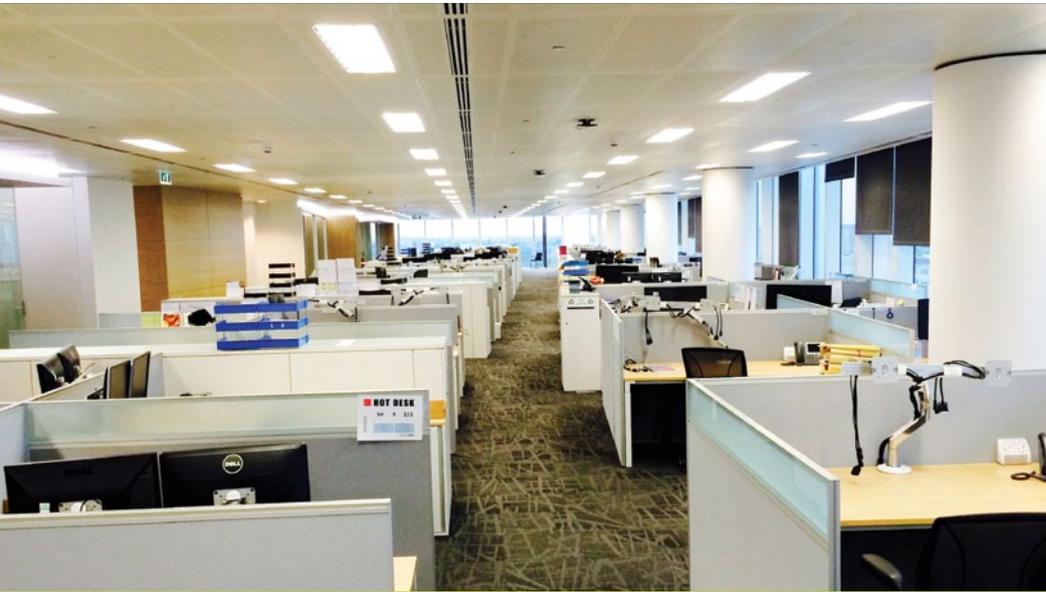




Wragge & Co

2 Snow Hill, Birmingham



Primary objectives

- Speech privacy
- Reduce interruptions

Product used

- LogiSon sound masking

Scope of work

- Open plan
- Meeting areas

Increasing privacy levels and reducing interruptions across 7 floors and 72,000 square feet of open plan and meeting areas.

Global law firm Wragge & Co moved into the brand new Snow Hill development in early 2014. The working culture of the business had moved away from cellular offices for Partners and Fee Earners to 100% open plan. As a result the business was mindful of maintaining acceptable levels of privacy and concentration for these senior staff members.



Layout of LogiSon sound masking

Acoustic practices Cundall Acoustics and Equus Partnership both recommended the implementation of sound masking as means of controlling the noise floor.

After a hard fought procurement process LogiSon sound masking was selected as the preferred system. The presence of having the market leading system, the importance of controlling very small areas/zones, plus the day 2 management were key factors in the decision making.



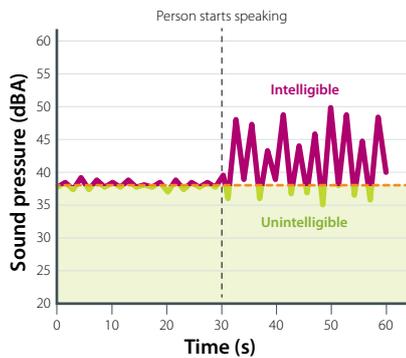
Sound level tests

Illustrative tests

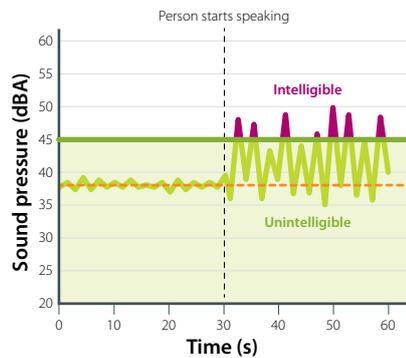
These example test results measure sound travelling across an open plan space.

- For both tests, a person was positioned at the same desk.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken at a distance of 12 metres from the desk.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person at the desk spoke with a 'telephone speaking' voice.

Before treatment



After treatment



Key:
 Intelligible sound
 Unintelligible sound
 Noise floor
 Masking level

How sound masking works in open plan spaces

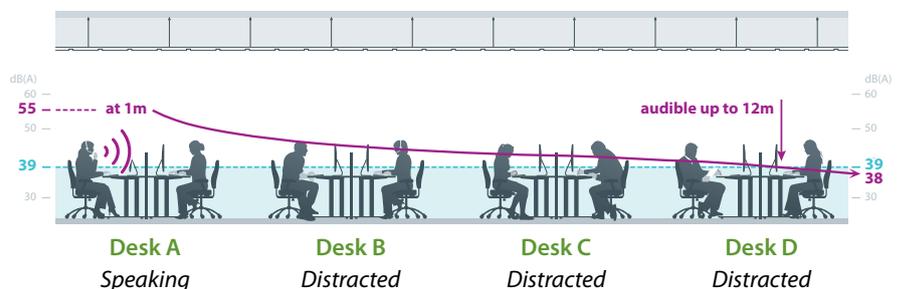
The problem

Low background noise level

Noise from an employee on the phone at desk A is distracting to employees at desks B, C and D who are trying to concentrate.

With no one talking background noise is measured at 39dB(A). Sound levels from the employee speaking at desk A are recorded at 55dB(A) at 1m distance and heard over 12 metres away at desk D at 38dB(A).

Without sound masking



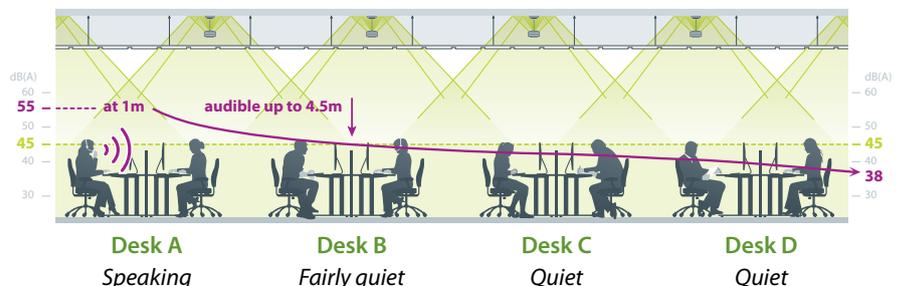
The solution

Raise the background noise level

To prevent conversations from travelling across the space the background noise level must be higher than the disruptive noise coming from desk A.

Adding sound masking raises the background noise level to 45dB(A), making conversations from desk A inaudible beyond desk B. In this example the distance at which conversations can be heard is cut from 12 to 4.5 metres.

With sound masking



From the client

"Wragge & Co wanted the best system. Previously, we weren't fully aware of the technological differences between the various sound masking systems, but it was evident that LogiSon was the most flexible and best equipped to cope with the demands of the open plan across the floors, and the various operations within. From our perspective it was about relinquishing any risk from this element of the project, being able to trust and work with the subcontractor, and getting value for money."

"From the numerous meetings we had prior to delivery we felt confident that Acoustic Comfort would have no problem delivering and commissioning the system to programme, whilst coordinating with the other trades. What we didn't foresee was how hands on they would be, and to what lengths they would go to ensure a successful delivery. They were one of the highest ranked subcontractors on our internal grading system, and I would have every confidence in recommending them and the LogiSon system again."

Ian Bowyer

Senior Project Manager, Wates

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