
FOCUS CONSULTANTS 2010 LLP

AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

ST CHAD'S DRIVE, KIRKBY, KNOWSLEY L32 8RE

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	LEGISLATION AND POLICY	5
3	SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY	12
4	BASELINE	18
5	ASSESSMENT	20
6	MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS	26
7	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	30

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION ASSESSMENT EXTENTS	32
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - REPORT LIMITATIONS

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

APPENDIX C – IAQM CONSTRUCTION DUST ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 By instruction from Focus Consultants 2010 LLP, NoiseAir Limited was commissioned to undertake an Air Quality Assessment (AQA) in support of a proposed residential development at St Chad's Drive, Kirkby, Knowsley L32 8RE, herein referred to as 'the Site'.

1.1.2 Limitations of this report are outlined in **Appendix A**.

1.2 Site Location and Context

1.2.1 The Site is located at St Chad's Drive, Kirkby, Knowsley L32 8RE at approximate National Grid Reference (NGR): 341440, 398760. **Figure 1** details the location of the Site.

1.2.2 The Site is located in an area where air quality is mainly influenced by road traffic emissions along the local and regional road network and as such, elevated pollutant concentrations may be experienced at and around this location. Subsequently, the development may lead to adverse impacts at nearby sensitive receptors, as a result of fugitive dust emissions during construction and road vehicle exhaust emissions during operation. As such, an AQA is required to determine potential impacts associated with the Proposed Development in accordance with the requirements of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The AQA will therefore consider ambient pollutant concentrations namely nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) around the Site.

1.2.3 The main potential sources of air pollution were identified as emissions from road transport using the local road and network. There are no combustion sources identified within the immediate vicinity of the Site that will influence the local air quality.

1.2.4 The Proposed Development is located within Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC). The Site is an existing car park with access from St Chad's Drive. Adjacent to the car park, there is a small green area bounded by County Road to the east. The Site is situated between St Chad's Medical Centre to the north and Kirkby Police Station to the south. The surroundings consist of a mixture of residential properties and an industrial area.

1.2.5 It is understood that the proposals outline the construction of a residential development at the Site.

1.2.6 The report presents the findings of an assessment of the potential air quality impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction and operational phases. For both phases, the significance of potential impacts are identified, and measures that should be employed to minimise these are described.

2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Air Quality Legislation and Policy

2.1.1 A summary of the relevant air quality legislation and policy is provided below.

UK Air Quality Strategy

2.1.2 The government's policy on air quality within the UK is set out in the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (AQS)¹ with the latest framework for Local Authority delivery within England published in 2023². The AQS provides a framework for reducing air pollution in the UK with the aim of meeting the requirements of European Union Legislation.

2.1.3 The AQS also sets standards and objectives for nine key pollutants to protect health, vegetation, and ecosystems. These are benzene (C₆H₆), 1,3 butadiene (C₄H₆), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

2.1.4 The air quality standards are levels recommended by the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) with regards to current scientific knowledge and the effects of each pollutant on health and the environment.

2.1.5 The Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) are medium-term policy-based targets set by the Government, which take into account economic efficiency, practicability, technical feasibility and timescale. Some objectives are equal to EPAQS recommended standards or WHO guideline limits, whereas other involve a margin of tolerance, i.e., a limited number of permitted exceedances of standards over a given period.

2.1.6 **Table 1** presents the AQOs for pollutants considered within this assessment.

Table 1: National Air Quality Objectives and European Directive Limit Values for the Protection of Human Health			
Pollutant	Applies to	Objective	Measured As
NO ₂	UK	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
	UK	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean

¹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Devolved Administrations (2007). The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volumes 1 and 2).

² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, 2023) Policy paper Air quality strategy: framework for local authority delivery [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england/air-quality-strategy-framework-for-local-authority-delivery#introduction> [Accessed 07/11/2023].

Table 1: National Air Quality Objectives and European Directive Limit Values for the Protection of Human Health			
Pollutant	Applies to	Objective	Measured As
PM ₁₀	UK (except Scotland)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
	UK (except Scotland)	50µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
PM _{2.5}	UK (except Scotland)	Interim target 12µg/m by 2028 Target of 22% reduction in population exposure by 2028 compared to 2018	Annual mean

- 2.1.7 For the pollutants considered in this assessment, there are both long-term (annual mean) and short-term standards. In the case of NO₂, the short-term standard is for a 1-hour averaging period, whereas for PM₁₀ it is a 24-hour averaging period. These periods reflect the varying impacts on health of differing exposures to pollutants, for example temporary exposure on the pavement adjacent to a busy road compared with the exposure of residential properties adjacent to a road.

Air Quality Regulations (2016)

- 2.1.8 Many of the objectives in the AQS have been made statutory in England with the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000³ and the Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002⁴ for the purpose of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM).
- 2.1.9 These Regulations require that likely exceedances of the AQS objectives are assessed in relation to:

[...] the quality of air at locations which are situated outside of buildings or other natural or man-made structures, above or below ground, and where members of the public are regularly present [...]

- 2.1.10 The Air Quality Standards (Amendment) Regulations 2016⁵ amends the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 that transpose the European Union Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) into law in England. This Directive sets legally binding limit values for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact public health such as PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and NO₂. The limit values for NO₂ and PM₁₀ are the same concentration levels as the relevant AQS objectives and the limit value for PM_{2.5} is a concentration of 12µg/m³ to be achieved by 2028.

³ The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 – Statutory Instrument 2000 No.928.

⁴ The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 – Statutory Instrument 2002 No.3043.

⁵ The Air Quality Standards (Amendment) Regulations 2016 - Statutory Instrument 2016 No. 1184.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Control of Dust and Particles Associated with Construction

- 2.1.11 Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990⁶ gives the following definitions of statutory nuisance relevant to dust and particles:

'Any dust, steam, smell or other effluvia arising from industrial, trade or business premises or smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance'; and

'Any accumulation or deposit which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance'.

- 2.1.12 Following this, Section 80 says that where a statutory nuisance is shown to exist, the local authority must serve an abatement notice. Failure to comply with an abatement notice is an offence and if necessary, the local authority may abate the nuisance and recover expenses.
- 2.1.13 There are no statutory limit values for dust deposition above which 'nuisance' is deemed to exist. Nuisance is a subjective concept, and its perception is highly dependent upon the existing conditions and the change which has occurred.

Environment Act 1995

- 2.1.14 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995⁷, local authorities must review and document local air quality within their area by way of staged appraisals and respond accordingly, with the aim of meeting the air quality objectives defined in the Regulations. Where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, an authority is required to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). For each AQMA the local authority is required to draw up an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to secure improvements in air quality and show how it intends to work towards achieving air quality standards in the future.

Clean Air Strategy (2019)

- 2.1.15 In 2019, the UK government released its Clean Air Strategy 2019⁸, part of its 25 Year Environment Plan⁹. The Strategy sets out the comprehensive action that is considered to be required from across all parts of government and society.

⁶ Environmental Protection Act. London 1990. HMSO.

⁷ Environment Act 1995. London HMSO.

⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2019) Clean Air Strategy 2019.

⁹ Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment.

- 2.1.16 The primary focus of air quality management has primarily related to NO₂, and its principal source in the UK, road traffic. The 2019 Strategy aims to broaden the focus to other areas, including actions on clean growth, and emissions from domestic wood burning stoves, industry and agriculture.

2.2 Planning Policy

- 2.2.1 A summary of the national and local planning policy relevant to the Proposed Development and air quality is provided below.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

- 2.2.2 The Government's overall planning policies for England are described in the National Planning Policy Framework¹⁰. The core underpinning principle of the Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development, defined as:

'[...] meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

- 2.2.3 One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is that planning should 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.'

- 2.2.4 In relation to air quality, the following paragraphs in the document are relevant:

- Paragraph 55, which states 'Local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition.';
- Paragraph 105, which 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.';
- Paragraph 174, which states 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: [...] e) preventing new and existing

¹⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework.

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 185, which states 'Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development.';
- Paragraph 186, which states '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.'; and
- Paragraph 188, which states 'The focus of planning policies and decisions should be on whether proposed development is an acceptable use of land, rather than the control of processes or emissions (where these are subject to separate pollution control regimes). Planning decisions should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes operated by pollution control authorities'.

2.2.5 These were reviewed and the relevant guidance considered as necessary throughout the undertaking of the assessment.

2.3 Local Planning Policy

Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy

- 2.3.1 The Core Strategy part of the Local Plan¹¹ will set the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. It sets out how and where new development and regeneration should take place and will therefore promote, guide and manage the future development of the borough.
- 2.3.2 A review of the document identified the following policy as relevant for this report and the Proposed Development:

“Policy CS2

Development Principles

- 1) *New development in Knowsley and the preparation of subsequent stages of the Local Plan will be expected to support the following development principles:*

[...]

Principle 4: Recognise environmental limits, protect and enhance environmental assets, enhance local character and promote quality of place by:

- e) Mitigating potential negative impacts of traffic growth and road traffic on highway safety, air quality, noise and health;*
- j) Minimising negative impact upon flood risk, air quality, water quality, land quality, soil quality, and noise or vibration levels and ensuring any negative impacts are appropriately mitigated.”*

2.4 National Planning Guidance

- 2.4.1 A summary of the publications referred to in undertaking this assessment is provided below.

¹¹ Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted January 2016) [Online] Available at <https://localplanmaps.knowsley.gov.uk/documents/knowsley-local-plan-adopted-core-strategy.pdf> [Accessed 08/11/2023].

Local Air Quality Management Review and Assessment Technical Guidance (2022)

- 2.4.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has published technical guidance for use by local authorities in their review and assessment work. This guidance, referred to in this document as LAQM.TG22¹², has been used where appropriate in the assessment presented herein.

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

- 2.4.3 Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) have published guidance¹³ that offers comprehensive advice on: when an air quality assessment may be required; what should be included in an assessment; how to determine the significance of any air quality impacts associated with a development; and, the possible mitigation measures that may be implemented to minimise these impacts.

Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (2023)

- 2.4.4 This document¹⁴ published by the IAQM was produced to provide guidance to developers, consultants and environmental health officers on how to assess the impacts arising from construction activities. The emphasis of the methodology is on classifying sites according to the risk of impacts (in terms of dust nuisance, PM₁₀ impacts on public exposure and impact upon sensitive ecological receptors) and to identify mitigation measures appropriate to the level of risk identified.

National Planning Practice Guidance – Air Quality (2019)

- 2.4.5 This guidance¹⁵ provides a number of guiding principles on how the planning process can take into account the impact of new development on air quality, it explains how much detail air quality assessments need to include for proposed developments, and how impacts on air quality can be mitigated. It also provides information on how air quality is taken into account by local authorities in both the wider planning context of Local Plans and neighbourhood planning, and in individual cases where air quality is a consideration in a planning decision.

¹² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2022) Part IV The Environment Act 1995 as amended by the Environment Act 2021 Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III, Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG22.

¹³ Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management (Version 1.2 Updated January 2017) Land Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality.

¹⁴ The Institute of Air Quality Management (2023) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, August 2023 (Version 2.1) [Online] Available at <https://iaqm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Construction-dust-2023-BG-v6-amendments.pdf> [Accessed 08/11/2023].

¹⁵ Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (Updated November 2019) National Planning Practice Guidance.

3 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope

3.1.1 The scope of the assessment has been determined in the following way:

- A review of the Masterplan of the Proposed Development;
- Desktop study to confirm the locations of nearby existing receptors that may be sensitive to changes in local air quality; and
- Review of KMBC's latest available Air Quality Annual Status Report¹⁶ (ASR) and air quality data surrounding the Site including data from the Environment Agency (EA)¹⁷;

3.1.2 The scope of the assessment includes consideration of the potential impact on local air quality resulting from:

- Dust and particle matter generated by on-site activities during the construction phase;
- Increases in pollutant concentrations as a result of exhaust emissions arising from construction traffic and plant; and
- Increases in pollutant concentrations as a result of exhaust emissions arising from traffic generated by the Proposed Development once operational.

3.2 Construction Phase Assessment

3.2.1 Dust comprises particles typically in the size range of 1-75 micrometres (μm) in aerodynamic diameter and is created through the action of crushing and abrasive forces on materials. The larger dust particles fall out of the atmosphere quickly after initial release and therefore tend to be deposited in close proximity to the source of emission. Dust therefore is unlikely to cause long term or wide-spread changes to air quality; however, its deposition on property and cars can cause 'soiling' and discolouration. This may result in complaints of nuisance through amenity loss or perceived damage caused, which is usually temporary.

3.2.2 The smaller particles of dust are known as particulate matter (PM), with less than 10 μm in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{10}) representing only a small proportion of total dust released; this includes a finer fraction, known as $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 μm). As these particles are at the smaller end of the size range of dust particles, they remain suspended in the atmosphere for a longer period of time than the larger dust particles, they

¹⁶ Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (2023) 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) [Online] Available at <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/knowsleycouncil/media/Documents/KNOWSLEY-ASR-2023.pdf> [Accessed 07/11/2023].

¹⁷ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, 2022) Pollution Inventory [Online] Available at <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/cfd94301-a2f2-48a2-9915-e477ca6d8b7e/pollution-inventory> [Accessed 07/11/2023].

can therefore be transported by wind over a wider area. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are small enough to be drawn into the lungs during breathing. Exposure to PM₁₀ has long been associated with a range of health effects, with an increasing focus on the smallest particles such as PM_{2.5} and smaller. However, it is worth noting that, according to the IAQM guidance, the majority of fugitive particulate emissions arising from construction sites are expected to relate to the coarser fractions (i.e., PM_{2.5-10}) with just 10-15% expected to comprise PM_{2.5}. The IAQM guidance therefore focusses on PM₁₀ for the purposes of assessment.

3.2.3 An assessment of the likely significant impacts on local air quality due to the generation and dispersion of dust and PM₁₀ during the construction phase has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined within the IAQM latest guidance; the available information for this phase of the Proposed Development provided by the Client and/or Project Team; and the professional judgement of the NoiseAir team.

3.2.4 The IAQM methodology provides a framework to ensure that assessments are more consistent and consider the full range of potential impacts. This guidance assesses the risk of potential dust and PM₁₀ impacts from the following four sources:

- Demolition;
- Earthworks;
- Construction; and
- Trackout.

3.2.5 It takes into account the nature and scale of the activities undertaken for each source and the sensitivity of the area to an increase in PM₁₀ levels to assign a level of risk. Risks are described in terms of there being a low, medium or high risk of dust impacts. Once the level of risk has been identified, and the significance of residual effects determined. A summary of the IAQM assessment methodology is provided in **Appendix C**.

3.2.6 In addition to the impacts on local air quality due to on-site construction activities, exhaust emissions from construction vehicles and plant may have an impact on local air quality adjacent to the routes used by these vehicles to access the application Site and in the vicinity of the application Site itself. As information on the number of vehicles and plant associated with the construction phase was not available at the time of writing, a qualitative assessment of their impact on local air quality has been undertaken using professional judgement and considering the following:

- The number and type of construction traffic and plant likely to be generated by this phase of the development;

- The number and proximity of sensitive receptors to the application Site and along the likely routes to be used by construction vehicles; and
- The likely duration of the construction phase and the nature of the construction activities undertaken.

3.3 Operational Phase Assessment

3.3.1 The Proposed Development has the potential to expose future users to any existing air quality issues.

3.3.2 The EPUK & IAQM guidance sets out two stages for determining when an assessment of potential impacts on the local area is likely to be necessary. The Stage 1 criteria for an AQA is presented below:

A. If any of the following apply:

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

B. Coupled with any of the following:

- The development has more than 10 parking spaces; or,
- The development will have a centralised energy facility or other centralised combustion process.

3.3.3 Should these criteria not be met, then the EPUK and IAQM guidance considers air quality impacts associated with a scheme to be negligible and no further assessment is required. Should the criteria be met or exceeded, proceed to Stage 2. Stage 2 of the EPUK & IAQM guidance document states the following criteria to help establish when an AQA is likely to be considered necessary:

- Proposals that will cause a change in Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) flows of more than 100 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA or more than 500 elsewhere.
- Proposals that will cause a change in HDV flows of more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA or more than 100 elsewhere.
- Proposals that would realign roads within an AQMA by more than 5m;
- Proposals that will introduce new junctions or remove existing junctions near relevant receptors.
- Proposals that will introduce or change a bus station or change flows of buses by more than 25 AADT within an AQMA or more than 100 AADT elsewhere.
- Proposals which will include an underground car park with extraction system which will be within 20m of a relevant receptor and have more than 100 movements per day.

- Proposals which include either a centralised plant using biofuel, a combustion plant with single or thermal input >300KWh or a standby emergency generator associated with a centralised energy centre; and,
- Proposals which include combustion processes of any size.

3.3.4 Should these criteria not be met, then the EPUK and IAQM guidance documents consider air quality impacts associated with a scheme to be not significant and no further assessment being required.

3.3.5 Should screening of the traffic data indicate that any of the above criteria are met, then potential impacts at sensitive receptor locations can be assessed by calculating the predicted change in pollutant concentrations as a result of the Proposed Development.

3.3.6 The significance of predicted impacts can then be determined in accordance with the methodology outlined in the EPUK and IAQM guidance.

3.4 Selection of Sensitive Receptors

3.4.1 Sensitive locations are places where the public or sensitive ecological habitats may be exposed to pollutants resulting from activities associated with the Proposed Development. These will include locations sensitive to an increase in dust deposition and PM₁₀ exposure as a result of on-site construction activities, and locations sensitive to exposure to gaseous pollutants emitted from the exhausts of construction and operational traffic associated with the Proposed Development.

Construction Phase

3.4.2 The IAQM assessment is undertaken where there are:

- 'human receptors' within 250 m of the site boundary, all within 50 m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250 m from the site entrance(s); and/or
- 'ecological receptors' within 50 m of the site boundary, or within 50 m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250 m from the site entrance(s).

3.4.3 It is within these distances that the impacts of dust soiling and increased particulate matter in the ambient air will have the greatest impact on local air quality at sensitive receptors. For specific (high risk) schemes the planning authority may require dust assessment despite the proposed site falling outside the distances above.

Operational Phase

- 3.4.4 In terms of locations that are sensitive to pollutants emitted from engine exhausts, these will include places where members of the public are likely to be regularly present over the period of time and prescribed in the AQS. An example would be on a footpath where exposure will be transient (for the duration of passage along that path) comparison with a short-term standard (i.e., 15-minute or 1-hour mean) maybe relevant. At a school or adjacent to a private dwelling, where exposure maybe for longer periods, comparison with a long-term standard (such as 24-hour mean or annual mean) maybe more appropriate. Box 1.1 of LAQM.TG.22 provides examples of the locations where the air quality objectives should/should not apply.

3.5 Significance Criteria

Construction Phase

- 3.5.1 The IAQM assessment methodology recommends that significance criteria is only assigned to the identified risk of dust impacts occurring from a construction activity with appropriate mitigation measures in place. For almost all construction activities, the application of effective mitigation should prevent any significant effects occurring to sensitive receptors and therefore the residual effect will normally be negligible.
- 3.5.2 For the assessment of the impact of exhaust emissions from plant used on-site and construction vehicles accessing and leaving the Site on local concentrations of NO₂ and particulate matter; the significance of residual effects has been determined using professional judgement and the principles outlined in the EPUK & IAQM guidance, which are described below.

Operational Phase

- 3.5.3 The approach provided in the EPUK & IAQM guidance has been used within this assessment to assist in describing the air quality effects of emissions from traffic generated by the Proposed Development once operational.

Future Exposure

- 3.5.4 The Proposed Development is a residential development and falls within the scope for an exposure assessment to be undertaken in accordance with the EPUK and IAQM guidance, the use of the Site, its distance from major pollutant sources and professional judgement.

Selection of Background Concentrations

- 3.5.5 Background pollutant data for the operational phase assessment have been taken from the national maps provided on the Defra¹⁸ website, where background concentrations of those pollutants included within the AQS have been mapped at a grid resolution of 1x1 km for the whole of the UK. Estimated background concentrations are available for all years between 2018 and 2030. The maps assume that background concentrations will improve (i.e., reduce) overtime, in line with the predicted reduction in vehicle emissions, and emissions from other sources. Due to the uncertainties discussed above, and in line with the findings of many local authorities that measured concentrations have not reduced as anticipated 2019 background concentrations for NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} have been utilised in this assessment for the opening year. This provides a robust assessment and is likely to overestimate pollutant concentrations during the operation of the Proposed Development.

¹⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2020) Background Concentrations [Online] Available at <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-maps?year=2018> [Accessed on 07/11/2023].

4 BASELINE

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Existing air quality conditions in the vicinity of the Site were identified in order to provide a baseline for assessment. These are detailed in the following Sections.

4.2 Local Air Quality Management

- 4.2.1 As required by the Environment Act (1995), KMBC has undertaken review and assessment of air quality within their area of jurisdiction. In 2022, KMBC monitored NO₂ through a network of 35 non-automatic monitoring stations. KMBC did not undertake any automatic (continuous) monitoring within 2022, as the stations were decommissioned in September 2021.
- 4.2.2 KMBC currently does not have any declared AQMA's. Therefore, Site is not located within an AQMA.

4.3 Air Quality Monitoring

- 4.3.1 Monitoring of pollutant concentrations is undertaken by KMBC throughout their area of jurisdiction. Recent NO₂ results recorded in the vicinity of the Proposed Development are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Annual Mean NO ₂ Monitoring Results						
Monitoring Site	Site Type	Distance to Nearest Kerb (m)	Monitored NO ₂ Concentration (µg/m ³)			
			2019	2020	2021	2022
Kitkby	Roadside Automatic	1.0	24.8	25.8	30.8	-
K2a, K2b	Roadside DT	6.4	26.9	22.1	20.1	19.6
K3a, K3b	Roadside DT	1.6	25.3	22.5	19.8	20.1
K4a, K4b	Roadside DT	3.0	32.5	26.9	26.3	23.6
K5a, K5b	Roadside DT	3.2	35.1	30.9	28.1	28.9
K6a, K6b	Roadside DT	1.1	35.3	28.1	26.6	28.7
K7a, K7b	Roadside DT	1.4	29.6	24.1	21.7	20.0
K8a, K8b	Roadside DT	1.3	32.4	28.7	25.8	24.7
K9a, K9b	Roadside DT	0.9	35.3	27.7	27.1	28.6
Rounded to 1 d.p. DT = Diffusion Tube						

4.3.2 As shown in **Table 2**, monitoring locations in the vicinity of the Site have consistently recorded annual mean NO₂ concentrations below the AQO since at least 2019 which is the last year to be considered 'normal' after the impact of COVID-19 on travel behaviours.

4.3.3 Therefore, it is expected that concentrations at the Site will remain below the AQO of 40µg/m³.

4.4 Background Pollutant Concentrations

4.4.1 Predictions of background pollutant concentrations on a 1 km-by-1 km basis have been produced by DEFRA for the entire UK to assist local authorities in their review and assessment of air quality. The Site is located in grid square 341500, 398500. Data for this location was downloaded from the DEFRA website and is summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Predicted Background Pollutant Concentrations						
OS Grid Reference (X, Y; m)	Predicted Background Pollutant Concentration (µg/m ³)					
	2019			2024		
	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
341500, 398500	15.3	12.7	8.8	12.5	12.0	8.3
Rounded to 1 d.p.						

4.4.2 As shown in **Table 3**, predicted background NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations are below the relevant AQOs across the assessment extents.

5 ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 There is the potential for air quality impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. These are assessed in the following sections.

5.2 Construction Phase Assessment

- 5.2.1 Construction activities have the potential to generate and/ or re- suspend dust and PM₁₀ sources include:
- Site clearance and preparation including demolition activities;
 - Preparation of temporary access/ egress to the Site and haulage routes;
 - Earthworks;
 - Materials handling, storage, stockpiling, spillage and disposal;
 - Movement of vehicles and construction traffic within the Site (including excavators and dumper trucks);
 - Use of crushing and screening equipment/ plant;
 - Exhaust emissions from plant, especially when used at the extremes of their capacity and during mechanical breakdown;
 - Construction of buildings, roads and areas of hard standing alongside fabrication processes;
 - Internal and external finishing and refurbishment;
 - Trackout, whereby earth is carried from the Site on vehicle tyres, deposited on roads and may later become suspended in the air as a result of vehicle movements; and
 - Site landscaping after completion.
- 5.2.2 Most of the releases are likely to occur during the 'working week'. However, for some potential release sources (e.g., exposed soil produced from significant earthworks activities) in the absence of dust control mitigation measures, dust generation has the potential to occur 24 hours per day over the period during which such activities are to take place.
- Assessment of Potential Dust Emission Magnitude***
- 5.2.3 The IAQM assessment methodology has been used to determine the potential dust emission magnitude for the following four different dust and PM₁₀ sources:

-
- Demolition;
 - Earthworks;
 - Construction; and
 - Trackout.

5.2.4 The findings of the assessment are presented below.

Demolition

5.2.5 The Site is a car park. The total volume to be demolished is less than 12,000m³. Therefore, the potential dust emissions magnitude from demolition activities is considered to be **small**.

Earthworks

5.2.6 The total Site area is less than 18,000m². However, there will be moderately dusty soil type. Therefore, the potential dust emission magnitude from earthworks activities is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

5.2.7 The total building volume to be constructed is less than 12,000m³. However, there will be potentially dusty construction material (concrete). Therefore, as a conservative approach, the potential dust emission magnitude from construction activities is considered to be **medium**.

Trackout

5.2.8 Information on the number of HDVs associated with this phase of the Proposed Development is not available and therefore professional judgement has been used. It has been assumed that given the size of the development area there are likely to be less than 20 HDV outward movements in any one day. Additionally, there will be no unpaved roads, thus, the potential dust emission magnitude from trackout activities is considered to be **small**.

5.2.9 **Table 4** provides a summary of the potential dust emission magnitude determined for each construction activity considered.

Table 4: Potential Dust Emission Magnitude	
Activity	Dust Emission Magnitude
Demolition	Small
Earthworks	Medium
Construction	Medium
Trackout	Small

Assessment of Sensitivity of the Study Area

- 5.2.10 The prevailing wind direction is predominantly from the west. Therefore, receptors located to the east of the Site are more likely to be affected by dust and particulate matter emitted and re-suspended during the construction phase.
- 5.2.11 Under lower wind speed conditions, it is likely that the majority of dust would be deposited in the area immediately surrounding the source. Receptors east of the Site are expected to be affected the most as a result of the prevailing wind direction.
- 5.2.12 There are no ecological receptors within 50m of the development boundary or access route, or within 50 m of the Site entrance as identified using Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website¹⁹. The closest ecological receptor is the Acornfield Plantation Local Nature Reserve, approximately 2km southeast of the Site. As such, ecological impacts have not been assessed further within this report.
- 5.2.13 Taking the above into account and following the IAQM assessment methodology, the sensitivity of the area to changes in dust and PM₁₀ has been derived for each of the construction activities considered. The results are shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Sensitivity of the Study Area to Dust Soiling Effects				
Potential Impact	Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area			
	Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Dust Soiling	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Human Health	Low	Low	Low	Low

¹⁹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2022) Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) [Online] Available at <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> [Accessed on 08/11/2023].

Risk of Impacts

- 5.2.14 The predicted dust emission magnitude has been combined with the defined sensitivity of the area to determine the risk of impacts during the construction phase, prior to mitigation. **Table 6** below provides a summary of the risk of such impacts for the Proposed Development. The risk category identified for each construction activity has been used to determine the level of mitigation required.

Table 6: Summary Dust Risk Table Defining Site Specific Mitigation				
Potential Impact	Sensitivity of the Surrounding Area			
	Demolition	Earthworks	Construction	Trackout
Dust Soiling	Low	Medium	Medium	Low
Human Health	Negligible	Low	Low	Negligible

Construction Vehicles and Plant

- 5.2.15 The greatest impact on air quality is emissions from vehicles and plant associated with the construction phase, and these impacts will be in the areas immediately adjacent to the Site access road. Construction traffic will access the Site via the local road network. Due to the size of the Site, it is considered likely that the construction traffic will be low in comparison to the existing traffic flows on these roads.
- 5.2.16 Final details of the exact plant and equipment likely to be used on-site will be determined by the appointed contractor. The number of plant and their location within the Site are likely to be variable over the construction.
- 5.2.17 Based on the current local air quality in the area, the proximity of sensitive receptors to the roads likely to be used by construction vehicles, and the likely numbers of construction vehicles and plant that will be used, the impacts are considered to being **negligible** in accordance with the assessment significance criteria.

5.3 Operational Phase Assessment

Potential Future Exposure

- 5.3.1 The proposal has the potential to expose future residents to poor air quality. Existing conditions at the Site are therefore considered in the following Sections.

AQMA Designation

- 5.3.2 The Site is not located in or within 500m of an AQMA.

Local Monitoring Results

- 5.3.3 As shown in **Table 2**, KMBC has undertaken monitoring of annual mean NO₂ concentrations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. All monitoring locations recorded concentrations below the annual mean NO₂ AQO since at least 2019. Furthermore, some of these monitoring locations are situated within a major junction where concentrations of pollutant are expected to be higher than they would be at the Site.
- 5.3.4 Based on the above, exceedances of the relevant AQO are considered unlikely at the Site.

Background Pollutant Concentration Predictions

- 5.3.5 As shown in **Table 3**, background pollutant concentrations for the grid square containing the Site are predicted to be well below the annual mean AQOs for NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in 2019 and 2024 (the assumed opening year).
- 5.3.6 Based on the predicted background concentrations, exceedances of the relevant AQOs are considered unlikely at the Proposed Development.

Summary

- 5.3.7 It is considered likely that pollutant concentrations are below the relevant AQOs at the Proposed Development for the following reasons:
- The Site is not located within or close to an AQMA.
 - Local monitoring results indicate annual mean NO₂ concentrations are below the relevant AQO since at least 2019;
 - Predicted background concentrations are well below the relevant AQOs.
- 5.3.8 Based on the assessment results, exposure of future Site users to exceedances of the AQOs is not considered likely. As such, the Site is suitable for its continued use from an air quality perspective.

Potential Development Impacts

- 5.3.9 Any vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development will generate exhaust emissions on the local and regional road networks. It is understood that the Proposed

Development proposes 53 residential units and the provision of 22 parking spaces. Thus, the proposals meet the Stage 1 criteria. It was therefore necessary to proceed to Stage 2.

- 5.3.10 The Site is not located within or adjacent to an AQMA. Based on the professional judgment of the NoiseAir team, it is considered highly unlikely the Proposed Development will generate more than 500 LDV AADT. Given its change of use from a car park, it is likely that trips to and from the Site will reduce.
- 5.3.11 Based on the above information, the proposals do not meet Stage 2 criteria, and the EPUK and IAQM guidance considers air quality impacts associated with the scheme to be **negligible** and no further assessment is required.

6 MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS

6.1 Construction Phase

- 6.1.1 Based on the construction phase assessment results, mitigation will be required for this phase. As the Site poses a maximum of 'Medium' risk for dust impacts, the IAQM's highly recommended mitigation measures for a 'Medium' risk site are presented below:

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.
- 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. In London additional measures may be required to ensure compliance with the Mayor of London's guidance. The DMP may include monitoring of dust deposition, dust flux, real-time PM₁₀ continuous monitoring and/or visual inspections.

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

- Carry out regular site inspections to monitor compliance with the DMP, record inspection results, and make an inspection log available to the local authority when asked.

- 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 PM₁₀ continuous monitoring locations with the Local Authority. Where possible commence baseline monitoring at least three months before work commences on site or, if it a large site, before work on a phase commences. Further guidance is provided by IAQM on monitoring during demolition, earthworks and construction.

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.
- Erect solid screens or barriers around dusty activities or the site boundary that are at least as high as any stockpiles on site.
- Fully enclose site or specific operations where there is a high potential for dust production and the site is active for an extensive period.
- Avoid site runoff of water or mud.
- Keep site fencing, barriers and scaffolding clean using wet methods.
- 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.
- Cover, seed or fence stockpiles to prevent wind whipping.

Operating/Vehicle Machinery and Sustainable Travel

- Ensure all on-road vehicles comply with the requirements of the London Low Emission Zone and the London NRMM standards, where applicable.
- 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.

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 /particle matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate.

-
- Use enclosed chutes and conveyors and covered skips.
 - 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 or burning of waste materials.

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.

Construction

- 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.

Trackout

- Use water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads, to remove, as necessary, 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 hauls 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 bowzers and regularly cleaned.
- Implement a wheel washing system (with rumble grids to dislodge accumulated dust and mud prior to leaving the site where reasonably practicable).
- Ensure there is an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility and the exit, wherever site size and layout permits.
- Access gates to be located at least 10m from receptors where possible.

6.1.2 Detailed mitigation measures to control construction traffic should be discussed with the Local Authority to establish the most suitable access and haul routes for site traffic. The most effective mitigation will be achieved by ensuring that construction traffic does not pass along sensitive roads (i.e., congested roads, residential roads or unsuitable junctions for large vehicles) where possible. Construction vehicles should be kept clean through the use of wheel washers and sheeted when on public highways. Timing of large- scale vehicle movements to avoid peak hours on the local road network would also be of benefit.

6.2 Residual Effects

- 6.2.1 The residual effects of dust and PM₁₀ generated by construction activities following the application of the mitigation measures described above and good Site practise is considered to be **not significant**.
- 6.2.2 The residual effects of emissions to air from construction vehicles and plant on local air quality is considered to be **not significant**.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 NoiseAir Limited was commissioned to undertake an AQA in support of a proposed residential development at a site off St Chads Drive, Kirkby, Knowsley L32 8RE.
- 7.1.2 A qualitative assessment of the potential impacts on local air quality from construction activities has been carried out for this phase of the Proposed Development using the IAQM methodology. This identified that there is a maximum of **Medium risk** of dust soiling impacts and a **Low risk** of increases in particulate matter concentrations due to unmitigated construction activities for human health. However, through good site practice and the implementation of suitable mitigation measures, the effect of dust and particulate matter releases would be significantly reduced. The residual effects of dust and particulate matter generated by construction activities on air quality are therefore considered to be **not significant**. The residual effects of emissions to air from construction vehicles and plant on local air quality is considered to be **not significant**.
- 7.1.3 Based on the extent of predicted population exposure to the impacts on pollutant concentrations and the guidance provided by EPUK & IAQM, the Proposed Development is expected to result in a **negligible** impact associated with the operational phase traffic on nearby receptors and the residual effects are considered to be **not significant**.
- 7.1.4 A desk top study on the potential for future residents of the Proposed Development has been undertaken. The potential for exposure of future users to exceedances of the AQO was assessed based on local monitoring results, predicted background concentrations, and proximity to pollution sources and AQMA designations. This indicated that concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are likely to be below the relevant AQO at the Site.
- 7.1.5 It is considered that the Proposed Development complies with national and local policy for air quality.
- 7.1.6 Based on the assessment results, air quality issues are not considered a constraint to planning consent.

FIGURES

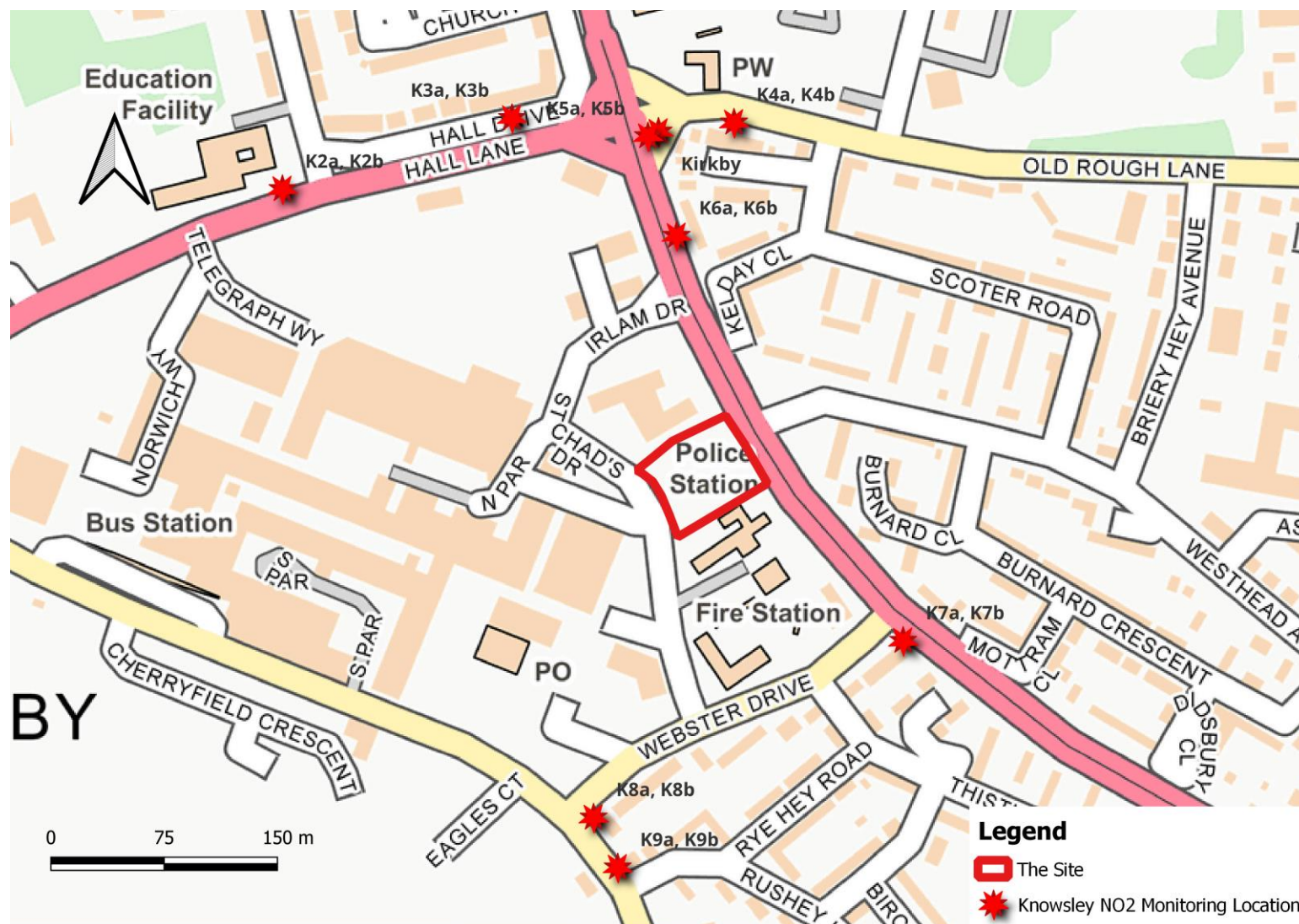


Figure 1 Site Location Assessment Extents

APPENDIX A - REPORT LIMITATIONS

This Report is presented to Focus Consultants 2010 LLP and may not be used or relied on by any other person or by the client in relation to any other matters not covered specifically by the scope of this report.

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APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

AADT Annual Average Daily Traffic	A daily total traffic flow (24hrs), expressed as mean daily floor across all 365 days of the year.
Adjustment	Application of a correction factor to modelled results to account for uncertainties in the model.
Accuracy	A measure of how well a set of data fits the true value.
Air quality objective	Policy target generally expressed as a maximum ambient concentration to be achieved, either without exception or with the permitted number of exceedances within a specific time scale (see also air quality standard).
Ambient air	Outdoor air in the troposphere, excluding workplace air.
Annual mean	the average (mean) of the concentrations measured for each pollutant for one year.
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area.
AQO	Air Quality Objective.
AURN	Automatic Urban And Rural (air quality) Network, managed by contractors on behalf of Defra.
Conservative	Trending to over predict the impact rather than under predict.
Data Capture	The percentage of all the possible measurements forgiven periods that were validly measured.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
DfT	Department for Transport
EFT	Emission Factor Toolkit
Emission rate	The quantity of a pollutant released from a source over a given period of time.
EPUK	Environmental Protection (UK)
Exceedance	A period of time where the concentration of a pollutant is greater than the appropriate air quality standard.

HDV/HGV	Heavy Duty Vehicle/Heavy Goods Vehicle.
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management.
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management.
Model adjustment	Following model verification, the process by which modelled results are amended. This corrects for systematic error.
NO₂	Nitrogen dioxide.
NO_x	Nitrogen oxides.
PM₁₀	Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometres.
Road link	A length of road which is considered to have the same flow of traffic along it. Usually, a link is the road from one junction to the next
µg/m³ micrograms per cubic metre	A measure of concentration in terms of mass per unit volume. A concentration of 1µg/m ³ means that one cubic metre of air contains one microgram (millionth of a gram) of a pollutant.

APPENDIX C – IAQM CONSTRUCTION DUST ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

IAQM Construction Dust Assessment Methodology

Step 1 – Screening the Need for a Detailed Assessment

An assessment will normally be required where there is:

- ‘human receptors’ within 250m of the boundary of the site; all within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250m from the site entrance(s); and/ or
- ‘ecological receptors’ within 50m of the boundary of the site; or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250m from the site entrance(s)

For specific (high risk) schemes the planning authority may require dust assessment despite the proposed site falling outside the distances above.

Where the need for more detail assessment is screened out, it can be concluded that the level of risk is ‘negligible’, and any effects will not be significant.

Step 2a – Define the Potential Dust Emission Magnitude

The dust emission magnitude is based on the scale of the anticipated works and should be classified as Small, Medium, or Large. The following are examples of how the potential dust emission magnitude for different activities can be defined.

Note that, in each case, not all criteria need to be met; other criteria may be used if justified within the assessment. Where relevant, multiple screening assessments may be completed for different development phases (or even sub-phases where demolition may be brief or there is a very short period of intense activity, for example).

Table C1: Construction Dust - Magnitude of Emission		
Magnitude	Activity	Criteria
Large	Demolition	- Total volume of building to be demolished greater than 75,000 m³. - Potentially dusty material (e.g., concrete). - On-site crushing and screening. - Demolition activities more than 12 m above ground level.
	Earthworks	- Total site area greater than 110,000 m². - Potentially dusty soil type (e.g., clay, which will be prone to suspension when dry due to small particle size).

Table C1: Construction Dust - Magnitude of Emission		
Magnitude	Activity	Criteria
		- More than 10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time. - Formation of bunds greater than 6 m in height.
	Construction	- Total building volume greater than 75,000 m³. - On site concrete batching. - Sandblasting.
	Trackout	- More than 50 Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) trips per day. - Potentially dusty surface material (e.g., high clay content). - Unpaved road length greater than 100 m.
Medium	Demolition	- Total volume of building to be demolished between 12,000 m³ and 75,000 m³. - Potentially dusty construction material. - Demolition activities 6 m to 12 m above ground level.
	Earthworks	- Total site area between 18,000 m² and 110,000 m². - Moderately dusty soil type (e.g., silt). - Between 5 and 10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time. - Formation of bunds between 3 m and 6 m in height.
	Construction	- Total building volume 12,000 m³ to 75,000 m³. - Potentially dusty construction material (e.g., concrete). - On site concrete batching.
	Trackout	- 20 to 50 HDV trips per day. - Moderately dusty surface material (e.g., high clay content). - Unpaved road length 50 m to 100 m.
Small	Demolition	- Total volume of building to be demolished less than 12,000 m³. - Construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g., metal cladding or timber).

Table C1: Construction Dust - Magnitude of Emission		
Magnitude	Activity	Criteria
		- Demolition activities less than 6 m above ground. - Demolition activities during wetter months.
	Earthworks	- Total site area less than 18,000 m². - Soil type with large grain size (e.g., sand). - Less than 5 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time. - Formation of bunds less than 4 m in height.
	Construction	- Total building volume less than 12,000 m³. - Construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g., metal cladding or timber).
	Trackout	- Less than 20 HDV trips per day. - Surface material with low potential for dust release. - Unpaved road length less than 50 m.

Step 2b – Define the Sensitivity of the Area

The tables below present the IAQM assessment methodology to determine the sensitivity of the area to soiling, human health and ecological impacts respectively. The IAQM guidance provides guidance to allow sensitivity of individual receptors 2 to soiling and health effects to assist in the assessment of the overall sensitivity of the study area.

Table C2: Sensitivity of the Area to Dust Soiling Effects on People and Property					
Receptor Sensitivity	Number of Receptors	Distance from the Source (m)			
		<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

Table C3: Sensitivity of the Area to Human Health Impacts							
Receptor Sensitivity	Annual Mean PM ₁₀ Concentrations (µg/m ³)	Number of Receptors	Distance from the Source (m)				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
High	>32	>100	High	High	High	Medium	Low
		10-100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low

Table C3: Sensitivity of the Area to Human Health Impacts							
Receptor Sensitivity	Annual Mean PM ₁₀ Concentrations (µg/m ³)	Number of Receptors	Distance from the Source (m)				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
	28-32	>100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	24-28	>100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<24	>100	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>32	>10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	28-32	>10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<24	>10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Low	-	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Table C4: Sensitivity of the Area to Ecological Impacts		
Receptor Sensitivity	Distance from the Source (m)	
	<20	<50
High	High	Medium
Medium	Medium	Low
Low	Low	Low

Step 2c – Define the Risk of Impacts

The dust emissions magnitude determined in Step 2A should be combined with the sensitivity of the area determined at Step 2B to determine the risk of impacts without mitigation applied. For those cases where the risk category is 'negligible' no mitigation measures beyond those required by legislation will be required.

Table C5: Risk of Dust Impacts			
Sensitivity of Surrounding	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
Demolition			
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk
Medium	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible
Earthworks and Construction			

Table C5: Risk of Dust Impacts			
Sensitivity of Surrounding	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
Trackout			
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

Step 3 – Site Specific Mitigation

Having determined the risk categories for each of the four activities it is possible to determine the site- specific measures to be adopted. These measures will be related to whether the site is considered to be a low, medium or high risk Site. The IAQM guidance details the mitigation measures required for low, medium and high risk sites as determined in Step 2C.

Step 4 – Determine Significant Effects

Once the risk of dust impacts has been determined in Step 2C under the appropriate dust mitigation measures identified in Step 3, the final step is to determine whether there are significant effects arising from the construction phase. For almost all construction activities, the application of effective mitigation should prevent any significant effects occurring to sensitive receptors. If there are residual effects they will normally be negligible.

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