

Validity of Noise Assessment Report

The basis of the Noise Assessment Report produced by Walker Beak Mason, Consultants in Noise & Vibration is a baseline noise survey carried out in May 2012. This was two years and five months before the submission of the planning application.

Since then there has been a considerable change to the background noise levels in the vicinity of the Hilltop site.

In recent weeks St Modwen, the current owners and developers of the old Biwater site to the east of the A61, have commenced work resulting in increased background noise levels. This development is scheduled to take 10 years and will therefore be concurrent with the proposed Hilltop surface coal mining scheme.

Consequently, the Noise Assessment Report submitted with the application is no longer an accurate assessment of background noise levels experienced by residents living near the site.

The conclusions of the report are therefore based on what must now be considered erroneous data and can not be used to support the claim that noise levels will be within acceptable limits.

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