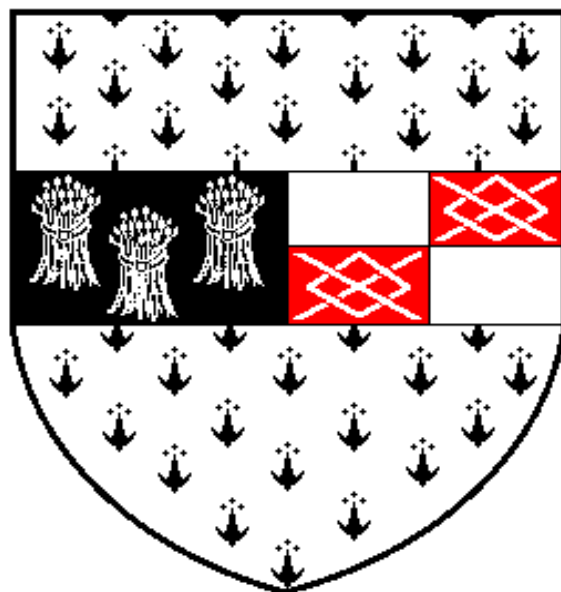


KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL



Noise Action Plan Summary 2019-2023

Issue: April 2020

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL,
COUNTY HALL,
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KILKENNY.

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1 Introduction

This summary to the Kilkenny County Council Noise Action Plan has been compiled to provide a brief insight into the following:

- Noise limit values as per the European Council Directive 2002/49/EC
- Summary of noise mapping results in Kilkenny County
- Summary of the results of public consultation in Kilkenny Council
- Summary of noise management actions taken, including planned actions
- Summary of provisions envisaged for evaluating the implementation and results of the noise control programme
- Web links to the full Kilkenny County Council Noise Action Plan

2 Noise Limit Values

Noise limit values were obtained from the document Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning published by the EPA and dated July 2009.

The EPA Guidance Note states that noise from major sources is regarded as affecting an area if it causes either an L_{den} value of 55dB or greater or an L_{night} of 50dB or greater anywhere within an area. These are the reporting threshold values for the assessment of noise level preservation and which reflect an annual average 24 hour period. (Ref. Environmental Protection Agency: Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning, July 2009 – Apr. 2018).

3 Summary Results of Noise Mapping

3.1 Presentation of Results

3.1.1 Noise Maps

Noise maps for major roads in County Kilkenny are presented below. These maps are referenced Figure E2 and E3 in Appendix E of the Noise Action Plan. The maps are prepared for L_{den} and L_{night} .

The L_{den} maps are presented in 5dB contour bands beginning at 55dB L_{den} and ranging up to 75dB L_{den} . These maps also give an indication of noise levels that are predicted greater than 75dB L_{den} . L_{night} maps range from 50dB to 70dB L_{night} . The noise levels indicated are attributed only to the specific source of noise being considered, namely the traffic on the roadway and therefore do not consider any other noise source.

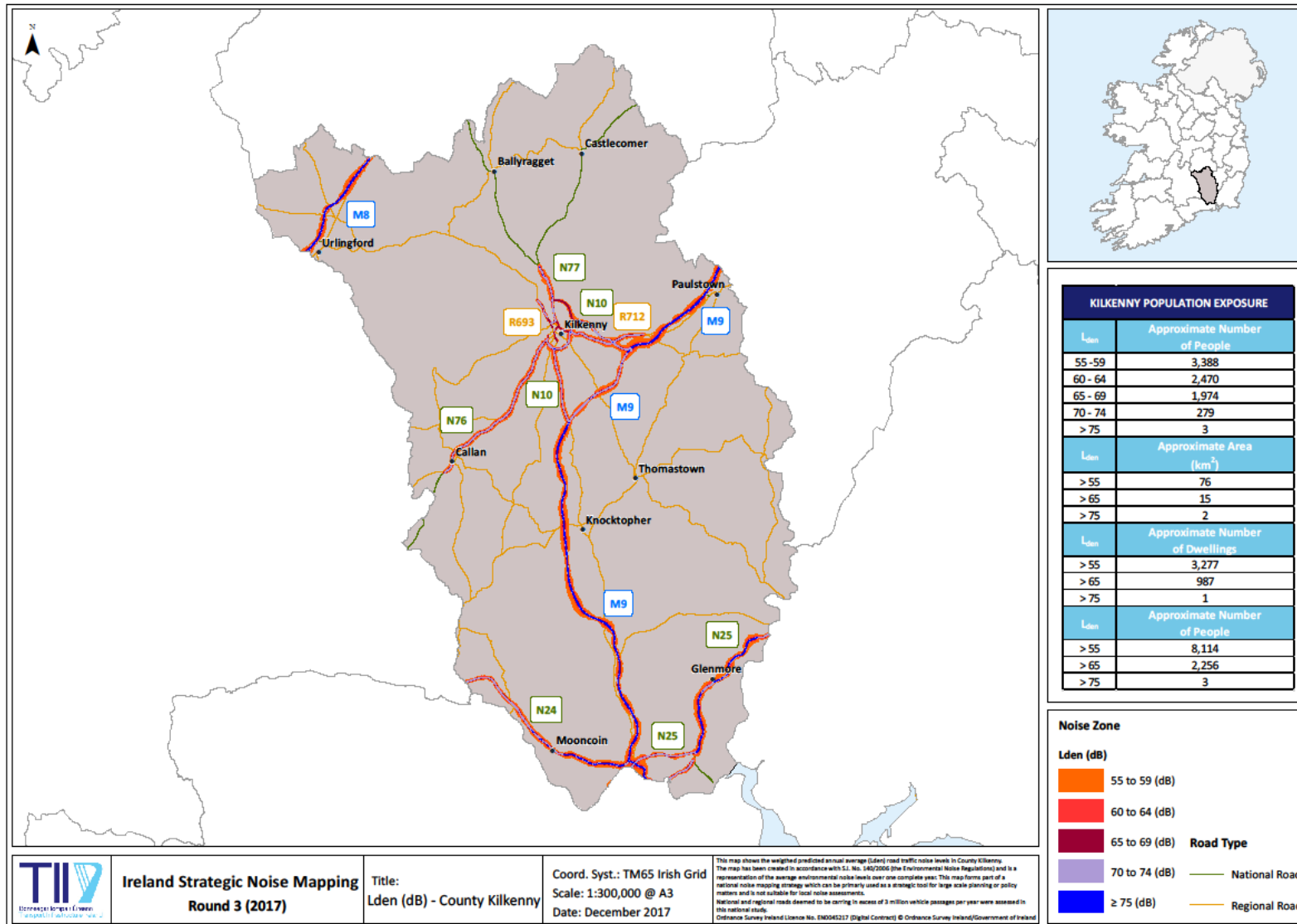


Figure E2: 2017 Lden Noise Map

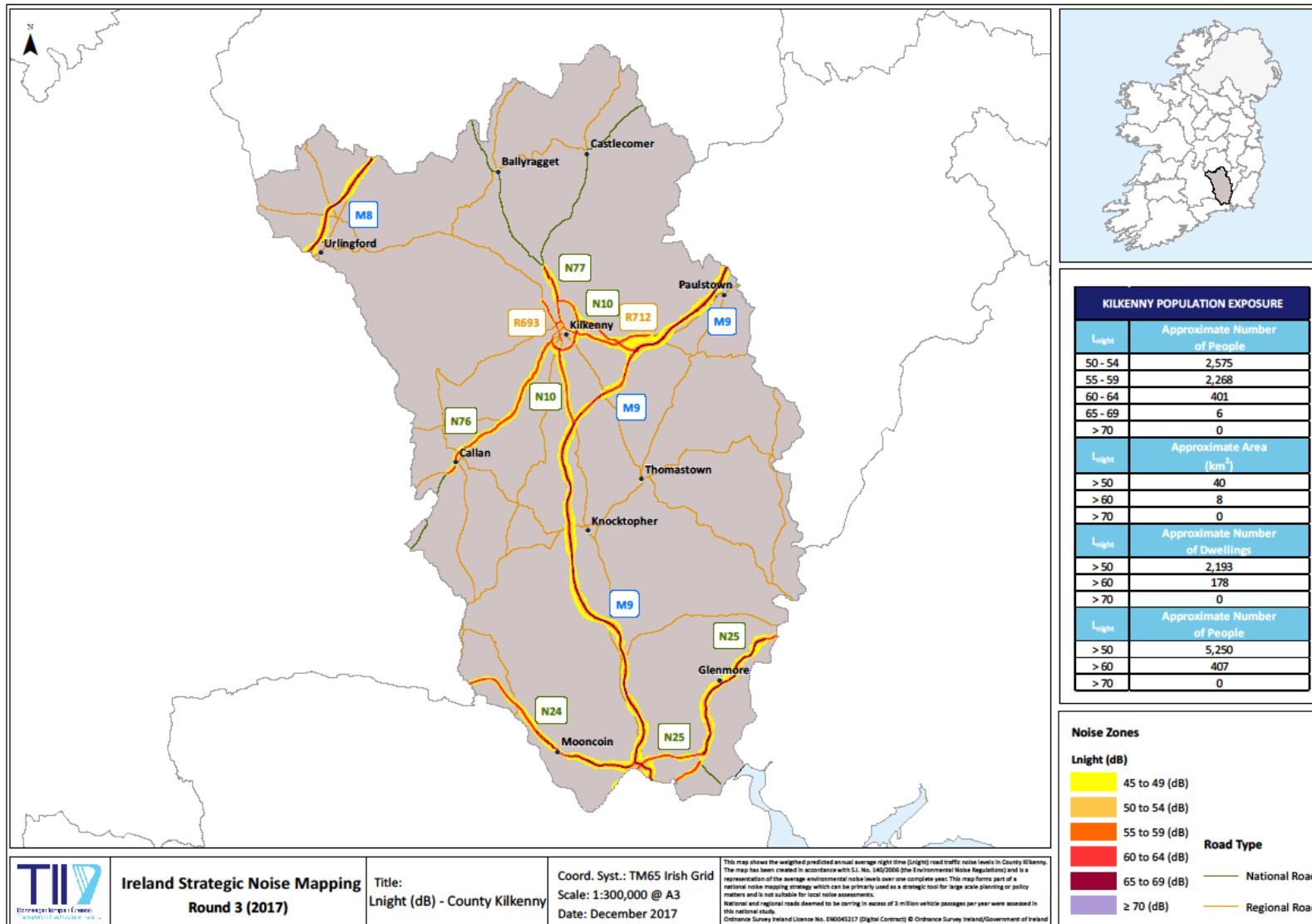


Figure E3: 2017 Lnight Noise Map

3.1.2 Summary Exposure Statistics for Action Planning Area

The following table gives estimated population exposed to traffic noise in each noise band for L_{den} and L_{night} within County Kilkenny based on the data generated in the preparation of the noise mapping. This table is referenced Table 5.2 in the Noise Action Plan.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| L_{den} | Approximate Number of People | | L_{night} | Approximate Number of People |
| | | | | |
| 55-59 | 3,388 | | 50-54 | 2,575 |
| 60-64 | 2,470 | | 55-59 | 2,268 |
| 65-69 | 1,974 | | 60-64 | 401 |
| 70-74 | 279 | | 65-69 | 6 |
| >75 | 3 | | >70 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| L_{den} | Approximate Area (Km ²) | | L_{night} | Approximate Area (Km ²) |
| >55 | 76 | | >50 | 40 |
| >65 | 15 | | >60 | 8 |
| >75 | 2 | | >70 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| L_{den} | Approximate Number of Dwellings | | L_{night} | Approximate Number of Dwellings |
| >55 | 3,277 | | >50 | 2,193 |
| >65 | 987 | | >60 | 178 |
| >75 | 1 | | >70 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| L_{den} | Approximate Number of People | | L_{night} | Approximate Number of People |
| >55 | 8,114 | | >50 | 5,250 |
| >65 | 2,256 | | >60 | 407 |
| >75 | 3 | | >70 | 0 |

Table 5.2 L_{den} and L_{night} exposure limits

3.2 Limitations of the Maps / Results

The strategic noise maps for County Kilkenny have been generated using data contained in the TII Roads Database. As the maps are generated by predictive computer modelling, and actual field noise data is not incorporated into the model, the maps are considered only to be an estimate of the likely noise levels.

The effects of any noise mitigation measures currently in force or implemented since the preparation of the noise mapping, or noise generated by sources other than major roads within the study criteria have not been considered within the computer modelling.

Under the Regulations it is required to delimit quiet areas in open country. The requirement for such an area is that it is *“undisturbed by noise from traffic, industry or recreational activities”*. In the context of the regulations it can be seen that the strategic noise mapping undertaken will not provide a resource which may be extensively used to help identify quiet areas in open country. This is particularly due to the nature of assessed noise sources, which do not include recreational activities, and partially due to the area of coverage of the strategic noise mapping, which is near to major sources, and therefore not locations which will be undisturbed by them.

4 Summary Results of Public Consultation

The public consultation process for the Kilkenny County Council was open from Monday 28th May to Wednesday 25th July 2018.

Following the public consultation process, one submission was received by Kilkenny County Council. The submission was made in relation to alleged elevated sound levels at a private dwelling as a result of noise from a major road, the nearby M9 motorway. The submission will be taken into account during the next stage of the plan, which will focus on qualifying the results of the strategic noise maps and carrying out further assessments to identify areas requiring noise mitigation measures.

5 Summary of Noise Management Actions

It is proposed to develop a process within the Noise Action Plan to effectively manage environmental noise throughout the County. The programme is scheduled to be phased over 5 years culminating in the preparation of the 4th phase noise action plan to be completed in 2023. The proposed phasing of the plan development is as follows:

Year 1 -2019

Review TII Generated Strategic Noise Mapping

Confirm areas requiring noise mitigation measures

Prioritise impacted areas and develop support decision matrix

Consult with TII, the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport and the EPA, regarding a brief for external noise consultants for the carrying out of field verification studies where required

Identify Quiet Areas in Open Country for EPA and Ministerial approval.

Ensure that the preparation of the new County Development Plan 2020-2026 incorporated the third round Noise Action Plan. (Note the preparation of the new 2020-2026 County Development Plan is expected to commence during 2018.)

Year 2 - 2020

Confirm financial funding for procurement of field studies

Engage external noise consultants where required

Conduct baseline studies of existing areas requiring mitigation measure as per noise mapping prior to completion of key road infrastructure

Annual review of Noise Action Plan

Year 3 - 2021

Re-assess areas requiring mitigation measures post completion of road infrastructure

Identify areas still requiring noise mitigation measures

Develop priority list of actionable works to mitigate against excessive noise and conduct cost benefit analysis.

Establish and agree budgets for mitigation works with relevant authorities

Annual review of Noise Action Plan

Year 4 - 2022

Conduct review of Noise Action Plan for Phase 4

Conduct public consultation on basis of updated noise mapping

Year 5 – 2023

Review and confirm Quiet Area for delimiting and submit proposal to EPA and Minister

Finalise Action Plan for period 2024 -2028

6 Evaluating the Results of the Noise Control Programme

The programme for evaluation over this 5 year second phase of development of the Noise Action Plan proposes to review the Action Plan on an annualised basis or as the need arises. Any works to be carried out, subject to funding, will be monitored and appraised, a report for round 3 will detail progress against the planned timetable, any actions commenced or undertaken and any costs and outcomes or benefits achieved. The road infrastructure within the County is being upgraded on a continual basis as development needs arise and funding is made available for projects to proceed. Significant progress has been made in the past ten years with the completion of the motorway network in County Kilkenny and improvements to the National Road network. A number of National Roads have been re-classified as Regional Roads on foot of the completion of the motorway network. With the introduction of further road infrastructure improvement projects where appropriate noise impacts are assessed under the design and EIS (where required) phases and any amelioration measures incorporated in the projects.

6.1 End of Program Review

At the end of the third phase period in 2023, Kilkenny County Council will conduct a review of the programme of works and policies developed over the previous 5 years. The review will assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted and determine if the measures were cost effective and value for money. This process will be refined and development over the following phases at 5 year intervals.

7 Web Links to Kilkenny County Council Noise Action Plan

A copy of the Kilkenny County Council Draft Noise Action Plan 2019 - 2023 may be inspected [here](#).