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Your ref:
Our ref: H6537/MH/rg
Date: 26 July 2021

PRELIMINARY AIR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DIRECTION OF OFFICE/WORKSHOP

& VEHICLE WORKSHOP

TOGETHER WITH TRAINING CENTRE,

FENCE, FORMATION OF CAR PARK

& ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

LAND NORTH WEST OF MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

WHITTLESEY ROAD

MARCH

CAMBS

PE15 0AH

1 Gordon Avenue
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 8AJ

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to submit a Full Planning Application to Fenland District Council for the proposed workshop/office, vehicle workshop and training centre, together with associated infrastructure, car park and fencing at this site in March, Cambs.

A Full Planning Application is being submitted to Fenland District Council for this proposal

2.0 FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Fenland District Council have an Air Quality Action 2018 available on their website. The summary of this document is to maintain pollutant levels below national objectives and improve public health by reducing population exposure to air pollutants.

3.0 AIR QUALITY IN FENLAND

The Local Air Quality Management regime was introduced by the Environment Act 1995, which requires Local Authorities to review and assess air quality in their areas, as necessary.

Fenland had four air quality management areas for industrial and traffic related pollutants, which are as follows.

V.A.T 876 0014 34

Reg : 5525923

AQMA 1 – Particle matter from an industrial coal fired boiler at a large Wisbech factory.

AQMA 2 – Sulphur dioxide from an industrial coal fired boiler at a large Wisbech factory.

AQMA 3 – Nitrogen Dioxide from traffic emissions in a congested stretch of a road in Wisbech Town Centre.

AQMA 4 – Sulphur dioxide from industrial chimneys in Whittlesey.

None of these locations are within nor adjacent to the town of March.

4.0 MONITORING

Fenland District Council's Air Quality Assessment document advises that nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes across the district sampling traffic pollution and sulphur dioxide continuous monitoring stations are set sampling chimney emissions within the relevant area.

Within this document, it advises that the monitoring data was reviewed in 2017, which confirmed the following.

1. The objectives for sulphur dioxide were met at the monitoring location within the Whittlesey location.
2. The objectives for nitrogen dioxide were met at all monitoring locations, both inside and outside specific areas with generally good data capture. The document also advises that some areas showed a slight rise in levels but others also showed a slight reduction.

5.0 NITROGEN DIOXIDE (TRAFFIC)

The document produced by Fenland District Council advises that there are 25 nitrogen dioxide monitoring locations within the Fenland district, which use passive diffusion tubes. These are generally distributed on a 4-5 week cycle in line with the national programme. We understand that these locations were selected following a screening exercise.

Of the monitoring locations, the following locations are closest to this site.

S2 – Station Road Level Crossing, March

S11 – High Street, March

S19 – Broad Street Bus Stop, March

S21 – Norfolk Court, March

S24 – Jim Hocking Court, March

On reviewing the results of the annual mean concentrations monitored between 2018, the High Street location showed a slight increase against the previous year, where Station Road and Broad Street showed a slight decrease. S21 & S24 results are only shown for 2018.

6.0 SULPHUR DIOXIDE

The air quality management areas 1, 2, 3 & 4 are located in Wisbech and Whittlesey. The area within Wisbech, the boiler that omitted sulphur dioxide and particle matter from this chimney has been changed fuel source from coal to gas.

7.0 AIR QUALITY ACTION AREAS

Fenland had identified 5 No action areas where action is required, these being as follows.

1. Monitoring Reporting
2. Health, well beings and communities
3. Planning
4. Transport
5. Industry

8.0 DEFRA RESULTS FOR THIS SITE

Using the Department of Environmental Foods and Rural Affairs website, the background mapping in 2019 revealed the following results.

Sulphur dioxide annual mean	Concentration – 1.36 ug m ⁻³
Nitrogen dioxide annual mean	Concentration – 8.28 ug m ⁻³
Carbon monoxide annual mean	Concentration – 0.20 mg m ⁻³
Lead annual mean	Concentration – 5.52 mg m ⁻³
PM10 annual mean	Concentration – 17.36 ug m ⁻³
PM2.5 annual mean	Concentration – 9.90 ug m ⁻³

The readings above have been obtained from the Department of Environmental Foods and Rural Affairs UK background map for this site, with coordinates of Easting – 539698 and Northing – 297308.

Generally terms of air quality objectives, these are derived from the European Commission directive and are adopted under the Air Quality Regulations 2000, which were consequently amended in 2002.

The objectives protect human health in England are generally as follows.

Type	Concentration Limit (ug m ⁻³)
PM2.5	25.0
PM10	40.00
NO ₂	40.0

This site therefore is less than the figures shown above.

9.0 POSSIBLE AIR CONTAMINATION

Generally from proposals, construction dust from the site itself or from vehicles likely to arise from the proposal which would be variable depending on the nature of the activity and time of year works undertaken. This is further varied by ground conditions, adjacent sites and road conditions.

There are no demolition works proposed as part of this development as at present the site is an agricultural field.

There will be a requirement for new private roads within the site as shown on the design drawing, which would be of a hardstanding nature. There will therefore be a requirement for excavation works to allow for subbases, together with associated base courses and finishes.

Where proposed buildings are to be set, there will be a requirement for earth works.

A swale is also proposed where there will be further requirements for earth works.

There are soft landscape areas together with car park areas which will require further earth work.

Localised excavation works will also be required for fencing and security.

Construction vehicles will enter the site over various surfaces including tarmac roads and the site itself.

Periods of dry weather or greater wind speed can generate more dust particles than normal.

There are mitigation measures which can be introduced which are widely used on some construction sites, which include wheel washing, water sprays over the site, solid hoarding about the site and cleaning of the roads within the site and the adjacent Cambridgeshire County Council Whittlesey Road.

The site is set on the edge of the fenland town of March and is not within the town centre itself.

Access to this site would be via Whittlesey Road, off the A141 bypass.

It should be noted that this company already has a substantial amount of large vehicles, including cars, vans and heavy goods vehicles, located at Long Hill Road and Thorby Avenue which are sites within 1-1.5 miles of this site.

These vehicles are all being relocated to this site on the edge of the town.