

PRESS RELEASE

Hepworth's latest Noise Database for Defra gives quarries valuable noise data

2 July 2007: Noise data for construction-type plant used on construction and open sites has until recently relied on data that was either gathered in the 1970s or is provided by equipment manufacturers. In 2004 Defra commissioned Hepworth Acoustics to produce a database of noise emissions that was based on actual measurements from the plant in use. The first part of the database, relating to construction, demolition, opencast coal sites and waste disposal sites was published in 2005 and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The final phase of the project encompasses quarries. The report has recently been published by Defra and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The central objective of the Construction Plant Noise Database is to provide accurate source data to enable operators of open sites, quarries and landfill operations to evaluate the potential impact of noise from the proposed operations. The noise data is suitable for use with BS5228 but reflects current practice and plant. To complete Phase 3, Hepworth Acoustics carried out surveys of quarries in Cheshire, Derbyshire and North Wales. Approximately 300 individual measurements of plant noise were taken and the results are presented as un-weighted octave band sound pressure levels together with A-weighted activity sound pressure levels.

“The value of the study lies in the fact that where it is not practical to measure noise levels from the exact type of plant being used, this database can provide greater accuracy than relying on ‘type test’ noise emission data from manufacturers,” explains Peter Hepworth of Hepworth Acoustics. “It helps operators to evaluate the potential noise impact of their sites with more accurate data, thus enabling them to take appropriate steps to mitigate the impact and assisting their use of BS5228

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Hepworth Acoustics is one of the largest independent acoustics consultancies in the United Kingdom. Headquartered in Warrington with eight regional offices, the company specialises in environmental and building acoustics as well as noise mapping. Recent news stories from Hepworth Acoustics are:

- Four leading acoustics firms win contract to noise map Northern Ireland for EU END
- Hepworth Acoustics continues expansion in Bristol and East Midlands
- Acoustics for Leeds' Lumiere Building, one of Europe's tallest, handled by Hepworth

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