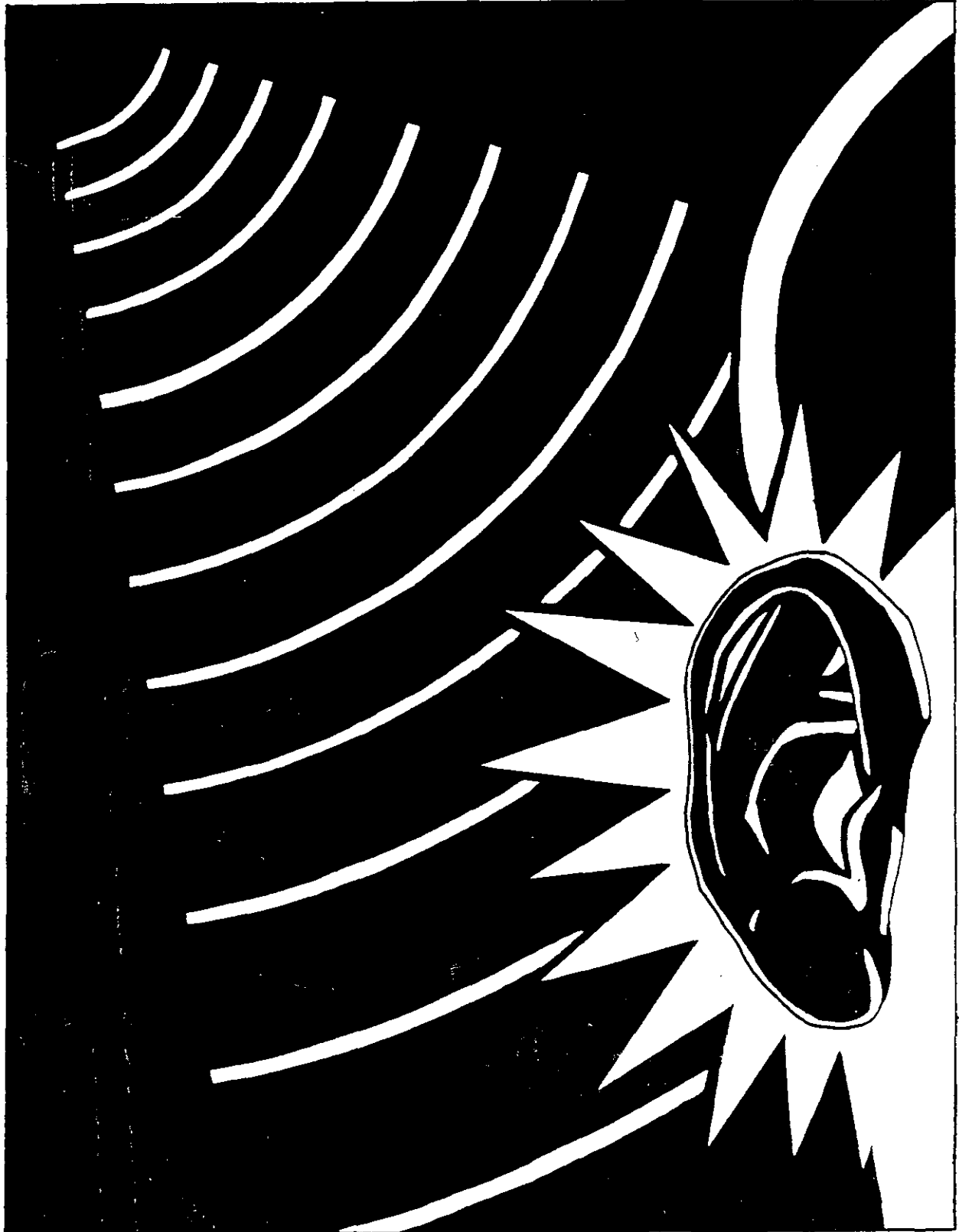


PLANNING GUIDELINES

Noise Standards



Approved April 1995



PLANNING GUIDELINES - NOISE STANDARDS

INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS MADE APRIL 1995 FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The intention of these guidelines is to help potential applicants by providing advice on how the Council as local planning authority will deal with the issue of noise. The guidelines are specifically designed to help applicants in understanding what standards will be required for noise-sensitive developments (such as housing, hospitals and schools) and for those activities that will generate noise.
- 1.2 These guidelines will act as supplementary planning guidance to Trafford Borough Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Policy ENV35 of the draft UDP refers to noise (see Appendix 1). The guidelines supersede the previous Planning Guidelines - Noise Standards dated January 1993.
- 1.3 Every planning application will be considered on its own merits, having regard to these noise standards, Government guidance and all other material considerations.

2. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

- 2.1 In September 1994 the Government published a Planning Policy Guidance Note on 'Planning and Noise' (PPG24). The PPG gives guidance to local planning authorities on the use of their planning powers to minimise the adverse impact of noise and builds on the advice previously contained in DoE Circular 10/73. The guidelines set out below take account of this guidance.

3. NOISE SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Definition

Noise sensitive developments are those where people live, relax, sleep or need to be taught or cared for in a quiet environment. They therefore include dwellings, residential homes, bedroom accommodation in hotels, hospitals, health centres, nursing homes, day nurseries, schools/ educational establishments, churches and libraries.

3.2 Procedure

This procedure applies where noise-sensitive development such as housing is proposed in a noisy environment e.g next to a busy road. It does not apply when noisy development is proposed (see section 4).

Where the Council has reason to suppose that the development site may be affected by noise, the developer will be requested to supply with the planning application sufficient noise measurements to enable the Council to assess the situation.

Taking into account the information submitted the Council will determine which Noise Exposure Category the site falls into (see section 3.3). The basis of the response will be as set out in section 3.4.

3.3 Noise Exposure Categories

Which Noise Exposure Category a site falls into will depend on the noise levels on site and how these fit into the following table:

NOISE LEVELS CORRESPONDING TO THE NOISE EXPOSURE CATEGORIES FOR NEW DWELLINGS, Leg dB				
	NOISE EXPOSURE CATEGORY			
NOISE SOURCE	A	B	C	D
road traffic 07.00-23.00 23.00-07.00	<55 <45	55-63 45-57	63-72 57-66	>72 >66
rail traffic 07.00-23.00 23.00-0700	<55 <45	55-66 45-59	66-74 59-66	>74 >66
air traffic 07.00-23.00 23.00-07.00	<57 <48	57-66 48-57	66-72 57-66	>72 >66
mixed sources 07.00-23.00 23.00-07.00	<55 <45	55-66 45-57	63-72 57-66	>72 >66

Methods of noise measurement to be used are set out in section 9.

3.4 Assessment of suitability

The assessment of suitability of the site for a noise sensitive development will be based on which Noise Exposure Category (NEC) the site falls into, as follows:

NEC	Suitability for noise-sensitive development
A	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 a desirable level.
B	Noise should be taken into account when determining planning applications and, where appropriate, conditions imposed to ensure an adequate level of protection against noise.
C	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	Planning permission should normally be refused.

- 3.5 For proposals for noise sensitive development in Noise Exposure Category B the developer will be expected to show that noise control methods will be applied to produce an acceptable noise climate. In the absence of such evidence, the application may be refused. Possible noise control methods are set out in Section 6 .

The Council's target standards are as follows:-

Internal Living Rooms

The noise levels measure in the living room of a development should not exceed 40-45 db(A) (15 minute) Leq at any time.

Internal Bedrooms

The noise levels measured in the bedroom of a development should not exceed 35-40 db(A) (15 minute) Leq at night-time (23.00 - 07.00hrs).

External Areas

An acceptable external noise climate is fundamental to the enjoyment of a residential property and is a prerequisite of a tolerable environment. Development proposals which ignore external conditions which would produce an unacceptable degree of disturbance for living purposes will normally be rejected.

4. NOISY DEVELOPMENT

4.1 General

This section applies to situations such as a factory being proposed close to housing.

The Noise Exposure Category procedure outlined in section 3 above does not apply in such situations.

The policy of the Local Planning Authority is to ensure that any possibly noisy proposal does not create an unacceptable noise climate for any nearby noise - sensitive development.

4.2 Industrial/Commercial Development adjacent to noise-sensitive uses

Noise levels at the boundary of a site where it is proposed to locate a development should not exceed the following, taking into account the existing noise levels in the vicinity and the effect of the proposed development:

a) In a rural area

55 dB(A) Leq 16 hour between 07.00 - 23.00hrs
45 dB(A) Leq 8 hour between 23.00 - 07.00hrs

b) In a suburban area away from main traffic routes

58 dB(A) Leq 16 hour between 07.00 - 23.00hrs
45 dB(A) Leq 8 hour between 23.00 - 07.00hrs

c) In a busy urban area

63 dB(A) Leq 16 hour between 07.00 - 23.00hrs
57 dB(A) Leq 8 hour between 23.00 - 07.00hrs

The noise emitted should not contain any continuous note, or impulse or irregular characteristics.

Note: British Standard BS4142 "Rating Industrial Noise Affecting Mixed Residential and Industrial Areas" can sometimes be appropriate for use in assessing the likelihood of noise nuisance complaints. However it does not necessarily predict the degree of nuisance or the noise values at the boundary of the development site. The Council's normal approach is therefore as set out above.

5. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Apart from the instances listed above, there will be occasions when other types of development are proposed which are likely to cause noise, or other types of development proposed where existing noise will cause them nuisance. It is not possible to produce a standard for every eventuality. Each proposal will be considered on its merits taking into account the noise implications and the interests of neighbours and the proposed occupiers.

6. NOISE CONTROL METHODS

6.1 Methods which can be used to limit exposure to noise including the following:-

- a) Maximising the distance between the noise source and the proposed development.
- b) Alignment of site layout to provide noise protection via building mass.
- c) Construction of physical noise barriers e.g. terracing, earth mounds, fencing etc.
- d) Single aspect development design.
- e) Double glazing to satisfactory acoustic (not thermal saving) standards.
- f) Protective screen using other development.

6.2 Trees, shrubs and other vegetation will not provide adequate protection against noise.

7. VIBRATION

7.1 Noise sensitive development should not be sited where vibration would exceed the requirements of BS6472 "Guide to the evaluation of human exposure to vibration within buildings, (1 Hz - 80 Hz)."

8. AIRCRAFT NOISE

Aircraft noise is not within the control of the Borough Council. Currently aircraft noise is not such that there need be any restriction on development anywhere in the Borough as a result of it. The Council will look carefully into any aircraft related developments proposed to assess their likely noise effect on the Borough.

9. NOISE MEASUREMENTS TO ASSESS NOISE EXPOSURE CATEGORIES

9.1 General

When measuring noise to assess the Noise Exposure Category (NEC) applicable to a site, the following apply:

- the values shown in the NEC table are noise levels measured on an open site well away from buildings at 1.2 - 1.5 metres above ground level at the position of the proposed dwellings.
- the noise source to be measured is the dominant noise source.
- where no individual noise source is dominant the NEC 'mixed' source should be used. This is any combination of road, rail, air and industrial sources.
- at small development sites the NEC can be determined by one measurement.
- at larger sites different NEC's may apply to different parts of the site. Several measurements should therefore be taken at varying distances from the dominant source.

9.2 Road Traffic

Measurement should be made 1m from the facade of the proposed dwellings (Leq 16h is equivalent to L10 18h minus 2db).

9.3 Rail Traffic affecting residential development

The Local Planning Authority's experience is that dwellings are not likely to be satisfactory if built within 30m of a railway line measured from the edge of the ballasted permanent way. Initial measurement should therefore be made at this point. All proposals will be considered on their merits in the light of the noise evidence produced and the noise control methods employed.

9.4 Air Traffic affecting residential development

See section 8.

9.5 Mixed Sources affecting residential development

The noise level from individual sources should be combined by decibel addition. If any one source lies within 2 db(A) of the combined value, that source should be taken as the dominant source. For mixed sources, the lowest figures in the ranges in the table in section 3.3 will apply.

9.6 Industrial/Commercial sources

British Standard BS4142 can provide an indication of likely nuisance but not the NEC relevant to the noise source. This should be assessed using the Leq 16h procedures, as for other noise sources.

The BS 4142 standard indicates the potential nuisance by determining a specific noise level using a 1 hour Leq daytime and 5 minute Leq night-time. Corrections are made to these readings using a set table of values when the background level (L90) is deducted from the specific value. If the difference is 10 db or more nuisance complaints can be expected.

10. GLOSSARY

Below are explanations of terms as they are used in the Guidelines.

decibel (dB): the unit of sound level. 0 dB is the threshold of hearing, 140 dB is the threshold of pain. A change of 1 dB is detectable only under laboratory conditions. A change of 10 dB corresponds roughly to halving or doubling the loudness of a sound.

dB(A): decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sounds of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with the people's assessment of loudness.

Examples of typical noise levels

Background noise level in a living room	40 dB(A)
Normal conversation	60 dB(A)
Heavy road traffic at 60 m	80 dB(A)
Near a pneumatic drill	100 dB(A)

Leq: the equivalent continuous sound level - the sound level of a steady sound having the same energy as a fluctuating sound over a specified measuring period. The measuring period may be as short as 1 second when used to describe a single event, or as long as 24 hours when used to describe the noise climate at a specified location. Leq can be measured directly with an integrating sound level meter.

L10: the level of noise exceeded for 10% of the specified measurement period. It gives an indication of the upper limit of fluctuating noise such as that from road traffic. The 18 hour L10 is the arithmetic average of the 18 hourly L10 values from 06.00 - 24.00 hours.

L90: the level of noise exceeded for 90% of the specified measurement period. It is the accepted value for background noise.