**Planning Practice Guidance on Noise provided on the UK Government website**

This guidance includes the following assessment table for environmental noise:

| **Perception** | **Examples of outcomes** | **Increasing effect level** | **Action** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not noticeable | No Effect | No Observed Effect | No specific measures required |
| Noticeable and not intrusive | Noise can be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life. | No Observed Adverse Effect | No specific measures required |
|  |  | Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level |  |
| Noticeable and intrusive | Noise can be heard and causes small changes in behaviour and/or attitude, eg turning up volume of television; speaking more loudly; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to close windows for some of the time because of the noise. Potential for some reported sleep disturbance. Affects the acoustic character of the area such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life. | Observed Adverse Effect | Mitigate and reduce to a minimum |
|  |  | Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level |  |
| Noticeable and disruptive | The noise causes a material change in behaviour and/or attitude, eg avoiding certain activities during periods of intrusion; where there is no alternative ventilation, having to keep windows closed most of the time because of the noise. Potential for sleep disturbance resulting in difficulty in getting to sleep, premature awakening and difficulty in getting back to sleep. Quality of life diminished due to change in acoustic character of the area. | Significant Observed Adverse Effect | Avoid |
| Noticeable and very disruptive | Extensive and regular changes in behaviour and/or an inability to mitigate effect of noise leading to psychological stress or physiological effects, eg regular sleep deprivation/awakening; loss of appetite, significant, medically definable harm, eg auditory and non-auditory | Unacceptable Adverse Effect | Prevent |

Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 30-005-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014