

Ref: AS7459.140416.L1

16 April 2014

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Dear Guy

AS7459 LAND EAST OF THE A40, ROSS ON WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE [P140684/O]

Notes on Noise Exposure Assessment

The following is in response to your e-mail dated 14th April 2014 which included the consultation response for application number P140684/O dated 10th April 2014.

The most recent concept masterplan we have reviewed (CMP-01/K) shows that the gardens nearest the A40 are almost completely within the <55dB WHO aspirational guidance value on the open site. More significantly, they are all screened from the road by the houses themselves and their own boundary fences. Post construction noise levels within these gardens can be expected to be comfortably below 55dB. The garden fences (assumed to be standard, close-boarded timber 6ft fences) between gardens, the buildings themselves and the increasing distance from the road of all other properties will result in road traffic noise getting quieter and quieter moving further from the road.

Based on this masterplan, it does not appear that a purpose-built boundary barrier will be required. This may have been the case if the gardens were not screened by the houses themselves, but the masterplan suggests that this is so. An acoustic barrier along the roadside would therefore appear unnecessary since all the gardens will be protected from road noise by the buildings and their own boundary fences.

For clarification of comments in the consultation response document:

1. Our report did not identify dwellings within 20m of the main roads that would require 'specialized units', which may be misinterpreted as requiring specialized glazing. Standard double glazing would still be suitable to reach overall target levels indicated by the LPA internally. We suggested that to provide a better overall acoustic, i.e. avoiding low frequency traffic 'rumble', an acoustically specified glazing system could be considered, defined in octave bands rather than an overall reduction figure. This is intended to provide the client with information on which to make a qualitative judgement, but should not be a planning prerequisite.

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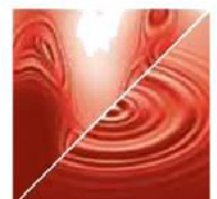
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2. a) 'Ventilation systems' might be taken to indicate mechanical ventilation. The requirement is for adequate background ventilation in these rooms, however, such that the windows may remain closed if preferred. Trickle vents would be perfectly adequate, but nearest the road these may need to be acoustically specified to ensure that the vents do not compromise the overall sound reduction of the external building fabric.

b) The 45dB L_{Amax} requirement is from the superseded standard BS8233:1999. Although the reference was dropped in the 2014 revision of this standard, our view at CSA is that is appropriate to consider individual maximum noise events, and we consider these levels in our calculations, without necessarily taking the 'hard limit' to be 45dB. No dwellings are proposed near enough to the roads in any event to warrant a higher specification against the L_{Amax} values even if we did apply the old limit.
3. See the introductory text above. Site boundary treatment will not be required. The open site prior to development is close to complying with the WHO guidance value of <55dB(A), and the gardens are protected by the houses themselves and their boundary fences. In any event, the WHO target should be considered to be 'aspirational'. BS8233:2014 recognizes this in section 7.7.3.2.
4. This comments stands, but there would be little point undertaking this work until the housing layout has been finalised.

We trust the above to be of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely
for CLARKE SAUNDERS ASSOCIATES



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