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Welsh Government

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Consultation Document

Technical Advice Note 11: Air Quality, Noise and Soundscape and Supporting Document 1: Soundscape Design

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd /
This document is also available in Welsh

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Overview

This consultation is seeking your views on the draft of revised planning guidance in relation to air quality, noise and soundscape.

This consultation is also seeking your views on the draft Supporting Document on Soundscape Design.

The revised Technical Advice Note 11 (TAN 11) will replace the current TAN 11, published in 1997, on its final publication

The Supporting Document will supplement TAN 11 aiming to equip those involved in design and development with advice on when and how to employ a soundscape design approach instead of, or in addition to, more conventional noise control or acoustic design.

How to respond

Please respond to this consultation by using the response form. Responses can be submitted in a number of ways:

Online: <https://gov.wales/consultations>

Email: planningpolicy@gov.wales

Post: TAN 11 consultation
Planning Policy Branch,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

When responding please state whether you are responding in a personal capacity or are representing the views of an organisation.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

The draft revised TAN 11, the draft Supporting Document and two illustrative worked examples of soundscape design are available as an appendix to this document.

Contact details

For further information:

planningpolicy@gov.wales

0300 025 1128

UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the UK GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:
Welsh Government
Cathays Park

CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:
Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information
Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745 or
0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

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Introduction

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was fully revised in 2018 to reflect the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The policy ensures the planning system maximises its contribution to the seven well-being goals and five ways of working defined in the Act. TANs are land-use planning guidance documents which provide practical advice and guidance on areas of policy set out in [Planning Policy Wales \(PPW\)](#).

What is TAN 11?

The previous edition of TAN 11 was published in 1997 and covered noise. It was updated through a policy clarification letter (CL-01-15 Updates to Tan 11 Noise - Noise Action Plan (2013-18) Commitments) in 2015. Environmental noise has much in common with air pollution. Sources of air and environmental noise pollution tend to be either identical or else closely linked, their transmission pathways are similar and the most affected receptors are also often the same, typically the people situated closest to the source.

For these reasons, it is appropriate to consider both forms of airborne pollution together and this was the approach taken in PPW. The new draft TAN 11 will support the placemaking focus of PPW by specifically elaborating on **air quality, noise** and **soundscape** in more detail.

A call for evidence was carried out between 10 February and 4 May 2020 to assist in the preparation of the new draft TAN. The information, views and evidence received in 2020 in response to this call have been taken into account in the preparation of the draft TAN.

What is the Supporting Document 1: Soundscape Design?

The purpose of this guide is to equip those involved in design and development with advice on when and how to employ a **soundscape design** approach instead of, or in addition to, more conventional noise control or **acoustic design**. The purpose of this approach would be to create and maintain appropriate soundscapes and achieve **better placemaking** in line with PPW, [the Noise and Soundscape Action Plan 2018 to 2023 \(NSAP\)](#) and TAN 11. The guide aligns with the objectives of good design outlined in PPW and elaborated on in TAN 12 Design and associated guidance, and seeks to position, as appropriate, soundscape design as part of the overall design approach taken in TAN 12.

What are we consulting on?

A number of proposed changes and updates are included in the consultation version of TAN 11. These proposals include:

- **Updating and replacing the existing advice on noise currently contained in TAN 11: Noise 1997**
- **Adding advice relating to air quality and soundscape**
- **Providing a supporting document on the subject of soundscape design**

Chapter 1 of the TAN sets the context and outlines the scope of the draft TAN. Its direct purpose is to elaborate on the policy contained in PPW and how it should work with relevant standards and best practice guidance.

Chapter 2 outlines the general approach towards addressing air quality, noise and soundscape, recognising the need to act at different scales, to take an integrated approach and to give early consideration to the issues. It emphasises placemaking and the importance of good location and good design and defines the role green infrastructure may have in responding to air quality, noise and soundscape issues.

Chapter 3 provides guidance on taking into account air quality, noise and soundscape when developing strategies for places and preparing development plans. It considers the information available, how it may be used and contains a mixture of both general and more specific ways in which air quality, noise and soundscape should be addressed. It identifies active consideration through plan making and developing strategies as the most beneficial way of giving early consideration to these issues and avoiding the difficulties associated with poor location choices.

Chapter 4 defines pollution-sensitive and potentially polluting (or pollution-generating) development and focuses on four key iterative aspects which must inform the drawing up of any development proposal. This is aimed at improving the quality of proposals coming forward and will influence how acceptable a development may be with regard to air quality, noise and soundscape. The four aspects are initial environmental conditions on site, the relationship of development with its surroundings, the role of design, and addressing impacts during the construction stage. The chapter emphasises the need for a proportionate approach, provides advice on the level of qualitative and quantitative assessment required, clarifies the role of noise control and acoustic design relative to the use of soundscape design, and recognises the importance of locally developed supplementary planning guidance.

Chapter 5 addresses development management and determining acceptability of pollution impacts for pollution-sensitive and potentially polluting (or pollution-generating) development. This chapter covers determining environmental conditions considered unsuitable for pollution-sensitive development and how planning permission should normally be refused for pollution sensitive development at sites where national air quality objectives are, or are close to being breached or which fail to meet one or more default sound criteria. This chapter also covers assessing pollution impacts generated by development while also highlighting how air pollution can affect biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. The chapter applies the agent of change principle where pollution-sensitive development is proposed in the vicinity of existing pollution-generating activities, developers and applicants, as the

'agents of change', must use good design or take other steps sufficient to ensure, to the satisfaction of the planning authority, that such development will not pose a risk to the continuation or, where reasonably foreseeable, growth of those pollution generating activities