

Environmental Noise Directive 2002 (END),

Noise Regulations (England) 2006

The Directive, which became effective in 2006 in UK, required DEFRA to prepare maps for noise produced during day time, evening and at night for major noise sources including highways. From the maps, Noise Action Plans are to be prepared.

This was a very important step for environmental legislation in UK. Prior to issuance of the Directive (END), environmental law in UK specifically excluded traffic noise, so there was no legal framework for complaint.

Noise maps were released for England in 2009. Maps for M40 J3 to J8

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/noise-action-plan/pdf/major-sources-tile-101.pdf> and

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/noise-action-plan/pdf/major-sources-tile-119.pdf>) identify more excessively noisy locations than in any similar length stretch of motorway outside major conurbations anywhere in the country. Statements of Noise Policy by DEFRA in March 2010 outline action plans for the next 5 years that prioritise locations in important areas where noise levels are excessive.

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/environment/documents/actionplan/stakeholders-100315.pdf

We are working to show that ours is an important area and therefore should be included in the list of locations actioned in the next 5 years.