

# ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2023

Now in their 10th year, the ANC awards highlight the unique skills of UK based acoustic and noise professionals, and the dynamic and diverse nature of the industry overall, to inspire the next generation of acoustic consultants. These accolades demonstrate excellence among ANC members in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.

## Environmental Noise Infrastructure

WINNER • Create Consulting Engineers: 7 Thames Road and Road Planing Works

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### 7 Thames Road, Barking - Create Consulting Engineers

A co-location scheme with residential units and industrial space where the adjacent businesses were concerned about potential noise complaints which would impose restrictions on their operations. The project was unusual as the consultants needed to react decisively to changing requirements and conditions after they had already submitted the initial application. These changes presented unique acoustic challenges that required the team to adapt and reach out to local businesses to fully engage with them and sensitively overcome the objections and concerns they had raised. The development itself would also set the precedent for the future acoustic design principles of the entire Masterplan.

An early morning sound walk was arranged which showed that activities associated with the surrounding businesses were of relatively low impact and this work was instrumental in demonstrating to the Council that the design was robust and sufficient to proceed with the development as proposed.

For the judges, what differentiated this work from other similar projects was the approach to engagement of stakeholders, where the consultant's initiative in organising a soundwalk had enabled the business owners to listen to how residents would experience their surroundings. This has potential for wider use on other developments.

### Essential Infrastructure Road Planing Works - Create Consulting Engineers

The second project impressed the judges as there was good engagement with all stakeholders as changes and alterations were made during the work which helped build trust. The location of works above basements of properties that extended under the road made this an unusual site with specific challenges that were well addressed, including persuading the contractors to undertake some work by hand.

This project shows how specialist acoustic knowledge, prediction and monitoring can help protect historic villages and towns from modern construction methods capable of generating potentially significant levels of vibration. Through detailed discussions and predictions, those properties with basements under the road were safeguarded and monitoring evidence provided for the contractor, in support of any future claims of damage or disturbance caused by noise and vibration.

To meet the deadlines, it was necessary for advanced heavy machinery to remove the road surface as quickly as possible, and the planer could remove up to 300 mm of road surface per pass. Due to this aggressive process, there were concerns that vibration levels could cause structural issues for some of the properties. By slowing the speed of the road planer and reducing the cutting depth in critical locations, the vibration was reduced, which minimised the levels of vibration, thus reducing the potential for damage.

