

APPENDIX 2.1 METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

Introduction

1. Potential sensitive receptors were identified by the RSK project team to provide information relative to assessments for the wind farm in the Population and Human Health (Chapter 6), Shadow Flicker (Chapter 12), Noise and Vibration (Chapter 13), and Landscape and Visual (Chapter 14) of the EIAR for the Proposed Development. This Appendix describes the methodology employed in identifying the sensitive receptors used in the assessments.

Desktop assessment

2. The identification of potential sensitive receptors was initiated through a desktop assessment using Geodirectory data and orthophotography. Geodirectory data was obtained on 27th July 2023 for a radius of 2km from the maximum developable area extent. Orthophotography was used to identify potential receptors which were not identified by Geodirectory. From the desktop assessment a preliminary database was created in ArcGIS and set up for use in the mobile application in preparation for the field survey. Each property identified in the desktop assessment was assigned a number in the preliminary database.
3. A planning history search was conducted via download of the 'Planning Application Sites' dataset on data.gov.ie¹. This enabled identification of dwellings granted planning permission but not yet constructed, and planning permissions which were pending a decision within 2km from the maximum developable area extent. The initial planning history data was obtained in August 2023, and was initially checked monthly throughout the course of design of the Proposed Development, but from October 2023 onwards was checked weekly using Clare County Council online planning register.
4. For planning permission sites (pending or granted), the site layout plans of the proposals were downloaded from the Clare County Council online planning register to accurately plot the proposed dwelling and identify the curtilage, especially for dwelling planning permissions which were within 1 km of a proposed turbine position.

Field survey

5. A field survey was conducted from the 8th August to the 10th August 2023 to confirm properties which were assigned Eircodes and identify any which were not assigned Eircodes (i.e., temporary dwellings, newly constructed dwellings, etc.) within 2km from the maximum developable area extent. Each property was visually inspected, and a photograph was taken along with any notes from observations related to occupancy status and condition, stage of construction or demolition of the property, where planning site notices were present, and any other information of note from observations.
6. In the field survey, some properties appeared to be unoccupied or uninhabitable. For these properties, a note was entered in the database for these properties to be checked again in

¹ <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/irishplanningapplications>

a follow up survey and were marked for monitoring for future planning permission applications.

7. Photographs of properties were taken only if they were visible from the public road. A few of the dwellings in this area were located at the end of long private lanes and some with gates. In most cases, the newer dwellings have been built closer to the road, whilst the older dwelling remains at the end of the private lane, and have been subsumed into the farmyard, being surrounded by sheds and farm machinery. For the properties which were not visible from the public road, a note to this effect and a photograph of the gate or entrance to the private lane was entered in the database.

Determining the amenity setback

8. Taking regard of the appropriate amenity setback distance recommended in Section 6.18.1 the Department's Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019) a setback distance of 720 m was applied (four times the blade tip height of 180 m) to all receptors (including those which were subject of a planning application) within 770m from the maximum developable area extent to allow for the movement of turbines, but also to cover receptors which were on the edge of the 720m buffer. The amenity buffer was applied from the receptors nearest to the proposed turbines.

Updating and verifying the sensitive receptor database

9. The planning history data was checked monthly via examination of the 'Planning Application Sites' dataset on data.gov.ie, and later by weekly checks via Clare County Council online planning register throughout the course of the Proposed Development design.
10. From the planning history checks, where a new planning permission was granted or a new application was identified within 770m of a proposed turbine, the 720m amenity setback was adjusted accordingly.
11. The final planning history check was undertaken on 4th December 2023. This was the latest date possible to include both granted and pending planning applications as close as possible to the anticipated planning application submission date to allow time to update modelling for noise and shadow flicker. However, between the 4th December 2023 and the planning submission date (22nd December 2023) the Clare County Council online planning register was monitored for new planning submissions weekly.

Issue of final sensitive receptor database

12. In total, 306 potential sensitive receptors within 2.1km of a proposed turbine are recorded in the database. Of these:
 - Two hundred and sixty-three (263) properties which were identified as Residential Dwellings. These are properties which looked to be clearly lived in. Residential Dwellings were included in the assessments.
 - There are two (2) sites which were identified as Dwelling Under Construction. These were sites which had new house being constructed at the time of the House Survey. Dwellings Under Construction were included in the assessments.

- Seventeen (17) properties which were identified as Dilapidated Dwelling/Potential Replacement Opportunity. These properties were understood to be uninhabited / could not be inhabited without renovation works (which may require planning permission). These properties were monitored throughout the course of the design of the Proposed Development for any change to their status or for any planning permission applications (i.e., for replacement, extensions, or alterations). These properties were included in the assessments.
 - There are seven (7) Sites with Planning Permission whereby there is already Planning permission for a Dwelling house or there is a pending Planning Application for a Dwelling house as of the cut-off date of 4th December 2023. There were no further validated pending planning applications up to that date. These Sites with Planning Permission granted or pending were included in the assessments.
 - There are six (6) Associated Dwellings. These are properties where the landowner is associated with The Proposed Development. These properties were included in the assessments.
 - There are six (6) properties which were identified as Community Buildings (i.e. GAA Clubs, Pubs, Cafes). These properties were included in the assessments.
 - There are two (2) properties which were identified as Schools (i.e. Preschool and National School). These properties were included in the assessments.
 - There are three (3) Places of Worship in the database. These are properties that were identified as religious buildings (i.e. Church and Buddhist Centre). These properties were included in the assessments.
13. The final database of sensitive receptors was issued to the RSK project team on 4th December 2023 for use in the shadow flicker and noise modelling, and for the landscape and visual assessment.

Database summary

14. In total, 306 sensitive receptors are considered in the assessments for the EIAR.
- There are no sensitive receptors within 500m.
 - There are thirty-six (36) sensitive receptors within 1km.
 - There are ninety-eight (98) sensitive receptors within 1.5km
 - There are three hundred and six (306) sensitive receptors within 2.1km