

# Environment

## Noise

Noise impacts can have an effect on the environment and on the quality of life enjoyed by individuals and communities. The impact of noise is therefore an important consideration in the determination of wind turbine planning applications.

Wind turbines create a low level of noise during their operation, however, owing to the fact that they can operate at all times of day and night, planning noise constraints are used to restrict any operational noise to low levels during 'amenity' periods.

## Operational Assessment

The approach to the noise impact assessment was developed in close consultation with Moray council. The aim of the operational noise assessment is to determine whether turbine noise levels would meet recommended noise limits at nearby properties. The assessment of noise impact at the nearest properties has influenced the design of the wind farm in terms of the size, location and number of turbines.

The assessment considered the level of impact at the nearest sensitive receptors as well as third party wind developments operating within the area. The locations most impacted by the existing Edintore wind farm will not receive significant additional impact from the proposed wind farm. The combined effect of wind developments was shown to meet the applicable noise limits at all nearby properties.

## Construction Assessment

Higher levels of noise are generated during construction of the wind farm, although these impacts have a relatively short duration. This element of noise is likely to be strictly controlled by planning conditions that limit the construction hours. As part of the conditions on the existing planning permission, maximum limits to noise levels at agreed locations were set.



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