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Colin Grimwood, Technical Director & Principal Adviser (1)

Stephen Turner, Head of Technical & Evidence Team (2)

(1) Bureau Veritas UK (BV)

(2) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

The Government's Policy on Noise

Noise Policy Statement for England, March 2010

“The effective management of noise requires a co-ordinated and long term approach that encompasses many aspects of modern society”

www.defra.gov.uk

Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)

March 2010

Vision of the Noise Policy Statement



- **Promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.**

First Aim of the Noise Policy Statement

- **Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.**

Second Aim of the Noise Policy Statement



- **Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life from environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.**

Third Aim of the Noise Policy Statement

- **Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.**

- One of the END requirements for action plans is
*Such plans shall also aim to protect quiet areas
against an increase in noise*
- Led to an increased interest in protecting quietness
- Related concepts of
 - Tranquillity
 - Quality of acoustic environment
 - Soundscape



- Further policy development in England in the Natural Environment White Paper

The Government will work with local authorities to establish mechanisms for formally identifying and protecting urban Quiet Areas, so that people living in cities can benefit from access to areas of relative quiet for relaxation and contemplation

- Extends the geographical scope to ALL urban areas

 HM Government

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



- And in the recently published National Planning Policy Framework:
- Planning policies and decisions should aim to *identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason*



National Planning Policy Framework



Two final questions

- How can concepts from soundscape research help to deliver policies related to quietness and tranquillity?
- How can concepts from soundscape research help to deliver wider policy objectives, such as the promotion of good health and a good quality of life / well-being?

Thank you



colin.grimwood@uk.bureauveritas.com

stephen.turner@defra.gsi.gov.uk