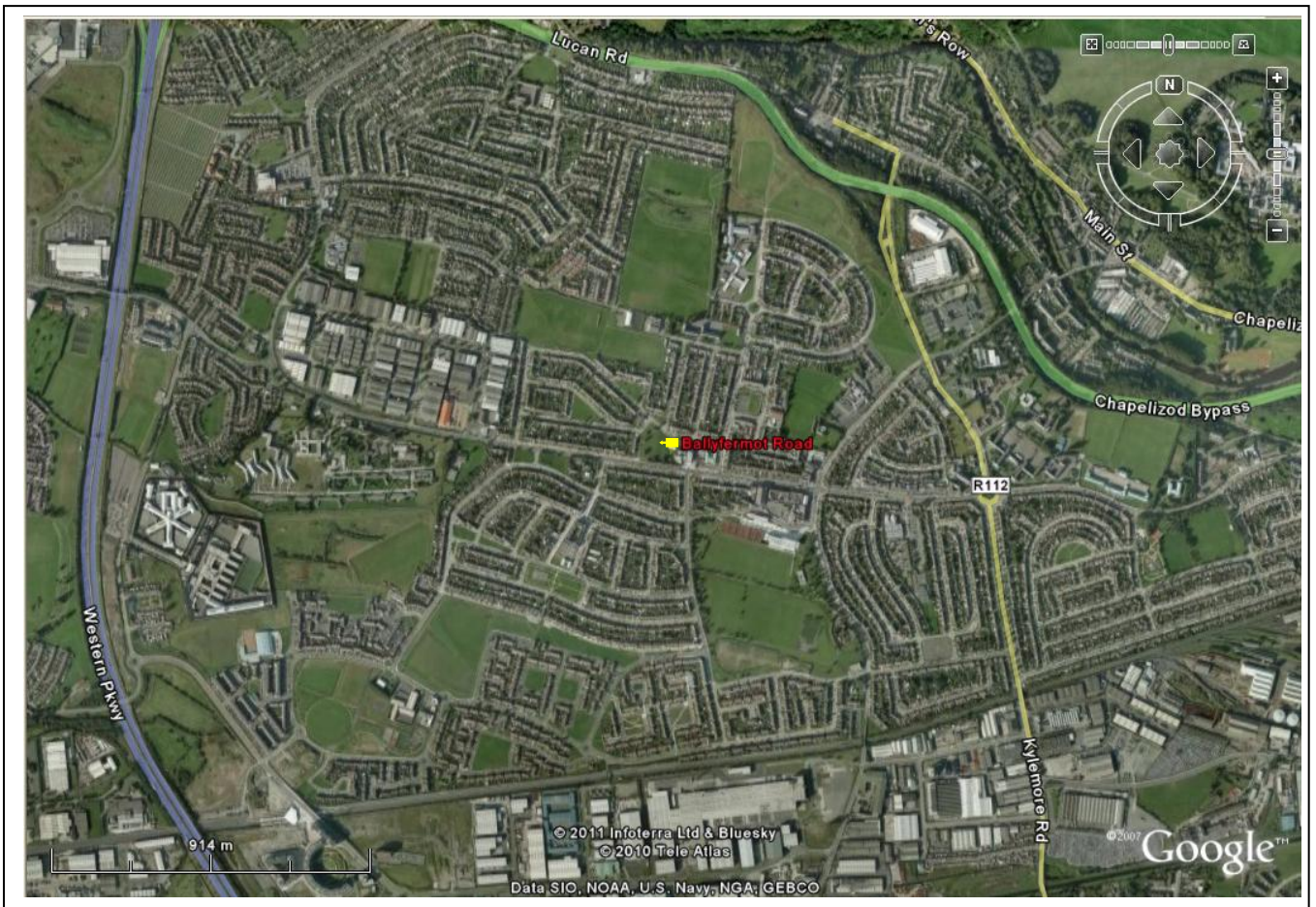


## Monthly Summary Charts

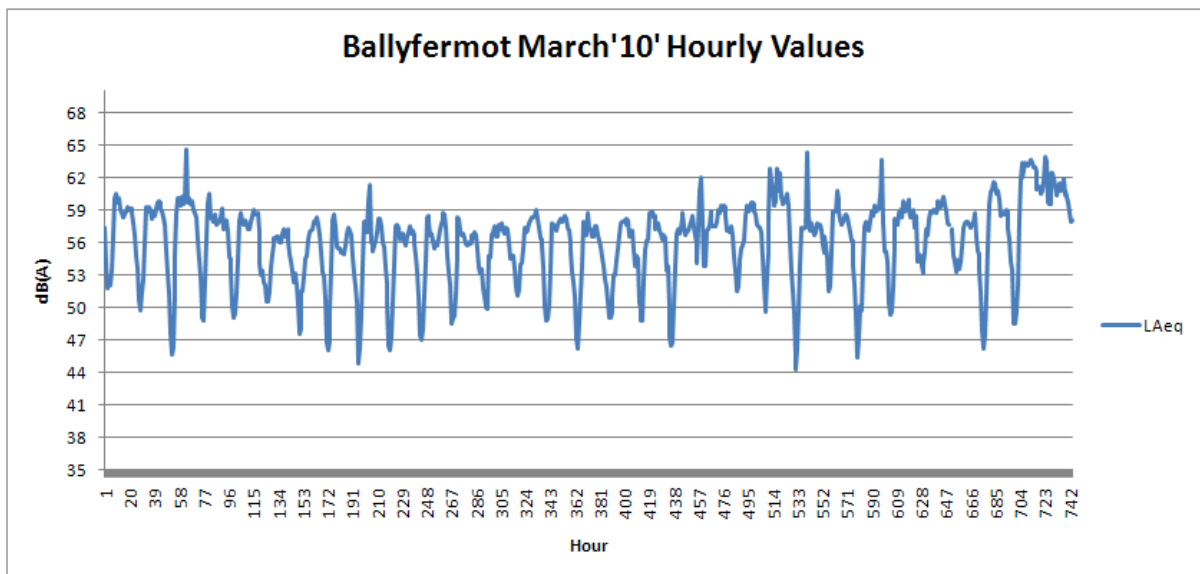
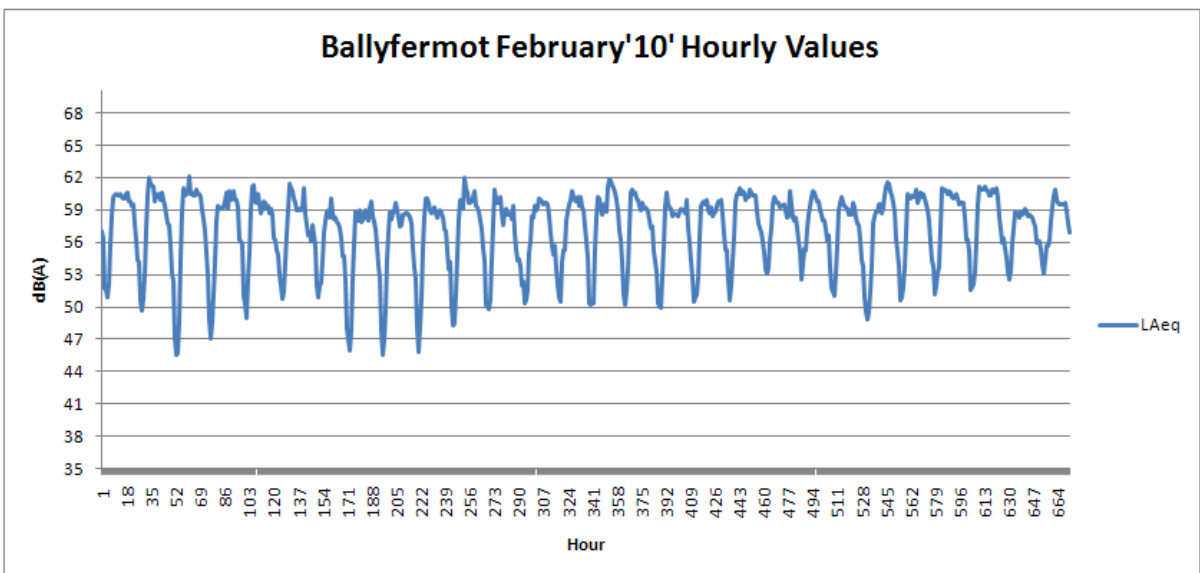
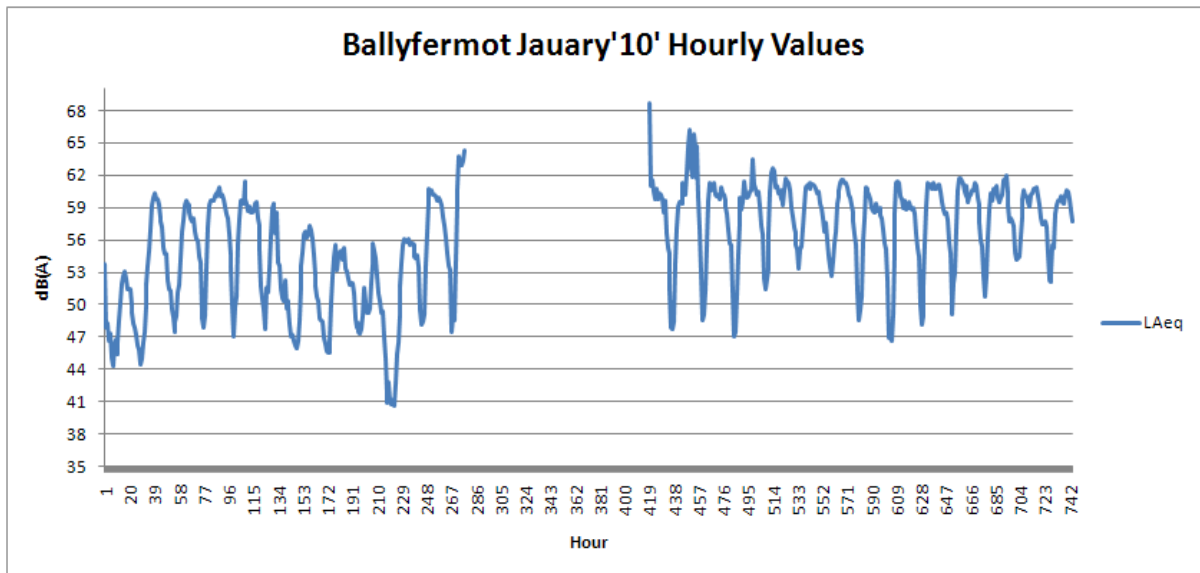




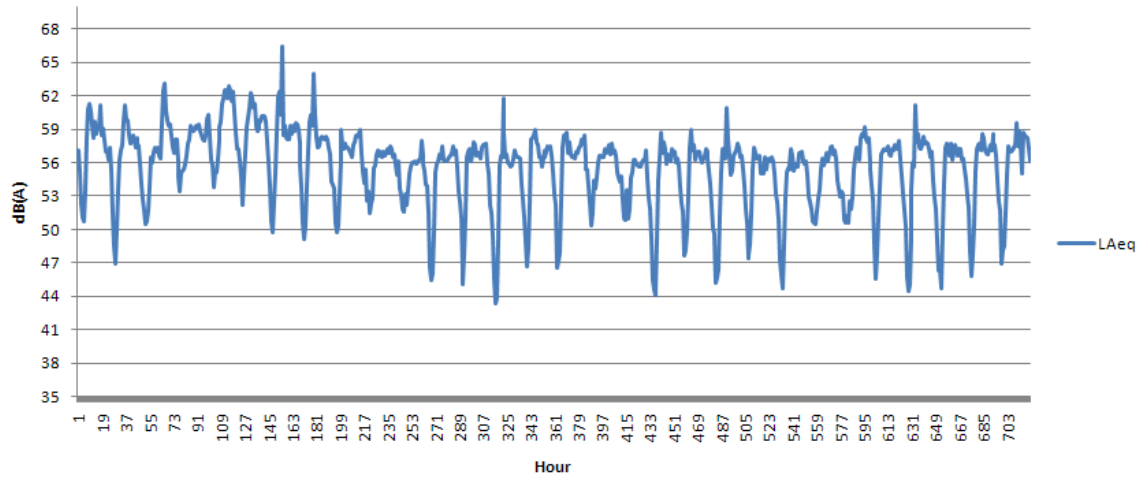
**BALLYFERMOT CIVIC CENTRE**  
**BALLYFERMOT ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 10**



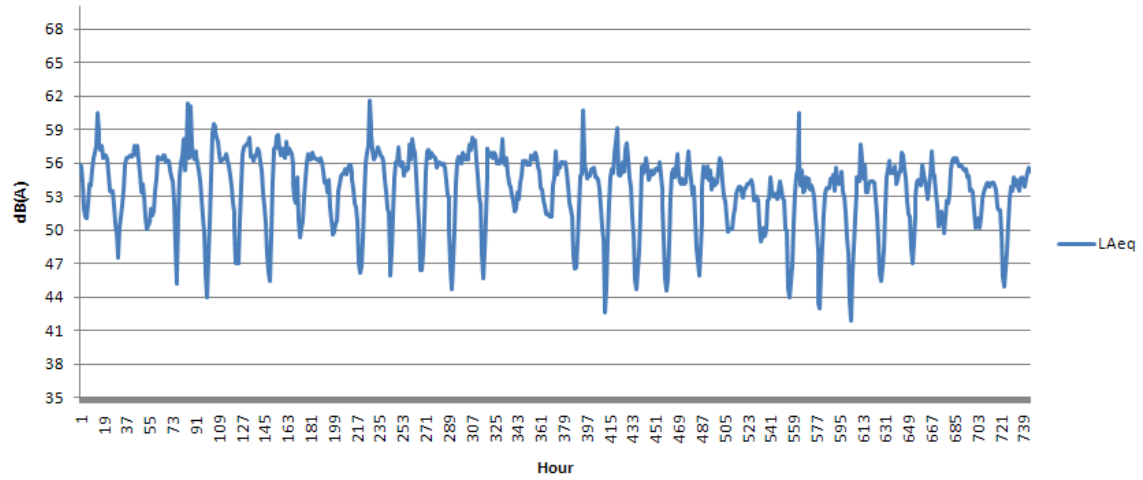




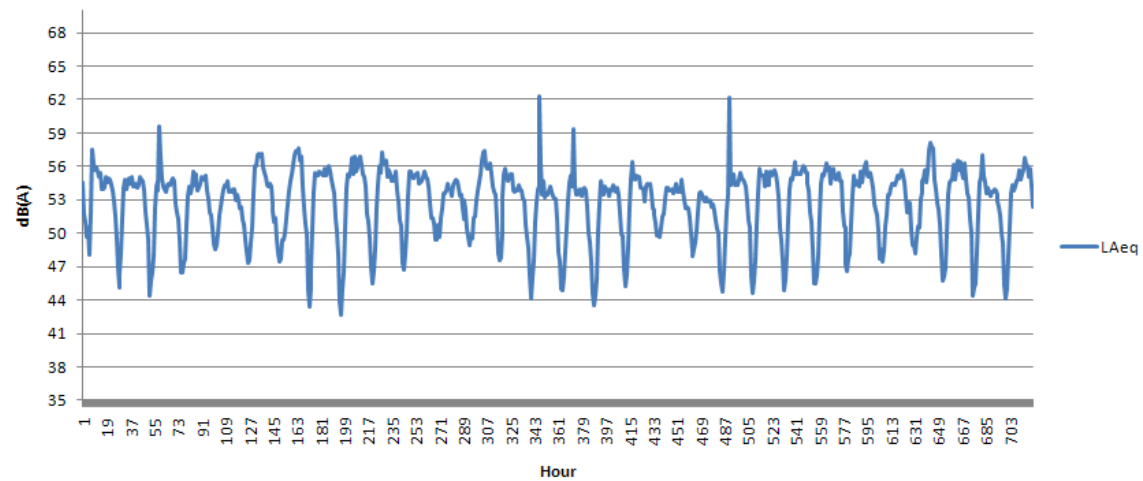
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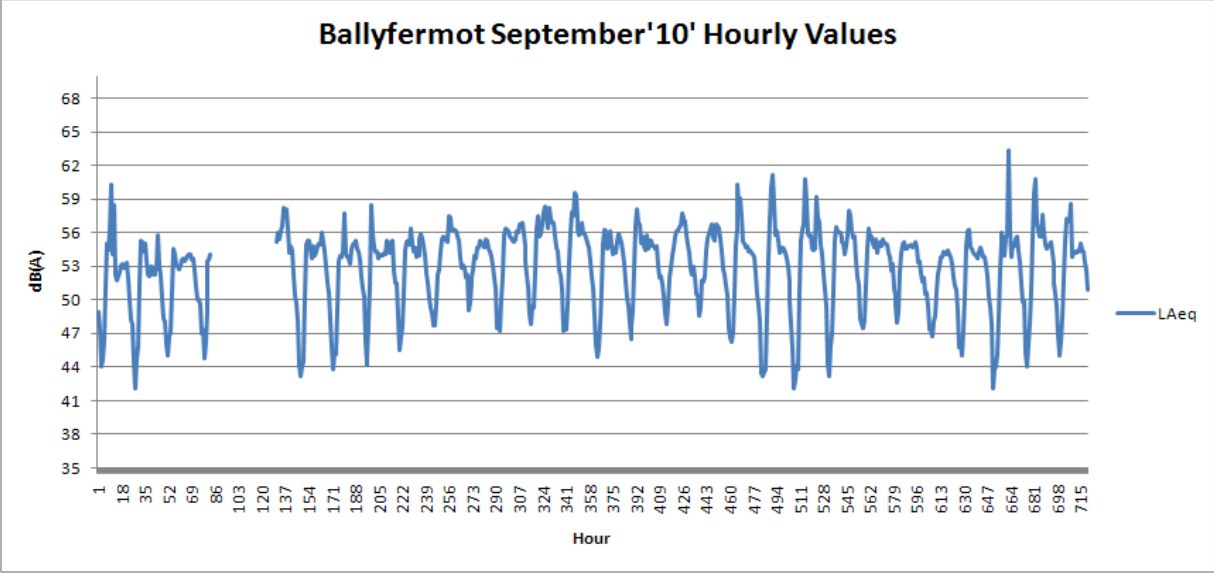
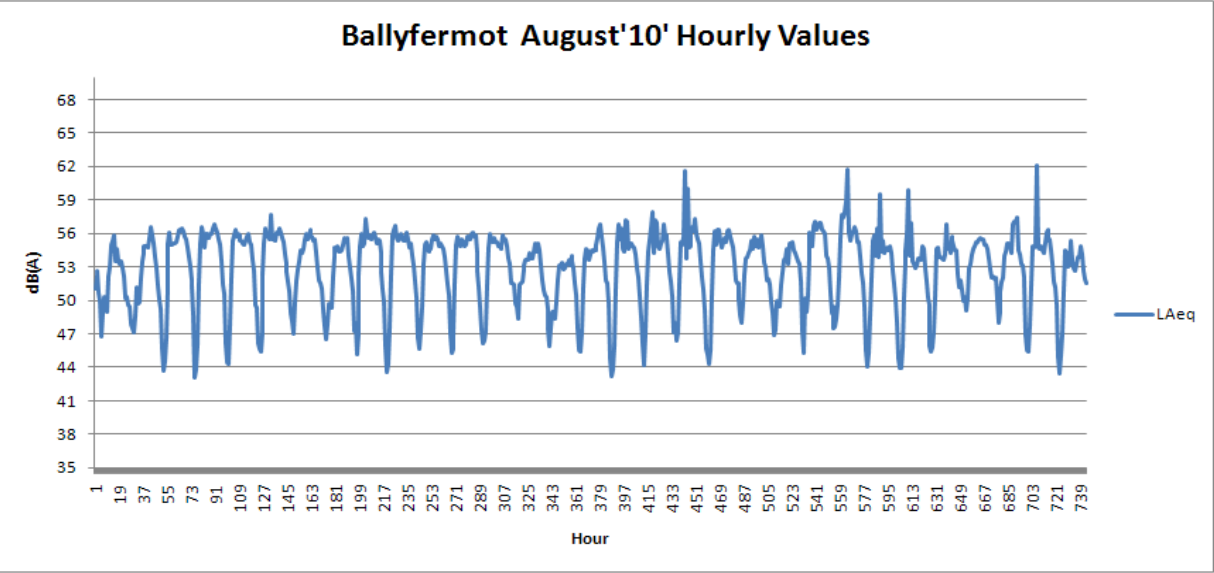
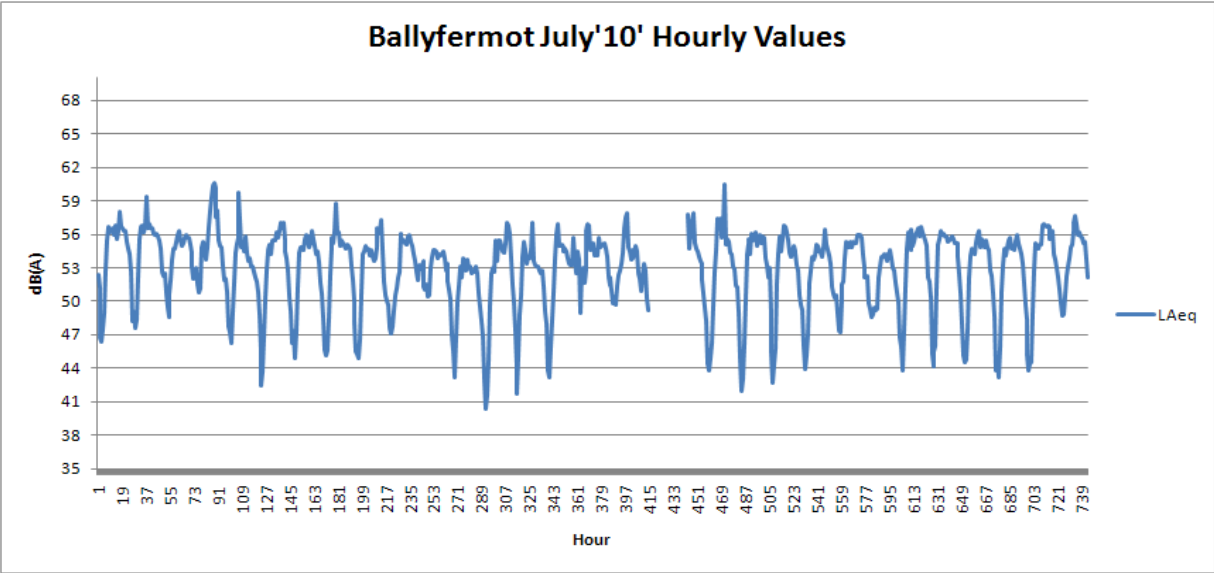


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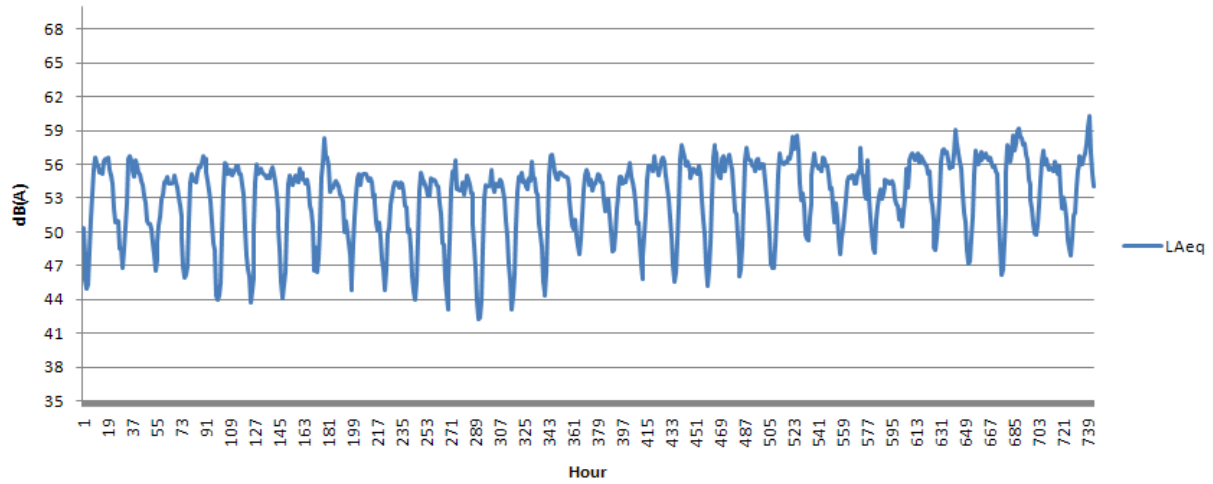


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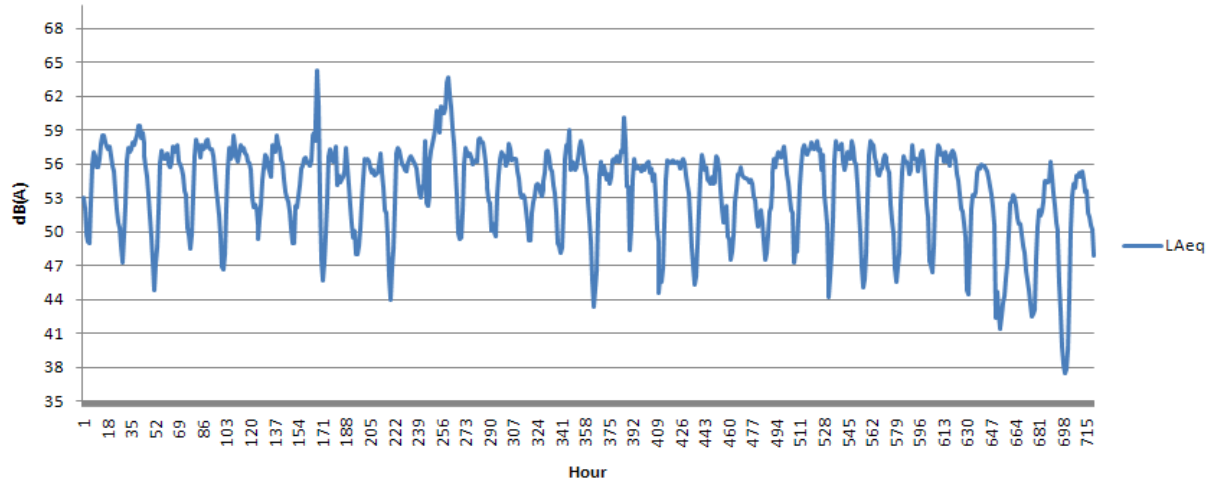




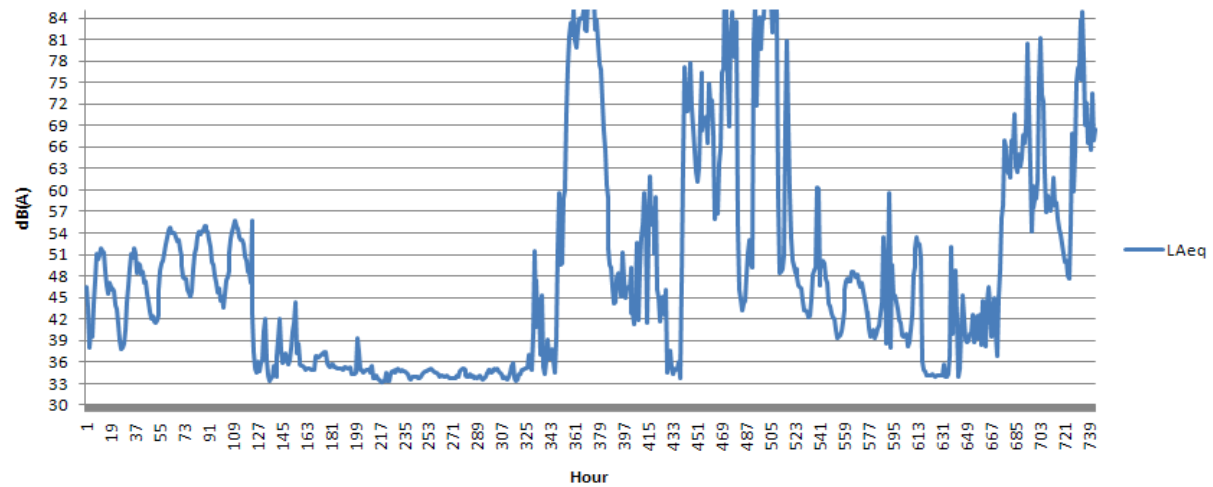
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**Ballyfermot November'10' Hourly Values**



**Ballyfermot December'10' Hourly Values**



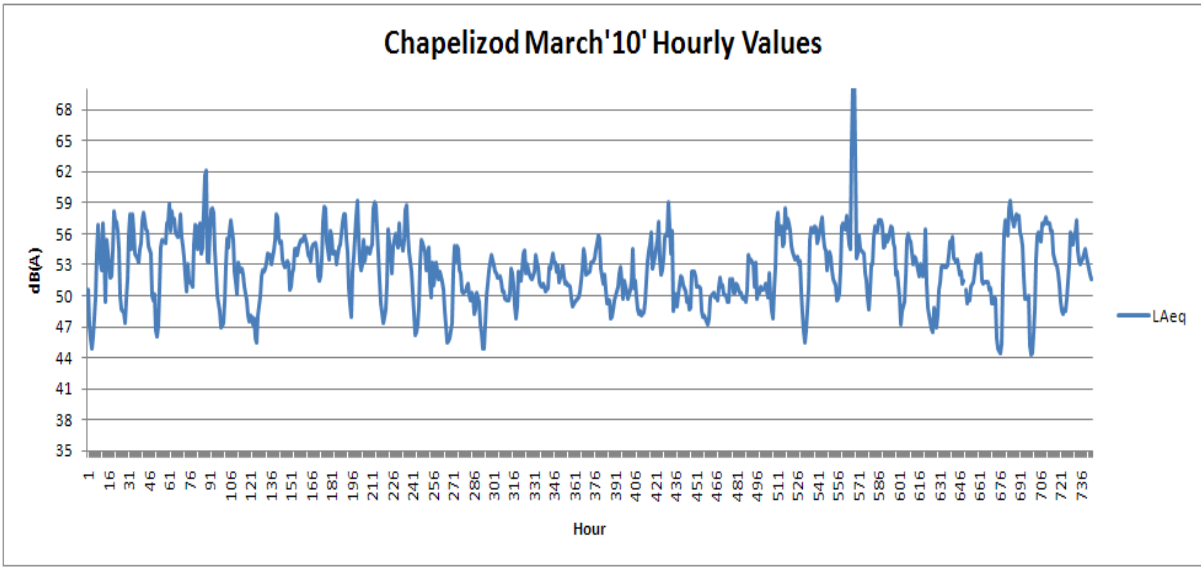
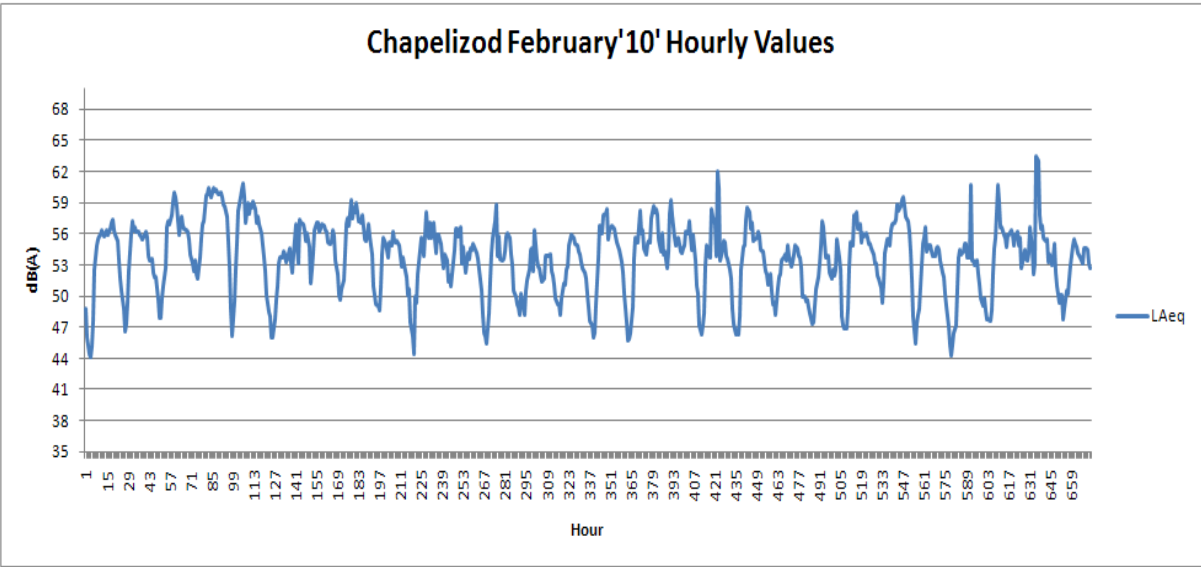
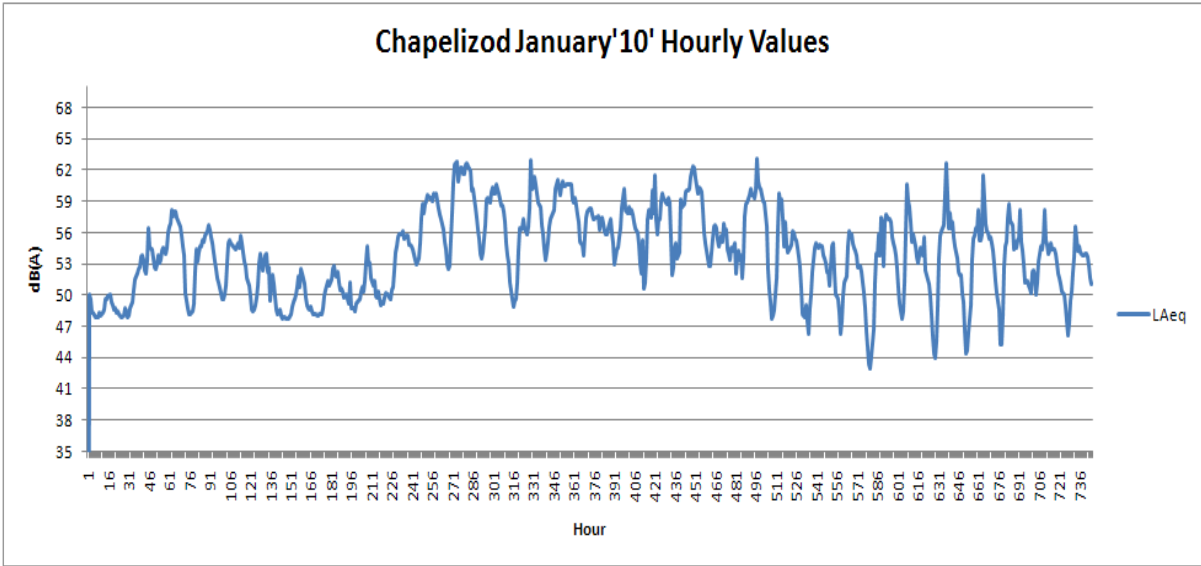


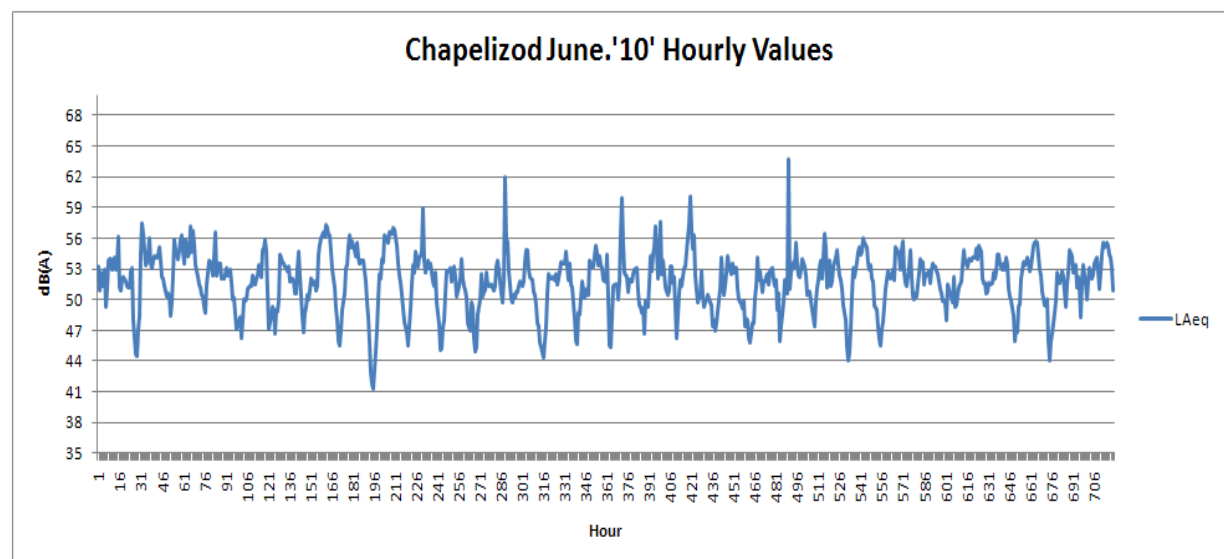
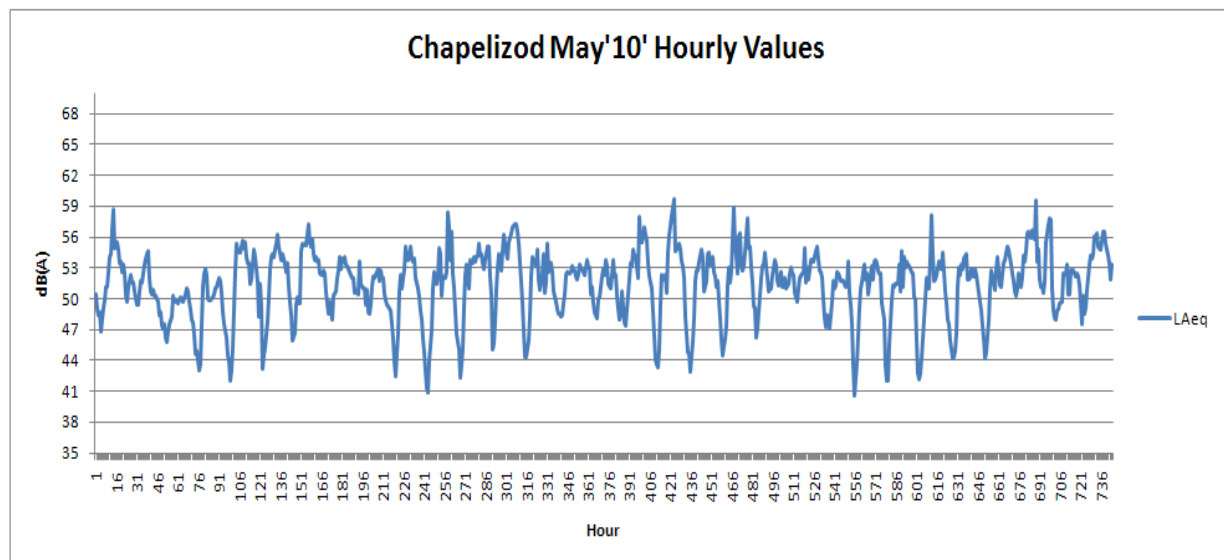
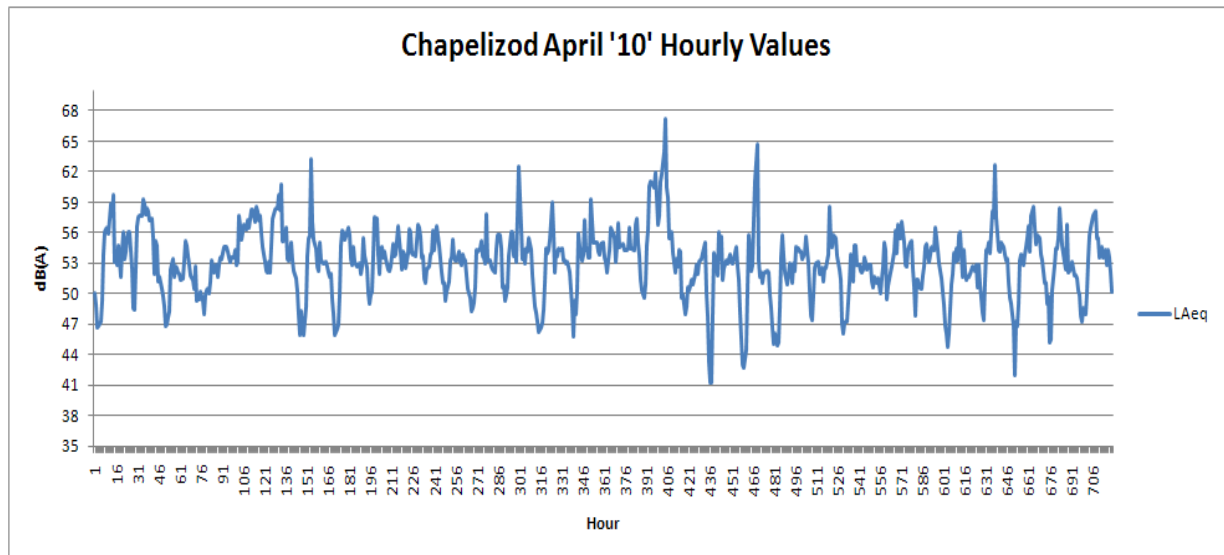
**DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL ROWING CLUB**  
**CHAPELIZOD ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 8**

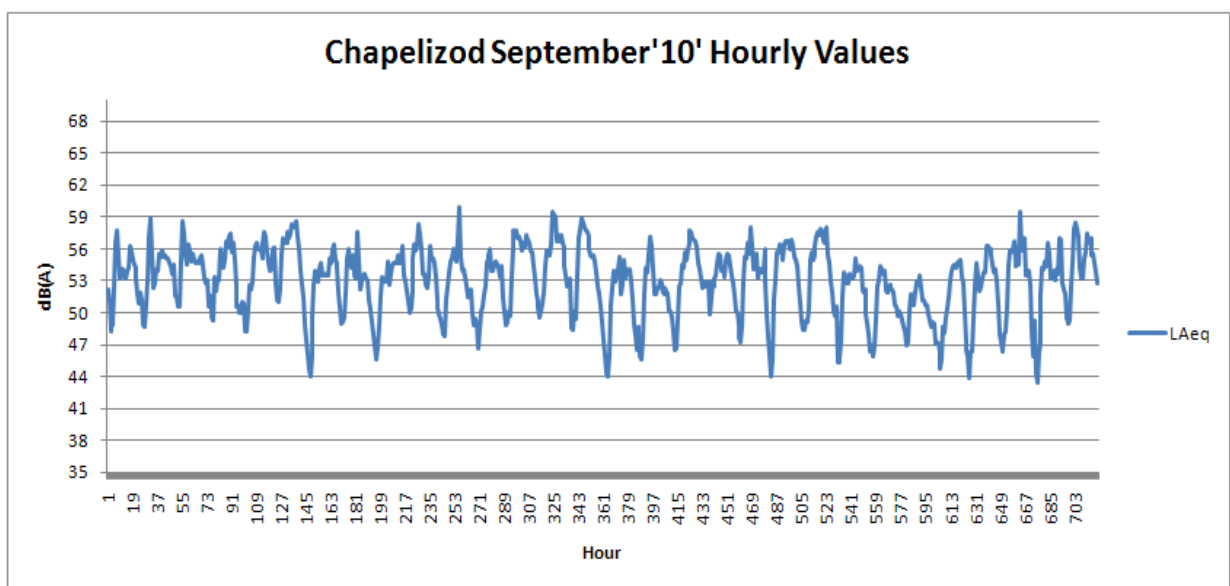
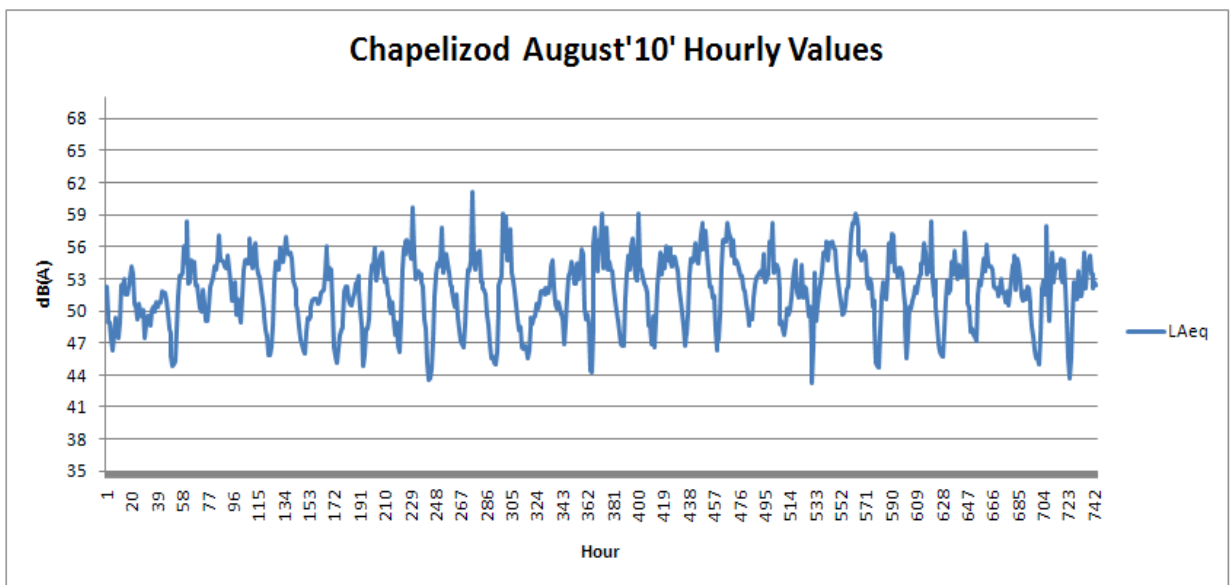
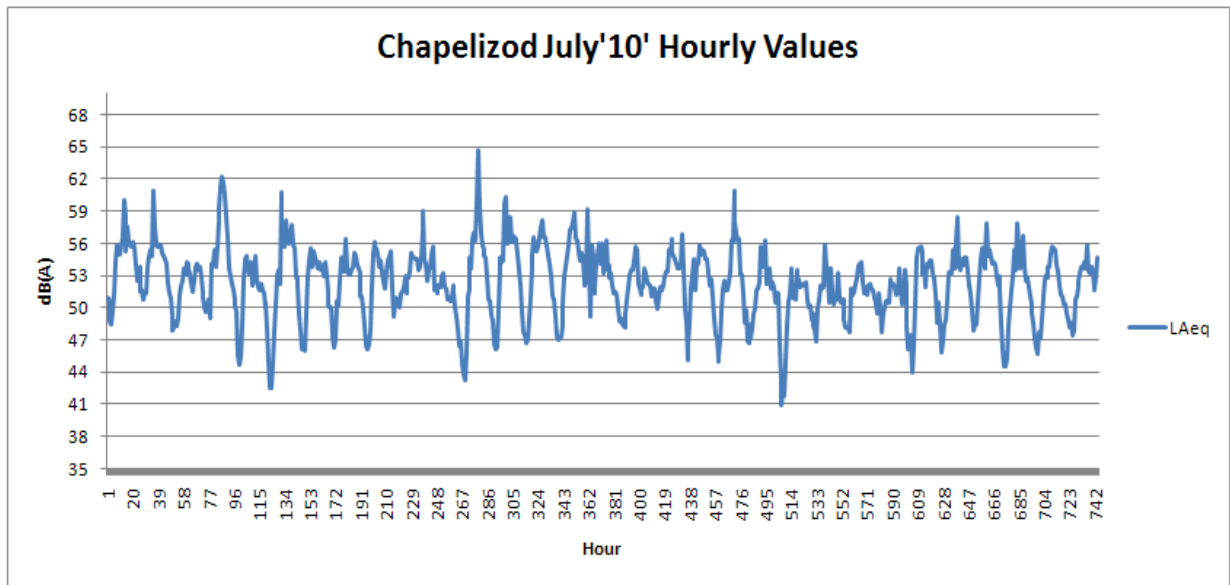




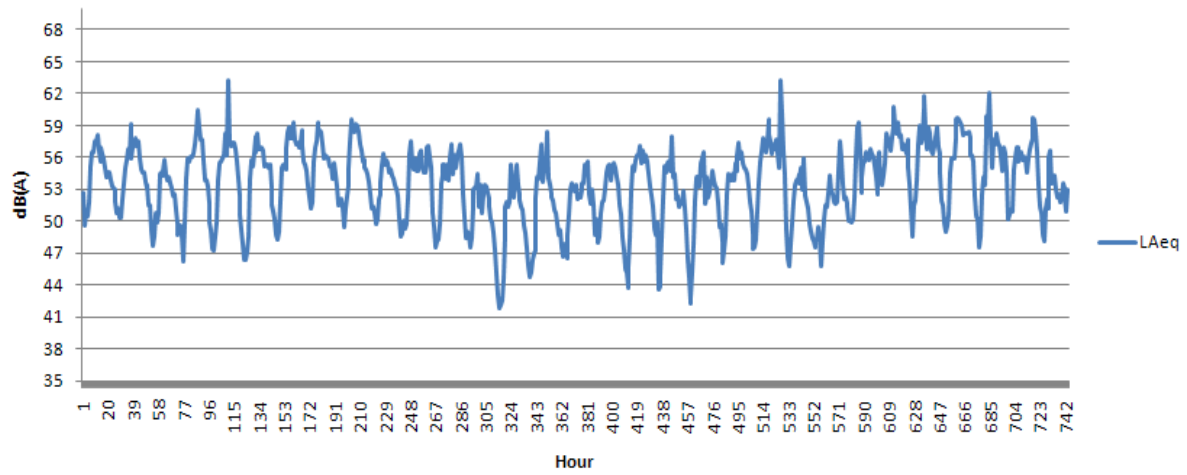




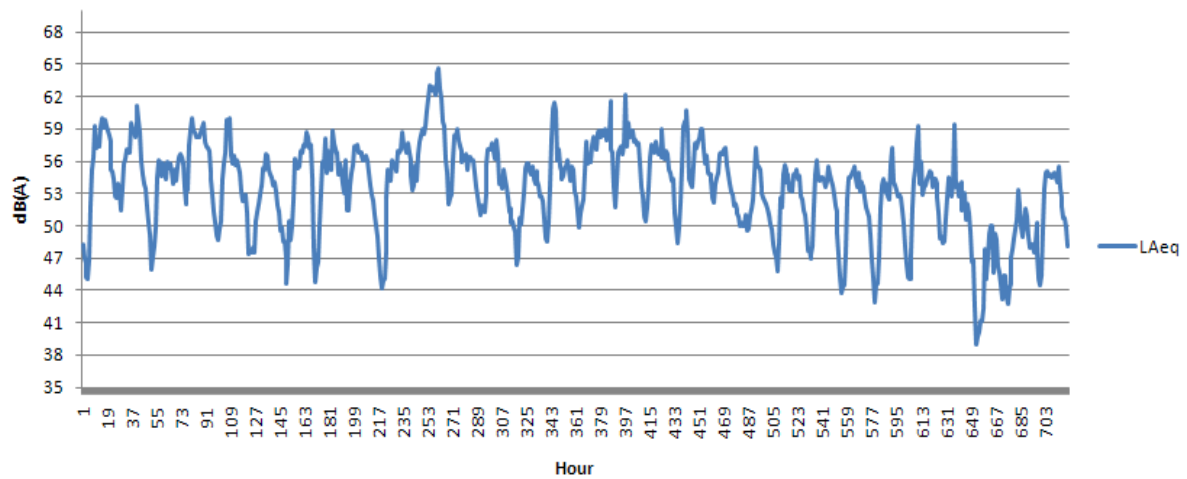




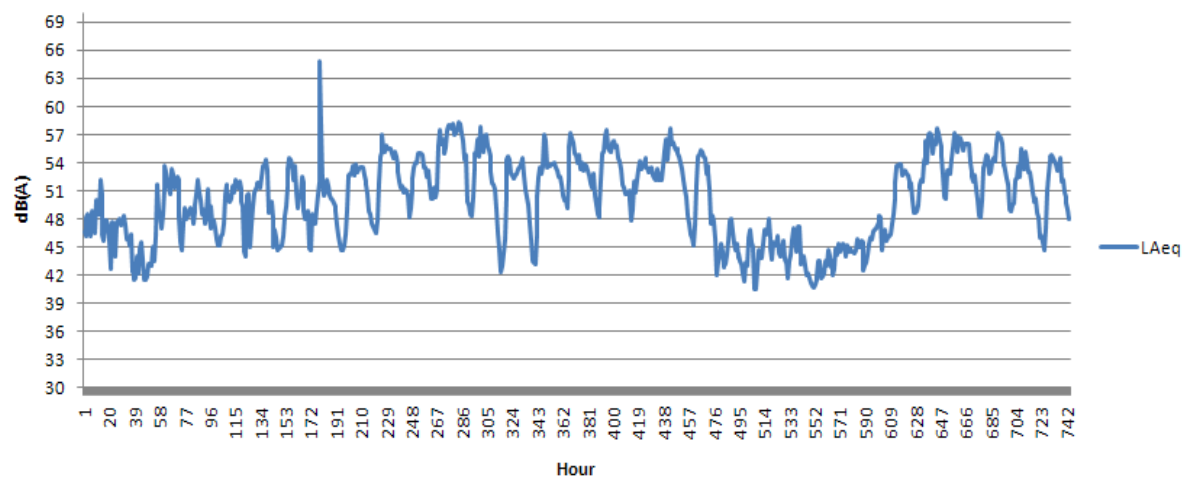
**Chapelized October'10' Hourly Values**



**Chapelized November'10' Hourly Values**



**Chapelized December'10' Hourly Values**

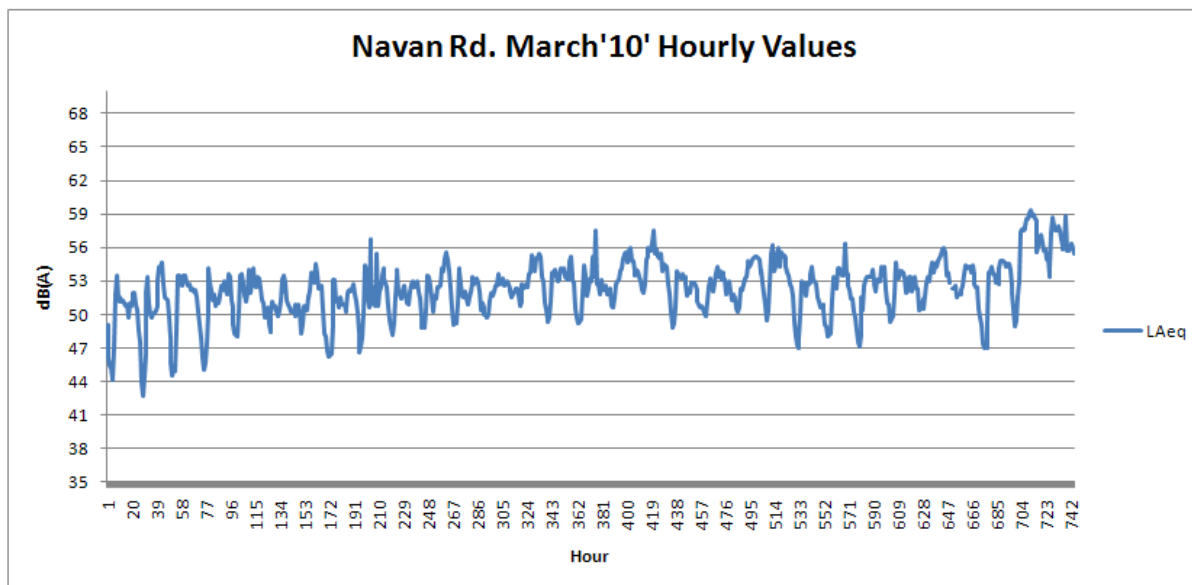
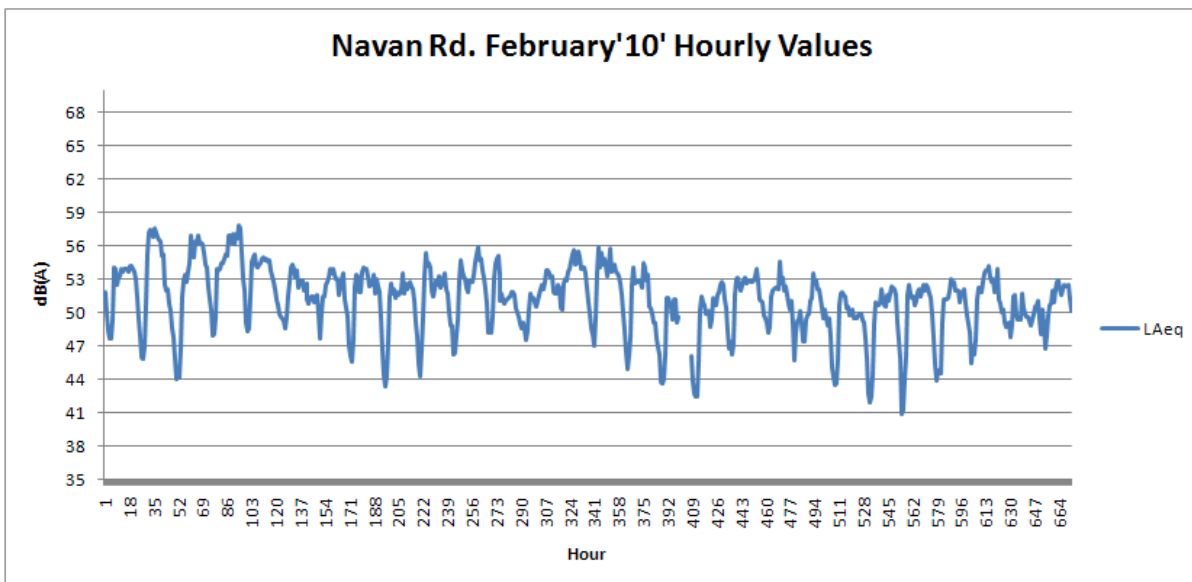
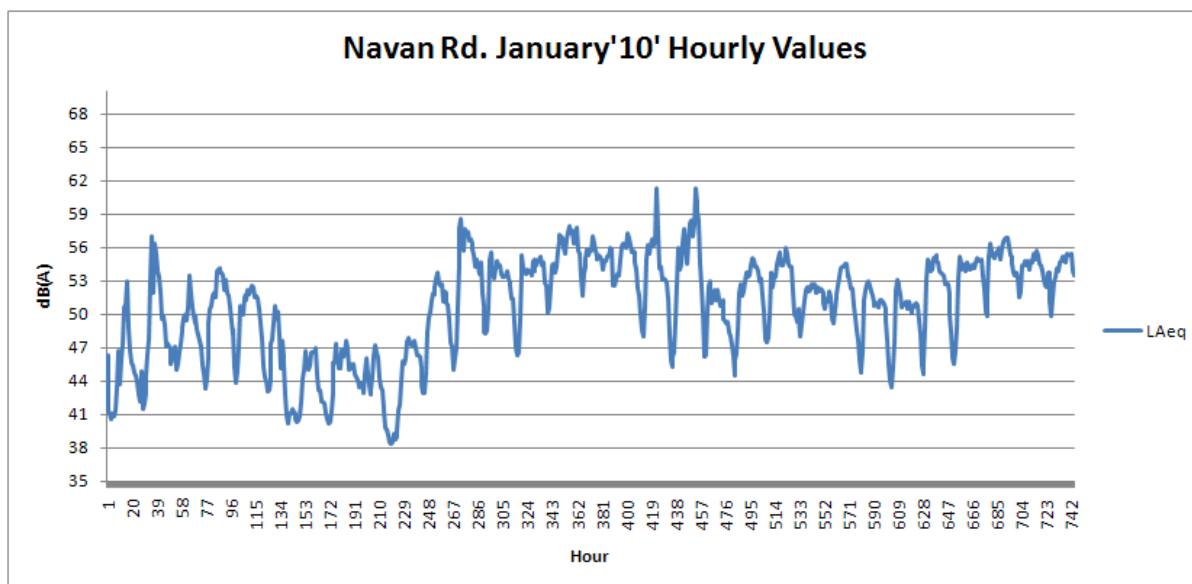


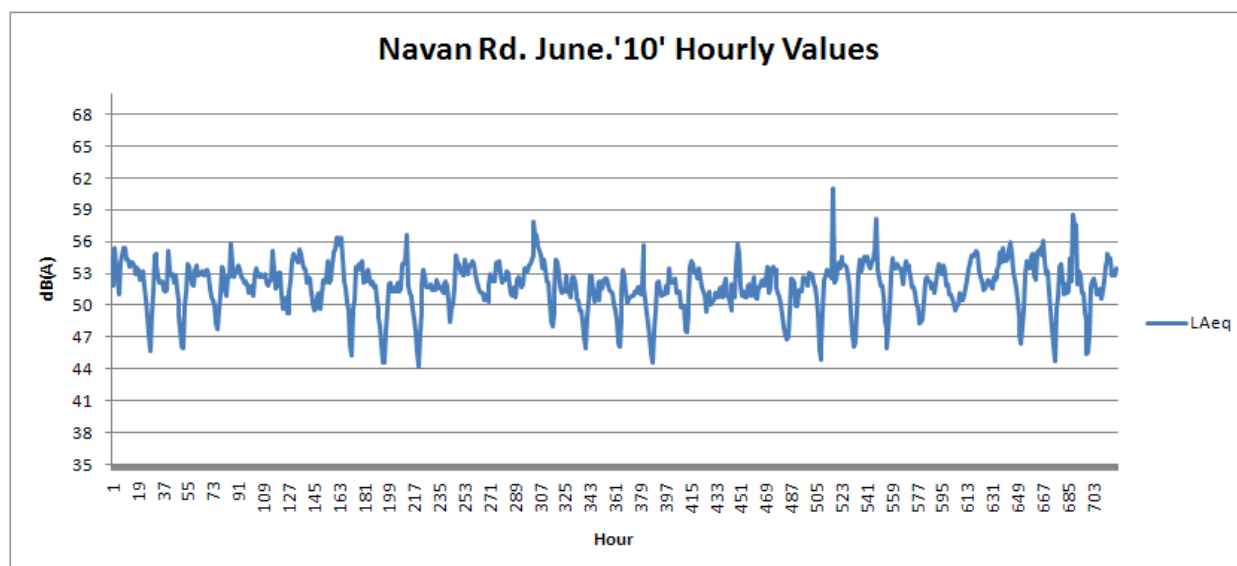
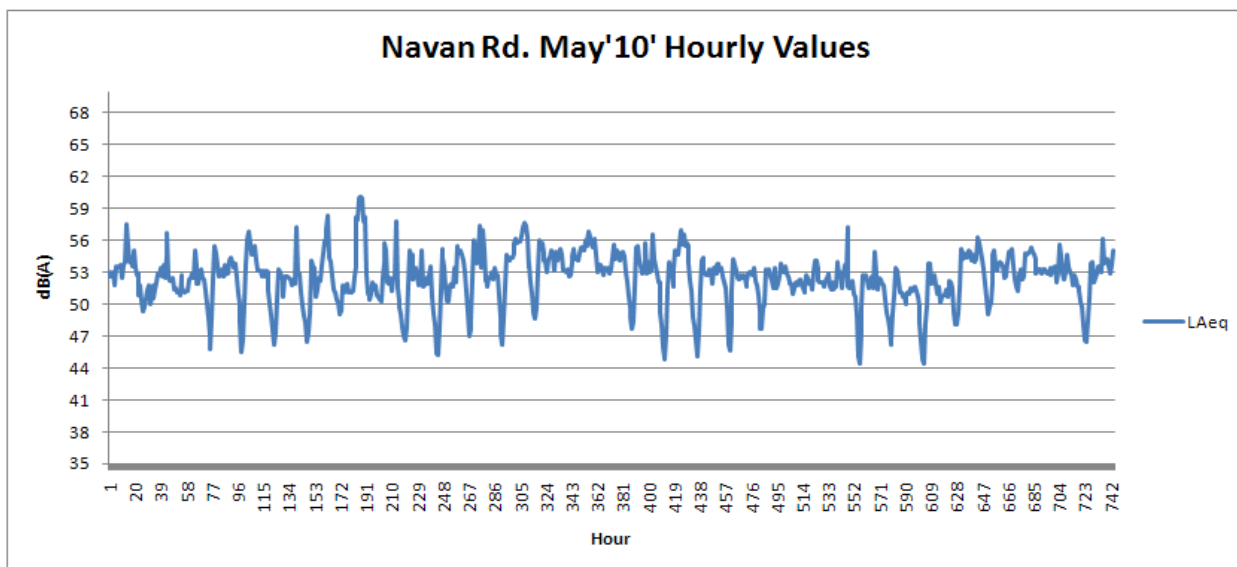
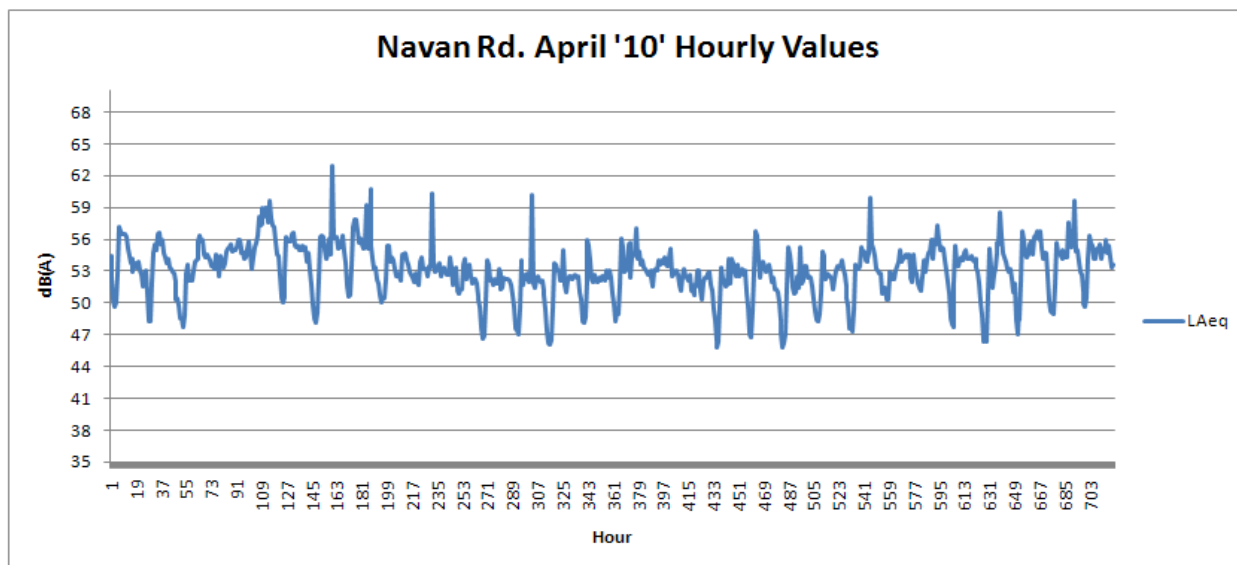


**ASHTOWN GROVE**  
**NAVAN ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 7**



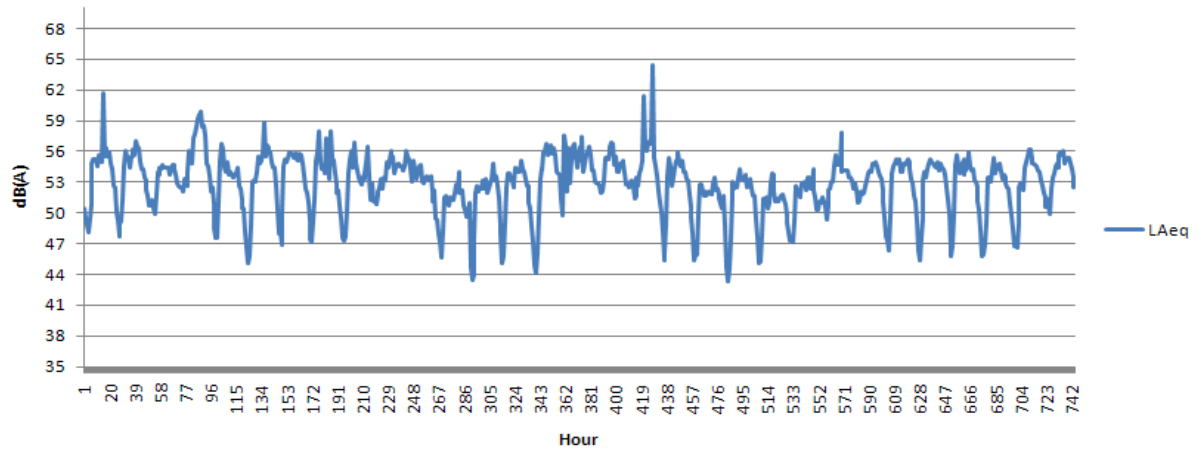




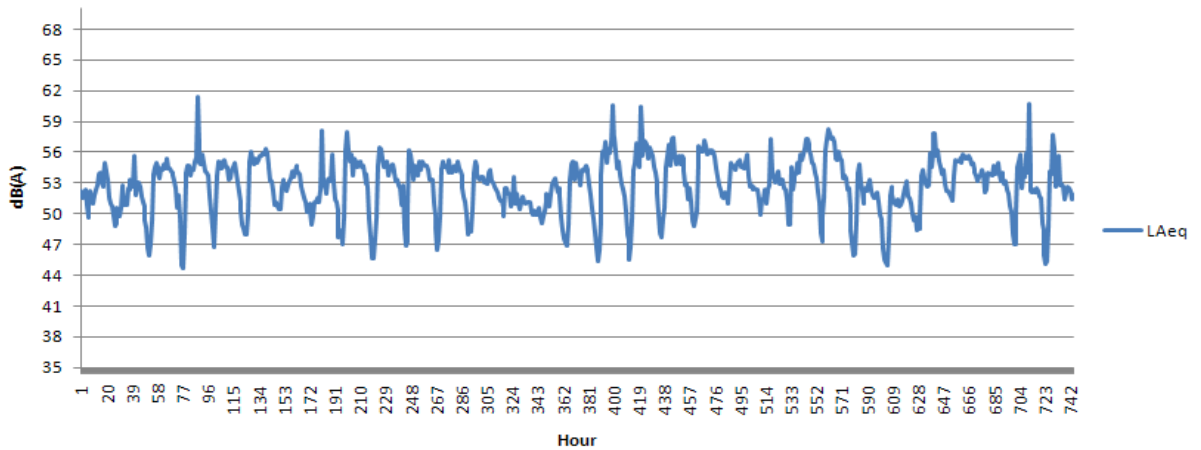




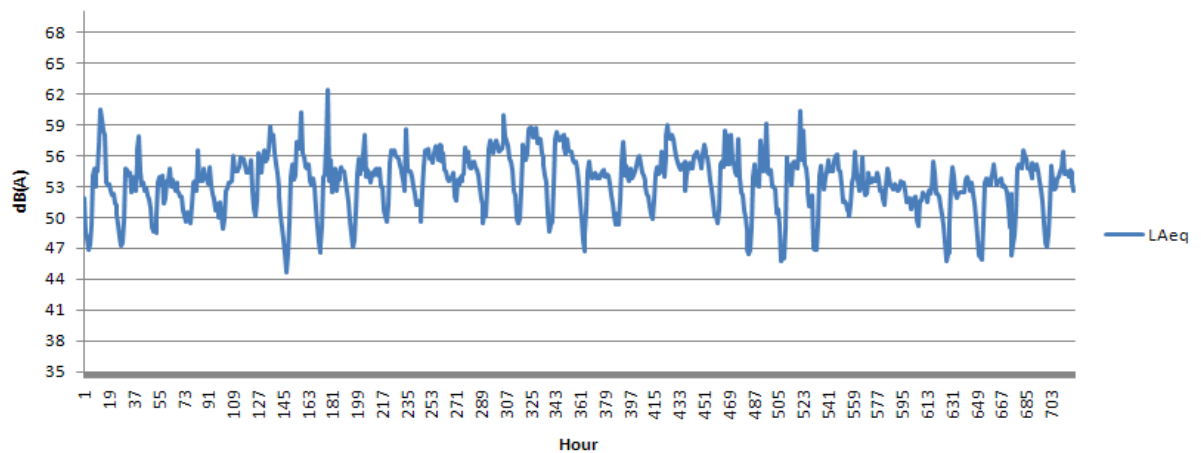
Navan Rd. July'10' Hourly Values



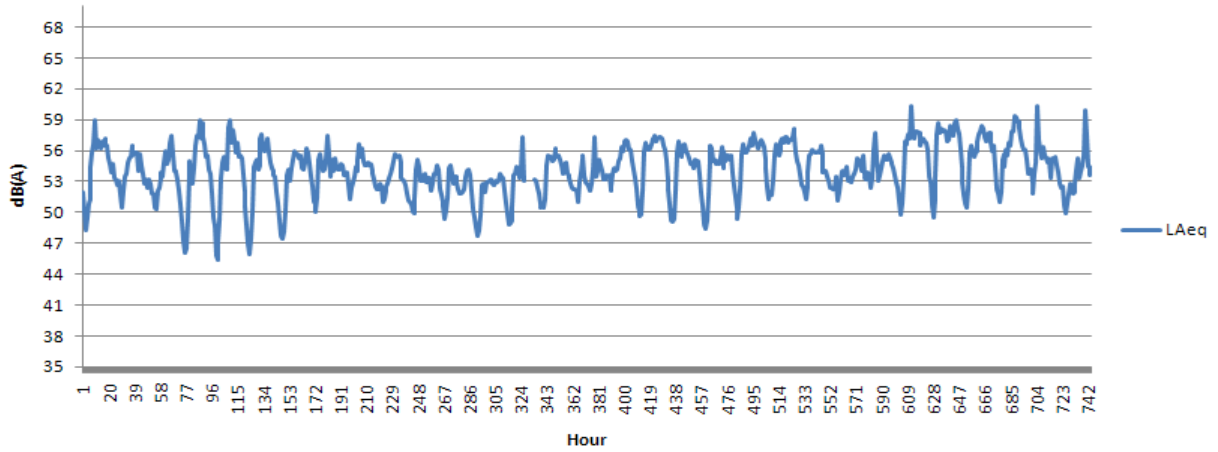
Navan Rd. August'10' Hourly Values



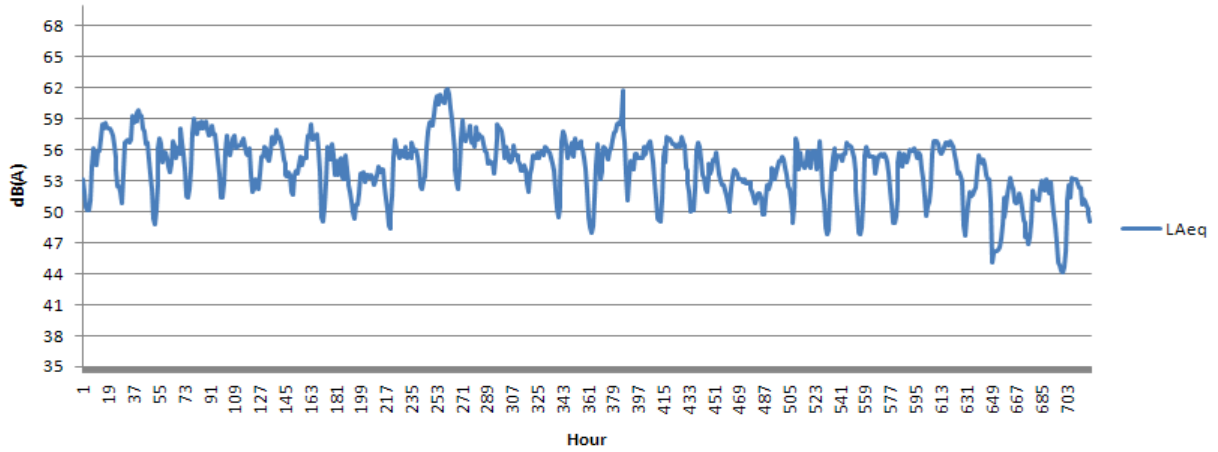
Navan Rd. September'10' Hourly Values



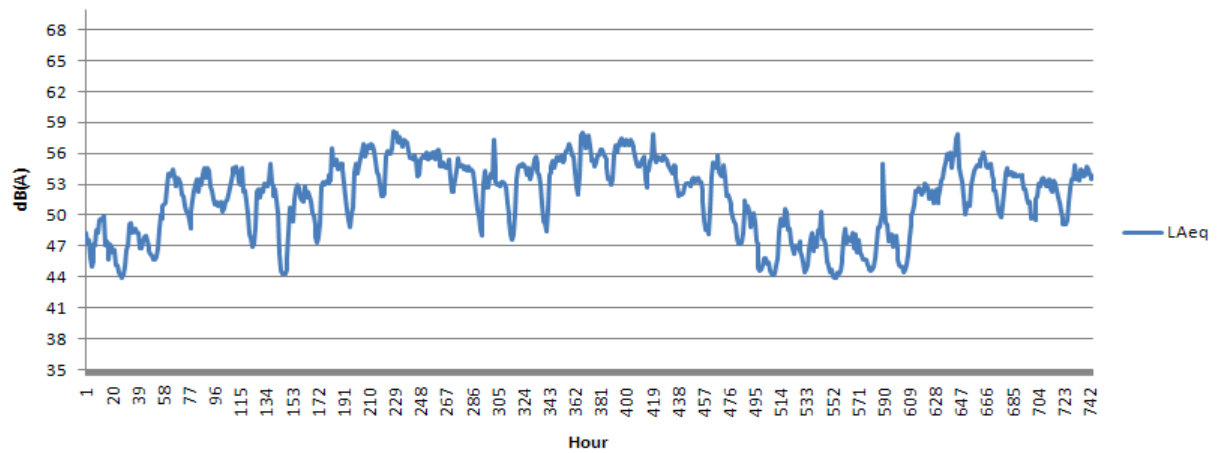
**Navan Rd. October'10' Hourly Values**



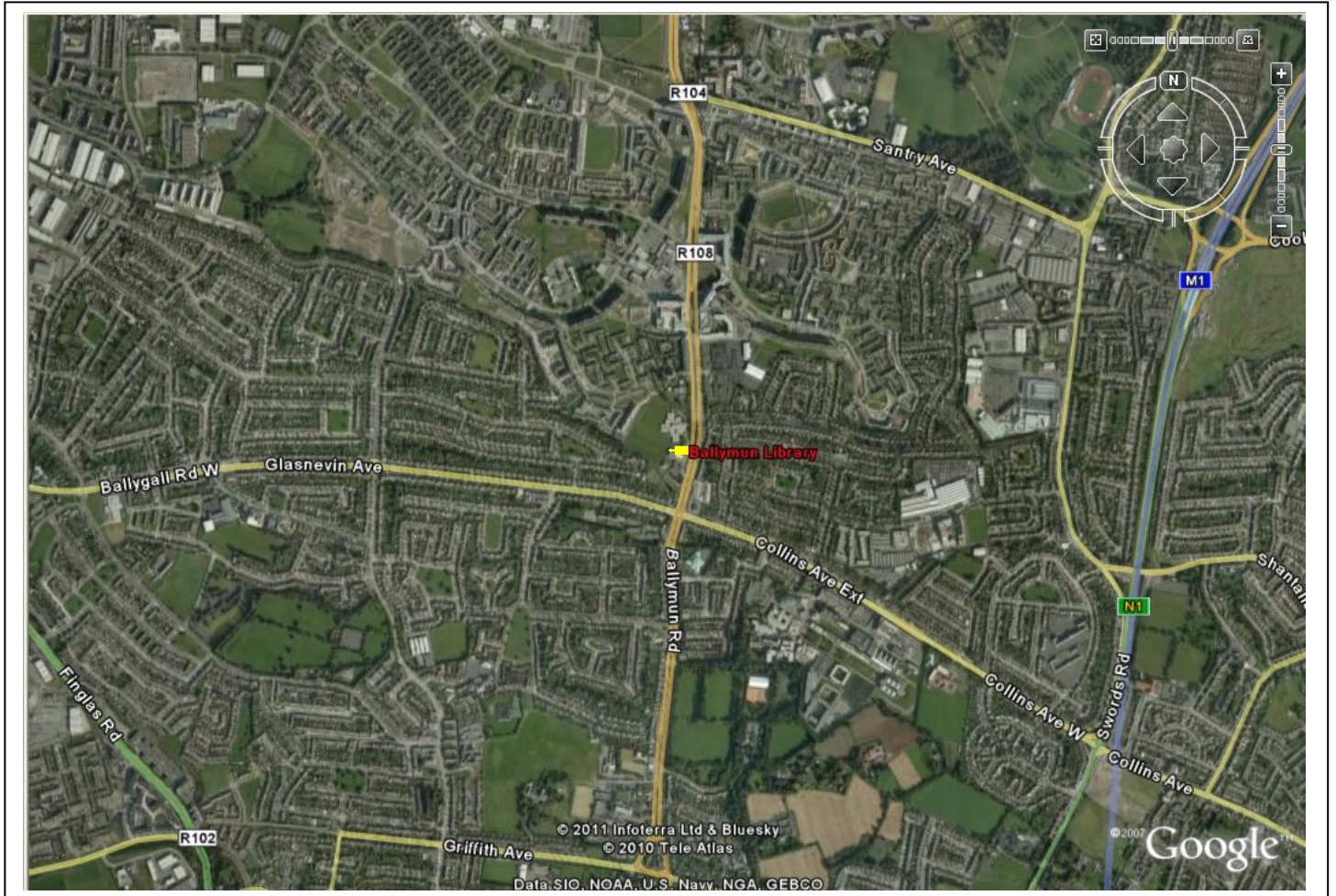
**Navan Rd. November'10' Hourly Values**



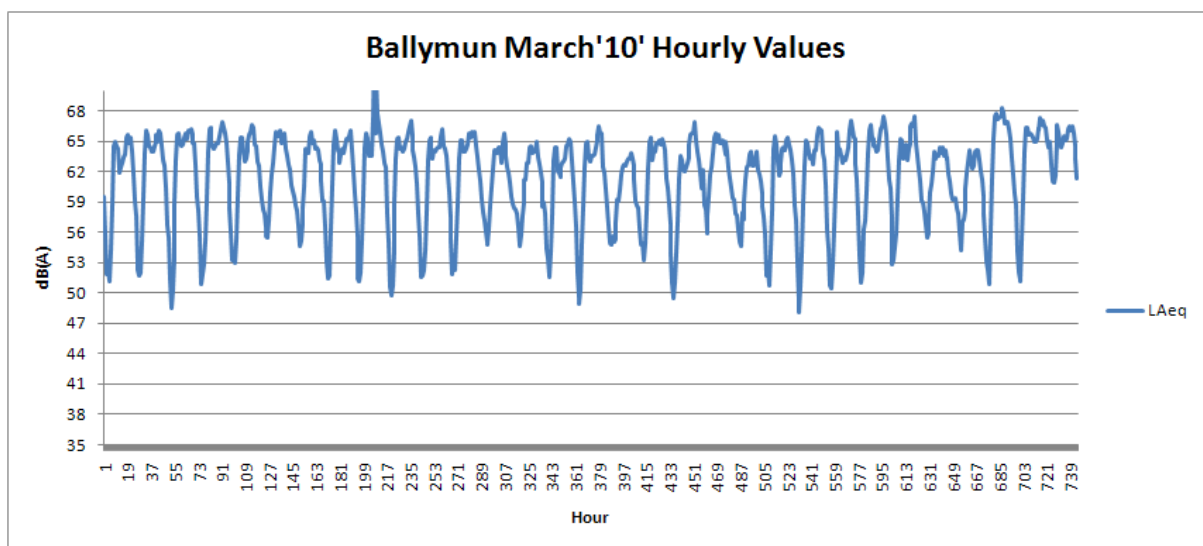
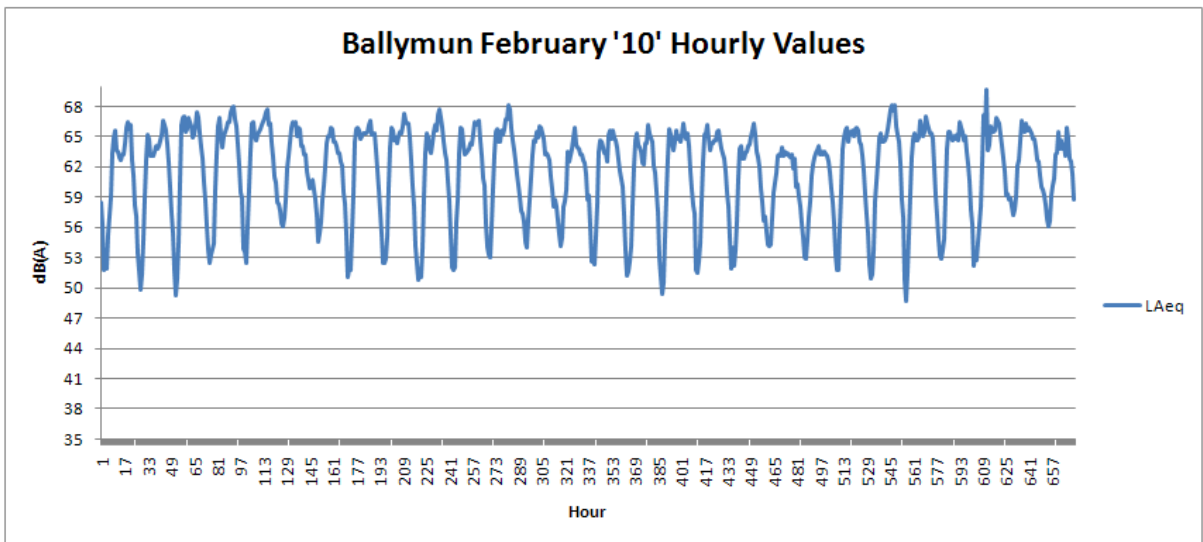
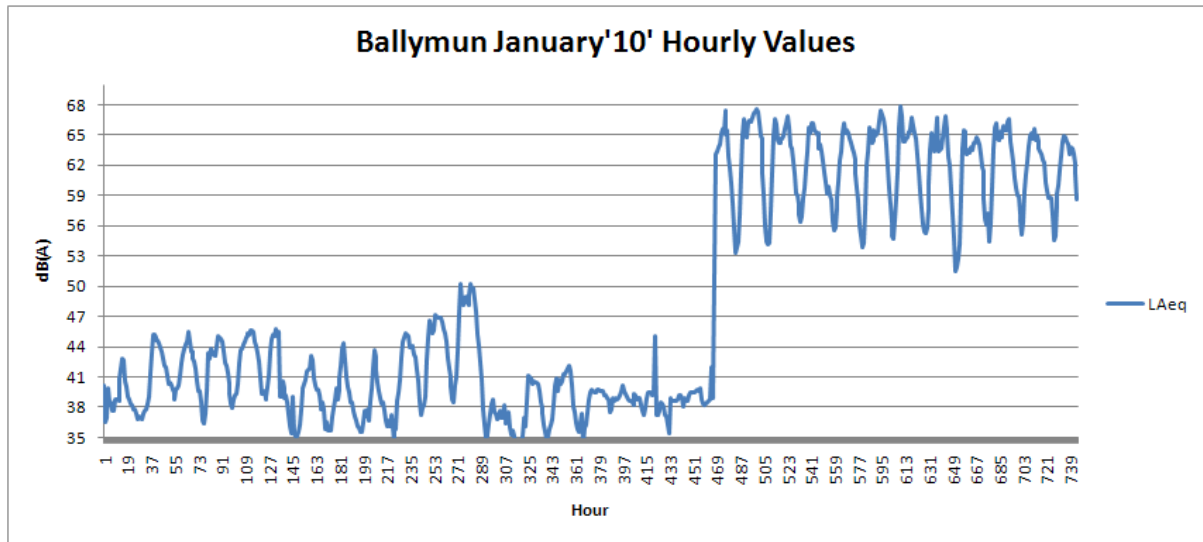
**Navan Rd. December'10' Hourly Values**

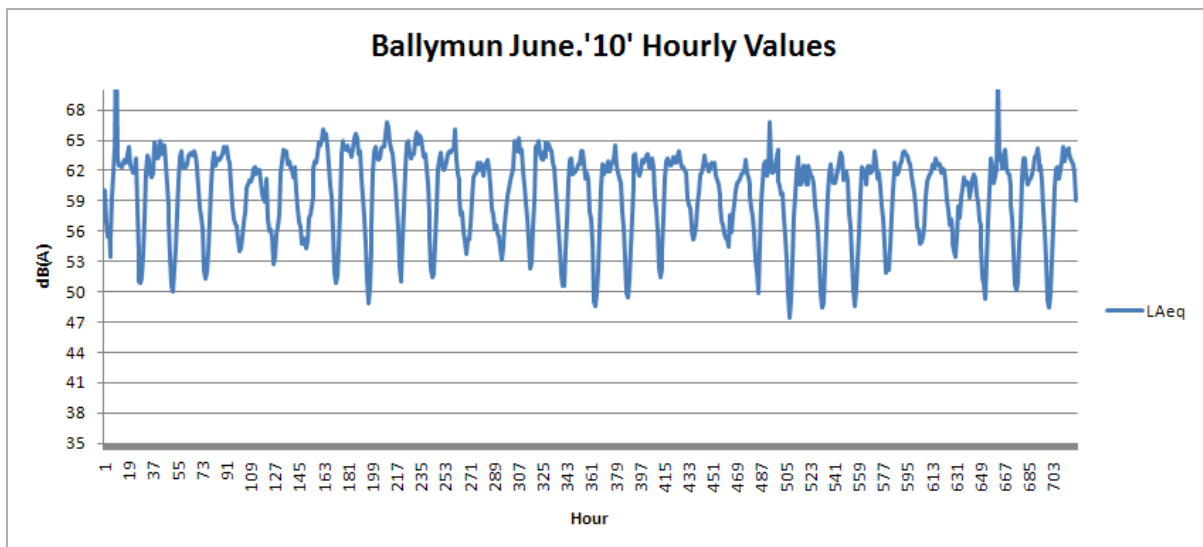
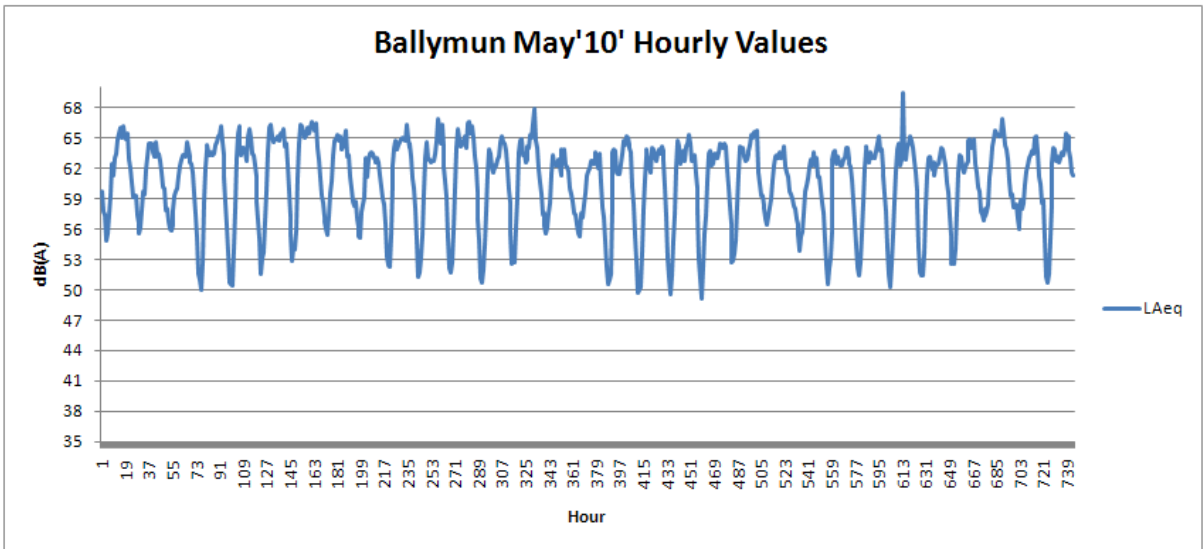
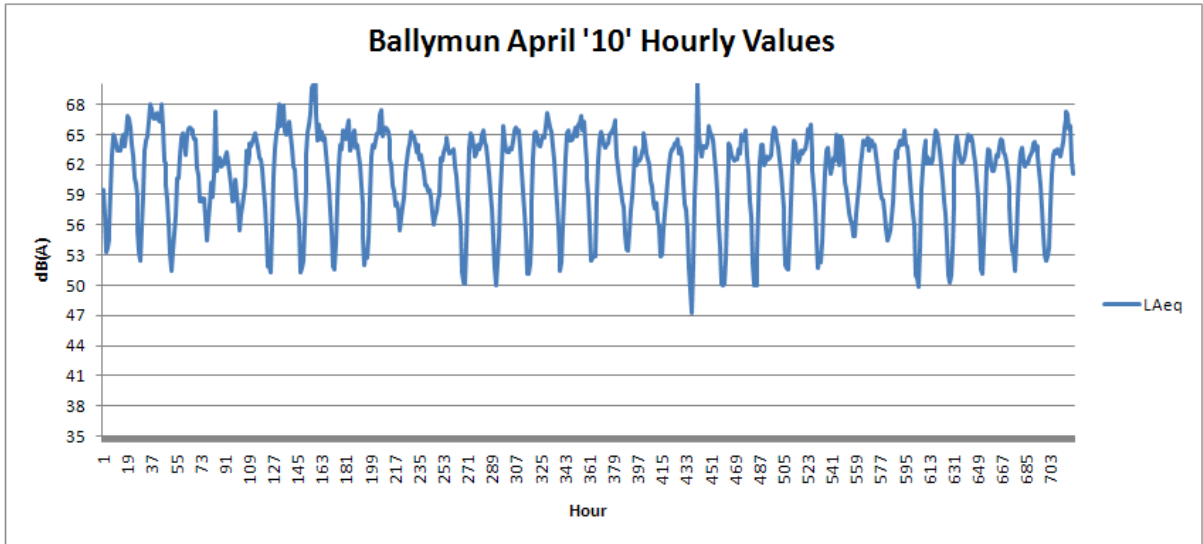


**BALLYMUN LIBRARY**  
**BALLYMUN ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 11**

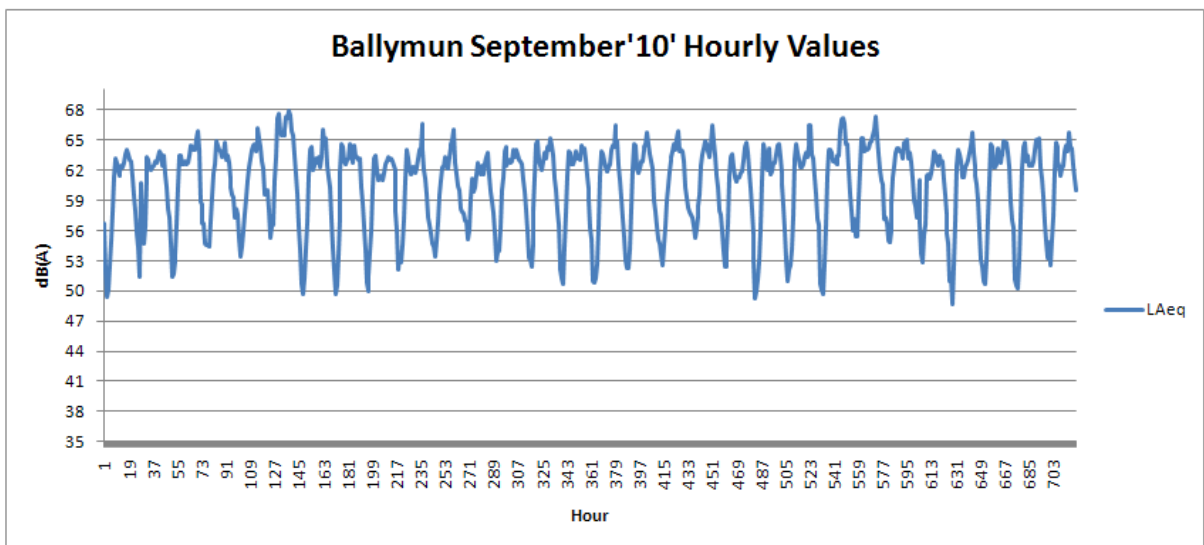
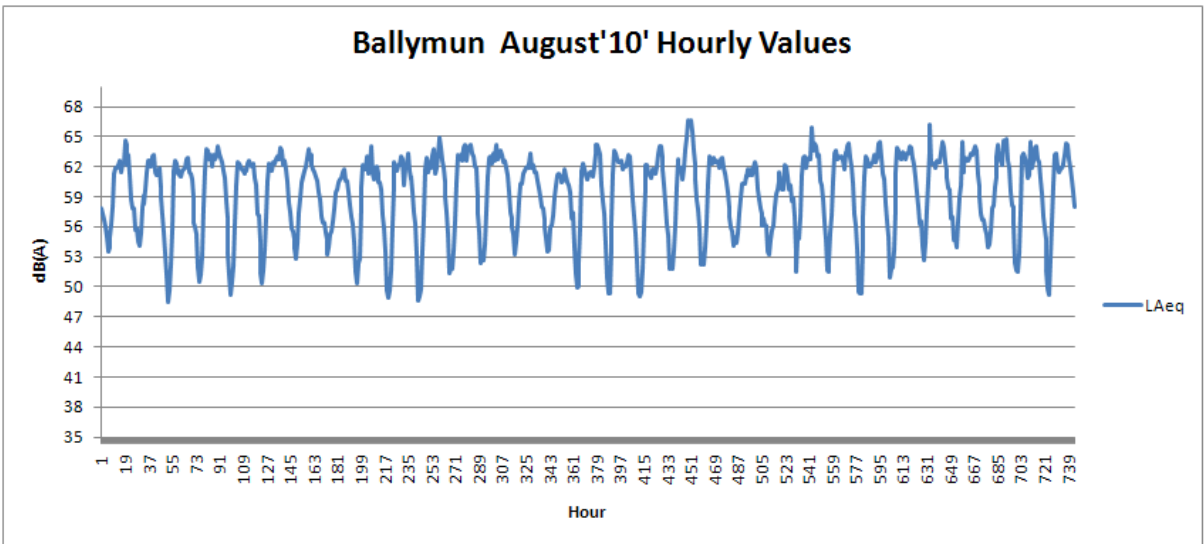
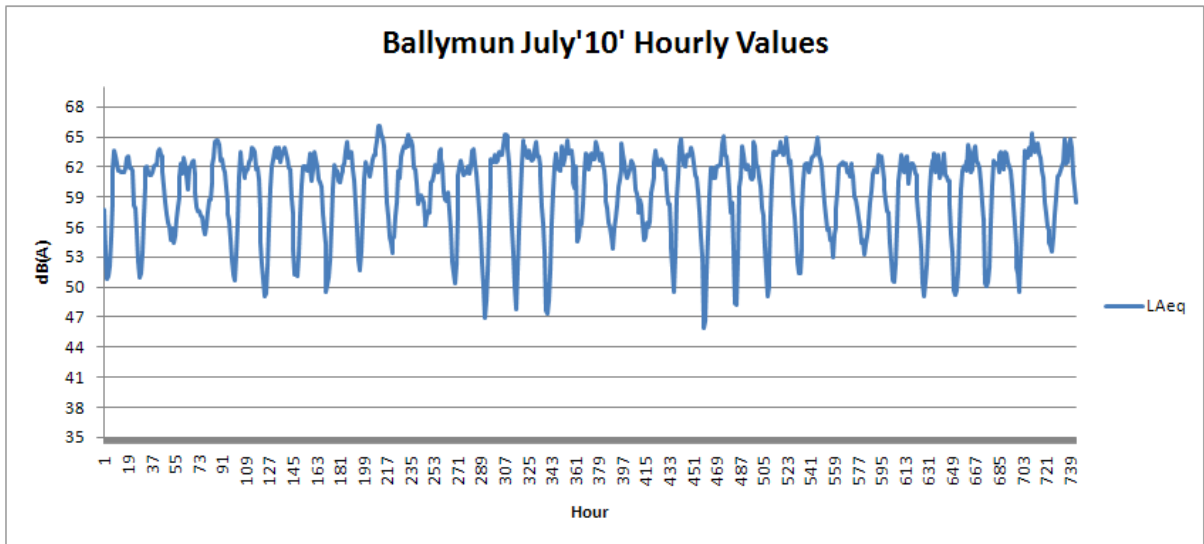


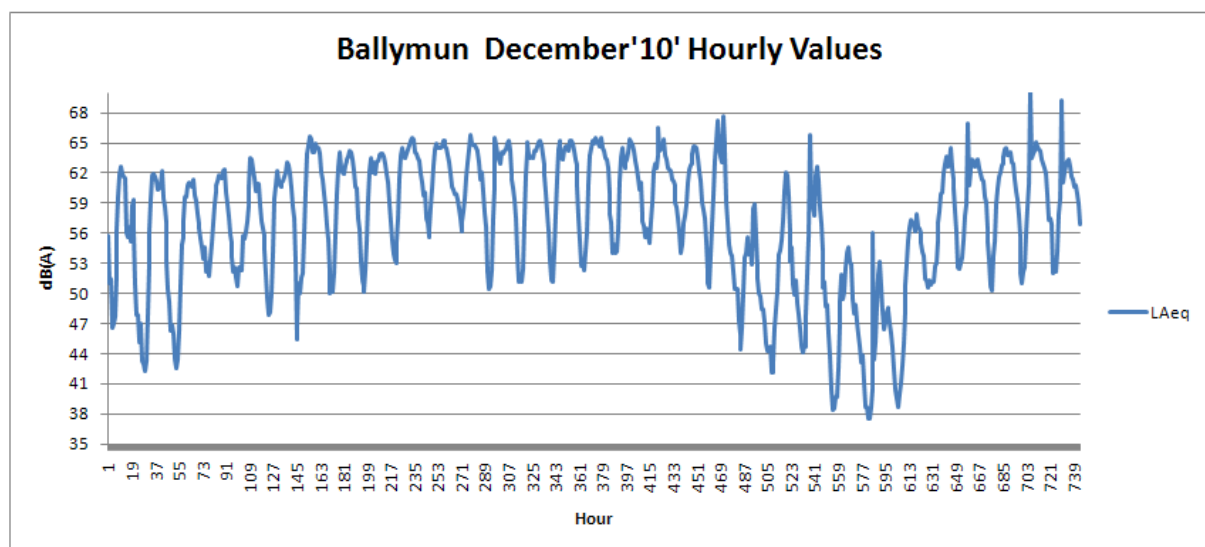
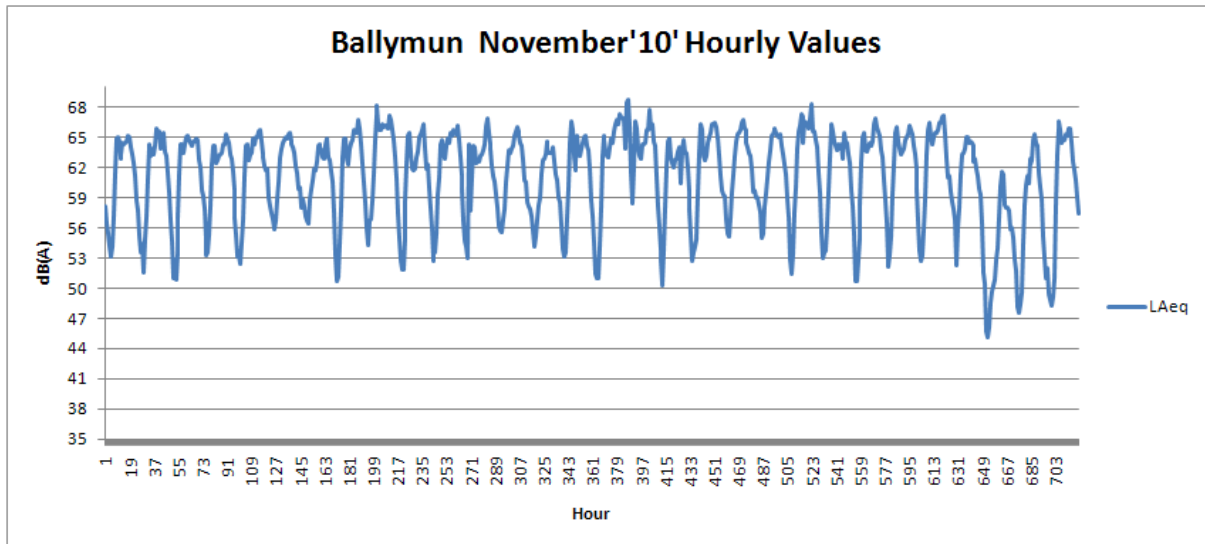
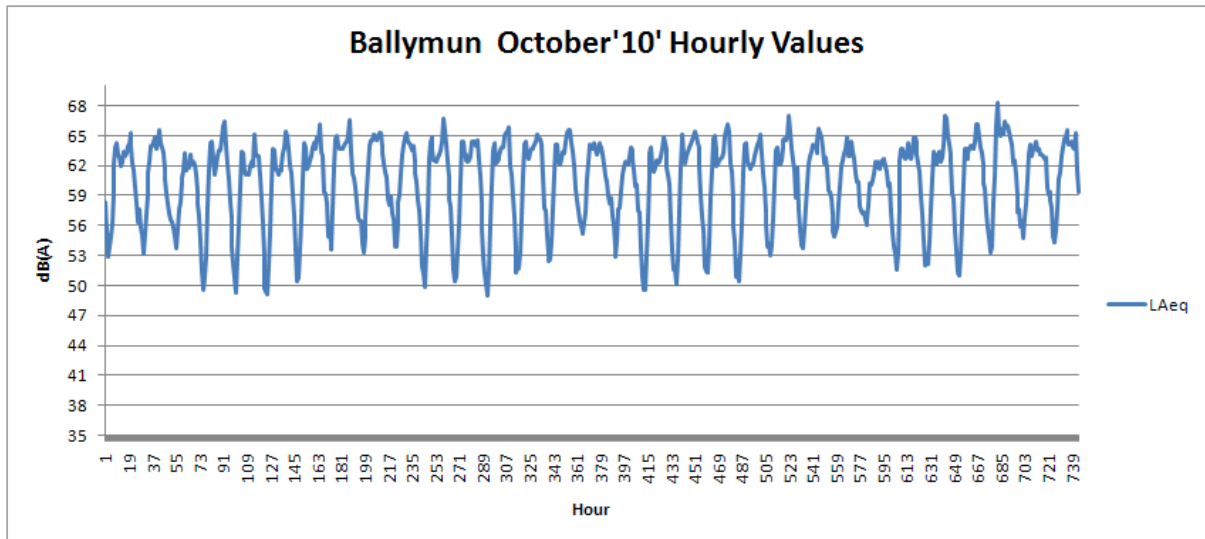






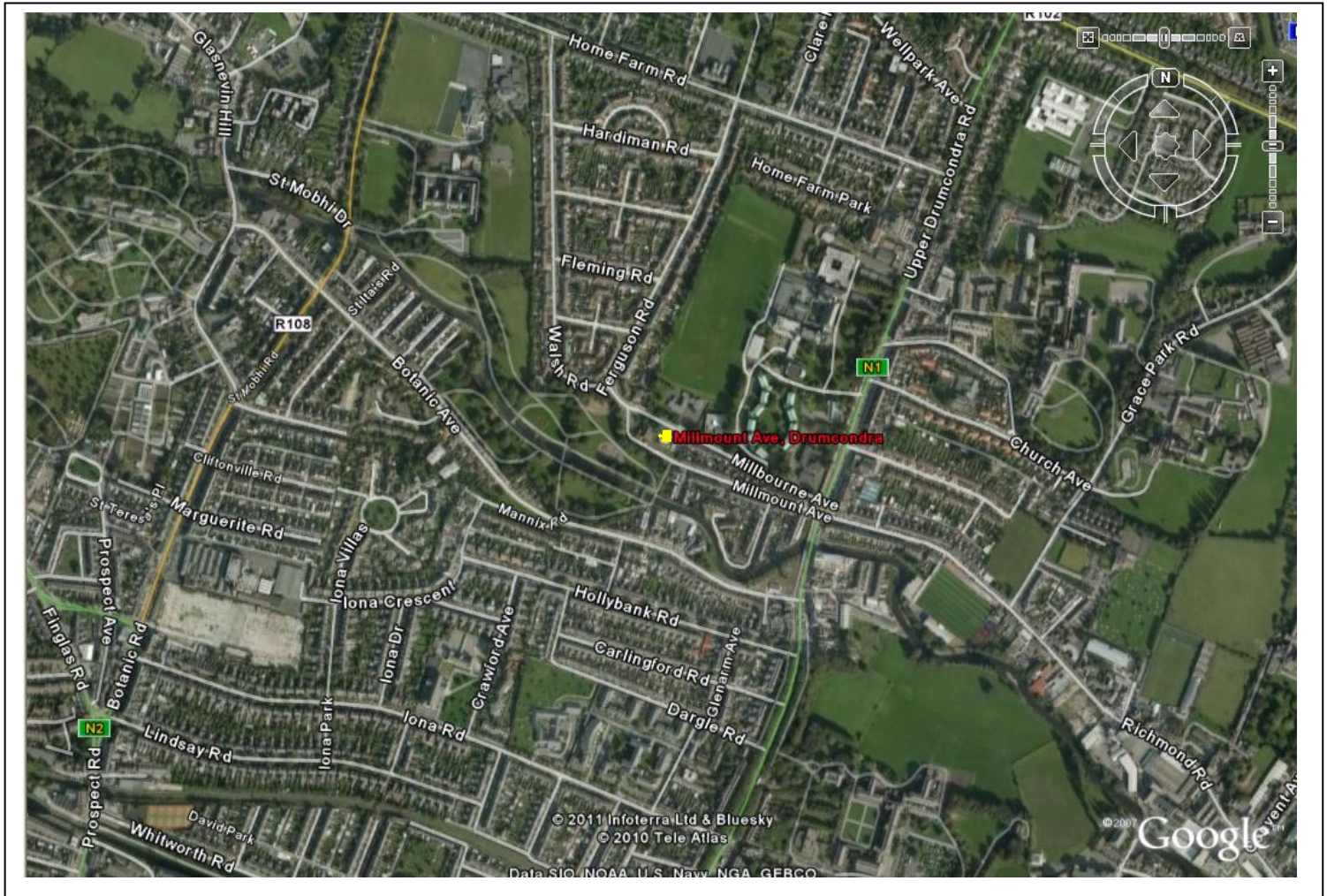




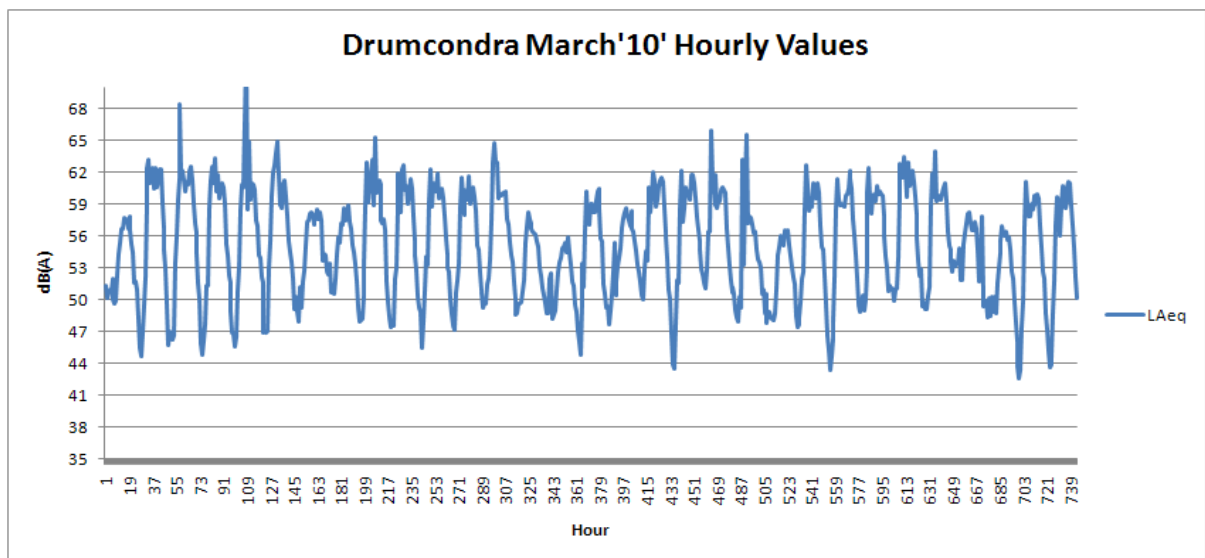
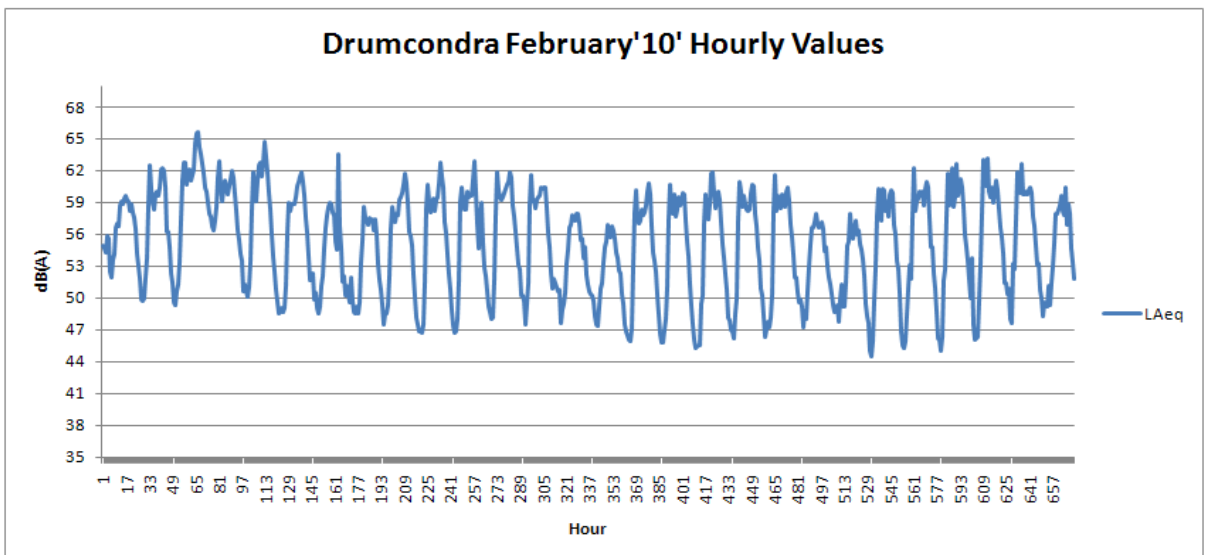
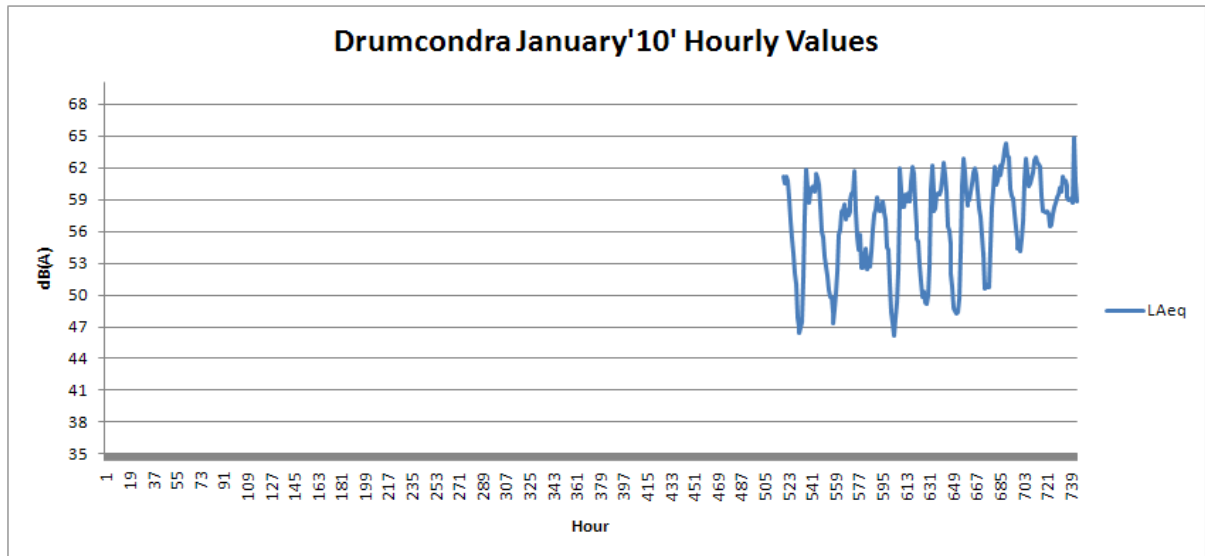


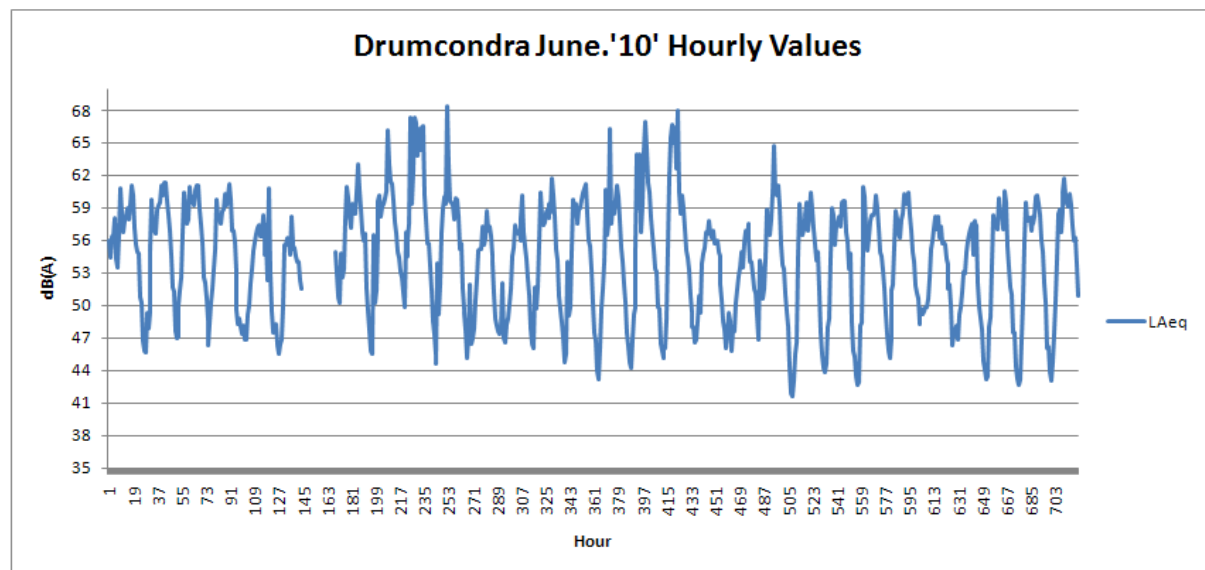
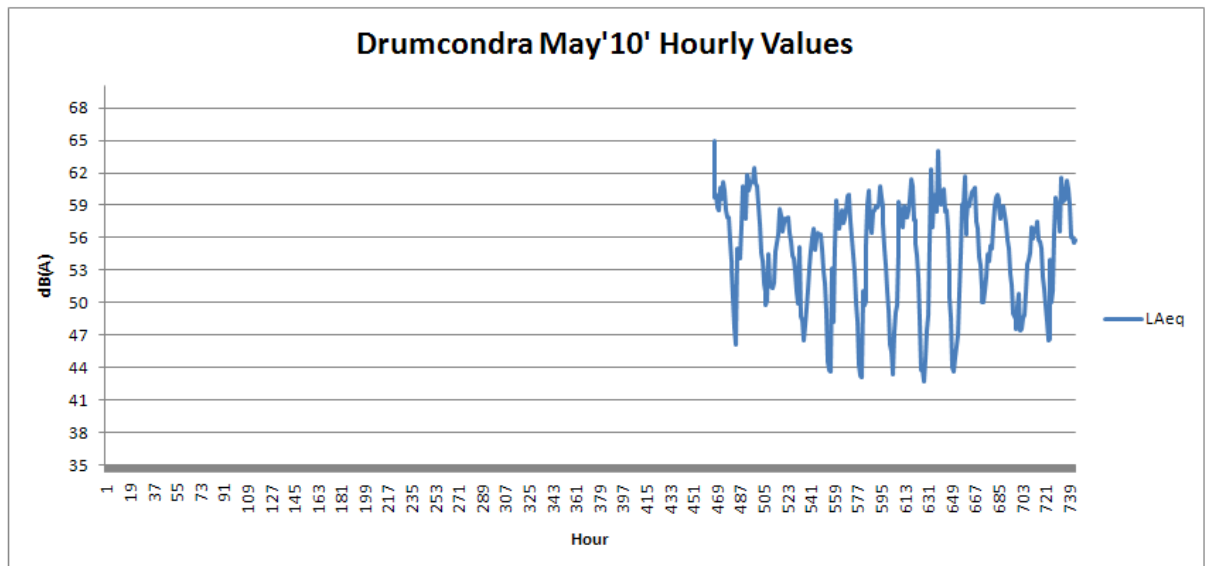
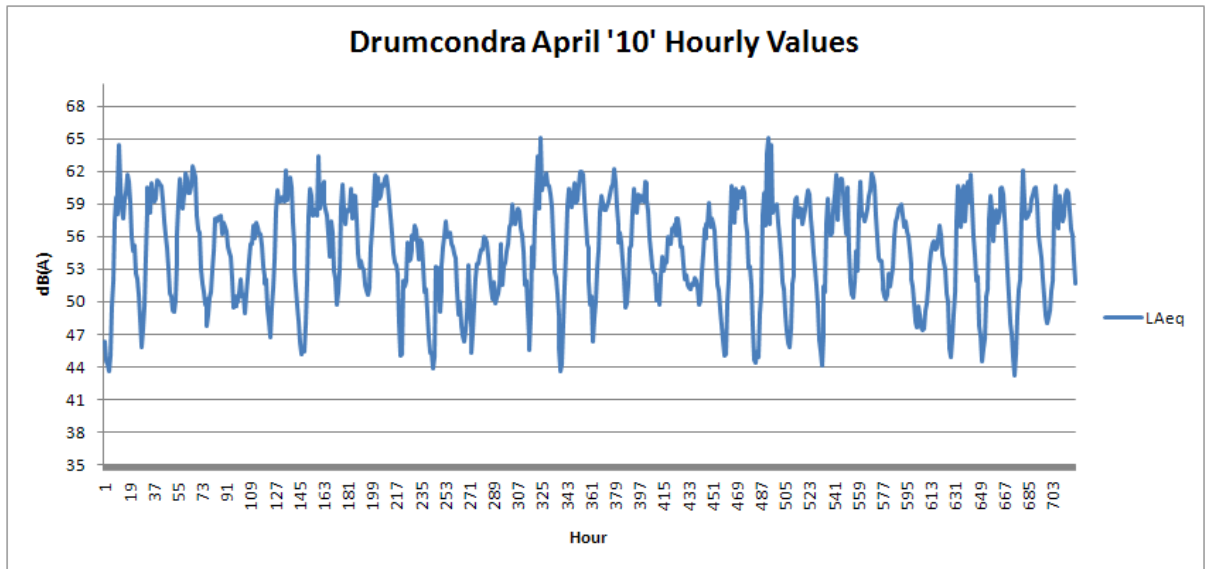


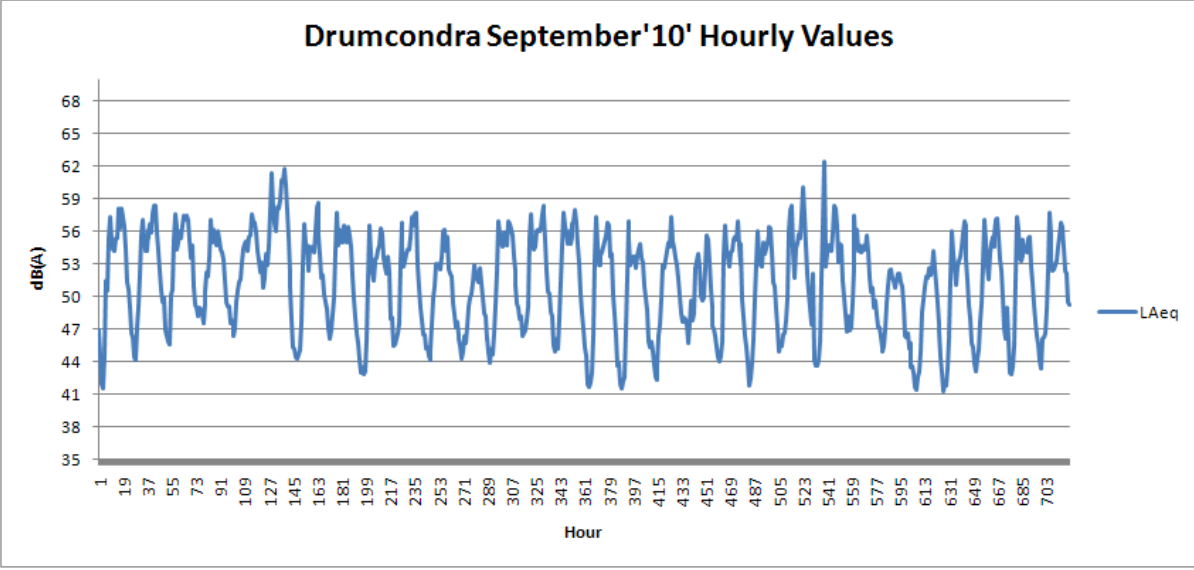
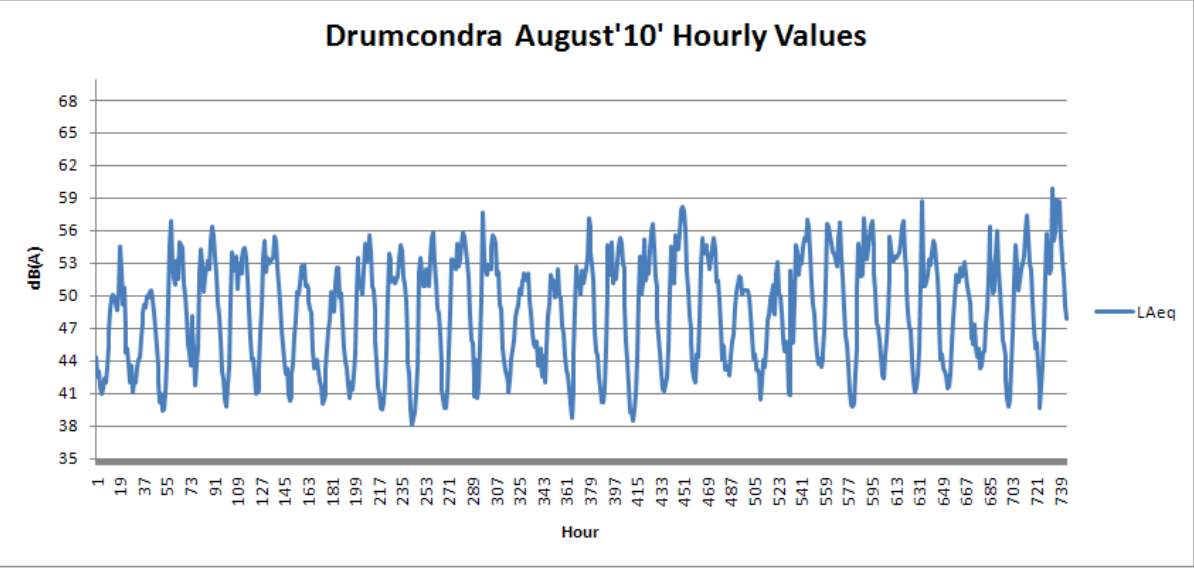
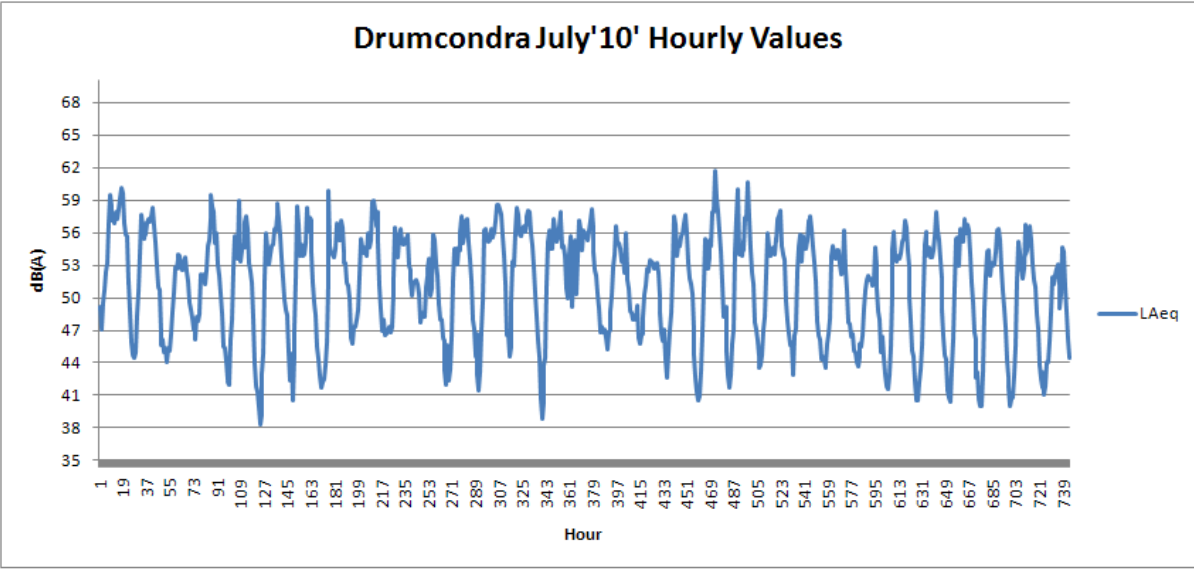
**DRUMCONDRA LIBRARY**  
**MILLMOUNT AVENUE**  
**DUBLIN 9**



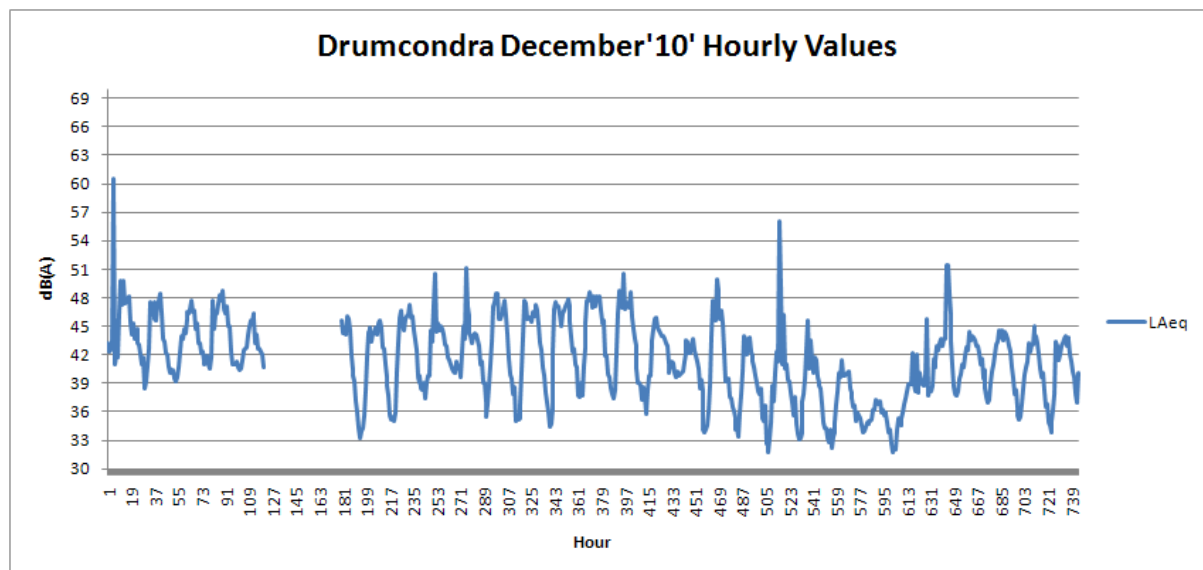
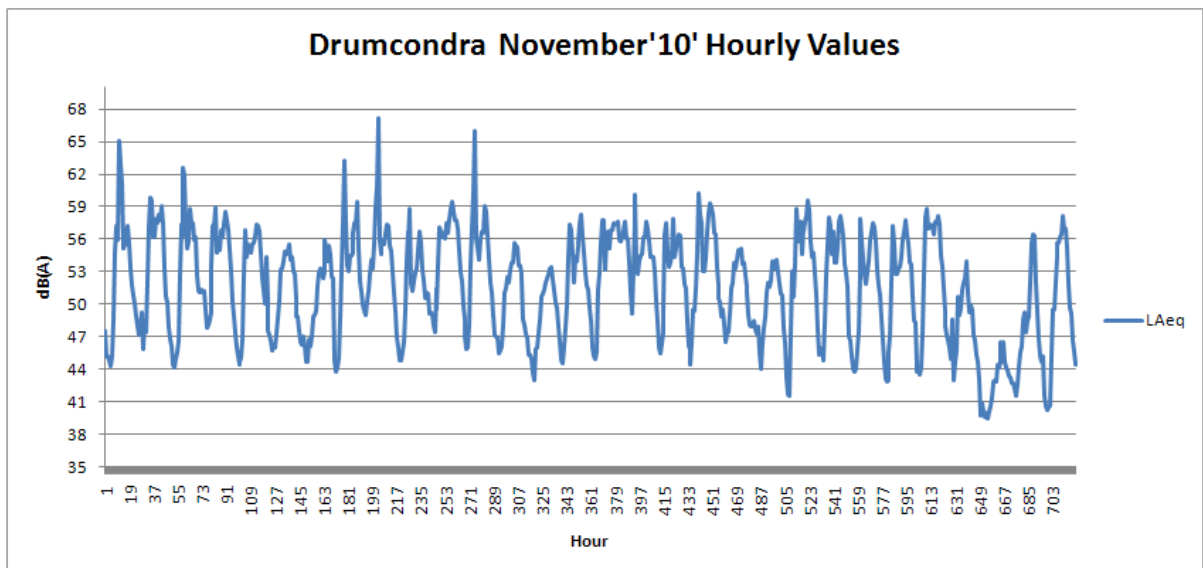
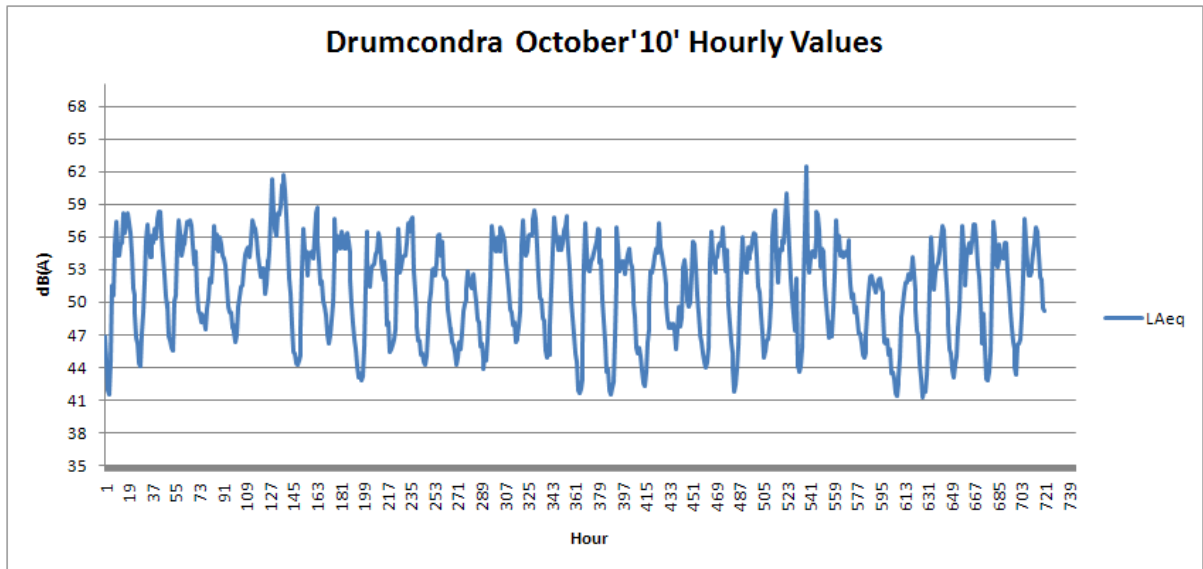










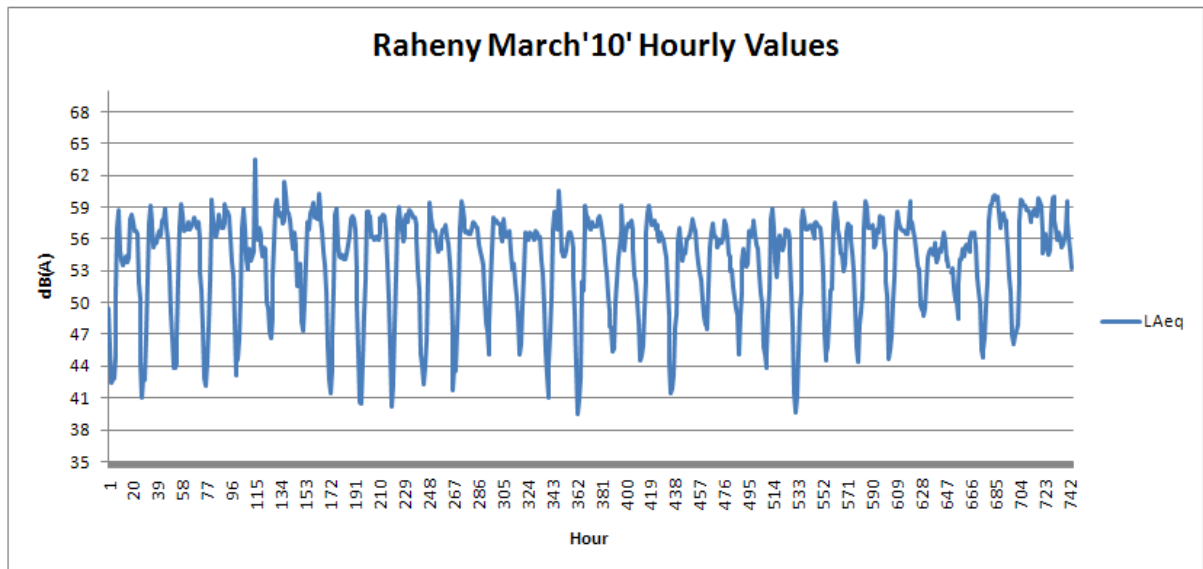
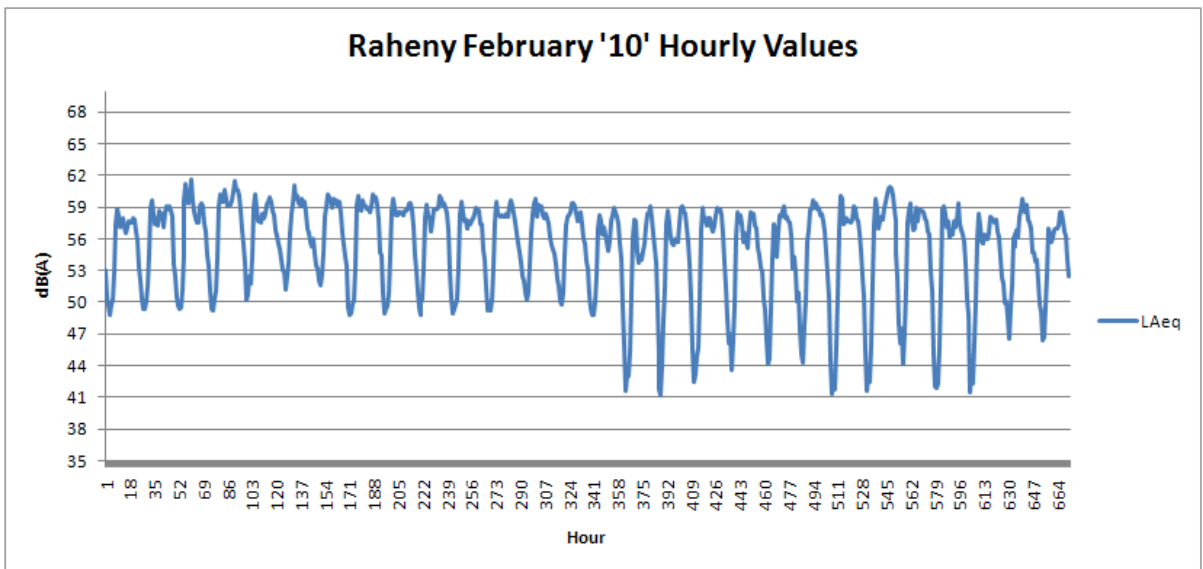
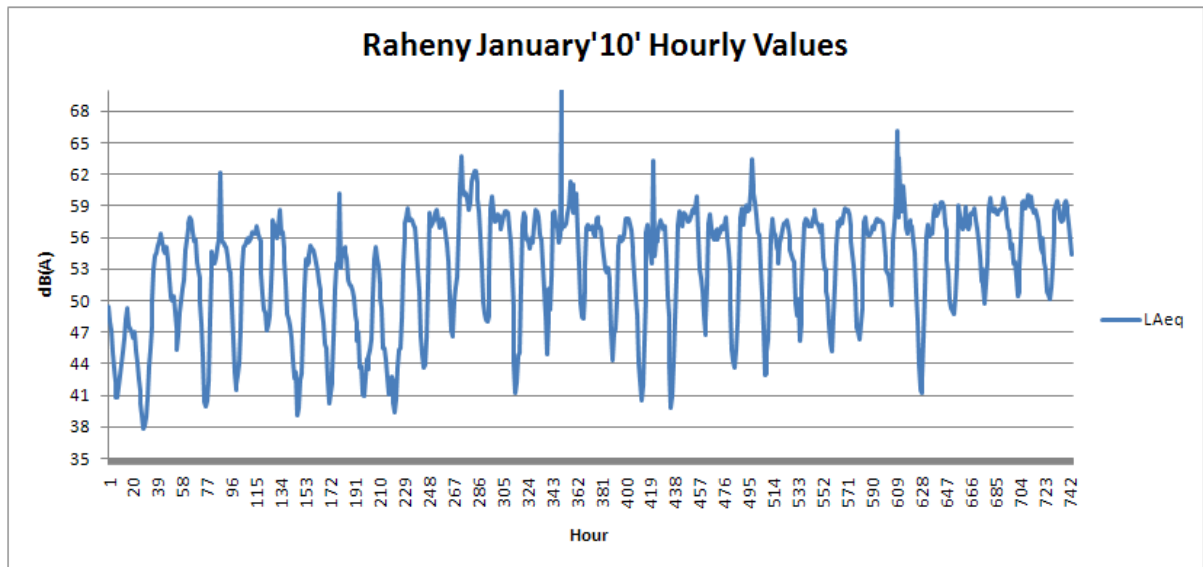


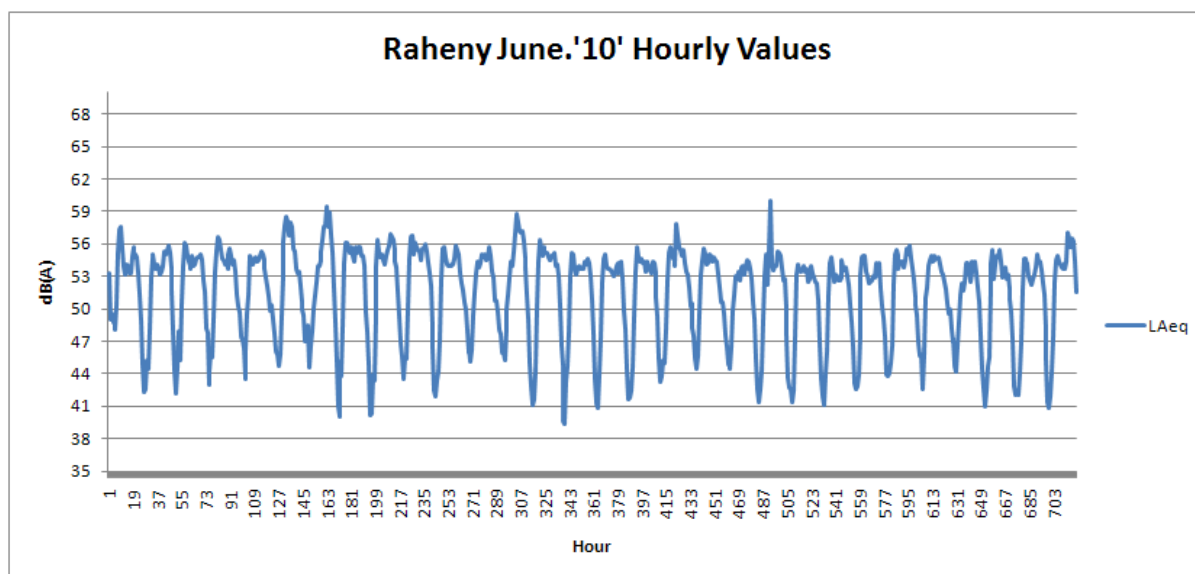
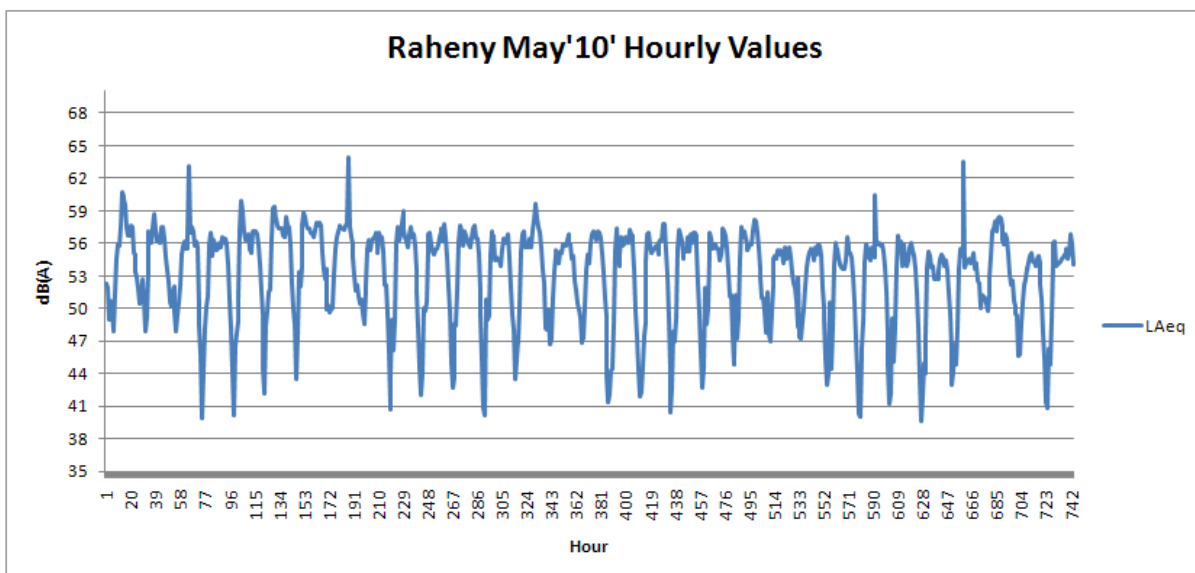
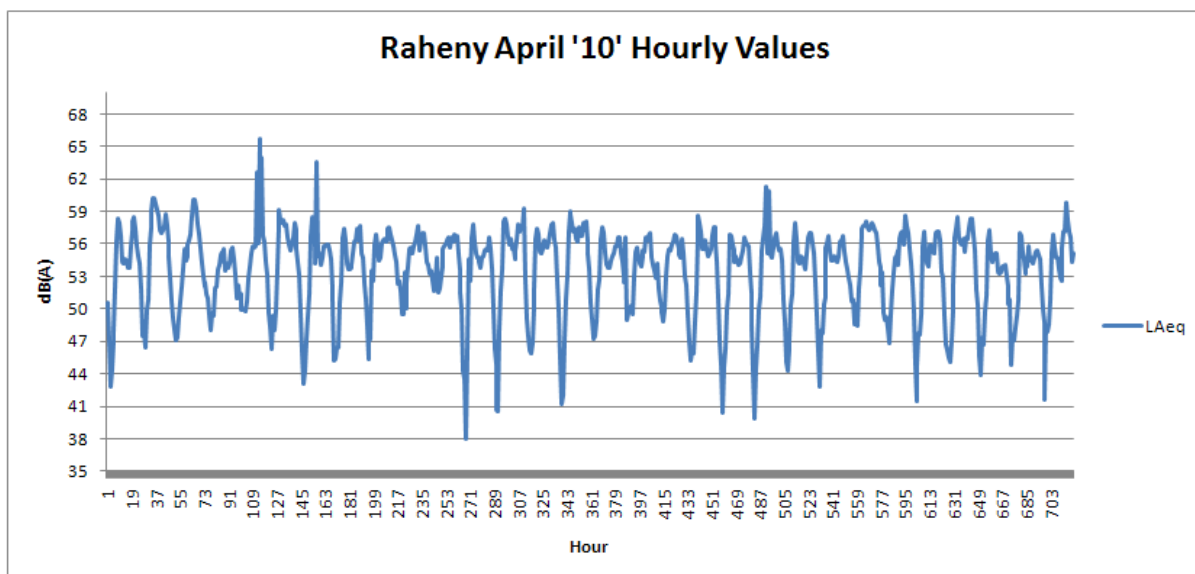
**RAHENY LIBRARY**  
**HOWTH ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 5**

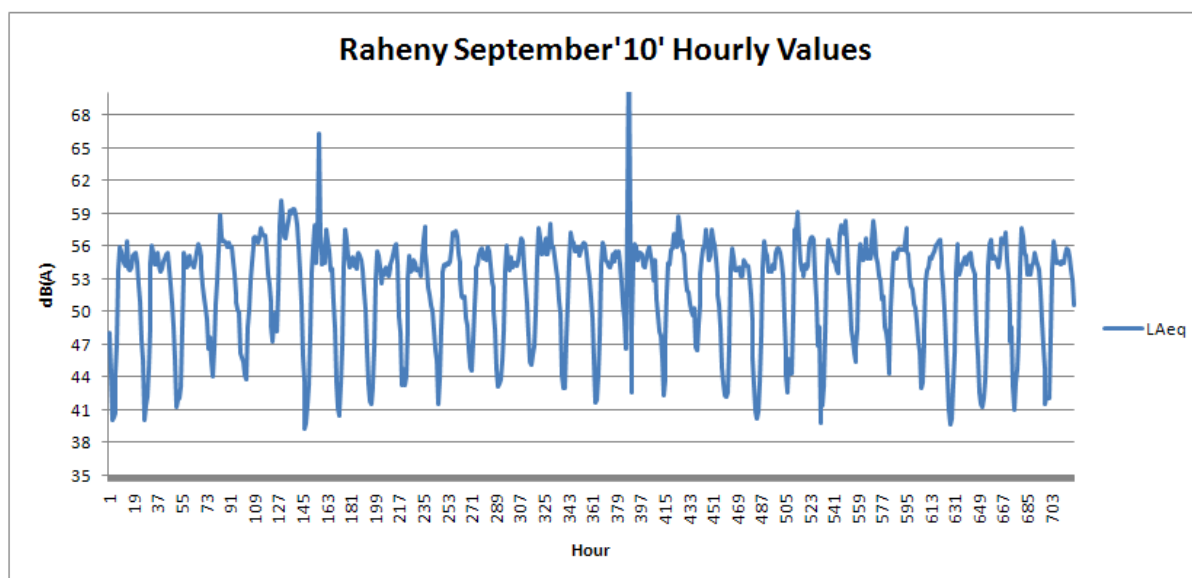
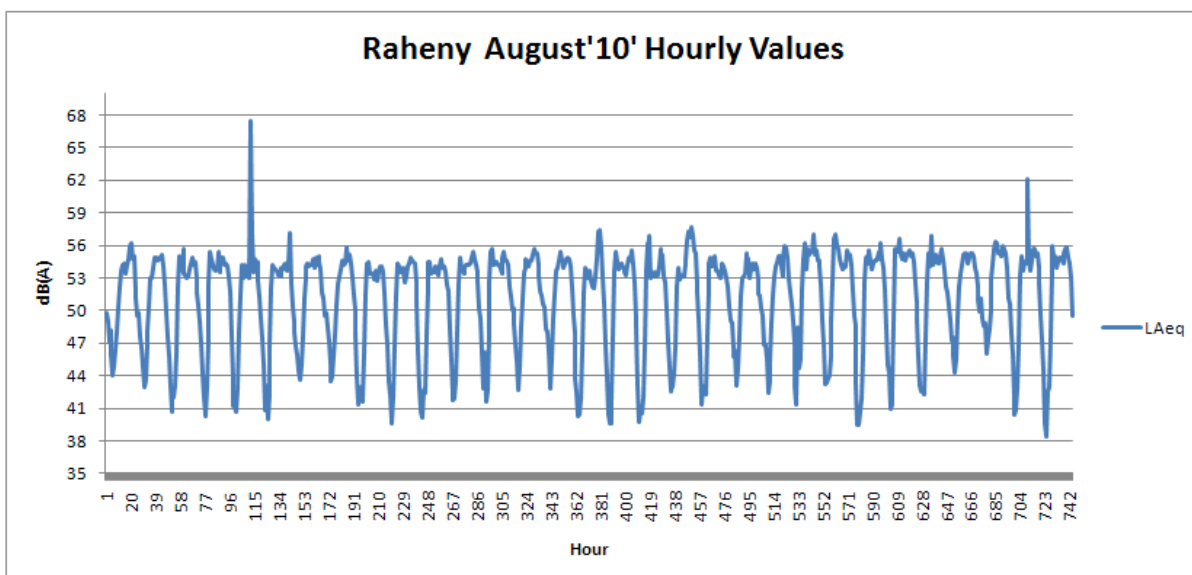
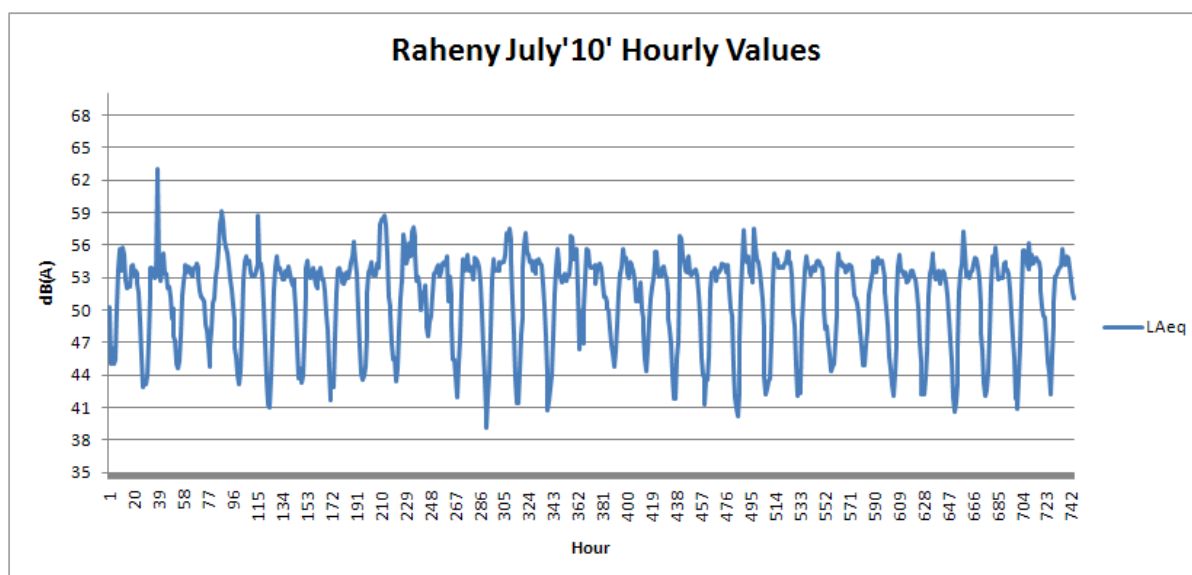


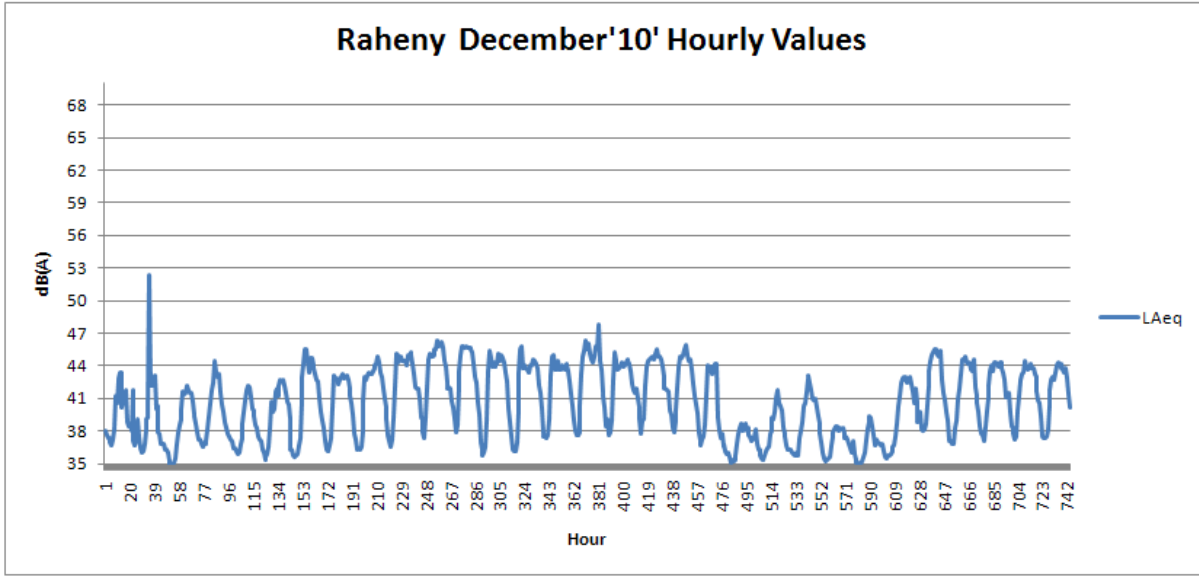
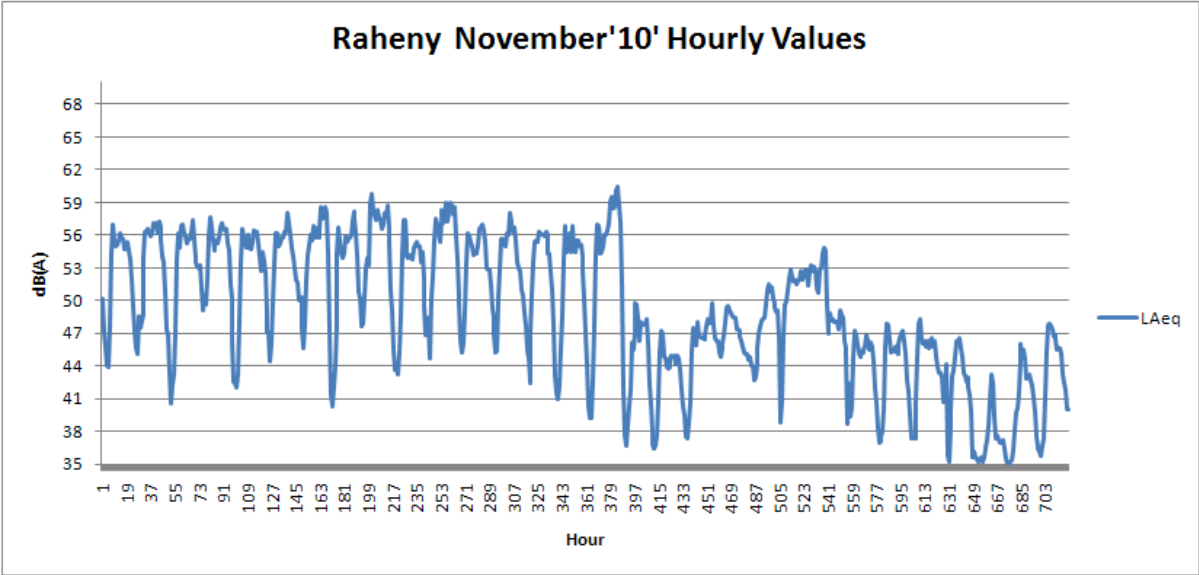
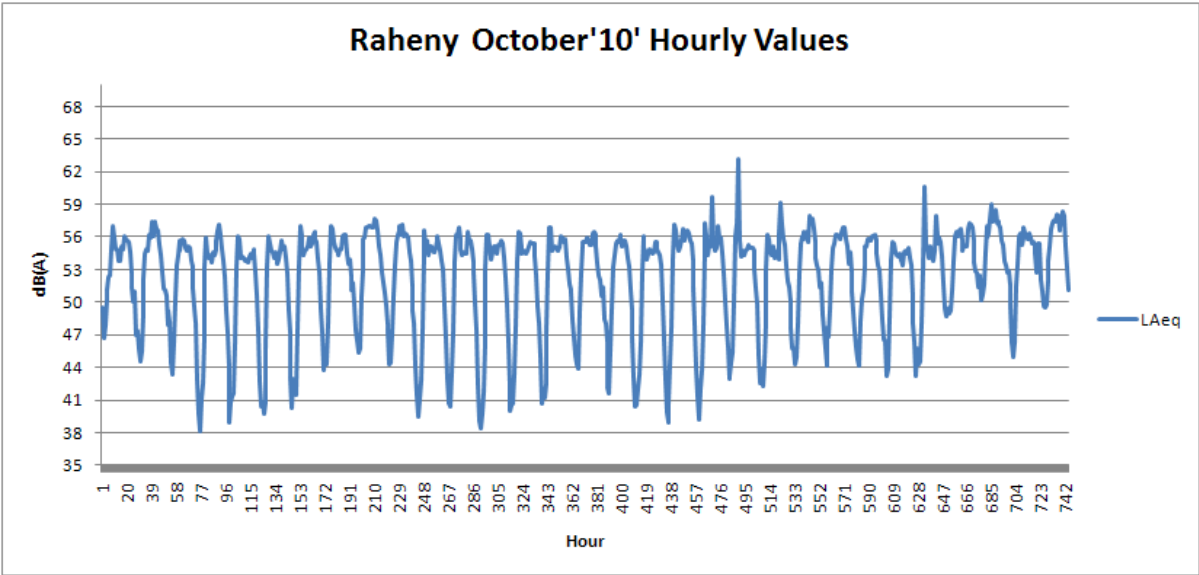




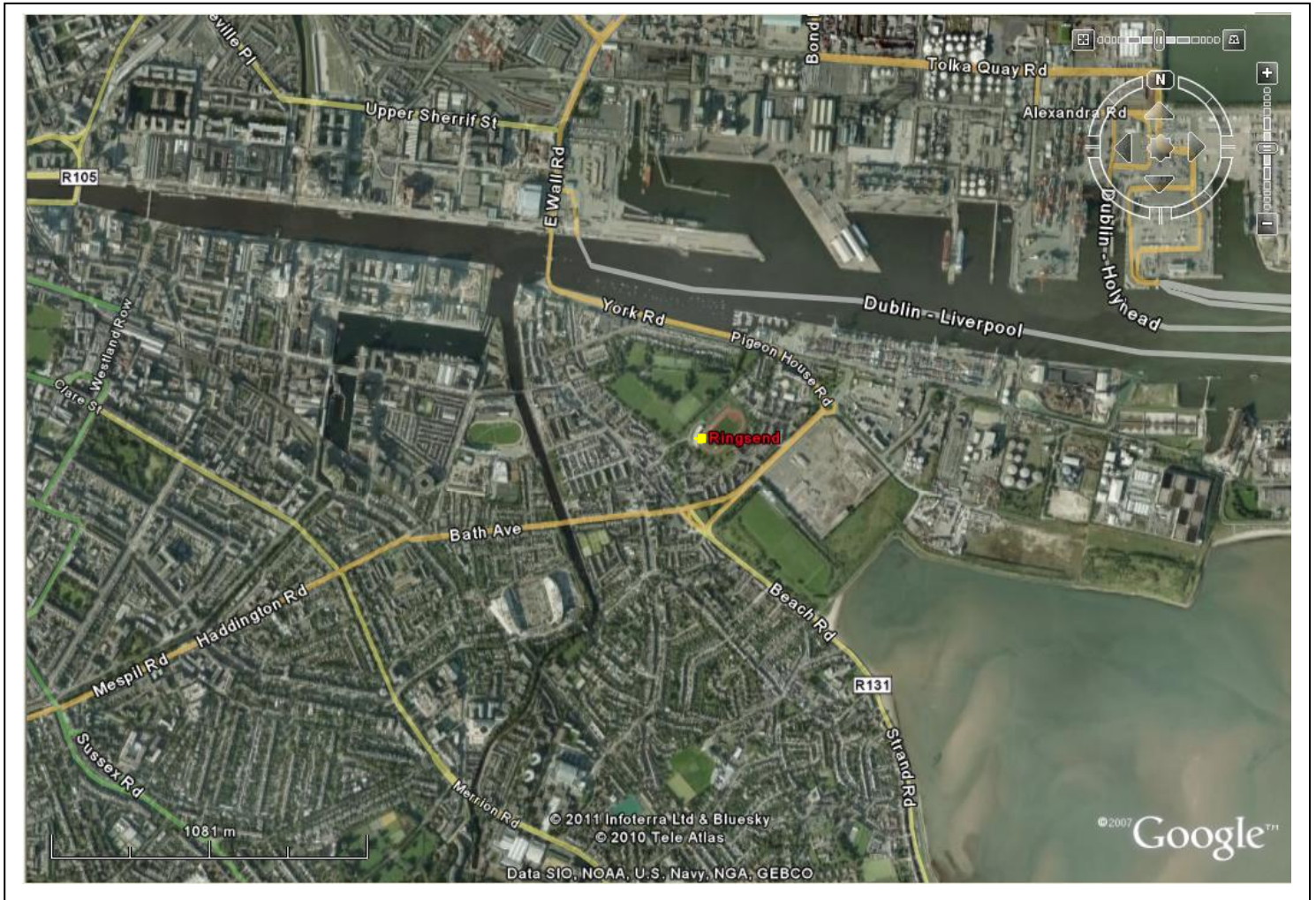






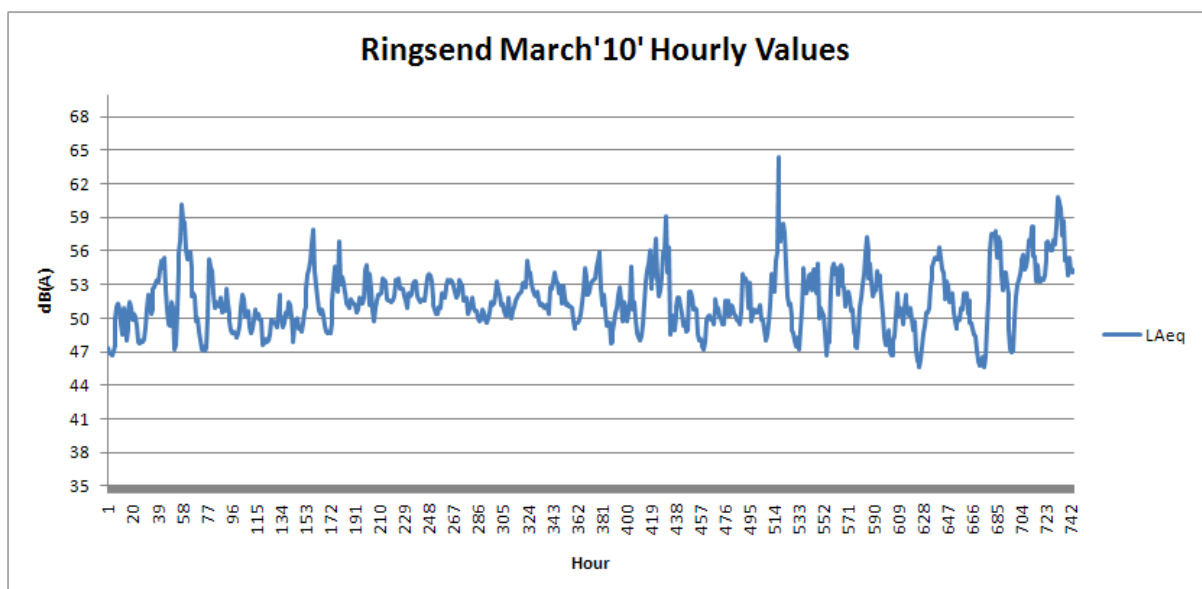
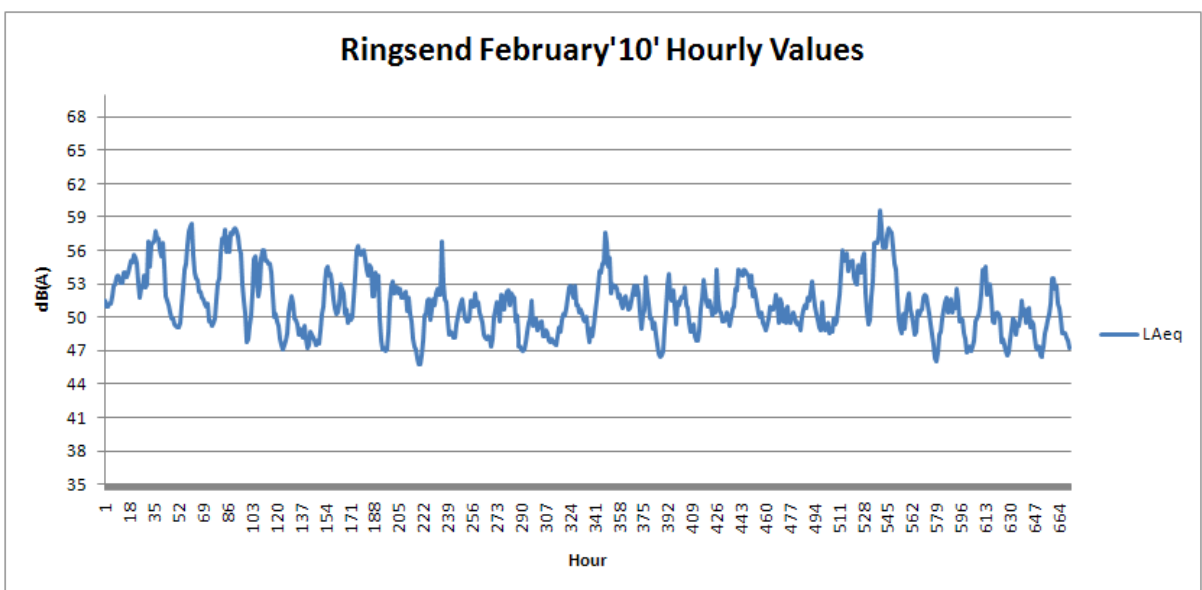
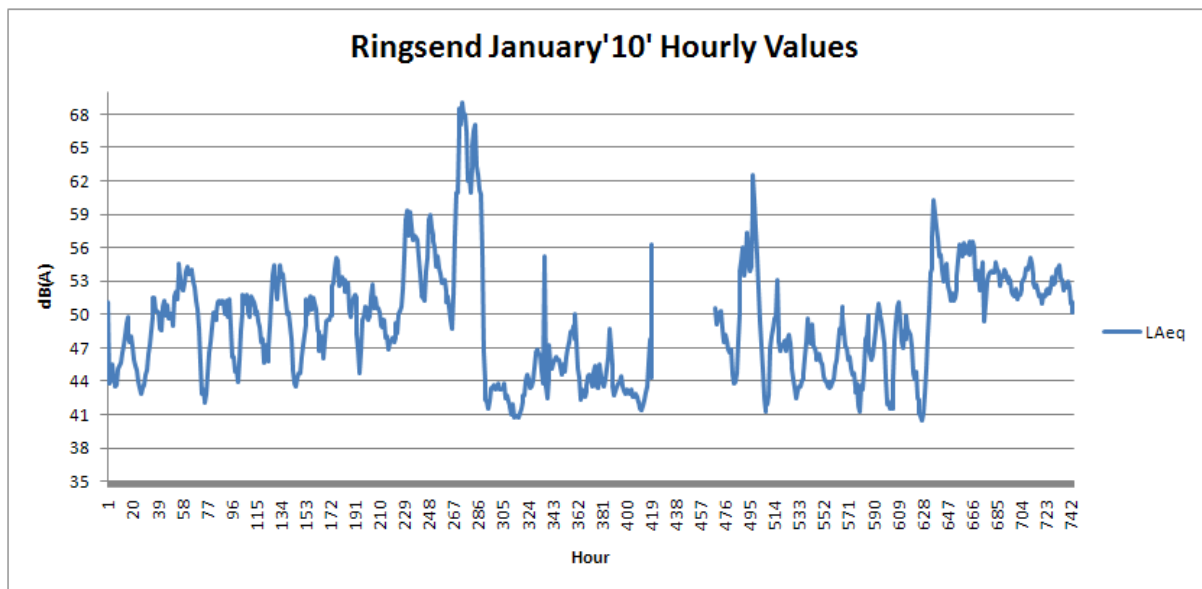


**IRISHTOWN SPORTS CENTRE**  
**RINGSEND**  
**DUBLIN 4**

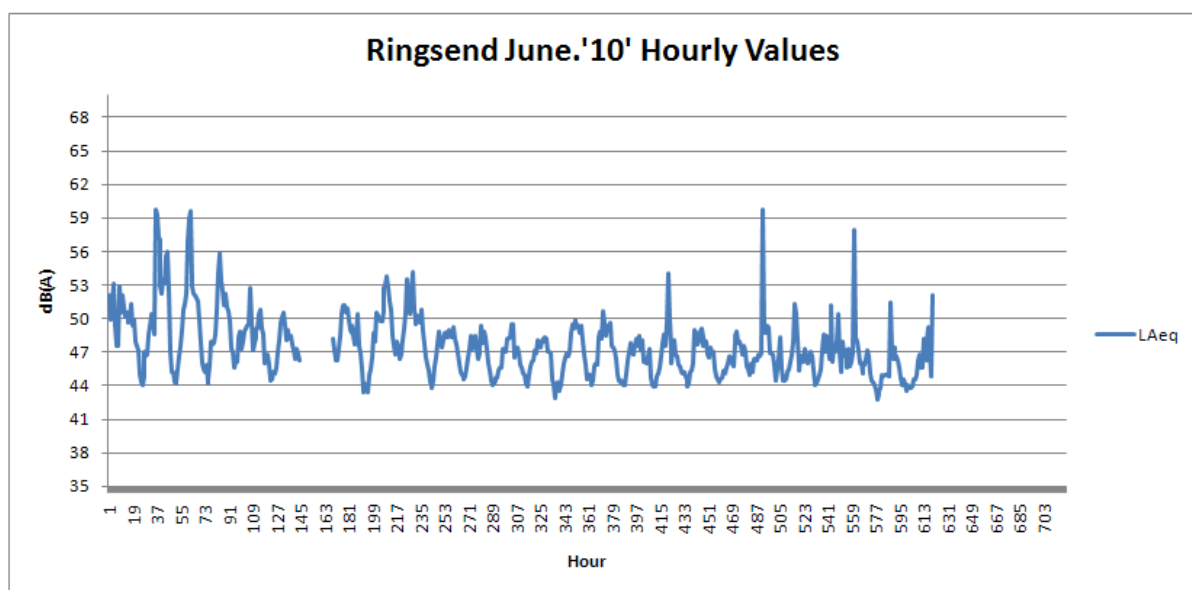
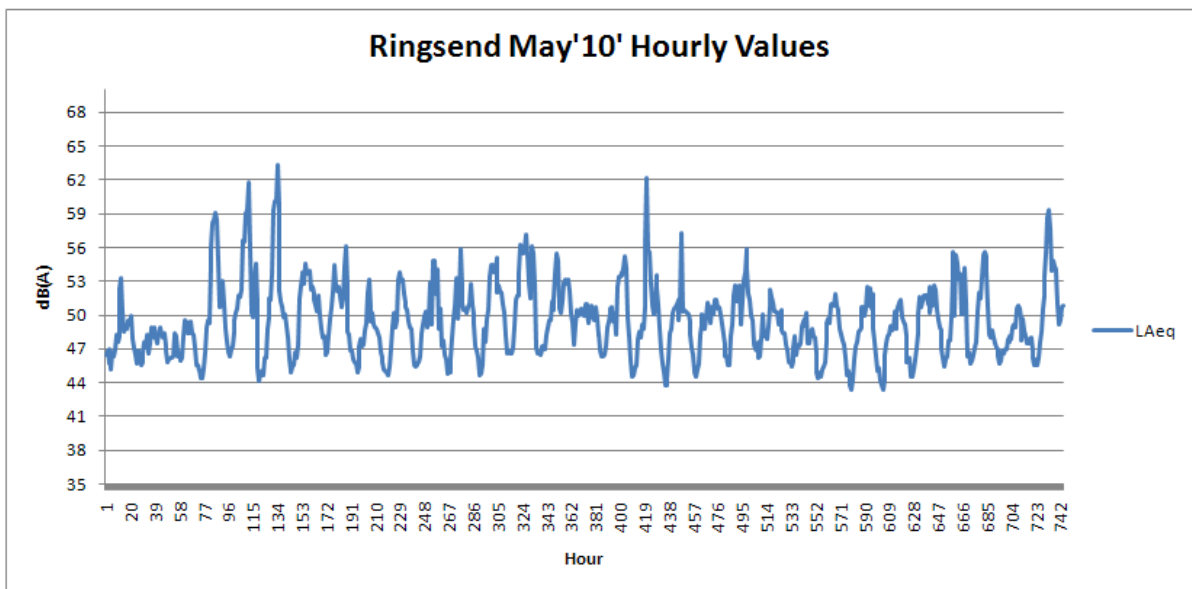
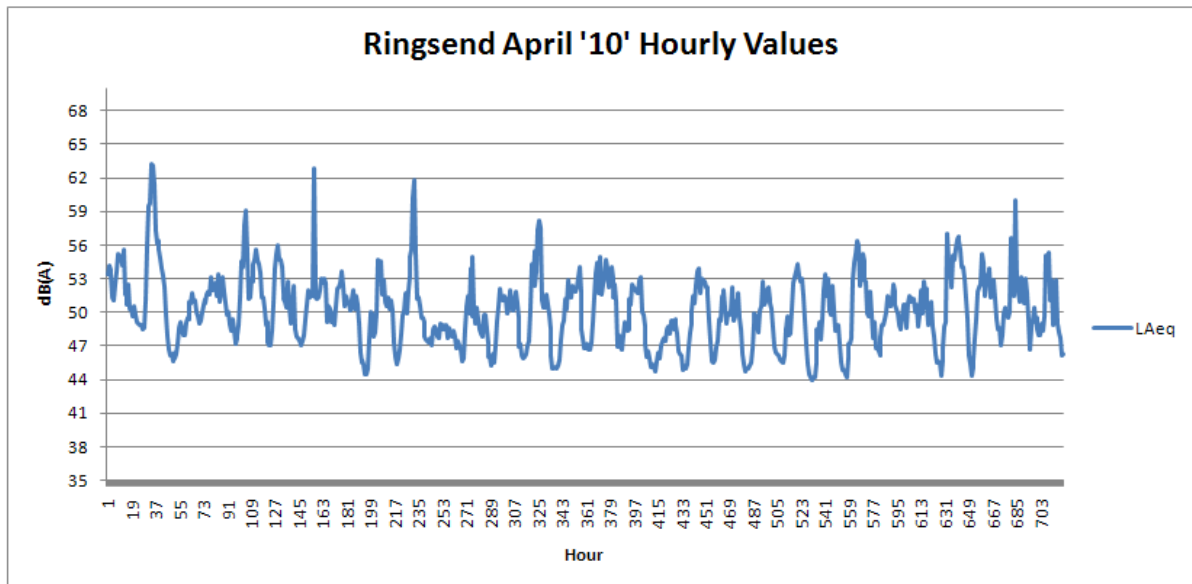


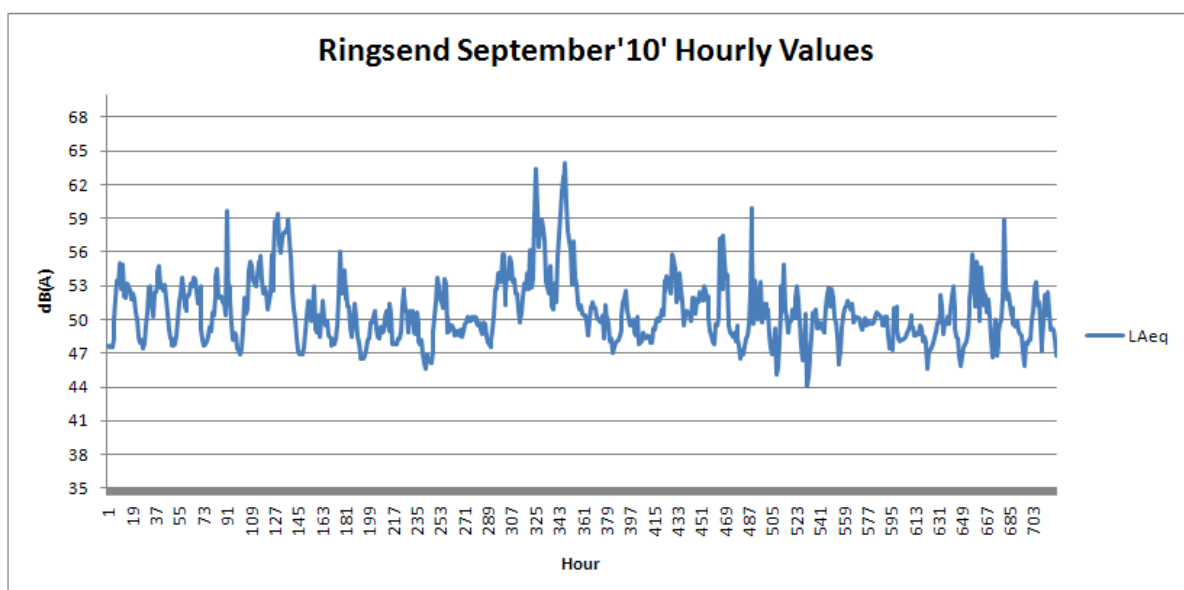
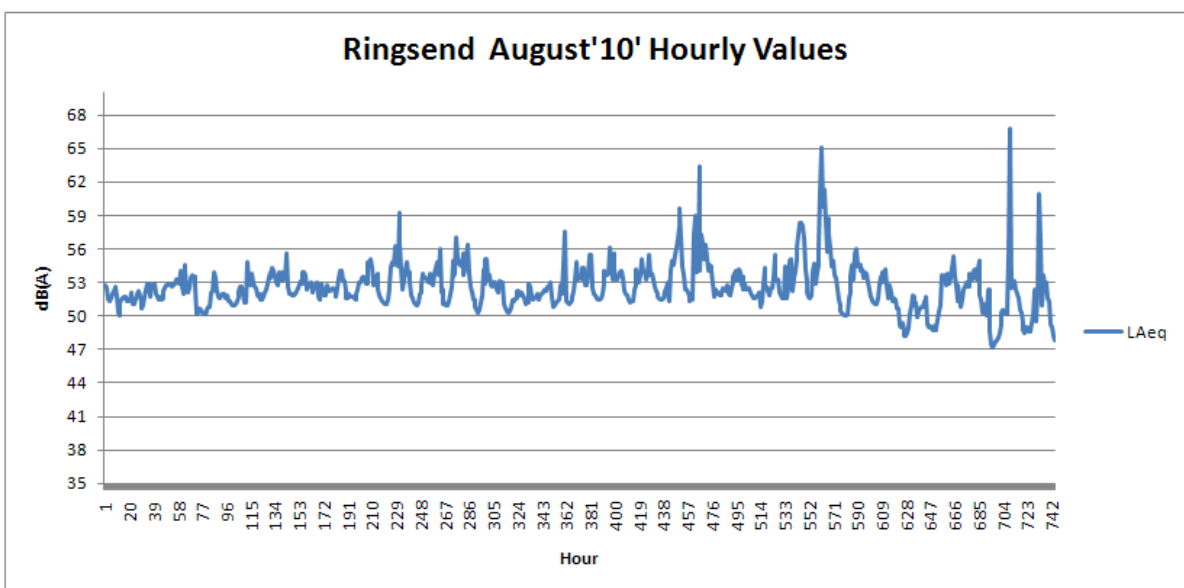
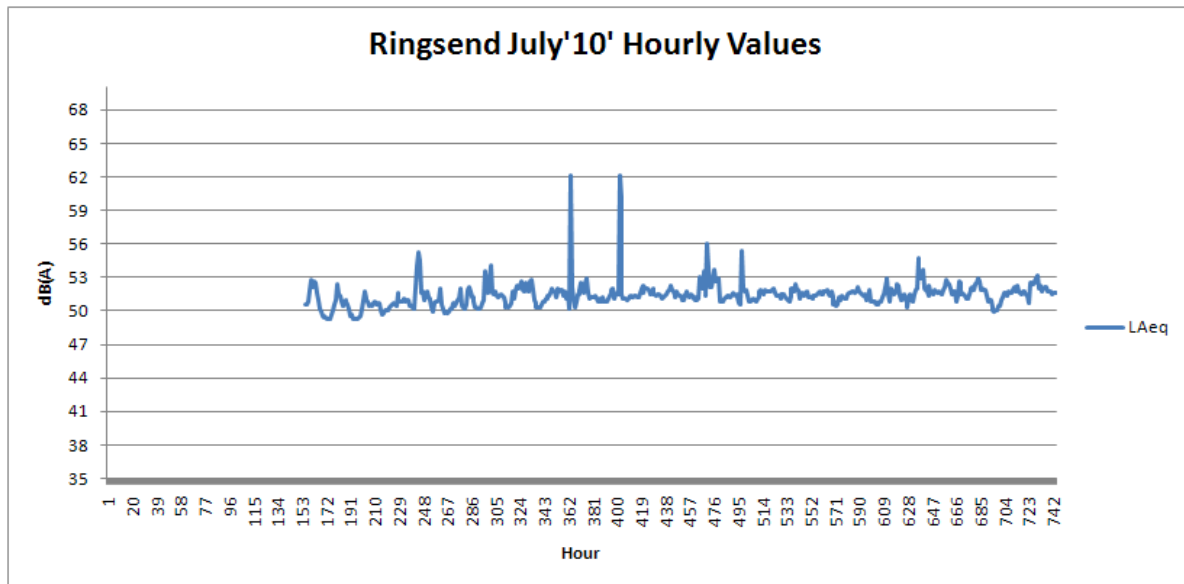




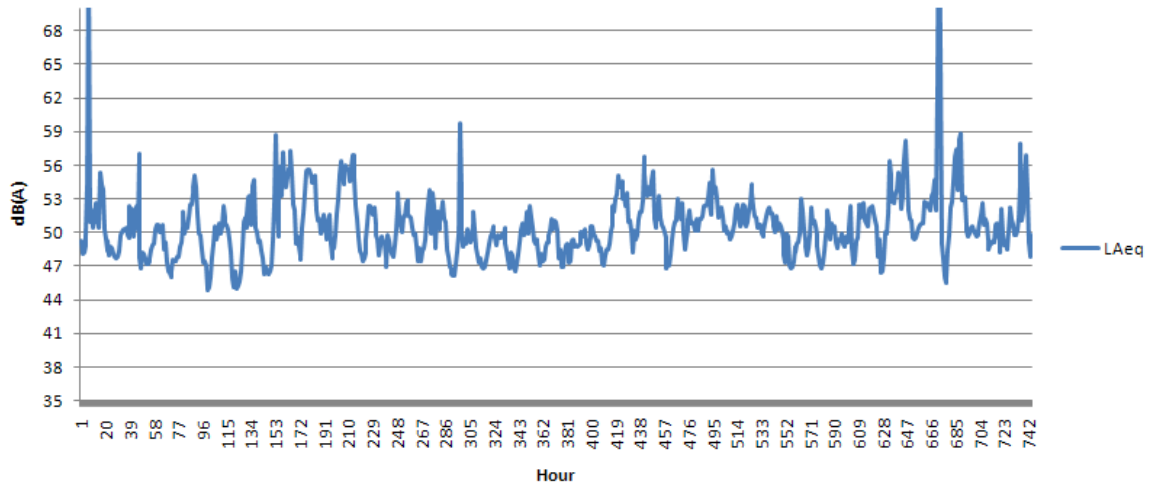




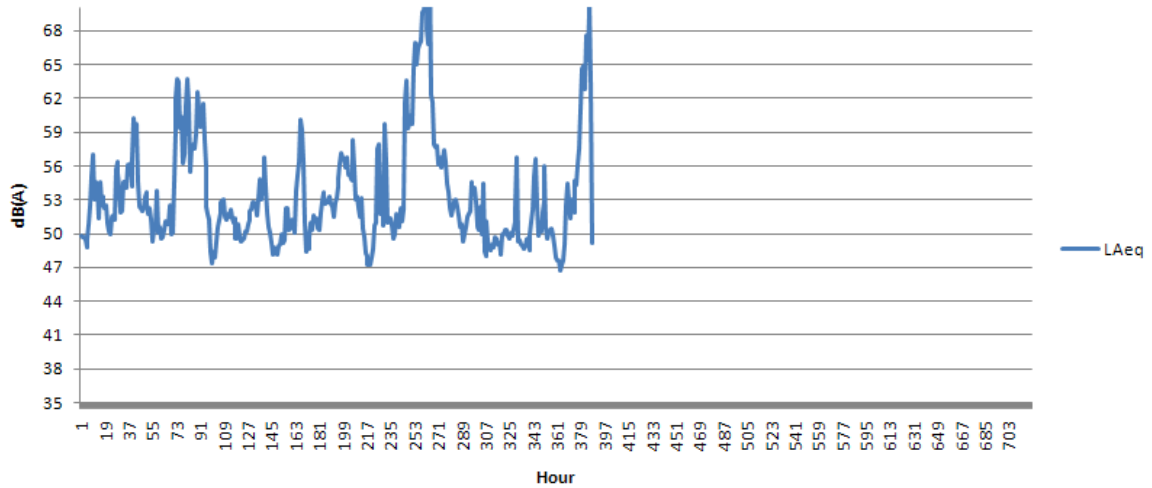




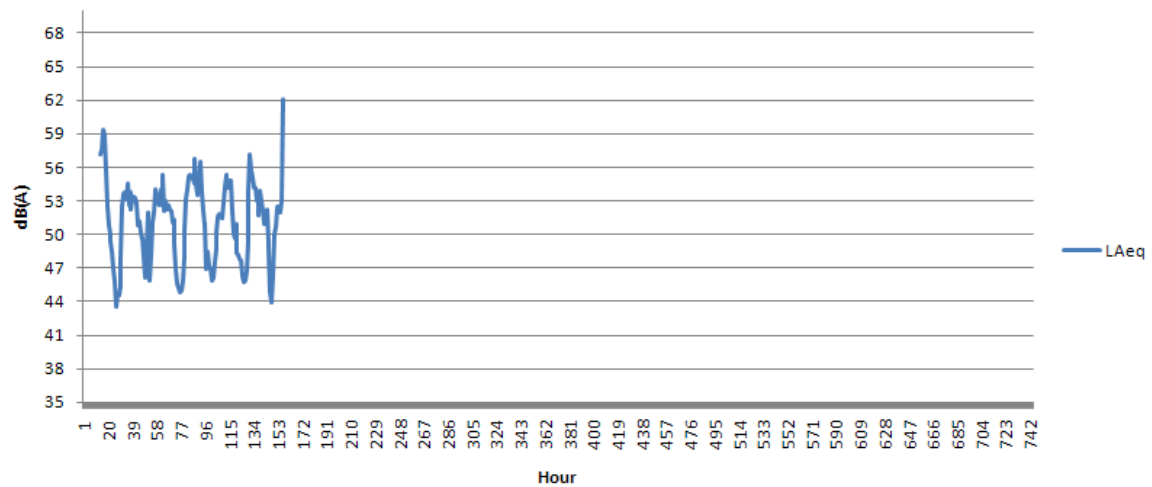
**Ringsend October'10' Hourly Values**



**Ringsend November'10' Hourly Values**



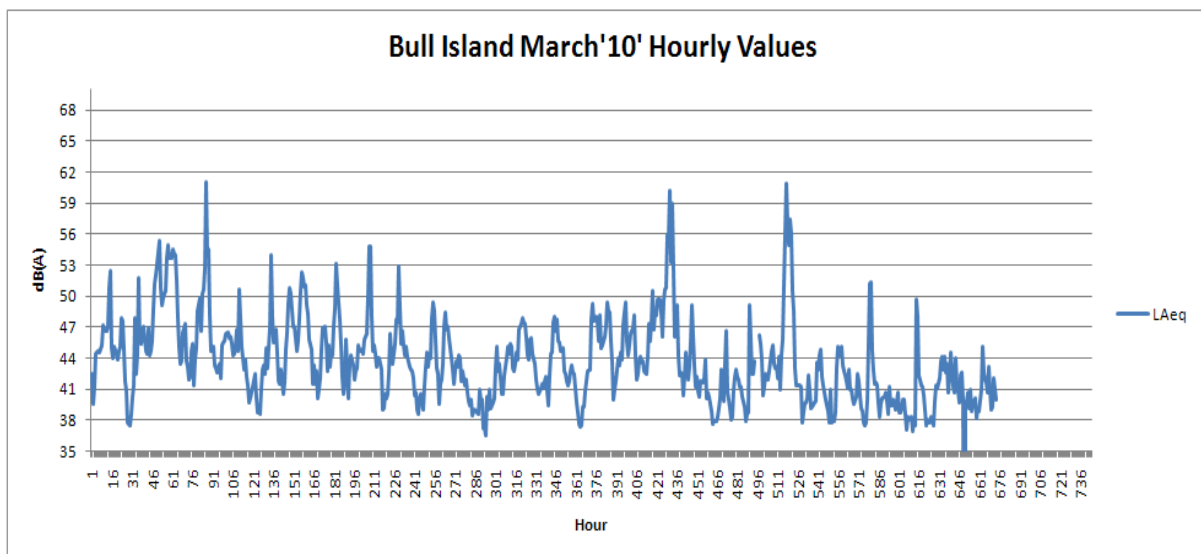
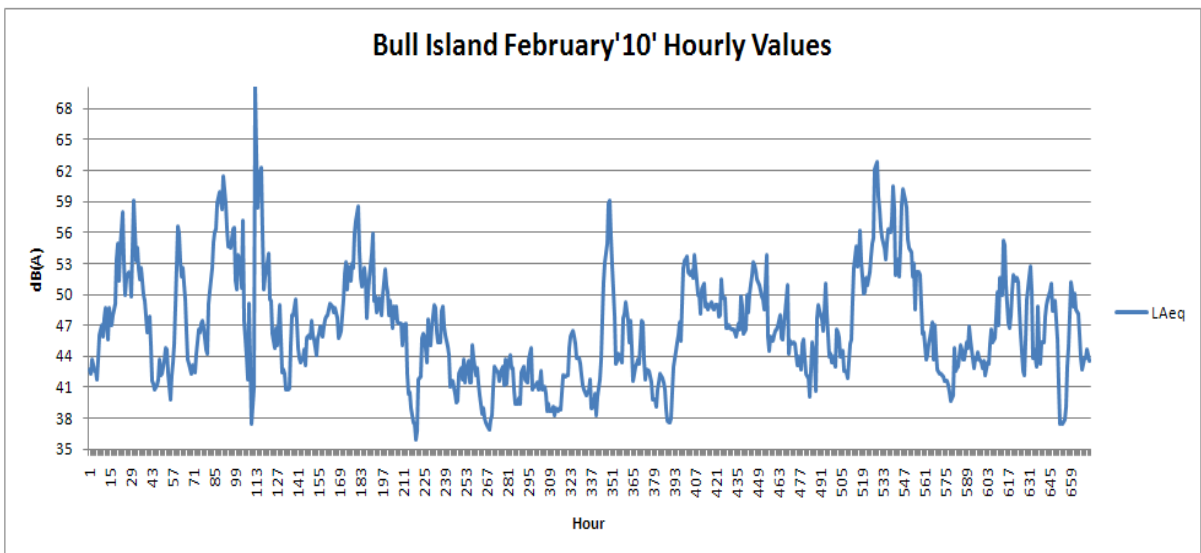
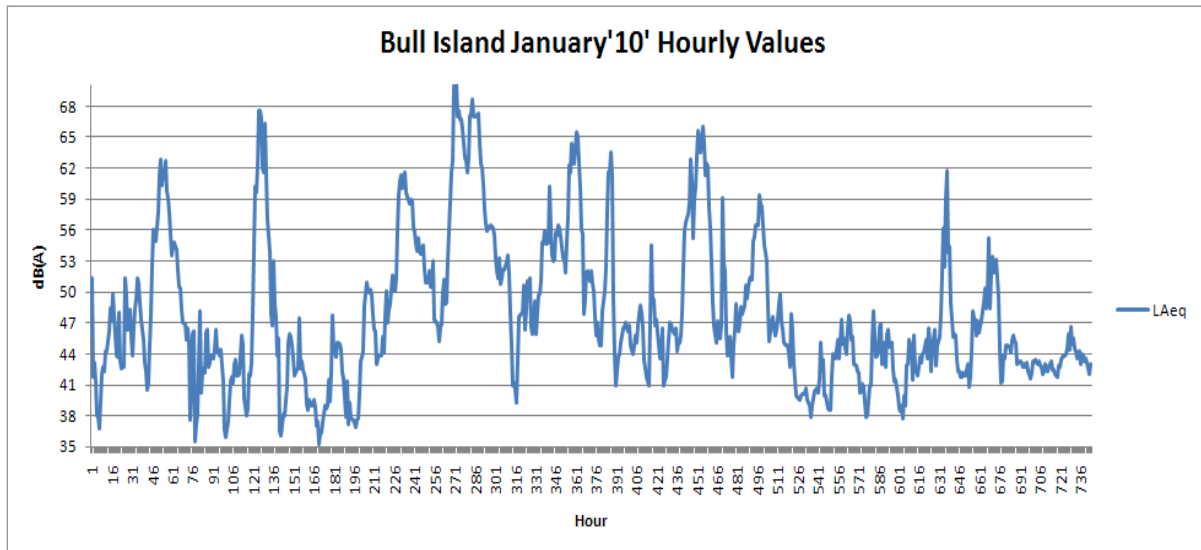
**Ringsend December'10' Hourly Values**

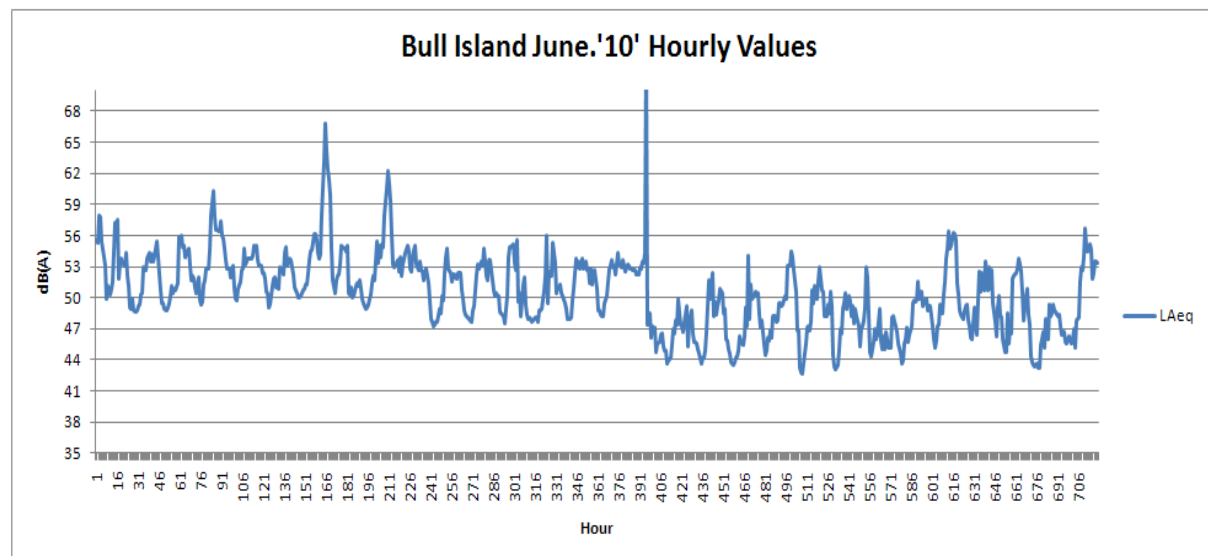
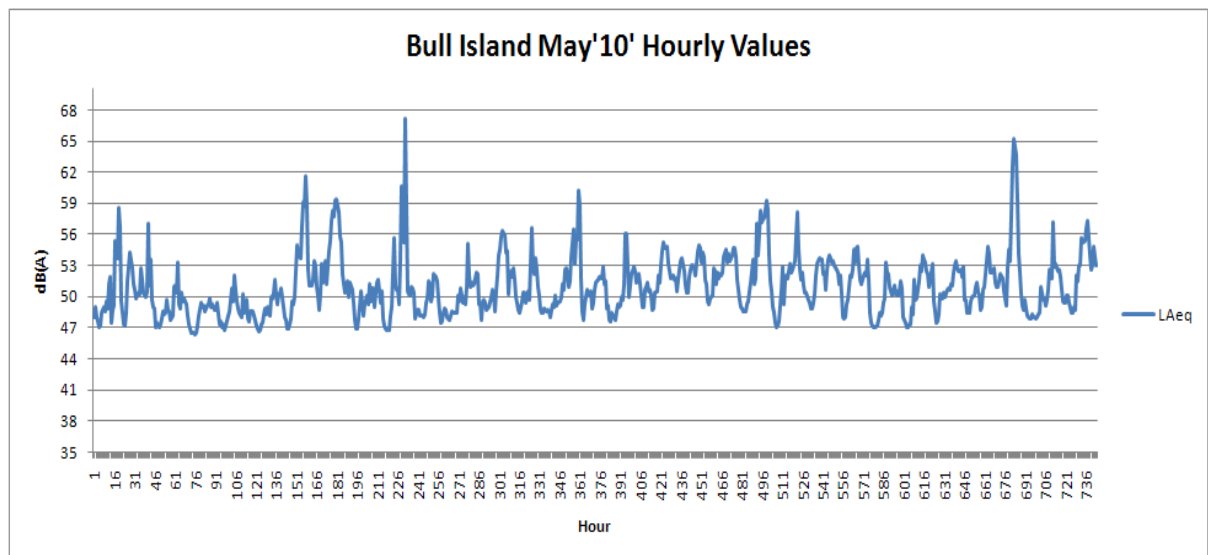
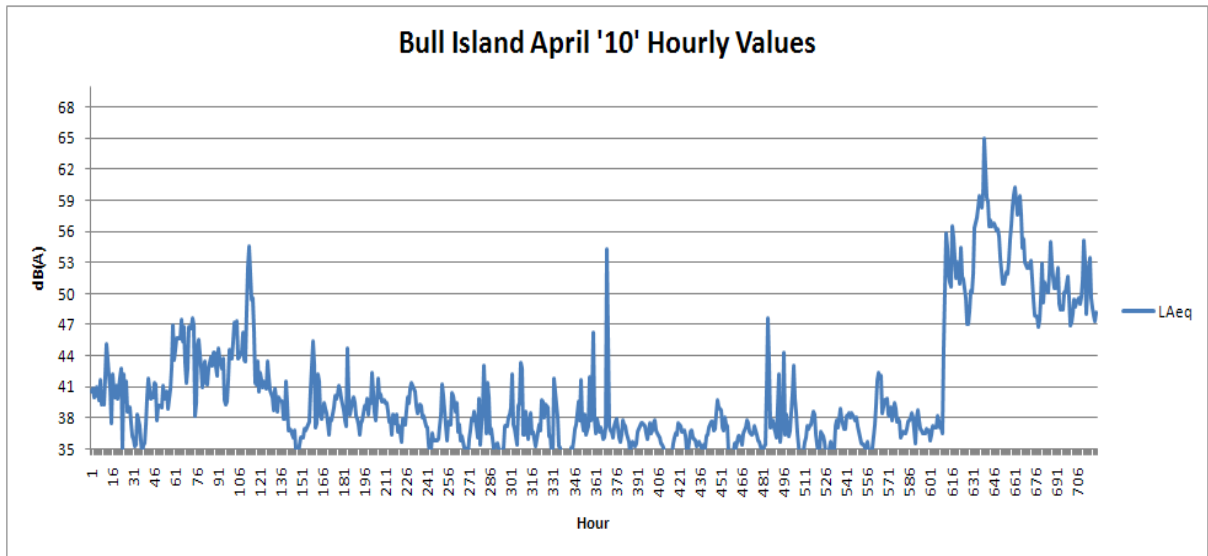


**BULL ISLAND INTERPRETATIVE CENTRE**  
**BULL ISLAND**  
**DUBLIN 3**

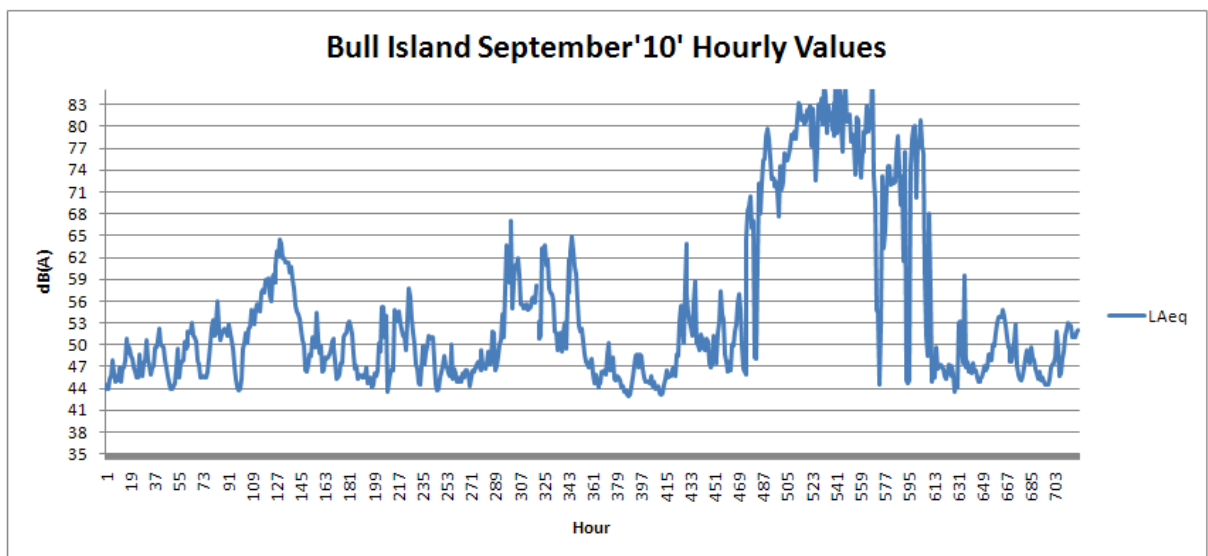
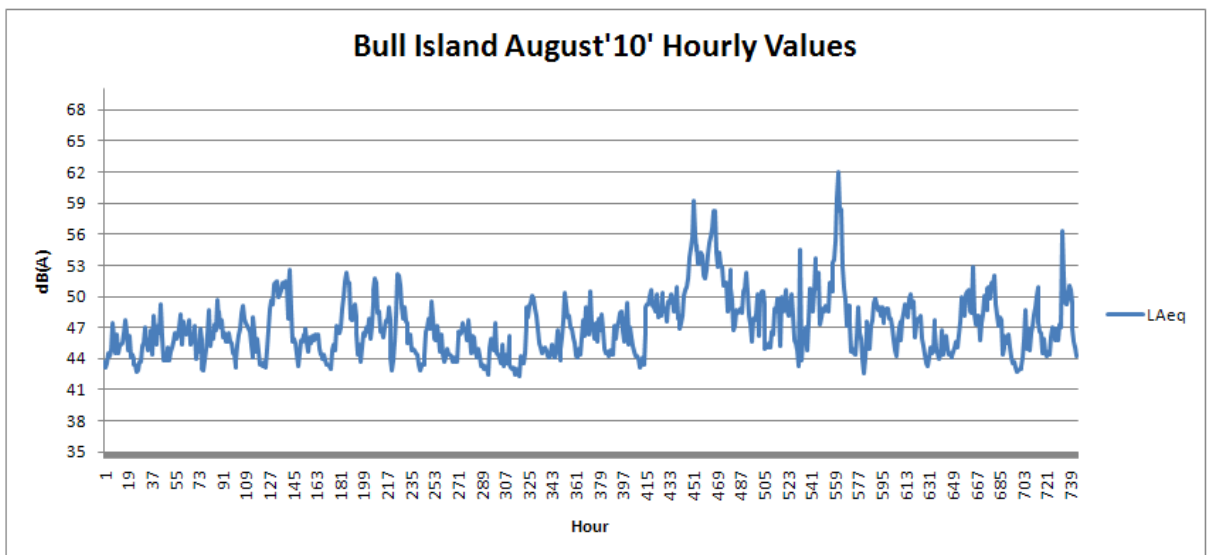
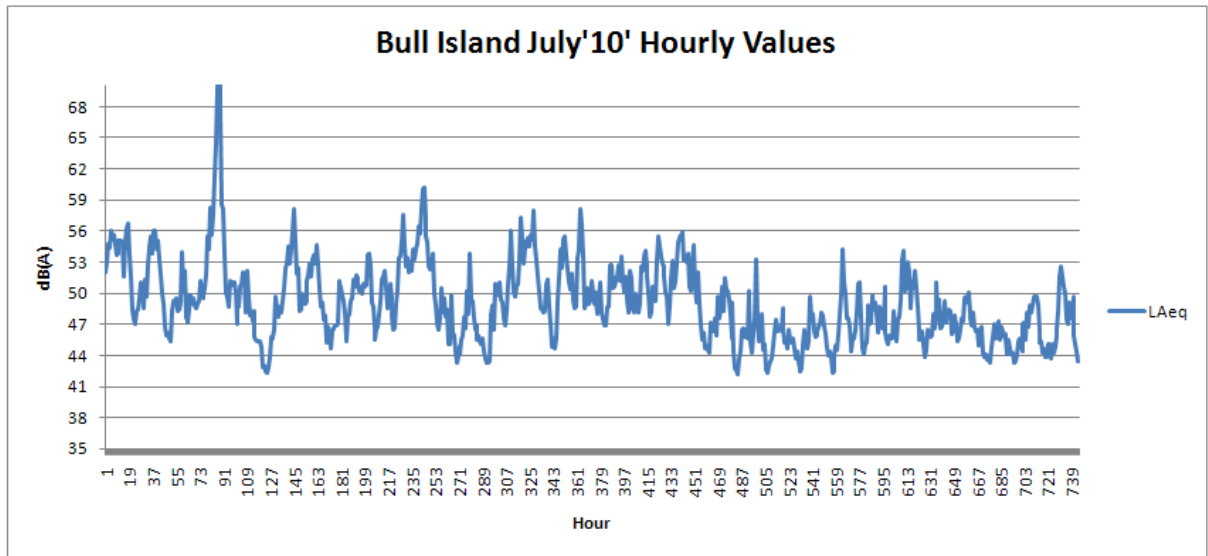


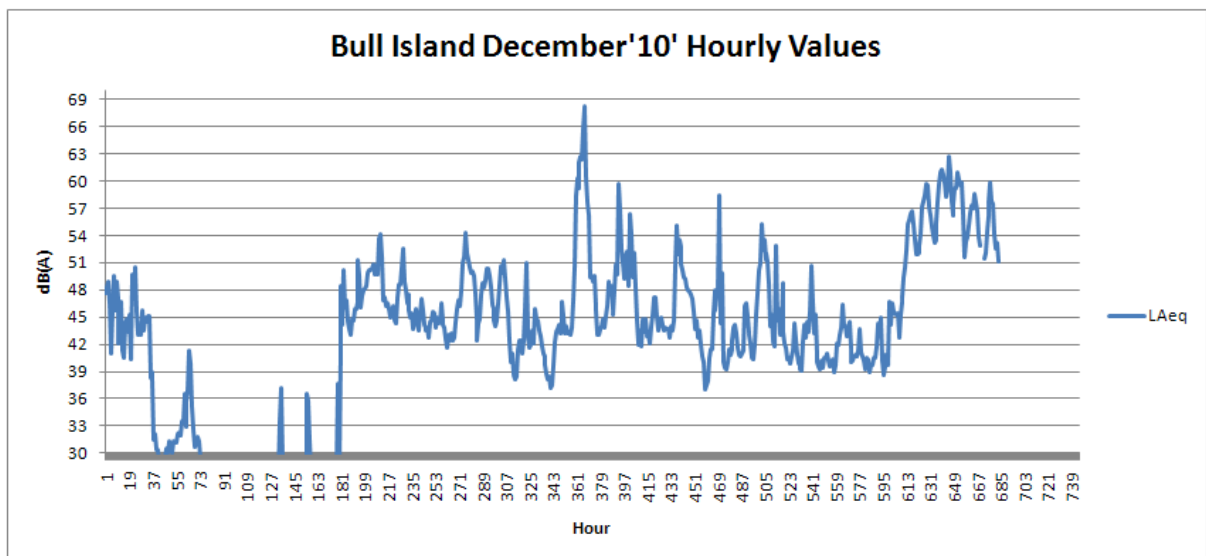
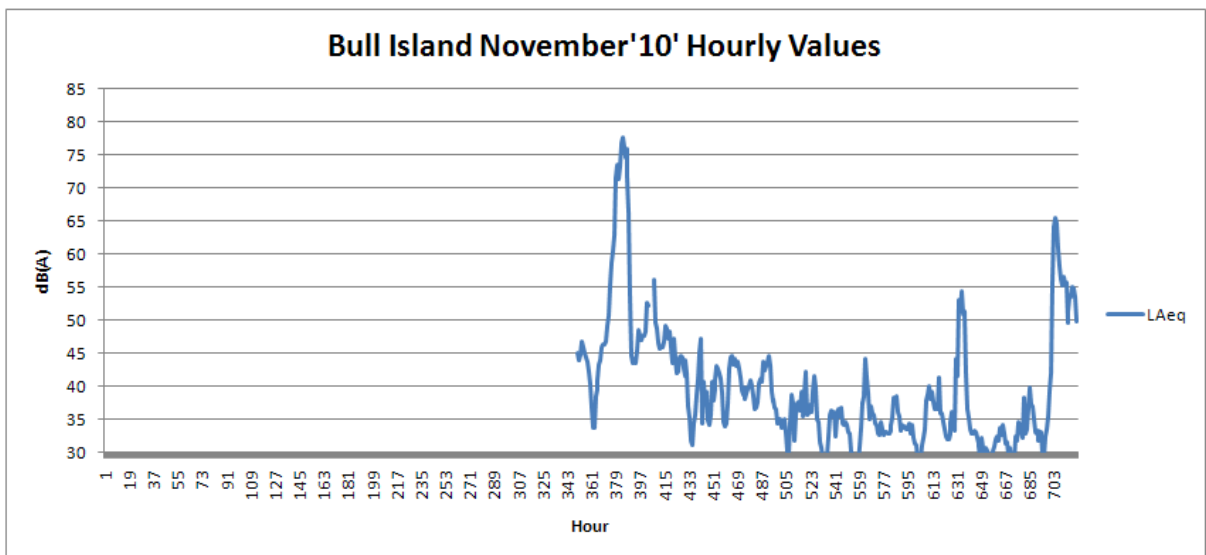
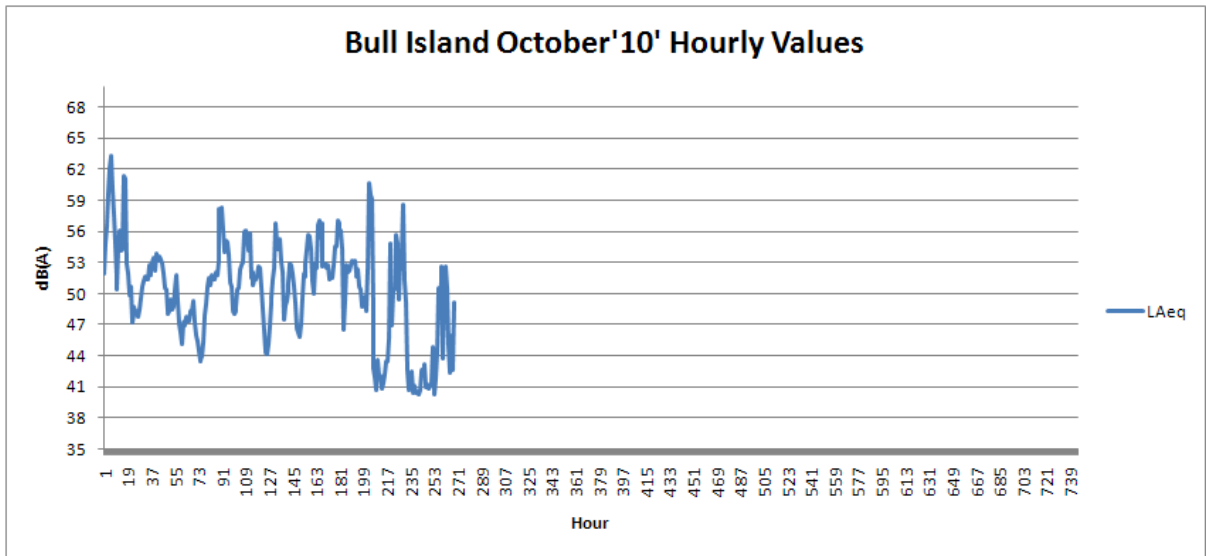










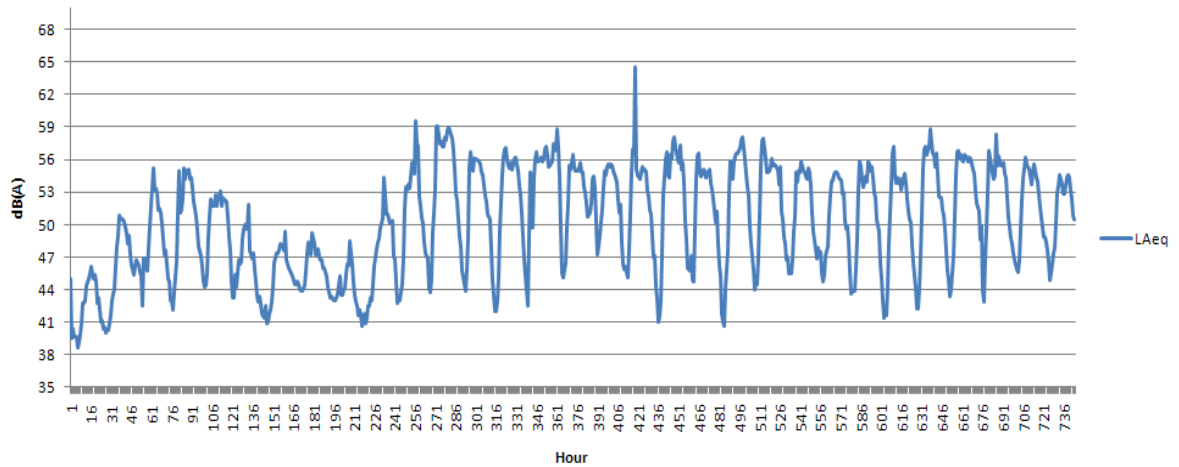


**WALKINSTOWN LIBRARY**  
**PERCY FRENCH ROAD**  
**DUBLIN 12**

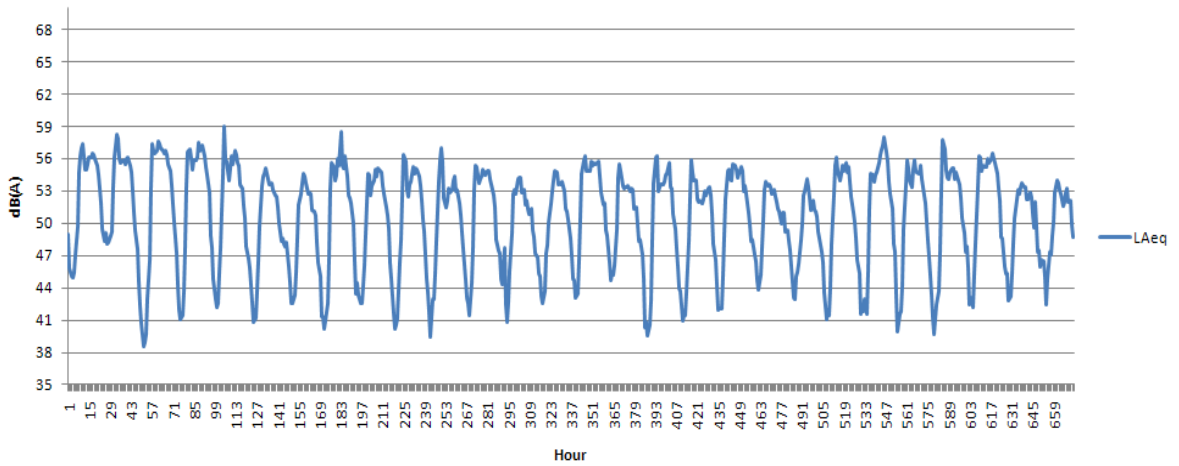




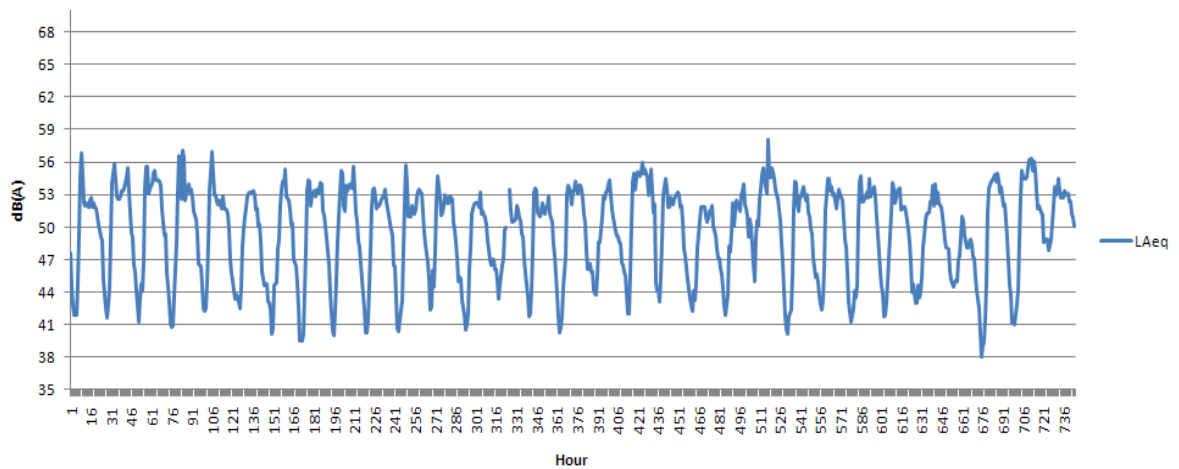
Walkinstown January'10' Hourly Values



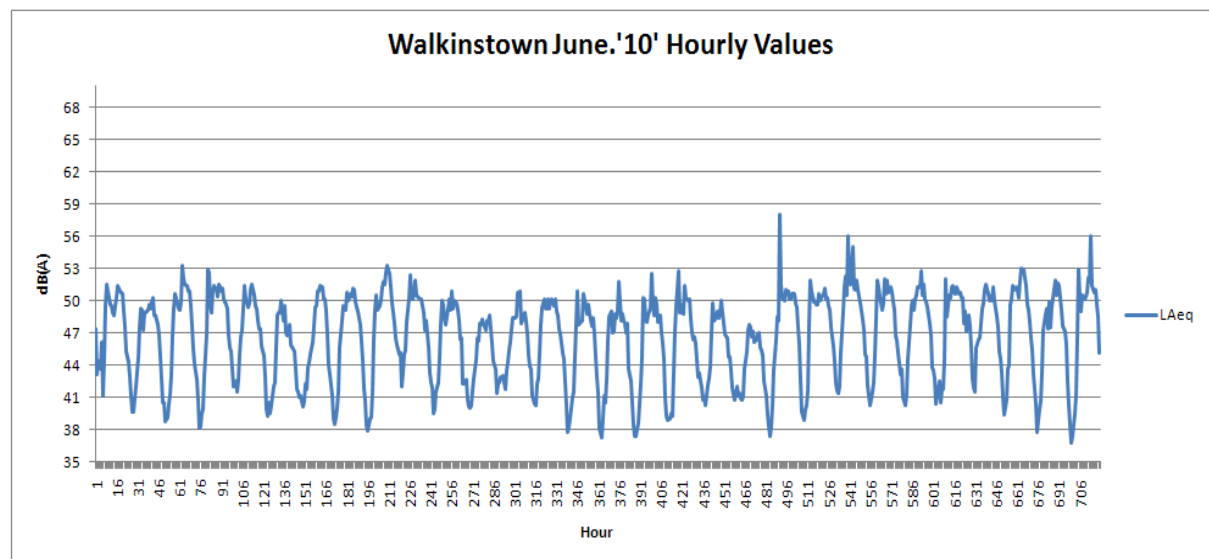
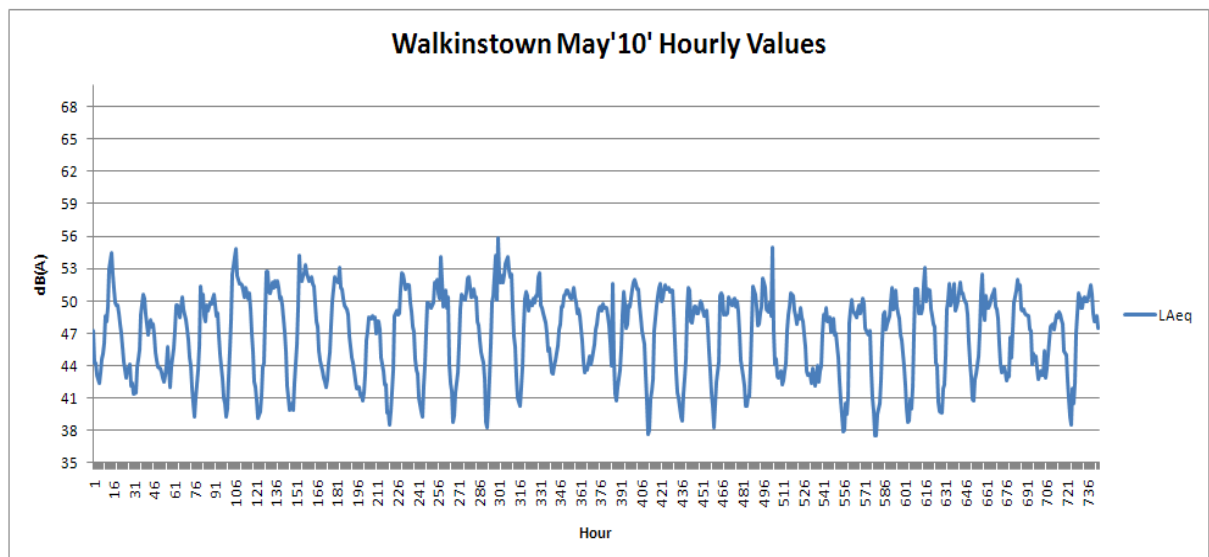
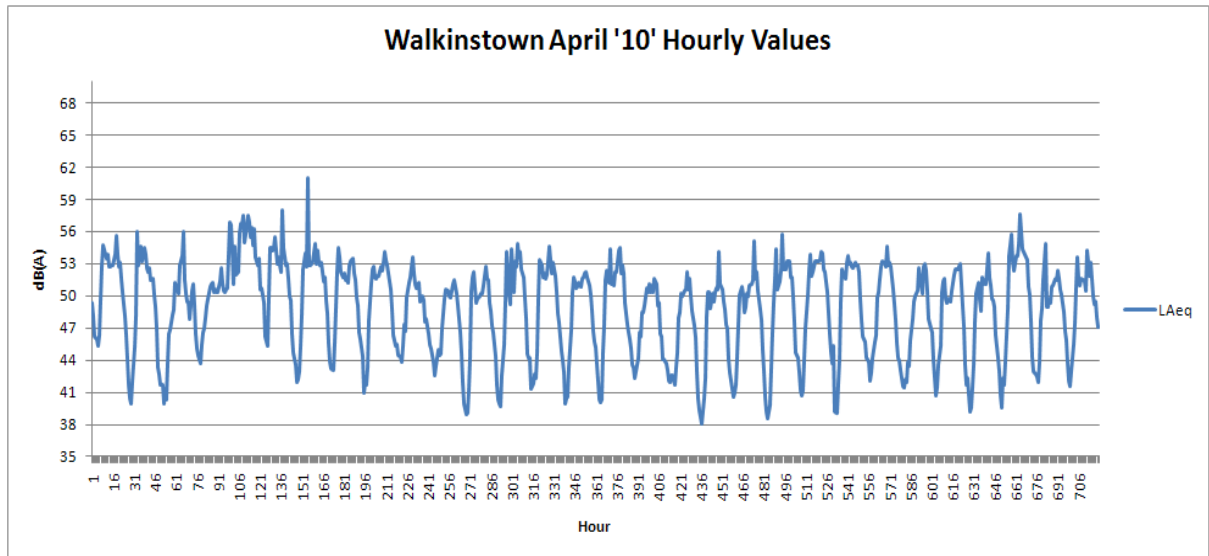
Walkinstown February'10' Hourly Values

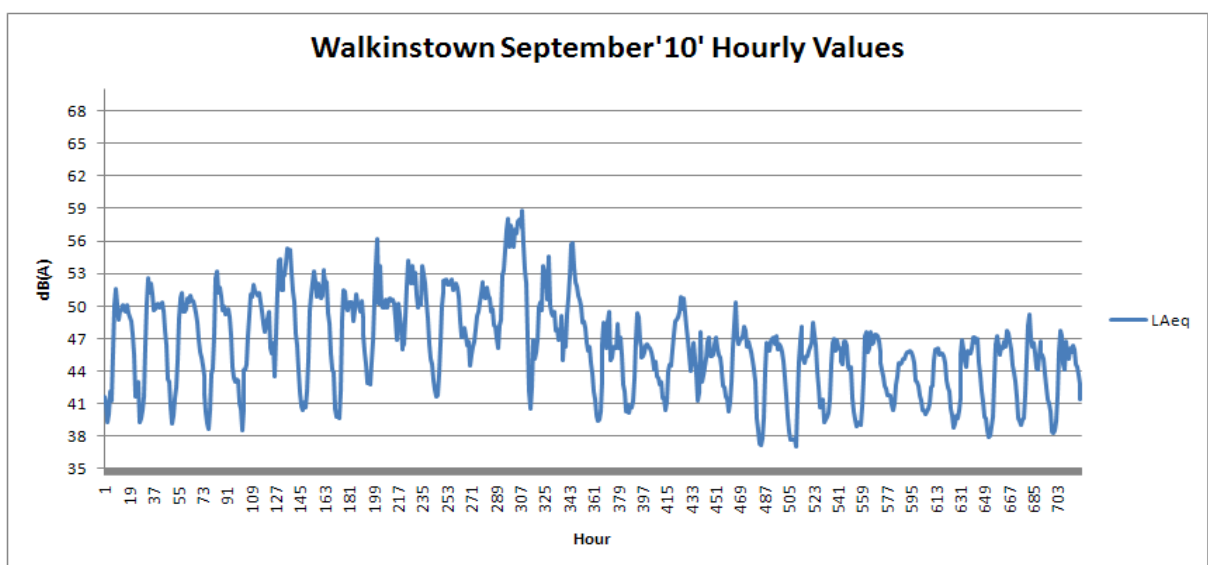
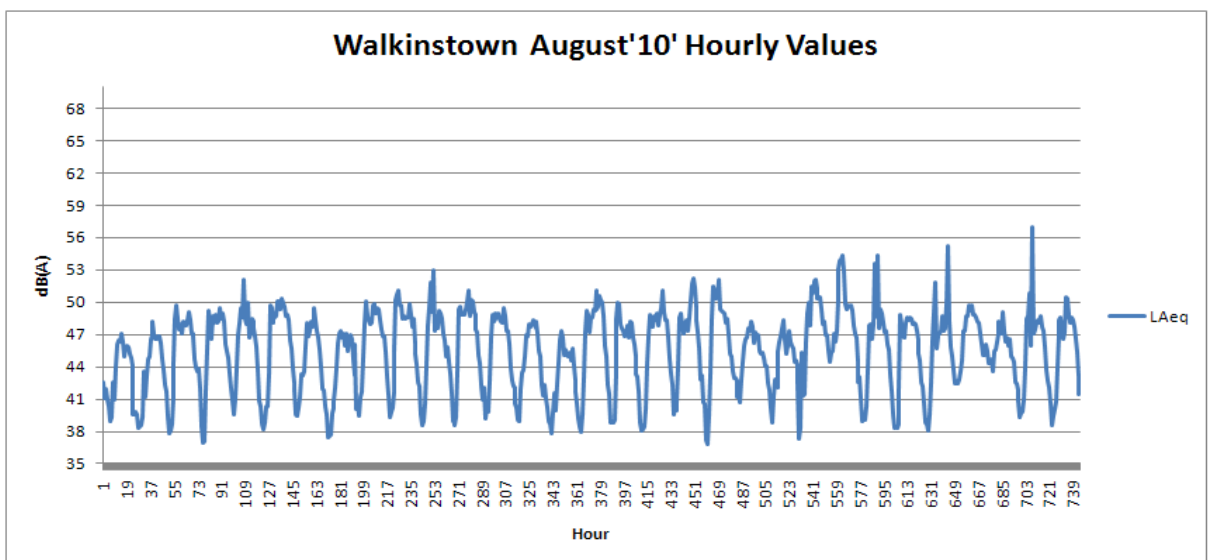
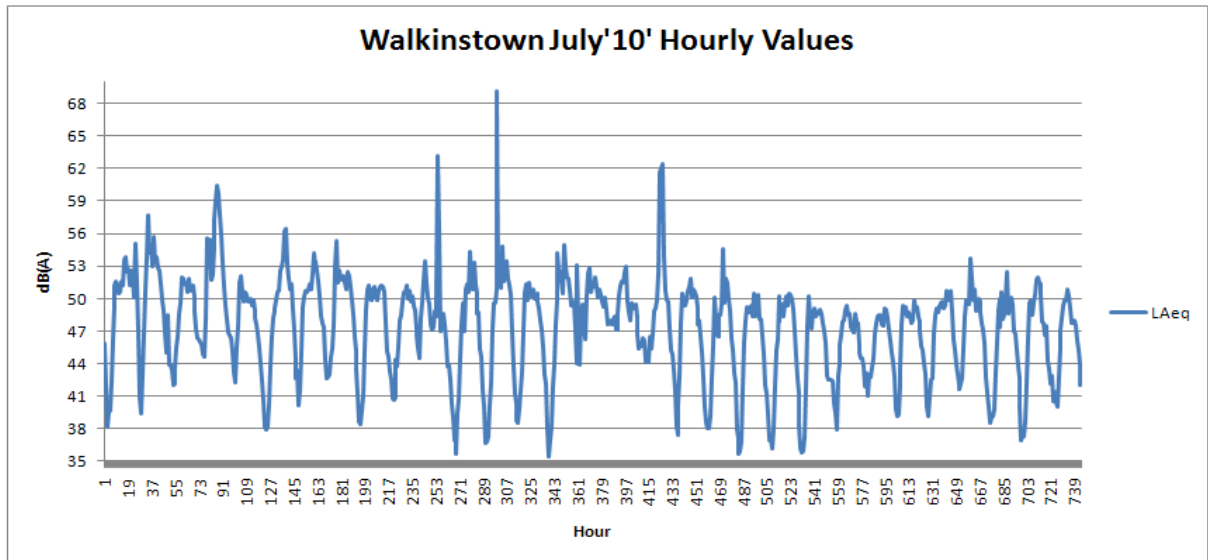


Walkinstown March'10' Hourly Values



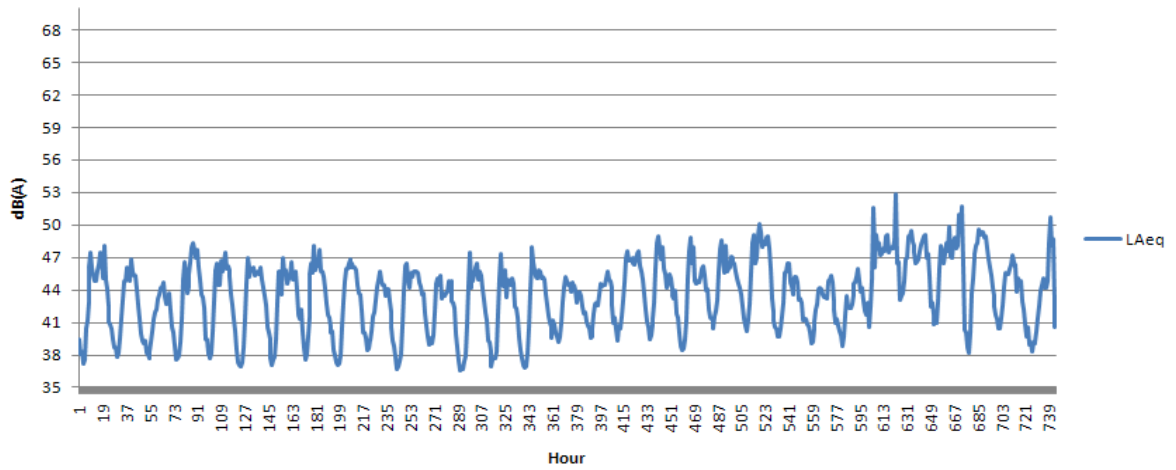




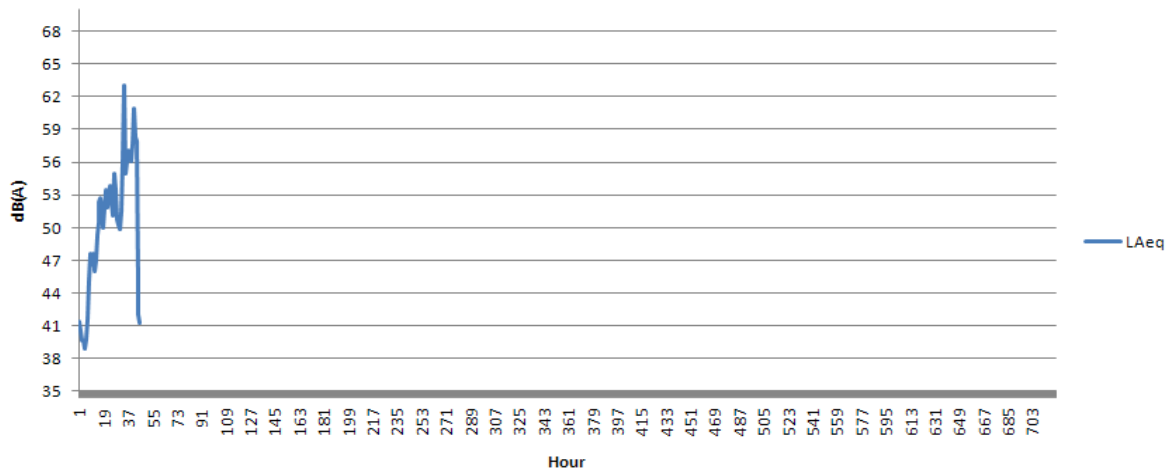




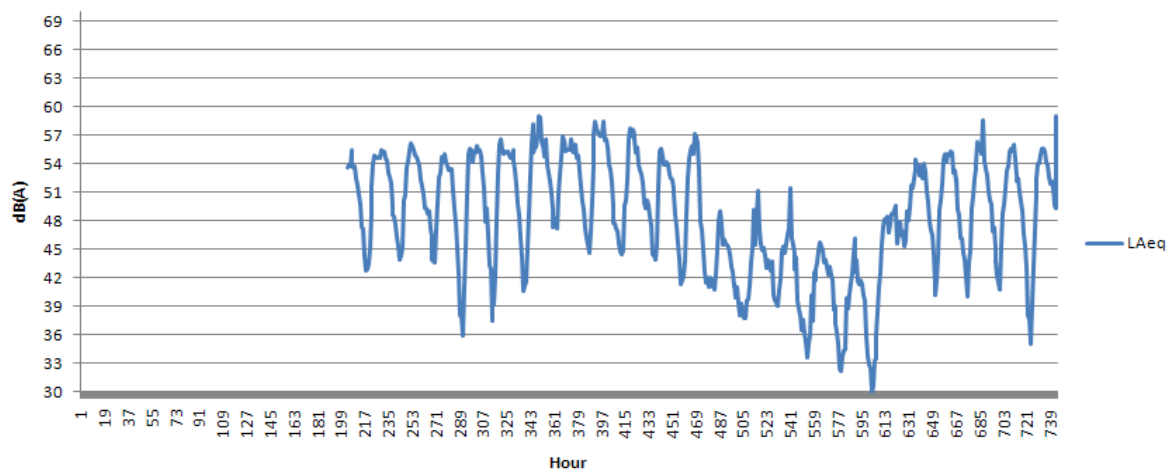
Walkinstown October'10' Hourly Values



Walkinstown November'10' Hourly Values



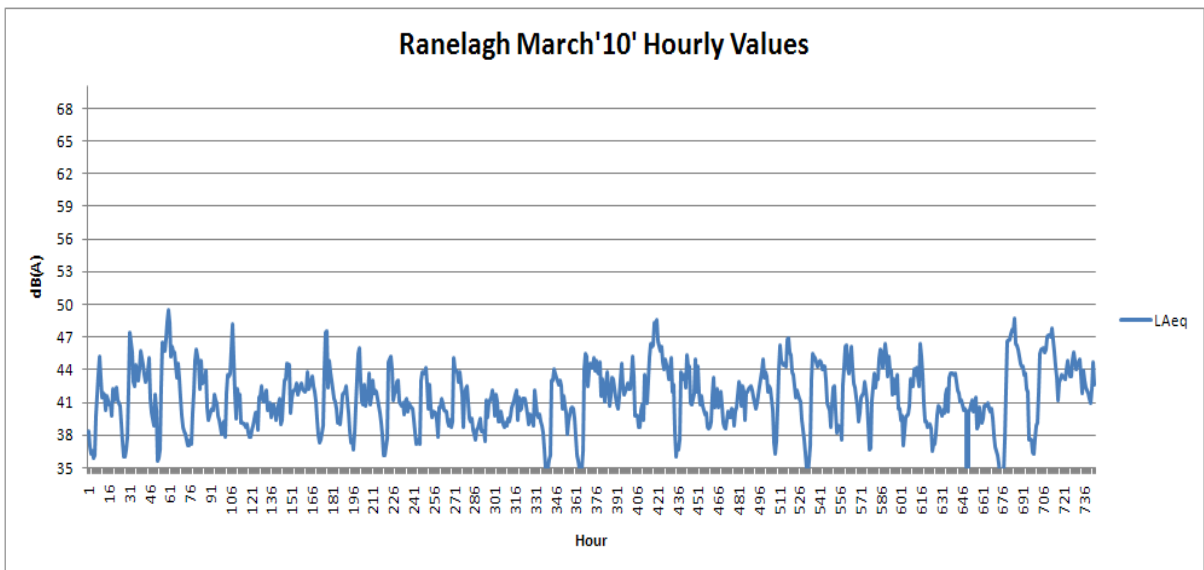
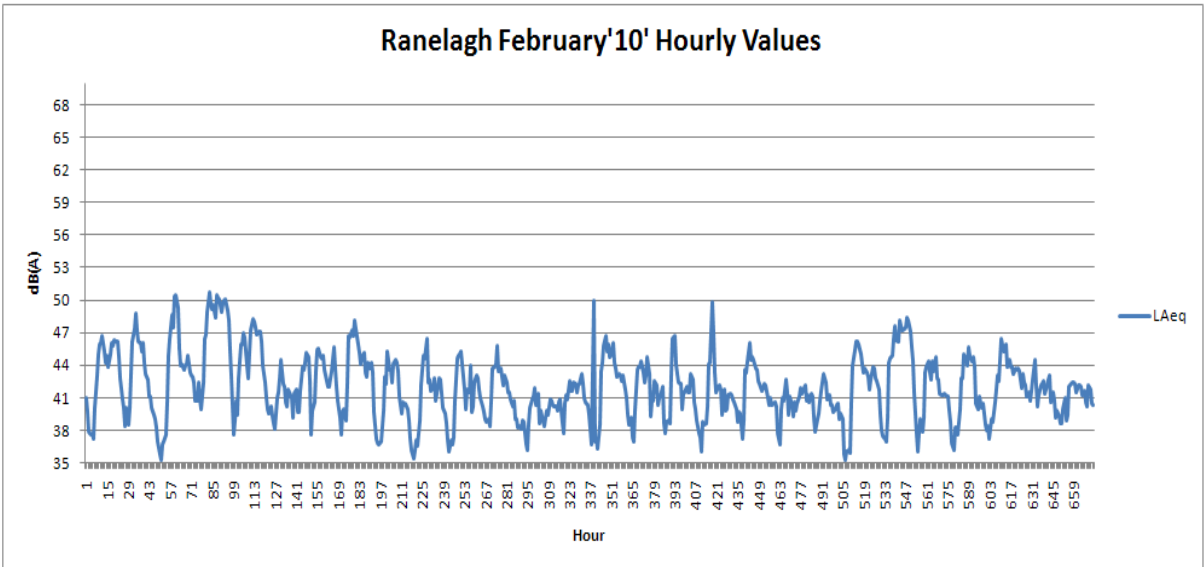
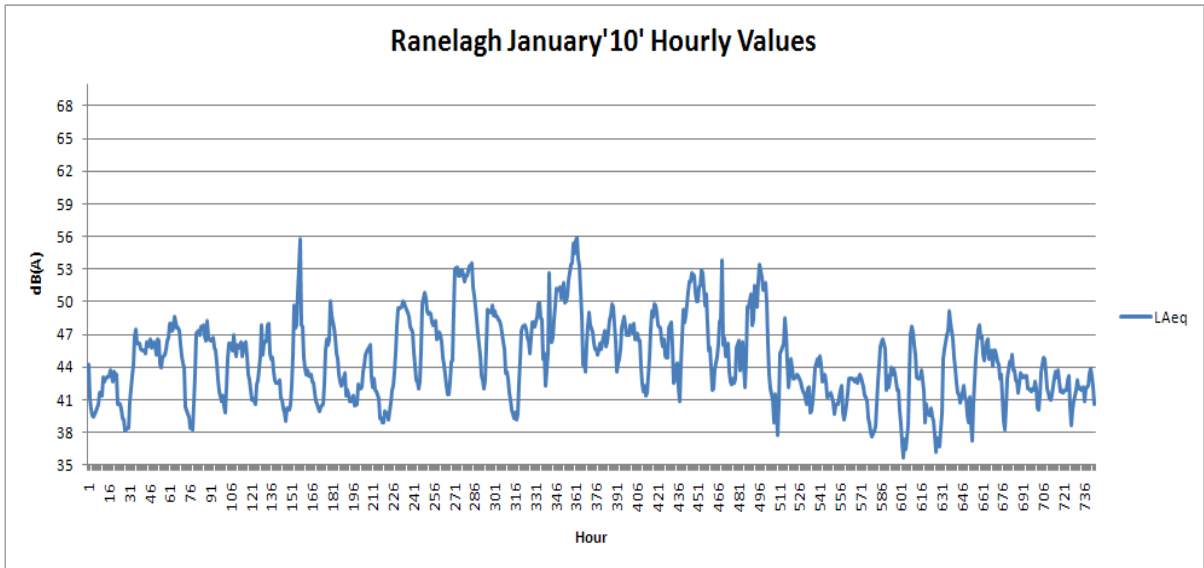
Walkinstown December'10' Hourly Values

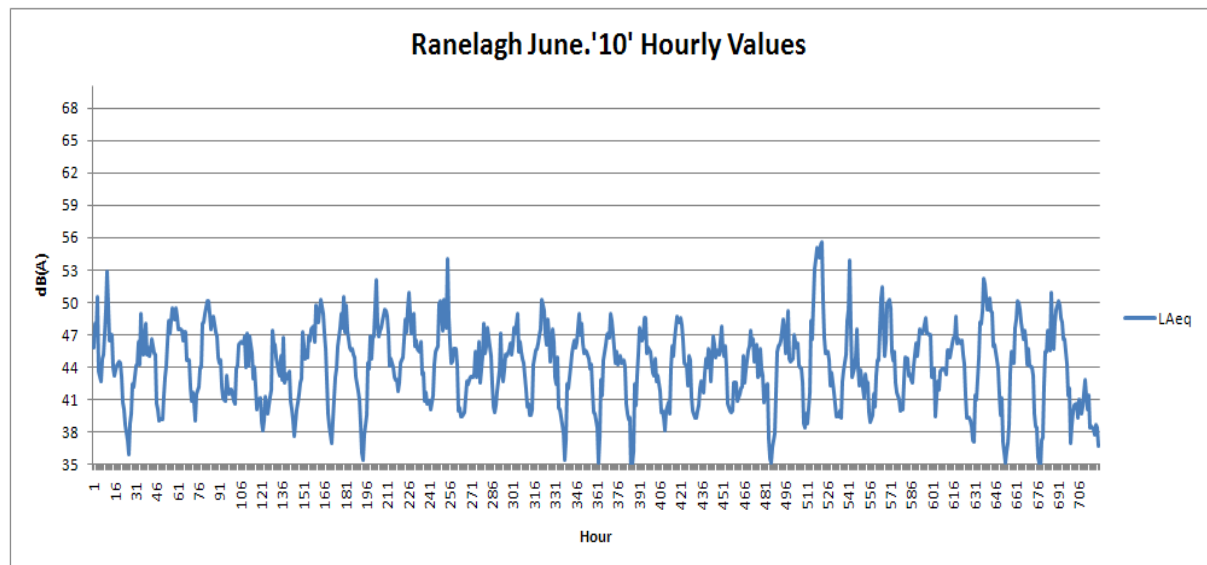
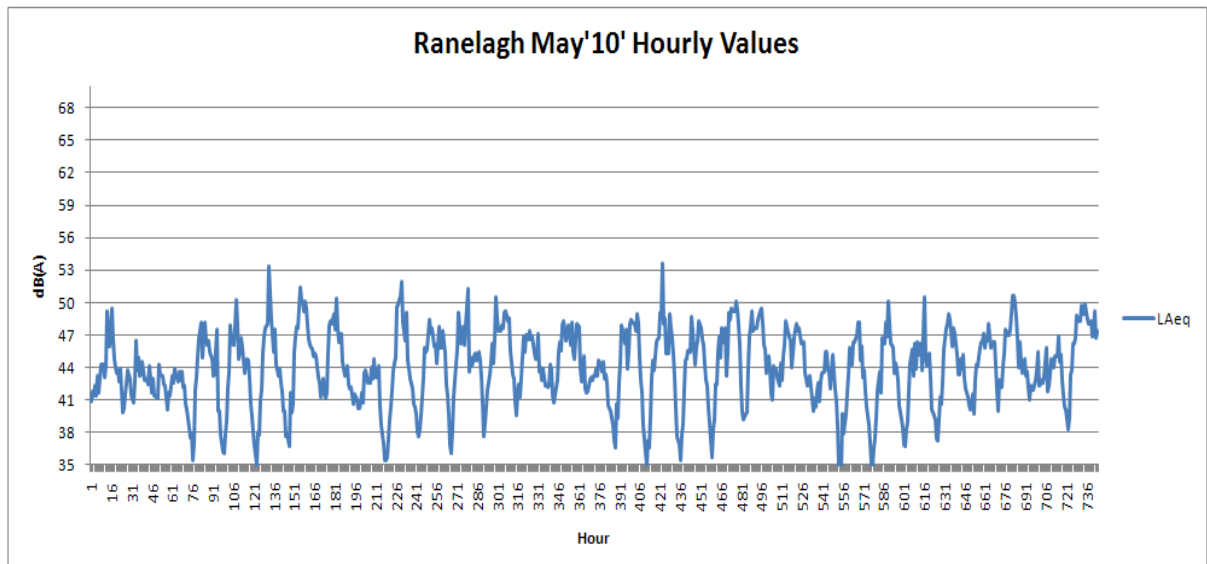
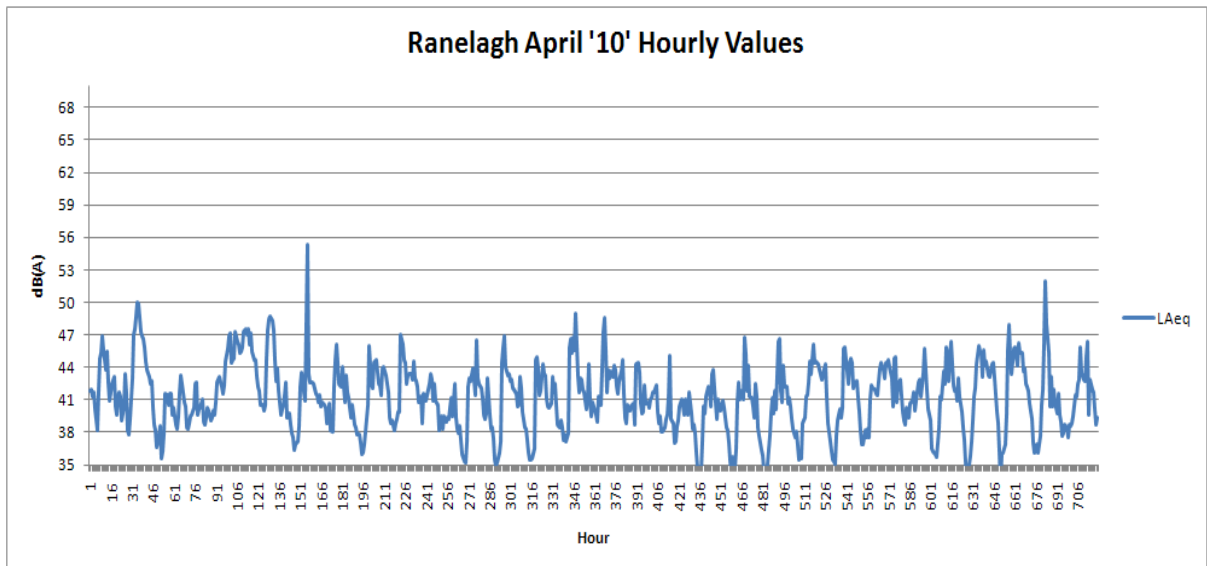


WOODSTOCK STOCK GARDENS  
RANELAGH  
DUBLIN 6

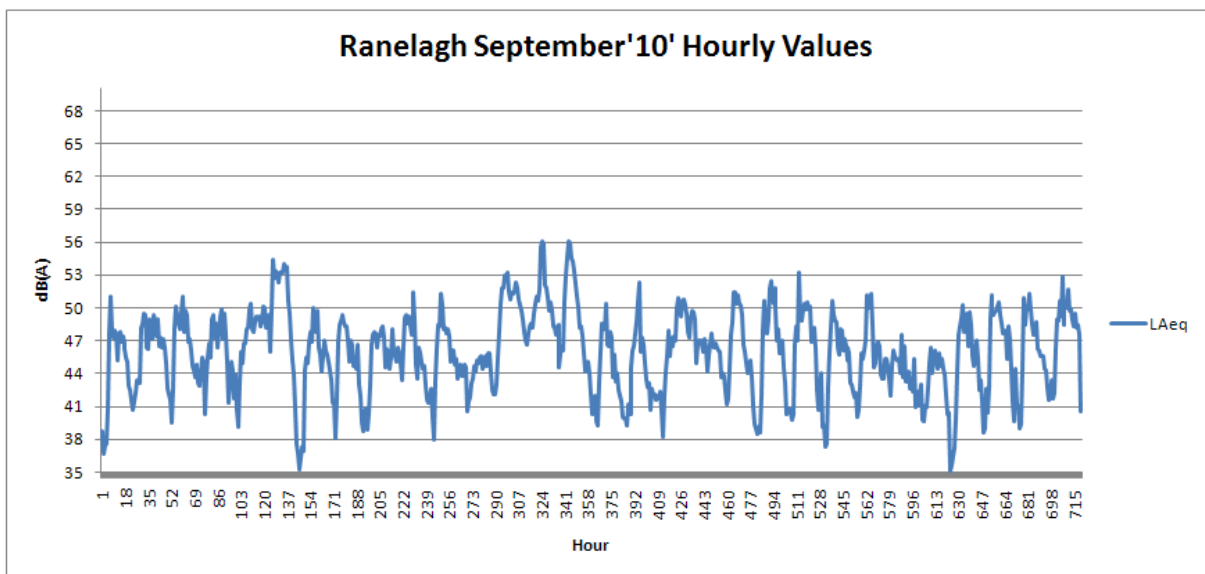
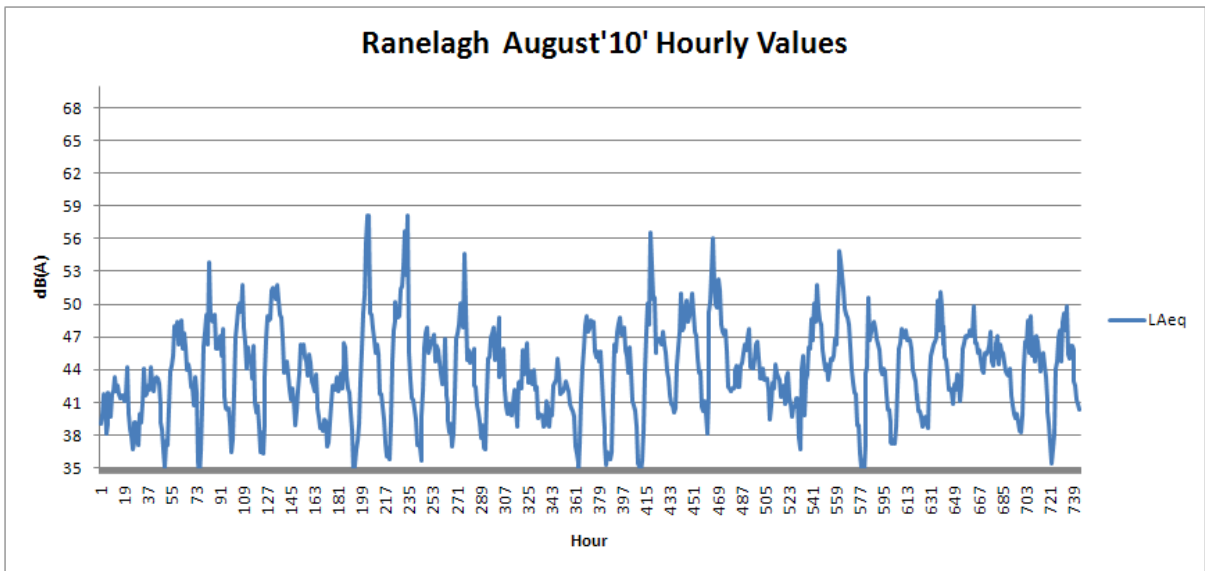
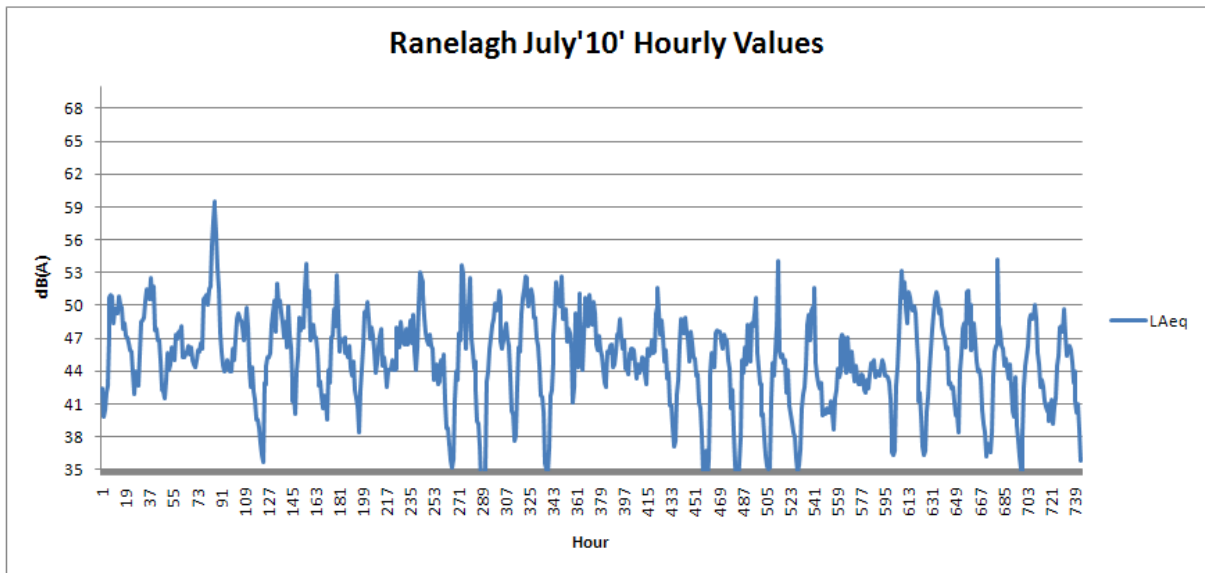


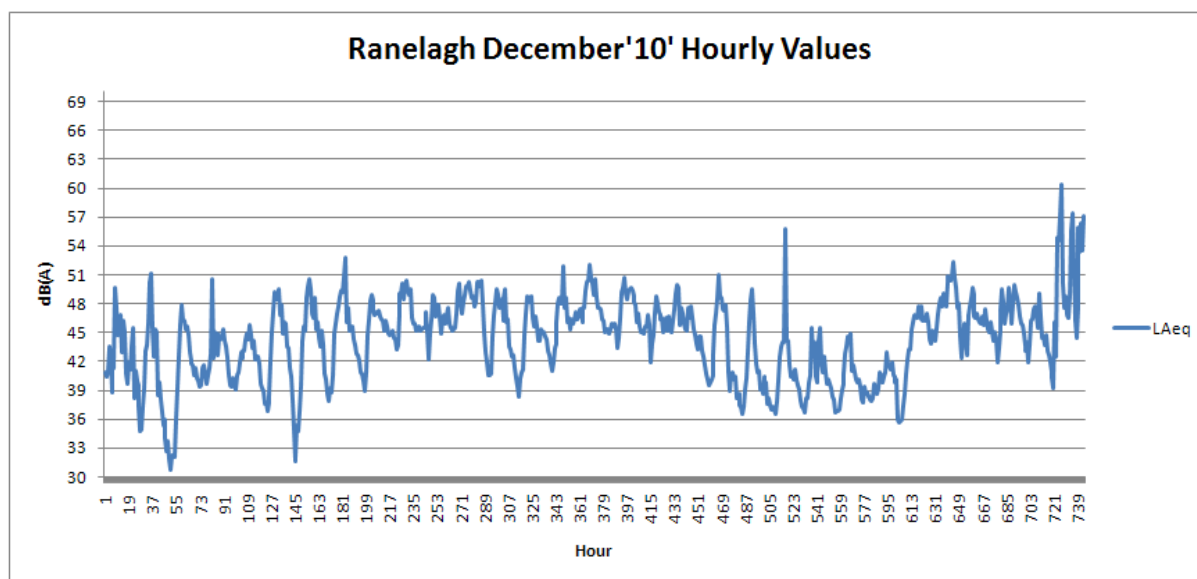
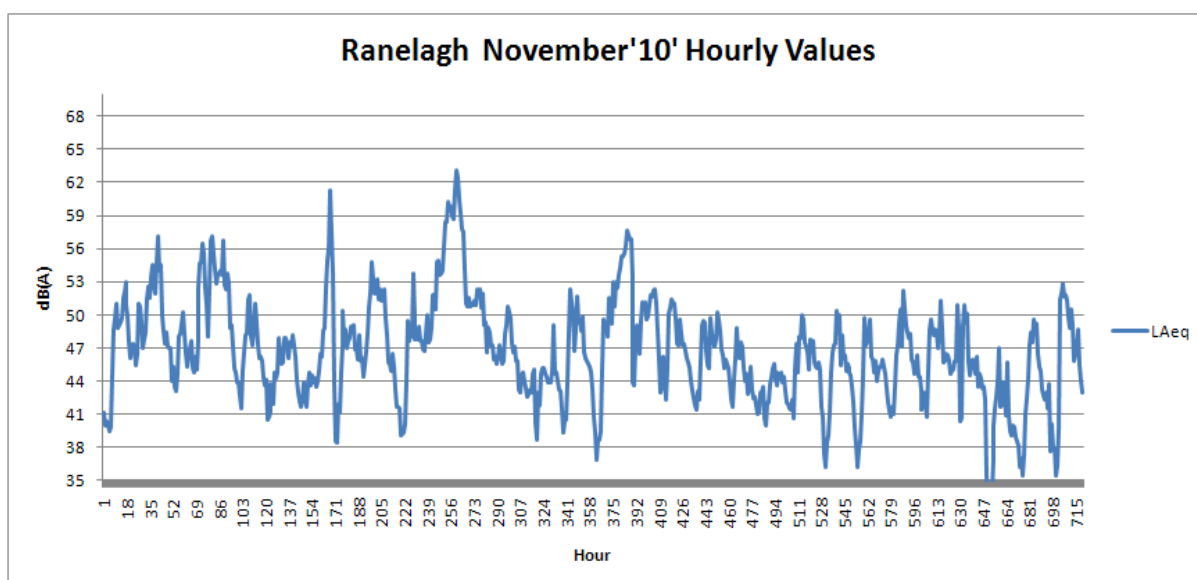
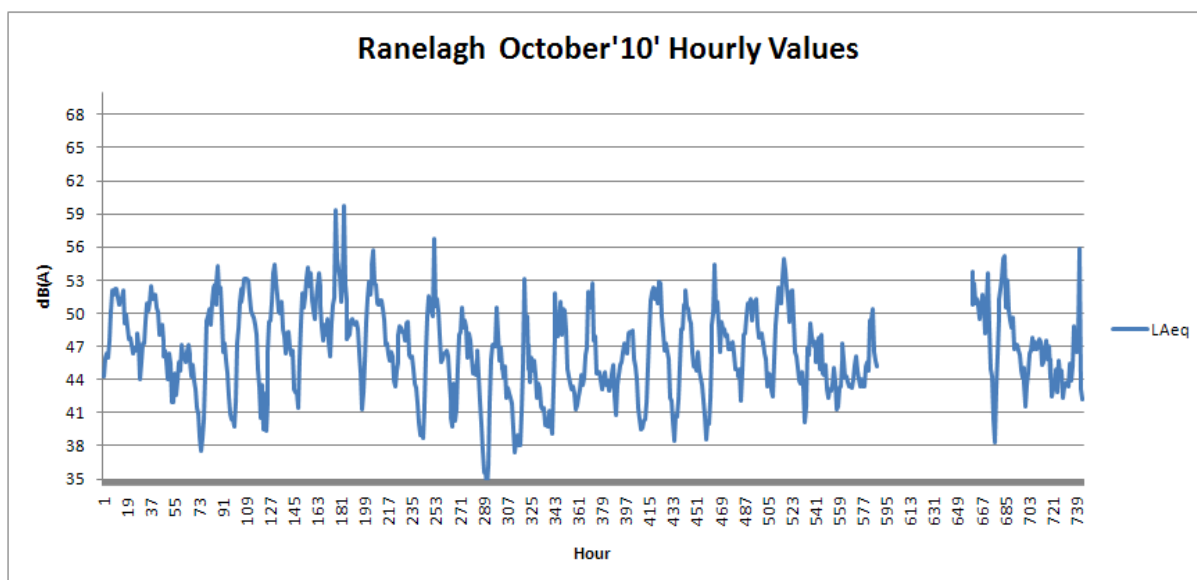














**CHANCERY PARK**  
**CHANCERY ST.**  
**DUBLIN 1**

