

Guidance Notes for Contractors

Noise Control

The Council expects contractors to minimise noise nuisance to local residents. The Council will use its powers under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 to control noise from demolition and construction sites.

In certain circumstances the Council will expect contractors to negotiate quiet periods of working within the permitted hours, with local businesses.

This applies to:-

- The Construction, engineering, repair and maintenance of any building, structure or road, and any associated works;
- Shop fitting and any associated works;
- Digging or boring under roads or land adjacent to any such works;
- Any demolition or dredging works.

Permitted Hours

Any works which can be heard outside the site boundary must only be carried out between:

- **Monday to Friday - 07.30am – 6.00pm**
- **Saturday - 08.00am – 12.30 hrs**
- **Sundays, Public & Bank Holidays - No noisy working audible from the site boundary**

This includes deliveries to the site. These hours will only be extended in exceptional circumstances, e.g.:

1. Emergency Works
2. Works required for immediate health and safety reasons
3. Works which are likely to cause major disruption to traffic, and where the policy or the Council's Highways Officers decide they should take place at night or at a weekend.

Note

In cases (1) and (2) the contractor should contact the Council's Environment team as soon as practically possible with the reason for the work and likely duration.

In case (3) the contractor should apply to the Environment Team **at least 28 days in advance for prior permission** by letter or fax. We will expect you to inform local residents about periods of work and the precise nature of the work.

During sensitive times e.g. night times or Sundays, the council may still restrict the hours permitted.

When applying for Prior Permission you should tell us:

- Precise operations and the working hours envisaged.
- Predicted noise levels.
- Measures being taken to reduce noise nuisance.
- Precise safety and engineering reasons why the dispensation is required.

Contractors should contact the Environment Team. To contact them, see 'Related Contacts' on the right of the page.

Methods of Work

All operations on site **must be carried out** to conform with BS 5228 Parts 1, 2 and 4, Noise Control on Construction and Open Sites.

On all sites at all times the **best practicable means** to reduce noise to a minimum should be employed.

The following is a guide to best practicable means to minimise noise nuisance. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

1. Wherever possible all sites should be totally surrounded by fencing or hoarding to the required height and density appropriate to the noise sensitivity of the location to reduce noise breakout from the site. All site gates should be controlled to give the minimum amount of time open for passage of vehicles in order to minimise stray noise to external surrounding areas;
2. Wherever possible fixed items of construction plant should be electrically powered rather than diesel or petrol driven. Where this is not practicable suitable attenuation measures should be provided, such as acoustic enclosures;
3. Vehicles and mechanical plant used for the purpose of works should be fitted with effective exhaust silencers, be maintained in good and efficient working order and operated in such a manner so as to minimise noise emissions. Relevant EC Directives / UK regulations should be complied with;
4. On surface areas where environmental disturbance may arise compressors must be 'sound reduced' models fitted with properly lined and sealed acoustic covers kept closed whenever the machine is in use. In addition pneumatic drills etc., must be fitted with the most effective muffler or silencer available;
5. Machines in intermittent use should be shut down when not in use or throttled down to a minimum. Noise-emitting equipment which is required to run continuously may have to be housed in a suitable acoustic enclosure (refer to BS 5228);
6. Equipment which breaks concrete by pressure rather than by percussion or such other equipment as agreed with the Council, should be used as far as reasonably practicable;
7. Where possible, Council expects contractors to use hydraulically operated vibrator methods to drive and extract sheet piling;
8. Where practicable rotary drills and bursters which are hydraulic or electrically powered should be used for excavating hard materials;
9. Noisy plant and equipment should be sited as far away as practicable from residential or other noise-sensitive properties. Barriers, e.g. soil banks, stock piles of materials, site portacabins or proprietary acoustic barriers, should be employed wherever possible;

10. Care should be taken when loading and unloading vehicles, dismantling scaffolding or moving materials etc., to reduce noise impact;
11. All deliveries of materials, plant and machinery to the site, and any removals of waste or other material, must take place within the permitted hours;
12. The arrival of delivery vehicles to the site must be properly co-ordinated to prevent parking in local streets while awaiting access to the site. Vehicles must not arrive before 8.00am;
13. There must be adequate planning to ensure that lengthy operation e.g. concrete pours, can be completed within the permitted hours;
14. No employees, sub-contractors and persons employed on the site must cause unnecessary noise from their activities, e.g. excessive 'revving' of vehicle engines, music from radios, shouting etc., and general behaviour;
15. The contractor should ensure that all sub-contractors and other persons employed in connection with the site works should be aware of, and where practicable comply with these guidelines;

General

We expect that in the interests of good public relations you should inform and consult local residents, businesses and others in the community regarding works and to give them the name of an appointed person on site who will be able to deal with queries.

The main contractor is responsible for the activities of the all sub contractors on site.

Air Pollution

Contractors on site, have a duty to adopt the **best practicable means** to minimise dust nuisance arising from the site activity.

The following is a guide to best practicable means to minimise dust nuisance. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

1. In order to prevent dust nuisance to adjoining occupiers, there should be adequate screening and damping down during all demolition activities, sandblasting, clearance work, breaking up of existing ground surfaces and other site preparation activities.
2. Major haul routes on site should be watered as necessary to minimise dust nuisance. Where practical they should be stabilised (e.g. compacted) to reduce off site transport of soil and other material. This applies especially to exits.
3. The developer should provide suitable wheel washing equipment at site entrances and exits. Washing and spraying should be carried out in an area with adequate drainage to avoid creating large amounts of mud.
4. Storage locations for all materials that create dust, including soil, must be away from the site boundary except where impractical, aggregated where possible to avoid the creation of many stockpiles, adequately screen to prevent wind loss and damped down where practical when being handled, especially when designed for long term use.

5. Paved roads near to exits should be kept clean, and vehicles transporting dusty materials onto and off the site should be suitably covered.
6. Rubble chutes and skips should be used where appropriate. There must be an effective close fitting cover at the point of discharge to the skip to contain all dust and other debris. In addition, the chutes should be continuous to the point of discharge, with no gaps, and maintained in good condition.
7. Rubbish and waste materials must not be allowed to accumulate on site. A good standard of 'house keeping' must be maintained.
8. No materials should be burnt on site which give rise to dark smoke or a nuisance.
9. Lorries and plant with diesel or petrol engines on or off site, should be well maintained in order to reduce emissions of visible smoke. Engines should not be left running unnecessarily, and plant and vehicle must not be parked in a position which could give rise to nuisance from exhaust fumes.
10. When positioning tar boilers, consideration needs to be made with regard to the location of nearby residents and businesses. The lid of the boiler should remain in place throughout the duration of the tar boiler being on site. The contractor is expected to use best practise at all times to keep smoke emissions to a minimum.
11. Contractors should take all precautions to prevent the emission of fumes from stored fuel oils, for safety and potential nuisance reasons. Fuel storage tanks should be contained in impermeable enclosures with walls to contain any spillage.
12. Under the Clean Air Act and Environmental Protection Act we will take statutory action to prevent smoke and dust nuisance. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows a maximum fine of £20,000 for statutory nuisance offences with respect to industrial, trade or business premises.