

Appendix A

Noise Exposure Categories for Dwellings

The Council will consider the potential effect of noise on new dwellings by:

- a) first establishing the exposure to noise, and then
- b) deciding whether that level of exposure is acceptable

Table B2 explains the level of exposure to noise according to the source of the noise and time of day. It places levels of exposure into categories.

Table B1 sets out the Noise Exposure Categories and explains how a judgement should be made – i.e. whether to grant or refuse planning permission and/or seek mitigation measures. Both day and night-time impacts will be taken into account. The category, in which the proposed residential development will fall, will be based on both the day and night-time noise levels.

Table B1: Noise Exposure Categories

Noise Exposure Categories (NEC)	
NEC - 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.
NEC - B	Noise should be taken into account when determining applications and, where appropriate conditions imposed to ensure an adequate level of protection against noise.
NEC - 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.
NEC - D	Planning permission should normally be refused.

Table B2: Recommended Noise Exposure Categories for New Dwellings near Existing Noise.

Noise levels corresponding to the Noise Exposure for New Dwellings					
		Noise Exposure category			
Noise source	Hours	A	B	C	D
Road traffic	07.00 - 23.00	< 55	55 - 63	63 - 72	> 72
	23.00 - 07.00	< 45	45 - 57	57 - 66	> 66
Rail traffic	07.00 - 23.00	< 55	55 - 66	66 - 74	> 74
	23.00 - 07.00	< 45	45 - 59	59 - 66	> 66
Air traffic	07.00 - 23.00	< 57	57 - 66	66 - 72	> 72
	23.00 - 07.00	< 48	48 - 57	57 - 66	> 66
Mixed sources	07.00 - 23.00	< 55	55 - 63	63 - 72	> 72
	23.00 - 07.00	< 45	45 - 57	57 - 66	> 66

Notes:

- Noise is recorded in decibels
- Noise levels: the noise level(s) (LAeq,T) used when deciding the NEC of a site should be representative of typical conditions.
- Night time noise levels (23.00 – 07.00): sites where individual noise events regularly exceed 82 dB LAmax (S time weighting) several times in any hour shall be treated as being in NEC C regardless of the LAeq,8h (except where the LAeq,8h already puts the site in the NEC D).
- Values in the above table refer to noise levels measured on an open site at the position of the proposed dwellings, well away from any existing buildings and 1.2m to 1.5m above the ground.
- Levels of noise from road and rail traffic are often specified at 1 metre from a facade, and these facade levels should be assumed to be 3 dB(A) higher than levels measured away from any buildings.
- The term 'mixed sources' refers to any combination of road, rail, air and industrial noise source, where no individual noise source is dominant.