

Noise Survey Assessment 2018/0602/INVALID

1. Introduction.

No comprehensive noise guidance documents have been issued with respect to boarding kennels in the UK (University of Derby assessment document). Acoustics and Air Quality Consultants, Miller Goodall, cannot provide any recognised “stand off distance” for dog kennels because they do not currently exist.

All published standards on dog kennels relate almost entirely to animal welfare.

Attempts have been made to apply BS4142:1997 which applies specific source levels compared to background noise. The latest 2014 version for the first time specifically precludes itself from serial categories including “domestic animals” This means that BS4142 is now precluded from application to boarding kennels.

2. The issue of dog barking is regarded by Miller Goodall as a “dark art” and very much a subjective issue which can only be dealt with by application of judgement and common sense.

3. The likelihood of a nuisance is clearly a matter of closeness of neighbours who might be disturbed by extraordinary levels of extraneous noise caused by barking of dogs.

The enclosure of the animals is a clear major component and the care and management of the animals is also a major factor. Larger dogs create more noise in practice than small dogs but kennels cater generally for all breeds. The number of dogs on site is also a significant factor in the theoretical volume of created noise.

4. In the case of Woodnook Farm the dogs are fully enclosed in their kennels and individual pens in a stone building (450mm thick walls) with relatively low numbers of glazed or timber enclosed openings.

The eastern wall faces an enclosed courtyard of similar heavy stone buildings which suppresses any noise which may be omitted. The western wall faces concrete panels from a larger building only a few metres away which prevents transmission noise from the buildings. This also prevents noise from any dogs in the exercise yard as it is sandwiched between these buildings. No more than 3 dogs will be outside the building at any one time in the runs in any event. Part E1.1 of the Model License Conditions 2016 requires also that dogs must be monitored in outdoor exercise areas.

5. The building is modest in size so only a small number of dogs will be on site. The dogs arrive by appointment only and will be supervised throughout the day and into the night time.

Dogs cannot normally see each other so aggressive and noisy behaviour should not normally be present. The dogs will be managed to create contented animals.

6. The dog kennel building is surrounded by wooded land and accessed via a private lane. There are no neighbouring properties visible from the property or in proximity to the structure.

7. Conclusion.

There is no issue present giving any concern about levels of dog barking.