

Policy, Standards and Guidance

Appendix A

Planning Policy Wales

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the current planning policy guidance within Wales. The planning guidance defines the primary objective of the document in paragraph 1.2 as follows:

'...to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales...'

In particular reference to noise Paragraph 6.7.3 of the PPW states:

'Problematic forms of sound are generally experienced as noise pollution and can affect amenity and be prejudicial to health or a nuisance. Noise action plans drawn up by public bodies aim to prevent and reduce noise levels where necessary and preserve soundscape quality where it is good. Noise levels used to identify priority areas contained in noise actions plans are usually set quite high in order to focus resources on the most polluted areas and noise must meet a number of tests before it qualifies as a statutory nuisance. Lower levels of noise however, can still be annoying or disruptive and impact on amenity and as such should be protected through the planning process wherever necessary.'

Technical Advice Note 11: Noise (TAN 11)

TAN 11 is used to categorise noise levels for proposed residential developments. TAN 11 presents four noise exposure categories (NECs), ranging from A to D, where A represents the lowest noise levels, and D is for sites with higher noise levels. A breakdown of the NECs, and subsequent advice is provided below in Table 1 and 2.

Table 1: Noise exposure categories for road traffic noise and mixed sources ⁽¹⁾				
Time	Noise Exposure Category			
	A	B	C	D
0700-2300	<55	55 - 63	63 - 72	>72
2300-0700 ⁽²⁾	<45	45 - 57	57 - 66	>66

Footnote

⁽¹⁾ **Noise levels:** the noise level(s) ($L_{Aeq,T}$) used when deciding the NEC of a site should be representative of typical conditions.

⁽²⁾ **Night-time noise levels (2300-0700):** sites where individual noise events regularly exceed $82dBL_{Amax}$ (S time weighting) several times in any hour should be treated as being in NEC C, regardless of the $L_{Aeq,8H}$ (except where the $L_{Aeq,8H}$ already puts the site in NEC D).

Table 2: Advice relating to noise exposure category		
NEC	Significance	Advice
A	Negligible	Noise need not be considered as a determining factor in granting planning permission, although the noise level at the high end of the category should not be regarded as desirable.
B	Minor	Noise should be taken into account when determining planning applications and, where appropriate, conditions imposed to ensure an adequate level of protection.
C	Moderate	Planning permission should not normally be granted. Where it is considered that permission should be given, for example, because there are no alternative quieter sites available, conditions should be imposed to ensure a commensurate level of protection against noise.
D	Major	Planning permission should normally be refused.

TAN 11 also states that:

“This note provides advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development.”

British Standard 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings

British Standard 8233 “Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings” 2014, suggests the following guideline noise levels and states that they are based on guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation;

- 35 dB L_{Aeq} (16 hour) during the day time in noise sensitive rooms
- 30 dB L_{Aeq} (8 hour) during the night time in bedrooms
- 45 dB $L_{Amax,F}$ during the night time in bedrooms
- 50 dB L_{Aeq} (16 hour) desirable external noise levels for amenity space such as gardens and patios
- 55 dB L_{Aeq} (16 hour) upper guideline value which would be acceptable in noisier environments.

In addition, for internal noise levels it states;

“Where development is considered necessary or desirable, despite external noise levels above WHO guidelines, the internal target levels may be relaxed by up to 5 dB and reasonable internal conditions still achieved.”

Furthermore, with regard to external noise, the Standard states;

“However, it is also recognised that these guideline values are not achievable in all circumstances where development might be desirable. In higher noise areas,

such as city centres or urban areas adjoining the strategic transport network, a compromise between elevated noise levels and other factors, such as the convenience of living in these locations or making efficient use of land resources to ensure development needs can be met, might be warranted. In such a situation, development should be designed to achieve the lowest practicable levels in these external amenity spaces, but should not be prohibited”.

British Standard 4142:2014 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound (BS4142):

BS4142 is used to rate and assess sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature including:

- sound from industrial and manufacturing processes;
- sound from fixed installations which comprise mechanical and electrical plant and equipment;
- sound from the loading and unloading of goods and materials at industrial and/or commercial premises; and
- sound from mobile plant and vehicles that is an intrinsic part of the overall sound emanating from premises or processes, such as that from forklift trucks, or that from train or ship movements on or around an industrial and/or commercial site.

The standard is applicable to the determination of the following levels at outdoor locations:

- rating levels for sources of sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature; and
- ambient, background and residual sound levels, for the purposes of:
 - 1) Investigating complaints;
 - 2) Assessing sound from proposed, new, modified or additional source(s) of sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature; and
 - 3) Assessing sound at proposed new dwellings or premises used for residential purposes.

The purpose of the BS4142 assessment procedure is to assess the significance of sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature.

BS4142 refers to noise from the industrial source as the ‘specific noise’ and this is the term used in this report to refer to noise which is predicted to occur due to activities associated with industrial noise. The ‘specific noise’ sources, of the existing industrial premises that have been observed are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

BS4142 assesses the significance of impacts by comparing the specific noise level to the background noise level (L_{A90}). Section 3 of this report provides details of the background noise survey undertaken.

Certain acoustic features can increase the significance of impacts over that expected from a simple comparison between the specific noise level and the background noise level. In particular, BS4142 identifies that the absolute level of sound, the character, and the residual sound and the sensitivity of receptor should all be taken into consideration. BS4142 includes allowances for a rating penalty to be added if it is found that the specific noise source contains a tone, impulse and/or other characteristic, or is expected to be present. The specific noise level along with any applicable correction is referred to as the 'rating level'.

The greater the increase between the rating level over the background noise level, the greater the magnitude of the impact. The assessment criteria given by BS4142 are as follows:

- A difference of around +10dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context.
- A difference of around +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.
- The lower the rating level is relative to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or a significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.

During the daytime, BS4142 requires that noise levels are assessed over 1-hour periods. However, during the night-time, noise levels are required to be assessed over 15-minute periods.

Where the initial estimate of the impact needs to be modified due to context, BS4142 states that all pertinent factors should be taken into consideration, including:

- The absolute level of sound;
- The character and level of the residual sound compared to the character and level of the specific sound; and,
- The sensitivity of the receptor and whether dwellings or other premises used for residential purposes will already incorporate design measures that secure good internal and/or outdoor acoustic conditions.