

Hawkins environmental

Air Quality Assessment:

Hatfield Business Park

Cambria Property Investments Limited

28th November 2022



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This report has been prepared by Hawkins Environmental Limited for the sole purpose of assisting in gaining planning consent for the proposed development described in the introduction of this report.

This report has been prepared by Hawkins Environmental Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This assessment takes into account the prevailing conditions at the time of the report and assesses the impact of the development (if applicable) using data provided to Hawkins Environmental Limited by third parties. The report is designed to assist the developer in refining the designs for the proposed development and to demonstrate to agents of the Local Planning Authority that the proposed development is suited to its location. This should be viewed as a risk assessment and does not infer any guarantee that the site will remain suitable in future, nor that there will not be any complaints either from users of the development or from impacts emanating from the development site itself.

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Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	6
1.1.	Overview	6
1.2.	Site Description	6
2.	LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY & GUIDANCE.....	8
2.1.	National Legislation	8
2.2.	Clean Air Strategy (2019).....	9
2.3.	National Planning Policy Framework (2021).....	9
2.4.	Planning Practice Guidance (2019).....	10
2.5.	Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality (2017)	11
2.6.	Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance TG16 - (2016)	11
2.7.	Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (2014).....	11
2.8.	World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines (2021).....	12
2.9.	Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets (2021).....	12
3.	ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	14
3.1.	Methodology Overview	14
3.2.	Methodology for Determining Demolition and Construction Effects.....	15
3.3.	Methodology for Determining Operational Effects	16
3.4.	Significance Criteria.....	17
4.	SCOPING	18
4.1.	Overview	18
4.2.	Impacts of the Local Area on the Development.....	18
4.3.	Impacts of the Development on the Local Area.....	18
4.4.	Site Specific Scoping Assessment	21
5.	BASELINE CONDITIONS.....	22
5.1.	Air Quality Review and Assessment.....	22
5.2.	Local Air Quality Monitoring.....	22
5.3.	Industrial Emissions.....	23
5.4.	Baseline Onsite Pollution Concentrations	23
6.	IMPACTS OF THE LOCAL AREA ON THE DEVELOPMENT.....	24
6.1.	Annual Mean Concentrations	24
7.	IMPACTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE LOCAL AREA.....	25
7.1.	Traffic-Related Emissions.....	25

8.	CONSTRUCTION DUST IMPACT ASSESSMENT	28
8.1.	Overview	28
8.2.	Step 1 – Screening the Need for a Detailed Assessment.....	28
8.3.	Step 2 – Assess the Risks of Dust Impacts	29
8.4.	Step 3 – Site Specific Mitigation	32
8.5.	Step 4 – Determining Significant Effects	34
8.6.	Step 5 – Dust Assessment Report	34
9.	MITIGATION.....	35
10.	CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY	36

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms.....	37
Appendix 2 Air Quality Model.....	39
Appendix 3 Modelling Procedure and Input Data.....	42

List of Tables

Table 2.1: Air Quality Standards	8
Table 2.2: WHO Air Quality Guidelines	12
Table 3.1: Impact Descriptors for Individual Receptors.....	16
Table 5.1: Air Quality Monitoring.....	22
Table 7.1: Air Quality Concentrations 2023 – Without Development Related Traffic.....	25
Table 7.2: Air Quality Concentrations 2023 – With Development Related Traffic.....	26
Table 7.3: Assessment of the Impacts of the Increases in Traffic Flow	27
Table 8.1: Dust Emission Magnitude	29
Table 8.2: Outcome of Defining the Sensitivity of the Area.....	31
Table 8.3: Summary Dust Risk Table to Define Site-Specific Mitigation	31

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan	7
Figure 4.1: IAQM/EPUK Guidance – Stage 1 Criteria.....	19
Figure 4.2: IAQM/EPUK Guidance – Stage 2 Criteria.....	20
Figure 5.1: Monitoring Locations.....	23
Figure 9.1: Receptor distance bands from proposed development site	30
Figure 9.2: Receptor distance bands from proposed haul routes	30

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

Hawkins Environmental Limited has been instructed by Cambria Property Investments Limited to undertake an air quality assessment for the proposed redevelopment at Plot 5610, Gypsy Moth Avenue, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield, AL10 9BS, situated in the town and civil parish of Hatfield in Hertfordshire.

During the planning process, it has been identified that the site may require an air quality assessment to determine whether the site is suitable for use, and to determine whether the proposed development would have an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Consequently, this assessment has been completed in order to determine whether the proposed development achieves compliance with the National Air Quality Objectives, as well as national, regional and local planning policy.

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) current *Technical Guidance on Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16)* (April 2021) and the Institute for Air Quality Management and Environmental Protection UK's *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality* (January 2017).

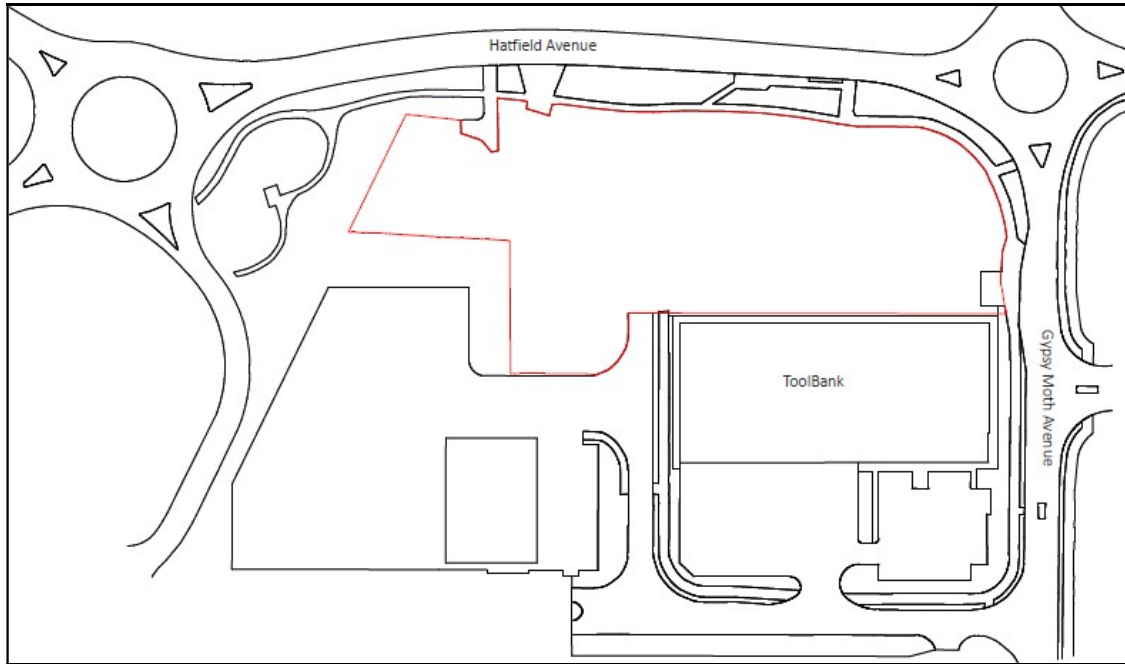
The assessment addresses the effects of air pollutant emissions from traffic using the adjacent roads and emissions associated with the development of the site. In addition, a risk-based assessment of the likely impact of construction on the air quality of the local environment has been conducted in accordance with the Institute of Air Quality Management's 2014 edition of the *Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction*.

This report assesses the overall levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) in the vicinity of the site. A glossary of terms is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

1.2. Site Description

The proposed development site is situated on the edge of Hatfield Industrial Estate. The site is currently undeveloped with a small area of hardstanding. The proposed development will see the erection of two industrial units for light industrial processes/general industrial/storage & distribution purposes; and ancillary office space, with associated parking, access and supporting infrastructure. A location plan of the proposed site can be seen in **Figure 1.1**.

Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan



2. LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY & GUIDANCE

2.1. National Legislation

Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), requires the UK government to produce a national Air Quality Strategy which contains standards, objectives and measures for improving ambient air quality. The National Air Quality Strategy sets out National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) that are maximum ambient pollutant concentrations that are not to be exceeded either without exception or with a permitted number of exceedances over a specified timescale.

The Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme revisited the management of Air Quality within the EU and replaced the EU Framework Directive 96/62/EC, its associated Daughter Directives 1999/30/EC, 2000/69/EC, 2002/3/EC, and the Council Decision 97/101/EC, with a single legal act, the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC.

Directive 2008/50/EC is currently transcribed into UK legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010, which came into force on 11th June 2010. These limit values are binding on the UK and have been set with the aim of avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on human health and on the environment as a whole. These limit values are the basis of the NAQOs.

The National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and their Limit Values will form the basis of this air quality assessment of the proposed development. The NAQOs are based on an assessment of the effects of each pollutant on public health. Therefore, they are a good indicator in assessing whether, under normal circumstances, the air quality in the vicinity of a development is likely to be detrimental to human health. In determining whether air pollutant levels may constrain development, the results of studies are compared against the acceptability criteria. The Air Quality Standards are displayed in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Average Period	NAQO Limit Value
Sulphur Dioxide	One Hour	350 µg/m ³ Not to be exceeded more than 24 times per calendar year
	One Day	150 µg/m ³ Not to be exceeded more than 3 times per calendar year
Nitrogen Dioxide	One Hour	200 µg/m ³ Not to be exceeded more than 18 times per calendar year
	Calendar Year	40 µg/m ³
Benzene	Calendar Year	5 µg/m ³



Pollutant	Average Period	NAQO Limit Value
Lead	Calendar Year	0.5 µg/m ³
PM ₁₀	One Day	50 µg/m ³ Not to be exceeded more than 35 times per calendar year
	Calendar Year	40 µg/m ³
PM _{2.5}	Calendar Year	25 µg/m ³
Carbon Monoxide	Maximum daily running 8-hour mean	10 mg/m ³

2.2. Clean Air Strategy (2019)

The Government's Clean Air Strategy was launched on the 14th January 2019 and sets out a range of initiatives that will help reduce air pollution, providing healthier air to breathe, enhancing the economy and protecting nature.

The Clean Air Strategy highlights action to be taken to reduce emissions across all sectors, including transport, the home, farming, and industrial sources. This includes actions to reduce particulate matter from domestic emissions, by introducing new legislation to prohibit the sales of the most polluting fuels and ensuring only the cleanest stoves are available for sale by 2022.

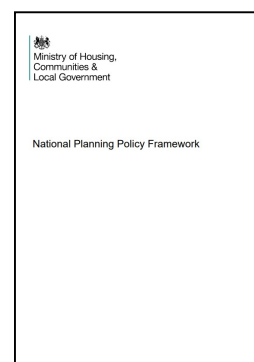
In addition, the Clean Air Strategy sets out proposals to halve the population living in areas with concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) above the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline levels of 10 µg/m³ by 2025. Since the publication of the Clean Air Strategy, the WHO has further reduced its guideline level for PM_{2.5} to 5 µg/m³.



2.3. National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published in March 2012 and revised in July 2018, February 2019 and most recently July 2021. The NPPF outlines the Government's environmental, economic and social policies for England. The NPPF sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be delivered with three main dimensions: economic; social and environmental (Paragraphs 7, 8 10 and 11). The NPPF aims to enable local people and their councils to produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which should be interpreted and applied in order to meet the needs and priorities of their communities.

The NPPF states that in the planning system *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by... e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by,*



unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans” (Paragraph 174).

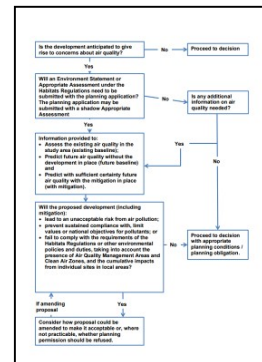
The NPPF also states that “Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan” (Paragraph 186).

2.4. Planning Practice Guidance (2019)

The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was launched on 6th March 2014 and has undergone regular revision, with the most recent changes to Air Quality in November 2019. It provides additional guidance and interpretation to the Government’s strategic policies, outlined within the NPPF, in a web-based resource. This is updated regularly.

Matters of relevance to the air quality assessment include:

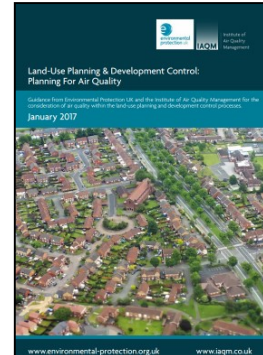
- The provision of “guidance on how planning can take account of the impact of new development on air quality”. The PPG provides signposts as to how to address air quality in planning applications and highlights the importance of local plans.
- The statement that “The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs carries out an annual national assessment of air quality using modelling and monitoring to determine compliance with relevant Limit Values” and “It is important that the potential impact of new development on air quality is taken into account where the national assessment indicates that relevant limits have been exceeded or are near the limit” (Reference ID: 32-001-20191101). The PPG goes on to say that “Whether air quality is relevant to a planning decision will depend on the proposed development and its location. Concerns could arise if the development is likely to have an adverse effect on air quality in areas where it is already known to be poor, particularly if it could affect the implementation of air quality strategies and action plans and/or breach legal obligations (including those relating to the conservation of habitats and species)” (Reference ID: 32-005-20191101).
- The identification of the content of an air quality assessment, stating clearly that “Assessments need to be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed and the potential impacts (taking into account existing air quality conditions), and because of this are likely to be locationally specific” (Reference ID: 32-007-20191101).



2.5. Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality (2017)

Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality, jointly published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) and Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) in May 2015 and updated in January 2017, provides general guidance on air quality and planning.

Specifically, the guidance provides details on the scoping of effects, how to assess the impacts in relation to air quality, as well as details on how to assess the significance of impacts.



2.6. Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance TG16 - (2016)

Specifically designed to provide technical guidance to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in relation to their review and assessment of air quality, TG(16) provides useful guidance in relation to the appropriate methods of air quality modelling and monitoring, which can be as equally useful to the assessment of air quality impacts.



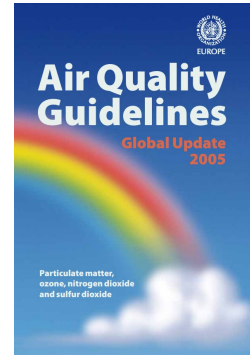
2.7. Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (2014)

Published in 2014, the IAQM's Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction provides guidance on preparing an Air Quality Statement for construction and demolition activities, specifically in relation to dust risk assessments, as well as providing details on how best to mitigate the impacts of construction dust. Much of the detail within the IAQM's Guidance was adopted within the Control of Dust and Emissions from Construction and Demolition SPG.



2.8. World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines (2021)

The WHO Air Quality Guidelines propose threshold limits for key air pollutants that pose health risks. The guidelines cover a range of pollutants and suggest threshold levels at which health effects are unlikely to occur, based on the latest scientific evidence. For a number of pollutants, the WHO levels are equivalent to the levels determined by the EU, which were then exacted into the National Air Quality Objectives in the UK; however, the guidelines offer recommended exposure levels for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) which are lower than the National Air Quality Objectives as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. The WHO Guidelines also provides interim targets for areas of high air pollution.



Since WHO’s last 2005 global update, there has been a marked increase of evidence that shows how air pollution affects different aspects of health. For that reason, and after a systematic review of the accumulated evidence, WHO has adjusted almost all the AQGs levels downwards in 2021.

Table 2.2 summarises the WHO Guideline values.

Table 2.2: WHO Air Quality Guidelines

Pollutant	Average Period	WHO Guideline Value
Nitrogen Dioxide	One Day	25 µg/m ³
	Calendar Year	10 µg/m ³
PM ₁₀	One Day	45 µg/m ³ (99 th Percentile)
	Calendar Year	15 µg/m ³
PM _{2.5}	One Day	15 µg/m ³ (99 th Percentile)
	Calendar Year	5 µg/m ³

2.9. Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets (2021)

Published in 2021 by the IAQM, *Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets* provides guidance relating to the use of datasets effected by the COVID-19 pandemic when validating air quality models. As noted by the IAQM, “Ambient monitoring data is used routinely for model verification and validation. The coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has disrupted activity from ‘business-as-usual’ and therefore care is needed in selecting appropriate monitoring data.”.

The two main points to consider when considering datasets from 2020 and 2021 are:

- The pandemic may have meant that monitors were not maintained, or diffusion tubes changed according to planned schedule. The percentage of



missing data may therefore be higher than usual, and diffusion tubes may have been exposed for different periods, and

- Activity (traffic, industrial, commercial, domestic) and hence emissions during 2020 and for a significant part of 2021 has been interrupted by lockdowns and restrictions. This means that – even if monitoring data is present – the monitored levels are atypical compared with previous years and the business-as-usual assumption.

It is also noted that the social and economic impact of the pandemic may affect the previous trend in future emissions and background concentrations.

The IAQM position based on the above is that *“If you are carrying out an air quality study that includes validation against monitoring data, use 2019 monitoring data as the last typical year.”*

3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1. Methodology Overview

The assessment of air quality considered several different areas, specifically:

1. The constraints that the existing air quality has on the Proposed Development;
2. The impact of the changes in road traffic flows on air pollutant concentrations, at nearby sensitive receptors;
3. The impact of emissions from the Proposed Development's plant (such as biomass boilers or combined heat and power (CHP) plants) on air pollutant concentrations at nearby sensitive receptors (if applicable); and
4. The impact of construction and demolition dust at nearby sensitive receptors.

Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality states with respect to the identification of local receptors, they should include *“residential and other properties close to and within the proposed development, as well as alongside roads significantly affected by the development, even if well away from the development site, and especially if within AQMAs. These receptors will represent locations where people are likely to be exposed for the appropriate averaging time (dependent on the air quality objective being assessed against)”*. The last point is critical as this identifies that sensitivity in relation to air quality is directly related to the amount of time one spends in a location. For example, when considering annual mean objectives (such as that of NO₂), any area where one might spend large parts of the year might be considered a sensitive receptor. An example could be a dwelling, where one might expect to spend at least half of their time during one day. Health centres, hospitals, schools and nurseries could all expect to be considered sensitive receptors, partially due to the length of exposure spent in these locations, but also due to vulnerable members of society (e.g. the very young, the very old, or the ill) spending significant amounts of time at these locations. Offices would not normally be considered to be a highly sensitive receptor since most visitors would be healthy adults and would only spend around 8 hours per day, 5 days per week there (i.e. less than 25% of the year), whereas people could spend over 50% of their time within a dwelling. Hotels would not be considered sensitive receptors in terms of the annual mean since residents would only normally expect to spend a small number of nights in that location; however, hostels, sheltered accommodation and student accommodation would be considered as sensitive as dwellings, as residents could be expected to stay for several months.

The baseline scenario will consider two separate sets of site conditions, specifically the existing 2019 baseline conditions (the latest date for which data is available) and the future 2023 baseline site conditions, which represents the opening year of the proposed development. The consideration of a future baseline for air quality is important as it takes into account future changes in both traffic flow, but also pollutant concentrations, which could vary.

To determine the baseline conditions, the following was undertaken:

- A review of the most recent progress reports on air quality carried out by the local planning authority, as submitted to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra);

- Determination of whether the site is situated within a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA);
- A review of local air quality monitoring within the area of the site;
- A review of the Environment Agency's register of industrial sites under the EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC) to determine whether industrial sources of air pollution could be affecting the site;
- Review of the list of registered Part A2 and Part B permitted premises under the PPC Regulations to determine whether any other sources of air pollution could be affecting the site;
- Using the methodology described in the ADMS-Roads Detailed Dispersion Model (details of which can be seen in **Appendix 2**, utilising data described in **Appendix 3**), predict concentrations of air pollutants on-site within the current baseline year and the future baseline year.

3.2. Methodology for Determining Demolition and Construction Effects

The determination of demolition and construction effects of the Proposed Development was based on the IAQM's Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction, which provides a risk-based assessment methodology to determine the significance of an air quality impact arising from the construction of a new development, based on the magnitude of change. The methodology provides a five-step approach to determining the significance:

“STEP 1 is to screen the requirement for a more detailed assessment. No further assessment is required if there are no receptors within a certain distance of the works.

STEP 2 is to assess the risk of dust impacts. This is done separately for each of the four activities (demolition; earthworks; construction; and trackout) and takes account of:

the scale and nature of the works, which determines the potential dust emission magnitude (STEP 2A); and

the sensitivity of the area (STEP 2B).

These factors are combined in STEP 2C to give the risk of dust impacts.

Risks are described in terms of there being a low, medium or high risk of dust impacts for each of the four separate potential activities. Where there are low, medium or high risks of an impact, then site-specific mitigation will be required, proportionate to the level of risk.

Based on the threshold criteria and professional judgement one or more of the groups of activities may be assigned a 'negligible' risk. Such cases could arise, for example, because the scale is very small and there are no receptors near to the activity.

STEP 3 is to determine the site-specific mitigation for each of the four potential activities in STEP 2. This will be based on the risk of dust impacts identified in STEP 2. Where a local authority has issued guidance on measures to be adopted at demolition/construction sites, these should also be taken into account.

STEP 4 is to examine the residual effects and to determine whether or not these are significant.

STEP 5 is to prepare the dust assessment report.”

3.3. Methodology for Determining Operational Effects

To determine the operational effects of the Proposed Development, the change in traffic flow at sensitive receptors in the future opening year of the proposed development, both with and without development related traffic, was modelled using the methodology described in the ADMS-Roads Detailed Dispersion Model (details of which can be seen in **Appendix 2**, utilising data described in **Appendix 3**).

To determine the impact of the proposed development on surrounding local sensitive receptors, the impact magnitude has been derived from Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality, jointly published by the IAQM and EPUK. **Table 3.1** identifies the advice given in the IAQM / EPUK Guidance regarding impact descriptors upon individual receptors.

Table 3.1: Impact Descriptors for Individual Receptors

Long-Term Average Concentration at Receptor in Assessment Year	% Change in Concentrations Relative to Air Quality Assessment Level (AQAL)			
	1	2-5	6-10	>10
75% or less of AQAL	Negligible	Negligible	Slight	Moderate
76-94% of AQAL	Negligible	Slight	Moderate	Moderate
95-102% of AQAL	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial
103-109% of AQAL	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial
110% or more of AQAL	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial

Source: Table 6.3 of the IAQM Guidance

The guidance goes on to offer the following explanation (taken from the footnotes of Table 6.3 of the IAQM Guidance):

“AQAL = Air Quality Assessment Level, which may be an air quality objective, EU limit or target value, or an Environment Agency ‘Environmental Assessment Level (EAL)’.

The Table is intended to be used by rounding the change in percentage pollutant concentration to whole numbers, which then makes it clearer which cell the impact falls within. The user is encouraged to treat the numbers with recognition of their likely accuracy and not assume a false level of precision. Changes of 0%, i.e. less than 0.5% will be described as Negligible.

The Table is only designed to be used with annual mean concentrations.

Descriptors for individual receptors only; the overall significance is determined using professional judgement (see Chapter 7). For example, a ‘moderate’ adverse impact at one receptor may not mean that the overall impact has a significant effect. Other factors need to be considered.

When defining the concentration as a percentage of the AQAL, use the ‘without scheme’ concentration where there is a decrease in pollutant concentration and the ‘with scheme;’ concentration for an increase.

The total concentration categories reflect the degree of potential harm by reference to the AQAL value. At exposure less than 75% of this value, i.e. well below, the degree of harm is likely to be small. As the exposure approaches and exceeds the AQAL, the degree of harm increases. This change naturally becomes more important when the result is an exposure that is approximately equal to, or greater than the AQAL.

It is unwise to ascribe too much accuracy to incremental changes or background concentrations, and this is especially important when total concentrations are close to the AQAL. For a given year in the future, it is impossible to define the new total concentration without recognising the inherent uncertainty, which is why there is a category that has a range around the AQAL, rather than being exactly equal to it."

3.4. Significance Criteria

Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality provides a framework to assess significance in air quality assessments. As described in the guidance, the "assessment framework for describing impacts can be used as a starting point to make a judgement on significance of effect, but there will be other influences that might need to be accounted for. The impact descriptors set out in Table 6.3 [Replicated in **Table 3.1** of this chapter] are not, of themselves, a clear and unambiguous guide to reaching a conclusion on significance. These impact descriptors are intended for application at a series of individual receptors. Whilst it may be that there are 'slight', 'moderate' or 'substantial' impacts at one or more receptors, the overall effect may not necessarily be judged as being significant in some circumstances (Paragraph 7.4)".

The Land-Use Planning & Development Control guidance goes on to state that any significance needs to be assessed using a certain amount of professional judgement and should take into account "the existing and future air quality in the absence of the development; the extent of current and future population exposure to the impacts; and the influence and validity of any assumptions adopted when undertaking the prediction of impacts" (Paragraph 7.7). For example, for a large development, a major adverse impact on a single dwelling might be considered insignificant; however, a minor impact to 100,000 dwellings might be considered to be highly significant. Furthermore, the absolute level of pollutant concentrations are also important in determining significance; for example, a moderate impact to a small group of dwellings might be considered highly significant if the concentrations of NO₂ were well in excess of the NAQO level, however, that same moderate impact might be considered insignificant if concentrations were well below the NAQO.

4. SCOPING

4.1. Overview

The National Planning Practice Guidance on Air Quality is explicit in stating that "Assessments need to be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed and the potential impacts (taking into account existing air quality conditions), and because of this are likely to be locationally specific" (Reference ID: 32-007-20191101). This is reiterated in *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality*, jointly published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) and Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) in May 2015 and updated in January 2017, which provided guidance on screening as to whether an air quality assessment is required and what needs to be assessed.

4.2. Impacts of the Local Area on the Development

The IAQM/EPUK Guidance suggests that whether an assessment of the impacts of the local area on the proposed development is required is a matter of judgement, but should take into account:

- "the background and future baseline air quality and whether this will be likely to approach or exceed the values set by air quality objectives;
- the presence and location of Air Quality Management Areas as an indicator of local hotspots where the air quality objectives may be exceeded;
- the presence of a heavily trafficked road, with emissions that could give rise to sufficiently high concentrations of pollutants (in particular NO₂), that would cause unacceptably high exposure for users of the new development; and
- the presence of a source of odour and/or dust that may affect amenity for future occupants of the development."

4.3. Impacts of the Development on the Local Area

To determine whether an assessment of the impacts of the development on the local environment is required, the IAQM/EPUK Guidance suggests a two-stage approach. The guidance states that "The **first stage** is intended to screen out smaller development and/or developments where impacts can be considered to have insignificant effects. The **second stage** relates to specific details regarding the proposed development and the likelihood of air quality impacts."

Figure 4.1 reproduces Stage 1 of the IAQM/EPUK Guidance' two-stage approach. In order to proceed to Stage 2, development needs to meet both one of the criteria in "A", and one of the criteria in "B". If the development fails to meet these criteria, then an air quality assessment looking at the impacts of the development on the local area will not be required.

Figure 4.2 reproduces Stage 2 of the IAQM/EPUK Guidance' two-stage approach. If the development meets the criteria contained within Stage 1, "more specific guidance as to when an air quality assessment is likely to be required to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the local area." If the development then meets any of the eight criteria in Stage 2, an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding environment will be required.

Figure 4.1: IAQM/EPUK Guidance – Stage 1 Criteria

Criteria to Proceed to Stage 2

A. If any of the following apply:

- 10 or more residential units or a site area of more than 0.5ha
- more than 1,000 m² of floor space for all other uses or a site area greater than 1ha

B. Coupled with any of the following:

- the development has more than 10 parking spaces
- the development will have a centralised energy facility or other centralised combustion process

Note: Consideration should still be given to the potential impacts of neighbouring sources on the site, even if an assessment of impacts of the development on the surrounding area is screened out.

Figure 4.2: IAQM/EPUK Guidance – Stage 2 Criteria

The development will:	Indicative Criteria to Proceed to an Air Quality Assessment ^a
1. Cause a significant change in Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) traffic flows on local roads with relevant receptors. (LDV = cars and small vans <3.5t gross vehicle weight).	A change of LDV flows of: - more than 100 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA - more than 500 AADT elsewhere.
2. Cause a significant change in Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) flows on local roads with relevant receptors. (HDV = goods vehicles + buses >3.5t gross vehicle weight).	A change of HDV flows of: - more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA - more than 100 AADT elsewhere.
3. Realign roads, i.e. changing the proximity of receptors to traffic lanes.	Where the change is 5m or more and the road is within an AQMA.
4. Introduce a new junction or remove an existing junction near to relevant receptors.	Applies to junctions that cause traffic to significantly change vehicle accelerate/decelerate, e.g. traffic lights, or roundabouts.
5. Introduce or change a bus station.	Where bus flows will change by: - more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA - more than 100 AADT elsewhere.
6. Have an underground car park with extraction system.	The ventilation extract for the car park will be within 20 m of a relevant receptor. Coupled with the car park having more than 100 movements per day (total in and out).
7. Have one or more substantial combustion processes, where there is a risk of impacts at relevant receptors. NB. this includes combustion plant associated with standby emergency generators (typically associated with centralised energy centres) and shipping.	Typically, any combustion plant where the single or combined NO _x emission rate is less than 5 mg/sec ^a is unlikely to give rise to impacts, provided that the emissions are released from a vent or stack in a location and at a height that provides adequate dispersion. In situations where the emissions are released close to buildings with relevant receptors, or where the dispersion of the plume may be adversely affected by the size and/or height of adjacent buildings (including situations where the stack height is lower than the receptor) then consideration will need to be given to potential impacts at much lower emission rates. Conversely, where existing nitrogen dioxide concentrations are low, and where the dispersion conditions are favourable, a much higher emission rate may be acceptable.

^aAs a guide, the 5 mg/s criterion equates to a 450 kW ultra low NO_x gas boiler or a 30kW CHP unit operating at <95mg/Nm³. Users of this guidance should quantify the NO_x mass emission rate from the proposed plant, based on manufacturers' specifications and operational conditions.

4.4. Site Specific Scoping Assessment

The proposed development is not located within or close to an Air Quality Management Area, nor does it introduce new high sensitivity receptors; therefore, **an assessment of the impacts of the local area on the development is not required.**

The proposed development consists of 4,181 m² of warehouse/office space, therefore Stage 1 “A” criteria are met. With 62 parking spaces, Stage 1 “B” criteria are also met. Trip generation data supplied by i-Transport indicate that there will be an increase in trips generated by the proposed development, including HGVs, that may have an impact on high sensitivity receptors closely neighbouring the site. Therefore, **an assessment of the impacts of the development on the local area is required.**

5. BASELINE CONDITIONS

5.1. Air Quality Review and Assessment

Local Authorities have been required to carry out a review of local air quality within their boundaries to assess areas that may fail to achieve the NAQOs. Where these objectives are unlikely to be achieved, local authorities must designate these areas as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and prepare a written action plan to achieve the NAQOs.

The review of air quality takes on several prescribed stages, of which each stage is reported. The review of historic Air Quality Assessment reports for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council indicates that no exceedances of any statutory air quality targets have been observed for several years for NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The trends indicate an overall reduction in pollution concentrations at all monitoring locations and pollutants. There are currently no AQMAs declared within the Borough. There have been no proposed developments approved that show a potential for a significant effect on air quality.

Concentrations of SO₂, Benzene, Lead and CO are not considered to be significant within the Borough. Consequently, no further consideration is given to these pollutants as it is highly unlikely that they would be of concern on the proposed development site.

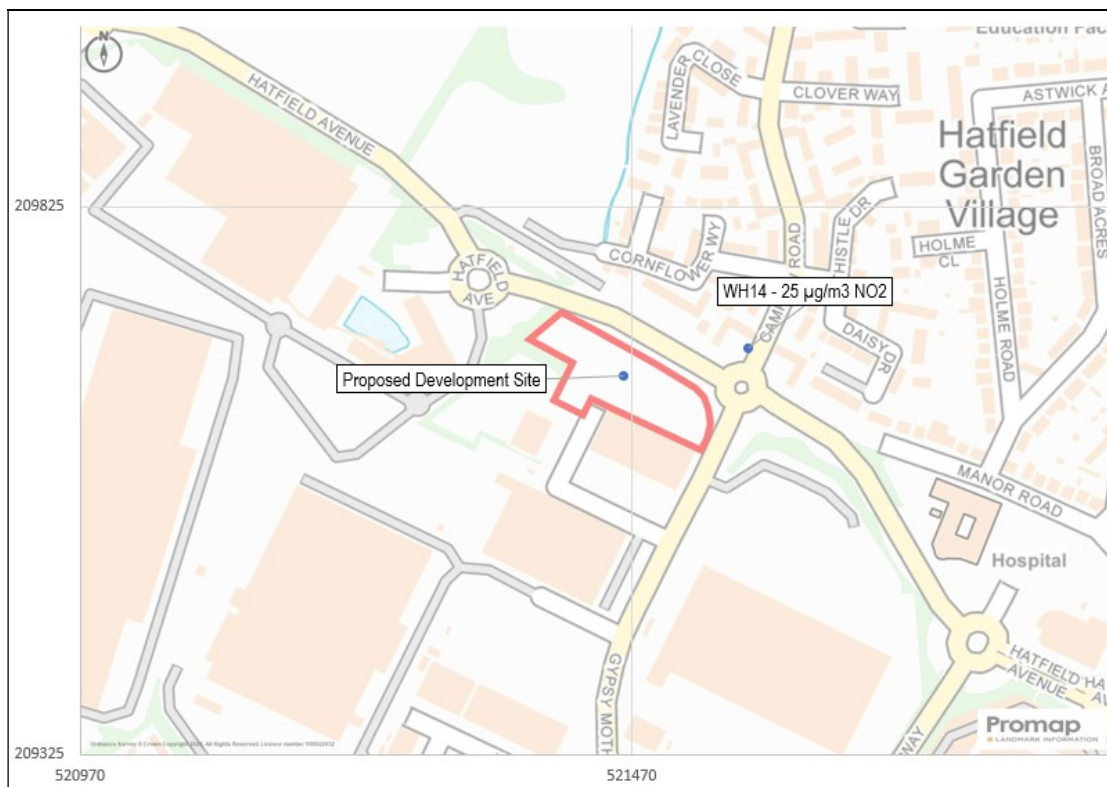
5.2. Local Air Quality Monitoring

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has conducted air quality monitoring, including at one site in the vicinity of the proposed development site. This site is designated a roadside monitoring location and therefore would be suitable for verification of the air quality model. **Table 5.1** summarises the air quality monitoring data which is displayed graphically in **Figure 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Air Quality Monitoring

Location	Site Type	Annual Mean Concentrations of NO ₂ (µg/m ³)				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
WH14 – Campion Road, Hatfield	Roadside	N/A	29	28	21	<u>25</u>

Figure 5.1: Monitoring Locations



5.3. Industrial Emissions

Both the Environment Agency's register of industrial sites under the EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC) and the Local Authority's list of registered Part A2 and Part B permitted premises under the Pollution, Prevention and Control Act 1999 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 have shown that there are no sites within close proximity of the development site that could be affecting air pollutant levels.

5.4. Baseline Onsite Pollution Concentrations

The diffusion tube WH14 is situated ~70 m from the site boundary and can be considered a proxy for NO₂ concentrations at the proposed development. As shown in **Table 5.1**, this location has consistently monitored NO₂ concentrations well below the NAQO of 40 µg/m³, with a 2019 annual average of 25 µg/m³. Whilst PM monitoring is not undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed development, the Defra background maps indicate background PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations of 16.29 µg/m³ and 10.58 µg/m³ respectively, compared to annual NAQOs of 40 µg/m³ and 25 µg/m³.

6. IMPACTS OF THE LOCAL AREA ON THE DEVELOPMENT

6.1. Annual Mean Concentrations

The scoping section contained within **Section 4.4** of this report indicates that the impact of the local area on the proposed development is likely to be insignificant and therefore no further assessment is required.

7. IMPACTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE LOCAL AREA

7.1. Traffic-Related Emissions

To assess the impact of a proposed development on local air quality, the methodology from Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality, jointly published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) and Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) in May 2015 (updated 2017) has been implemented.

A transport assessment was prepared for the planning application by i-Transport which indicates the number of vehicle movements generated by the proposed development. To characterise the change in air quality as a consequence of the proposed development, predictions of air pollutant concentrations at sensitive receptors have been carried out for the proposed opening year of the development (2023) both with and without the proposed development traffic. **Appendix 2** provides a description of the methodology used in the assessment, including the method to calculate NO₂ from NO_x. **Appendix 3** outlines the input data, including traffic data, background concentrations. In addition, details of the verification factor applied to the predicted concentrations of NO_x can also be found in **Appendix 3**.

Concentrations have been calculated for four sensitive receptors at locations likely to be most affected by changes in both relative and absolute traffic flows. The results of these predictions can be seen in **Table 7.1** and **Table 7.2**, for with and without development related traffic flows respectively.

The results of these predictions can be used to identify the increase in pollutant concentrations as a consequence of the proposed traffic generation. These calculations can be seen in **Table 7.3**. The results show that the impact of the increase in traffic flow is very small at the worst affected sensitive receptors, such that the percentage change in concentrations relative to AQAL is very small. Consequently, the proposed development will not have an impact on the air quality of the local area and the impact is considered to be “negligible”.

Table 7.1: Air Quality Concentrations 2023 – Without Development Related Traffic

Receptor		NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)		PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)
		Annual Mean	Annual Mean	Days >50 µg/m ³	Annual Mean
122 Campion Road	Ground Floor	21.87	1.88	91.14	1.05
	1 st Floor	20.11	1.36	132.90	0.76
167 Campion Road	Ground Floor	24.67	2.37	68.41	1.33
	1 st Floor	21.76	1.63	107.68	0.91
87 Daisy Drive	Ground Floor	20.13	1.49	119.72	0.83
	1 st Floor	19.18	1.18	155.93	0.66
One Hatfield	Ground Floor	20.61	1.69	103.57	0.93

Receptor		NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)		PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)
		Annual Mean	Annual Mean	Days >50 µg/m ³	Annual Mean
Hospital	1 st Floor	19.22	1.23	148.98	0.68
NAQO		40	40	35	25

Table 7.2: Air Quality Concentrations 2023 – With Development Related Traffic

Receptor		NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)		PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)
		Annual Mean	Annual Mean	Days >50 µg/m ³	Annual Mean
122 Campion Road	Ground Floor	21.93	1.90	90.05	1.06
	1 st Floor	20.16	1.37	131.38	0.77
167 Campion Road	Ground Floor	24.76	2.40	67.53	1.34
	1 st Floor	21.82	1.65	106.40	0.92
87 Daisy Drive	Ground Floor	20.18	1.51	118.30	0.84
	1 st Floor	19.22	1.19	154.15	0.66
One Hatfield Hospital	Ground Floor	20.66	1.70	102.34	0.94
	1 st Floor	19.26	1.24	147.31	0.69
NAQO		40	40	35	25

Table 7.3: Assessment of the Impacts of the Increases in Traffic Flow

Receptor		NO ₂ (µg/m ³) Annual Mean		% Change in Conc. Relative to Air Quality Assessment Level (AQAL)	Long-Term Average Concentration at Receptor in Assessment Year	Impact Descriptor
		Without Development	With Development			
122 Campion Road	Ground Floor	21.87	21.93	0.15	55% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
	1 st Floor	20.11	20.16	0.125	51% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
167 Campion Road	Ground Floor	24.67	24.76	0.225	62% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
	1 st Floor	21.76	21.82	0.15	55% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
87 Daisy Drive	Ground Floor	20.13	20.18	0.125	51% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
	1 st Floor	19.18	19.22	0.1	48% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
One Hatfield Hospital	Ground Floor	20.61	20.66	0.125	52% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
	1 st Floor	19.22	19.26	0.1	48% of AQAL	<i>Negligible</i>
NAQO		40	40	-	-	-

8. CONSTRUCTION DUST IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1. Overview

The main air quality impacts that may arise during construction activities are:

- Dust deposition, resulting in the soiling of surfaces;
- Visible dust plumes; and
- An increase in concentrations of airborne particles (e.g. PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide due to exhaust emissions from site plant and traffic that can impact adversely on human health.

The most common impacts are dust soiling and increased ambient PM₁₀ concentrations due to dust arising from the site. Most of this PM₁₀ is likely to be in the PM_{2.5-10} fraction, known as coarse particles.

It is very difficult to quantify emissions of dust from construction activities. It is, therefore, common practice to provide a qualitative assessment of potential impacts. The Institute of Air Quality Management's *Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (February 2014)* contains a complex methodology for determining the significance of construction impacts on air quality. The following sections outline the steps outlined in the IAQM methodology.

8.2. Step 1 – Screening the Need for a Detailed Assessment

The IAQM guidance states that:

“An assessment will normally be required where there is:

- a ‘human receptor’ within:
 - 350 m of the boundary of the site; or
 - 50 m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500 m from the site entrance(s).
- an ‘ecological receptor’ within:
 - 50 m of the boundary of the site; or
 - 50 m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500 m from the site entrance(s).”

There are existing receptors within 350m of the boundary of the development site and within 50m of the route used by construction vehicles on the public highway. Therefore, a detailed assessment is required to determine potential dust impacts.

Step 1 Summary:

A detailed assessment is required to determine potential dust impacts.

8.3. Step 2 – Assess the Risks of Dust Impacts

The IAQM guidance states that:

“The risk of dust arising in sufficient quantities to cause annoyance and/or health and/or ecological impacts should be determined using four risk categories: negligible, low, medium and high risk.

A site is allocated to a risk category based on two factors:

- *the scale and nature of the works, which determines the potential dust emission magnitude as small, medium or large (STEP 2A); and*
- *the sensitivity of the area to dust impacts (STEP 2B), which is defined as low, medium or high sensitivity.*

These two factors are combined in STEP 2C to determine the risk of dust impacts with no mitigation applied. The risk category assigned to the site can be different for each of the four potential activities (demolition, earthworks, construction and trackout). More than one of these activities may occur on a site at any one time.”

8.3.1. Step 2a – Dust Emission Magnitude

The first step (Step 2a) is therefore to assess the magnitude of the anticipated works. **Table 8.1** summarises the dust emission magnitude for each activity.

Table 8.1: Dust Emission Magnitude

Activity	Dust Emission Magnitude	Justification
Demolition	N/A	None required.
Earthworks	Medium	Site ~10,000 m ² , moderate soil clay content is expected.
Construction	Small	Building volume will be less than 25,000 m ³ and use primarily low risk materials.
Trackout	Small	Less than 10 outward HGV movements per day are expected and the sections of unpaved roads will be less than 50 m.

8.3.2. Step 2b – Sensitivity of the Area

The next step (Step 2b) is therefore to assess the sensitivity of the area that could be affected by the anticipated works. **Figure 8.1** shows the distance bands into which receptors fall as described in the guidance, both from the site (20, 50, 100 and 350 metres) and **Figure 8.2** shows the relevant bands for the associated haul routes (20 and 50 metres).

Figure 8.1: Receptor distance bands from proposed development site

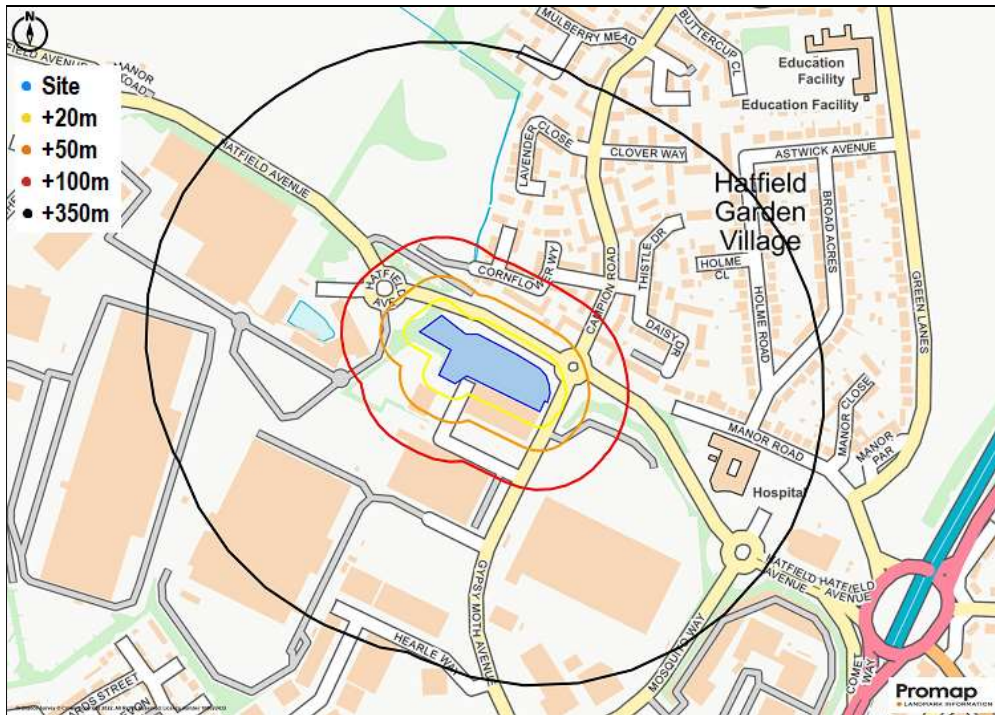
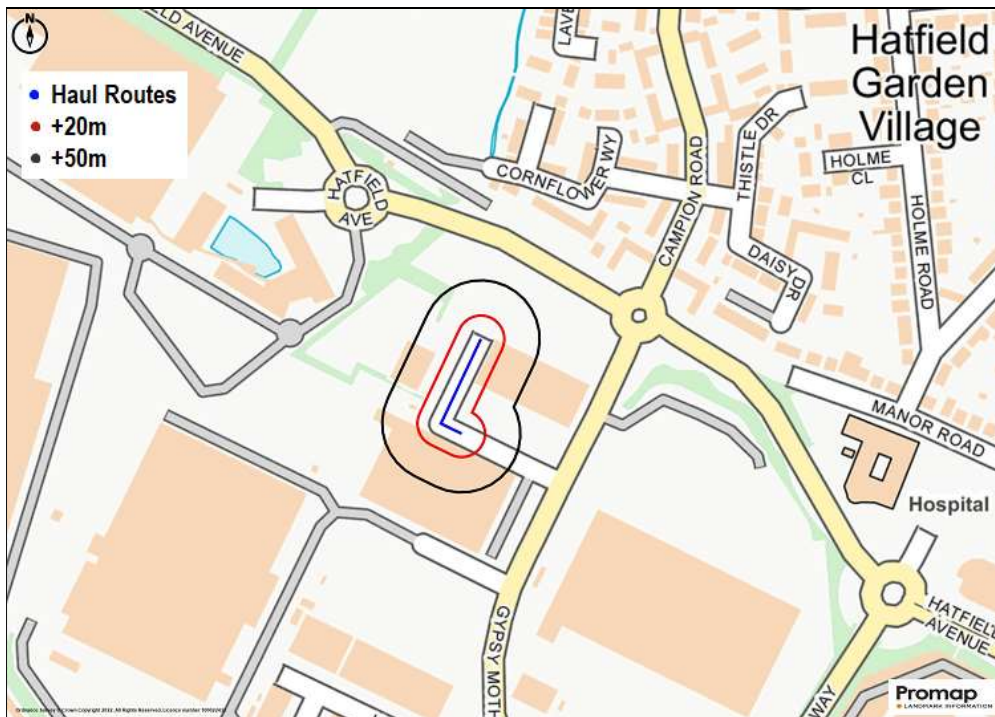


Figure 8.2: Receptor distance bands from proposed haul routes



There are a number of existing dwellings in the area that are considered to be high sensitivity receptors. However, there are no more than 100 high sensitivity receptors within 100 m of the site boundary or its haul routes, no more than 10 within 50 m, and none within 20 m; therefore, the sensitivity to dust soiling effects on people and property is “Low” for all activities.

The annual mean concentration of PM₁₀ is less than 24 µg/m³; despite the number of high sensitivity receptors outlined above, this results in a “Low” sensitivity of the area to human health impacts for all activities.

There are no ecological receptors that are considered to be anything greater than low sensitivity receptors within 50 m of the site; this results in a “Low” sensitivity of the area to ecological impacts for all activities.

Table 8.2 summarises the sensitivity of the area for each activity.

Table 8.2: Outcome of Defining the Sensitivity of the Area

Potential Impact	Sensitivity of Surrounding Area			
	Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Dust Soiling	Low	Low	Low	Low
Human Health	Low	Low	Low	Low
Ecological	Low	Low	Low	Low

8.3.3. Step 2c – Define the Risks

The next step (Step 2c) is to assign the level of risk for each activity, based on the receptor sensitivity and the dust emission magnitude. **Table 8.3** summarises the dust risk for each activity.

Table 8.3: Summary Dust Risk Table to Define Site-Specific Mitigation

Potential Impact	Risk			
	Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Dust Soiling	N/A	Low	Negligible	Negligible
Human Health	N/A	Low	Negligible	Negligible
Ecological	N/A	Low	Negligible	Negligible

Step 2 Summary:

- Dust Emission Magnitude is “Medium” for earthworks and “Small” for construction and trackout.
- The Sensitivity of the area of is “Low” for dust soiling, human health and ecological impacts.
- The site is considered a “Low Risk Site” in respect of earthworks, with negligible risk of impacts from

construction and trackout. It is therefore considered a “Low Risk Site” overall.

8.4. Step 3 – Site Specific Mitigation

Stage 2 determines that the site is considered a “Low Risk Site” in respect of earthworks with negligible risk of impacts from construction and trackout. It is therefore considered a “Low Risk Site” overall.

The IAQM guidance provides a list of potential mitigation measures and suggests where these measures are highly recommended, desirable or not required based upon the risk of the site. For all sites that are a “Low Risk Site” or higher, a Dust Management Plan is highly recommended and should incorporate the mitigation measures recommended based on the site risk.

The IAQM’s Guidance states that the following measures are highly recommended or desirable as mitigation for all Low risk sites:

- Communications: Display the name and contact details of person(s) accountable for air quality and dust issues on the Site boundary – *Highly Recommended*.
- Communications: Display the head or regional office contact information – *Highly Recommended*.
- Communications: Develop and implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP), which may include measures to control other emissions, approved by the LPA. The level of detail will depend on the risk and should include as a minimum the highly recommended measures in this document. The desirable measures should be included as appropriate for the Site. In London, additional measures may be required to ensure compliance with the Mayor of London’s guidance. The DMP may include monitoring of dust deposition, dust flux, real-time PM₁₀ continuous monitoring and/or visual inspections – *Desirable*.
- Site management: Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify the cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken – *Highly Recommended*.
- Site management: Make the complaints log available to the local authority when asked – *Highly Recommended*.
- Site management: Record any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either on- or off-site, and the action taken to resolve the situation in the log book – *Highly Recommended*.
- Monitoring: Undertake daily on-site and off-site inspection, where receptors (including roads) are nearby, to monitor dust, record inspection results, and make the log available to the LPA when asked. This should include regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and window sills within 100m of Site boundary, with cleaning to be provided if necessary - *Desirable*.
- Monitoring: Carry out regular Site inspections to monitor compliance with the DMP, record inspection results, and make an inspection log available to the local authority when asked– *Highly Recommended*.

- Monitoring: Increase the frequency of Site inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues on-site when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out and during prolonged dry or windy conditions – *Highly Recommended*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Plan Site layout so that machinery and dust causing activities are located away from receptors, as far as is possible – *Highly Recommended*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Erect solid screens or barriers around dusty activities (or the Site boundary) that are at least as high as any stockpiles on-site – *Highly Recommended*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Fully enclose Site or specific operations where there is a high potential for dust production and the Site is active for an extensive period – *Desirable*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Avoid Site runoff of water or mud – *Highly Recommended*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Keep Site fencing, barriers and scaffolding clean using wet methods – *Desirable*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Remove materials that have a potential to produce dust from Site as soon as possible, unless being re-used on site. If they are being re-used on-site cover as described below – *Desirable*.
- Preparing and maintaining the Site: Cover, seed or fence stockpiles to prevent wind whipping – *Desirable*.
- Operating vehicle/machinery and sustainable travel: Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary – no idling vehicles – *Highly Recommended*.
- Operating vehicle/machinery and sustainable travel: Avoid the use of diesel or petrol powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment where practicable – *Highly Recommended*.
- Operating vehicle / machinery and sustainable travel: Impose and signpost a maximum-speed-limit of 15 mph on surfaced and 10 mph on unsurfaced haul roads and work areas (if long-haul routes are required these speeds may be increased with suitable additional control measures provided, subject to the approval of the nominated undertaker and with the agreement of the local authority, where appropriate) - *Desirable*.
- Operations: Only use cutting, grinding or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction, e.g. suitable local exhaust ventilation system – *Highly Recommended*.
- Operations: Ensure an adequate water supply on the Site for effective dust / particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate – *Highly Recommended*.
- Operations: Use enclosed chutes and conveyors and covered skips – *Highly Recommended*.

- Operations: Minimise drop heights from conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers and other loading or handling equipment and use fine water sprays on such equipment wherever appropriate – *Highly Recommended*.
- Operations: Ensure equipment is readily available on site to clean any dry spillages and clean up spillages as soon as reasonably practicable after the event using wet cleaning methods - *Desirable* .
- Waste management: Avoid bonfires and burning of waste materials – *Highly Recommended*.

The IAQM's Guidance does not state any measures that are highly recommended or desirable as mitigation for low risk sites in relation to earthworks.

Step 3 Summary:

The site is considered a “Low Risk Site” overall and a Dust Management Plan is recommended incorporating a number of specific mitigation measures based on the site-specific risks.

8.5. Step 4 – Determining Significant Effects

The site is considered a “Low Risk Site” overall and if appropriate mitigation measures are put in place, as identified in Step 3, significant effects on receptors are unlikely to occur. Considering both the construction details and the specific characteristics of the site, it is anticipated that effective mitigation will be possible and residual effects will not be considered significant.

Step 4 Summary:

With risk appropriate mitigation, residual effects will not be considered significant.

8.6. Step 5 – Dust Assessment Report

Step 5 Summary:

Dust and other pollutant emissions from the construction, demolition, earthworks and trackout phases of the construction of the proposed development will see the site designated a “Low Risk Site”. However, with risk-appropriate mitigation, residual effects will not be considered significant.

9. MITIGATION

As a consequence of the proposed development, there will not be a significant increase in pollutant concentrations and therefore mitigation is not seen to be necessary, other than those routinely used to control construction dust, as detailed in the previous section. Similarly, concentrations of all pollutants are below the National Air Quality Objectives at the development site and therefore it is not necessary to implement mitigation to reduce the exposure from NO₂ or any other pollutant to future occupiers of the proposed development.

10. CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY

An air quality assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) current *Technical Guidance on Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16)* and addresses the effects of air pollutant emissions from traffic using the adjacent roads, and emissions associated with the development of the site. In addition, a risk-based assessment of the likely impact of construction on the air quality of the local environment has been conducted in accordance with the Institute of Air Quality Management's 2014 edition of the *Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction*.

Baseline pollutant concentrations on site have been investigated using both existing monitoring data and through predictions using the ADMS-Roads Detailed Dispersion Model methodology. At present, and in the opening year of the proposed development (2023), concentrations of all pollutants are below the Air Quality Objectives.

In order to assess the impact of the proposed development on local air quality, the IAQM/EPUK Guidance *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality* has been utilised. The assessment has shown that due to limited traffic generation onto already highly trafficked roads, the impact of new vehicle emissions from the proposed development is considered to be “negligible”.

With regards to the impacts of construction on air quality, dust and other pollutant emissions from the construction and demolition phases of the construction of the proposed development, the site is designated as a “Low Risk Site”. However, with risk-appropriate mitigation, residual effects will not be considered significant.

Since it has been shown that the proposed development meets the guidance contained within *Technical Guidance on Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16)*, IAQM/EPUK's *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality* and IAQM's *Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction*, it is considered that the proposed development adheres to the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework since the new development will not be “put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution”. Since it has been shown that in terms of air quality, the proposals adhere to local and national planning policy, it is considered that air pollution should not be a constraint on the proposed commercial development.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

National Air Quality Standard/National Air Quality Objective (NAQO): The concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere, which can broadly be taken to achieve a certain level of environmental quality. The standards are based on an assessment of the effects of each pollutant on human health including the effects on sensitive subgroups.

Annual mean: The average of the concentrations measured for each pollutant for one year. In the case of the Air Quality Objectives, this is for a calendar year.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA): An area that a local authority has designated for action, based upon predicted exceedances of Air Quality Objectives.

Concentration: The amount of a (polluting) substance in a volume (of air), typically expressed as a mass of pollutant per unit volume of air (for example, microgrammes per cubic metre, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) or a volume of gaseous pollutant per unit volume of air (parts per million, ppm).

Exceedance: A period of time where the concentration of a pollutant is greater than the appropriate Air Quality Objective.

Nitrogen Oxides: Nitric oxide (NO) is mainly derived from road transport emissions and other combustion processes such as the electricity supply industry. NO is not considered to be harmful to health. However, once released into the atmosphere, NO is usually very rapidly oxidised to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which is harmful to health. NO₂ and NO are both oxides of nitrogen and together are referred to as nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Particulate Matter: Fine Particles are composed of a wide range of materials arising from a variety of sources including combustion sources (mainly road traffic), and coarse particles, suspended soils and dust from construction work. Particles are measured in a number of different size fractions according to their mean aerodynamic diameter. Most monitoring is currently focused on PM₁₀ (less than 10 microns in diameter), but the finer fractions such as PM_{2.5} (less than 2.5 microns in diameter) is becoming of increasing interest in terms of health effects.

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ microgrammes per cubic metre of air: A measure of concentration in terms of mass per unit volume. A concentration of 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ means that one cubic metre of air contains one microgram (millionth of a gram) of pollutant.

Appendix 2 Air Quality Model

Appendix 2: Air Quality Model

ADMS-Roads

In the UK, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) provides guidance on the most appropriate methods to estimate pollutant concentrations for use in Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). Defra regularly updates its Technical Guidance, with the latest LAQM Technical Guidance TG16 published in 2016.

The methodology in TG16 directs air quality professionals to a number of tools published by Defra to predict and manage air quality. One of the main tools for modelling air pollutants is ADMS-Roads, which is a refined air dispersion model produced by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants. ADMS-Roads has been specifically developed for use with UK roads and as such is considered to be one of the most appropriate tools for use in UK air quality modelling and therefore is widely used in the UK.

ADMS-Roads is an air dispersion modelling suite that predicts the air quality impacts of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and other inert pollutant concentrations from moving and idling motor vehicles at or alongside roads and junctions.

The methodology utilised by ADMS-Roads is significantly more advanced than that of most other air dispersion models, such as CALINE, which Breeze Roads is based upon, which is the other commonly used detailed air dispersion model in the UK. ADMS-Roads incorporates the latest understanding of the boundary layer structure and goes beyond the simplistic Pasquill-Gifford stability categories method used in other dispersion models and utilises the Monin-Obukhov length for greater accuracy. The model also uses advanced algorithms for the height-dependence of wind speed, turbulence and stability to produce improved predictions.

Unlike the 'DMRB Screening Method', ADMS-Roads can take into account annualised meteorological data; it can take into account source, receiver and terrain heights; canyon effects can be modelled, and the model can calculate hourly concentrations.

TG16 provides detailed guidance on the modelling of air pollutants and in particular highlights a procedure to validate models. The procedure discusses the comparison of modelled results against measured levels, either from diffusion tubes (for NO₂) or continuous monitors (for NO₂ or PM₁₀).

Model verification and subsequent adjustment for oxides of nitrogen is undertaken based upon NO_x as most models (including ADMS-Roads) predict NO₂ based upon its relationship to NO_x. Consequently, the verification process requires conversion to NO_x of any measurements of NO₂ in order to compare against modelled levels of NO_x.

Defra has published in 2009 a methodology to calculate NO_x from NO₂ and as part of its LAQM toolkit¹. The calculation method allows local authorities and air quality consultants to derive NO₂ and NO_x wherever NO_x is predicted by modelling emissions from roads. The calculation method incorporates the impact of expected changes in the fraction of NO_x emitted as NO₂ ($f - \text{NO}_2$) and changes in regional concentrations of NO_x, NO₂ and O₃.

¹ <http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/tools-monitoring-data/no-calculator.html>

Background concentrations for various pollutants are published and updated regularly by Defra, so it is possible to calculate the contribution of NO_x from road traffic at a particular location. If the ratio of the monitored road traffic contribution to the modelled road traffic contribution of NO_x is calculated, this factor can be applied to the component derived from road traffic emissions for any predictions of NO_x in the area. Therefore, it is possible to validate the model such that predictions should be within 10% of air quality measurements.

Appendix 3 Modelling Procedure and Input Data

Appendix 3: Modelling Procedure and Input Data

The following Appendix summarises the input data and assumptions used in the modelling of air pollutants.

Appendix 3.1 - Traffic Data

Traffic flows in the vicinity of the site have been attained from the Department for Transport's traffic database for the year 2019. High traffic growth factors have been applied to this data to predict traffic flows for the proposed opening year (2023).

Since lower traffic speeds increase emissions from vehicles, it is necessary to take into account the reduction in traffic speeds around junctions. TG16 suggests that *"there is no simple factor that can be applied to the average speed to calculate a speed applicable to congested periods"* and that one should exercise professional judgement when taking into account congestion and decreasing speeds around junctions. However, in the absence of any more detailed site-specific information, TG16 does suggest that that *"For a busy junction, assume that traffic approaching the junction slows to an average of 20kph ...(for) approach distances of approximately 25m"*. This is the approach adopted at this site.

All road links within 200m of a receptor have been included in the model. Road widths have been modelled in accordance with OS mapping data. However, based on observations, road widths are adjusted to take into account any restrictions to flow, such as parked cars.

Since road-traffic emissions on roads with significant gradients (>2.5%) can increase significantly, especially in relation to HGVs, significant gradients are taken into account in the modelling. At this site, road gradient effects were not considered to be significant.

The wake effects of traffic induced turbulence have been included in the modelling as standard. This takes into account the fact that increased traffic volumes and speeds produce more turbulence, which has effects on dispersion.

Input road links, traffic flows, the percentage of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and traffic speeds are shown below.

Model Input Data

Road	AADT 2019	AADT 2023	AADT 2023 with Development	% HGV	Speed km/h
Hatfield Av 1	9374	9949	10049	29.7	48
Hatfield Av 2	4687	4975	5075	29.7	20
Hatfield Av 3	9374	9949	10049	29.7	48
Hatfield Av 4	4687	4975	5075	29.7	20
Hatfield Av 5	9374	9949	10049	29.7	48
Gypsy Moth Av 1	5513	5851	5951	33.4	48

Road	AADT 2019	AADT 2023	AADT 2023 with Development	% HGV	Speed km/h
Gypsy Moth Av 2	5513	5851	5951	33.4	20
Campion Rd 1	3000	3184	3184	3.3	20
Campion Rd 2	3000	3184	3184	3.3	48

Appendix 3.2 - Meteorological Data

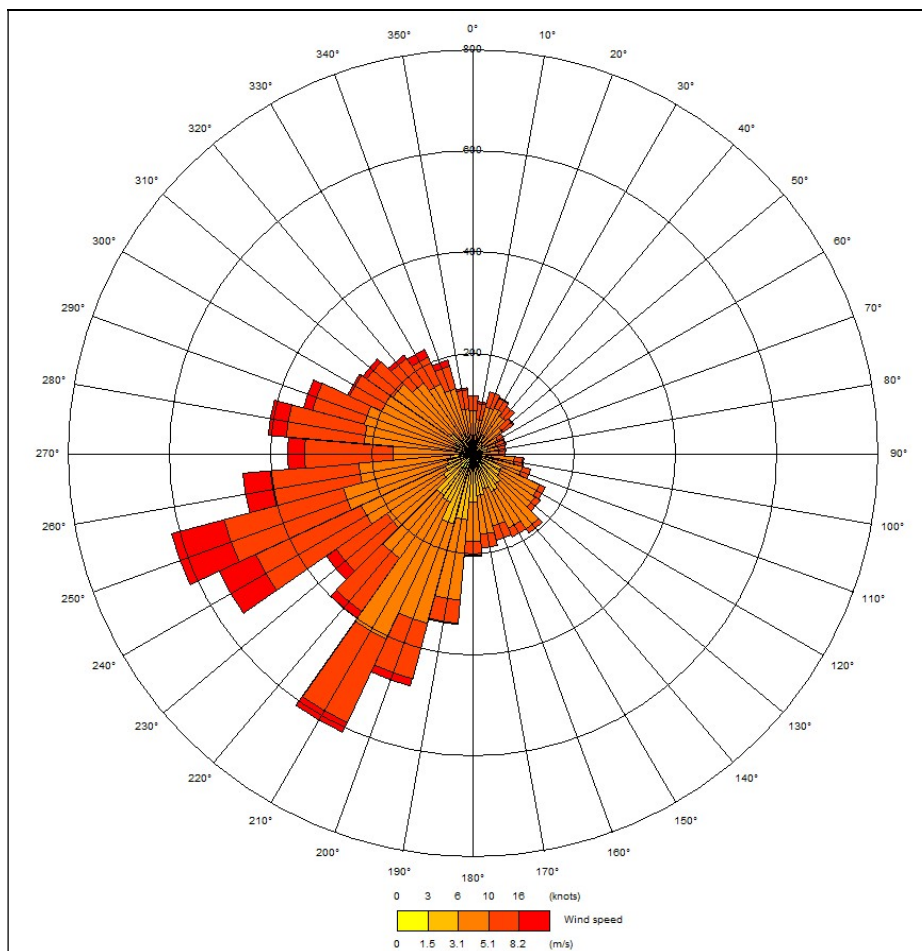
TG16 suggests that a single year's meteorological data will be sufficient to predict air pollution concentrations.

Meteorological data was obtained from London Luton Airport for 2019 (ICAO airport code EGGW – 160 m above sea level). It is considered that this weather station is likely to be representative of conditions within the area local to the development site.

Data was collected in accordance with internationally accepted weather observation techniques, specifically the METAR weather format, which is an internationally recognised standardised weather format commonly used in the aviation industry. The meteorological data consists of hourly sequential data of wind speed, wind direction, surface temperature, precipitation rate and cloud cover data. In line with the standards, all data is passed through numerous quality control checks. At this site, the data was over 99% complete, with very little missing data.

The Meteorological data was used for both model verification and future year scenarios. The figure below shows the wind rose data used in the modelling.

Wind Rose – London Luton Airport



Appendix 3.3 - Emission Factors

The model utilises emission factors contained within EFT v11.0, published in November 2021. This represents the most up to date emissions factors available. The Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT) is published by Defra and the Devolved Administrations to assist local authorities in carrying out Review and Assessment of local air quality as part of their duties under the Environmental Act 1995. It can be used by anyone to predict pollution concentrations at a given point, in conjunction with a detailed dispersion model.

The EFT provides emission rates for 2018 through to 2030 and takes into consideration data from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) such as fleet composition based on European emission standards from pre-Euro I to Euro 6/VI (including Euro 6 subcategories) and scaling factors reflecting improvements in the quality of fuel and some degree of retrofitting.

The EFT allows users to calculate road vehicle pollutant emission rates for NO_x, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and CO₂ for a specified year, road type, vehicle speed and vehicle fleet composition. EFT v11.0 uses the latest COPERT 5.3 NO_x and PM emissions factors, updated from COPERT 5.0. The EFT is updated regularly to reflect changes in vehicle fleet composition and emissions factors.

It should be noted that the fleet projections in EFT v11.0 are based on fleet growth assumptions which were current prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions and lockdowns. Outputs from the EFT do not reflect short or longer-term impacts on emissions resulting from behavioural change during the national or local lockdowns. Consequently, it is probable that emission factors from EFT v11.0 represents a worst-case scenario when considering future pollutant concentrations.

Appendix 3.4 – Street Canyons

ADMS-Roads is designed to be used to model concentrations at different locations assuming that there are no obstacles to air flow. Dispersion modelling in urban areas is difficult due to the presence of buildings, trees, walls, etc. that modify the wind flow and alter the dispersion of traffic emissions. This is especially the case in so called 'street canyons', where buildings, or other obstacles, can trap pollutants and restrict dispersion. ADMS-Roads includes additional modules to account for the restricted dispersion.

Although street canyons have been defined as narrow streets where the height of buildings on both sides of the road are greater than the road width, there are numerous examples whereby broader streets may be considered as street canyons. It also does not require buildings on both sides of a road to restrict dispersion. A wall or a bank with trees will also affect dispersion, as will overhanging trees.

Background concentrations influence pollutant levels within street canyons when the air mass at rooftop level moves into the canyon, leading to increased ventilation and flushing of the polluted air from the traffic. Similarly, gaps between buildings allow increased wind flows to enter the canyon and can re-circulate pollutants away from the junctions but causing increased concentrations further away. The opposite effect may occur if the gap is at a junction, where road traffic emissions are carried into the canyon, resulting in higher concentrations.

The concentrations depend of the wind direction with respect to the orientation of the street canyon; when the wind is perpendicular to the road higher concentrations occur on the leeward side. Wind blowing along a road will reduce concentrations as it ventilates the canyon. In reality, street canyons in are generally not regular in shape, the buildings on opposite sides of the road are of different heights, the width varies along the street and there are gaps between buildings.

LAQM.TG.16 states *"Where a street can be partially classified as a street canyon, for example, where there are gaps in between buildings, monitoring in such locations may indicated elevated concentrations. It is therefore recommended that local authorities consider these links as street canyons; otherwise predicted concentrations are likely to be under-estimated"* (paragraph 7.413).

At this site, street canyon effects were not considered to be significant.

Appendix 3.5 - Advanced Modelling Parameters

The following modelling parameters have been used in the ADMS-Roads Model:

Parameter	Value	Justification
Latitude	51.77°	Latitude of site
Surface Roughness ^{Note 1}	0.75 m	Between open suburban and city
Minimum Monin-Obukhov Length	30 m	Recommended for towns and cities
Surface Albedo	0.23	The default for non-snow-covered ground
Priestley-Taylor Parameter	1.0	Model default

Note 1: A surface roughness of 0.5 has been applied to the meteorological measurement site, as it is considered to be a less built up area than the proposed development site.

Appendix 3.6 - Background Concentration of Air Pollutants

There are no pollutant monitoring locations that are considered representative of the proposed development site, therefore background concentrations of air pollutants for the modelling were obtained from the UK National Air Quality Information Archive, in accordance with Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance TG16. Background concentrations of 15.29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 16.29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 10.58 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of NO_2 , PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ respectively were determined for the 1 km^2 grid square centred at 521500 209500. In order to avoid 'double counting', major road sources within the grid square identified were removed from the total background as they have been explicitly modelled as part of the assessment.

The above background concentrations have been used in all modelling scenarios (current and future) in order to show a worst-case scenario, i.e., future concentrations assuming that background levels stay constant and do not decrease as expected.

Appendix 3.7 - Receptor Locations

The site plan below shows the locations of the sample sensitive receptor locations used within the modelling.

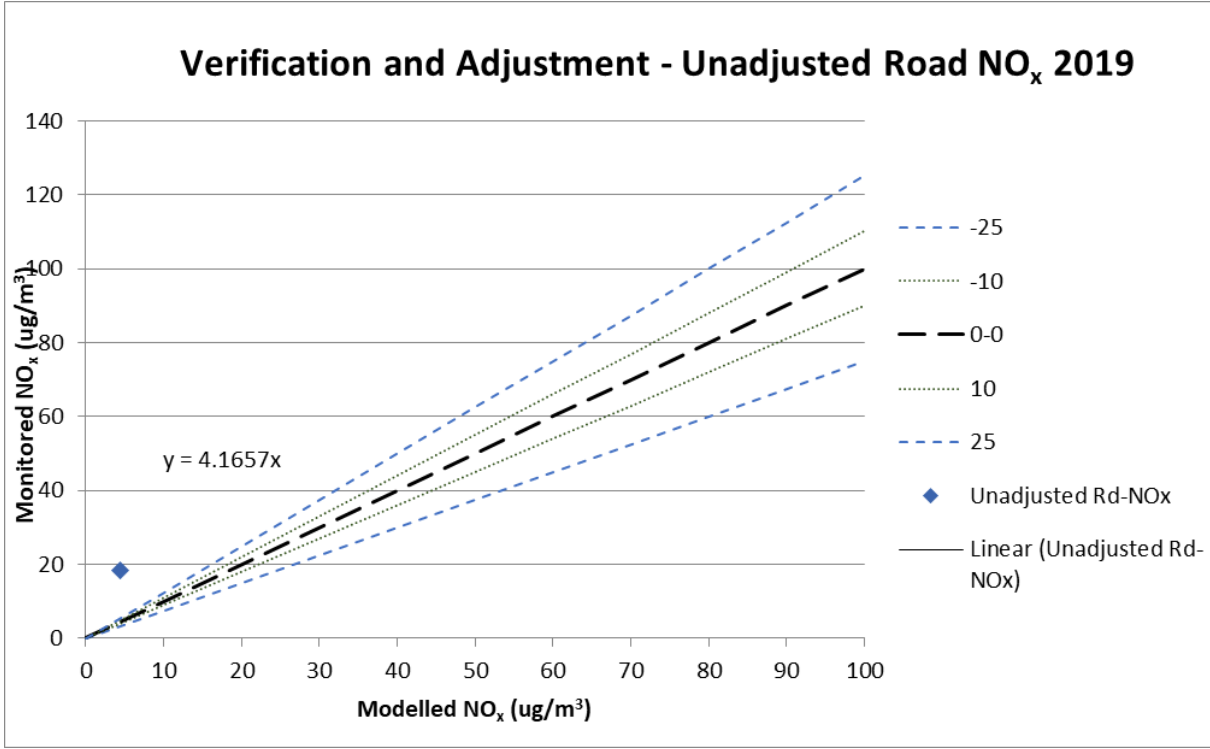
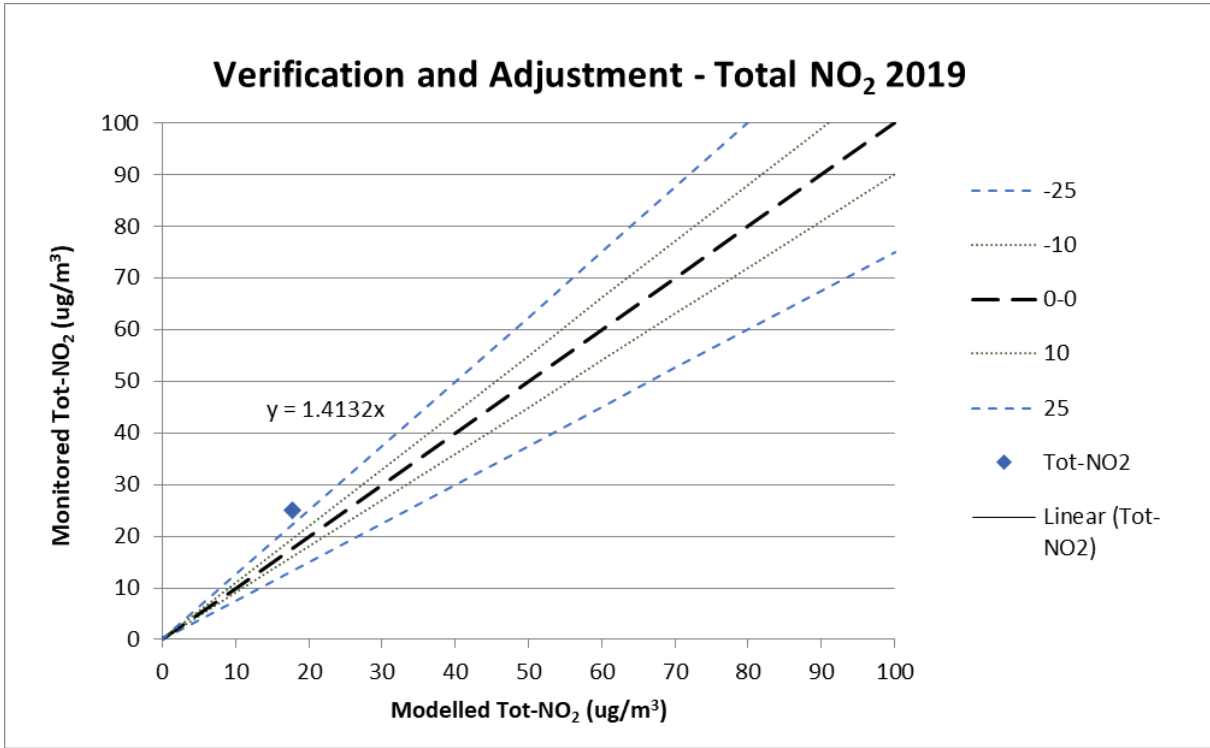
It is good practice to include receptors in the model that represent those locations where concentrations are likely to be highest. Consequently, the receptors include those locations closest to the kerbside, nearest to junctions or locations where traffic is stationary, slowed or congested and where appropriate include receptors on both sides of a road to take into account the fact the wind directions are predominately in one direction and the greatest annual mean impacts are generally downwind.

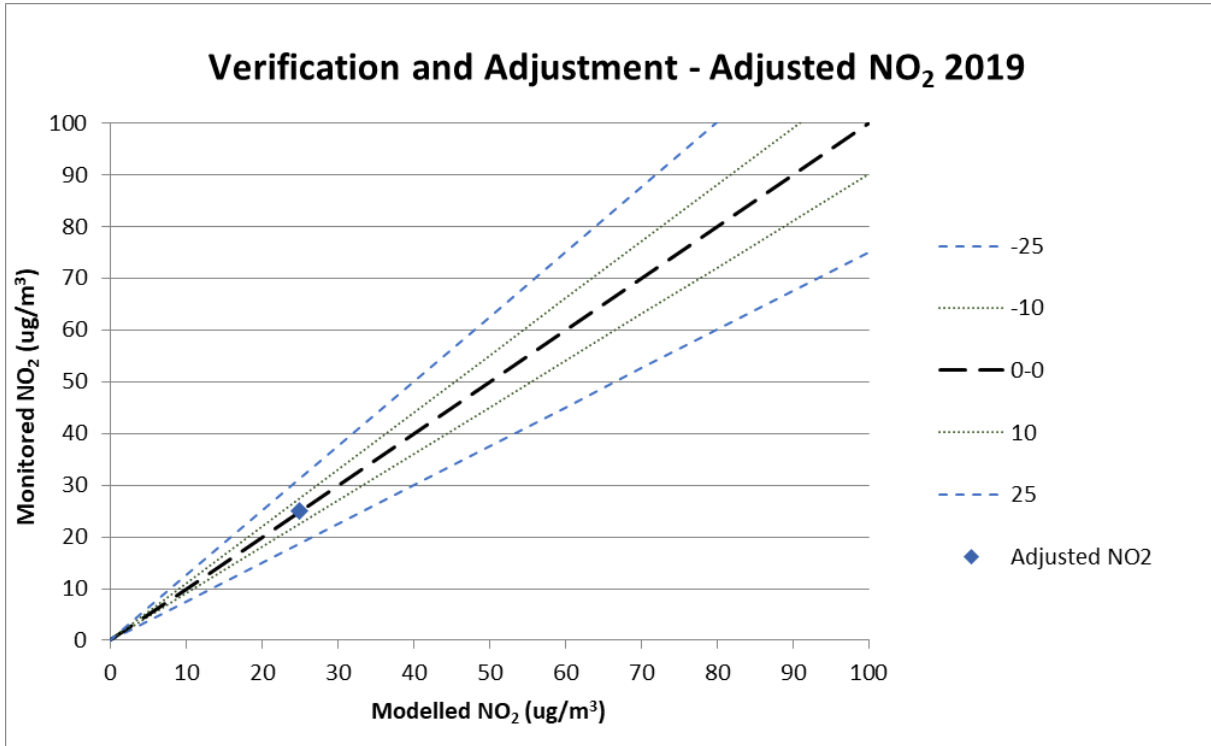


Appendix 3.8 - Verification and Adjustment

Verification of the air pollutant model was carried out in accordance with LAQM Technical Guidance TG16 using the data from the diffusion tube located in the vicinity of the site for 2019. The exercise required the modelling of the diffusion tube location for 2019 and comparing the modelled results with the monitoring results. The verification data is summarised below and shows that pollutant concentrations were underpredicted using the model; therefore, an adjustment factor of 4.1657 was applied to the model contribution of NO_x.

	Modelled Rds NO _x	Modelled Tot-NO ₂	Monitored Tot-NO ₂	%Diff Mod/Mon Tot-NO ₂	Modelled Rd-NO _x	Monitored Rd-NO _x	NO _x ADJ Corr1	Adj Mod Rd-NO _x	Adj Mod Tot-NO ₂	Monitored Tot-NO ₂	%Diff Mod/Mon Adj Tot-NO ₂
WH14 Campion Rd Hatfield	4.46	17.69	25	-29.24	4.46	18.57	4.17	18.57	25	25.00	0.00





Appendix 3.9 - Model Uncertainty

TG16 recommends the use of statistical parameters to assess uncertainty in the verified model. The table below describes the three parameters it recommends and the corresponding value for the verified model at this site.

Parameter	Value	Description
Correlation Coefficient	N/A	Used to measure the linear relationship between predicted and observed data. The ideal value (an absolute relationship) is 1.
Root Mean Square Coefficient	N/A	RMSE defines the average error/uncertainty of the model verification and is in the same units as the model outputs ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Values should be $<10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or ideally $<4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ where concentrations are near the AQO. The ideal value is $0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
Fractional Bias	N/A	Identifies if the model shows a systematic tendency to over/under predict concentrations. The ideal value is 0 and range between +/- 2. Negative values suggest an over prediction whilst positive values suggest under prediction.

TG16 notes that the Correlation Coefficient is a less reliable indicator when validating with a small dataset; therefore, for sites such as this validated with smaller datasets, the Root Mean Square Coefficient is the main parameter used. However, as the model has only been verified against one monitoring location, all statistical parameters are, by default, ideal. This hides a level of uncertainty in the model which is impossible to quantify given the lack of additional data points with which to verify the model. The model should very accurately predict concentrations in the immediate vicinity of the monitoring location and given the proximity of the proposed development site to this location, the conditions at the proposed site are expected to be representative and the level of uncertainty is expected to be low. The model has been robustly built with particular consideration given to the distances between roads and the monitoring/receptor locations.

Appendix 3.10 - PM₁₀ Exceedances

The number of exceedances of 50 µg/m³ as a 24-hour mean PM₁₀ concentration has been calculated from the modelled total annual mean concentration following the relationship advised by Defra:

$$A = -18.5 + 0.00145 B^3 + 206/B$$

where A is the number of exceedances of 50 µg/m³ as a 24-hour mean PM₁₀ concentration and B is the annual mean PM₁₀ concentration.