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Environmental Permit Application - Spernal Sewage Treatment Works

Air Quality Impact Assessment

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Severn Trent Water Limited





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Executive Summary

Under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) the existing anaerobic digestion assets at Spernal Sewage Treatment Works (STW) require an Environmental Permit (EP). The scope of anaerobic digestion activities includes all treatment stages and incorporates directly associated activities such as a combined heat and power (CHP) gas engine and boilers.

Severn Trent Water Limited operate a STW near the village of Spernall, (B80 7EU). These operations include one existing JMC 316 GS-B.L (D25) CHP engine (with a thermal input capacity of 2.1 MW_{th}) and three existing boilers (each with a thermal input capacity of 0.8 MW_{th}).

Assessed Combustion Plant

Medium Combustion Plant	Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) Information							
MCP specific identifier*	Spernal- CHP 1	Spernal – Boiler 1	Spernal – Boiler 2	Spernal – Boiler 3				
12-digit grid reference or latitude/longitude	E 408218 N 262629	E 408227 N 262615 ¹						
Rated thermal input (MW) of the MCP	2.1	0.8	0.8	0.8				
Type of MCP (diesel engine, gas turbine, other engine or other MCP)	Gas engine	Boiler	Boiler	Boiler				
Type of fuels used: gas oil (diesel), natural gas, gaseous fuels other than natural gas	Biogas	Dual fuelled (biogas / gas-oil). Modelled with biogas.	Dual fuelled (biogas / gas- oil). Modelled with biogas.	Dual fuelled (biogas / gas-oil). Modelled with biogas.				
Date when the new MCP was first put into operation (DD/MM/YYYY)	2015	Pre 2015	Pre 2015	Pre 2015				
Sector of activity of the MCP or the facility in which it is applied (NACE code**)	E.37.00	E.37.00	E.37.00	E.37.00				
Expected number of annual operating hours of the MCP and average load in use	8,760 (modelled)	8,760 (modelled)	8,760 (modelled)	8,760 (modelled)				
Where the option of exemption under Article 6(8) is used the operator (as identified on Form A) should sign a declaration here that the MCP will not be operated more than the number of hours referred to in this paragraph	N/A	N/A	N / A					

Note 1: The boilers exhaust gases exit via a shared stack.

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The Environmental Permit application is collated to include the required forms: Part A, B2.5 and F1. As the site has a CHP engine, the information required to complete Appendix 1 of application form Part B2.5 is included within this document.

The Air Quality Impact Assessment presented within this report is required to support the EP application and assesses the potential for significant air quality effects from the operation of the CHP engine and boilers at the Spernal STW.

The potential impacts were determined for the following aspects.

- The potential impact on human health due to emissions of pollutants. The pollutants considered include nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); carbon monoxide (CO); sulphur dioxide (SO₂), total volatile organic compounds (TVOC's) and particulate matter (PM₁₀, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less and PM₂₅, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less).
- The potential impact on vegetation and ecosystems due to emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and SO₂.

This assessment has been carried out on the assumption that the CHP engine and boilers would operate continuously at maximum load throughout the year (i.e. 8,760 hours). However, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year. Furthermore, the assessed plant may not always operate at maximum load.

Human receptors

The assessment indicates that the predicted modelled off-site concentrations and predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors do not exceed any relevant long-term or short-term air quality objective or guideline. At sensitive human receptor locations, the predicted long-term (i.e. annual mean) NO_2 and particulate (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) contributions are considered 'not significant'. For short-term NO_2 , PM_{10} , SO_2 and CO concentrations at modelled off-site locations and sensitive human receptor locations, the contributions are also considered 'not significant'.

In the absence of an EQS for TVOC's, comparison of the annual mean and 24-hour mean predicted concentrations have been made against the annual mean and 24-hour mean environmental quality standard for benzene (C₆H₆). This represents a worst-case scenario for VOCs because it assumes all VOC contributions comprise benzene. For the maximum 24-hour mean TVOC concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the PEC exceeds the relevant standard for benzene.

However, TVOC emissions from the assessed combustion plant will largely comprise unburnt methane gas from the biogas fuel (up to 75% composition (Naskeo Environment, 2009)), which is not directly harmful to human health. If the contribution of methane (CH₄) is removed from the process contribution, there would be no exceedance of the relevant standard. Therefore, when considering the conservative approach to the assessment and based on professional judgement, the contribution of TVOC's is considered 'not significant'.

This assessment has been carried out on the assumption that the CHP engine and boilers would operate continuously at maximum load throughout the year (i.e. 8,760 hours). However, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year. Furthermore, the assessed plant may not always operate at maximum load.

Protected conservation areas

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For critical levels at the assessed local nature sites, the results indicate that the respective annual mean NOx and SO_2 PCs are less than 100% of the long-term environmental standard and the impact can also be described as 'insignificant'.

For the 24-hour mean critical level for NOx, the results indicate that the short-term NOx PCs are less than 100% of the short-term environmental standard and can be described as 'insignificant'. The conservative approach



adopted throughout this assessment means that, based on professional judgement, it is not considered likely that there would be unacceptable impacts to air quality at the assessed protected conservation areas as a consequence of the operation of the assessed CHP engine and boilers with regard to ambient concentrations of NOx and SO₂.

For acid deposition and nutrient nitrogen deposition, the results indicate that the respective PCs at the assessed local nature sites are less than 100% of the long-term environmental standard for protected conservation areas and the impact can be described as 'insignificant' as Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a).

As discussed above, the conservative approach adopted for this assessment means the predicted concentrations presented are likely to be higher than would reasonably be expected.

Summary

Based on the above assessment, it is concluded that the assessed CHP engine and boilers are acceptable from an air quality perspective.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)¹ the anaerobic digestion assets at Spernal Sewage Treatment Works (STW) are required to be included in an Environmental Permit (EP). The scope of anaerobic digestion activities includes all treatment stages and incorporates directly associated activities such as a combined heat and power (CHP) gas engine and boilers.

Severn Trent Water Limited (hereafter 'Severn Trent') currently operates one biogas fuelled Jenbacher JMC 316 GS-B.L (D25) CHP engine (with a thermal input capacity of 2.1 MW_{th}) and three duel-fuelled² boilers (each with thermal input capacity of 0.8 MW_{th}) at the Spernal STW (B80 7EU) (hereafter 'the site'). Jacobs UK Limited (hereafter 'Jacobs') has carried out an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) on behalf of Severn Trent to assess the potential impact of emissions from the existing CHP engine and boilers.

1.2 Study Outline

This AQIA is required to support the EP application and assesses the likely significant air quality effects of emissions to air from the CHP engine and boilers at the site. The air quality assessment has been carried out following the relevant Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a; 2021b). The AQIA considers the following.

- The potential impact on human health due to emissions of pollutants. The pollutants considered include nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), total volatile organic compounds (TVOC's) and particulate matter (PM₁₀, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less and PM_{2.5}, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less).
- The potential impact on vegetation and ecosystems due to emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and SO₂.

In order to support the Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) EU/2015/2193³ and Specified Generators (Schedule 25A and 25B) Environment Permit (EP) application, the site was previously modelled in 2018. The previous assessment only considered the existing CHP engine. This assessment now includes the existing on-site boilers.

The site boundary (represented by the approximate site fenceline) is presented in Figure 1.

This report draws upon information provided from the following parties:

- Severn Trent:
- ADM Ltd;
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH);
- GE Jenbacher GmbH & Co OG (Jenbacher)
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SADC); and
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

This report includes a description of the emission sources, description of methodology and significance criteria, a review of the baseline conditions including an exploration of the existing environment of the site and surrounding area, an evaluation of results and the potential impact of emissions on human health and protected conservation areas during operation and, finally, conclusions of the assessment.

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¹ European Directive 2010/75/EU.

² Dual fuelled utilising biogas (primary fuel) or gas-oil.

³ European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, Medium Combustion Plant Directive EU/2015/2193 of 25 November 2015 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.



2. Emission Sources

2.1 Emission Sources to Air

The location of the assessed CHP engine (emission point reference A1) and boilers (emission point reference A2a, A2b & A2c) are presented in Figure 1. It should be noted the boilers exhaust gases exit via a shared stack and have been modelled accordingly.

The CHP engine and boilers (when utilising biogas) are fuelled by biogas generated from the sites' anaerobic digestion process and emissions were modelled on this basis. As discussed previously, the boilers are a dual-fuel design and can run on biogas or gas-oil. However, for this assessment they have been modelled utilising biogas as this gives a worst-case scenario for emissions of NOx, typically the pollutant of main concern. The modelling only considers emissions from the CHP engine and boilers and no other emission points to air at the site have been included in the assessment.

Table 1 presents the emission sources to air considered in this assessment.

Table 1: Combustion plant to be assessed

Parameters	JMC 316 (D25) GS-B.L CHP engine (2.1 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	
Modelled fuel	Biogas	Biogas	Biogas	Biogas	
Emission point	A1	A2a	A2b	A2c	

This assessment has been carried out on the assumption that the CHP engine and boilers would operate continuously at maximum load throughout the year (i.e. 8,760 hours). This is a conservative assumption as, in practice, the CHP engine will have periods of shut-down and maintenance and may not always operate at maximum load. Furthermore, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year. However, for predicted modelled concentrations, it is assumed all assessed combustion plant operate continuously and simultaneously as this approach ensures that the worst-case or maximum long-term and short-term modelled concentrations are quantified (further consideration of this is provided in Appendix A).

2.2 Emissions Data

It should be noted from the 1st of January 2030, certain pollutant emission concentrations from the assessed combustion plant must adhere to emission concentration limits as set out in the Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) EU/2015/2193³ (European Union, 2015) and as transposed into Schedule 25A of The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (UK Government, 2018).

For the assessed CHP engine, the NOx, CO and TVOC emission concentrations were derived from the Environment Agency's 'Guidance for monitoring landfill gas engine emissions' (Environment Agency, 2010). For SO_2 , the emission concentration applied in the assessment is derived from hydrogen sulphide $(H_2S))^4$ monitoring of the biogas at the Spernal site (Severn Trent, 2022). Further consideration of this is provided in Appendix B. For particulates, in the absence of a specific emission limit value, the emission concentration was derived from a previous study of landfill gas engines (Land Quality Management Ltd, 2002).

For the boilers, as a worst-case approach to the assessment, the NOx emission concentration is based on the emission limit values for existing MCP other than engines and gas turbines as regulated under the MCPD³. For SO₂, the emission concentration applied in the assessment is derived from the same H₂S monitoring as the CHP engine. For CO and TVOC, in the absence of a specific emission limit value, the CO emission concentration was obtained from Defra's Process Guidance Note 1/3, 'Statutory Guidance for Boilers and Furnaces 20-50MW

 $^{^4}$ A maximum H_2S concentration of 76 mg/m 3 was recorded on-site between 7th February 2021 and 8th February 2022. Further information on the conversion of H_2S to SO_2 is provided in Appendix B.



thermal input' (Defra, 2012) and the TVOC emission concentration was derived from the Environment Agency's 'Guidance for monitoring landfill gas engine emissions' (Environment Agency, 2010).

For the assessed CHP engine, the exhaust gas volumetric flow, exhaust gas temperature and moisture content were obtained from the Jenbacher gas engine Technical Description JMC 316 GS-B.L (D25) datasheet (Jenbacher, 2016). In the absence of information regarding oxygen content, the data used in the model is based on professional judgment acquired from previous work involving biogas fuelled CHP engines of a similar thermal input capacity.

For the boilers, the exhaust gas volumetric flow was determined using stoichiometric calculations based on the combustion of biogas at the maximum thermal input rating of the respective boiler. In the absence of information regarding temperature, oxygen and moisture content of the boilers, the data used in the model is based on professional judgement acquired from previous work involving biogas fuelled boilers of a similar thermal input capacity.

The emissions inventory of releases to air from the CHP engine and boilers is provided in Appendix A.



3. Assessment Methodology

This section presents a summary of the methodology used for the assessment of the potential impacts of the site. A full description of the study inputs and assumptions are provided in Appendix A.

3.1 Assessment Location

For this assessment, 25 of the closest sensitive human receptors (such as residential properties, schools, residential care homes and Public Rights of Way (PRoW)) and an air quality management area (AQMA) (see Section 4.2) near the site were identified. The location of these receptors are presented in Figure 2.

In line with the Environment Agency guidance 'Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit' (Environment Agency, 2021a), it is necessary to identify protected conservation areas within the following distances from the site:

- European sites (i.e. Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites)
 within 10 km; and
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and local nature sites (i.e. ancient woodlands, local wildlife sites (LWS) and national and local nature reserves (NNR and LNR)) within 2 km.

Based on these criteria; the Alders ancient replanted woodland; Morgrove Coppice ancient replanted woodland; Spernall Park / Clouse Wood ancient & semi-natural woodland; Saddlers Hill Coppice ancient replanted woodland and River Arrow LWS have been included in the assessment. It should be noted there are no European sites within 10 km of the site based on the CHP engine stack location National Grid Reference (NGR) E 408218 N 262629.

The location of the assessed protected conservation areas are presented in Figure 3 and further details are set out in Appendix A.

3.2 Overall Methodology

The assessment was carried out using an atmospheric dispersion modelling technique. Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS) version 5.2.4 was used to model releases of the identified substances. The ADMS model predicts the dispersion of operational emissions from a specific source (e.g. a stack), and the subsequent concentrations over an identified area (e.g. at ground level across a grid of receptor points) or at specified points (e.g. a residential property). ADMS was selected because this model is fit for the purpose of modelling the emissions from the type of sources on-site (i.e. point source emissions from a combustion source) and is accepted as a suitable assessment tool by local authorities and the Environment Agency.

The modelling assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Environment Agency guidance 'Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit' (Environment Agency, 2021a).

A summary of the dispersion modelling procedure is set out below.

- Information on plant location and stack parameters were supplied by Severn Trent (Severn Trent, 2022).
 Information on the CHP engine and the boilers were obtained from various sources as described in Section 2.2.
- 2) Five years of hourly sequential data recorded at the Pershore meteorological station (2016 2020 inclusive) were used for the assessment (ADM Ltd, 2021).
- 3) Information on the main buildings located on-site, which could influence dispersion of emissions from the CHP engine and boiler stacks, were estimated from Defra's environmental open-data applications and datasets (Defra, 2022a) and Google Earth (Google Earth, 2022).
- 4) The maximum predicted concentrations (at a modelled height of 1.5 m or 'breathing zone') at the assessed sensitive human receptor locations R1 R20 (representing long-term exposure at residential properties)



were considered for the assessment of annual mean, 24-hour mean, 8-hour mean, 1-hour mean and 15-minute mean pollutant concentrations within the study area. For receptors R21 - R25 (representing a PRoW), only the 1-hour mean and 15-minute mean concentrations were considered. The maximum predicted concentrations at an off-site location in the vicinity of the site were considered for the assessment of short-term (1-hour and 15-minute mean) concentrations. For the nearby AQMA (see Section 4.2), the maximum predicted concentrations for annual mean NO₂ were considered.

- 5) The above information was entered into the dispersion model.
- 6) The dispersion model was run to provide the Process Contribution (PC). The PC is the estimated maximum environmental concentration of substances due to releases from the process alone. The results were then combined with baseline concentrations (see Section 4) to provide the total Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC) of the substances of interest.
- 7) The PECs were then assessed against the appropriate environmental standards for air emissions for each substance set out in the Environment Agency's guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) document to determine the nature and extent of any potential adverse effects.
- 8) Modelled concentrations were processed using geographic information system (GIS) software (ArcMap 10.8.1) to produce contour plots of the model results. These are provided for illustrative purposes only; assessment of the model results was based on the numerical values outputted by the dispersion model on the model grid (see Figure 2) and at the specific receptor locations and were processed using Microsoft Excel.
- 9) The predicted concentrations of NOx and SO₂ were also used to assess the potential impact on critical levels and critical loads (i.e. acid and nutrient nitrogen deposition) (see Section 3.3.2) at the assessed protected conservation area. Details of the deposition assessment methodology are provided in Appendix C.

In addition to the above, a review of existing ambient air quality in the area was undertaken to understand the baseline conditions at the site and at receptors within the study area. These existing conditions were determined by reviewing the monitoring data already available for the area and other relevant sources of information. The review of baseline air quality is set out in Section 4.

Where appropriate, a conservative approach has been adopted throughout the assessment to increase the robustness of the model predictions. In addition, an analysis of various sensitivity scenarios has also been carried out (see Section 5.3) to determine how changes to model parameters (e.g. differing surface roughness values or modelling without considering buildings) may impact on predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors and off-site locations.

3.3 Assessment Criteria

3.3.1 Environmental Quality Standards: Human Receptors

In the UK, the focus on local air quality is reflected in the air quality objectives (AQOs) set out in the *Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland* (AQS) (Defra and the Devolved Administrations, 2007). The AQS stipulates a number of air quality objectives for nine main air pollutants with respect to ambient levels of air quality (Defra, 2007). The AQOs are similar to the limit values that were transposed from the relevant EU directives into UK legislation by *The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010* (UK Government, 2010). The objectives are based on the current understanding of health effects of exposure to air pollutants and have been specified to control health and environmental risks to an acceptable level. They apply to places where people are regularly present over the relevant averaging period. The objectives set for the protection of human health and vegetation of relevance to the project are summarised in Table 2. Relevant Environmental Assessment Levels (EALs) set out in the Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) are also included in Table 2 where these supplement the AQOs.

For the purposes of reporting, the AQOs and EALs have been collectively termed as Environmental Quality Standards (EQSs).



Table 2: Air quality objectives and environmental assessment levels

Pollutant	EQS (μg/m³)	Concentration measured as
NO ₂	40	Annual mean
	200	1-hour mean, not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year (99.79 th percentile)
СО	10,000	Maximum daily 8 hour running mean (100 th percentile)
	30,000	Maximum 1-hour mean (100 th percentile)
SO ₂	125	24-hour mean not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year (99.18 th percentile)
	350	1-hour mean not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year (99.73 rd percentile)
	266	15-minute mean not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year (99.9 th percentile)
PM ₁₀	40	Annual mean
	50	24-hour mean, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year (90.41st percentile)
PM _{2.5}	20 ³	Annual mean
TVOC1	5 ²	Annual mean
	30	Maximum 24-hour mean (100 th percentile)

Note 1: VOCs may contain a wide range of organic compounds and it is often difficult to determine or identify each and every compound present. The TVOC emissions from the assessed combustion plant will largely comprise methane which is not directly harmful to human health.

Note 2: For the purposes of this assessment, the annual mean and 24-hour mean AQO for benzene (C_6H_6) has been applied as it is a standard substitute that adequately represents a worst-case scenario for VOCs.

Note 3: Amendment to the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 as per the Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (UK Government, 2020).

For the assessment of long-term average concentrations (i.e. the annual mean concentrations) at human receptors, impacts were described using the following criteria:

- if the PC is less than 1% of the long-term EQS, the contribution can be considered as 'insignificant' and not representative of a significant effect (i.e. not significant) (Environment Agency, 2021b);
- if the PC is greater than 1% of the EQS but the PEC is less than 70% of the long-term air quality objective, based on professional judgement, this would be classed as 'not significant'; and
- where the PC is greater than 1% of the EQS and the PEC is greater than 70% of the EQS, professional judgement is used to determine the overall significance of the effect (i.e. whether the effect would be 'not significant' or 'significant'), taking account of the following:
 - the scale of the changes in concentrations;
 - whether or not an exceedance of an EQS is predicted to arise in the study area where none existed before, or an exceedance area is substantially increased as a result of the development; and
 - uncertainty, including the influence and validity of any assumptions adopted in undertaking the assessment.

For the assessment of short-term average concentrations (e.g. the 1-hour mean NO₂ concentrations, and the 15-minute, 1-hour and 24-hour mean SO₂ concentrations etc.), impacts were described using the following criteria:

- if the PC is less than 10% of the short-term EQS, this would be classed as 'insignificant' and not representative of a significant effect (i.e. not significant) (Environment Agency, 2021b);
- if the PC is greater than 10% of the EQS but less than 20% of the headroom between the short-term background concentration and the EQS, based on professional judgement, this can also be described as not significant; and
- where the PC is greater than 10% of the EQS and 20% of the headroom, professional judgement is used to determine the overall significance of the effect (i.e. whether the effect would be not significant or significant) in line with the approach specified above for long-term average concentrations.



Environment Agency guidance recommends that further action will not be required if proposed emissions comply with Best Available Techniques Associated Emission Levels (BAT AELs) and resulting PECs do not exceed the relevant EQS (Environment Agency, 2021a).

3.3.2 Environmental Quality Standards: Protected Conservation Areas

Critical levels

The environmental standards set for protected conservation areas of relevance to the project are summarised in Table 3 (Environment Agency, 2021a).

Table 3: Air Quality Objectives and Environmental Assessment Levels for protected conservation areas

Pollutant	EQS (μg/m³)	Concentration measured as
NOx	30	Annual mean limit value for the protection of vegetation (referred to as the "critical level")
	75	Maximum 24-hour mean for the protection of vegetation (referred to as the "critical level")
SO ₂	10	Annual mean limit value for the protection of vegetation (referred to as the "critical level") where lichens or bryophytes are present
	20	Annual mean limit value for the protection of vegetation (referred to as the "critical level") where lichens or bryophytes are not present

Critical loads

Critical loads for pollutant deposition to statutory designated habitat sites in the UK and for various habitat types have been published by the CEH and are available from the APIS website. Critical Loads are defined on the APIS website (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2022) as:

"a quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge".

Compliance with these benchmarks is likely to result in no significant adverse effects on the natural environment at these locations. The critical loads for the designated habitat sites considered in this assessment are set out in Table 4. For the assessed local nature sites, the Search By Location tool function on the APIS website was used to determine the relevant critical loads for the assessed protected conservation areas. Where both short and tall vegetation type is assumed to inhabit the assessed local nature sites, the acid grassland and coniferous woodland habitat feature was selected on the APIS website which are generally the most sensitive short and tall vegetation type to nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition.

Table 4: Critical loads for modelled protected conservation areas

Receptor ref	Protected conservation area	Habitat	Vegetation type (for deposition velocity)	Critical load				
		feature applied		Acid deposition (kEqH+/ha/year)			Nitrogen deposition (kg N/ha/year)	
				CLMaxS	CLMinN	CLMaxN	Minimum	
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	Coniferous woodland	Tall	2.261	0.357	2.618	5	
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Coniferous woodland	Tall	2.467	0.142	2.609	5	



Receptor ref	Protected conservation area	Habitat	Vegetation type (for deposition velocity)	Critical load				
		feature applied		Acid deposition (kEqH+/ha/year)			Nitrogen deposition (kg N/ha/year)	
				CLMaxS	CLMinN	CLMaxN	Minimum	
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	Coniferous woodland	Tall	2.463	0.142	2.605	5	
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Coniferous woodland	Tall	1.386	0.357	1.743	5	

Critical load functions for acid deposition are specified on the basis of both nitrogen and sulphur derived acid. The critical load function contains a value for sulphur derived acid and two values for nitrogen derived acid deposition (a minimum and maximum value). The APIS website provides advice on how to calculate the process contribution (PC – emissions from the modelled process alone) and the predicted environmental concentrations (PEC – the PC added to the existing deposition) as a percentage of the acid critical load function and how to determine exceedances of the critical load function. This guidance was adopted for this assessment. The minimum of the range of nitrogen critical loads was used for the assessment in line with the advice on the APIS website (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2022).

Significance Criteria – Ancient woodland and LWS

The relevant significance criteria for these protected conservation areas are set out below.

With regard to concentrations or deposition rates at local nature sites, the Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) states emissions can be described as 'insignificant' and no further assessment is required (including the need to calculate PECs) if:

- the short-term PC is less than 100% of the short-term environmental standard for protected conservation areas; or
- the long-term PC is less than 100% of the long-term environmental standard for protected conservation areas.

The above approach is used to give a clear definition of what effects can be disregarded as 'insignificant', and which need to be considered in more detail in relation to the predicted annual mean concentrations or deposition.



4. Existing Environment

4.1 Site Location

The site is situated on the outskirts of the villages of Studley and Spernall approximately 5 km north-northeast from the centre of the town of Alcester, Stratford-on-Avon. The area surrounding the site generally comprises agricultural fields with sporadic residential properties. The River Arrow runs adjacent to the northern and eastern boundary of the site.

There are several sensitive human receptors in the vicinity of the site in respect of potential air emissions from the process. The most relevant sensitive receptors have been identified from local mapping and are summarised in Appendix A and presented in Figure 2. The nearest modelled residential property is approximately 380 m east-southeast of the CHP engine (based on the CHP engine stack location NGR E 408218 N 262629). The nearest modelled receptor represents a PRoW approximately 60 m south-southeast of the CHP engine stack.

4.2 Local Air Quality Management

A review of baseline air quality was carried out prior to undertaking the air quality assessment. This was carried out to determine the availability of baseline air quality data recorded in the vicinity of the site and also if data from other regional or national sources such as the UK Air Information Resource (UK-AIR) (Defra, 2022b) website could be used to represent background concentrations of the relevant pollutants in the vicinity of the site.

As part of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process, SADC has declared two AQMA's across its administrative borough. The closest AQMA, termed 'Studley AQMA', was declared for exceedances of the AQO for annual mean NO₂ in 2005. This AQMA is approximately 1.5 km north-northwest of the CHP engine stack and has been included in the assessment. The second AQMA termed 'Stratford upon Avon District Council no 1 2010', which encompasses the whole town of Stratford upon Avon, is approximately 11.7 km southeast of the site and is not considered further in the assessment.

SADC also carries out regular assessments and monitoring of air quality within its administrative boundary as part of the LAQM process. The most recent Air Quality Annual Status Report (Stratford-on-Avon District Council, 2021) was reviewed to determine concentrations of NO_2 in the vicinity of the site. It should be noted that none of the other assessed pollutants are monitored by SADC. Table 5 presents information on the nearest monitoring locations to the site.

Table 5: Nearest monitoring locations to the site

Site ID	Site type	Location	Distance and direction from CHP engine	Pollutants monitored	2020 Annual mean concentration (μg/m³)
Non-automatic mo	onitoring (diffusion	tubes)			
Studley background	Roadside	E 407270 N 263025	1.03 km, WNW	NO ₂	9.3
Studley 1	Roadside	E 407300 N 263989	1.64 km, NW	NO ₂	22.9
Studley 2	Roadside	E 407301 N 263914	1.58 km, NW	NO ₂	22.4
Studley 4	Roadside	E 407297 N 263850	1.53 km, NW	NO ₂	26.7
Studley 11	Roadside	E 407297 N 263864	1.54 km, NW	NO ₂	25.1
Studley 12	Roadside	E 407297 N 263838	1.52 km, NW	NO ₂	27

These monitoring locations are not considered representative of the site and surrounding area due to the roadside monitoring location type and respective distance from the site. The monitoring sites are located adjacent to the A435 (Alcester Road).



For the assessed pollutants, information on background air quality in the vicinity of the site was obtained from Defra background map datasets (Defra, 2022b). The 2018-based background maps by Defra are estimates based upon the principal local and regional sources of emissions and ambient monitoring data. For SO_2 and CO concentrations, the 2001-based background maps were used. For TVOC concentrations, the 2010-based background maps for C_6H_6 were used. These background concentrations are presented in Table 6.

As it is necessary to determine the potential impact of emissions from the site on the assessed protected conservation areas, the background concentrations of NOx and SO₂ were also identified for the assessed protected conservation areas. These background concentrations were also obtained from Defra background map datasets (Defra, 2022b) and are displayed in Table 6.

Table 6: Background concentrations: adopted for use in assessment for assessed human receptors and protected conservation areas

Pollutant	Annual mean concentration (μg/m³)	Description
Human rece	ptors	
NO ₂	6.1 – 7.9	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2022 map concentration
СО	116 - 129	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, scaled from 2001-based map to 2022 concentration
PM ₁₀	11.8 – 12.3	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2022 map concentration
PM _{2.5}	7.4 – 7.8	Defra 1 km x 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2022 map concentration
SO ₂	2.1 – 3.1	Defra 1 km x 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2001 map concentration
C ₆ H ₆	0.2 - 0.3	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2010 map concentration for benzene
Protected co	nservation areas	
NOx	7.6 – 8.4	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2022 map concentration
SO ₂	2.1 – 3.1	Defra 1 km \times 1 km background map value for the assessed sensitive human receptor locations, 2001 map concentration

The long-term background concentrations were doubled to estimate the short-term background concentrations in line with the Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a).

4.3 Existing Deposition Rates

Existing acid and nutrient nitrogen deposition levels were obtained from APIS (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2022). As a conservative approach to the assessment, it is assumed the vegetation type selected is present at the specific modelled location within the assessed protected conservation area.

The existing deposition values at the assessed ecological designations are set out in Table 7.



Table 7: Existing deposition at modelled habitat sites

Receptor	Protected conservation area	Vegetation	Existing deposition rates				
ref		type (for deposition velocity)	Acid deposition (kEqH+/ha/year)		Nutrient N deposition (kg N/ha/year)		
		,	Nitrogen	Sulphur	Nitrogen		
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	Tall	2.05	0.18	28.70		
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H5a	River Arrow LWS	Short	1.29	0.15	18.06		
		Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H5b		Short	1.29	0.15	18.06		
		Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H5c		Short	1.29	0.15	18.06		
		Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H5d		Short	1.29	0.15	18.06		
		Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		
H5e		Short	1.29	0.15	18.06		
		Tall	2.23	0.18	31.22		



5. Results

5.1 Human Receptors

The results presented below are the maximum modelled concentrations predicted at any of the 25 assessed sensitive human receptor locations, the assessed AQMA and the maximum modelled concentration at any off-site location for the five years of meteorological data used in the study.

The results of the dispersion modelling are set out in Table 8, which presents the following information:

- EQS (i.e. the relevant air quality standard);
- estimated annual mean background concentration (see Section 4) that is representative of the baseline;
- PC, the maximum modelled concentrations due to the emissions from the assessed combustion plant;
- PEC, the maximum modelled concentration due to process emissions combined with estimated baseline concentrations;
- PC and PEC as a percentage of the EQS; and
- PC as a percentage of headroom (i.e. the PC as a percentage of the difference between the short-term background concentration and the EQS, for short-term predictions only).

The full results at assessed human receptor locations are presented in Appendix D.

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Table 8: Results of detailed assessment

Pollutant	Averaging period	Assessment location	Maximum receptor	EQS (μg/m³)	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC / EQS (%)	PEC / EQS (%)	PC as a percentage of headroom (%)
СО	Maximum 8-hour running mean	Sensitive locations	R11	10,000	244	33.4	277.1	0.3%	2.8%	0.3%
	Maximum 1-hour	Maximum off-site	-	30,000	237	1,153.2	1,389.7	3.8%	4.6%	3.9%
	mean	Sensitive locations	R23	30,000	237	292.8	529.4	1.0%	1.8%	1.0%
NO ₂	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	R7	40	7.5	0.7	8.1	1.6%	20.4%	-
		Studley AQMA	-		-	0.1	-	0.2%	-	-
	1-hour mean (99.79 th percentile)	Maximum off-site	-	200	15.0	69.8	84.8	34.9%	42.4%	37.7%
		Sensitive locations	R23	200	15.0	64.4	79.4	32.2%	39.7%	34.8%
SO ₂	24-hour mean (99.18 th percentile)	Sensitive locations	R7	125	4.3	0.9	5.2	0.7%	4.1%	0.7%
	1-hour mean (99.73 rd percentile)	Maximum off-site	-	350	4.3	22.8	27.1	6.5%	7.7%	6.6%
		Sensitive locations	R7	350	4.3	20.3	24.6	5.8%	7.0%	5.9%
	15-minute mean	Maximum off-site	-	266	4.3	24.2	28.6	9.1%	10.7%	9.3%
	(99.9 th percentile)	Sensitive locations	R23	266	4.3	21.7	26.0	8.2%	9.8%	8.3%
PM ₁₀	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	R7	40	11.9	0.02	11.9	0.0%	29.9%	-
	24-hour mean (90.41st percentile)	Sensitive locations	R7	50	23.9	0.05	23.9	0.1%	47.8%	0.2%
PM _{2.5}	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	R7	20	7.5	0.02	7.5	0.1%	37.4%	-
TVOC	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	R7	5 (Benzene)	0.2	2.9	3.1	58.6%	62.9%	-
	Maximum 24-hour mean	Sensitive locations	R11	30 (Benzene)	0.4	41.4	41.9	138.1%	139.6%	140.2%

Note 1: For annual mean NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and TVOC concentrations, 24-hour mean PM₁₀ and SO₂ concentrations and 8-hour mean CO concentrations, R21 to R25 have been omitted from analysis as these receptor locations represent a PRoW (i.e. short-term exposure only). The full results are presented in Appendix D.



The results in Table 8 indicate that the predicted off-site concentrations and predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors do not exceed any relevant long-term or short-term air quality objective or guideline.

Table 8 indicates that the maximum PC for annual mean NO_2 at a sensitive human receptor location is $0.7 \,\mu\text{g/m}^3$ (equating to 1.6% of the relevant EQS) and is predicted at R7, which represents a residential property approximately 0.38 km east-southeast of the CHP engine stack. The PC is just above 1% of the relevant EQS but the PEC is less than 70% of the EQS (i.e. 20.4%) and based on professional judgement, the impact can be classed as 'not significant'. As discussed previously, this assessment assumes the assessed combustion plant operate simultaneously and continuously all year. In practice, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year and the assessed plant may not always operate at maximum load.

The maximum PC for annual mean NO_2 at the nearby Studley AQMA is 0.1 μ g/m³, which equates to 0.2% of the EQS and is considered 'insignificant' as per Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) and therefore 'not significant'.

For the assessment of 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the maximum PC of 64.4 μ g/m³ (which equates to 32.2% of the relevant EQS) is predicted at R23, which represents a PRoW approximately 60 m south-southeast of the CHP engine stack. The PC is greater than 10% of the short-term EQS and greater than 20% of the headroom between the short-term background concentration and the EQS. However, as the PEC is less than 70% of the relevant EQS (i.e. 39.7%), based on professional judgement, the impact is considered 'not significant'. For the assessment of 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a modelled off-site location, the maximum PC is 69.8 μ g/m³, which equates to 34.9% of the relevant EQS. The PC is greater than 10% of the short-term EQS and greater than 20% of the headroom. However, as the PEC is less than 70% of the relevant EQS (i.e. 42.4%), based on professional judgement, the impact is considered 'not significant'. This concentration is predicted at NGR E 408268 N 262569, which is adjacent to the southern boundary of the site in hedgerow bordering an agricultural field and is not likely to be frequented by members of the public.

For long-term PM $_{10}$ and PM $_{2.5}$ concentrations, the respective PCs are less than 1% of the relevant long-term EQS and are considered 'insignificant' as per Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) and therefore 'not significant'. For 24-hour mean (90.41st percentile) PM $_{10}$ concentrations, the PC is less than 10% of the relevant short-term EQS (i.e. 0.1%) and its impact can be described as 'insignificant' and therefore 'not significant'.

For short-term CO concentrations at both sensitive human receptor locations and modelled off-site locations, the respective PCs are less than 10% of the relevant short-term EQS and their impact is considered 'insignificant' and therefore 'not significant'.

For 24-hour mean (99.18th percentile) SO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the highest PC of 0.9 μ g/m³ is predicted at R7. The PC is less than 10% of the short-term EQS (i.e. 0.7%) and is considered 'insignificant' and therefore 'not significant'.

For 1-hour mean $(99.73^{rd} \text{ percentile}) \text{ SO}_2$ concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location and modelled off-site location, the maximum PCs of $20.3 \, \mu \text{g/m}^3$ and $22.8 \, \mu \text{g/m}^3$, respectively, are less than 10% of the short-term EQS and the impact is considered 'insignificant' as per Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) and therefore 'not significant'. The maximum 1-hour mean $(99.73^{rd} \text{ percentile}) \text{ SO}_2$ concentration at an off-site location is predicted at NGR E $408268 \, \text{N} \, 262569$, which is adjacent to the southern boundary of the site in hedgerow bordering an agricultural field and is not likely to be frequented by members of the public.

For 15-minute mean (99.9th percentile) SO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location and modelled off-site location, the maximum PCs of 21.7 μ g/m³ (predicted at R23) and 24.2 μ g/m³, respectively, are less than 10% of the short-term EQS and their impact is considered 'insignificant' as per Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a) and therefore 'not significant'. The maximum 15-minute mean (99.9th percentile)



 SO_2 concentration at an off-site location is predicted at NGR E 408268 N 262569, which is adjacent to the southern boundary of the site in hedgerow bordering an agricultural field and is not likely to be frequented by members of the public.

For annual mean TVOC concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the maximum PC is $2.9 \,\mu g/m^3$, which is predicted at R7. The PEC is less than 70% (i.e. 62.9%) of the annual mean EQS for benzene and based on professional judgement, the impact is considered 'not significant'.

For maximum 24-hour mean TVOC concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the maximum PC of $41.4 \,\mu g/m^3$ is predicted at R11, which represents a residential property 0.66 km west of the CHP engine stack. The PEC of $41.9 \,\mu g/m^3$ exceeds the benzene 24-hour mean standard.

In the absence of an EQS for TVOC's, comparison of the annual mean and 24-hour mean predicted concentrations have been made against the annual mean and 24-hour mean environmental quality standard for benzene (C_6H_6). This represents a worst-case scenario for VOCs because it assumes all VOC contributions comprise benzene. TVOC emissions from the assessed combustion plant will largely comprise unburnt methane gas from the biogas fuel (up to 75% composition (Naskeo Environment, 2009)), which is not directly harmful to human health. If the contribution of methane (CH₄) is removed from the process contribution, there would be no exceedance of the short-term relevant standard. Therefore, when considering the conservative approach to the assessment and based on professional judgement, the contribution of TVOC's is considered 'not significant'.

Summary

The results in Table 8 indicate that the predicted modelled off-site concentrations and predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors do not exceed any relevant long-term or short-term air quality objective or guideline. Furthermore, the conservative approach adopted throughout the assessment means the predicted concentrations presented in Table 8 are likely to be considerably higher than would reasonably be expected.

Isopleths (see Figures 4 - 7) have been produced for annual mean and 1-hour mean (99.79^{th} percentile) NO₂ concentrations, 1-hour mean (99.73^{rd} percentile) and 15-minute mean (99.9^{th} percentile) SO₂ concentrations. The figures are based on the year of meteorological data which resulted in the highest PC at a sensitive human receptor location.

5.2 Protected Conservation Areas

5.2.1 Assessment against Critical Levels

The environmental effects of releases from the site at the assessed protected conservation areas have been determined by comparing predicted concentrations of released substances with the EQSs for the protection of vegetation (critical levels) (see Table 3). The results of the detailed modelling at the assessed protected conservation areas are shown in Table 9. The results presented are the maximum predicted concentration at each assessed protected conservation area for the five years of meteorological data used in the study.

For SO₂, the relevant EQS was based on the assumption that lichens and bryophytes were present at each site, therefore adopting a further conservative approach.



Table 9: Results of detailed assessment at assessed protected conservation sites for annual mean NOx and SO2 concentrations and for maximum 24-hour mean NOx concentrations

Ref	Protected Conservation Area	EQS (μg/m³)	Background concentration (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)
Annual	l mean NOx concentrations						
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	30	8.1	0.4	8.5	1.4%	28.4%
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		7.8	0.2	8.0	0.6%	26.6%
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland		7.6	0.1	7.8	0.4%	25.9%
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		8.4	0.1	8.5	0.5%	28.3%
H5a	River Arrow LWS		9.6	3.6	13.3	12.1%	44.2%
H5b			9.6	2.7	12.4	9.1%	41.2%
H5c			9.6	2.1	11.8	7.1%	39.2%
H5d			9.6	2.7	12.3	8.9%	40.9%
H5e			9.6	2.8	12.4	9.3%	41.4%
Annual	l mean SO ₂ concentrations						
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	10	2.2	0.05	2.2	0.5%	22.2%
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		2.1	0.02	2.2	0.2%	21.5%
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland		2.1	0.01	2.1	0.1%	21.3%
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		2.1	0.02	2.1	0.2%	21.1%
H5a	River Arrow LWS		2.2	0.44	2.6	4.4%	26.0%
H5b			2.2	0.33	2.5	3.3%	24.9%
H5c			2.2	0.26	2.4	2.6%	24.2%
H5d			2.2	0.32	2.5	3.2%	24.8%
H5e			2.2	0.33	2.5	3.3%	24.9%
Maxim	um 24-hour mean NOx concentrations						
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	75	16.2	2.4	18.6	3.2%	24.8%
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		15.6	2.0	17.6	2.7%	23.5%
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland		15.3	1.3	16.6	1.8%	22.2%
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland		16.7	3.0	19.7	4.0%	26.3%
H5a	River Arrow LWS		19.2	18.9	38.1	25.2%	50.8%
H5b			19.2	11.3	30.6	15.1%	40.8%
H5c			19.2	11.3	30.6	15.1%	40.8%
H5d			19.2	14.6	33.9	19.5%	45.2%
H5e			19.2	18.2	37.5	24.3%	49.9%



The results in Table 9 indicate that for the assessed local nature sites, the respective annual mean NOx and SO₂ PCs are less than 100% of the long-term environmental standard and the impact can be described as 'insignificant'.

The maximum short-term mean concentrations which were assessed against the 24-hour mean critical level for NOx (i.e. $75 \mu g/m^3$) are also presented in Table 9. The results indicate that the respective short-term NOx PCs are less than 100% of the short-term environmental standard and can also be described as 'insignificant'.

Summary

The conservative approach adopted throughout this assessment means that, based on professional judgement, it is not considered likely that there would be unacceptable impacts to air quality at the assessed protected conservation areas as a consequence of the operation of the assessed CHP engine and boilers with regard to ambient concentrations of NOx and SO_2 .

5.2.2 Assessment against Critical Loads

The rate of deposition of acidic compounds and nitrogen containing species have been estimated at the assessed protected conservation areas. This allows the potential for adverse effects to be evaluated by comparison with critical loads for acid and nutrient nitrogen deposition. The assessment took account of emissions of NOx and SO_2 only.

Critical load functions for acid deposition are specified on the basis of both nitrogen-derived acid and sulphur-derived acid. This information, including existing deposition levels at habitat sites, is available from APIS (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2022). Further information on the assessment of deposition is provided in Appendix C. The full detailed modelled results are displayed in Table 10 and Table 11.



Table 10: Modelled acid deposition at assessed protected conservation areas

Ref	Habitat	Vegetation type (for deposition velocity)	Critical load (CL) (kEqH+/ha/year)		Existing acid deposition (kEqH+/ha/year)		PC	PEC	PC/CL (%)	PEC/CL(%)	
			CLMaxS	CLMinN	CLMaxN	Existing deposition (N)	Existing deposition (S)				
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	2.261	0.357	2.618	2.23	0.18	0.017	2.43	0.7%	93%
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	2.467	0.142	2.609	2.23	0.18	0.008	2.42	0.3%	93%
НЗ	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	Tall	2.463	0.142	2.605	2.05	0.18	0.005	2.24	0.2%	86%
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	1.386	0.357	1.743	2.23	0.18	0.006	2.42	0.4%	139%
H5a	River Arrow LWS	Short	0.850	0.223	1.073	1.29	0.15	0.078	1.52	7.3%	142%
		Tall	2.468	0.142	2.610	2.23	0.18	0.157	2.57	6.0%	98%
H5b		Short	0.850	0.223	1.073	1.29	0.15	0.058	1.50	5.4%	140%
		Tall	2.468	0.142	2.610	2.23	0.18	0.117	2.53	4.5%	97%
H5c		Short	0.850	0.223	1.073	1.29	0.15	0.046	1.49	4.2%	138%
		Tall	2.468	0.142	2.610	2.23	0.18	0.091	2.50	3.5%	96%
H5d		Short	0.850	0.223	1.073	1.29	0.15	0.057	1.50	5.3%	139%
		Tall	2.468	0.142	2.610	2.23	0.18	0.113	2.52	4.3%	97%
H5e		Short	0.850	0.223	1.073	1.29	0.15	0.059	1.50	5.5%	140%
		Tall	2.468	0.142	2.610	2.23	0.18	0.119	2.53	4.6%	97%



Table 11: Modelled nitrogen deposition at assessed protected conservation areas

Ref	Habitat	Vegetation type (for deposition velocity)	Existing nutrient depos	Existing nutrient deposition (kgN/ha-year)			PC/CL (%)	PEC/CL(%)	
		deposition velocity)	Minimal Critical Load (CL)	Existing deposition					
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	5	31.22	0.082	31.30	1.6%	626%	
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	5	31.22	0.039	31.26	0.8%	625%	
Н3	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi- Natural Woodland	Tall	5	28.70	0.024	28.72	0.5%	574%	
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	Tall	5	31.22	0.030	31.25	0.6%	625%	
H5a	River Arrow LWS	Short	5	18.06	0.367	18.43	7.3%	369%	
		Tall	5	31.22	0.734	31.95	14.7%	639%	
H5b		Short	5	18.06	0.275	18.34	5.5%	367%	
		Tall	5	31.22	0.550	31.77	11.0%	635%	
H5c		Short	5	18.06	0.215	18.28	4.3%	366%	
		Tall	5	31.22	0.430	31.65	8.6%	633%	
H5d		Short	5	18.06	0.267	18.33	5.3%	367%	
		Tall	5	31.22	0.535	31.75	10.7%	635%	
H5e		Short	5	18.06	0.282	18.34	5.6%	367%	
		Tall	5	31.22	0.563	31.78	11.3%	636%	



The results in Table 10 and Table 11 indicate that for the assessed local nature sites, the respective PCs for acid and nutrient nitrogen deposition are less than 100% of the relevant long-term environmental standard for protected conservation areas and the impact can be described as 'insignificant' as Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a).

It should be noted acid and nitrogen deposition rates currently exceed their relevant critical loads in the majority of the assessed protected conservation areas. However, this is a relatively common situation at protected conservation areas across the UK due to the high baseline deposition rates.

5.3 Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity study was undertaken to see how changes to the surface roughness and omission of the buildings in the 2017 model (which predicted the highest annual mean NO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location), 2018 model (which predicted the highest 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location) and 2019 model (which predicted the highest 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a modelled off-site location, may impact on predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors and off-site locations. The results of the sensitivity analysis are presented in Table 12, Table 13 and Table 14.

Table 12: Sensitivity	v analysis - fixed :	surface roughness	of 0.1 m

Pollutant	Averaging period	Assessment location	Original PC (surface roughness 0.4 m) (µg/m³)	Surface roughness length 0.1 m						
				PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS	PEC/EQS	% difference in PC/EQS compared to original		
NO ₂	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	0.7	0.7	8.2	1.7%	20.4%	0.0%		
	1 hour mean (99.79 th percentile)	Maximum off- site	69.8	68.6	83.6	34.3%	41.8%	-0.6%		
		Sensitive locations	64.4	67.0	82.0	33.5%	41.0%	1.3%		

The results in Table 12 indicate that the change to maximum predicted annual mean concentrations for NO_2 is negligible when using a surface roughness value of 0.1 m compared to the original value of 0.4 m. For 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the PC was slightly higher. At a modelled off-site location, the maximum PC was lower when using a reduced surface roughness value of 0.1 m. However, a surface roughness of 0.1 m (representing root crops) is not considered representative of the site and surrounding area.

Table 13: Sensitivity analysis - fixed surface roughness of 1 m

Pollutant	Averaging period	Assessment location	Original PC (surface roughness 0.4 m) (µg/m³)	Surface roughness length 1 m						
				PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS	PEC/EQS	% difference in PC/EQS compared to original		
NO ₂	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	0.7	0.7	8.2	1.7%	20.4%	0.1%		
		Maximum off- site	69.8	72.7	87.7	36.3%	43.8%	1.4%		



Pollutant	Averaging period	Assessment location	Original PC (surface roughness 0.4 m) (µg/m³)	Surface roughness length 1 m					
				PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS	PEC/EQS	% difference in PC/EQS compared to original	
	1 hour mean (99.79 th percentile)	Sensitive locations	64.4	59.2	74.2	29.6%	37.1%	-2.6%	

The results in Table 13 indicate that the change to maximum predicted annual mean concentrations for NO_2 is negligible when using a surface roughness value of 1 m compared to the original value of 0.4 m. For 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO_2 concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the PC was lower when modelling with an increased surface roughness value of 1 m. At a modelled off-site location, the maximum PC was higher. However, a surface roughness of 1 m (representing a large city centre location with built up areas and tall buildings) is not considered representative of the site and surrounding area.

Table 14: Sensitivity analysis - no buildings

Pollutant	Averaging	Assessment location	Original PC (with buildings) (µg/m³)	No buildings						
	period			PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS	PEC/EQS	% difference in PC/EQS compared to original		
NO ₂	Annual mean	Sensitive locations	0.7	0.7	8.1	1.6%	20.4%	0.0%		
	1 hour mean (99.79 th percentile)	Maximum off- site	69.8	48.1	63.0	24.0%	31.5%	-10.9%		
		Sensitive locations	64.4	52.0	66.9	26.0%	33.5%	-6.2%		

The results in Table 14 indicate that the differences between the maximum predicted concentrations with and without the buildings is such that including buildings within the model is the preferred option for this study, to maintain a more realistic, and conservative, approach.



6. Conclusions

This report has assessed the potential air quality impacts associated with the operation of the biogas fuelled CHP engine and boilers at the Spernal STW. The predicted impacts were assessed against the relevant air quality standards and guidelines for the protection of human health (referred to in the report as EQSs) and protected conservation areas (referred to as critical levels and critical loads).

Human receptors

The assessment indicates that the predicted modelled off-site concentrations and predicted concentrations at sensitive human receptors do not exceed any relevant long-term or short-term air quality objective or guideline. At sensitive human receptor locations, the predicted long-term (i.e. annual mean) NO_2 and particulate (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) contributions are considered 'not significant'. For short-term NO_2 , PM_{10} , SO_2 and CO concentrations at modelled off-site locations and sensitive human receptor locations, the contributions are also considered 'not significant'.

In the absence of an EQS for TVOC's, comparison of the annual mean and 24-hour mean predicted concentrations have been made against the annual mean and 24-hour mean environmental quality standard for benzene (C_6H_6). This represents a worst-case scenario for VOCs because it assumes all VOC contributions comprise benzene. For the maximum 24-hour mean TVOC concentrations at a sensitive human receptor location, the PEC exceeds the relevant standard for benzene.

However, TVOC emissions from the assessed combustion plant will largely comprise unburnt methane gas from the biogas fuel (up to 75% composition (Naskeo Environment, 2009)), which is not directly harmful to human health. If the contribution of methane (CH₄) is removed from the process contribution, there would be no exceedance of the relevant standard. Therefore, when considering the conservative approach to the assessment and based on professional judgement, the contribution of TVOC's is considered 'not significant'.

This assessment has been carried out on the assumption that the CHP engine and boilers would operate continuously at maximum load throughout the year (i.e. 8,760 hours). However, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year. Furthermore, the assessed plant may not always operate at maximum load.

Protected conservation areas

For critical levels at the assessed local nature sites, the results indicate that the respective annual mean NOx and SO₂ PCs and 24-hour mean critical level for NOx are less than 100% of the relevant long-term or short-term environmental standard and the impact can also be described as 'insignificant'.

The conservative approach adopted throughout this assessment means that, based on professional judgement, it is not considered likely that there would be unacceptable impacts to air quality at the assessed protected conservation areas as a consequence of the operation of the assessed CHP engine and boilers with regard to ambient concentrations of NOx and SO_2 .

For acid deposition and nutrient nitrogen deposition, the results indicate that the respective PCs at the assessed local nature sites are less than 100% of the long-term environmental standard for protected conservation areas and the impact can be described as 'insignificant' as Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a).

Summary

Based on the above assessment, it is concluded that the assessed CHP engine and boilers are acceptable from an air quality perspective.



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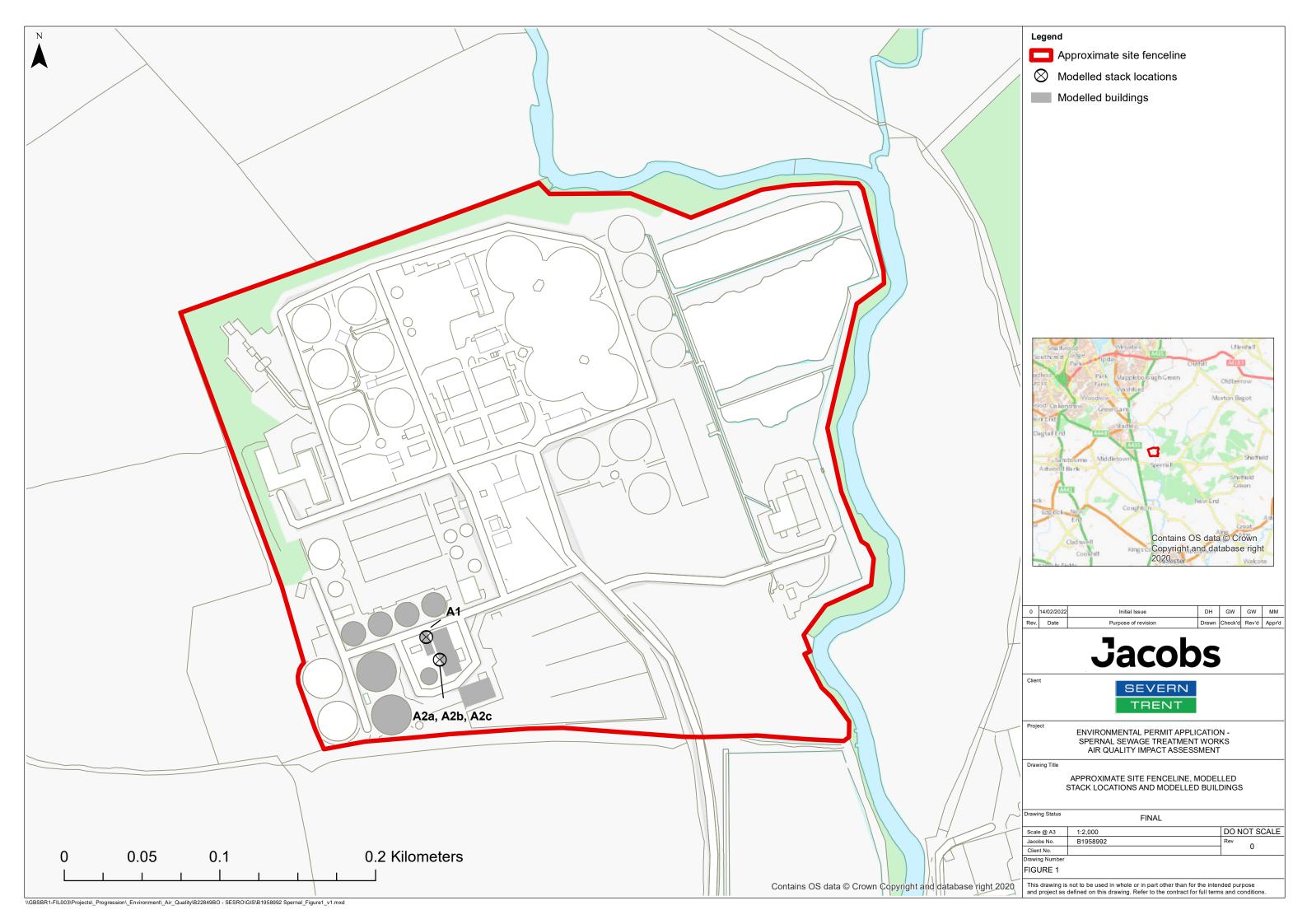
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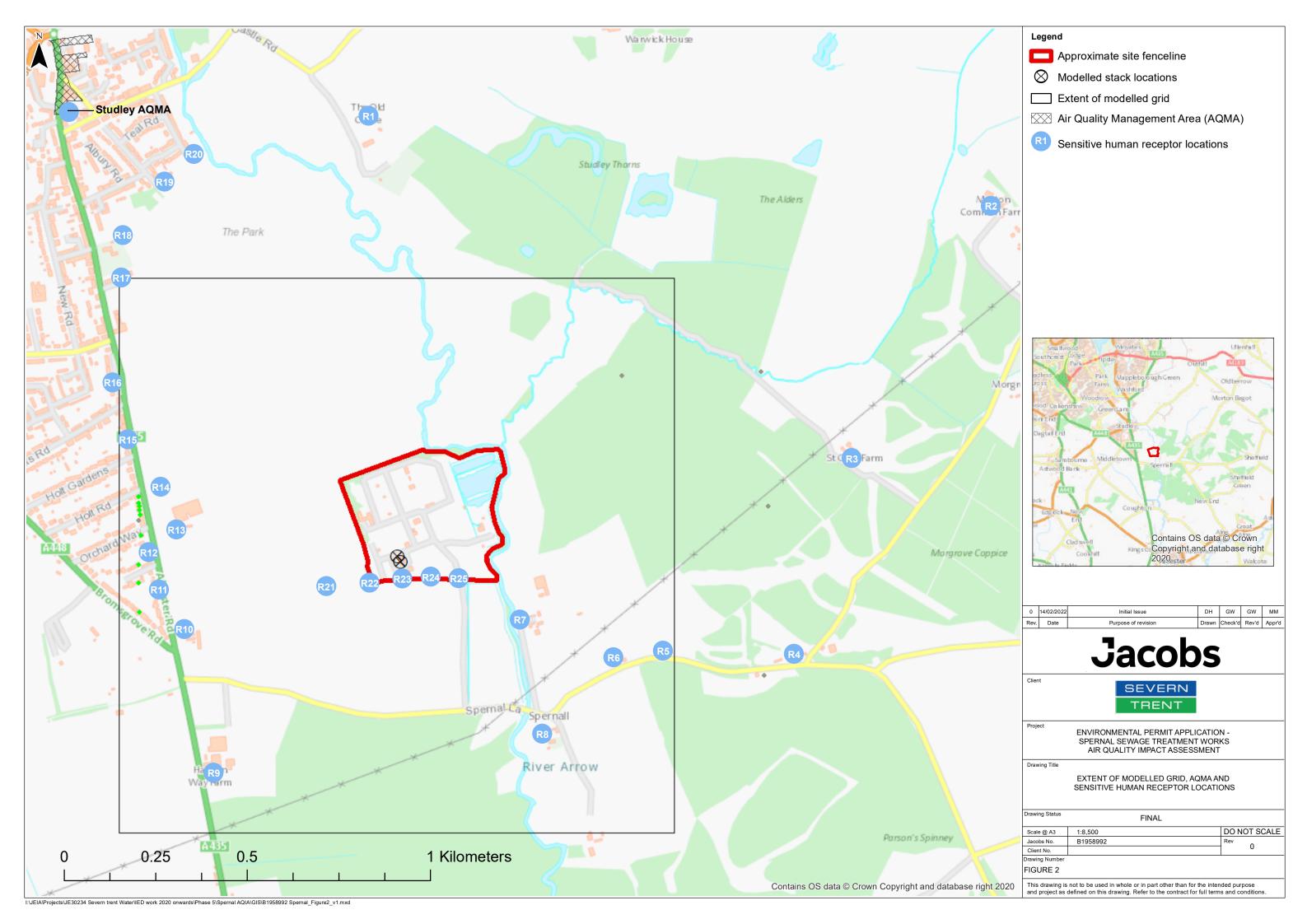
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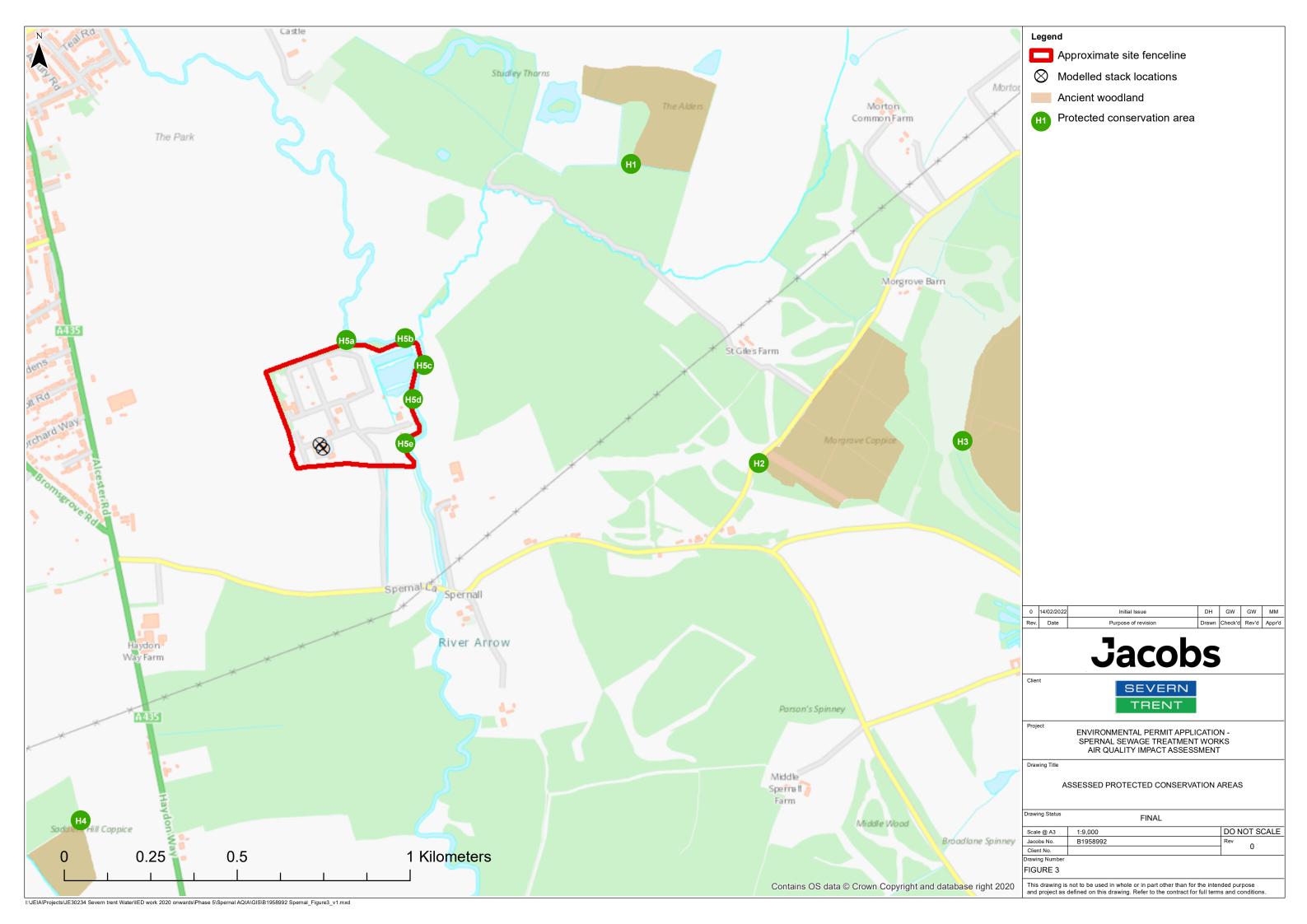


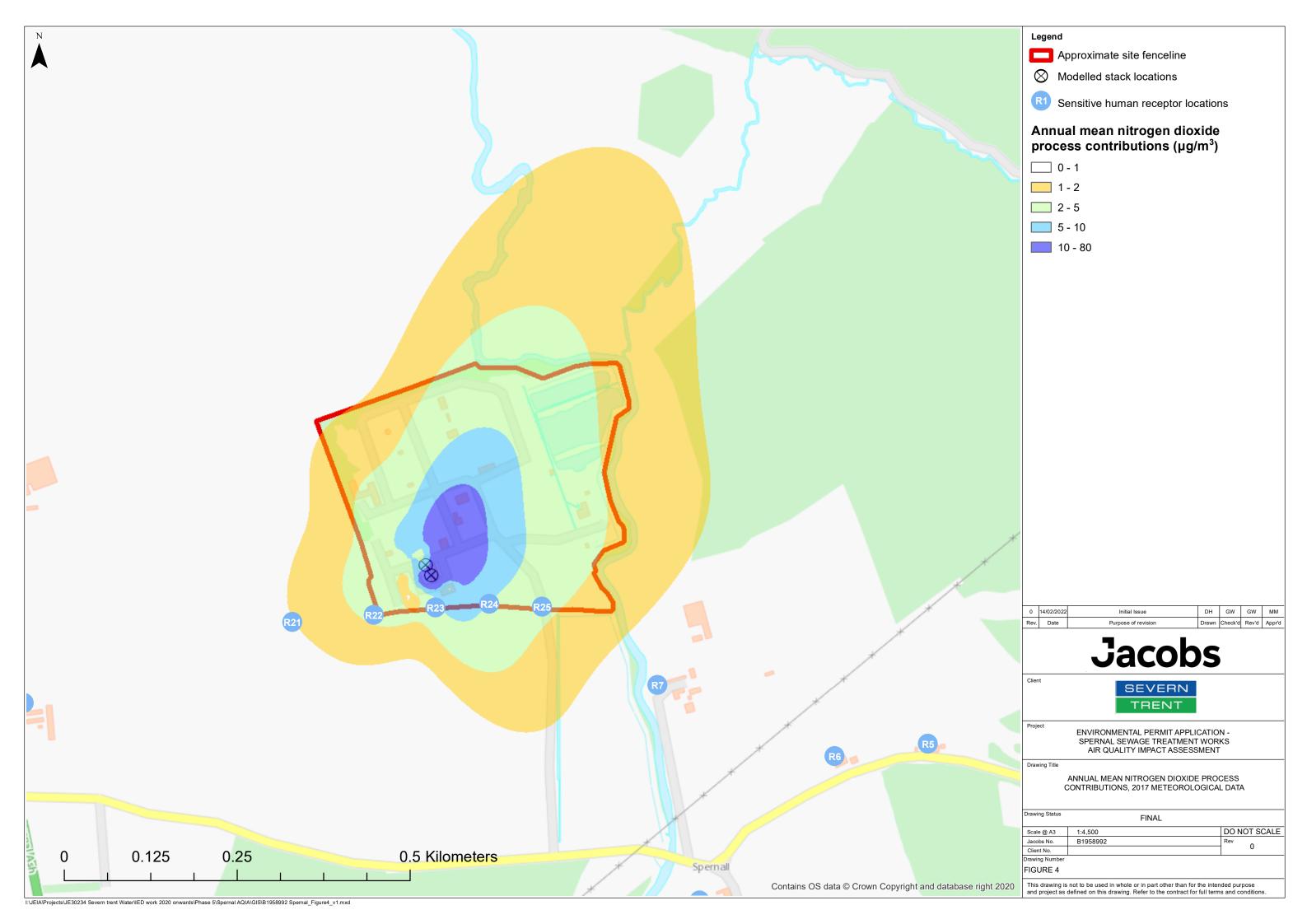
8. Figures

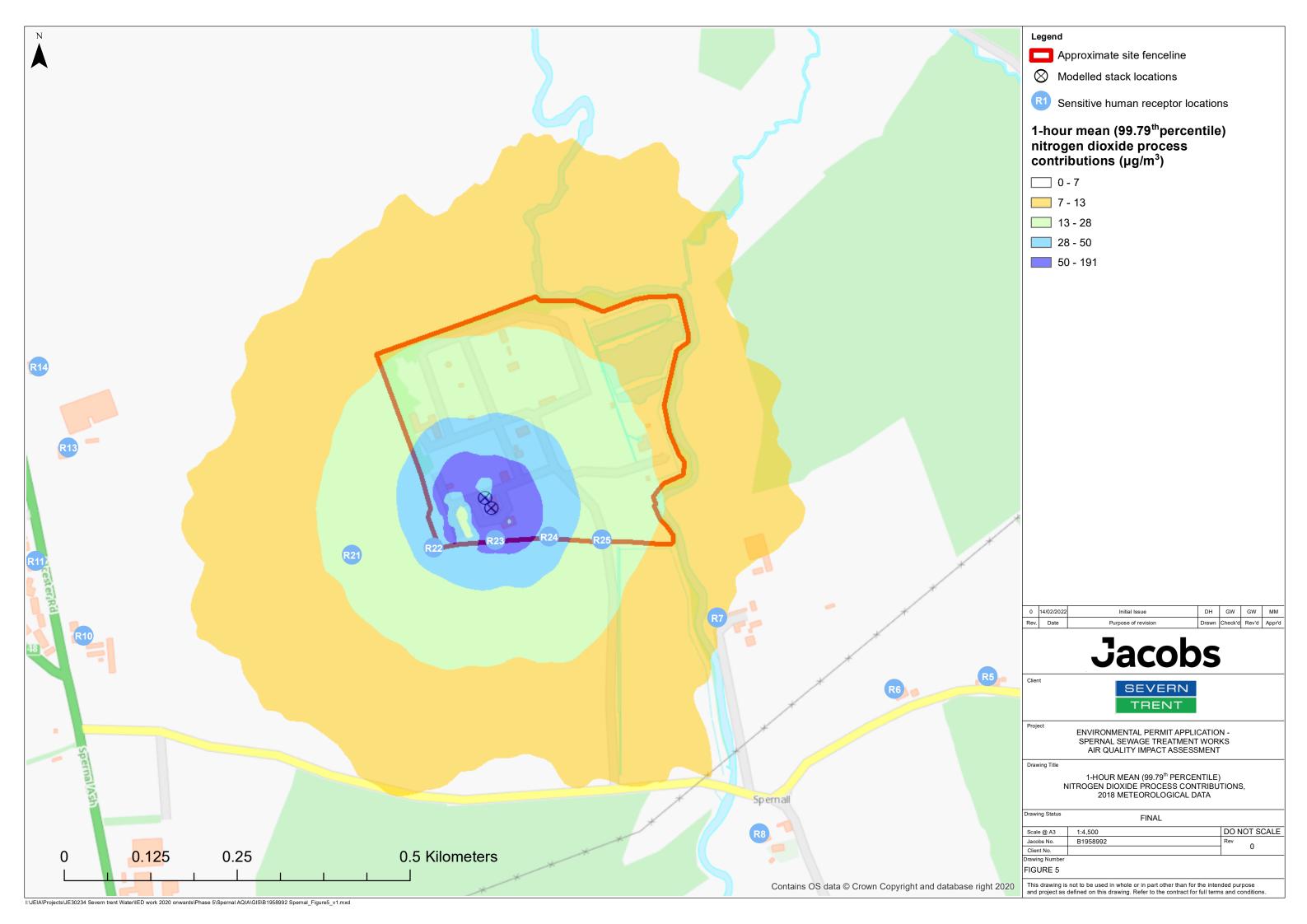
- Figure 1: Approximate site fenceline, modelled stack locations and modelled buildings
- Figure 2: Extent of modelled grid, AQMA and sensitive human receptor locations
- Figure 3: Assessed protected conservation areas
- Figure 4: Annual mean nitrogen dioxide process contributions, 2017 meteorological data
- Figure 5: 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) nitrogen dioxide process contributions, 2018 meteorological data
- Figure 6: 1-hour mean (99.73rd percentile) sulphur dioxide process contributions, 2018 meteorological data
- Figure 7: 15-minute mean (99.9th percentile) sulphur dioxide process contributions, 2019 meteorological data

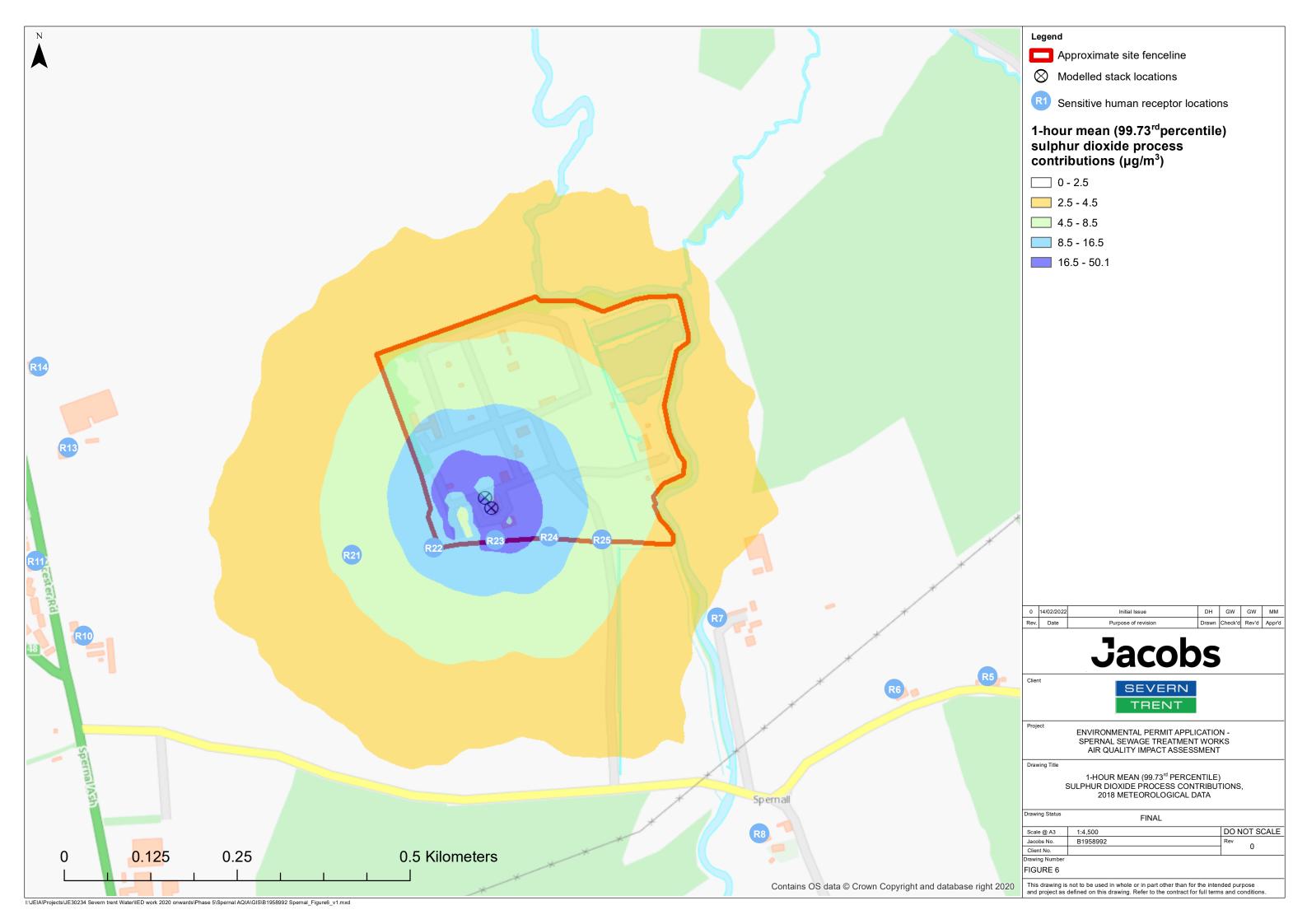


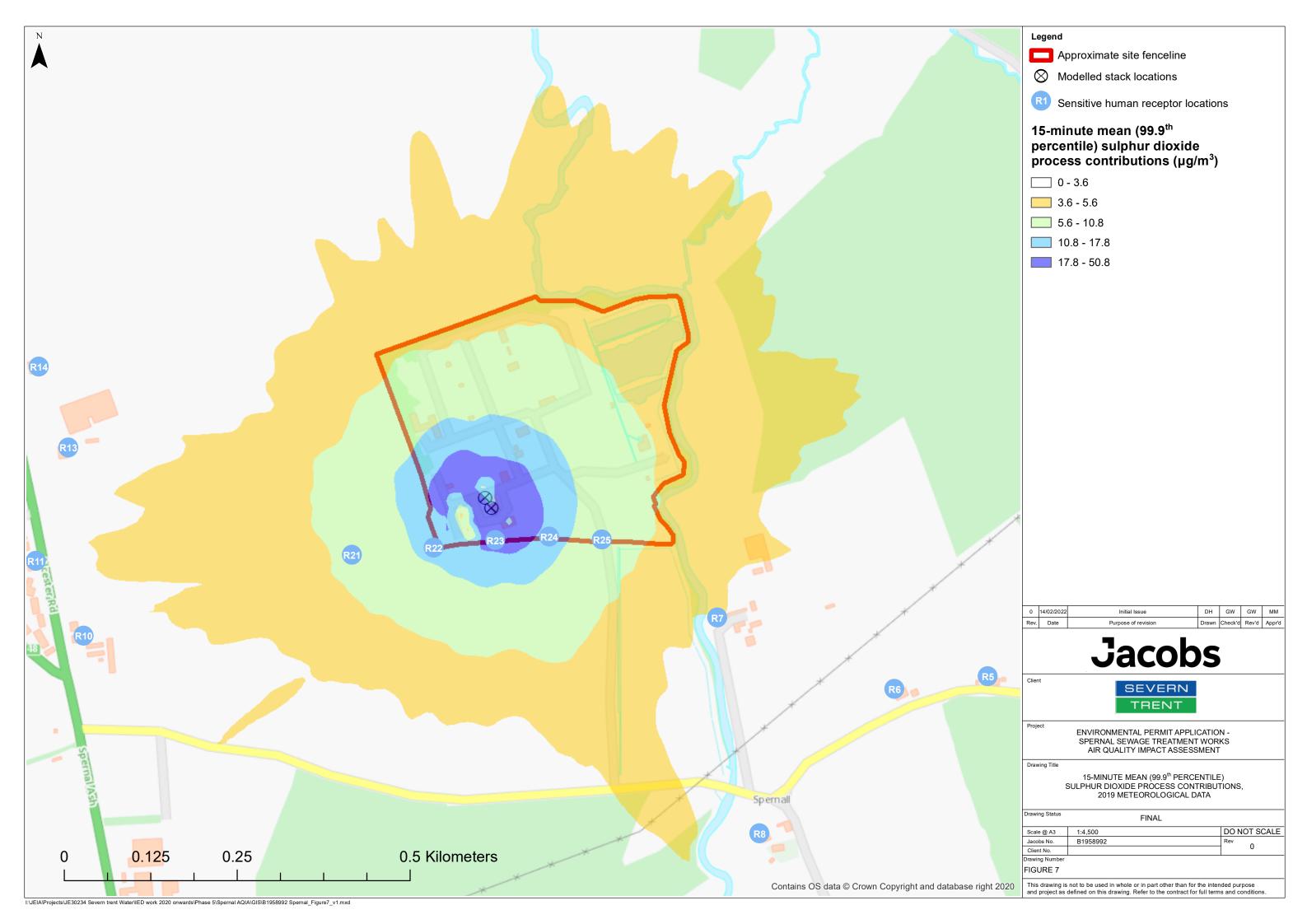














Appendix A. Dispersion Model Input Parameters

A.1 Emission Parameters

The emissions data used to represent the site for the scenario described in Section 2 is set out in Table A.1. Emission limits as set out in the MCPD³ for existing combustion plant are also presented in Table A.1 where relevant.

Table A.1: Dispersion modelling parameters

Parameters	Unit	JMC 316 (D25) GS-B.L CHP engine (2.1 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	Boiler (0.8 MW _{th})	
Modelled fuel	-	Biogas	Biogas	Biogas	Biogas	
Emission point	-	A1	A2a	A2b	A2c	
Assessed operation hours	Hours	8,760	8,760	8,760	8,760	
Stack location	m	E 408218 N 262629	E 408227 N 262615 ²			
Stack position	-	Vertical	Vertical			
Stack height	m	7.00	5.20			
Stack diameter	m	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	
Flue gas temperature	°C	180	150	150	150	
Efflux velocity	m/s	21.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	
Moisture content of exhaust gas	%	11.4	10.0	10.0	10.0	
Oxygen content of exhaust gas (dry)	%	8.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	
Volumetric flow rate (actual)	m³/s	2.066	0.702	0.702	0.702	
Volumetric flow rate (normal) ¹	Nm³/s	2.338	0.407	0.407	0.407	
NOx emission concentration ¹	mg/Nm³	186 (190 after 1 st January 2030)	250 (250 after 1 st January 2030)	250 (250 after 1 st January 2030)	250 (250 after 1 st January 2030)	
NOx emission rate	g/s	0.434	0.102	0.102	0.102	
CO emission concentration ¹	mg/Nm³	519	100	100	100	
CO emission rate	g/s	1.215	0.041	0.041	0.041	
PM ₁₀ / PM _{2.5} emission concentration ¹	mg/Nm³	2.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	
PM ₁₀ / PM _{2.5} emission rate	g/s	0.006	0.002	0.002	0.002	
SO ₂ emission concentration ¹	mg/Nm³	25 ³ (60 after 1 st January 2030)	25 ³ (200 after 1 st January 2030)	25 ³ (200 after 1 st January 2030)	25 ³ (200 after 1 st January 2030)	
SO ₂ emission rate	g/s	0.060	0.010	0.010	0.010	
TVOC emission concentration ¹	mg/Nm³	371	1,126	1,126	1,126	
TVOC emission rate	g/s	0.868	0.459	0.459	0.459	

Note 1: Normalised flows and concentrations presented at 273 K, 101.3 kPa, dry gas and oxygen content of 15% (CHP engine) or 3% (boilers).

Note 3: The SO_2 emission concentration is based on a maximum monitored concentration of H_2S (76 mg/m³) recorded on-site between 7th February 2021 and 8th February 2022. Further information on the conversion of H_2S to SO_2 is provided in Appendix B.

Note 2: The boilers exhaust gases exit via a shared stack, therefore, an aai file was used in the model to represent the effects of a single plume.



A.2 Dispersion Model Inputs

A.2.1 Structural influences on dispersion

The main structures within the site which have been included in the model to reflect the existing site layout are identified within Table A.2. A sensitivity study has been carried out to assess the sensitivity of the model to using the buildings module.

Table A.2: Modelled building parameters

Building	Modelled	Length /	Width	Height	Angle of	Centre point co-ordinates		
	building shapes	diameter (m)	(m)	(m)	length to north	Easting	Northing	
Boiler house ¹	Rectangular	29.30	10.60	4.40	160.5	408231	262620	
Digester tank 1	Circular	15.50	-	15.90	-	408223	262650	
Digester tank 2	Circular	15.50	-	15.90	-	408206	262644	
Digester tank 3	Circular	15.50	-	15.90	-	408189	262637	
Digester tank 4	Circular	15.50	-	15.90	-	408171	262631	
Tank 1	Circular	10.90	-	10.40	-	408220	262604	
Tank 2	Circular	25.50	-	22.23	-	408186	262607	
Tank 3	Circular	25.50	-	22.88	-	408196	262579	
Building 1	Rectangular	20.50	12.70	9.30	70.5	408251	262593	
CHP engine housing	Rectangular	13.80	4.80	2.59	159.5	408219	262625	

Note 1: Modelled as the main building for all assessed emission points.

A.2.2 Other Model Inputs

Table A.3: Other model inputs applied

Parameter	Value used	Comments
Surface roughness length for dispersion site	0.4 m	This is appropriate for the dispersion site where the local land-use range is a mixture of agricultural fields and open suburbia. A sensitivity study has been carried out with fixed surface roughness values of 0.1 m and 1.0 m.
Surface roughness length at meteorological station site	0.3 m	This is appropriate for the dispersion site where the local land-use range is a mixture of agricultural fields and open suburbia such as at the location for the Pershore meteorological station.
Minimum Monin-Obukhov Length	1 m	Typical values for the dispersion site
Surface Albedo	0.23 m	Typical values for the dispersion site
Priestley-Taylor Parameter	1 m	Typical values for the dispersion site
Terrain	Not included	Guidance for the use of the ADMS model suggests that terrain is normally incorporated within a modelling study when the gradient exceeds 1:10. As the gradient in the vicinity of the site does not exceed 1:10, a terrain file was not included in the modelling.
Meteorological data	Pershore meteorological station, 2016 - 2020	Pershore meteorological station is located approximately 16.2 km south- southwest of the site and is considered the closest most representative meteorological monitoring station to the site.
Combined flue option	Yes	The exhaust gases from the three boilers exit via a shared stack, therefore, an aai file was used in the model to represent the effects of a single plume.

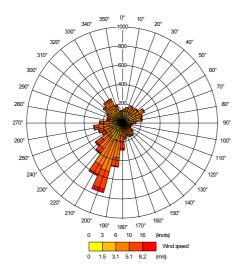


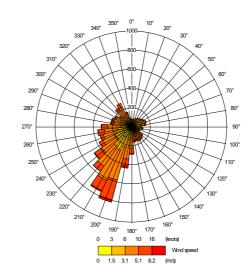
A.2.3 Meteorological Data – Wind Roses

The wind roses for each year of meteorological data utilised in the assessment are shown below.

Pershore meteorological station, 2016

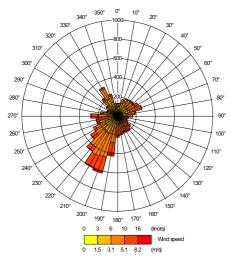
Pershore meteorological station, 2017

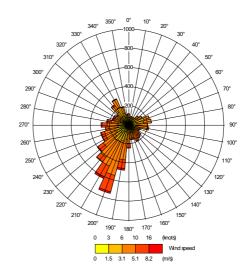




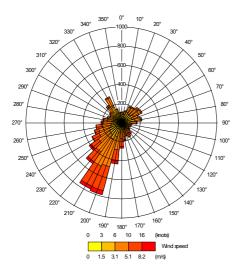
Pershore meteorological station, 2018

Pershore meteorological station, 2019





Pershore meteorological station, 2020



A.2.4 Model Domain/Study Area

The ADMS model calculates the predicted concentrations based on a user defined grid system. Generally, the larger the study area, the greater the distance between the grid calculation points and the lower the resolution of the dispersion model predictions. This is to be offset against the need to encompass an appropriately wide area within the dispersion modelling study to capture the dispersion of the stack emissions.

The modelled grid was specified as a 1.5 km x 1.5 km grid with calculation points every 10 m (i.e. 151 points along each grid axis) with a grid height of 1.5 m. This size of grid was selected to provide a good grid resolution and also encompass a sufficient area so that the maximum predicted concentrations would be determined. The area within the site boundary was excluded from the modelled grid as it is not accessible to the general public. The modelled grid parameters are presented in Table A.4.

Table A.4: Modelled grid parameters

	Start	Finish	Number of grid points	Grid spacing (m)
Easting	407468	408968	151	10
Northing	261879	263379	151	10
Grid height	1.5	1.5	1	-

As well as the modelled grid, the potential impact at 25 sensitive human receptors (e.g. exposure locations such as residential properties and a PRoW), Studley AQMA and five protected conservation areas within the required study area were assessed. The receptor locations are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 and further details of the receptor locations are provided in Table A.5 and Table A.6.

Table A.5: Assessed sensitive human receptor locations

Receptor	Description	Grid reference	e	Distance from	Direction
		Easting	Northing	CHP engine stack (km)	from CHP engine stack
R1	Residential property on Castle Road	408141	263831	1.20	N
R2	Residential property on Morton Bagot Road	409840	263585	1.88	ENE
R3	Residential property on Morton Bagot Road	409460	262896	1.27	ENE
R4	Residential property on Spernal Lane	409303	262361	1.12	ESE
R5	Residential property on Spernal Lane	408945	262370	0.77	ESE
R6	Residential property on Spernal Lane	408810	262352	0.65	ESE



Receptor	Description	Grid refere	nce	Distance from	Direction	
		Easting	Northing	CHP engine stack (km)	from CHP engine stack	
R7	Residential property on Spernal Lane	408554	262455	0.38	ESE	
R8	Residential property on Spernal Lane	408615	262143	0.63	SE	
R9	Residential property on Haydon Way	407718	262037	0.78	SW	
R10	Residential property on Haydon Way	407638	262429	0.61	WSW	
R11	Residential property on Alcester Road	407569	262537	0.66	W	
R12	Residential property on Alcester Road	407541	262639	0.68	W	
R13	Residential property on Alcester Road	407616	262701	0.61	W	
R14	Residential property on Alcester Road	407573	262818	0.67	WNW	
R15	Residential property on Alcester Road	407484	262947	0.80	WNW	
R16	Residential property on Park Avenue	407442	263103	0.91	WNW	
R17	Residential property on Alcester Road	407466	263389	1.07	NW	
R18	Residential property on Alcester Road	407470	263505	1.152	NW	
R19	Residential property on Gunners Lane	407584	263651	1.203	NNW	
R20	Residential property on Wickham Road	407664	263727	1.23	NNW	
R21	PRoW	408026	262546	0.21	WSW	
R22	PRoW	408144	262556	0.10	SW	
R23	PRoW	408233	262567	0.06	SSE	
R24	PRoW	408311	262572	0.11	ESE	
R25	PRoW	408387	262568	0.18	ESE	
AQMA	Studley AQMA	407323	263841	1.51	NW	

Table A.6: Assessed protected conservation area locations

Receptor	Description	Grid reference		Distance from	Direction from
		Easting	Northing	CHP engine stack (km)	CHP engine stack
H1	The Alders Ancient Replanted Woodland	409118	263436	1.21	NE
H2	Morgrove Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	409488	262571	1.27	Е
НЗ	Spernall Park / Clouse Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	410077	262635	1.86	Е
H4	Saddlers Hill Coppice Ancient Replanted Woodland	407527	261538	1.29	SSW
H5a	River Arrow LWS	408295	262927	0.31	NNE
H5b		408465	262932	0.39	NE
H5c		408520	262855	0.38	NE
H5d		408488	262756	0.30	ENE
H5e		408466	262628	0.25	E



A.2.5 Treatment of oxides of nitrogen

It was assumed that 70% of NOx emitted from the assessed combustion plant will be converted to NO_2 at ground level in the vicinity of the site, for determination of the annual mean NO_2 concentrations, and 35% of emitted NOx will be converted to NO_2 for determination of the hourly mean NO_2 concentrations, in line with guidance provided by the Environment Agency (Environment Agency, 2021b). This approach is likely to overestimate the annual mean NO_2 concentrations considerably at the most relevant assessment locations close to the site.

A.2.6 Calculation of PECs

In the case of long-term mean concentrations, it is relatively straightforward to combine modelled process contributions with baseline air quality levels, as long-term mean concentrations due to plant emissions could be added directly to long-term mean baseline concentrations.

It is not possible to add short-period peak baseline and process concentrations directly. This is because the conditions which give rise to peak ground-level concentrations of substances emitted from an elevated source at a particular location and time are likely to be different to the conditions which give rise to peak concentrations due to emissions from other sources.

As described in the Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021a), for most substances the short-term peak PC values are added to twice the long-term mean baseline concentration to provide a reasonable estimate of peak concentrations due to emissions from all sources.

A.2.7 Modelling Uncertainty

There are always uncertainties in dispersion models, in common with any environmental modelling study, because a dispersion model is an approximation of the complex processes which take place in the atmosphere. Some of the key factors which lead to uncertainty in atmospheric dispersion modelling are as follows:

- The quality of the model output depends on the accuracy of the input data enter the model. Where model input data are a less reliable representation of the true situation, the results are likely to be less accurate;
- The meteorological data sets used in the model are not likely to be completely representative of the meteorological conditions at the site. However, the most suitable available meteorological data was chosen for the assessment;
- Models are generally designed on the basis of data obtained for large scale point sources and may be less well validated for modelling emissions from smaller scale sources;
- The dispersion of pollutants around buildings is a complex scenario to replicate. Dispersion models can take account of the effects of buildings on dispersion; however, there will be greater uncertainty in the model results when buildings are included in the model;
- Modelling does not specifically take into account individual small-scale features such as vegetation, local terrain variations and off-site buildings. The roughness length (z_0) selected is suitable to take general account of the typical size of these local features within the model domain; and
- To take account of these uncertainties and to ensure the predictions are more likely to be over-estimates than under-estimates, the conservative assumptions described below have been used for this assessment.

A.2.8 Conservative Assumptions

The conservative assumptions adopted in this study are summarised below.

 The CHP engine and boilers were assumed to operate at maximum load for 8,760 hours each calendar year but in practice, the CHP engine will have periods of shut-down and maintenance and may not always operate at maximum load. Furthermore, in practice, the boilers are unlikely to operate simultaneously and for more than 6,000 hours per year.



- The study is based on emissions being continuously at the emission limits and calculated emissions specified.
- The maximum predicted concentrations at any residential areas as well as off-site locations were considered for the assessment of short-term concentrations and the maximum predicted concentrations at any residential areas were considered for assessment of annual mean concentrations within the air quality study area. Concentrations at other locations will be less than the maximum values presented.
- The highest predicted concentrations obtained using any of the five different years of meteorological data have been used in this assessment. During a typical year the ground level concentrations are likely to be lower.
- It was assumed that 100% of the particulate matter emitted from the plant is in the PM_{10} size fraction. The actual proportion will be less than 100%.
- It was assumed that 100% of the particulate matter emitted from the plant is in the PM_{2.5} size fraction. The actual proportion will be less than 100%.
- It was assumed the vegetation type selected for each assessed protected conservation area is present at the specific modelled location.



Appendix B. Biogas H₂S concentration and conversion to SO₂

When biogas is combusted in the assessed CHP engine and boilers, H_2S is oxidised to water and sulphur oxides (SOx). The mass balance equation published in US EPA AP-42 guidance (EPA, 2021), shown below, can be used to calculate the input of sulphur on the basis of the molecular ratio between the daughter and parent species. Where SO_2 is the daughter spies of the parent species (i.e. the sulphur containing compounds in the raw gas H_2S).

Figure B-1: Biogas H₂S conversion to SO₂ (SLR, 2010)

 $Mass_D (mg) = Mass_P (mg)^* MM * (DE\%/100\%)$

Mass_D is the mass of Daughter Species (mg)
Mass_P is the mass of Parent Species (mg)

MM is the ratio of molecular mass e.g. SO_2 : H_2S DE% is the destruction efficiency of the emitted gas

In order to calculate the SO₂ concentration in the engine emissions, the equation must consider mass flow of AD gas and a dilution factor to account for combustion air in engine emissions, hence the calculation is:

 $Eng_{Emis} Conc_D (mg/m^3) = Conc_P (mg/m^3) * MM * (DE%/100%) / DF$

Eng_{Emi} Conc_D is the engine emission concentration of Daughter Species (mg/Nm³)

Conc_P is the mass of Parent Species (mg/m³)

DF is the dilution factor (for the Jenbacher 320 of 6.9 at 50% methane)

MM is the ratio of molecular mass (for SO_2 : H_2S this is 1.88) DE% is the destruction efficiency of the emitted gas (99%)

Note: the dilution factor (DF) of 6.9 has been applied for the assessed CHP engine and boilers.

Comparison of calculated SO_2 concentrations against measured SO_2 concentrations was undertaken for the Severn Trent site at Wanlip (SLR, 2010). The greatest underprediction of calculated SO_2 against measured SO_2 concentrations was 24% and therefore this value has been incorporated into the calculation shown above as follows:

Figure B-2 - Incorporation of 24% underprediction between calculated and measured SO₂ concentrations

$$Eng_{Emis} Conc_{D} (mg/m^{3}) = Conc_{P} (mg/m^{3}) * MM * (DE%/100%) / DF * 1.24$$

This provides a conservative approach to the estimation of SO_2 with emission rates around 1.24 times that of the average trend.



Appendix C. Calculating Acid and Nitrogen Deposition

C.1 Methodology

Nitrogen and acid deposition have been predicted using the methodologies presented in the Air Quality Technical Advisory Group (AQTAG) guidance note: AQTAG 06 "Technical Guidance on Detailed Modelling Approach for an Appropriate Assessment for Emissions to Air (AQTAG, 2014).

When assessing the deposition of nitrogen, it is important to consider the different deposition properties of nitric oxide (NO) and NO_2 . It is generally accepted that there is no wet or dry deposition arising from NO in the atmosphere. Thus, it is normally necessary to distinguish between NO and NO_2 in a deposition assessment. In this case, the conservative assumption that 70% of the NOx are in the form of NO_2 was adopted.

Information on the existing nitrogen and acid deposition was obtained from the APIS database (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2022). Information on the deposition critical loads for each habitat site was also obtained from the APIS database using the Site Relevant Critical Load function.

The annual dry deposition flux can be obtained from the modelled annual average ground level concentration via use of the formula:

Dry deposition flux (μ g/m²/s) = ground level concentration (μ g/m³) x deposition velocity (m/s)

(where μg refers to μg of the chemical species under consideration).

The deposition velocities for various chemical species recommended for use in the AQTAG guidance note (AQTAG, 2014) are shown below in Table C.1.

Table C.1: Recommended dry deposition velocities

Chemical species	Recommended deposition velocity (m/s)						
NO ₂	Grassland (short)	0.0015					
	Forest (tall)	0.003					
SO ₂	Grassland (short)	0.012					
	Forest (tall)	0.024					

To convert the dry deposition flux from units of $\mu g/m^2/s$ (where μg refers to μg of the chemical species) to units of kg N/ha/yr (where kg refers to kg of nitrogen), multiply the dry deposition flux by the conversion factors shown in Table C.2. To convert dry deposition flux to acid deposition (keq/ha/yr), multiply the concentrations by the factors shown in Table C.3.

Table C.2: Dry deposition flux conversion factors for nutrient nitrogen deposition

μg/m²/s of species	Conversion factor to kg N/ha/yr
NO ₂	95.9

Table C.3: Dry deposition flux conversion factors for acidification

μg/m²/s of species	Conversion factor to keq/ha/yr
NO ₂	6.84
SO ₂	9.84



Appendix D. Results at Sensitive Human Locations

Table D.1: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for maximum 8-hour mean and 1-hour mean CO predicted concentrations

Receptor	Baseline air	Maximum 8	-hour running m	ean			Maximum 1-	hour mean			
ID	quality level (μg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)
R1	248	10,000	8.3	256	0.1%	2.6%	30,000	19.6	268	0.1%	0.9%
R2	241		5.8	247	0.1%	2.5%		13.7	255	0.0%	0.8%
R3	233		12.2	245	0.1%	2.5%		19.0	252	0.1%	0.8%
R4	233		10.4	243	0.1%	2.4%		21.2	254	0.1%	0.8%
R5	237		17.2	254	0.2%	2.5%		28.7	265	0.1%	0.9%
R6	237		17.5	254	0.2%	2.5%		34.3	271	0.1%	0.9%
R7	237		32.3	269	0.3%	2.7%		52.2	289	0.2%	1.0%
R8	237		18.1	255	0.2%	2.5%		36.4	273	0.1%	0.9%
R9	244		17.8	261	0.2%	2.6%		28.5	272	0.1%	0.9%
R10	244		20.5	264	0.2%	2.6%		36.2	280	0.1%	0.9%
R11	244		33.4	277	0.3%	2.8%		35.0	279	0.1%	0.9%
R12	244		19.6	263	0.2%	2.6%		32.1	276	0.1%	0.9%
R13	244		20.2	264	0.2%	2.6%		36.5	280	0.1%	0.9%
R14	244		16.1	260	0.2%	2.6%		33.0	277	0.1%	0.9%
R15	244		10.4	254	0.1%	2.5%		27.0	271	0.1%	0.9%
R16	258		13.5	272	0.1%	2.7%		25.1	283	0.1%	0.9%
R17	258		9.9	268	0.1%	2.7%		22.6	281	0.1%	0.9%
R18	258		8.4	266	0.1%	2.7%		21.7	280	0.1%	0.9%
R19	258		8.4	266	0.1%	2.7%		19.5	278	0.1%	0.9%
R20	258		7.6	266	0.1%	2.7%		19.7	278	0.1%	0.9%
R21	237		72.4	309	0.7%	3.1%		103.1	340	0.3%	1.1%
R22	237		159.2	396	1.6%	4.0%		182.1	419	0.6%	1.4%
R23	237		218.8	455	2.2%	4.6%		292.8	529	1.0%	1.8%
R24	237		150.7	387	1.5%	3.9%		188.7	425	0.6%	1.4%
R25	237		95.5	332	1.0%	3.3%		103.7	340	0.3%	1.1%

Table D.2: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for annual mean and 1-hour mean (99.79th percentile) NO₂ predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	Annual mean	1					99.79 th pe	99.79 th percentile of 1-hour mean				
	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	EQS (μg/m³)	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)
R1	6.7	40	0.2	6.9	0.4%	17.3%	200	13.5	2.6	16.1	1.3%	8.1%
R2	6.4		0.1	6.5	0.3%	16.3%		12.8	2.2	14.9	1.1%	7.5%
R3	6.1		0.2	6.3	0.5%	15.8%		12.3	2.8	15.1	1.4%	7.5%
₹4	6.1		0.1	6.3	0.3%	15.7%		12.3	2.8	15.0	1.4%	7.5%
₹5	7.5		0.2	7.7	0.6%	19.3%		15.0	4.2	19.2	2.1%	9.6%
₹6	7.5		0.3	7.8	0.7%	19.4%		15.0	5.3	20.3	2.6%	10.1%
27	7.5		0.7	8.1	1.6%	20.4%		15.0	7.9	22.9	4.0%	11.5%
₹8	7.5		0.3	7.8	0.9%	19.6%		15.0	5.9	20.9	3.0%	10.4%
79	7.1		0.2	7.4	0.6%	18.4%		14.3	4.4	18.7	2.2%	9.3%
R10	7.1		0.3	7.5	0.9%	18.7%		14.3	6.1	20.4	3.1%	10.2%
R11	7.1		0.3	7.4	0.8%	18.6%		14.3	6.1	20.3	3.0%	10.2%
R12	7.1		0.3	7.4	0.7%	18.5%		14.3	5.2	19.5	2.6%	9.7%
R13	7.1		0.3	7.4	0.7%	18.6%		14.3	5.4	19.7	2.7%	9.8%
R14	7.1		0.2	7.3	0.5%	18.3%		14.3	4.0	18.3	2.0%	9.1%
R15	7.1		0.1	7.3	0.4%	18.2%		14.3	3.2	17.5	1.6%	8.7%
R16	7.9		0.1	8.0	0.3%	20.0%		15.7	2.8	18.6	1.4%	9.3%
R17	7.9		0.1	8.0	0.3%	19.9%		15.7	2.9	18.6	1.4%	9.3%
R18	7.9		0.1	8.0	0.3%	19.9%		15.7	2.5	18.2	1.3%	9.1%
R19	7.9		0.1	8.0	0.2%	19.9%		15.7	2.3	18.0	1.2%	9.0%
R20	7.9		0.1	8.0	0.2%	19.9%		15.7	2.5	18.2	1.2%	9.1%
R21	7.5		1.7	9.2	4.3%	23.1%		15.0	16.1	31.1	8.0%	15.5%
R22	7.5		4.9	12.3	12.1%	30.9%		15.0	37.6	52.5	18.8%	26.3%
R23	7.5		6.0	13.5	14.9%	33.6%		15.0	64.4	79.4	32.2%	39.7%
R24	7.5		4.8	12.3	11.9%	30.7%		15.0	39.0	54.0	19.5%	27.0%
R25	7.5		2.4	9.9	6.1%	24.8%		15.0	20.0	35.0	10.0%	17.5%
Studley AQMA	-		0.1	-	0.2%	-		-				

Table D.3: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for 24-mean (99.18th percentile) and 1-hour mean (99.73rd percentile) SO₂ predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	99.18 th percen	tile of 24-hou	r mean			99.73 rd p	3 rd percentile of 1-hour mean						
	Baseline air quality level (μg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	EQS (μg/m³)	Baseline air quality level (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	
R1	4.7	125	0.2	4.9	0.2%	3.9%	350	4.7	0.9	5.6	0.3%	1.6%	
R2	4.3		0.1	4.5	0.1%	3.6%		4.3	0.7	5.0	0.2%	1.4%	
₹3	4.3		0.2	4.5	0.2%	3.6%		4.3	1.0	5.2	0.3%	1.5%	
8 4	4.3		0.2	4.5	0.2%	3.6%		4.3	0.9	5.1	0.3%	1.5%	
₹5	4.3		0.3	4.7	0.3%	3.7%		4.3	1.3	5.7	0.4%	1.6%	
₹6	4.3		0.4	4.7	0.3%	3.8%		4.3	1.6	5.9	0.5%	1.7%	
R7	4.3		0.9	5.2	0.7%	4.1%		4.3	2.6	6.9	0.7%	2.0%	
R8	4.3		0.6	5.0	0.5%	4.0%		4.3	1.9	6.2	0.5%	1.8%	
19	4.6		0.5	5.1	0.4%	4.1%		4.6	1.4	6.1	0.4%	1.7%	
110	4.6		0.8	5.4	0.6%	4.3%		4.6	1.9	6.6	0.6%	1.9%	
11	4.6		0.6	5.3	0.5%	4.2%		4.6	1.9	6.6	0.6%	1.9%	
R12	4.6		0.5	5.1	0.4%	4.1%		4.6	1.6	6.3	0.5%	1.8%	
113	4.6		0.6	5.3	0.5%	4.2%		4.6	1.6	6.3	0.5%	1.8%	
R14	4.6		0.4	5.1	0.4%	4.1%		4.6	1.4	6.0	0.4%	1.7%	
R15	4.6		0.4	5.0	0.3%	4.0%		4.6	1.0	5.7	0.3%	1.6%	
116	6.2		0.3	6.4	0.2%	5.1%		6.2	0.9	7.0	0.3%	2.0%	
17	6.2		0.3	6.4	0.2%	5.1%		6.2	0.9	7.1	0.3%	2.0%	
R18	6.2		0.2	6.4	0.2%	5.1%		6.2	0.8	7.0	0.2%	2.0%	
R19	6.2		0.2	6.4	0.2%	5.1%		6.2	0.7	6.9	0.2%	2.0%	
R20	6.2		0.2	6.4	0.2%	5.1%		6.2	0.8	6.9	0.2%	2.0%	
R21	4.3		3.1	7.4	2.5%	5.9%		4.3	5.4	9.7	1.5%	2.8%	
22	4.3		7.7	12.0	6.1%	9.6%		4.3	12.4	16.7	3.5%	4.8%	
23	4.3		10.4	14.7	8.3%	11.7%		4.3	20.3	24.6	5.8%	7.0%	
24	4.3		5.6	10.0	4.5%	8.0%		4.3	12.8	17.1	3.7%	4.9%	
25	4.3		3.0	7.3	2.4%	5.9%		4.3	6.6	11.0	1.9%	3.1%	

Table D.4: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for 15-minute mean (99.9th percentile) SO₂ predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	99.9 th percentile of 15-minute mean										
	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)					
R1	4.7	266	1.6	6.3	0.6%	2.4%					
R2	4.3		1.3	5.7	0.5%	2.1%					
R3	4.3		1.7	5.9	0.6%	2.2%					
R4	4.3		1.6	5.9	0.6%	2.2%					
R5	4.3		2.3	6.7	0.9%	2.5%					
R6	4.3		3.1	7.4	1.2%	2.8%					
R7	4.3		3.9	8.2	1.5%	3.1%					
R8	4.3		3.2	7.6	1.2%	2.8%					
R9	4.6		2.5	7.1	0.9%	2.7%					
R10	4.6		3.3	7.9	1.2%	3.0%					
R11	4.6		3.2	7.8	1.2%	2.9%					
R12	4.6		3.0	7.6	1.1%	2.9%					
R13	4.6		3.1	7.7	1.2%	2.9%					
R14	4.6		2.2	6.9	0.8%	2.6%					
R15	4.6		1.9	6.6	0.7%	2.5%					
R16	6.2		1.8	7.9	0.7%	3.0%					
R17	6.2		1.7	7.9	0.6%	3.0%					
R18	6.2		1.5	7.6	0.6%	2.9%					
R19	6.2		1.5	7.7	0.6%	2.9%					
R20	6.2		1.3	7.5	0.5%	2.8%					
R21	4.3		6.7	11.0	2.5%	4.2%					
R22	4.3		13.6	17.9	5.1%	6.7%					
R23	4.3		21.7	26.0	8.2%	9.8%					
R24	4.3		14.0	18.3	5.2%	6.9%					
R25	4.3		7.9	12.2	3.0%	4.6%					

Table D.5: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for annual mean and 24-hour mean (90.41st) percentile) PM₁₀ predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	Annual mea	an					90.41st po	90.41st percentile of 24-hour mean								
	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	EQS (μg/m³)	Baseline air quality level (µg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)				
R1	12.1	40	0.00	12.1	0.01%	30.2%	50	24.1	0.01	24.1	0.0%	48.3%				
R2	11.8		0.00	11.8	0.01%	29.4%		23.5	0.01	23.5	0.0%	47.1%				
R3	12.3		0.00	12.3	0.01%	30.8%		24.6	0.01	24.7	0.0%	49.3%				
₹4	12.3		0.00	12.3	0.01%	30.8%		24.6	0.01	24.7	0.0%	49.3%				
R5	11.9		0.01	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.02	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R6	11.9		0.01	11.9	0.02%	29.8%		23.9	0.02	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R7	11.9		0.02	11.9	0.04%	29.9%		23.9	0.05	23.9	0.1%	47.8%				
₹8	11.9		0.01	11.9	0.02%	29.8%		23.9	0.03	23.9	0.1%	47.8%				
₹9	12.3		0.01	12.3	0.01%	30.7%		24.6	0.02	24.6	0.0%	49.2%				
R10	12.3		0.01	12.3	0.02%	30.7%		24.6	0.03	24.6	0.1%	49.2%				
R11	12.3		0.01	12.3	0.02%	30.7%		24.6	0.03	24.6	0.1%	49.2%				
R12	12.3		0.01	12.3	0.02%	30.7%		24.6	0.03	24.6	0.1%	49.2%				
R13	12.3		0.01	12.3	0.02%	30.7%		24.6	0.03	24.6	0.1%	49.2%				
R14	12.3		0.00	12.3	0.01%	30.7%		24.6	0.02	24.6	0.0%	49.2%				
R15	12.3		0.00	12.3	0.01%	30.7%		24.6	0.01	24.6	0.0%	49.2%				
R16	11.9		0.00	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.01	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R17	11.9		0.00	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.01	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R18	11.9		0.00	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.01	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R19	11.9		0.00	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.01	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R20	11.9		0.00	11.9	0.01%	29.8%		23.9	0.01	23.9	0.0%	47.7%				
R21	11.9		0.04	12.0	0.10%	29.9%		23.9	0.15	24.0	0.3%	48.0%				
R22	11.9		0.12	12.0	0.29%	30.1%		23.9	0.48	24.3	1.0%	48.7%				
R23	11.9		0.15	12.1	0.37%	30.2%		23.9	0.59	24.4	1.2%	48.9%				
R24	11.9		0.12	12.0	0.29%	30.1%		23.9	0.42	24.3	0.8%	48.5%				
R25	11.9		0.06	12.0	0.15%	30.0%		23.9	0.19	24.0	0.4%	48.1%				



Table D.6: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for annual mean PM_{2.5} predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	Annual mean										
	Baseline air quality level (μg/m³)	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)					
R1	7.6	20	0.00	7.6	0.0%	37.9%					
R2	7.4		0.00	7.4	0.0%	37.2%					
R3	7.5		0.00	7.5	0.0%	37.7%					
R4	7.5		0.00	7.5	0.0%	37.7%					
R5	7.5		0.01	7.5	0.0%	37.3%					
R6	7.5		0.01	7.5	0.0%	37.3%					
R7	7.5		0.02	7.5	0.1%	37.4%					
R8	7.5		0.01	7.5	0.0%	37.4%					
R9	7.7		0.01	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R10	7.7		0.01	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R11	7.7		0.01	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R12	7.7		0.01	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R13	7.7		0.01	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R14	7.7		0.00	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R15	7.7		0.00	7.7	0.0%	38.7%					
R16	7.8		0.00	7.8	0.0%	39.0%					
R17	7.8		0.00	7.8	0.0%	39.0%					
R18	7.8		0.00	7.8	0.0%	39.0%					
R19	7.8		0.00	7.8	0.0%	39.0%					
R20	7.8		0.00	7.8	0.0%	39.0%					
R21	7.5		0.04	7.5	0.2%	37.5%					
R22	7.5		0.12	7.6	0.6%	37.9%					
R23	7.5		0.15	7.6	0.7%	38.1%					
R24	7.5		0.12	7.6	0.6%	37.9%					
R25	7.5		0.06	7.5	0.3%	37.6%					

Table D.7: Results of detailed assessment at sensitive human receptor locations for annual mean and maximum 24-hour mean TVOC predicted concentrations

Receptor ID	Annual mean						100 th percen	tile of 24-hou	r mean			
	Baseline air quality level	EQS (μg/m³)	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)	EQS (μg/m³)	Baseline air quality level	PC (μg/m³)	PEC (μg/m³)	PC/EQS (%)	PEC/EQS (%)
R1	0.2	5 (Benzene)	0.7	0.9	13.5%	18.3%	30 (Benzene)	0.5	6.2	6.7	20.8%	22.3%
R2	0.2		0.6	0.8	11.4%	15.8%		0.4	4.8	5.2	16.0%	17.5%
R3	0.2		0.8	1.0	16.8%	20.8%		0.4	7.1	7.6	23.8%	25.2%
R4	0.2		0.6	0.8	11.8%	15.9%		0.4	7.1	7.5	23.6%	25.0%
R5	0.2		1.0	1.2	20.0%	24.2%		0.4	13.0	13.4	43.2%	44.6%
R6	0.2		1.2	1.4	24.8%	29.0%		0.4	14.8	15.3	49.4%	50.8%
R7	0.2		2.9	3.1	58.6%	62.9%		0.4	29.6	30.0	98.5%	99.9%
R8	0.2		1.5	1.7	30.4%	34.7%		0.4	19.0	19.4	63.4%	64.8%
R9	0.2		1.0	1.2	20.3%	24.7%		0.4	15.9	16.3	52.9%	54.4%
R10	0.2		1.5	1.8	30.8%	35.2%		0.4	23.8	24.3	79.4%	80.9%
R11	0.2		1.4	1.6	27.6%	32.0%		0.4	41.4	41.9	138.1%	139.6%
R12	0.2		1.2	1.4	24.5%	28.9%		0.4	35.5	35.9	118.2%	119.7%
R13	0.2		1.3	1.5	26.3%	30.8%		0.4	27.1	27.5	90.2%	91.7%
R14	0.2		0.9	1.1	18.5%	23.0%		0.4	15.5	15.9	51.7%	53.1%
R15	0.2		0.6	0.9	12.6%	17.1%		0.4	10.2	10.7	34.0%	35.5%
R16	0.3		0.5	0.8	10.9%	16.0%		0.5	11.3	11.8	37.7%	39.4%
R17	0.3		0.5	0.7	9.9%	15.0%		0.5	8.6	9.1	28.6%	30.3%
R18	0.3		0.4	0.7	9.0%	14.1%		0.5	8.0	8.5	26.7%	28.4%
R19	0.3		0.4	0.7	8.5%	13.6%		0.5	5.9	6.4	19.5%	21.2%
R20	0.3		0.4	0.7	8.3%	13.4%		0.5	6.9	7.4	22.9%	24.6%
R21	0.2		7.7	7.9	154.2%	158.5%		0.4	92.8	93.3	309.4%	310.9%
R22	0.2		23.2	23.4	463.6%	467.8%		0.4	256.1	256.6	853.8%	855.2%
R23	0.2		30.9	31.1	617.2%	621.5%		0.4	553.6	554.0	1845.4%	1846.8%
R24	0.2		23.2	23.4	463.7%	468.0%		0.4	205.9	206.3	686.4%	687.8%
R25	0.2		11.3	11.5	225.6%	229.8%		0.4	94.4	94.8	314.6%	316.0%