NOISE ACTION PLAN

The following action plan has been developed in consultation with City Skips:

Ongoing Action

- Site management to check site plant and equipment to ensure that there is no excessive noise due to maintenance issues. Site plant and equipment will also be checked on an ongoing basis and will be adequately maintained to prevent e.g. vibrating parts or excessive engine noise.

- The principal source of noise is potentially from the excavator. It may not be feasible at this time to replace this equipment with a quieter operating machine, capable of carrying out the same operations, but in the future (when the plant is replaced) site management will consult with manufacturers or suppliers to ascertain the levels from the new mobile plant. It is possible that noise can be reduced by 5-10dBA with the correct specification. (See purchasing policy below).

- Impact noise is the type of noise most likely to attract attention. Therefore the company will look at the methodology for moving and stacking, dropping materials, cleaning and clearing the yard etc. with a view to reducing drop heights and otherwise reducing impact noise. Cushioned linings will also be used where practical (see below).

- Barriers /additional screening – Acoustic screening can be effective both near the source of noise and near the noise sensitive property. Reductions of 5–10dB(A) or above can generally be obtained depending on whether the noise is partly or completely screened from the receptors. An effective screen is currently in position and checks will be made to ensure that it doesn't degrade.

- Overall noise reduction can be achieved by reducing the time that the equipment is used, e.g. if the excavator is used for a half hour instead of one hour then noise levels will be reduced by 3dBA over that one hour period and so on.

- For smaller equipment, again screens can be used close to the operation and between the activity and receptors. Site management will consider where smaller screens may be useful.

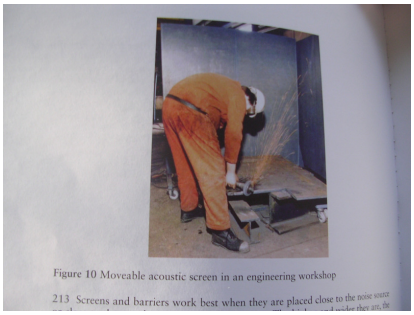
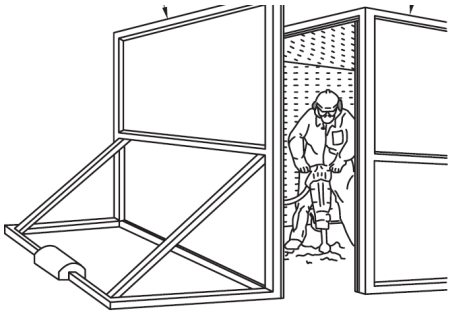


Figure 10 Moveable acoustic screen in an engineering workshop

213 Screens and barriers work best when they are placed close to the noise source

Example screening for yard activities



Acoustic screens - which work best when placed close to the source of noise. Covering the barrier or screen with noise absorbing material on the side facing the noise source will have the added advantage of reducing the sound reflected back. May be constructed of sheet metal.

Purchasing

- Future equipment purchasing policy will include consideration of the noise produced by the equipment and the methods of work. Where a choice of methods or plant is available, the quieter will be chosen. Generally, manufacturers will include sound level output in the specification of their equipment which site management will refer to.

- Where vehicle-reversing alarms are used, because of their tone, site management will consider the use of adjustable or directional audible alarms in regard to future purchasing, or other alternative warning systems – e.g. white noise alarms give a full spectrum of noise rather than a single tone, which is claimed to be as good as single tone alarms at close range and at a distance, it blends into the background noise. Reversing will be kept to a minimum.

Maintenance

- The Company will ensure that regular and effective maintenance is carried out which as well as reducing noise will contribute to greater efficiency in operation, e.g. particular attention will be paid to the excavator and e.g. sufficient lubrication, the preventing of vibration from loose parts, engine noise and any acoustic enclosures around plant (workshop).

Site Operations

- The height from which material drops will be minimised. Special care will be taken to avoid metal on metal impact.

- Where possible rubber or other suitable linings will be used to reduce the noise of impact noise where waste items are deposited (as identified by site management) into containers for example.

- Within the constraints of efficient production, site management will limit the use of particularly noisy plant, limiting the number of items in use at any one time, starting plant and equipment one-by-one and switching off when not in use.

- Site management will ensure that staff avoid unnecessary revving of engines, reducing speed of vehicle movement, maintain roads to minimise vehicle noise; and pointing directional noise away from sensitive areas where possible. Vehicle routes and surfaces will be kept smooth free from debris to prevent additional noise – i.e. “crunching” and “cracking” as vehicles drive over the debris.

- Site management will ensure that staff receive adequate information, instruction and training in regard to keeping levels of noise as low as possible on site with the use of screens, methods and avoiding impact. Site management will also use notices and signs to remind staff and visitors.

  Training will include:

  - avoiding unnecessary revving of engines and switching off equipment when not required;
  - keeping internal routes well maintained;
  - avoiding impact noise;
  - minimising drop height of materials;
  - avoiding reversing (reversing alarms);
  - Utilising screens and barriers;
  - starting up plant and vehicles sequentially rather than all together.

Sequencing

- Site managers will liaise with the local community to enable noisy operations to take place at times when they would have the least impact on the occupiers.

Monitoring

- Site management will regularly monitor the noise action plan listed above and ensure that staff are employing noise reduction techniques.

- Site management will regularly patrol the site boundary and listen out for potentially problematic noise emanating from the site to ensure that the noise action plan is effective. Any additional action will be taken as necessary.

- Site management will regularly consult with to ensure that the noise action plan is effective and to discuss any potential issues.

By implementing the above action plan site noise can be effectively managed and reduced still further in some instances

The above action plan has been formulated in consultation with City Skips and with reference to some of the recommendations in Mineral Policy Statement 2 (MPS2) Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England – Annex 2 (Noise) & BS5228 Part 1 (1997) Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites