

Code of Practice - Noise on Construction Sites

1. Prior to the start of any construction work the developer and designer should contact the local authority to ascertain the noise restrictions that will apply. The design of the whole project should then be considered so as to identify the noise sensitive areas adjacent to the site and to avoid as far as practicable, noisy procedures and machines which may cause a nuisance.
2. It is recommended that good relationships are developed with the people living and working in the vicinity of the site. The people should be kept informed of progress and complaints received should be treated fairly and expeditiously. The person, company or organisation carrying out work on site should appoint a responsible person to liaise with the public.
3. No noise producing work, audible outside the bound of the site, shall be carried on outside the hours of 0800 - 1800 hours Mondays to Fridays 0800 to 1300 hours on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays or bank holidays.
4. All plant and machinery shall be well maintained and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Every care should be taken to avoid unnecessary noise when carrying out manual operations and when operating plant and equipment.
6. Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of sound reduction equipment fitted to power tools and machines.
7. All plant should be switched off or reduced to idle when not in use.
8. Noise producing plant shall be sited as far as possible from dwellings, offices and other noise sensitive premises. Where the latter are particularly noise sensitive e.g. hospitals, schools, etc. then a further reduction in sound emission may be required and can be achieved by the use of barriers or acoustic housings.
9. Attention is drawn to the requirements contained in Sections 60 and 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, which grants power to the local authority to control noise on construction sites and enables contractors and sub-contractors to obtain from the local authority a prior consent for work on such sites. Further advice regarding these provisions may be obtained from The Environmental Health Section of the Department of Environmental Services.
10. In the case of emergency item 3 above shall not apply. However, the contractor will inform the local authority that the emergency exists and what action is required to alleviate the problem. The contractor will be expected to use the least noisy plant and method of working available, having regard to the nature of the emergency.

Enquiries concerning this Code of Practice may be made to:-

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL
Environmental Services Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG Tel: 01225 477555 or Fax: 01225 477596 Email: environmental_protection@bathnes.gov.uk