The**Live Audience Accessibility & Augmentation 2 Festivals**(‘LAAA2F’) project, led by Adrian Bossey from Falmouth University, worked with [Deaf Rave](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.deafrave.com%2F%23about-us&data=05%7C01%7CAdrian.Bossey%40falmouth.ac.uk%7C9df8303b36584048f41508dbb5140ce2%7C550beeb36a3d4646a111f89d0177792e%7C0%7C0%7C638302869945652417%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UUpiT%2FfS%2FPNlO0wG%2FuP9xkL%2F6SWmwDVFmVmy8eS51VM%3D&reserved=0) to evaluate user experience/perceptions of the authenticity of their live experience when wearing Woojer Haptic Vests at selected music festivals. The project built on the previous success of the initial [LAAA project](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.falmouth.ac.uk%2Fresearch%2Fprojects%2Flaaa&data=05%7C01%7CAdrian.Bossey%40falmouth.ac.uk%7C9df8303b36584048f41508dbb5140ce2%7C550beeb36a3d4646a111f89d0177792e%7C0%7C0%7C638302869945652417%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yYf%2BPbRMWYlktzt1lZFMmFrfkzsdGZ93mQINCdDVJMk%3D&reserved=0) which installed a haptic dance floor at Falmouth University in May 2023. LAAA2F focused on the disruption of an existing haptic technology with the intent to facilitate accessibility and inclusive participation of people who are Deaf or disabled at music festivals. This project also intended to advance knowledge relating to sustainable practice from a social perspective and has been successful in stimulating a research partnership between academics from Falmouth University and the University of Brighton.

The first field test took place at [Boomtown Fair](https://www.boomtownfair.co.uk/) in August 2023, supported by Dr Mandy Curtis from the University of Brighton. A second field test took place at the [Deaf Rave Festival](https://richmix.org.uk/events/deaf-rave-festival/) in October supported by Dr Adam Jones from the University of Brighton and three student research assistants from Falmouth University. Gathering completed questionnaires in the hectic environment of a DJ/MC performance at a music festival is not without challenges and so we are really pleased that across the two field tests we successfully collected 141 responses, including 72 respondents who considered themselves Deaf or hearing impaired. We are currently submitting a paper entitled; *Positive audience perceptions of enhancements to accessibility from wearing haptic vests during Deaf Rave DJ performances at music festivals* to an academic journal. Furthermore, an additional co-authored paper is being planned, relating to feedback from student research assistants on taking part in the field research process.

One final field test was planned utilising a revised methodology at Glastonbury in June 2024, but, in the event, this was not possible. This is reflected in the overall budget shortfall vs our original budget projection. Never-the-less the research project has been very successful, not least because it has effectively ‘pump-primed’ a suite of new collaborative research between colleagues from Falmouth University and the University of Brighton, who had not previously been working together. In 2024, this comprised the LAAA2BB field research project which measured audience and policy maker perceptions of the [BEAT BLOCKS](https://www.beatblocks.co.uk/) haptic dancefloor at [Cheltenham Jazz Festival](https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz) (2-3 May) [Meltdown Festival](https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown) at the Southbank (14 June) and [Tropical Pressure](https://www.tropicalpressure.co.uk/) (14 July). Furthermore, the team delivered a conference presentation relating the project at the Association for Events Management Education Forum 2024 at Sheffield Hallam University. Outline plans exist to move forward with, and broaden, this investigation through two potential new projects.