

Noise Management Plan

The Hammer and Pincers Inn, Preston le Skerne, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6JH

Devised: 29th October 2021

Revised: 28th January 2022

Updated:

The following document constitutes the NMP, which has been developed in conjunction with the results of a Noise Assessment Report undertaken by NJD Environmental services Ltd (June 2021) and in consultation with Mark Anslow, Durham County Council for the purpose of:

- Identifying and employing appropriate measures to minimise the generation of noise and subsequent exposure/impact;
- Preventing exposure of people outside the site to levels of noise which would result in complaints; and
- Minimising the risk of noise generating activities which may have the potential to result in off-site noise complaints.

This NMP serves to aid the decision-making process on the choice of controls and general site operation, in line with current industry good practice.

The NMP is a working document with the specific aims of ensuring:

- Noise impact is considered as part of routine operations;
- Noise is primarily controlled at source by good operational practices, the correct and orderly supervision of guests during all times of the day; and
- Appropriate measures are taken to prevent or, where that is not reasonably practicable, to minimise noise emanating from the site.

The Hammer and Pincers Inn lies to the east of Newton Aycliffe, at the junction of Ricknall Lane and Preston Lane, in County Durham.

Events are to be held at the venue, namely within the outdoor marquee event area in the grounds to the south-west of the Pub building.

Noise Management and Control Measures Operating hours

Entertainment noise in the marquee area will have a start time of no earlier than 1200h, and finish time of no later than 2300h.

Any extensions beyond 2300h would be applied for on a per event basis.

Amplified music would be from D'J's and Live bands.

A maximum of 20 events (20 Days) shall be allowed in any calendar year where music is played at a level likely to be audible at the nearest noise sensitive receptor. The permissible noise threshold level for the events is as follows:

- 4 (4 Days) of these events must have a Music noise level that do not exceed the background at the nearest noise sensitive receptor by more than 15dB (A) over a 15 minute period.
Noise threshold levels for these events will be set by a qualified noise consultant, this will enable staff to monitor at set points in the vicinity to ensure noise threshold is not exceeded.
- 16 (16 Days) of these must have a Music noise level that do not exceed the background at the nearest noise sensitive receptor by more than 5dB (A) over a 15 minute period. To achieve this a noise limiting device will control the noise output for the 16 events, this will be installed and control set by a qualified noise consultant in advance of the 16 events taking place.

Any other music for events and/or played between the hours of 23.00-10.00 shall be inaudible at residential properties

Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring will be implemented during the 20 louder events.

Noise will regularly be checked and documented at set points as advised by the sound engineer with a sound measuring device. The monitoring will aim to demonstrate compliance with the noise limit identified in the previous Section.

Low frequency noise

Low frequency bass arising from events will be managed and controlled so as to minimise the travel and therefore impact on others. Whilst specific noise levels control the total volume of noise, they do not regulate the potential for significantly more noise within the low frequencies range. As such it is recognised that events may be within the above thresholds, however, still cause an unacceptable impact. It is not expected that events within the 5dB above range are likely to lead to a significant break out of bass. However subjective monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that bass noise is not dominant at residential receptors. It is considered that bass will be clearly audible at receptors for the 4 louder events. However, every effort will be taken to minimise the bass at source and subjective monitoring will be undertaken and documented throughout the event.

Efforts to minimise the bass at source will include consideration of speaker orientation with regard also to forecasted weather, cloud and wind which may affect the direction and strength of low frequency bass sound.

Staff training

As an integral part of staff induction, staff will be made aware of the requirements of this noise management plan and what is required to ensure that the venue always complies with this plan.

The behaviour and conduct of customers should be monitored to ensure that this requirement is always complied with.

Any third-party DJ or entertainer will be made fully aware of the requirements with regards to the noise limiting device and permissible hours for music to be played.

When the entertainment ceases at 2300h, staff will begin clearing the marquee and encouraging guests to quietly vacate the event area, with the marquee to be fully vacated no later than 0000h.

Complaints Procedure

A complaints system will be maintained by the Management for the duration of operations at the venue, ensuring that any complaints relating to noise are recorded and investigated as appropriate. The complaints procedure will operate as follows:

The site's management team will be the point of contact in the event of a complaint regarding noise from within the site.

- The reception will have a phone available during normal working hours to receive calls of an urgent nature. Outside of working hours, complaints can be made through either the use of the voicemail facility on the reception phone, or via email direct to the site management.

- o The number and email address for the above lines of contact will be made readily available to the local community so that they can report any urgent concerns.

- Each noise complaint will be logged upon receipt and a record of all complaints will be kept, which will include any remedial actions taken.

- o This will be via the use of a logbook retained by the Management, which will be available for examination by the relevant authorities.

Signage

Appropriate signage will be positioned around the site to remind guests of their responsibilities with regards to noise.

The signage will include:

- Advice on the time where music will cease, to minimise any complaints from patrons regarding a perceived early finish of entertainment.

- Reminders that the venue is within the vicinity of residential areas, and that unnecessary noise should be always minimised.

Review The NMP is working document that needs to be reviewed on an annual basis. More frequent reviews will be triggered, for example, in the event of non-compliance or ongoing complaints. Any such review will consider whether additional advice from an independent, suitably qualified acoustic consultant is required, to undertake noise monitoring and to identify any additional noise mitigation.