

7.1.3 Air Emission Compliance Report

The primary source of noise from this development will include traffic, general plant and machinery, reversing alarms, and intermittent noises.

Relevant guidance

The most recent Irish guidance document in relation to noise was published in 2016 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), entitled Guidance Note for Noise: Licence Applications, Surveys and Assessments in Relation to Scheduled Activities (NG4).

The document assists licensed sites and proposed licensed sites with the assessment of their potential and actual noise impact on the local environment. For proposed sites the guidance outlines pertinent factors for consideration when conducting a screening process and a presents a structured approach to baseline monitoring. NG4 provides detailed consideration of a range of noise related issues including basic background to noise issues, various noise assessment criteria and procedures, noise reduction measures, Best Available Techniques (BAT) and the detailed requirements for noise surveys.

Other guidance reviewed as part of the assessment process include:

- As well as the EPA's NG4 guidance, noise monitoring at the Site is based on procedures outlined in ISO 1996: Description, Measurement and Assessment of Environmental Noise, and, BS4142:2014 Method for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound; and
- The EPA's 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports', (August 2017). Environmental Protection Agency.

Evaluation Criteria

In relation to licensed developments and ancillary activities, it is recommended that noise from the activities on extractive sites do not exceed the noise ELVs at the nearest noise-sensitive receptor displayed in Table 1. It is also recommended that audible tones or impulsive noise is be avoided at noise sensitive locations.

The Applicant proposes that the hours of operation for the development are from 07:00 hours to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday and 07:00 hours to 14:00 hours on Saturdays, with the Site being closed on Sundays and Public/Bank Holidays. As there will be no site operations taking place during the evening and night-time these periods are not considered in the Site's baseline assessment.

Table 1: Typical Noise Limits Set Out Under EPA/OEE NG4 Guidance, 2016.

Period	Emission Standard
Daytime (07:00 to 19:00hrs)	55 dB(A) $L_{Ar,T}$
Evening (19:00 to 23:00hrs)	50 dB(A) $L_{Ar,T}$
Night-time (23:00 to 07:00hrs)	45 dB(A) $L_{Aeq,T}$

Table 2: Baseline Noise Monitoring Data N1, N2 and N3, 14th May 2018.

Location / Reading	Date / Time	Measured Noise Levels (dB re. 2x10 ⁻⁵ Pa)				Comments
		L _{Aeq}	L _{AFmax}	L _{AF10}	L _{AF90}	
N1 Reading 1	10:49	36	57	40	26	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the east. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. A banging noise noted faintly to the south on two short periods.
N1 Reading 2	12:12	38	53	42	29	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the east. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Faint noise from an industry in the south east direction was noted at times during the survey.
N1 Reading 3	12:27	36	53	39	28	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east. A tractor passed on the local road to the north (once). Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. A loud bang was noted from the quarry to the south west.
N1 Reading 4	14:24	43	63	45	31	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east. A tractor passed on the local road to the north (three times) and was perceived to be louder than the passing of cars or other vehicles. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. A dog was barking in an adjacent property on numerous occasions during the survey. Faint noise from an industry in the south east direction was noted at times during the survey.
Arithmetic Average of L_{AF90}					28	

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Table 2 continued: Baseline Noise Monitoring Data N1, N2 and N3, 14th May 2018.

Location / Reading	Date / Time	Measured Noise Levels (dB re. 2x10 ⁻⁵ Pa)				Comments
		L _{Aeq}	L _{AF max}	L _{AF10}	L _{AF90}	
N2 Reading 1	11:44	53	73	52	35	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east in close proximity to the noise meter. A truck with loud empty trailer passed twice during the survey. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Activities in an adjacent house were audible which included and engine idling for a period of a minute.
N2 Reading 2	13:40	51	72	50	37	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east in close proximity to the noise meter. Three trucks passed during the survey. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Faint noise from an industry in the south east direction was noted at times during the survey. Activities in an adjacent house were audible.
N2 Reading 3	13:55	60	84	55	36	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east in close proximity to the noise meter. Three tractor journeys were noted, two of which passed on the adjacent road to the north of the monitoring location. Three trucks passed during the survey. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Faint noise from an industry in the south east direction was noted at times during the survey. A faint ringing noise was noted in the distance to the east, this was noted when other noise sources were calm.
N2 Reading 4	15:14	60	84	57	39	Vehicles audible passing on local roads to the north and east in close proximity to the noise meter. Three trucks passed during the survey. Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Faint noise from an industry in the south east direction was noted at times during the survey. Animals in adjacent fields were audible during the survey.
Arithmetic Average of L _{AF90}					37	

Table 2 continued: Baseline Noise Monitoring Data N1, N2 and N3, 14th May 2018.

Location / Reading	Date / Time	Measured Noise Levels (dB re. 2x10 ⁻⁵ Pa)				Comments
		L _{Aeq}	L _{AFmax}	L _{AF10}	L _{AF90}	
N3 Reading 1	11:12	47	64	52	32	Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Plant audible in quarry to the west and plant audible to the south. Intermittent cracking audible from overhead powerlines. Scraping noises were audible to the south west (likely from a front-end loader in the quarry).
N3 Reading 2	12:52	44	61	48	35	Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Plant audible in quarry to the west and plant audible to the south. Intermittent cracking audible from overhead powerlines. A sound similar to a grass strimmer was noted to the south of the site for a period of 5 minutes.
N3 Reading 3	13:07	45	58	49	33	Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Plant audible in quarry to the west and plant audible to the south. Intermittent cracking audible from overhead powerlines. Plane audible at low level overhead on one occasion.
N3 Reading 4	14:47	45	61	49	32	Birdsong constant in background but dominant at times, due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the adjacent treeline. Plant audible in quarry to the west and plant audible to the south. Intermittent cracking audible from overhead powerlines.
Arithmetic Average of L _{AF90}					33	

The noise monitoring results report no exceedances of the ELVs as outlined in Table 1.

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