

From: [Alan and Pamela Walton](#)
To: alexander.murphy@mottmac.com; a303sparkfordtoilchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Re: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - SoCG Re: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Project (TR010036) Your reference: 20014098
Date: 08 March 2019 09:37:09
Attachments: [Deadline 4 Response A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme.odt](#)

We attach our comments in relation to Deadline 4 which incorporate a response in relation to the Statement of Common Ground between ourselves and the applicant towards the end of the document. A copy of this document has been sent to Mott MacDonald today.

Kind regards
Alan and Pamela Walton

From: Murphy, Alexander N <alexander.murphy@mottmac.com>
Sent: 06 March 2019 15:09
To: Alan and Pamela Walton
Cc: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - Land Ref
Subject: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - SoCG

Good afternoon Mr Walton,

Thank you for attending the hearings last week and please accept my apologies for the time taken to get this draft SoCG over to you.

Following the request from the ExA, I have substantially revised the SoCG and made it far more focussed on the modelling and monitoring. I have stipulated 'agreed' and 'not agreed' in the associated rows, but please feel free to review this, along with all the other comments.

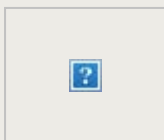
If you could get me some feedback by Friday, that would be very useful.

Thanks for your help,

Alex

Alex Murphy
BEng (Hons) MSc CEng MICE
Project Manager

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alexander.murphy@mottmac.com



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A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Project TR010036

Our reference 20014098

Deadline 4 Comments on behalf of Alan and Pamela Walton t/a Long Hazel Park High Street Sparkford BA22 7JH

Statement of Common Ground – Long Hazel Park

Please see below emails passing between Long Hazel Park and Mott McDonald none of these email have received a positive response from the Applicant who still contends that the estimated increase in traffic noise will be de minimus and traffic noise mitigation is not necessary. Much of this information has been sent in response to the Deadline 2 and Deadline 3 dates and is now published and are in response to Annex A Rule 8 Letter.

Long Hazel Park draft Statement of Common Ground (TR010036) Our ref 20014098

You forwarded this message on Mon 04/02/2019 09:03



Alan and Pamela Walton
Wed 23/01/2019 18:16
Murphy, Alexander N;
a303sparkfordtoilchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for your draft statement. You have not included any of the following important text which is based on information you have requested. Will you please include and comment accordingly.

Please see our Written Statement regarding detail about our position on the existing noise, the issues it is currently causing and the extract of visitor reviews on noise whilst camping plus the following observations and comments:-

Looking at the noise levels recorded by Tegwyn Jones in August 2016 and those measurements supplied by HE on 7 June 2018 there is already an increase in recorded traffic noise compared with three years previously.

We still strongly feel that for HE to rely on the Design Manual to claim that increases in traffic noise levels for the Scheme will be so insignificant to warrant any measures being taken is unacceptable especially bearing in mind that:-

(a) In August 2016 we had not erected the sound barrier on the north west corner of our park to protect the new residential lodge plots

(b) The HE results - 63 db at the boundary were measured **AFTER** the section of barrier was erected and are predicted to be 66 db at the boundary even with a 2.5 metre fence now in situ on the northern boundary. There was no mention of the measurements being taken excluding the presence of the barriers as is now your suggestion emerging in your emails regarding the HE Model. We do not accept as written in stone that the HE Noise Model as it stands is

conclusive. We do not have any other noise model as such other than the measurements taken 3 years ago on our behalf.

On that basis we disagree that you should continue to argue that any increase in traffic noise will be insignificant and would not warrant any further measures.

Current issues with traffic noise effecting Long Hazel Park and its customers, residents and ourselves have been set out in our Witness Statement. Examples of a small sample of tourists negative reviews on the internet were given about adverse traffic noise. Our sleep pattern is disturbed most mornings from 4.00am but significantly from 5.00am onwards because of increased traffic noise mainly HGV's. In the hotter weather with windows open for ventilation the noise is constant up until midnight and then goes quieter but commences again at around 4.00am building up from 5.00am. This intrusion could be addressed by air conditioning and additional sound insulation in the side attic walls of the dormer bedrooms and triple glazing in the velux sky lights of our home. I drove to Heathrow on 14 January 2019 leaving at 4.10am, as I entered Hazlegrove roundabout to travel east I witnessed several HGV's using the A303 in both directions at that time and as I approached Wincanton a greater number of HGV's were heading in convoy west on the A303 with a similar number travelling east. Customers were staying in their motorhome that same weekend with us and told me that they had their sleep disturbed by traffic noise. We are receiving negative feedback from potential residential lodge sale viewings all the time such that no new sales have been achieved despite over 100 enquiries even though we are working very hard to promote the development. It is common ground that traffic noise will increase as a result of the Scheme proceeding but models are only a guide and the traffic noise levels could well be more.

All lodges to be sited at Long Hazel Park must comply with BS3632 including holiday lodges. On the balance of probabilities modifications will be needed to protect against the higher external traffic noise to render them habitable which includes both residential and holiday occupancy. In addition for tourists camping in motorhomes, campervans, touring caravans and tents there is no extra protection for traffic noise as is afforded by BS3632 standards and HE should recognise and address this and if not the Learned Planning Inspector is urged to make such directions as are fair and reasonable for HE to take proper measures as part of the Scheme.

Also the drawing accompanying Tegwyn Jones' noise readings is not included. This was sent as an attachment. The noise levels contained in the HE email are omitted!

Finally on the front page of the draft (the cover page) you describe us as Alan and Mr and Mrs Walton. For the sake of correctness it should read "Mr and Mrs Alan Walton".

At this stage we are unable to agree the Statement of Common Ground for all the reasons stated above.

Kind regards
Alan and Pamela Walton

From: Murphy, Alexander N <alexander.murphy@mottmac.com>

Sent: 23 January 2019 09:59

To: Alan and Pamela Walton

Cc: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - Land Ref

Subject: RE: Long Hazel Park draft Statement of Common Ground (TR010036) Our ref 20014098

Good morning Mr Walton,

Please find attached a draft SoCG for your perusal. We can look to develop this further over the next couple of months, but I would like to submit this to the Planning Inspectorate today if there are no objections from you.

Thanks,

Alex

From: Alan and Pamela Walton <longhazelpark@hotmail.com>

Sent: 21 January 2019 22:14

To: Planning Inspectorate <appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk>; Murphy, Alexander N <alexander.murphy@mottmac.com>

Subject: Long Hazel Park draft Statement of Common Ground (TR010036) Our ref 20014098

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling scheme

Long Hazel Park, High Street, Sparkford, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7JH

Issues

Under General - Mr and Mrs Walton respond that:-

Provided the traffic noise issues can be addressed which in turn will benefit the local community from tourism spending because this is generated considerably by the accommodation providers of Long Hazel Park and Sparkford Hall, the Scheme is supported. It is accepted that there will be an increase in traffic volumes through Sparkford High Street which will in turn generate more traffic noise, hinder access and egress to those having vehicular access on to the High Street and will increase the risk to pedestrians crossing the road.

Somerset County Council claim at the First Open Floor Hearing that they have insufficient funds to mitigate this. Will the scheme provide for more traffic calming and reduced noise surfacing mitigation and pedestrian crossing in the High Street? Perhaps a 20mph speed limit should be considered in the interests of road safety.

Proposed Layout of Hazlegrove Roundabout is supported **subject to traffic noise issues being addressed**. It is noted that any new surfacing will not extend beyond the new work as requested by us. The Learned Inspector is urged to explore the possibility of extending this surfacing to mitigate traffic noise for us, our neighbours and the Village. This has been called for and recommended by Tegwyn Jones Acoustics Expert engaged on our behalf.

Extract of Planning permissions Long Hazel Caravan Park

23 January 2009 Planning Permission O8/05089/S73 - 21 seasonal all year round touring pitches and permanent siting of 13 lodges for all year round use for holiday and tourism accommodation. Note Park opens all year.

3 April 2003 Planning Permission 02/02508/FUL (15 holiday lodges open all year no limit on length of stay can be privately owned)

7 September 1998 Touring Holiday Caravan Site Licence 206/W for 75 touring pitches

23 September 2003 Residential Caravan Site Licence E/90 for 13 lodges built to BS3632

26 May 1993 Planning Permission 922010 (Caravan Site owners residence with occupancy conditions)

1 April 1998 Planning Permission 97/01611/FUL (3 static caravans)

22 February 2005 Letter SSDC approving design and layout holiday lodges

29 March 2007 Building Regulations Certificate of final inspection of work (sewers and drains) for lodge development

26 July 2016 Planning Appeal Decision APP/R3325/W/16/3144731 (21 permanent residential mobile homes - lodges)

6 January 2017 Discharge of Planning Condition 3 (Noise Protection)

31 March 2017 Planning Permission 17/00414/S73 vary Planning Condition (foul and surface water) (confirmation that Phase 1 existing installations are approved). Note the holiday homes systems having been previously approved and are common with Phase 1

Noise Requirements of the main planning permission (residential development)

Appeal Decision APP/R3325/W/16/31447318 permitted six plots to change their use to residential. It also permitted a change of use for a further 15 mobile homes to be sited on the touring park. The changes of use were subject to the following conditions:-

“1) The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

“2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: ‘01/07/00’; ‘01/07/01A’ and ‘01/07/02C’.

“3) None of the mobile homes hereby permitted shall be occupied until a scheme for the protection of the residents from traffic noise from the **A303** has been submitted to, approved in writing by the local planning authority and then fully implemented. All works which form part of the scheme shall be retained thereafter.

“4) None of the mobile homes hereby permitted shall be occupied until works for the disposal of sewage and surface water disposal have been provided on the site to serve the development hereby permitted, in accordance with details that have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Remedial works to reduce noise levels inside the Lodges

BS8233 advises the following daytime noise criteria for internal residential areas:

- Living rooms during the daytime – 35 dB LAeq,16h.*
- Dining rooms during the daytime – 40 dB LAeq,16h.*
- Bedrooms - 35 dB LAeq, 16h, during the day (for rest).*

Lodges will be procured with walls that achieve a build standard specified by BS3632: 2005, thereby having a sound insulation rating of not less than 35 dB.

Triple glazed windows to habitable rooms will achieve a sound insulation rating of at least 43 dB

Rw.

Passive acoustic window ventilators will be installed to these rooms to provide a reduction of 42 dBA even in the open position.

Complying with Appeal Condition 3

For a site like this that is subject to Noise Exposure Category B, the Local Planning Authority are advised by government that; *“Noise should be taken into account when determining planning applications and, where appropriate, conditions imposed to ensure an adequate level of protection against noise.”* **Accordingly, the application for residential use was not refused on grounds of noise, but conditions were applied requiring the dwellings to have a certain level of noise insulation.**

External road noise affects the proposed amenity areas

High spec windows and walls will bring internal noise levels down to the standards set out in British Standard 8233: 2014.

Tegwyn Jones

Extract of traffic Noise Monitoring by Tegwyn Jones see attached

**HE Noise level calculations at Long Hazel Caravan Park circa June 2016 as per email below 26/06/2018
Laura Steen to Mr Alan Walton**

Tue 26/06/2018, 11:51

You;

Steen, Laura;

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - Land Ref

Good morning Mr Walton,

Thank you for your e-mail and apologies for the delay in responding.

Noise levels at the receptor ‘Longhazel Caravan Park’ are currently calculated to be 59.3 dB $L_{A10\ 18\ Hour}$ and are predicted to increase by 2.2 dB in the short-term and 3.3dB in the long-term. Measurements conducted next to the boundary with the **A303** at Long Hazel show that current noise levels are approximately 63 dB $L_{A10\ 18\ Hour}$. The model suggests that this will increase by approximately ~2.5dB in the short-term and ~3.5dB in the long-term.

According to the ‘Design Manual for Roads and Bridges’, the predicted noise increase would be considered minor for both the short and long-term. Additionally, the receptor location on the site does not trigger the criteria for significant adverse effect due to noise. Because of this, there is no new mitigation proposed along the boundary. Quiet surfacing has been proposed along the new proposed mainline carriageway, but not on local roads. The primary reason for this is that this type of surfacing is only effective at reducing noise for traffic exceeding a particular speed. As such, local roads do not normally benefit from quiet surfacing. We are now at the stage where our design is now fixed and will shortly be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.

There is no longer a Public Inquiry, however this has been replaced by a new planning process known as the Development Consent Order (DCO). This process does still allow stakeholders to make a representation in front of the Planning Inspectorate, so I would suggest that if you are still concerned about noise levels, this be a suitable opportunity to raise those concerns.

I hope the above is useful.

Thank you for your continued interest in the scheme.

Alex

From: Alan and Pamela Walton [mailto:longhazelpark@hotmail.com]

Sent: 07 June 2018 10:16

To: Steen, Laura

Subject: Re: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling

Importance: High

Thank you very much for your reply.

We don't quite understand what is meant by **A Noise mitigation has been included within the design, based on outputs from the noise model. We have also undertaken noise monitoring to validate the model. Low noise surfacing will be proposed in addition to bunds and noise fencing where required. Noise modelling is undertaken for opening year and design year traffic – both these levels are above the current traffic levels on the A303.**

Does this mean that the expected levels of noise will be greater than we are currently experiencing?

What is the anticipated decibel level of traffic noise at our boundary at present and what is it projected to be when the new road is complete? We need to know this because we have fifteen building plots to develop within three metres of our existing boundary with the A303.

Are we going to get a noise reduction fence on our boundary?

During consultation with Mott McDonald we did raise the question of the length of road which would benefit from the noise reduction surface and at one stage it was hinted that the surface would only be applied to the new section of the A303 where it joins the existing A303 behind our property. We also understood that the remaining surface of the A303 which links up to Chapel Cross would not be resurfaced with a silent surface until the next scheduled resurfacing programme takes place. Is this still the situation? If so, we are still going to be subject to considerable traffic noise irrespective of the measures proposed being implemented.

Is there going to be a public enquiry where we can appear before the Planning Inspectorate to make our points and when is this likely to be? Do we receive official notice of the hearing?

Please can this email be included in the papers to go before the Planning Inspectorate.

Kind regards

Alan and Pamela Walton

From: Steen, Laura <Laura.Steen@highwaysengland.co.uk>
Sent: 07 June 2018 08:37
To: 'longhazelpark@hotmail.com'
Cc: Hayes, Elliot; A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling
Subject: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling

Dear Alan and Pamela Walton

Thank you for your recent email which contained several queries and comments about the proposed design for the A303 scheme; our consultants Mott Macdonalds have addressed these below however if you have any further comments/queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address or call and we will endeavour to answer them promptly.

Q Please explain the nature of the small rectangular box area shown within the red line area to the north west corner of our boundary with the A303

A This is an advanced direction sign for Hazlegrove roundabout.

Q. As it now appears that we might have extra lanes immediately to the north of our boundary please can a traffic noise reduction barrier be factored into the construction of say 3m high along our northern boundary with the A303 to mitigate traffic noise. We have raised this previously. Could the boundary of Long Hazel Dairy Farm with the A303 also be considered for a noise mitigation barrier as this would reduce traffic noise affecting both proposed residential developments on our respective sites. We were also hoping that a noise reduction surface would be included in the scheme to extend up to Chapel Cross if possible as when the wind blows from the east we get all the traffic noise amplified by the existing road surface which is not the noise reduction type.

A Noise mitigation has been included within the design, based on outputs from the noise model. We have also undertaken noise monitoring to validate the model. Low noise surfacing will be proposed in addition to bunds and noise fencing where required. Noise modelling is undertaken for opening year and design year traffic – both these levels are above the current traffic levels on the A303.

Q. Will any elevated sections of the new road have noise reduction barriers as well?

A The entire design, including elevated sections, or sections in cutting has been assessed for noise and appropriate mitigation proposed. This will a range of measures, such as low noise surfacing, bunding and barriers.

Q. Will all of our tourism direction signage be preserved and accounted for please? Our existing large brown and white tourist sign on the approach to Hazlegrove Roundabout from the west has tall grass growing around it. Is there any likelihood of this being cut back?

A Tourism signing has been included within the outline signing strategy and this will be developed further as the scheme moves into detailed design. The cutting of grass is a maintenance issue and any concerns should be raised with Highways England's maintenance teams. The proposed scheme is design for maintenance in mind and a maintenance regime is considered.

I do hope this response is helpful. As reiterated please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any more queries.

Kind regards

Laura Steen

Laura Steen

Highways England | Temple Quay House | 2 The Square, Temple Quay | Bristol | BS1 6HA

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

(+44) 0300 470 2287

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Please see our Written Statement regarding detail about our position on the existing noise the issues it is currently causing and the extract of visitor reviews on noise whilst camping plus the following observations and comments:-

Looking at the noise levels recorded by Tegwyn Jones in August 2016 and those measurements supplied by HE on 7 June 2018 there is already an increase in recorded traffic noise compared with three years previously.

We still strongly feel that for HE to rely on the Design Manual to claim that increases in traffic noise levels for the Scheme will be so insignificant to warrant any measures being taken is unacceptable especially bearing in mind that:-

(a) In August 2016 we had not erected the sound barrier on the north west corner of our park to protect the new residential lodge plots

(b) the HE results - 63 db at the boundary were measured **AFTER** the section of barrier was erected and are predicted to be 66 db at the boundary even with a 2.5 metre fence now in situ on the Northern Boundary.

There was no mention of the measurements being taken excluding the presence of the barriers as is now your suggestion emerging in your emails regarding the HE Model. We do not accept as written in stone that the HE Noise Model as it stands is conclusive. We do not have any other noise model as such other than the measurements taken 3 years ago on our behalf.

On that basis we disagree that you should continue to argue that any increase in traffic noise will be insignificant and would not warrant any further measures.

Current issues with traffic noise effecting Long Hazel Park and its customers residents and ourselves have been set out in our Witness Statement. Examples of a small sample Tourists' negative reviews on the internet were given about adverse traffic noise. Our sleep pattern is disturbed most mornings from 4.00am but significantly from 5.00am onwards because of increased traffic noise mainly HGV's. In the hotter weather with windows open for ventilation the noise is constant up until midnight and then goes quieter but commences again at around 4.00am building up from 5.00am. This intrusion could be

addressed by air conditioning and additional sound insulation in the side attic walls of the dormer bedrooms and triple glazing in the velux sky lights of our home. I drove to Heathrow on 14 January 2019 leaving at 4.10am. As I entered Hazlegrove roundabout to travel East I witnessed several HGV's using the A303 in both directions at that time and as I approached Wincanton a greater number of HGV's were heading in convoy West on the A303 with a similar number travelling East. Customers were staying in their motor home that same weekend with us and told me that they had their sleep disturbed by traffic noise. We are receiving negative feedback from potential residential lodge sale viewings all the time such that no new sales have been achieved despite over 100 enquiries even though we are working very hard to promote the development. It is common ground that traffic noise will increase as a result of the Scheme proceeding but models are only a guide and the traffic noise levels could well be more.

All lodges to be sited at Long Hazel Park must comply with BS3632 including holiday lodges. On the balance of probabilities modifications will be needed to protect against the higher external traffic noise to render them habitable which includes both residential and holiday occupancy. In addition for tourists camping in motorhomes, campervans, touring caravans and tents there is no extra protection for traffic noise as is afforded by BS3632 standards and HE should recognise and address this and if not the Learned Planning Inspector is urged to make such directions as is fair and reasonable for HE to take proper measures as part of the Scheme.

Kind regards
Alan and Pamela Walton

Notification of wish to attend an ASI.
We confirm that we would like to attend the ASI at Long Hazel Park.

Alan and Pamela Walton

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e: SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER DUALLING SCHEME TR010036) Our ref 20014098



Alan and Pamela Walton
Tue 05/02/2019 11:35
Murphy, Alexander N

Thank you for your email. We are prepared to meet and await your suggested dates.

Kind regards
Alan and Pamela Walton

From: Murphy, Alexander N <alexander.murphy@mottmac.com>
Sent: 05 February 2019 09:58
To: Alan and Pamela Walton; A303Sparkfordtollchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester - Land Ref
Subject: RE: SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER DUALLING SCHEME TR010036) Our ref 20014098

Good morning Mr Walton,

Thank you for your e-mail. We will be making another trip out to the area within the next couple of weeks to discuss noise with another resident. I'd very much like to meet, so we can discuss your concerns in more detail and make the requested changes to the SoCG together.

Please can you let me know if you are agreeable to this and then we can find a suitable date.

Thank you very much,
Alex

From: Alan and Pamela Walton <longhazelpark@hotmail.com>
Sent: 04 February 2019 17:40
To: Murphy, Alexander N <alexander.murphy@mottmac.com>; A303Sparkfordtollchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER DUALLING SCHEME TR010036) Our ref 20014098

Please find attached our Comments regarding Local Impact Reports, SoCG (ourselves and the Applicant) and additional layout of our approved development to assist the ExA in response to further information requested.

With reference to the following on NPPF please would the ExA particularly note the following in relation to Long Hazel Park, Sparkford. This is of the utmost importance to us as we may well have to seek change of use of the six proposed holiday lodges closest to the A303. These may well become defunct because of extensive traffic noise and have to be changed to full residential. We would then require upgraded sound insulation and build factor to overcome future traffic noise and request suitable mitigation accordingly. The site will be run as a business with each plot generating an annual income from pitch fees. Please see:

"A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme Review of the updated National Planning Policy Framework 2018 against the Environmental Statement

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR010036 Application Document Ref: 9.9

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A303 Environmental Statement National Policy Modification to 2018 ES? (Y / N) Topic Document ES Para no. 2018 Environmental Statement (ES) quotation 2012 NPPF para no. 2018 NPPF para no. Summary of changes between editions change', outlining where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed".

Since the publication of the revised NPPF, has Planning Practice Guidance on noise has remained unchanged and how does it affect the 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges'.

We have researched use of Statements of Common Ground and Traffic Noise mitigation on the internet and wish to draw to the attention of the ExA the following:

Extract of HE's "Tackling Noise

We will continue to address our commitments to noise mitigation and work towards achieving our KPIs through our major projects, renewals and designated fund schemes, including barriers, road resurfacing and insulation. Our noise insulation scheme is currently successfully operating in four out of six of our regions. In 2018-19, we plan to roll out the scheme in the remaining two regions. The project offers noise mitigation to approximately 3,000 properties close to the SRN as per Highways England Delivery Plan 2018-2019.

8.12 It is agreed that the site is subject to high traffic noise levels, but that a scheme to protect occupants of the Proposed Development from noise can be achieved through mitigation. It is agreed that a detailed scheme of mitigation would be agreed through condition per pr LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REF: 00505/EY/P18 and 00505/EY/AD22
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF: APP/F5540/W/17/3180962 and APP/F5540/Z/17/3173208

Examination of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029)

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

between

Basingstoke Golf Club (Boyer) and

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

and Hampshire County Council Highways (Local Highways Authority) and Hampshire County Council Children's Services (Local Education Authority)

Noise (criterion m)

6.31 It is common ground between Basingstoke Golf Club and BDBC that mitigation will be required in the south-eastern corner of the site adjacent to the M3 and along the A30 frontage.

17

6.32 It is agreed that the precise details for mitigation shall be considered at the detailed design stage (with the benefit of a topographical survey) to select the most appropriate noise attenuation measures. In common with other developments alongside the M3, there will also be scope to ensure internal and external noise levels can comply with WHO standards.

6.33 A preliminary assessment undertaken by the landowner in 2012 (Appendix 9) (not agreed by the LPA) has identified options for mitigation. There is also scope to reinforce the noise attenuation by juxtaposing buildings to create a barrier/shielding effect. Community buildings and other buildings in the centre can for example provide a barrier and complement the other mitigation measures.

6.34 In summary, the illustrative masterplan contained within Appendix 1 demonstrates that suitable buffer areas can be provided and would exceed that provided elsewhere along the M3.

It is common ground that acceptable noise and air quality standards will be met within homes and amenity areas through suitable design, noise and air quality mitigation measures in light of the proximity of the site to the M3 and A30.

APP/U3100/A/13/2210015/APP/U3100/A/13/2210018: Where the Inspectorate took the view that matters relating to traffic noise did need to be discussed but that they could be “satisfactorily explored through the inquisitorial approach followed by an Inspector leading a discussion at a hearing”.

Roads: traffic noise

Standard Note: SN/BT/347 Last updated: 10 November 2010 Author: Louise Butcher Section Business and Transport

This Note outlines the various initiatives of successive government and the European Union to properly monitor and reduce road traffic noise and its associated impacts.

Information on other roads-related issues can be found on the Roads Topical Page of the Parliament website; information on other noise-related and noise pollution issues can be found on the Pollution Topical Page of the Parliament website.

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1. Traffic noise impacts Since the early 1990s the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has published three reports which looked, wholly or in part, at the issue of traffic noise. The Commission’s most recent report, on the urban environment, stated:

Roads, railways and airports are ... the main sources of ambient noise, which can affect the quality of people’s lives. Around half the UK’s population may be exposed to levels above the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline of 50-55 decibels which aims to protect the majority of people from serious annoyance during the daytime. However, the UK does not have national limits on ambient noise, although there are limits on individual aircraft and road vehicles. Local authorities can also impose local limits.

1 The Royal Commission’s first report that focused on transport and the environment was published in 1994, and updated in 1997. The 1994 report found that for the majority of people in the UK, transport was the most pervasive source of noise in the environment. In a survey carried out over a 24-hour period in 1990, noise from roads was recorded outside 92 per cent of a sample of dwellings in England and Wales and noise from motorways outside two per cent. A separate survey provided evidence that road traffic was the main source of noise outside more than 60 per

cent of dwellings. In the survey of England and Wales referred to above, over half the sites were exposed to noise levels of more than 55dB_LA_{eq} from all sources and seven per cent to more than 68dB_LA_{eq}. The report also found that the level of noise produced by heavy traffic, while not usually sustained enough to cause hearing loss, almost certainly contributed to or aggravated stress-related health problems including raised blood pressure and minor psychiatric illness.

2 In 2007 CE Delft published a report on traffic noise reduction in Europe. This put the 'social cost' of road traffic noise at €40 billion per annum (0.4 per cent of total GDP). The bulk of these costs (about 90 per cent) are caused by passenger cars and lorries.

3 The report also concluded that:

Traffic noise has a variety of adverse impacts on human health. Community noise, including traffic noise, is already recognised as a serious public health problem by the World Health Organization, WHO. Of all the adverse effects of traffic noise the most widespread is simply annoyance.

There is also substantial evidence for traffic noise disturbing sleep patterns, affecting cognitive functioning (especially in children) and contributing to certain cardiovascular diseases. For raised blood pressure, the evidence is increasing. For mental illness, however, the evidence is still only limited.

The health effects of noise are not distributed uniformly across society, with vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, the sick and the poor suffering most. In 2000, more than 44% of the EU25 population (about 210 million people) were regularly exposed to over 55 dB of road traffic noise, a level potentially dangerous to health. In addition, 35 million people in the EU25 (about 7%) are exposed to rail traffic noise above 55 dB. Millions of people indeed experience health effects due to traffic.

RCEP, The urban environment (twenty-sixth report), Cm 7009, March 2007, para 2.34 2 RCEP, Transport and the environment (eighteenth report), Cm 2674, October 1994; and: RCEP, Transport and the environment – developments since 1994 (twentieth report), Cm 3752, September 1997
3 CE Delft, Traffic noise reduction in Europe: Health effects, social costs and technical and policy options to reduce road and rail traffic noise, August 2007, pp21-23

For example, about 57 million people are annoyed by road traffic noise, 42% of them seriously. A preliminary analysis shows that each year over 245,000 people in the EU25 are affected by cardiovascular diseases that can be traced to traffic noise. About 20% of these people (almost 50,000) suffer a lethal heart attack, thereby dying prematurely.

The annual health loss due to traffic noise increased between 1980 and 2000 and is expected to increase up to 2020. In contrast, traffic safety has improved, following implementation of a variety of policy measures.

As well as having an impact on people's health and quality of life, there is also some evidence that road traffic noise impacts on house prices. For example, a 2001 study for the Scottish Executive concluded that property prices were depressed by 0.2 per cent for each decibel increase in road noise.

5 A 2003 report by the same authors increased that estimate, finding that a one decibel increase in road traffic noise can wipe off between 0.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent of the selling price of a property, depending on submarket. 6

2 The 'Hansard list' In November 1999 the Labour Government published what is sometimes called the 'Hansard list' of road schemes deemed eligible for 'cost-effective noise mitigation', i.e. resurfacing by the Highways Agency.

7 This programme of noise mitigation is only funded to 2010/11. It is not yet clear if or how the Coalition Government intends to proceed with a noise mitigation programme on the major network after that date. It would appear likely that it will proceed on the basis of the noise mapping and action plans required by EU legislation (see section 3, below).

Section 282 of the Highways Act 1980 gives the highway authority (the Highways Agency for trunk roads and local authorities for all other roads) power to execute works to mitigate the adverse effect of a highway. The decision on whether to take forward noise abatement measures in locations next to highways depends on the level of noise experienced locally. The Department for Transport document, Calculation of Road Traffic Noise, is the statutory method for determining entitlement to sound insulation.

8 Eligible schemes were put forward for consideration in accordance with criteria published in March 1999. 9 The then Transport Minister, David Jamieson, outlined the prioritisation process in terms of location in a March 2004 debate:

In March 1999, we announced sift criteria to identify the most serious and pressing cases and a ring-fenced budget of £5 million a year to deal with the most serious instances requiring practical and cost-effective noise-mitigation measures.

The hon. Gentleman referred to those criteria, but for the sake of clarity it would help to have them on the record. First, trunk roads must have opened before June 1988,

4 *ibid.*, p1; further information on noise costs can be found in a 2009 report by the Australian Victoria Transport Policy Institute; and information on health effects can be found in a 2009 survey in southern Sweden 5 Bateman, Day, Lake and Lovett for the Scottish Executive, *The Effect of Road Traffic on Residential Property Values: A Literature Review and Hedonic Pricing Study*, January 2001 6 Bateman, Day, Lake and Lovett for UEA, *What price peace? A comprehensive approach to the specification and estimation of hedonic housing price models*, 2003 7 full list of schemes at: HC Deb 11 November 1999, cc681-83 8 this document was published in 1988 and is not available electronically, however a summary is available in: Highways Agency, *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*, Vol. 11, Section 3, Part 7, August 1994 9 HC Deb 22 March 1999, cc50-51W

3 Although priority attention is given to locations affected by roads that have remained unaltered since October 1969, the qualifying date for the introduction of noise mitigation measures. Secondly, current—that is, 1998—noise levels immediately adjacent to the road must be at least 80 dB. If the hon. Gentleman wants a small lesson in logarithms and decibels, I will assist him for a small consideration. It may be useful to point out that the M6 Preston bypass between junctions 30 and 32 was the first motorway. It opened in the late 1950s, although that was probably before the hon. Gentleman was born. The third criteria is that in the case of roads opened or altered after October 1969, noise levels must be at least 3 dB greater than predicted for the design when the road was planned. The aim is to address people's disappointment that noise levels mentioned during the planning process were different from those experienced when the road was eventually opened.

The hon. Gentleman will know that in November 1999, a list appeared in Hansard under cover of a

letter from the chief executive of the Highways Agency, showing the most serious and pressing cases to be studied to ascertain the most practical and cost effective solutions. That became familiarly known as the Hansard list, and by the time of the Government's 10-year plan, published in July 2000, the agency had been set the target of installing quieter surfaces on more than 60 per cent. of the trunk road and motorway network, including all concrete stretches, by 2010–11. That will benefit approximately 3 million people living within a third of a mile of such roads. Indeed, I believe that some of the hon. Gentleman's constituents have already benefited from resurfacing work on the M69 which has reduced noise. He looks curious, but if he ever takes that route, he will be able to see for himself how his constituents have already benefited from the Government's road noise reduction policy.

That policy over the period of the 10-year plan can be summarised as follows: a noise mitigation programme costing £5 million a year to address sites that meet the Hansard list criteria; resurfacing all concrete roads with quieter materials; and resurfacing blacktop roads with quieter materials when normal maintenance is required. About 5 per cent. of the trunk road network at 70 different locations is constructed with a concrete surface. Clearly, given the scale of the problem, work cannot be completed overnight. Attempting to do so would not be practical because it would create a great deal of disruption on the network, so we shall phase in the work over 10 years. Concrete roads tend to be very robust, and often need resurfacing not because of deterioration but to ameliorate the effects of noise.

As part of the development of our road maintenance programme, the process of value management is applied to all major road renewal schemes to ensure that renewal schemes are technically robust and meet set standards. Proposed schemes are examined collectively to establish relative merits and priorities, and set criteria are used to assess schemes.¹⁰

The Highways Agency has a dedicated budget of £5 million per annum for the noise mitigation programme. In December 2007 the Transport Minister outlined how the Agency uses that budget: Since 2000 the Highways Agency has been allocated £5 million per annum for noise mitigation measures to deal with the most serious and pressing cases, where practical and cost-effective measures can be provided. These measures are applied to the entire strategic road network including both motorways and trunk roads. This annual allocation for noise mitigation is scheduled to continue until the end of the period covered by CSR07.

¹⁰ HC Deb 30 March 2004, cc423-424WH

⁴ The Agency's expenditure in this area is not limited to this figure as noise mitigation measures are included in all the Agency's schemes, where warranted, as it is more cost effective to do this work concurrently with other scheme works. The cost of these works are subsumed within the overall cost of the individual schemes making it impossible to extract the exact figure spent on noise mitigation without incurring disproportionate costs.¹¹

There have been no recent statements indicating how much of this programme was actually delivered between 2000 and 2010. In response to a WPQ in March 2007 the then Transport Minister stated that a total of 8,240 lane kilometres (lkms) of quieter surfacing were delivered between 2000-01 and 2005-06. The Highways Agency was forecast to deliver a further 1,100 lkms during 2006-07.¹² The estimated cost per mile of resurfacing each lane of concrete pavement on a motorway using quieter surfacing materials ranges between £200,000 and £1.9 million.¹³

³ Noise mapping and action plans The EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) requires noise levels to be assessed from road traffic, railways, major airports and industry. The Directive

was implemented in the UK by the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2238). Regulation 7 requires the Secretary of State to make strategic noise maps for agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports. The first round of strategic noise maps was produced in 2007 and the second will be published in 2012. In the second round a larger number of the same type of noise sources will have to be mapped than in the first round. Subsequently, strategic noise maps will have to be made every five years.

In March 2010 Defra published noise action plans; there was a specific plan for road traffic noise outside agglomerations (i.e. specific urban areas). This explains how Defra has identified 'important areas' and 'first priority locations', where it will work with the relevant highways authorities to investigate how best to deal with noise impacts at those locations. The process from this point onwards is explained as follows:

For each Important Area, the highway authority will identify proposed actions that will meet the objective set out in paragraph 1.03 above or state why, in their view, no further action can or needs to be taken in order to meet this objective.

In forming their view about possible action, the relevant highway authority should take account of any benefit that might also be achieved for any other noise sensitive premises in the vicinity of the Important Area being investigated. In addition, the relevant highway authority should take account of any impacts that might occur for any other noise sensitive premises or locations. Furthermore, consideration should be given to integrating noise management actions at an Important Area with the concurrent implementation of other environmental or related initiatives.

It is expected that these deliberations will result in four general outcomes:

- a) It is possible to be able to implement an action and there are financial resources immediately available to do so;
- b) It is possible to be able to implement an action but there are no immediately available financial resources to do so;

11 HC Deb 13 December 2007, c791W 12 HC Deb 13 March 2007, cc196-197W 13 HC Deb 2 December 2009, c766W

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- c) It is not possible to implement any action because there is no scope for doing so (e.g. reasonable sound insulation already exists at the affected dwelling, or a noise barrier at its optimum size and location already exists), or there is some overriding technical issue that prevents implementation (e.g. ground conditions do not allow a barrier to be erected); or
- d) It is not possible to implement any action because there would be large adverse non-acoustics effects that could not be accommodated by the proposed measure. Such non acoustic effects could include an adverse effect on safety, or a significant adverse air pollution impact, or an unacceptable increase in congestion or journey times.¹⁴

These preliminary stages are expected to be complete by April 2011 at which point the "relevant highway authorities implement or secure budget for actions, this will also include liaison with stakeholders".¹⁵

Further information, including local maps and charts, is available on the Defra noise mapping website.

4 Noise mitigation measures The March 2010 noise action plan for road traffic noise outside agglomerations sets out the measures available to highway authorities to alleviate road traffic

noise impacts:

Control of Noise at Source

Noise from individual vehicles is controlled under mandatory EU noise emission standards which apply to all new road vehicles. These have been implemented in regulations made under the Road Traffic Acts. These requirements must be met by all models, or in the case of heavier vehicles, by engine types, before vehicles are permitted to enter into service. In addition, once in service, silencers and exhaust systems are required to be maintained in good condition and not altered so as to increase noise. Noise made by the contact of tyres with road surfaces when in motion is also controlled through an EU directive which since 2005 has mandated noise limits that all tyres fitted to newly manufactured vehicles have to meet. This directive has also been implemented in regulations made under the Road Traffic Acts. By 2011 through a phased introduction, all replacement tyres will have to meet the same noise limits as tyres fitted to newly manufactured vehicles. Further reductions in tyre noise limits will take effect from 2016 under new legislation.

Planning controls

When proposing the construction of a new road, or an additional carriageway to an existing road, a noise impact assessment must be carried out. For large scale projects, an Environmental Impact Assessment is required by law, which would include a noise impact assessment. In addition, the Highways Agency requires a noise impact assessment to be undertaken if there is an expected increase of 1 dB LA10,18h as a result of any works it carries out on its network, including maintenance. The process which tends to be followed is set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Mitigation such as optimising the route alignment and the use of noise barriers, either through landscaping or purpose built walls or fences, is included in the design to minimise any adverse noise impact. This process also has regard to the protection of tranquil areas in general through consideration of the impact on landscape.

14 Defra, Noise Action Plan Major Roads (outside first round agglomerations), March 2010, paras 7.11-7.13 15 *ibid.*, p4, diagram 1.1

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Once the basic data regarding the potential impact of the proposals has been obtained (including predicting the noise from the new network), an estimate of the likely numbers of people to be affected is made. In addition, through the Transport Appraisal Guidance, the noise impact is monetised as a means of evaluating the overall merits of the proposal.

Through the operation of the land use planning system, a noise assessment would normally be carried out for any proposed residential development that may be affected by road traffic noise. Planning Policy Guidance 24 provides guidance regarding the suitability or otherwise of the site for such development. Guidance is also given about the type of mitigation that might be needed in order to achieve appropriate internal noise levels within homes. The approaches used to achieve these levels include designing appropriate façade insulation or optimising the proposed layout of the buildings.

[...]

Compensation and insulation

For new or improved highways, the Land Compensation Act 1973 allowed regulations to be promulgated to provide compensation for dwellings affected by increased noise. These regulations are the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975, as amended 1988. If certain criteria are met, the highway authority must offer secondary glazing and alternative ventilation for habitable rooms of dwellings so affected.

In addition, Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act provides for monetary compensation to those

home owners affected by the new or improved highway recognising any loss in value of the home that has occurred by the opening of the new or improved highway. This assessment is purely subjective, carried out by surveyors, and claims have to be made within a certain time period.

Maintenance

It is the Highways Agency's current policy that when a length of highway requires a replacement road surface (due to wear and tear) the opportunity is often taken to lay a low noise road surface, one that assists in reducing the noise generated by the tyre/road interface. Other highway authorities adopt a similar policy to varying extents.

Specific Initiatives

From time to time a highway authority will undertake a specific noise abatement initiative. Arguably the most notable example is the work being carried out by the Highways Agency, where it is addressing sites on the motorway and trunk road network that have been identified as having the most pressing noise problems. Around 60 sites across that network have benefited from additional noise mitigation either through the application of low noise road surfaces or by the use of noise barriers since around 1999/2000. Additional sites are already under consideration for noise abatement works during the next few years.

Limit values

There are no relevant formal noise limit values in force in England with regard to environmental noise levels from major roads. However, the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975 (as amended in 1988) define a threshold level as part of the eligibility criteria. Furthermore, there are guideline levels to be found in Planning Policy 7

Guidance 24 that provides guidance on land use with respect to noise from road traffic.¹⁶

One of the most popular noise mitigation measures is noise barriers. Highway authorities have the power to implement noise barriers where traffic will cause excessive noise. The locations in which barriers are erected are determined by their eligibility to be put forward for consideration and prioritisation by the Highways Agency, following testing of the noise at the location. Once a site has been selected, however, it is down to the highway authority's interpretation of the (non-statutory) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges as to how and where exactly the barrier will be located.¹⁷ The manual sets out the statutory obligations of the highway authorities in cases where noise pollution is an issue:

Under the respective legislation, occupiers of property within 300m of a new road are entitled to be offered appropriate insulation if the noise from traffic on it reaches a specified level at the property. The entitlement to insulation is governed by the Noise Insulation Regulations which refer to the method of noise prediction to be used [...] The occupier of a property may also claim monetary compensation for any loss in value of the property caused by the presence of the road. Compensation may be payable even where the noise at a property does not reach the qualifying level and whether or not it is situated within 300m of the road. Careful consideration of road alignment options and mitigation measures can avoid noise and visual intrusion on properties, with consequential savings in compensation costs.

Highway authorities are empowered to carry out "works for mitigating any adverse effect which the construction, existence or use of a highway has or will have on its surroundings". They are also given the power to acquire land additional to that needed for construction of the road itself to permit landscaping or the creation of earth mounds. The interpretation of "works" in this context

is fairly broad and includes amenity treatment such as grassing and planting of trees and shrubs on landscape areas. In this context both noise and visual intrusion are adverse effects which can properly be mitigated by the use of earth mounds, barriers and planting.

Properties affected by new roads may in extreme cases be acquired at the discretion of the highway authority where mitigation cannot prevent living conditions becoming intolerable either during construction or after the road is opened. In certain circumstances affected properties (within 100m of the centre line) may be acquired in advance of construction.¹⁸

Since 1999, it has been the Highways Agency's policy to use low-noise surfacing materials for all new roads and when resurfacing existing roads.¹⁹ Volume 7 of the manual gives information as to road surfaces and noise reduction. It states:

Where traffic speeds are lower than 50 km/hr, traffic noise is mainly attributable to engine, transmission and exhaust noise, especially from lorries. Where speeds are higher, the major component of traffic noise comes from the tyre/road interface. This noise comes from, amongst other things, vibration of the tyre wall, compression of air within the contact area of the tyre, and the snapping out of the tread blocks as they

¹⁶ *ibid.*, paras 3.03-3.13 ¹⁷ Highways Agency, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Vol. 1, Section 0, Part 1, August 1997, paras 1.141.17 ¹⁸ *ibid.*, paras 2.7-2.10; the full guidance on the location and construction of motorway noise barriers is contained in the DMRB, Vol. 10, Section 5, Part 1 ¹⁹ HC Deb 25 March 2008, c93W

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leave the road surface. The quality of the road surface, tyre design and vehicle speeds all have an effect on tyre noise.²⁰

⁵ Compensation The Land Compensation Act 1973, as amended, specifically excludes the claiming of compensation where there has been intensification of use of an existing road although it can provide for compensation to be paid where the value of a property is adversely affected by physical factors, such as noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke and artificial lighting. There is no statutory requirement for compensation to be paid to those who live next to public works, such as roads and railways, purely because traffic has increased. The view is taken that those who purchase property near existing roads or railways do so in the knowledge that traffic can change in composition or volume, and that it would not be right to require the relevant authorities to pay compensation solely because traffic patterns have altered in this way.

When a new road is built a calculation is made of future noise levels. The highway authority then offers those eligible help with insulation. It may also install sound barriers to help avoid reaching the projected levels and these may be used in conjunction with earth mounding to hide traffic as it is recognised that continuous passing traffic can be stressful. The rules state that a dwelling within 300 metres of road works would be eligible for help if it is calculated that within 15 years from the opening of the new or altered road:

- the traffic noise level at one or more facades will increase by at least 1dB(A) and will be not less than the specified level of 68 dB(A) L10 (18 hour);²¹ and
- noise caused or expected to be caused by traffic using the new or altered section of road will contribute at least 1dB(A) to the noise level.

The Highways Agency's general view is that if a property was eligible for compensation under the 1973 Act then noise levels would have been taken into account and any further noise mitigation once compensation has been settled would be double counting. For this reason it will not install acoustic fencing on motorways that have already been completed. However, in exceptional circumstances help may be given to those suffering from noise under section 282 of the 1980 Act, usually by the construction of noise barriers on the highway as opposed to insulating an individual's property.

20 Highways Agency, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Vol. 7, Section 5, Part 1, November 2006, para 5.1; information on the merits of different types of road surfacing, such as porous asphalt and 'whisper' concrete can be found in: DMRB, Vol. 7, Section 5, Parts 1-3 21 L10 is the noise level in dB(A) - decibels measured by reference to human hearing - which is exceeded for 10 per cent of a given period of time; in the regulations, L10(18 hour) is the arithmetic average of all hourly L10 values during the period 06.00-24.00 on a normal working day"

Kind regards
Alan and Pamela Walton

