

noise assessments



Traffic noise is a major consideration for any new development – whether it will actually generate noise itself, or whether it will be exposed to an existing source of noise. This is especially important for residential developments where noise can have a dramatic effect on the quality of life. At Denis Wilson, we can undertake noise assessments to help minimise the impact of noise on or from a development without the need for any unreasonable or expensive restrictions.

In the case of highway construction or alteration near existing dwellings, we use the methodology described in the Government document 'Calculation of Road Traffic Noise' (CRTN) to predict the level of noise from vehicles which, if appropriate, can then be used to help determine any entitlement that homeowners may have under the Noise Insulation Regulations. For the assessment of new residential developments that are close to transport-related noise sources, we use 'Planning and Noise', the Government's Planning Policy and Guidance Note 24 (PPG24). This methodology identifies four noise exposure categories which take into account both daytime and night time noise levels. The category into which a new residential development falls can be used by the local planning authority to determine whether to grant planning permission.

In the case of both highway construction and residential development, mitigation measures can be put into place if noise levels are found to be high. Our experience is that this could involve, for example, the installation of double glazed windows; the erection of acoustic barriers; designing new dwellings so non-critical rooms can be positioned away from the noise source, or the use of screens formed using natural barriers.