

acceptable working hours

Although disturbance from most construction and demolition work is unavoidable, when complaints are received Breckland Council will seek, where possible, to work with contractors and developers to minimise the amount of disturbance to those affected by the works.

Where matters cannot be resolved informally the Council has extensive powers to control noise and other nuisance from building sites under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990; this can include restricting hours for certain works and setting noise levels on site.

Breckland Council will usually only impose time constraints on construction and demolition sites when they are causing disturbance to local residents. If the work is not disturbing anyone then the Council does not need to impose restrictions; quiet works can be undertaken at almost any time of the day.

In general within Breckland acceptable, working hours for works that disturb nearby residents are

Monday - Friday 07:30 - 18:00

Saturday - 08:00 - 13:00

No works will normally be permitted on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

However operations outside of these hours may be agreed, if it can be demonstrated that the works cannot be carried out at any other time in which case the following will be required:-

- ⦿ You must notify Environmental Protection Team of the intended works and the duration of those works.
- ⦿ You must inform those likely to be affected of the proposed works and the likely extent of the disturbance including proposed hours of works (by leaflet drop if necessary) as soon as practicable before the work commences.
- ⦿ You must demonstrate to Breckland Council how you plan to ensure disturbance is kept to a minimum.

emergency repairs

Emergency Services and some emergency repair work, for example a burst water main, will be exempt from these requirements.

In order to reduce noise disturbance contractors should comply with the recommendations set out in BS5228 1997 Code of Practice for Noise Control on Construction Sites, copies can be obtained from HMSO or via any good bookshop.

other considerations

In order to prevent unnecessary disturbance consideration should also be given to the following:-

- ⦿ Schedule noise generating works at more acceptable times of the day.
- ⦿ Schedule deliveries to arrive during the normal working day.
- ⦿ Situate noisy plant or equipment as far as possible from premises that may be affected by

noise disturbance. Consider screening using existing buildings, soil banks or stockpiles of materials; where this is not possible consider acoustic enclosures for static plant and equipment.

- ⦿ All plant and machinery should be switched off when not in use or throttled down to a minimum.
- ⦿ Select the quietest suitable plant and machinery, ensure plant and machinery is regularly and properly maintained, and safe working practices are undertaken at all times.
- ⦿ Radios and other non essential noise generating equipment, when allowed on site, should not be audible beyond the site boundary.
- ⦿ Reversing should be kept to a minimum to prevent audible reversing alarms causing nuisance; this can be achieved with preplanning.



- ⦿ Compressors should be fitted with properly lined and sealed acoustic enclosures that should be kept closed whenever in use.
- ⦿ Pneumatic percussion tools should be fitted with muffles or silencers of the type recommended by the manufacturers.

- ⊙ Care should be taken when loading or unloading, moving materials or erecting and dismantling scaffolding in order to reduce impact noise.
- ⊙ Lighting should be kept to a minimum with bulbs and fittings shaded or angled to direct light down into the site.
- ⊙ Dust from demolition works should be minimised by the use of debris screens or sheets. Where possible, demolition should be undertaken within the shell of the building until



the last stages of the process with watering or damping down of the area where necessary

- ⊙ Stockpiles of earth or materials for recycling should be kept to a minimum and damped down to prevent dust migration. Handling of spoil should be kept to a minimum. Skips and removal vehicles should be covered when leaving the site.
- ⊙ Do not dispose of waste by burning.

important

It is important that you ensure all subcontractors are aware of the site rules for reducing disturbance to nearby residents.



Breckland
COUNCIL

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Breckland
COUNCIL

Environmental Health **Construction and Demolition Works**

Guidance and Advice for
Contractors and Developers



This leaflet has been prepared by Breckland Council to offer advice and information to minimise disturbance from building and construction works. If you require further advice and information please contact the Environmental Protection team on 01362 656299 or email us on envprotect@breckland.gov.uk.