



A BOWATER BUILDING PRODUCTS COMPANY

Industrial Noise

The Airshed

WHS Halo operate a PVCu extrusion factory at Water Orton. The company applied for planning permission to build a new extrusion plant next to their existing works. Noise impacts were assessed in accordance with BS 4142 and World Health Organisation sleep disturbance criteria.

A complex computer model was used to predict noise from the buildings, external fixed plant and the service yard, using source measurements from the existing PVCu extrusion plant.

The computer model results were used to help specify the performance requirements for the walls and roof of the building to ensure noise from the building would be insignificant. Double doors were proposed to provide an airlock, further reducing noise breakout. Silenced plant would be used to ensure that external fixed plant would not cause annoyance.

The main source of noise from the proposed new factory was likely to be from activity in the service yard. Mitigation measures included the erection of a 3m barrier on the northern boundary, quieter forklift trucks at night and restricting the use of audible reversing alarms.

These combined measures would help reduce the existing impact from operations at minimal cost to WHS Halo.

The approach adopted by The Airshed ensured that the Local Authorities accepted the proposed mitigation measures. These were drafted into an environmental noise management plan which were approved by the local EHO and the planning authority.

The application was "called in" for determination at a local planning inquiry. The robust approach adopted by The Airshed ensured that all technical issues relating to environmental noise were resolved, avoiding the need for an expert noise witness at inquiry.

