

# **Air Quality Assessment**

**Land south of Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans**

**For Alban Developments Limited and Alban Peter Pearson,  
CALA Homes (Chiltern) Limited & Redington Capital Ltd**

**Quality Management**

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## Executive Summary

The Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development is located within the administrative area of St Albans City and District Council (SACDC). The development comprises 391 residential units. SACDC has designated three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) across the district due to elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) attributable to road traffic emissions.

The closest AQMA is approximately 2.3 km to the southeast of the Proposed Development. All AQMAs are within 3.3 km of the Application Site.

This Air Quality Assessment, undertaken to accompany the planning application, considers the air quality impacts from the construction phase and once the Proposed Development is fully operational.

The assessment has been undertaken based upon appropriate information on the Proposed Development provided by Alban Developments Limited and Alban Peter Pearson, CALA Homes (Chiltern) Limited & Redington Capital Ltd and its project team. In undertaking this assessment, RPS experts have exercised professional skills and judgement to the best of their abilities and have given professional opinions that are objective, reliable, and backed with scientific rigour. These professional responsibilities are in accordance with the code of professional conduct set by the Institution of Environmental Sciences for members of the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM).

For the construction phase, the most important consideration is dust. Without appropriate mitigation, dust could cause temporary soiling of surfaces, particularly windows, cars and laundry. The mitigation measures provided within this report should ensure that the risk of adverse dust effects is reduced to a level categorised as 'not significant'.

For the operational phase, arrivals at and departures from the Proposed Development may change the number, type and speed of vehicles using the local road network. Changes in road vehicle emissions are the most important consideration during this phase of the development.

Detailed atmospheric dispersion modelling has been undertaken for the first year in which the development is expected to be fully operational, 2027. Pollutant concentrations are predicted to be well within the relevant health-based air quality objectives at the façades of both existing and proposed receptors. Therefore, air quality is acceptable at the development site, making it suitable for its proposed uses. The operational impact of the Proposed Development on existing receptors is predicted to be 'negligible' taking into account the changes in pollutant concentrations and absolute levels. Using the criteria adopted for this assessment together with professional judgement, the operational air quality effects are considered to be 'not significant' overall.

The Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development does not, in air quality terms, conflict with national or local policies, or with measures set out in SACDC's Air Quality Action Plan. There are no constraints to the development in the context of air quality.

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the air quality assessment undertaken for the Proposed Development in Chiswell Green. The development comprises 391 residential units. SACDC has designated three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) across the district due to elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) attributable to road traffic emissions.
- 1.2 This air quality assessment covers the:
- Construction phase - an evaluation of the temporary effects from fugitive construction dust and construction-vehicle exhaust emissions; and the
  - Operational phase – an evaluation of
    - the impacts of the development traffic on the local area
    - the impacts on future occupants of the development from their exposure to the prevailing levels of air pollution, which can be a factor in the suitability of the site for its proposed uses.
- 1.3 This report begins by setting out the policy and legislative context for the assessment. The methods and criteria used to assess potential air quality effects have then been described. The baseline air quality conditions have been established taking into account Defra estimates, local authority documents and the results of any local monitoring. The results of the assessment of air quality impacts have been presented. A conclusion has been drawn on the significance of the residual construction-phase effects and the residual operational-phase effects.

## 2 Policy and Legislative Context

### Ambient Air Quality Legislation and National Policy

#### Air Quality Standards Regulations

2.1 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 [1] sets limit values for ambient air concentrations for the main air pollutants: particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb) and benzene, certain toxic heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium and nickel) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These limit values are legally binding on the Secretary of State. The Government and devolved administrations operate various national ambient air quality monitoring networks to measure compliance and develop plans to meet the limit values.

#### UK Air Quality Strategy

2.2 The Environment Act 1995 established the requirement for the Government and the devolved administrations to produce a National Air Quality Strategy (AQS) for improving ambient air quality, the first being published in 1997 and having been revised several times since, with the latest published in 2007 [2]. The Strategy sets UK air quality standards\* and objectives# for the pollutants in the Air Quality Standards Regulations plus 1,3-butadiene and recognises that action at national, regional and local level may be needed, depending on the scale and nature of the air quality problem. There is no legal requirement to meet objectives set within the UK AQS except where equivalent limit values are set within the Air Quality Standards Regulations.

2.3 The 1995 Environment Act also established the UK system of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM), that requires local authorities to go through a process of review and assessment of air quality in their areas, identifying places where objectives are not likely to be met, then declaring Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) and putting in place Air Quality Action Plans to improve air quality. These plans also contribute, at local level, to the achievement of the limit values in the Air Quality Standards Regulations.

\* Standards are concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere which can broadly be taken to achieve a certain level of environmental quality. Standards, as the benchmarks for setting objectives, are set purely with regard to scientific evidence and medical evidence on the effects of the particular pollutant on health, or on the wider environment, as minimum or zero risk levels.

# Objectives are policy targets expressed as a concentration that should be achieved, all the time or for a percentage of time, by a certain date.



2.4 The limit values and objectives relevant to this assessment are summarised in Table 2.1. Although the limit values and the AQS objectives are numerically equal, there are some differences in where they apply and who is responsible for their achievement.

**Table 2.1 Summary of Relevant Air Quality Limit Values and Objectives**

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Objectives/ Limit Values	Not to be Exceeded More Than
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	1 hour	200 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	18 times per calendar year
	Annual	40 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	-
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	24 Hour	50 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	35 times per calendar year
	Annual	40 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	-
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	Annual	25 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	-

2.5 On 14 January 2019, Defra published the ‘Clean Air Strategy 2019’. The report sets out actions that the Government intends to take to reduce emissions from transport, in the home, from farming and from industry.

## National Planning Policy

### National Planning Policy Framework

2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [3] is a material consideration for local planning authorities and decision-takers in determining applications. At the heart of the NPPF, is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, subject to caveats where a plan or project affects a habitats site. For determining planning applications, this means approving development proposals if they accord with an up-to-date local development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. If the development plan does not contain relevant policies, or the policies are out of date, then planning permission should be granted unless the application of policies in the NPPF that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development, or any adverse impacts would significantly outweigh the benefits.

2.7 The NPPF sets out three overarching objectives to achieve sustainable development. The relevant objective in the context of this air quality assessment is:

*“an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy” (Paragraph 8c)*

2.8 Under the heading ‘Promoting sustainable transport’, the NPPF states:

*“The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.” (Paragraph 105)*

2.9 Under the heading ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’, the NPPF states:

*“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

...

*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)*

*“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)*

## National Planning Practice Guidance

2.10 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was issued on-line on 6 March 2014 and is updated periodically by government as a live document. The last major update was on 1 November 2019. The Air Quality section of the NPPG describes the circumstances when air quality, odour and dust can be a planning concern, requiring assessment.

2.11 The NPPG advises that whether or not 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). Air quality may also be a material consideration if the proposed development would be particularly sensitive to poor air quality in its vicinity. The NPPG states that when deciding whether air quality is relevant to a planning application, considerations could include whether the development would:

*“Lead to changes (including any potential reductions) in vehicle-related emissions in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development or further afield. This could be through the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; altering the level of traffic congestion; significantly changing traffic volumes, vehicle speeds or both; or significantly altering the traffic composition on local roads. Other matters to consider include whether the proposal involves the development of a bus station, coach or lorry park; could add to turnover in a large car park; or involve construction sites that would generate large Heavy Goods Vehicle flows over a period of a year or more;*

*Introduce new point sources of air pollution. This could include furnaces which require prior notification to local authorities; biomass boilers or biomass-fuelled Combined Heat and Power plant; centralised boilers or plant burning other fuels within or close to an air quality management area or introduce relevant combustion within a Smoke Control Area; or extraction systems (including chimneys) which require approval or permits under pollution control legislation;*

*Expose people to harmful concentrations of air pollutants, including dust. This could be by building new homes, schools, workplaces or other development in places with poor air quality;*

*Give rise to potentially unacceptable impacts (such as dust) during construction for nearby sensitive locations;*

*Have a potential adverse effect on biodiversity, especially where it would affect sites designated for their biodiversity value.”*

- 2.12 The NPPG provides advice on how air quality impacts can be mitigated and notes *“Mitigation options will need to be locationally specific, will depend on the proposed development and need to be proportionate to the likely impact. It is important that local planning authorities work with applicants to consider appropriate mitigation so as to ensure new development is appropriate for its location and unacceptable risks are prevented. Planning conditions and obligations can be used to secure mitigation where the relevant tests are met.”*

## Local Planning Policy

- 2.13 There are no relevant policies to air quality in the current local plan.

### 3 Assessment Methodology

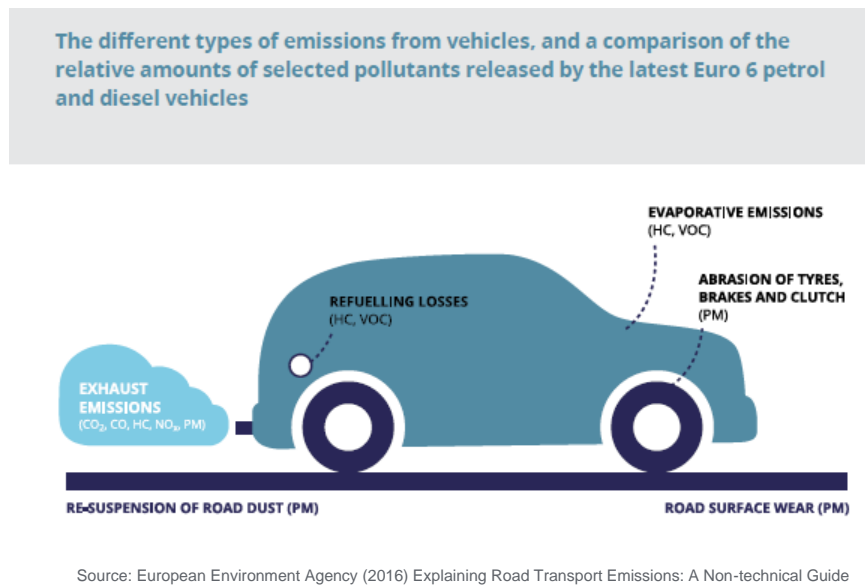
- 3.1 Neither the NPPF nor the NPPG is prescriptive on the methodology for assessing air quality effects or describing significance; practitioners continue to use guidance provided by Defra and non-governmental organisations, including Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM). However, the NPPG does advise 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. The scope and content of supporting information is best discussed and agreed between the local planning authority and applicant before it is commissioned.*” It lists a number of areas that might be usefully agreed at the outset.
- 3.2 This air quality assessment covers the elements recommended in the NPPG. The approach is consistent with the EPUK & IAQM Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality document [4], the IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction [5] and, where relevant, Defra’s Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance: LAQM.TG16 [6]. It includes the key elements listed below:
- assessment of the existing air quality in the study area (existing baseline) and prediction of the future air quality without the development in place (future baseline), using official government estimates from Defra, publicly available air quality monitoring data for the area, and relevant Air Quality Review and Assessment (R&A) documents;
  - a qualitative assessment of likely construction-phase impacts with mitigation and controls in place; and
  - a quantitative prediction of the future operational-phase air quality impact with the development in place (with any necessary mitigation), encompassing
    - the impacts of the development traffic on the local area
    - the impacts on future occupants of the development from their exposure to the prevailing levels of air pollution, which can be a factor in the suitability of the site for its proposed uses.
- 3.3 In line with the guidance set out in the NPPG, the Environmental Health Department at SACDC was consulted to agree the scope and methodology for this assessment. At the time of issue, no reply has been received.
- 3.4 Air quality guidance advises that the organisation engaged in assessing the overall risks should hold relevant qualifications and/or extensive experience in undertaking air quality assessments. The RPS air quality team members involved at various stages of this assessment have

professional affiliations that include Fellow and Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management and Chartered Environmentalist and have the required academic qualifications for these professional bodies. In addition, the Director responsible for authorising all deliverables has over 17 years' experience.

## Summary of Key Pollutants Considered

3.5 For the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the main pollutants from road traffic with potential for local air quality impacts are nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The NO oxidises in the atmosphere to form NO<sub>2</sub>. The assessment of operational impacts therefore focuses on changes in NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations. The impact from fine particulate matter, known as PM<sub>2.5</sub> (a subset of PM<sub>10</sub>) concentrations has also been considered.

**Figure 3.1 Types of Vehicle Emissions**



3.6 For the construction phase of the Proposed Development the key pollutant is dust, covering both the PM<sub>10</sub> fraction that is suspended in the air that can be breathed, and the deposited dust that has fallen out of the air onto surfaces and which can potentially cause temporary annoyance effects.

3.7 Regarding exhaust emissions from construction-related vehicles (contractors' vehicles and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), diggers, and other diesel-powered vehicles), these are unlikely to have a significant impact on local air quality [5] except for large, long-term construction sites: the EPUK & IAQM Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality document [4] indicates that air quality assessments should include developments increasing annual average daily Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) traffic flows by more than 25 within or adjacent to an AQMA and

more than 100 elsewhere. The results of the Highways and Access assessment indicates that the aforementioned EPUK & IAQM thresholds are not expected to be exceeded for any individual road during the construction phase of this project; therefore, construction-vehicle exhaust emissions have not been assessed specifically.

## Construction Phase - Methodology

- 3.8 Dust is the generic term used to describe particulate matter in the size range 1-75  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter [7]. Particles greater than 75  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter are termed grit rather than dust. Dusts can contain a wide range of particles of different sizes. The normal fate of suspended (i.e. airborne) dust is deposition. The rate of deposition depends largely on the size of the particle and its density; together these influence the aerodynamic and gravitational effects that determine the distance it travels and how long it stays suspended in the air before it settles out onto a surface. In addition, some particles may agglomerate to become fewer, larger particles; whilst others react chemically.
- 3.9 The effects of dust are linked to particle size and two main categories are usually considered:
- $\text{PM}_{10}$  particles, those up to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, remain suspended in the air for long periods and are small enough to be breathed in and so can potentially impact on health; and
  - Dust, generally considered to be particles larger than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  which fall out of the air quite quickly and can soil surfaces (e.g. a car, window sill, laundry). Additionally, dust can potentially have adverse effects on vegetation and fauna at sensitive habitat sites.
- 3.10 The IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction sets out 350 m as the distance from the site boundary and 50 m from the site traffic route(s) up to 500 m of the entrance, within which there could potentially be nuisance dust and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  effects on human receptors. For sensitive ecological receptors, the corresponding distances are 50 m in both cases. (In this particular application, there are no ecological receptors within the distances and ecological effects have been scoped out). These distances are set to be deliberately conservative.
- 3.11 Concentration-based limit values and objectives have been set for the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  suspended particle fraction, but no statutory or official numerical air quality criterion for dust annoyance has been set at a UK, European or World Health Organisation (WHO) level. Construction dust assessments have tended to be risk based, focusing on the appropriate measures to be used to keep dust impacts at an acceptable level.

- 3.12 The IAQM dust guidance aims to estimate the impacts of both PM<sub>10</sub> and dust through a risk-based assessment procedure. The IAQM dust guidance document states: *“The impacts depend on the mitigation measures adopted. Therefore the emphasis in this document is on classifying the risk of dust impacts from a site, which will then allow mitigation measures commensurate with that risk to be identified.”*
- 3.13 The IAQM dust guidance provides a methodological framework, but notes that professional judgement is required to assess effects: *“This is necessary, because the diverse range of projects that are likely to be subject to dust impact assessment means that it is not possible to be prescriptive as to how to assess the impacts. Also a wide range of factors affect the amount of dust that may arise, and these are not readily quantified.”*
- 3.14 Consistent with the recommendations in the IAQM dust guidance, a risk-based assessment has been undertaken for the development, using the well-established source-pathway-receptor approach:
- The dust impact (the change in dust levels attributable to the development activity) at a particular receptor will depend on the magnitude of the dust source and the effectiveness of the pathway (i.e. the route through the air) from source to receptor.
  - The effects of the dust are the results of these changes in dust levels on the exposed receptors, for example annoyance or adverse health effects. The effect experienced for a given exposure depends on the sensitivity of the particular receptor to dust. An assessment of the overall dust effect for the area as a whole has been made using professional judgement taking into account both the change in dust levels (as indicated by the Dust Impact Risk for individual receptors) and the absolute dust levels, together with the sensitivities of local receptors and other relevant factors for the area.
- 3.15 The detail of the dust assessment methodology is provided in Appendix A.
- 3.16 The dust risk categories that have been determined for each of the four activities (demolition, earthworks, construction and trackout) have been used to define the appropriate site-specific mitigation measures based on those described in the IAQM dust guidance. The guidance states that provided the mitigation measures are successfully implemented, the resultant effects of the dust exposure will normally be ‘not significant’.
- 3.17 This assessment does not consider the air quality impacts of dust from any contaminated land or buildings. If contaminated land is identified on the Application Site, the impacts will be assessed in other technical discipline reports.

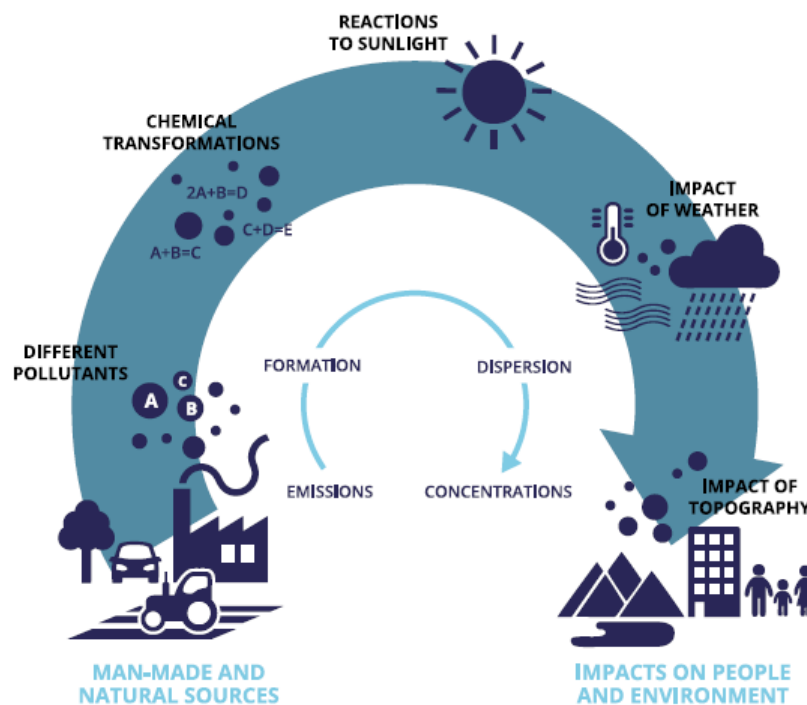


## Operational Phase - Methodology

### Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling of Pollutant Concentrations

3.18 In urban areas, pollutant concentrations are primarily determined by the balance between pollutant emissions that increase concentrations, and the ability of the atmosphere to reduce and remove pollutants by dispersion, advection, reaction and deposition. An atmospheric dispersion model is used as a practical way to simulate these complex processes; such a model requires a range of input data, which can include emissions rates, meteorological data and local topographical information. The model used and the input data relevant to this assessment are described in the following sub-sections.

**Figure 3.2 Air Pollution: From Emissions to Exposure**



Source: European Environment Agency (2016) Explaining Road Transport Emissions: A Non-technical Guide

3.19 The atmospheric pollutant concentrations in an urban area depend not only on local sources at a street scale, but also on the background pollutant level made up of the local urban-wide background, together with regional pollution and pollution from more remote sources brought in on the incoming air mass. This background contribution needs to be added to the fraction from the modelled sources, and is usually obtained from measurements or estimates of urban background concentrations for the area in locations that are not directly affected by local emissions sources. Background pollution levels are described in detail in Section 4.

3.20 The ADMS-Roads model has been used in this assessment to predict the air quality impacts from changes in traffic on the local road network. This is a version of the Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS), a formally validated model developed in the UK by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants Ltd (CERC) and widely used in the UK and internationally for regulatory purposes.

## Modelled Scenarios

3.21 The following scenarios were modelled:

- Without Development – without the Proposed Development in the first year that the development is expected to be fully operational, 2027; and
- With Development – with the Proposed Development in the first year that the development is expected to be fully operational, 2027.

## Model Input Data

### Traffic Flow Data

3.22 Traffic data used in the assessment have been provided by the project's transport consultants, Glanville. The traffic flow data provided for this assessment are summarised in Table 3.1. The modelled road links are illustrated in Figure 1.

**Table 3.1 Traffic Data Used Within the Assessment**

Road Link ID	Speed (km.hr <sup>-1</sup> )	Daily Two-Way Vehicle Flow			
		Without Development		With Development	
		LDV	HDV	LDV	HDV
1	40	2,470	0	2,470	0
2	42	2,470	0	4,009	0
3	48	591	0	1,337	0
4	48	21,006	261	21,387	261
5	48	19,345	157	20,299	157
6	48	18,105	146	19,160	146
7	55	17,690	146	18,427	146
8	113	35,088	1,535	35,825	1,535
9	113	28,563	1,682	28,563	1,682
10	113	30,035	1,555	30,440	1,555
11	48	7,204	125	7,778	125
12	48	8,975	167	9,143	167
13	113	25,333	2,446	25,399	2,446
14	113	54,496	2,990	54,835	2,990

Notes:

HDV = Heavy Duty Vehicle - vehicles greater than 3.5 t gross vehicle weight including buses

LDV = Light Duty Vehicle

3.23 The average speed on each road has been reduced by 10 km.hr<sup>-1</sup> to take into account the possibility of slow-moving traffic near junctions and at roundabouts in accordance with LAQM.TG16.

### Vehicle Emission Factors

3.24 The modelling has been undertaken using Defra’s 2020 emission factor toolkit (version 11) which draws on emissions generated by the European Environment Agency (EEA) COPERT 5.3 emission calculation tool.

### Meteorological Data

3.25 ADMS-Roads requires detailed meteorological data as an input. The most representative observing station for the region of the study area that supplies all the data in the required format is Luton approximately 16.3 km north of the Application Site. Meteorological data from that station for 2018 have been used within the dispersion model. The wind rose is presented in Figure 2.

### Receptors

3.26 The air quality assessment predicts the impacts at locations that could be sensitive to any changes. For assessing human-health impacts, such sensitive receptors should be selected where the public is regularly present and likely to be exposed over the averaging period of the

objective. LAQM.TG16 [6] provides examples of exposure locations and these are summarised in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2 Examples of Where Air Quality Objectives Apply**

Averaging Period	Objectives should apply at:	Objectives should generally not apply at:
Annual-mean	All locations where members of the public might be regularly exposed. Building façades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, care homes.	Building façades of offices or other places of work where members of the public do not have regular access. Hotels, unless people live there as their permanent residence. Gardens of residential properties. Kerbside sites (as opposed to locations at the building’s façades), or any other location where public exposure is expected to be short-term.
Daily-mean	All locations where the annual-mean objective would apply, together with hotels. Gardens of residential properties.	Kerbside sites (as opposed to locations at the building’s façade), or any other location where public exposure is expected to be short-term.
Hourly-mean	All locations where the annual and 24 hour mean would apply. Kerbside sites (e.g. pavements of busy shopping streets). Those parts of car parks, bus stations and railway stations etc which are not fully enclosed, where members of the public might reasonably be expected to spend one hour or more. Any outdoor locations to which the public might reasonably be expected to spend 1-hour or longer.	Kerbside sites where the public would not be expected to have regular access.

3.27 Representative sensitive receptors for this assessment have been selected at properties where pollutant concentrations and/or changes in pollutant concentrations are anticipated to be greatest, as listed in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3 Modelled Sensitive Receptors**

ID	Description	x	y
1	Residential Property at Chiswell Green Lane	513026	204518
2	Residential Property at Chiswell Green Lane/Watford Road	513356	204591
3	Residential Property at Forge End	513310	204301
4	Residential Property at Forge End/Watford Road	513378	204293
5	Residential Property at Watford Road/Tippendell Lane	513446	204630
6	543a Watford Road	513157	203802
7	Residential Property at Albony Mews	513207	203759

ID	Description	x	y
8	Residential Property at Sunnydell	513725	204327
9	Residential Property at Melita/Tippendell Lane	513805	204273
10	Residential Property at Tippendell Lane	513583	204540
11	Residential Property at Butt Field View	514067	205245
12	Residential Property at Cardinal Place	514783	204897
13	Proposed Receptor 1	513255	204290
14	Proposed Receptor 2	513276	204179
15	Proposed Receptor 3	513226	204114
16	Proposed Receptor 4	513113	204013
17	Proposed Receptor 5	513221	204465
18	Proposed Receptor 6	513139	204557
19	Proposed Receptor 7	512938	204494
20	Proposed Receptor 8	512907	204384

3.28 The annual, daily and hourly-mean AQS objectives apply at the front and rear façades of all residential properties. The approaches used to predict the concentrations for these different averaging periods are described below.

## Long-Term Pollutant Predictions

3.29 Annual-mean NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations have been predicted at representative sensitive receptors using ADMS-Roads, then added to relevant background concentrations. Primary NO in the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is converted to NO<sub>2</sub> to a degree determined by the availability of atmospheric oxidants locally and the strength of sunlight. For road traffic sources, annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have been derived from the modelled road-related annual-mean NO<sub>x</sub> concentration using Defra's calculator [8].

## Short-Term Pollutant Predictions

3.30 In order to predict the likelihood of exceedances of the hourly-mean AQS objectives for NO<sub>2</sub> and the daily-mean AQS objective for PM<sub>10</sub>, the following relationships between the short-term and the annual-mean values at each receptor have been considered.

### Hourly-Mean AQS Objective for NO<sub>2</sub>

3.31 Research undertaken in support of LAQM.TG16 has indicated that the hourly-mean limit value and objective for NO<sub>2</sub> is unlikely to be exceeded at a roadside location where the annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is less than 60 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>. The threshold of 60 µg.m<sup>-3</sup> NO<sub>2</sub> has been used as the guideline for considering a likely exceedance of the hourly-mean nitrogen dioxide objective.

### Daily-Mean AQS Objective for PM<sub>10</sub>

- 3.32 The number of exceedances of the daily-mean AQS objective for PM<sub>10</sub> of 50 µg.m<sup>-3</sup> may be estimated using the relationship set out in LAQM.TG16:

$$\text{Number of Exceedances of Daily Mean of } 50 \mu\text{g.m}^{-3} = -18.5 + 0.00145 * (\text{Predicted Annual-mean PM}_{10})^3 + 206 / (\text{Predicted Annual-mean PM}_{10} \text{ Concentration})$$

- 3.33 This relationship indicates that the daily-mean AQS objective for PM<sub>10</sub> is likely to be met if the predicted annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentration is 31.8 µg.m<sup>-3</sup> or less.
- 3.34 The daily mean objective is therefore not considered further within this assessment if the annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentration is predicted to be less than 31.5 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>.

### Fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> Emissions

- 3.35 Transport PM<sub>10</sub> emissions arise from both the tailpipe exhausts and from fugitive sources such as brake and tyre wear and re-suspended road dust. Improvements in vehicle technologies are reducing PM<sub>10</sub> exhaust emissions; therefore, the relative importance of fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> emissions is increasing. Current official vehicle emission factors for particulate matter include brake dust and tyre wear which studies suggest may account for approximately one-third of the total particulate emissions from road transport; but not re-suspended road dust (which remains unquantified.)

### Significance Criteria for Development Impacts on the Local Area

- 3.36 The EPUK & IAQM Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality document [4] advises that:

*"The significance of the effects arising from the impacts on air quality will depend on a number of factors and will need to be considered alongside the benefits of the development in question. Development under current planning policy is required to be sustainable and the definition of this includes social and economic dimensions, as well as environmental. Development brings opportunities for reducing emissions at a wider level through the use of more efficient technologies and better designed buildings, which could well displace emissions elsewhere, even if they increase at the development site. Conversely, development can also have adverse consequences for air quality at a wider level through its effects on trip generation."*

- 3.37 When describing the air quality impact at a sensitive receptor, the change in magnitude of the concentration should be considered in the context of the absolute concentration at the sensitive receptor. Table 3.4 provides the EPUK & IAQM approach for describing the long-term air quality impacts at sensitive human-health receptors in the surrounding area.

**Table 3.4 Impact Descriptors for Individual Sensitive Receptors**

Long term average concentration at receptor in assessment year	% Change in concentration relative to Air Quality Assessment Level			
	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 than AQAL	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial

1. AQAL = Air Quality Assessment Level, which may be an air quality objective, limit value, or an Environment Agency 'Environmental Assessment Level (EAL)'.  
 2. 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.  
 3. The table is only designed to be used with annual mean concentrations.  
 4. Descriptors for individual receptors only; the overall significance is determined using professional judgement. 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.  
 5. 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.  
 6. 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.  
 7. 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.

3.38 The human-health impact descriptors above apply at individual receptors. The EPUK & IAQM guidance states that the impact descriptors *“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 maybe 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.”*

3.39 Professional judgement by a competent, suitably qualified professional is required to establish the significance associated with the consequence of the impacts. This judgement is likely to take into account the extent of the current and future population exposure to the impacts and the influence and/or validity of any assumptions adopted during the assessment process.

- 3.40 The EPUK & IAQM guidance considers an exceedance of an air quality objective at a building façade to be significant adverse effect unless provision is made to reduce the resident's or occupant's exposure by some means.

## Uncertainty

- 3.41 All air quality assessment tools, whether models or monitoring measurements, have a degree of uncertainty associated with the results. The choices that the practitioner makes in setting-up the model, choosing the input data, and selecting the baseline monitoring data will decide whether the final predicted impact should be considered a central estimate, or an estimate tending towards the upper bounds of the uncertainty range (i.e. tending towards worst-case).
- 3.42 The atmospheric dispersion model itself contributes some of this uncertainty, due to it being a simplified version of the real situation: it uses a sophisticated set of mathematical equations to approximate the complex physical and chemical atmospheric processes taking place as a pollutant is released and as it travels to a receptor. The predictive ability of even the best model is limited by how well the turbulent nature of the atmosphere can be represented.
- 3.43 Each of the data inputs for the model, listed earlier, will also have some uncertainty associated with them. Where it has been necessary to make assumptions, these have mainly been made towards the upper end of the uncertainty range informed by an analysis of relevant, available data.
- 3.44 The atmospheric dispersion model used for this assessment, ADMS Roads, has been validated by its supplier and is widely used by professionals in the UK and overseas. A site-specific verification (calibration) provides additional certainty and is particularly important when air quality levels are close to exceeding the objectives/limit values.
- 3.45 LAQM.TG16 requires that local authorities verify the results of any detailed modelling undertaken for the purposes of fulfilling their R&A duties. Model verification refers to the checks that are carried out on model performance at a local level. Modelled concentrations are compared with the results of monitoring. Where there is a disparity between modelled and monitored concentrations, the first step is to review the appropriateness of the data inputs to determine whether the performance of the model can be improved. Once reasonable efforts have been made to reduce the uncertainties in the data inputs, an adjustment may be established and applied to reduce any remaining disparity between modelled and monitored concentrations. No adjustment factor is deemed necessary where the modelled concentrations are within 25% of the monitored concentrations.



- 3.46 For the verification and adjustment of NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations for R&A purposes, it is recommended that the comparison involves a combination of automatic and diffusion monitoring, rather than a single automatic monitor. This is to ensure any adjustment factor derived is representative of all locations modelled and not unduly weighted towards the characteristics at a single site. Where only diffusion tubes are used for the model verification, the study should consider a broad spread of monitoring locations across the study area to provide sufficient information relating to the spatial variation in pollutant concentrations.
- 3.47 Local Authorities generally implement a broad spread of monitoring, particularly in areas that are known to be sensitive to changes in air quality. Consequently, Local Authorities are usually able to verify the models they use for R&A purposes; however for individual developments, there is less likely to be a broad range of monitoring locations within the relevant study area.
- 3.48 In this case, a broad spread of monitoring data is not currently available to allow the model to be verified for the study area. Appendix B sets out the results of a sensitivity test multiplying the modelled road contribution by a factor of 2.
- 3.49 The main components of uncertainty in the total predicted concentrations, made up of the background concentration and the modelled fraction, include those summarised in Table 3.5.

**Table 3.5 Approaches to Dealing with Uncertainty used Within the Assessment**

Concentration	Source of Uncertainty	Approach to Dealing with Uncertainty	Comments
Background Concentration	Characterisation of current baseline air quality conditions	The background concentration used within the assessment is the most conservative value from a comparison of measured and Defra mapped concentration estimate.	The background concentration is the major proportion of the total predicted concentration.
	Characterisation of future baseline air quality (i.e. the air quality conditions in the future assuming that the development does not proceed)	The future background concentration used in the assessment is the same as the current background concentration and no reduction has been assumed. This is a conservative assumption as, in reality, background concentrations are likely to reduce over time as cleaner vehicle technologies form an increasing proportion of the fleet.	The conservative assumptions adopted ensure that the background concentration used within the model contributes to the result being towards the top of the uncertainty range, rather than a central estimate.
Fraction from Modelled Sources	Traffic flow estimates	Some traffic flows provided have been based on traffic counts, alongside flows derived from a traffic model. High growth assumptions have been used to develop the traffic dataset used within the model.	The modelled fraction is a minor proportion of the total predicted concentration.
	Traffic speed estimates	Measured average traffic speeds alongside posted speed limits have been used within the model.	

Concentration	Source of Uncertainty	Approach to Dealing with Uncertainty	Comments
		The average speed has been reduced in congested areas to take account of slow-moving and queuing traffic.	
	Road-related emission factors – projection to future years	The most recently published emission factors have been used within the modelling and these are based on the current and best understanding of the variation in emission factors in future years.	
	Meteorological Data	Uncertainties arise from any differences between the conditions at the met station and the development site, and between the historical met years and the future years. These have been minimised by using meteorological data collated at a representative measuring site. The model has been run for a full year of meteorological conditions. This means that the conditions in 8,760 hours have been considered in the assessment.	
	Receptors	Receptor locations have been identified where concentrations are highest or where the greatest changes are expected.	
	Dispersion Modelling	The model predictions have been compared with monitored concentrations. However, it has not been possible to verify the model due to a lack of nearby monitors. Sensitivity analysis has been undertaken. The results are presented in Appendix B.	

3.50 The analysis of the component uncertainties indicates that, overall, the predicted total concentration is likely to be towards the top of the uncertainty range rather than being a central estimate. The actual concentrations that will be found when the development is operational are unlikely to be higher than those presented within this report and are more likely to be lower.

## 4 Baseline Air Quality Conditions

### Overview

- 4.1 The background concentration often represents a large proportion of the total pollution concentration, so it is important that the background concentration selected for the assessment is realistic. National Planning Practice Guidance and EPUK & IAQM guidance highlight public information from Defra and local monitoring studies as potential sources of information on background air quality. LAQM.TG16 recommends that Defra mapped concentration estimates are used to inform background concentrations in air quality modelling and states that: *“Where appropriate these data can be supplemented by and compared with local measurements of background, although care should be exercised to ensure that the monitoring site is representative of background air quality”*.
- 4.2 For this assessment, the background air quality has been characterised by drawing on information from the following public sources:
- Defra maps [9], which show estimated pollutant concentrations across the UK in 1 km grid squares; and
  - published results of local authority Review and Assessment (R&A) studies of air quality, including local monitoring and modelling studies.
- 4.3 A detailed description of how the baseline air quality has been derived for this Proposed Development site is summarised in the following paragraphs.

### Review and Assessment Process

- 4.4 SACDC has designated three AQMAs across the district. The closest AQMA is approximately 2.3 km to the southeast of the Proposed Development. All AQMAs are within 3.3 km of the Application Site.

### Local Urban Background Monitoring

- 4.5 Monitors at urban background locations measure concentrations away from the local influence of emission sources and are therefore broadly representative of residential areas within large conurbations. Monitoring at local urban background locations is considered an appropriate source of data for the purposes of describing baseline air quality for this Proposed Development site.
- 4.6 There are no local monitoring stations where urban background concentrations are measured using continuous automatic instruments.

4.7 However, SACDC manually monitors NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at a number of urban background locations using passive diffusion tubes and the most recently measured annual-mean concentrations are presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Passively Monitored Urban Background Annual-Mean NO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations**

Monitor Code	Approximate Distance from the Application Site (km)	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SA141	3.1	-	-	-	26.8	-
SA147	3.2	-	-	-	35.2	39.7
SA146	3.3	-	-	-	30.6	29.6
SA139	3.3	28.5	25.1	24.4	22.4	21.8
SA114	4.4	22.3	27.2	26.4	26.3	27.2
SA107	8.5	-	-	-	20.9	20.9

All concentrations have been adjusted for bias

## Defra Mapped Concentration Estimates

4.8 Defra's total annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration estimates have been collected for the 1 km grid squares of the monitoring sites and the Proposed Development and are summarised in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Defra Mapped Annual-Mean Background NO<sub>2</sub> Concentration Estimates**

Monitor Code	Approximate Distance from the Application Site (km)	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )	
		Range of Monitored	Estimated Defra Mapped
SA141	3.1	26.8	17.3
SA147	3.2	35.2 – 39.7	17.3
SA146	3.3	29.6 – 30.6	17.3
SA139	3.3	21.8 – 28.5	17.3
SA114	4.4	22.3 – 27.2	15.5
SA107	8.5	20.9	14.6
Application Site			16.7

## Appropriate Background Concentrations for the Development Site

- 4.9 For NO<sub>2</sub>, the Defra mapped background concentration estimates are generally smaller than the range of the results from monitoring and the use of these data would not be conservative. The SA141 monitor is the closest monitoring location to the Application Site. To ensure the assessment is conservative, the background annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration has been derived from the 26.8 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, monitored in 2018.
- 4.10 In the absence of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring at this site, the background annual-mean concentration at the Application Site has been derived from the Defra mapped background concentration estimate.
- 4.11 Historically the view has been that background traffic-related NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the UK would reduce over time, due to the progressive introduction of improved vehicle technologies and increasingly stringent limits on emissions. After a prolonged period through the last decade where background annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations did not generally decrease in line with expectations, the most recent monitoring studies indicate ambient traffic-related NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are now falling. To ensure that the assessment presents conservative results, no reduction in the background has been applied for future years.
- 4.12 Table 4.3 summarises the annual-mean background concentrations for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> used in this assessment.

**Table 4.3 Summary of Background Annual-Mean (Long-term) Concentrations used in the Assessment**

Pollutant	Data Source	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )
NO <sub>2</sub>	SA141 (2018)	26.8
PM <sub>10</sub>	Defra Mapped (2018)	16.2
PM <sub>2.5</sub>		10.8

## 5 Assessment of Construction-Phase Air Quality Impacts

### Construction Dust

- 5.1 Whilst no detailed construction phase information is currently available, the type of activities that could cause fugitive dust emissions are: demolition; earthworks; handling and disposal of spoil; wind-blown particulate material from stockpiles; handling of loose construction materials; and movement of vehicles, both on and off site.
- 5.2 The level and distribution of construction dust emissions will vary according to factors such as the type of dust, duration and location of dust-generating activity, weather conditions and the effectiveness of suppression methods.
- 5.3 The main effect of any dust emissions, if not mitigated, could be annoyance due to soiling of surfaces, particularly windows, cars and laundry. However, it is normally possible, by implementation of proper control, to ensure that dust deposition does not give rise to significant adverse effects, although short-term events may occur (for example, due to technical failure or exceptional weather conditions). The following assessment, using the IAQM methodology, predicts the risk of dust impacts and the level of mitigation that is required to control the residual effects to a level that is “not significant”.

### Risk of Dust Impacts

#### Source

- 5.4 The volume of the buildings on site that would be demolished has been estimated to be below 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>, the dust emission magnitude for the demolition phase is classified, using the IAQM dust guidance, as small.
- 5.5 The site area is greater than 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the dust emission magnitude for the earthworks phase is classified as large.
- 5.6 The total volume of the buildings to be constructed would be greater than 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> and the dust emission magnitude for the construction phase is classified as large.
- 5.7 The maximum number of outward HDV movements in any one day is expected to be more than 50 and the dust emission magnitude for trackout would be classified as large.

**Table 5.1 Dust Emission Magnitude for Demolition, Earthworks, Construction and Trackout**

Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Small	Large	Large	Large

**Pathway and Receptor - Sensitivity of the Area**

5.8 All demolition, earthworks and construction activities are assumed to occur within the site boundary. As such, receptors at distances within 20 m, 50 m, 100 m, 200 m and 350 m of the site boundary have been identified and are illustrated in Figure 3. The sensitivity of the area has been classified and the results are provided in Table 5.2 below.

**Table 5.2 Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area for Demolition, Earthworks and Construction**

Potential Impact	Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area	Reason for Sensitivity Classification
Dust Soiling	High	Approx. 10 – 100 residential properties on Chiswell Green Lane to the north of the site, Hammers Gate and Forge End to the east and Long Fallow to the south.  10 – 100 high sensitivity receptors located within 20 m of the site boundary (Table A.4)
Human Health	Medium	Approx. 10 – 100 residential properties on Chiswell Green Lane to the north of the site, Hammers Gate and Forge End to the east and Long Fallow to the south.  Background PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations for the assessment = 16.2 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>  10 – 100 high sensitivity receptors located within 20 m of the site boundary and PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations below 24 µg.m <sup>-3</sup> (Table A.5)

5.9 The Dust Emission Magnitude for trackout is classified as large and trackout may occur on roads up to 500 m from the site. The major routes within 500 m of the site are Forge End, Chiswell Green Lane and Watford Road. The sensitivity of the area has been classified and the results are provided in Table 5.3

**Table 5.3 Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area for Trackout**

Potential Impact	Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area	Reason for Sensitivity Classification
Dust Soiling	High	Greater than 100 residential properties aligning Forge End, Chiswell Green Lane and Watford Road.  >100 high sensitivity receptors located within 20 m of the roads (Table A.5)
Human Health	Medium	Greater than 100 residential properties aligning Forge End, Chiswell Green Lane and Watford Road.  Background PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations for the assessment = 16.2 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>  >100 high sensitivity receptors located within 20 m of the roads and PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations below 24 µg.m <sup>-3</sup> (Table A.6)

**Overall Dust Risk**

5.10 The Dust Emission Magnitude has been considered in the context of the Sensitivity of the Area (Tables A.5 and A.6) to give the Dust Impact Risk. Table 5.4 summarises the Dust Impact Risk for the four activities.

**Table 5.4 Dust Impact Risk for Demolition, Earthworks, Construction and Trackout**

Source	Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Dust Soiling	Medium	High	High	High
Human Health	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Risk	Medium	High	High	High

5.11 Taking the site as a whole, the overall risk is deemed to be high. The mitigation measures appropriate to a level of risk for the site as a whole and for each of the phases are set out in Section 7.

5.12 Provided this package of mitigation measures is implemented, the residual construction dust effects will not be significant. The IAQM dust guidance states that “*For almost all construction activity, the aim should be to prevent significant effects on receptors through the use of effective mitigation. Experience shows that this is normally possible. Hence the residual effect will normally be ‘not significant’.*” The IAQM dust guidance recommends that significance is only assigned to the effect after the activities are considered with mitigation in place.



## 6 Assessment of Operational-Phase Air Quality Impacts

### Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on Surrounding Area

6.1 This section of the report summarises the future operational-phase air quality impacts of the key pollutants associated with the development traffic of the proposed scheme.

#### Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

6.2 Table 6.1 presents the annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations predicted at the façades of existing receptors.

**Table 6.1 Predicted Annual-Mean NO<sub>2</sub> Impacts at Existing Receptors**

Receptor ID	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )		With - Without Dev as % of the AQS Objective	Impact Descriptor
	Without Development	With Development		
1	27.1	27.2	0	Negligible
2	27.6	27.7	0	Negligible
3	27.2	27.3	0	Negligible
4	27.7	27.8	0	Negligible
5	27.9	28.0	0	Negligible
6	28.0	28.0	0	Negligible
7	28.3	28.3	0	Negligible
8	27.7	27.7	0	Negligible
9	28.3	28.3	0	Negligible
10	27.5	27.6	0	Negligible
11	27.9	27.9	0	Negligible
12	28.0	28.0	0	Negligible
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>0</b>	-
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>0</b>	-

- 6.3 Predicted annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the opening year at the façades of the existing receptors are below the AQS objective for NO<sub>2</sub>. When the magnitude of change is considered in the context of the absolute concentrations, the impact descriptor is categorised as ‘negligible’ at all receptors.
- 6.4 As all predicted annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are below 60 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, the hourly-mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> is likely to be met at all receptors. The short-term NO<sub>2</sub> impact can be considered ‘negligible’ and is not considered further within this assessment.
- 6.5 Overall, the impact on the surrounding area from NO<sub>2</sub> is considered to be ‘negligible’, using the criteria adopted for this assessment and based on professional judgement.

### Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)

- 6.6 Table 6.2 presents the annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations predicted at the façades of existing receptors.

**Table 6.2 Predicted Annual-Mean PM<sub>10</sub> Impacts at Existing Receptors**

Receptor ID	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )		With - Without Dev as % of the AQS Objective	Impact Descriptor
	Without Development	With Development		
1	16.3	16.3	0	Negligible
2	16.5	16.6	0	Negligible
3	16.4	16.4	0	Negligible
4	16.6	16.7	0	Negligible
5	16.7	16.7	0	Negligible
6	16.7	16.7	0	Negligible
7	16.8	16.8	0	Negligible
8	16.6	16.6	0	Negligible
9	16.8	16.8	0	Negligible
10	16.5	16.5	0	Negligible
11	16.7	16.7	0	Negligible
12	16.6	16.7	0	Negligible
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>0</b>	-
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>0</b>	-

- 6.7 Predicted annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations in the opening year at the façades of the existing receptors are well below the AQS objective for PM<sub>10</sub>. When the magnitude of change is considered in the context of the absolute concentrations, the impact descriptor is categorised as ‘negligible’ at all receptors.
- 6.8 As all predicted annual mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations are below 31.5 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, the daily-mean PM<sub>10</sub> objective is expected to be met at all receptors and the short-term PM<sub>10</sub> impact is not considered further within this assessment.
- 6.9 Overall, the impact on the surrounding area from PM<sub>10</sub> is considered to be ‘negligible’, using the criteria adopted for this assessment and based on professional judgement.

### Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- 6.10 Table 6.3 presents the annual-mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations predicted at the façades of existing receptors.

**Table 6.3 Predicted Annual-Mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> Impacts at Existing Receptors**

Receptor ID	Concentration (µg.m <sup>-3</sup> )		With - Without Dev as % of the AQS Objective	Impact Descriptor
	Without Development	With Development		
1	10.9	10.9	0	Negligible
2	11.0	11.0	0	Negligible
3	10.9	10.9	0	Negligible
4	11.0	11.0	0	Negligible
5	11.1	11.1	0	Negligible
6	11.1	11.1	0	Negligible
7	11.1	11.1	0	Negligible
8	11.0	11.0	0	Negligible
9	11.1	11.1	0	Negligible
10	11.0	11.0	0	Negligible
11	11.1	11.1	0	Negligible
12	11.0	11.0	0	Negligible
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0</b>	-
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>0</b>	-

AQS objective = 25 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>

- 6.11 Predicted annual-mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in the opening year at the façades of the existing receptors are below the AQS objective for PM<sub>2.5</sub> at all receptors. When the magnitude of change is considered in the context of the absolute concentrations, the impact descriptor is categorised as ‘negligible’ at all receptors.

6.12 Overall, the impact on the surrounding area from PM<sub>2.5</sub> is considered to be 'negligible', using the criteria adopted for this assessment and based on professional judgement.

## Assessment of New Population Exposure (Site Suitability)

6.13 This section of the report summarises the operational-phase air quality impacts on future occupants of the development from their exposure to the prevailing levels of air pollution, which can be a factor in the suitability of the site for its proposed uses.

6.14 Table 6.4 presents the annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations predicted at the façades of proposed receptors.

**Table 6.4 Predicted Annual-Mean NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations (µg.m<sup>-3</sup>) at Proposed Receptors**

Receptor ID	Receptor Name	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
13	Proposed Receptor 1	27.1	16.3	10.9
14	Proposed Receptor 2	27.1	16.3	10.9
15	Proposed Receptor 3	27.1	16.3	10.9
16	Proposed Receptor 4	27.1	16.3	10.9
17	Proposed Receptor 5	27.0	16.3	10.9
18	Proposed Receptor 6	27.1	16.3	10.9
19	Proposed Receptor 7	27.0	16.3	10.9
20	Proposed Receptor 8	26.9	16.2	10.8
<b>Maximum</b>	-	<b>27.1</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	-	<b>26.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>

6.15 The long-term and short-term objectives apply at the Proposed Development.

6.16 The predicted annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations range between 26.9 and 27.1 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, well below the annual-mean AQS objective of 40 µg.m<sup>-3</sup> at all receptors. Furthermore, as the annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is predicted to be less than 60 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, the hourly-mean AQS objective is expected to be met.

6.17 The predicted annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations range between 16.2 and 16.3 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, well below the annual-mean AQS objective of 40 µg.m<sup>-3</sup> at all receptors. Furthermore, as the annual-mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentration is predicted to be less than 31.5 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>, the daily-mean AQS objective for this pollutant is expected to be met.

6.18 Predicted annual-mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations range between 10.8 and 10.9 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>. Predicted concentrations at all receptors are below the annual-mean AQS objective of 25 µg.m<sup>-3</sup>.

## Significance of Effects

- 6.19 It is generally considered good practice that, where possible, an assessment should communicate effects both numerically and descriptively. Professional judgement by a competent, suitably qualified professional is required to establish the significance associated with the consequence of the impacts.
- 6.20 The impacts predicted at individual receptors and the geographical extent over which such impacts occur, can be used to inform the judgement on the impact on the surrounding area as a whole, and whether the resulting overall effect is significant or not. The IAQM guidance states, *“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.”* and *“...a ‘moderate’ or ‘substantial’ impact may not have a significant effect if it is confined to a very small area and where it is not obviously the cause of harm to human health.”*
- 6.21 The results of the modelling indicate that with the development, the predicted NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at existing receptors are below the relevant long and short-term AQS objectives. When the magnitude of change in annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations is considered in the context of the absolute predictions, the air quality impacts of the development on existing receptors are categorised as ‘negligible’. Taking into account the geographical extent of the impacts predicted in this study, the overall impact of the development on the surrounding area as a whole is considered to be ‘negligible’, using the descriptors adopted for this assessment.
- 6.22 The AQS objectives for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are likely to be met at the facades of the Proposed Development. On that basis, future occupants of the development should be exposed to acceptable air quality and the site is deemed suitable for its proposed future in this respect.
- 6.23 Using professional judgement, the resulting air quality effect is considered to be ‘not significant’ overall.

## Sensitivity and Uncertainty

- 6.24 Section 3 provided an analysis of the sources of uncertainty in the results of the assessment. The conclusion of that analysis was that, overall, the predicted total concentration is likely to be towards the top of the uncertainty range rather than being a central estimate. The actual concentrations that will be found when the development is operational are unlikely to be higher than those presented within this report and are more likely to be lower.
- 6.25 The impacts at existing receptors are shown to be not significant even for this conservative scenario. Similarly, the predicted pollutant concentrations at proposed receptors are below the relevant AQS objectives. Consequently, further sensitivity analysis has not been undertaken and,

in practice, the impacts at sensitive receptors are likely to be lower than those reported in this conservative assessment.

## 7 Mitigation

### Mitigation During Construction

- 7.1 The IAQM dust guidance lists mitigation measures for low, medium and high dust risks.
- 7.2 As summarised in , the predicted Dust Impact Risk is classified as medium for Demolition and high for Construction, Earthworks and Trackout. The general site measures described as ‘highly recommended’ for high risks are listed below. The ‘highly recommended’ measures for medium risk demolition sites, high risk construction sites, high risk earthworks and high risk trackout are also listed.

### Communications

- Develop and implement a stakeholder communications plan that includes community engagement before work commences on site.
- Display the name and contact details of person(s) accountable for air quality and dust issues on the site boundary. This may be the environment manager/engineer or the site manager.
- Display the head or regional office contact information

### Dust Management Plan

- Develop and implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) (which may include measures to control other emissions), approved by the Local Authority. 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. The DMP may include monitoring of dust.

### Site Management

- Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken.
- Make the complaints log available to the local authority when asked.
- 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.

## 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 local authority when asked. This should include regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and window sills within 100m of the site boundary, with cleaning to be provided if necessary.
- Carry out regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and window-sills within 100 m of site boundary.
- 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.
- Agree dust deposition, dust flux, or real-time PM<sub>10</sub> continuous monitoring locations with the Local Authority. Commence baseline monitoring at least three months before work commences on site or, if it a large site, before work on a phase commences. A shorter monitoring period or concurrent upwind and downwind monitoring may be agreed by the local authority. Further guidance is provided by IAQM on monitoring during demolition, earthworks and construction [10].

## 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. Use screening intelligently where possible – e.g. locating site offices between potentially dusty activities and the receptors.
- Erect solid screens or barriers around the site boundary.
- Avoid site runoff of water or mud.
- Keep site fencing, barriers and scaffolding clean.
- 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.
- Depending on the duration that stockpiles will be present and their size - cover, seed, fence or water to prevent wind whipping.



## Operating Vehicle/machinery and Sustainable Travel

- Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary – no idling vehicles.
- Avoid the use of diesel or petrol powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment where practicable.
- Impose and signpost a maximum-speed-limit of 15 mph on surfaced and 10 mph on un-surfaced 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)
- Produce a Construction Logistics Plan to manage the sustainable delivery of goods and materials.
- Implement a Travel Plan that supports and encourages sustainable travel (public transport, cycling, walking, and car-sharing).

## 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 systems.
- Ensure an adequate water supply on the site for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible.
- Use enclosed chutes, conveyors and covered skips, where practicable.
- Minimise drop heights from conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers and other loading or handling equipment and use fine water sprays on such equipment wherever appropriate.
- 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.

## Waste Management

- Avoid bonfires and burning of waste materials.

## Medium Risk Measures Specific to Demolition

- Ensure effective water suppression is used during demolition operations. Hand held sprays are more effective than hoses attached to equipment as the water can be directed to where it is needed. In addition high volume water suppression systems, manually controlled, can produce fine water droplets that effectively bring the dust particles to the ground.

- Avoid explosive blasting, using appropriate manual or mechanical alternatives.
- Bag and remove any biological debris or damp down such material before demolition.

### **High Risk Measures Specific to Earthworks**

- Re-vegetate earthworks and exposed areas/soil stockpiles to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable.
- Use Hessian, mulches or trackifiers where it is not possible to re-vegetate or cover with topsoil, as soon as practicable.
- Only remove the cover in small areas during work and not all at once.

### **High Risk Measures Specific to Construction**

- Avoid scabbling (roughening of concrete surfaces) if possible.
- Ensure sand and other aggregates are stored in bunded areas and are not allowed to dry out, unless this is required for a particular process, in which case ensure that appropriate additional control measures are in place.
- Ensure bulk cement and other fine powder materials are delivered in enclosed tankers and stored in silos with suitable emission control systems to prevent escape of material and overfilling during delivery.

### **High Risk Measures Specific to Trackout**

- Use water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads, to remove, as soon as practicable any material tracked out of the site. This may require the sweeper being continuously in use.
- Avoid dry sweeping of large areas.
- Ensure vehicles entering and leaving sites are covered to prevent escape of materials during transport.
- Inspect on-site haul routes for integrity and instigate necessary repairs to the surface as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Record all inspections of haul routes and any subsequent action in a site log book.
- Install hard surfaced haul routes, which are regularly damped down with fixed or mobile sprinkler systems, or mobile water bowsers and regularly cleaned.
- Implement a wheel washing system (with rumble grids to dislodge accumulated dust and mud prior to leaving the site).

- Ensure there is an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility and the site exit, wherever site size and layout permits.
- Access gates to be located at least 10 m from receptors where possible.

7.3 The IAQM dust guidance states that with the recommended dust mitigation measures in place the residual effect will normally be “*not significant*”, and recommends the mitigation is secured by for example planning conditions, a legal obligation, or by legislation.

## Mitigation for the Operational Impact of the Development on the Surrounding Area

7.4 When the change in concentration at existing sensitive receptors is considered in the context of the absolute concentration, the overall air quality impact on the surrounding area as a whole is categorised as “negligible” and the resulting effect is considered to be “not significant”. On that basis, no mitigation measures are considered necessary.

## Mitigation for New Population Exposure (Site Suitability)

7.5 The predicted pollutant concentrations at proposed sensitive receptors are below the relevant AQS objectives. As such, the air quality effect of exposure on future occupants is considered to be “not significant”. On that basis, no mitigation measures are considered necessary.

## 8 Conclusions

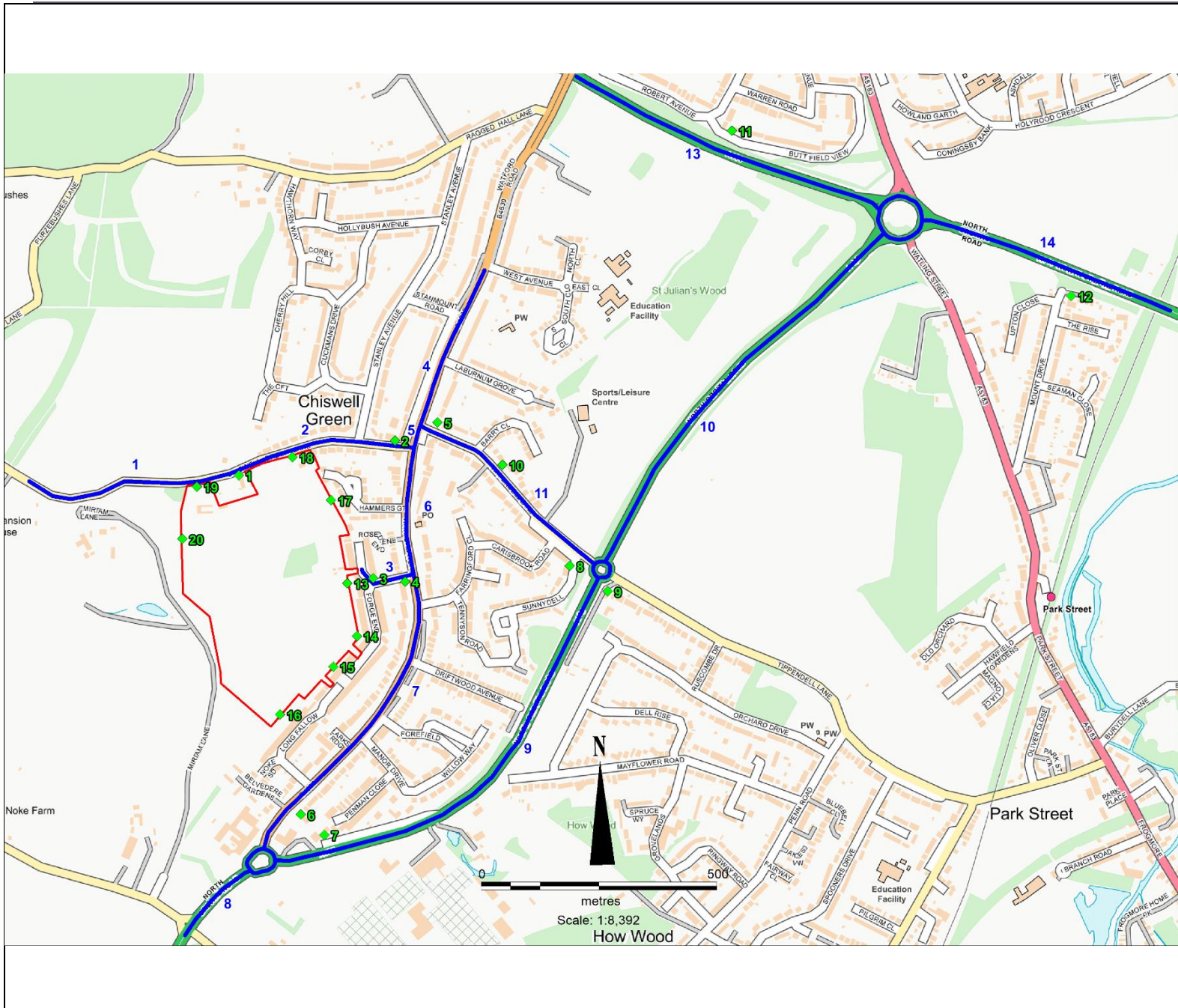
- 8.1 This assessment has considered dust effects during the construction phase and the air quality impacts during the operational phase of the Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development.
- 8.2 Impacts during construction, such as dust generation and plant vehicle emissions, are predicted to be of short duration and only relevant during the construction phase. The results of the risk assessment of construction dust impacts undertaken using the IAQM dust guidance, indicates that before the implementation of mitigation and controls, the risk of dust impacts will be high. Implementation of the highly-recommended mitigation measures described in the IAQM construction dust guidance should reduce the residual dust effects to a level categorised as “*not significant*”.
- 8.3 Regarding the operational impact of the Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development on the surrounding area, detailed atmospheric dispersion modelling has been undertaken for the first year in which the development is expected to be fully operational, 2027. The operational impact of the Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development on existing receptors in the local area is predicted to be ‘negligible’ taking into account the changes in pollutant concentrations and absolute levels. Using the criteria adopted for this assessment together with professional judgement, the overall impact on the area as a whole is described as ‘negligible’.
- 8.4 Regarding suitability of air quality at the site for introducing new occupants, pollutant concentrations at the façades of proposed residential receptors are predicted to be well within the relevant health-based air quality objectives. On that basis, future occupants of the Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development should be exposed to acceptable air quality and the site is deemed suitable for its proposed future use in this respect.
- 8.5 Using professional judgement, the resulting air quality effect of the Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development is considered to be ‘not significant’ overall.
- 8.6 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, subject to caveats where a plan or project affects a habitats site. For determining planning applications, this means approving development proposals if they accord with the local development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. If the development plan is absent, silent or the policies are out of date, then planning permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts would significantly outweigh the benefits, or specific policies in the NPPF indicate development should be restricted.

- 8.7 The NPPG advises that in considering planning permission, the relevant question for air quality is “*will the proposed development (including mitigation) lead to an unacceptable risk from air pollution, prevent sustained compliance with limit values or national objectives for pollutants or fail to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations or other environmental policies and duties, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas?*” The proposed development will not.
- 8.8 The Land south of Chiswell Green Lane development does not, in air quality terms, conflict with national or local policies, or with measures set out in SACDC’s Air Quality Action Plan. There are no constraints to the development in the context of air quality.

## Glossary

AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic Flow
ADMS	Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
Deposited Dust	Dust that has settled out onto a surface after having been suspended in air
DMP	Dust Management Plan
Dust	Solid particles suspended in air or settled out onto a surface after having been suspended in air
Effect	The consequences of an impact, experienced by a receptor
EPUK	Environmental Protection UK
HDV	Heavy Duty Vehicle
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
Impact	The change in atmospheric pollutant concentration and/or dust deposition. A scheme can have an 'impact' on atmospheric pollutant concentration but no effect, for instance if there are no receptors to experience the impact
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
R&A	Review and Assessment
Receptor	A person, their land or property and ecologically sensitive sites that may be affected by air quality
Risk	The likelihood of an adverse event occurring
Trackout	The transport of dust and dirt from the construction/demolition site onto the public road network, where it may be deposited and then re-suspended by vehicles using the network

## Figures



**Legend**

- Approximate Site Boundary
- ◆ Modelled Sensitive Receptors
- Road Links Modelled

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Project: Land south of Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans

Job Ref: JAR02923

File location:

Date: 28/01/2022

Rev: 0

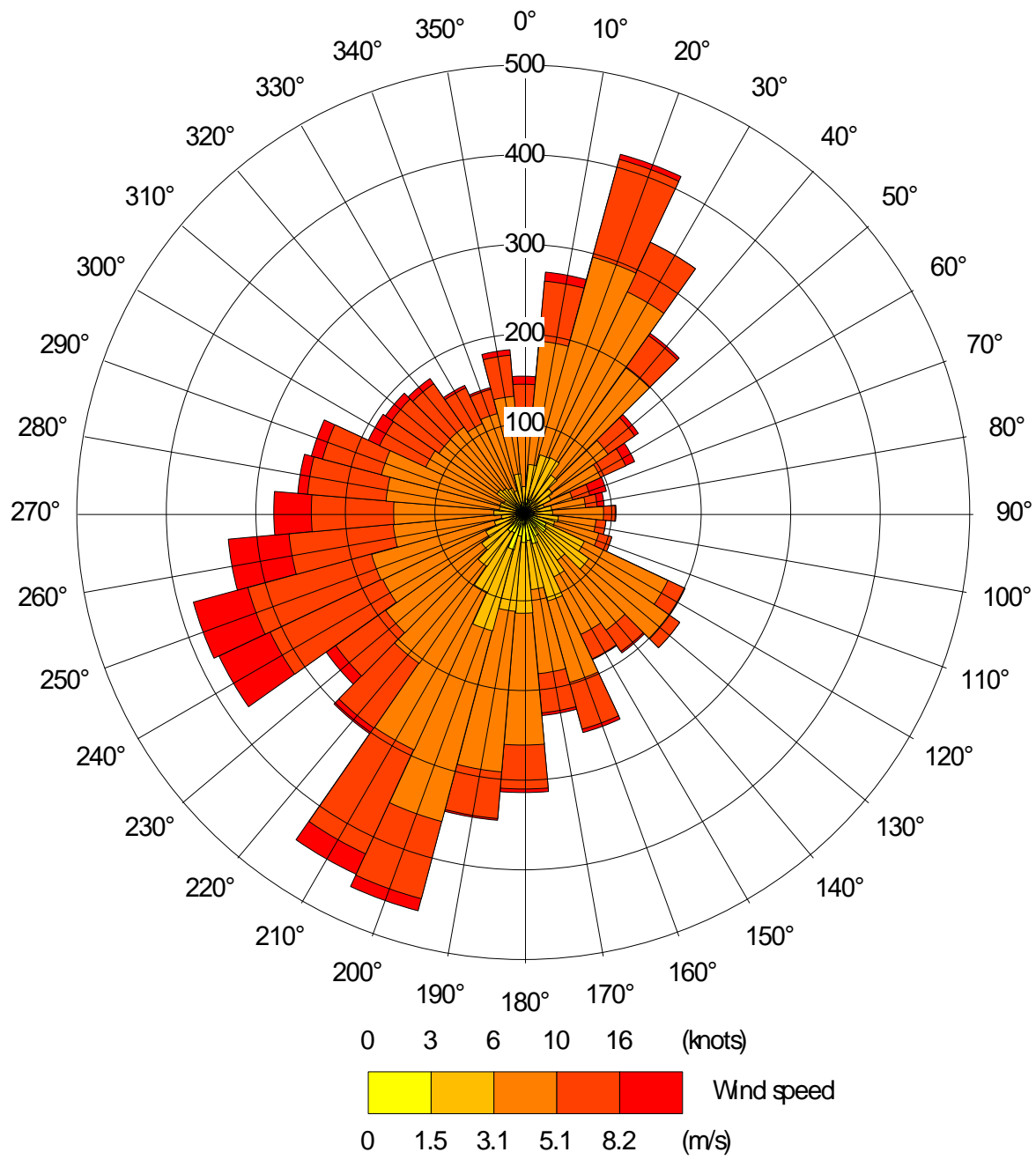
Drawn: WH

Checked: KB


**Figure 1: Sensitive Receptors and Roads Modelled**

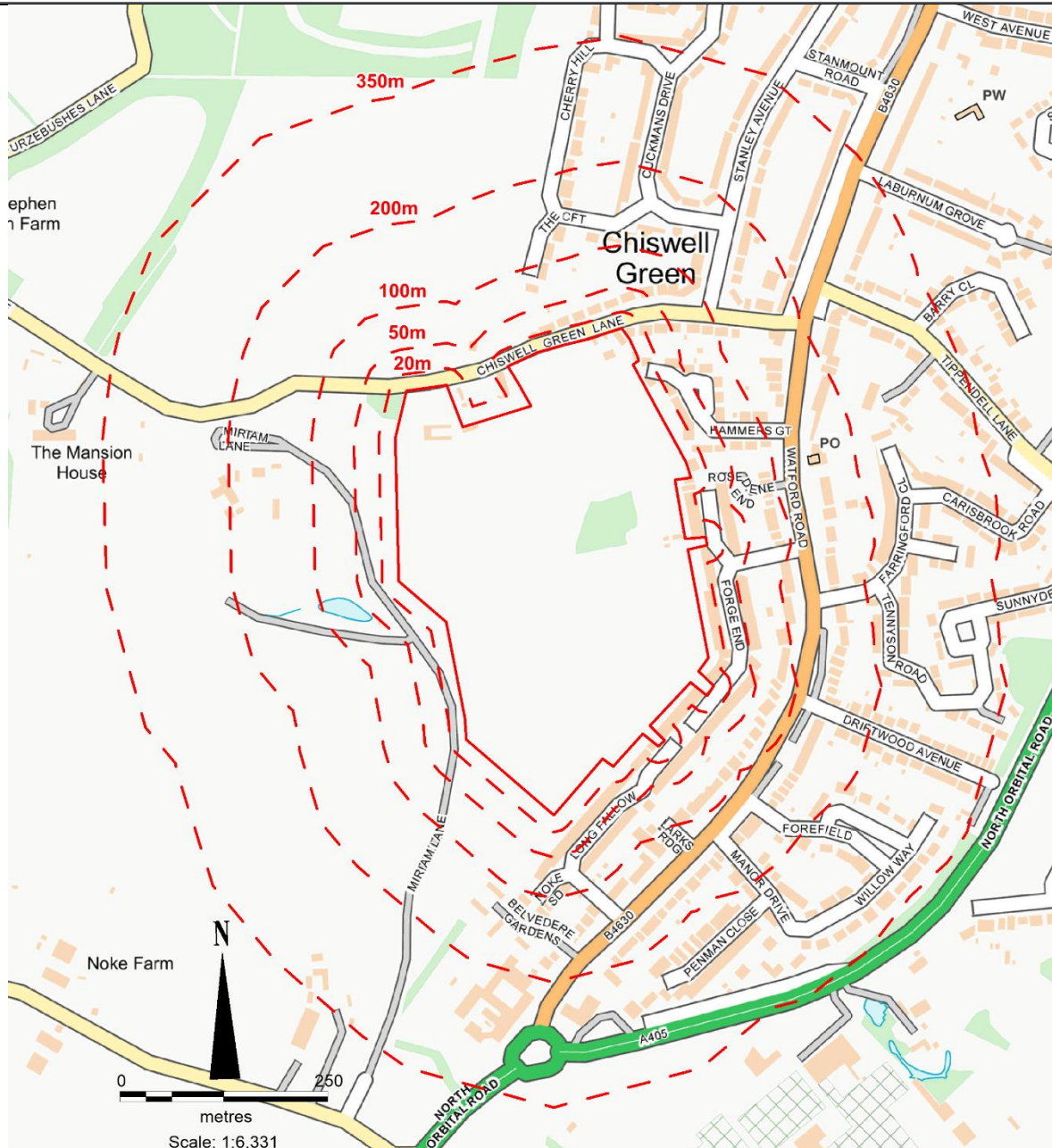
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**Figure 2: Windrose – Luton 2018**

Project Number	JAR02923	Project Title	Land south of Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans		
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**Legend**

- Approximate Site Boundary
- Construction Dust Buffers

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Project: Land south of Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans

Job Ref: JAR02923

File location:

Date: 28/01/2022

Rev: 0

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**Figure 3: Construction Dust Buffers**

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# Appendices

# Appendix A: Detailed Construction Dust Assessment Methodology

## Source

A.1 The IAQM dust guidance gives examples of the dust emission magnitudes for demolition, earthworks and construction activities and trackout. These example dust emission magnitudes are based on the site area, building volume, number of HDV movements generated by the activities and the materials used. These example magnitudes have been combined with details of the period of construction activities to provide the ranking for the source magnitude that is set out in Table A.1.

**Table A.1 Risk Allocation – Source (Dust Emission Magnitude)**

Features of the Source of Dust Emissions	Dust Emission Magnitude
<p><b>Demolition</b> - building over 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>, potentially dusty construction material (e.g. concrete), on-site crushing and screening, demolition activities &gt; 20 m above ground level.</p> <p><b>Earthworks</b> – total site area over 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, potentially dusty soil type (e.g. clay), &gt;10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds &gt; 8 m in height, total material moved &gt; 100,000 tonnes.</p> <p><b>Construction</b> - total building volume over 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>, activities include piling, on-site concrete batching, sand blasting. Period of activities more than two years.</p> <p><b>Trackout</b> – 50 HDV outwards movements in any one day, potentially dusty surface material (e.g. High clay content), unpaved road length &gt; 100 m.</p>	Large
<p><b>Demolition</b> - building between 20,000 to 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>, potentially dusty construction material and demolition activities 10 - 20 m above ground level.</p> <p><b>Earthworks</b> – total site area between 2,500 to 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, moderately dusty soil type (e.g. silt), 5 – 10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds 4 - 8 m in height, total material moved 20,000 to 100,000 tonnes.</p> <p><b>Construction</b> - total building volume between 25,000 and 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>, use of construction materials with high potential for dust release (e.g. concrete), activities include piling, on-site concrete batching. Period of construction activities between one and two years.</p> <p><b>Trackout</b> – 10 - 50 HDV outwards movements in any one day, moderately dusty surface material (e.g. High clay content), unpaved road length 50 – 100 m.</p>	Medium
<p><b>Demolition</b> - building less than 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>, construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber), demolition activities &lt; 10 m above ground, demolition during winter months.</p> <p><b>Earthworks</b> – total site area less than 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>. Soil type with large grain size (e.g. sand), &lt; 5 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds &lt; 4 m in height, total material moved &lt; 10,000 tonnes earthworks during winter months.</p> <p><b>Construction</b> - total building volume below 25,000 m<sup>3</sup>, use of construction materials with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber). Period of construction activities less than one year.</p>	Small

Features of the Source of Dust Emissions	Dust Emission Magnitude
<b>Trackout</b> – < 10 HDV outwards movements in any one day, surface material with low potential for dust release, unpaved road length < 50 m.	

## Pathway and Receptor - Sensitivity of the Area

- A.2 Pathway means the route by which dust and particulate matter may be carried from the source to a receptor. The main factor affecting the pathway effectiveness is the distance from the receptor to the source. The orientation of the receptors to the source compared to the prevailing wind direction is a relevant risk factor for long-duration construction projects; however, short-term construction projects may be limited to a few months when the most frequent wind direction might be quite different, so adverse effects can potentially occur in any direction from the site.
- A.3 As set out in the IAQM dust guidance, a number of attempts have been made to categorise receptors into high, medium and low sensitivity categories; however there is no unified sensitivity classification scheme that covers the quite different potential effects on property, human health and ecological receptors.
- A.4 Table A.2 and Table A.3 sets out the IAQM basis for categorising the sensitivity of people and property to dust and PM<sub>10</sub> respectively.

**Table A.2 Sensitivities of People and Property Receptors to Dust**

Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users can reasonably expect enjoyment of a high level of amenity; or</li> <li>• the appearance, aesthetics or value of their property would be diminished by soiling; and the people or property would reasonably be expected to be present continuously, or at least regularly for extended periods as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwellings.</li> <li>• Museums and other culturally important collections.</li> <li>• Medium and long-term car parks and car showrooms.</li> </ul>	High
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users would expect to enjoy a reasonable level of amenity, but would not reasonably expect to enjoy the same level of amenity as in their home; or</li> <li>• the appearance, aesthetics or value of their property could be diminished by soiling; or</li> <li>• the people or property wouldn't reasonably be expected to be present here continuously or regularly for extended periods as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks.</li> <li>• Places of work.</li> </ul>	Medium

Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected; or</li> <li>there is property that would not reasonably be expected to be diminished in appearance, aesthetics or value by soiling; or</li> <li>there is transient exposure, where the people or property would reasonably be expected to be present only for limited periods of time as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playing fields, farmland (unless commercially-sensitive horticultural).</li> <li>Footpaths and roads.</li> <li>Short-term car parks.</li> </ul>	Low

**Table A.3 Sensitivities of People and Property Receptors to PM<sub>10</sub>**

Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations where members of the public are exposed over a time period relevant to the air quality objective (in the case of the 24-hour objective for PM<sub>10</sub>, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day).</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential properties.</li> <li>Schools, hospitals and residential care homes.</li> </ul>	High
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations where the people exposed are workers and exposure is over a time period relevant to the air quality objective (in the case of the 24-hour objective for PM<sub>10</sub>, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day).</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office and shop workers (but generally excludes workers occupationally exposed to PM<sub>10</sub> as protection is covered by Health and Safety at Work legislation).</li> </ul>	Medium
<p>Principles:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations where human exposure is transient exposure.</li> </ul> <p>Indicative Examples:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public footpaths.</li> <li>Playing fields, parks.</li> <li>Shopping streets.</li> </ul>	Low

A.5 The IAQM methodology combines consideration of the pathway and receptor to derive the 'sensitivity of the area'. Table A.4, and Table A.5 show how the sensitivity of the area has been derived for this assessment.

**Table A.4 Sensitivity of the Area to Dust Soiling Effects on People and Property**

Receptor Sensitivity	Number of Receptors <sup>a</sup>	Distance from the Source (m) <sup>b</sup>			
		<20	<50	<100	<350
High	>100	High	High	Medium	Low
	10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low
	1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>1	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Low	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low

The sensitivity of the area has been derived for demolition, construction, earthworks and trackout.

a The total number of receptors within the stated distance has been estimated. Only the highest level of area sensitivity from the table has been recorded.

b For trackout, the distances have been measured from the side of the roads used by construction traffic. Without site-specific mitigation, trackout may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites, as measured from the site exit. The impact declines with distance from the site, and trackout impacts have only been considered up to 50 m from the edge of the road.

**Table A.5 Sensitivity of the Area to Human Health Impacts**

Receptor Sensitivity	Annual Mean PM <sub>10</sub> Concentration <sup>a</sup>	Number of Receptors <sup>b, c</sup>	Distance from the Source (m) <sup>d</sup>				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
High	> 32 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>100	High	High	High	Medium	Low
		10-100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	28 - 32 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	24 - 28 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	< 24 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>100	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Medium	> 32 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low

Receptor Sensitivity	Annual Mean PM <sub>10</sub> Concentration <sup>a</sup>	Number of Receptors <sup>b, c</sup>	Distance from the Source (m) <sup>d</sup>				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
		1 – 10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	28 – 32 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	> 10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	< 28 µg.m <sup>-3</sup>	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Low	-	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

The sensitivity of the area has been derived for demolition, construction, earthworks and trackout.

a This refers to the background concentration derived from the assessment of baseline conditions later in this report. The concentration categories listed in this column apply to England, Wales and Northern Ireland but not to Scotland.

b The total number of receptors within the stated distance has been estimated. Only the highest level of area sensitivity from the table has been recorded.

c For high sensitivity receptors with high occupancy (such as schools or hospitals), the approximate number of occupants has been used to derive an equivalent number of receptors.

d For trackout, the distances have been measured from the side of the roads used by construction traffic. Without site-specific mitigation, trackout may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites, as measured from the site exit. The impact declines with distance from the site, and trackout impacts have only been considered up to 50 m from the edge of the road.

- A.6 The IAQM dust guidance lists the following additional factors that can potentially affect the sensitivity of the area and, where necessary, professional judgement has been used to adjust the sensitivity allocated to a particular area:
- any history of dust generating activities in the area;
  - the likelihood of concurrent dust generating activity on nearby sites;
  - any pre-existing screening between the source and the receptors;
  - any conclusions drawn from analysing local meteorological data which accurately represent the area; and if relevant the season during which the works will take place;
  - any conclusions drawn from local topography;
  - duration of the potential impact, as a receptor may become more sensitive over time; and
  - any known specific receptor sensitivities which are considered go beyond the classifications given in the table above.

A.7 The matrices in Table A.6, Table A.7, Table A.8 and Table A.9 have been used to assign the risk for each activity to determine the level of mitigation that should be applied. For those cases where the risk category is ‘negligible’, no mitigation measures are required beyond those mandated by legislation.



**Table A.6 Risk of Dust Impacts – Demolition**

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk
Medium	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

**Table A.7 Risk of Dust Impacts – Earthworks**

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

**Table A.8 Risk of Dust Impacts – Construction**

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

**Table A.9 Risk of Dust Impacts – Trackout**

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

## Appendix B: Sensitivity Test

- B.1 This sensitivity test focusses on the pollutants most sensitive to changes in traffic, NO<sub>2</sub>.
- B.2 The annual-mean modelled NO<sub>x</sub> contributions have been multiplied by a model adjustment factor of 2. Annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have then been derived from the modelled road-related annual-mean NO<sub>x</sub> concentration using Defra’s calculator.
- B.3 Table B.1 presents the annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations predicted at the façades of existing and proposed receptors.

**Table B.1 Adjusted Annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations (µg.m<sup>-3</sup>)**

Existing/New Population Exposure	Receptor	Without	With	With – Without % AQO	Impact Descriptor
Existing	1	27.3	27.5	0	Negligible
	2	28.3	28.6	1	Negligible
	3	27.6	27.8	0	Negligible
	4	28.7	28.8	0	Negligible
	5	29.0	29.1	0	Negligible
	6	29.1	29.2	0	Negligible
	7	29.7	29.7	0	Negligible
	8	28.6	28.6	0	Negligible
	9	29.7	29.8	0	Negligible
	10	28.2	28.3	0	Negligible
	11	29.0	29.0	0	Negligible
	12	29.1	29.2	0	Negligible
New Population Exposure	13	-	27.3	-	-
	14	-	27.5	-	-
	15	-	27.4	-	-
	16	-	27.4	-	-
	17	-	27.2	-	-
	18	-	27.5	-	-
	19	-	27.3	-	-
	20	-	27.0	-	-
<b>Maximum</b>		<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>1</b>	-

Existing/New Population Exposure	Receptor	Without	With	With – Without % AQO	Impact Descriptor
Minimum		27.3	27.5	0	-

B.4 Overall, even with a model adjustment factor of 2, predicted annual-mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the opening year at the façades of the existing and proposed receptors are below the AQS objective for NO<sub>2</sub>. When the magnitude of change is considered in the context of the absolute concentrations, the impact descriptor is ‘negligible’.

## References

- 1 Defra, 2010, The Air Quality Standards Regulations.
- 2 Defra, 2007, The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Volume 2.
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- 4 EPUK & IAQM, January 2017, Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality
- 5 IAQM, 2014, Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction
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- 7 British Standard Institute, 1983, BS 6069:Part 2:1983, ISO 4225-1980 Characterization of air quality. Glossary
- 8 <http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/review-and-assessment/tools/tools.html>
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- 10 IAQM, 2012, Air Quality Monitoring in the Vicinity of Demolition and Construction Sites



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