

Project

Elsick House
Noise Management Plan

Prepared for

The Trustees of the 3rd Duke of Fife's Will
Trust
c/o Turnberry Planning Ltd
41-43 Maddox Street
London
W1S 2PD

By

Jenny Wilkin BMus (Hons) MIOA

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Client	The Trustees of the 3rd Duke of Fife's Will Trust c/o Turnberry Planning Ltd 41-43 Maddox Street London W1S 2PD
Client Address	41-43 Maddox Street London W1S 2PD
Author	Jenny Wilkin BMus (Hons) MIOA
Checker	Heulwen Peters BSc (Hons) MIOA
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-	14 August 2020	Draft version for comment
a	4 September 2020	Updated to include comments from Turnberry and Elsick House
b	10 September 2020	Updated to include further comments from Elsick House



Summary

SRL Technical Services Limited has been commissioned by Turnberry Planning Ltd to produce a Noise Management Plan for Elsick House.

Elsick House is a historic venue in Aberdeenshire, which offers accommodation and facilities predominantly for weddings but also for corporate and private hire for holidays or parties. As part of these events, the outdoor marquee in the grounds of the estate is often used to host live music (DJs, bands etc).

The purpose of this document is to support the management of noise from these events so that there is minimal disturbance to the nearby noise sensitive properties, both off and on the Elsick estate.

Jenny Wilkin BMus (Hons) MIOA

For and on behalf of

SRL Technical Services Limited

Tel: 01787 247595

Email: jwilkin@srltsl.com



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1.0 Criteria

The Elswick House site is bound by two planning conditions which relate to noise.

Condition 4:

Between the hours of 09:00 and 00:30 noise from the premises shall not exceed the following levels at the properties detailed below:

Receptor	External noise dB L_{Aeq} (1hr)	Internal noise dB L_{Aeq} (15min)
<i>Gardeners Cottage (within Elswick Estate)</i>	44	29
<i>Butlers Cottage (within Elswick Estate)</i>	40	25
<i>Home Farm (within Elswick Estate)</i>	33	18
<i>Chapel Grove</i>	36	21

Out of these hours noise from the premises will be inaudible at noise sensitive receptors

Reason: *To ensure that noise from the development does not result in undue loss of amenity for surrounding properties.*

Condition 5:*Noise from development:*

- a) *Within 21 days from receipt of a written request from the planning authority following a complaint to it from an occupant of a dwelling alleging noise disturbance at that dwelling, the developer shall, at their expense, employ an independent consultant to investigate the cause of the complaint. The investigation shall include measurement of the level of noise emissions from the premises at the complainant's property.*
- b) *The written request from the planning authority shall set out the dates, times and locations to which the complaint relates and any identified atmospheric conditions, including wind direction. The request shall also seek agreement of a methodology for any investigation to be submitted by the noise consultant.*
- c) *Within 21 days of the complaint investigation, a written report shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for consideration, along with any data collected in a format agreed by the consultant and Planning Authority at the methodology stage.*
- d) *Should the report submitted under condition c note remedial actions, these must be carried out prior to the next planned event at the premises.*
- e) *Should the report submitted under condition c be found to be deficient for any reason, it shall not be accepted and a new report will be required to be submitted.*

Reason: *In the interests of amenity, to ensure adequate consideration and assessment of any noise nuisance is undertaken following complaint*

We have modelled a typical worst case of noise from an event with a music source in the marquee and are confident that the levels set out in Condition 4 can be met. The levels used in the model are those at the limit of what would be comfortable for guests at an event. An increase in these levels would be unlikely as guests in the marquee would be unable to communicate to each other, and it would be an uncomfortable listening level.

There is a small risk, however, that occasionally these levels may cause exceedances at the receptors due to weather conditions such as changes in wind or temperature inversions. Another reason for exceedances at receptors might be bands or DJs at an event playing their music too loudly; although it's expected that the venue and guests would recognise it was too loud before nearby receptors did. It is the aim of this NMP to help to identify these types of issues and control them at source as early as possible, so that the levels at the receptors remain within the limits set out in the planning conditions.

2.0 Typical noise sources

During events, the typical noise sources which could be audible at the receptors are:

- Music noise from marquee (e.g. a DJ or band)
- Pipers (traditionally the couple and guests may be piped into the ceremony / venue / wedding breakfast)
- Noise from guests themselves (though this isn't expected to be audible over any music noise)

3.0 Noise management plan

Before accepting any bookings, the Elsick House Management must make clients aware of this Noise Management Plan, and the implications of it on the client's event.

1. Music must not be played in the grounds, including within the marquee, outside of the hours of 09:00 – 00:30.
2. Amplified music must not be played outside after 8pm.
3. Bagpipes must not be played outside of the marquee after 22:00.
4. No fireworks will be permitted during any event.
5. During an event, music noise levels will be monitored by way of a sound level meter on or close to the dancefloor. Both the band / DJ and the Events Manager for the evening will have a display of the meter reading on a green to red scale.

If the meter reading is showing 'red', the levels will be reduced (the venue have chosen 95 dBA as the sound level meter trigger level and as the operational level which works for their events).

Note – 98 dBA is what SRL modelled as a permissible worst case.

6. Taxis collection guests at the end of an event will be asked to switch their engines off while they wait for their passengers.
7. Guests will be asked to leave quietly, and not to slam car / taxi doors.
8. There will be a dedicated contact number for an Events Manager at Elsick House who will be responsible for managing noise complaints during each event.
 - a) The Events Manager must have read and understood this NMP in advance of any events where they are responsible for taking these calls.
 - a) The dedicated contact number will be given to the nearby residents, both in and out of the estate.
 - b) In the event of a complaint, the Events Manager will complete the complaints form (see Section 4). Depending on the nature of the complaint they will:
 - Check the overall music noise levels being measured in the marquee. If these are showing red on the display, the music will be turned down.
 - Carry out a subjective listening exercise at the complainant's boundary to establish if there is a particular element of the event which is causing a problem (e.g. low frequency noise).

These listening tests can be carried out before and after any remedial action is taken to check that any actions taken have been

- In the case of low frequency noise causing an issue, this will be turned down.
- Ask guests to return to the marquee.
- Close the marquee openings.

c) The complaints log will be reviewed regularly to establish if any patterns are occurring. If there are repetitive complaints, the NMP will be reviewed to take these into account and try to prevent them occurring again.

9. If large quantities of glass bottles are to be emptied into bins as part of an event clear up, this will not be done at the end of the night, but the following morning (not before 08:00).

4.0 Complaints log

Date	
Time	
Events Manager	
Name / address of complainant	
Nature of complaint	
Type of event taking place	
Type of music (if any)	
Weather conditions (note approximate wind speed and direction and temperature)	
Action taken	
Follow up actions / was the situation resolved?	

**Sudbury Consultancy**

Holbrook House
Little Waldingfield
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 0TF
Tel: +44 (0)1787 247595

Manchester Consultancy

Suite 1.9, Canada House
Chepstow Street
Manchester
M1 5FW
Tel: +44 (0)161 929 5585

London Consultancy

07-106
8 Devonshire Square
London
EC2M 4PL
Tel: +44 (0)207 251 3585

Birmingham Consultancy

Cornwall Buildings
45 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 3QR
Tel: +44 (0)121 270 6680

South Africa Consultancy

102 Heritage House
20 Dreyer Street
Claremont
Cape Town
7708
South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)21 205 9201

Laboratory

Holbrook House
The Street
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 0TF
Tel: +44 (0)1787 247595

Website: www.srltsl.com
e-mail: srl@srltsl.com

SRL offers services in:

Acoustics
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BREEAM
Laboratory and Site Testing

Registered Name and Address:

SRL Technical Services Limited
Holbrook House
Little Waldingfield
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 0TF

Registered Number: 907694 England

