

Site: S Grundon Services Ltd, Merton Street, Banbury OX16 4RN

Application Ref: 16/00472/OUT

Acoustic Barrier Specification

Background

Doubt has been expressed as to whether a suitable acoustic barrier could be constructed and maintained within the strip of land along the Western boundary of the proposed site.

Whilst the design and specification would need to be agreed, the following details of a product which is readily available in the market show that such a barrier can be erected which is:

- Easily capable of being 6 metres in height with a narrow base
- Provides the necessary acoustic performance
- Is proven to be enduring and structurally sound
- Sustains vegetation with minimal maintenance
- Is visually appealing
- Can be constructed in proximity to roads and railways

ECOSoundBlok

The product in question is ECOSoundBlok and it consists of a self-supporting structural steel framework with an acoustic outer matting and steel, vertical supports. The whole is filled with soil arising from the site.



The noise barrier is produced by Gramm Barrier Systems and they have a website with BIM and CAD files of the product. The link to their site is as follows:

<https://www.grammbarriers.com/our-products/acoustic-noise-barriers/ecosoundblok/>

Suitability to the Banbury Site

The dimensions for a 6m-tall barrier would be 1.8m at the base, tapering to 0.6m at the top.

It could be planted mainly with English Ivy or some other form of faster-growing creeper or climbing plant. Gramm recommend a range of suitable plants including ones that are low maintenance.

This type of barrier would meet the requirements of the location. It would not need a large maintenance corridor alongside it. The railway side does not necessarily need to be planted-up at all. The unplanted finish is equivalent to many motorway barrier systems visually and would mellow with time.

Examples of use elsewhere

A housing scheme in Pease Pottage (nr. Crawley, West Sussex) has employed this type of barrier to reduce noise from the adjacent motorway. The phased development of approximately 600 dwellings, a hospice and a school is to the East of the M23 and the adjacent Pease Pottage Motorway Services.

The acoustic protection provided includes the use of an ECOSoundBlok barrier as shown below:



Images supplied by Gramm Barrier Systems



This photo shows a new installation alongside a railway line somewhere in the Netherlands



The adjacent image shows the longest-standing use of this system which is now 30 years old. Location unknown

The image below is taken from Google Street View showing use of ECOSoundBlok in a residential area on both sides of the road. Once again, in the Netherlands.

