

**Fifth Irish National Radon Forum  
Ardilaun House Hotel, Galway  
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**How Local Authorities Can Address  
Radon**

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# South Tipperary in Context

## HISTORY

- County Tipperary split into County Tipperary (North Riding) and County Tipperary (South Riding) under Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898: 2 County Councils

# South Tipperary in Context

- Names changed in 2002 to North Tipperary County Council and South Tipperary County Council

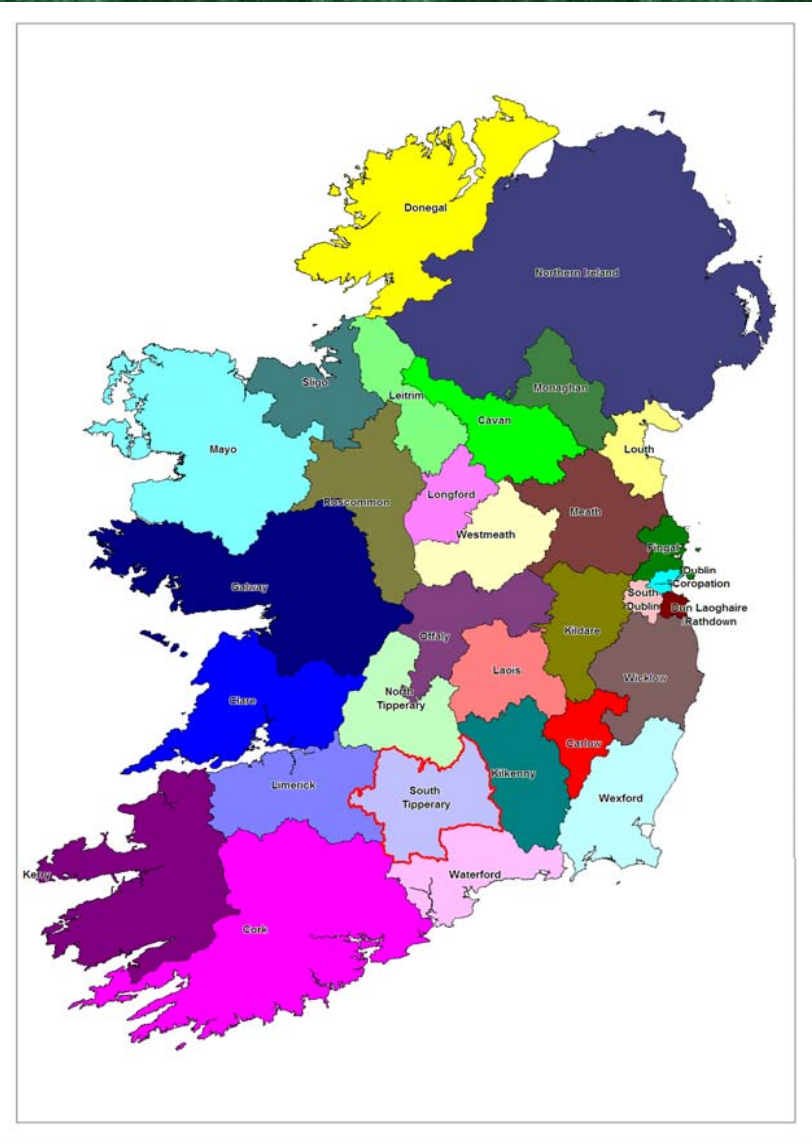
# South Tipperary in Context

## SIZE

- 2,258 km<sup>2</sup> (872 square miles)

## LOCATION

- Inland County
- South East Region



# South Tipperary in Context

## DESCRIPTION

- River Suir flows through the county
- National Primary roads:
  - N8 Dublin to Cork
  - N24 Limerick to Waterford
- National Secondary roads:
  - N74 Cashel to Tipperary
  - N76 Clonmel to Kilkenny

# South Tipperary in Context

- Railway lines:
  - Dublin to Cork
  - Limerick to Waterford

## POPULATION

- 79, 213 (2002 Census)

# South Tipperary in Context

TOWNS	POPULATION (2002 Census)
Clonmel Borough Council	15,739
Carrick-on-Suir (Town Council)	5,542
Tipperary (Town Council)	4,546
Cashel (Town Council)	2,403
Cahir	2,794

# Radon Levels in Tipperary

## Nationally

27,500 houses measured

< 3,500 houses (>12%) >  
200

Becquerels per cubic  
metre

Maximum: 49,000  
Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

## Tipperary

1,298 houses measured

136 houses (>10%) >  
200

Becquerels per cubic  
metre

9 > 1,000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
1 > 2,000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

# Radon Levels in Tipperary

## Clonmel

176 houses measured

47 houses (~19%) >  
200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

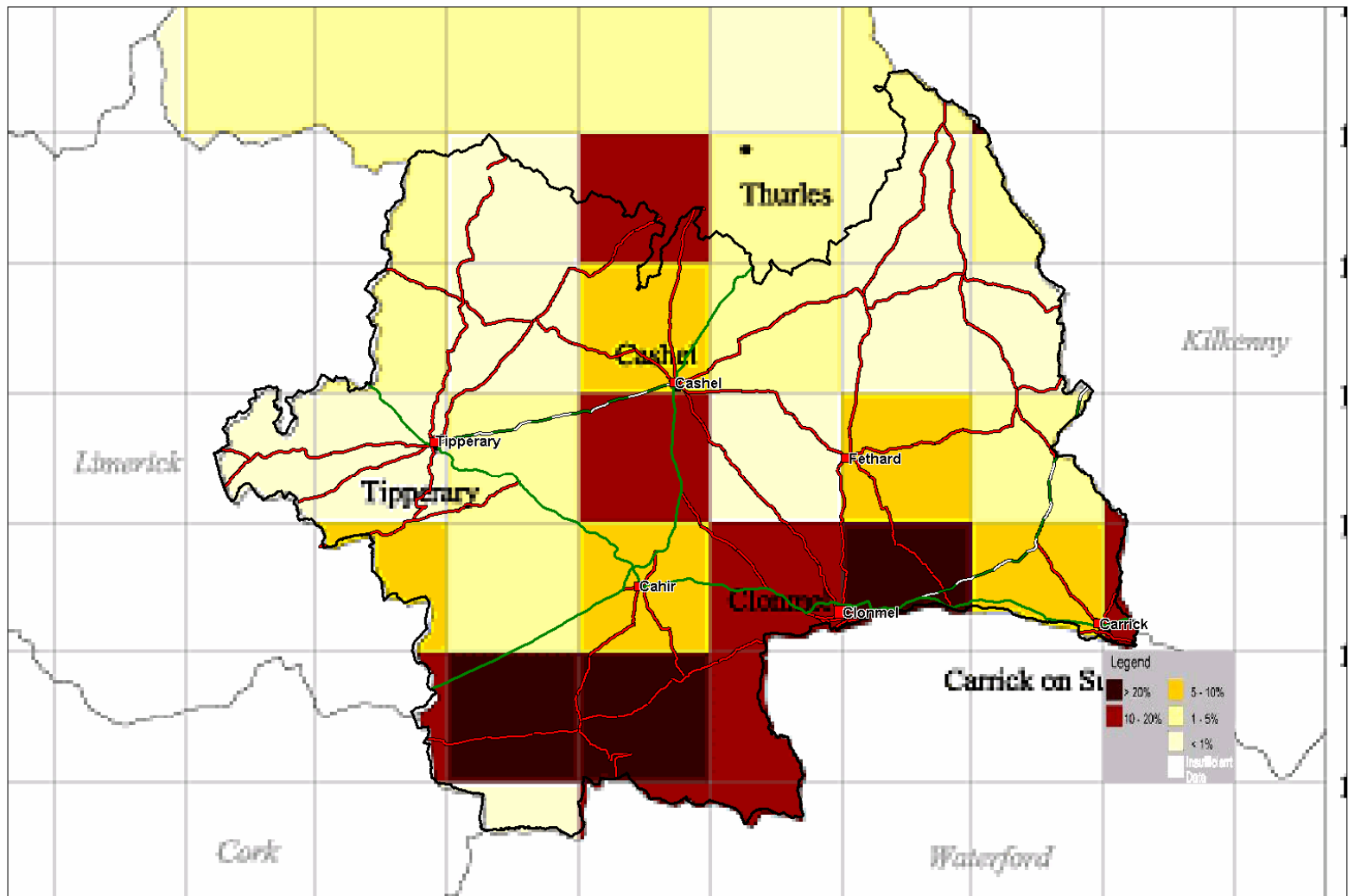
4 > 1,000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

## Nenagh

248 houses measured

8 houses (~4%) > 200  
Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

2 > 1,000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>



Map of Radon levels in South Tipperary

A "high radon area" is one in which more than 10% of houses are predicted to have radon levels in excess of the 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup> reference level.

# Local Authority's Role in Relation to Radon

- Prevention : - ensure compliance with the Building Regulations
- Protection: - ensure buildings owned by local authority do not have excessive radon levels
- Create Awareness: - re-enforce RPII awareness activities

# South Tipperary County Council and Radon

## Current Activities

### 1 Prevention

#### 1.1 Building Regulations Compliance

- STCC monitors compliance with Building Regulations
- Since July 1998 inactive radon sumps required in all buildings; as an additional measure in high radon areas (as determined by RPII) a low permeability membrane, i.e. a radon barrier, is also required

- STCC monitors 12 – 15% of all developments for compliance with Building Regulations (Building Control Section)
- All dwellings – radon sump  
High radon areas – radon barrier

Outside high radon areas – radon barriers by choice: responsibility on householders to monitor radon levels and to activate sump if required

## 1.2 RPII Website

- STCC website [www.southtippcoco.ie](http://www.southtippcoco.ie) has link to RPII website and has map of radon lands in South Tipperary

## 1.3 Health and Safety

- Next review of STCC Safety Statement to cover radon
- Consultation with Safety Representatives, Council Management and Staff

# South Tipperary County Council and Radon

## Current Activities

### 2 Protection

#### 2.1 Aim

- Ensure buildings owned by STCC (workplaces and housing stock) do not have radon levels higher than national reference levels (workplace and domestic) and to provide appropriate mitigation where necessary

## 2.2 Workplaces

- 10 workplaces measured for radon levels (work areas at ground levels):
  - offices
  - swimming pools
  - fire headquarters
  - county museum

- All measurements below 400 Becquerels/m<sup>3</sup>, national reference level for radon gas in workplaces
- No further action or remedial measures required

## 2.3 Housing Stock

- Housing Section – c. 1,000 houses
- Since 1998 all new Council houses have radon sump/barrier
- Approx. 440 local authority houses in high radon areas

- In consultation with RPII, STCC sample representative fraction of stock to establish how significant radon levels are
- Apply to DOEHLG for funding with details of scale and works of remedial measures necessary

# South Tipperary County Council and Radon

## Current Activities

### 3 Create Awareness

#### 3.1 Health Information Working Group

- Health Information Working Group sub-committee of Partnership Committee
- Objective – actively create awareness about health issues among staff of STCC

# South Tipperary County Council and Radon

## Current Activities

- As radon health issue, excellent forum for distributing information to STCC staff members (c. 800 staff)

## 3.2 Awareness Work Programme

- Public Awareness Officer (Environment Section) prepares press releases for local newspapers and gives interviews on local radio
- Information on radon is being made available on Environment page of STCC website [www.southtippcoco.ie](http://www.southtippcoco.ie)

### 3.3 Strategic Policy Committee

- SPC for Physical Planning and Environment has discussed radon at meetings

### 3.4 Council Meetings

- March 2006: South Tipperary County Council received presentation from Mr. David Fenton, Manager, Natural Radioactivity Advisory Services, RPII
- October 2006: Cashel Town Council received presentation from Environment Section STCC on radon

## 3.5 Publicity

- The above Council meetings received local publicity in local newspapers and local radio

# Conclusion

Local Authority's role:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Create Awareness

Key is ownership and involvement of all staff.