



Noise Pollution

Living With Road Noise

Melissa Berry

There's another reported problem with really quiet cars.

John Parson, MIRA

The last thirty or forty years, the noise levels inside the car have been dropping, particularly with engine noise, and what happens then is that, things like road noise and wind noise become more dominant. So, in terms of getting, a noise level inside the car that's acceptable, it's really about having a balance between all the different types of noise, rather than, particularly eliminating one, because all that will do is raise the perception of the others.

Melissa Berry

Yet another motorway in construction, cutting vast swathes through the British countryside. Many fear the effect of road building on our peace and tranquillity. The government is committed to exploring new technologies for new roads.

The village of Doveridge, marks the gateway to the dove valley in Derbyshire, one of the most beautiful and unspoiled locations of the British isles. People will travel through this village in their cars, escaping to the countryside. John Thornley has lived here all his life.

John Thornley

I've lived here for sixty one years, at Doveridge, at Mount Pleasant farm, on the banks rising from the beautiful dove valley which runs directly down to us from Dovedale fifteen miles away, and enjoyed a peaceful tranquillity for all those years, and we're so disappointed now by the noise of the ones A50.

Melissa Berry

In 1995, the A50 was cut through this hill side, and it's got to be one of the noisiest roads in Britain. Norman Lunnum was also born here, the road sliced through his garden.

Norman Lunnum

We used to live in a nice quiet dead end lane, it was a nice place to live wasn't it.

Alison Lunnan

Yeah it was very quiet, no through road.

Norman Lunnum

No through road not a lot of traffic.

Melissa Berry

At first, residence of Dove Ridge welcomed the road, which would take traffic through the cutting away from the village centre. But they were shocked at the materials used to build the road.

Norman Lunnum

I actually saw the guys putting the concrete down, great big machine, fantastic piece of kit, and I said what a.....this will be for the tarmac to go on, and they said no this is it mate, you know this is it, and it really will be noisy. and, before it opened, I was standing just on the back yard, and one of the works pick ups went down the road, and I couldn't believe the noise that one vehicle made.

John Thornley

I refuse to sleep with my bedroom windows open, and I draw a blind as well to try and keep out the noise.

Alison Lunnan

It's so very noisy, there's not a day goes by when we don't comment on it, or you know, my god it's noisy today or, it's not so noisy. Every day I think we're aware of it, you're, well you are aware of it the whole time. One of the children were sleeping in the room behind us, and it disturbed our sleep at night, she couldn't sleep only yesterday I was outside and, five year old came out and she said, what a terrible noise, and it did it sounded like an airport, it was almost like a plane taking off but, the noise yesterday.

John Thornley

and I think it is a threat to a lot of people's health. I know myself, I do suffer with tinnitus and, I must say that I feel that, over the last three years, my condition perhaps has worsened as result of this background of constant noise, this steady roar that one hears pretty well all the time.

Melissa Berry

This section is built of brushed concrete. The material is cheap, skid proof and resilient. But the high frequencies it produces, make it the noisiest of all road surfaces.

Shahran Taherzadeh, OU

I'm measuring the traffic noise, using the sound level metre that we have. I'm measuring two minutes, LEQ noise levels. At the moment as we can see it's round about eighty to eighty five decibels, on A rating which is very very loud, and quite above what is normal and healthy for people. If we had this amount of noise in a different environment inside, in a factory for example, it would be very close to the level, at which employers would be required to take some measure to reduce noise for the health or, their employees and workers.

Melissa Berry

The Lannums live just fifty metres from the bridge, so what kind of noise levels do they have to put up with.

Shahran Taherzadeh

This is now about sixty five decibels, obviously it looks quieter than, on top of the road, but it still constitutes loud background noise. The world health organisation's recommended noise levels for background, they're about forty to forty five decibel levels. and this is four to eight times as loud. This is not what you would expect from a peaceful rural area, and all the noise effectively comes from the highway next to us. There are road surface types that are quieter. The tyres don't generate that much noise, and they can also help to absorb certain level of noise. So if the next time the road requires resurfacing, it is resurfaced by new road types. It will help towards reduction of noise.

Melissa Berry

The residents of Doveridge have been unlucky. Had their road been surfaced in different materials, their quality of life may have been better.