



Environmental Noise: Infrastructure Award

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★ **Winner**

AECOM - TransPennine Route Upgrade

The TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) involved some of the most challenging conditions typical of large scale rail upgrades: complex engineering activities carried out close to homes and sensitive receptors, with much of the work taking place during night time and at weekends. Recognising the potential for disruption, the team developed live Noise and Vibration Management Plans (NVMPs) that evolved in real time as the works progressed. These plans were supported by extensive baseline monitoring and targeted verification measurements, ensuring that predictions were grounded in real world data rather than solely in BS 5228 guidance.

The project stood out to the judges for showing how acoustic consultancy can meaningfully shape the delivery of major infrastructure works while safeguarding the wellbeing of nearby communities. The acoustics team demonstrated a proactive, hands on approach to managing construction noise and vibration that went far beyond standard compliance.

This adaptive approach allowed the team to refine mitigation measures dynamically – adjusting construction methods, altering site layouts, and resequencing activities to reduce impacts wherever possible. Judges highlighted this as a

key strength, noting the project's commitment to "going well beyond the British Standard" through continuous validation and practical, evidence based decision making.

A defining feature of the TRU submission was its emphasis on stakeholder engagement. Rather than treating communication as an add on, the acoustics team embedded it into the core of the project. The strength of this relationship driven approach was echoed in a testimonial from the Sustainability Manager for Project E1 and the Shipley Project. He described the acoustics team as "a trusted extension of the project team," praising their ability to go "beyond compliance to manage risk, protect communities and enable confident delivery." Judges noted that this endorsement reflected not only technical competence but also the team's reliability and professionalism under pressure.

Ultimately, the judging panel agreed that the TRU project exemplifies best practice in acoustic consultancy on major infrastructure schemes. By combining technical rigour, adaptive management, and meaningful engagement, the team demonstrated how acoustics can positively influence both project outcomes and community experience.

Acoustic Awards 2026

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These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.