

Noise impact assessment

Proposed Change of Use
The Silent Woman Public House
Nabbs Lane
Slaithwaite
Huddersfield
HD7 5A

1. Executive Summary

This report presents an assessment of the likely noise impacts associated with the proposed change of use of The Silent Woman Public House to a children's day nursery for children aged 0–5 years.

The assessment considers:

- The suitability of the site for nursery use;
- External environmental noise affecting future occupants;
- Operational noise generated by the nursery; and
- The potential impact upon neighbouring residential properties.

The assessment concludes that, subject to normal operational management and good practice, the proposal is unlikely to result in significant adverse noise effects. Furthermore, the proposed use is considered likely to generate less disturbance during sensitive evening and night-time periods than the existing lawful public house use.

2. Introduction

This report has been prepared in support of a planning application for the change of use of The Silent Woman Public House to a children's day nursery.

The proposed nursery would provide:

- Capacity for 50 children.
- Ages 0–5 years.
- Opening hours of 07:30–18:00 Monday to Friday.
- Outdoor play facilities.

This assessment has been prepared as using publicly available mapping, published guidance and professional judgement.

3. Site Description

The application site comprises a detached former public house situated on Nabbs Lane, Slaithwaite.

The surrounding area consists predominantly of:

- Residential properties;
- Local roads; (Nabbs Lane & Bank gate)
- Commercial premises within Slaithwaite;
- The nearby Transpennine railway corridor.

The building benefits from an established vehicular access and existing parking associated with its former use.

4. Proposed Development

The proposal involves conversion of the existing building into a children's day nursery.

The proposal includes:

- Indoor playrooms;
- Sleep rooms;
- Staff accommodation;
- Outdoor play area;
- Existing parking for staff.

No external industrial plant, extraction systems or generators are proposed.

5. Assessment Methodology

This assessment considers the principles contained within:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- BS 8233:2014 Guidance on Sound Insulation and Noise Reduction for Buildings
- BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 (where relevant to fixed plant)
- WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018)

As no fixed external plant is proposed, a detailed BS 4142 assessment has not been undertaken.

No environmental noise measurements have been completed as part of this study.

6. Existing Acoustic Environment

The principal existing noise sources are anticipated to comprise:

- local road traffic (Nabbs Lane)
- repetitive regular railway movements;
- residential activity;

- commercial activity within the village. Historically, the lawful public house use would also have generated:
- customer vehicles;
- evening arrivals and departures;
- outdoor conversations;
- beer garden activity;
- deliveries;
- refuse collections.

These activities commonly extend into evening hours and weekends.

7. Noise Affecting the Nursery

The principal external noise source affecting the proposed nursery is expected to be road traffic, with regular railway noise also likely.

The existing building is of traditional masonry construction, which typically provides reasonable attenuation against external noise.

8. Noise Generated by the Nursery

Potential operational noise includes:

- children arriving and departing;
- outdoor play;
- parent vehicle movements;
- staff vehicles;
- occasional deliveries;
- refuse collection.

No evening or night-time activity is proposed.

Outdoor play will represent the principal daytime noise source.

However:

- children's voices are intermittent;
- activity occurs during daytime;
- activity is supervised;
- duration is limited.

9. Comparison with Existing Lawful Use

The existing lawful public house use has the potential to generate:

- customer conversations;
- raised voices;
- vehicle movements;
- Live music/evening entertainment up to 11pm
- beer garden activity
- late departures.

The proposed nursery would operate only during daytime weekday hours.

Accordingly, the proposed use is considered likely to reduce noise during the most sensitive evening and night-time periods.

10. Assessment of Residential Impact

The nearest residential properties may experience:

- short periods of children's outdoor play;
- increased traffic during morning drop-off;
- afternoon collection periods.

These impacts are considered typical of community facilities and educational uses. Provided that normal operational management is adopted, significant adverse effects are not anticipated.

11. Mitigation Measures

The following measures are recommended:

- Outdoor play to be supervised at all times.
- Outdoor play generally between approximately 09:00 and 16:30.
- No routine outdoor play before 09:00 or after 17:00.
- Existing boundary walls and fencing retained.
- Parents encouraged not to leave vehicle engines idling.
- Deliveries restricted to daytime.
- Waste collections undertaken during normal working hours.

13. Residual Effects

Following implementation of the recommended management measures, residual noise effects are assessed as:

Receptor	Residual effect
Nursery occupants	Minor
Adjacent residents	Minor
Wider Area	Negligible

No significant adverse residual impacts are anticipated.

14. Conclusions

This assessment has considered the likely noise implications associated with the proposed change of use of The Silent Woman Public House to a children's day nursery.

The assessment concludes that:

- The proposal represents a daytime community use.
- No external mechanical plant is proposed.
- Operational noise will principally comprise children's outdoor play and vehicle movements associated with drop-off and collection.
- The proposed use is expected to generate less disturbance during evening and night-time periods than the existing lawful public house use.

- With appropriate operational management, the development is unlikely to give rise to unacceptable impacts on neighbouring residential amenity.
- The proposal is considered acceptable in noise terms and is capable of complying with the aims of national planning policy relating to noise and residential amenity.