



RIDGE

**COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTICS
CENTRE WITHINGTON
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL,
MANCHESTER
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS
STATEMENT**

28/05/2024

5020743 – COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTICS CENTRE WITHINGTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

28th May 2024

Prepared for

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CREATED BY	REVIEWED BY
1.0	20.06.23	ESS for CDC Withington - Draft	BC	SM/WB
2.0	04.07.23	ESS for CDC Withington	SM	SS
3.0	28.05.24	ESS for CDC Withington	SM	WW

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ridge & Partners LLP have been appointed by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust to complete an Environmental Standards Statement for the proposed community diagnostics centre (CDC) at Withington Community Hospital.

This Environmental Standards Statement has been produced to support the full planning application for the development by demonstrating that careful consideration has been given to the context of the site, local planning policy and the 2021 Building Regulations in the development of the proposed energy and sustainability strategy. The primary objective of this report is to contribute to the development of a low carbon and sustainable strategy for the site which will be carried through to detailed design, construction, and operation.

2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2.1. Site Overview & Development proposals

The site location is shown in Figure 2.1, below.

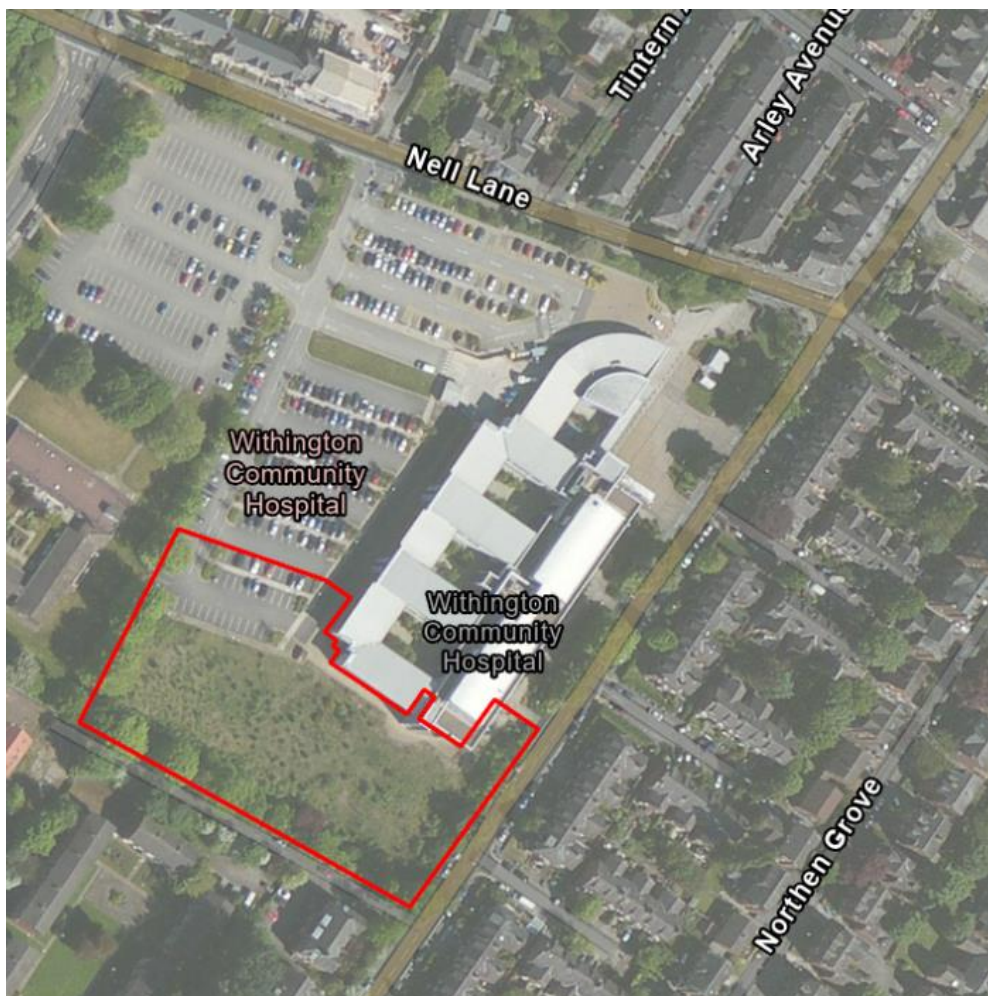


Figure 2.1: Location Plan

The site comprises an area of 0.9ha within the existing Withington Community Hospital ('WCH') estate. It is bound by Burton Road to the east Nell Lane to the north and Fielden Road to the south. Buccleuch Lodge Intermediate Care Unit is located to the south-west and Elizabeth Slinger Road to the north-west.

The site is located to the south of the existing hospital building and its associated carpark. It comprises undeveloped scrubland - a cumulation of sapling / young trees, introduced shrubs and sealed surfaces.

The proposed development is for the development of a two-storey building comprising a Community Diagnostics Centre, with associated external landscaping, patient and delivery drop off area, extension to servicing yard and 6 no. accessible car parking spaces.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1. National Planning Policy Framework

A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated and published in July 2021 which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. This framework replaces that published in February 2019. This framework confirms in section 2. Achieving Sustainable Development that:

'the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.'

This highlights sustainability as a critical issue that runs throughout all of the planning policies. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines sustainable development in agreement with the U.N. definition of "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The NPPF outlines how three overarching objectives need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways in order to achieve sustainable development. These objectives are outlined below:

- a. An **economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive, and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation, and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
- b. A **social objective** – to support strong, vibrant, and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
- c. An **environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built, and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2. Manchester Local Plan

The Manchester Core Strategy (2012) is the Adopted Development Plan for Manchester City Council. With respect to climate change and sustainability considerations, the following policies are included within the Manchester Local Plan Core Strategy (2012). Relevant extracts are provided below.

CS Policy DM 1: Development Management

This policy requires all development to have regard to a number of development principles for which more detailed guidance may be given within a supplementary planning document. It also states that *'Subject to*

scheme viability, developers will be required to demonstrate that new non-domestic development to achieve a BREEAM Rating of 'Very Good' or for domestic development to achieve the Code for Sustainable Homes standard⁴.

Policy EN4: Reducing CO2 Emissions by Enabling Low & Zero Carbon Development

This policy requires development to *'follow the principle of the Energy Hierarchy, being designed:*

- to reduce the need for energy through design features that provide passive heating, natural lighting and cooling.*
- to reduce the need for energy through energy efficient features such as improved insulation and glazing*
- to meet residual energy requirements through the use of low or zero carbon energy generating technologies'*

It also states that:

- 'Wherever possible new development and retrofit projects, including energy generation plant, must be located, and designed in a manner that allows advantage to be taken of opportunities for low and zero carbon energy supplies.*
- Where possible new development and retrofit projects will be used as a mechanism to help improve energy efficiency and provide low and zero carbon energy supplies to existing buildings.*
- Where appropriate new development and retrofit projects will be required to connect to and/or make contributions to low or zero carbon energy schemes and/or to incorporate provision to enable future connection to any existing / potential decentralised energy schemes.*
- The use of building materials with low embodied carbon in new development & refurbishment schemes.'*

Policy EN5: Strategic Areas for low and zero carbon decentralised energy infrastructure

This policy sets a requirement for key developments to consider being part of or providing an anchor to a new local energy network.

Within specific strategic areas (including the Oxford Street corridor) new development, regeneration and retrofit projects, will be expected to take place in the context of more detailed proposals for decentralised low and zero carbon energy infrastructure in the form of energy proposals plans. The Council will work with all relevant stakeholders, which may include developers, landowners, residents, community groups, private sector partners, utilities companies, neighbouring authorities, and other public sector bodies, as appropriate, to bring forward such plans.

Where investment or development is being undertaken into or adjacent to a public building/asset or district heating network, full consideration shall be given to the potential role that these can have in providing an anchor load within a decentralised energy network or in creating opportunities for CO2 reduction funded by contributions.

Policy EN6: Target Framework for CO2 reductions from low or zero carbon energy supplies

This policy sets a requirement for non-residential developments of over 1,000 m² to achieve a minimum performance target as shown in the table below unless this can be shown not to be viable.

The policy states that *'This should be demonstrated through an energy statement, submitted as part of the Design and Access Statement. Such a statement will be expected to set out the projected regulated energy demand and associated CO₂ emissions for all phases of the development'*.

Target	% Minimum requirement
Target 1: Network development area	CHP/district heating anchor or connection or where not feasible, a 15% increase on Part L 2010
Target 2: Electricity intense buildings	+10% increase on Part L 2010
Target 3: Micro generation area	+15% increase on Part L 2010

It is considered that the proposed development is located within a Target 3: Micro Generation Area and therefore should target a 15% increase on Part L 2010. This is bettered by the achievement of Part L 2021.

Policy EN 8 Adaptation to Climate Change

This policy requires all new development *'to be adaptable to climate change in terms of the design, layout, siting & function of both buildings & associated external spaces. In achieving developments which are adaptable to climate change developers should have regard to the following, this is not an exhaustive list:*

- *Minimisation of flood risk by appropriate siting, drainage, and treatment of surface areas to ensure rainwater permeability*
- *Reduction in urban heat island effect through the use of Green Infrastructure such as green roofs, green walls, increased tree cover and waterways*
- *The need to control overheating of buildings through passive design*
- *The opportunity to provide linked and diverse green space to enhance natural habitats which will assist species adaptation*

Developers will be permitted to use green infrastructure elements such as green roofs, green walls, street trees and waterways to contribute to compliance with CO2 mitigation under Policy EN6, subject to sufficient evidence to quantify their contribution to compliance'.

Policy EN 14 Flood Risk

This policy states that:

- *'In line with the risk-based sequential approach contained within PPS25, development should be directed away from sites at the greatest risk of flooding, and towards sites with little or no risk of flooding; this should take account of all sources of flooding identified in the Manchester-Salford-Trafford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).*
- *In addition to the requirements for site-specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) set out in PPS25, an appropriate FRA will also be required for all development proposals, including changes of use, on sites greater than 0.5ha within Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) and Canal Hazard Zones identified in the SFRA.*
- *All new development should minimise surface water run-off, including through Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and the appropriate use of Green Infrastructure.*
- *Developers should have regard to the surface water run-off rates in the SFRA User Guide. In CDAs, evidence to justify the surface water run-off approach / rates will be required.*
- *The City of Manchester contains many sections of rivers which are culverted or 'hidden'; where these are indicated in the SFRA beneath the proposed development site, further investigation will be required and the development proposal should take this into account; where feasible and appropriate development should seek to open up culverted/hidden rivers to reduce the associated flood risk and danger of collapse, taking advantage of opportunities to enhance biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.'*

Policy EN 15 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

This policy states that *'the Council will seek to maintain or enhance sites of biodiversity and geological value throughout the City. Particular consideration will be given to:*

- *sites with international or national designations for their biodiversity value. Manchester contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Cotteril Clough); there is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and an SSSI just over the border in Oldham (both on the Rochdale Canal within Oldham).*
- *other sites of biodiversity value, including Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); Manchester currently has 35 SBIs (including the Rochdale and Ashton Canals) and 7 LNRs; priority habitats found within Manchester, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy, and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP).*
- *protected and priority species, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP).*
- *sites that are recognised for their geological importance;*
- *the Council's objective to protect and conserve the City's existing trees and woodlands and the aim for a net increase in trees across the City.*

Developers will be expected to identify and implement reasonable opportunities to enhance, restore or create new biodiversity, either on-site or adjacent to the site, contributing to linkages between valuable or potentially valuable habitat areas where appropriate, with reference to:

- *the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy, which provides further details of priority habitats within Manchester and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement including corridors such as the Mersey, Medlock and Irk River valleys, the canals and disused railway lines and areas of managed greenspace particularly in parks.*
- *the Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester, which encompasses an ecological framework that seeks to guide and inform habitat creation and repair, including identifying large 'biodiversity opportunity areas' including the Moston Brook Corridor and Nutsford Vale;*
- *the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study, which identifies areas where there is a deficit of natural and semi-natural greenspace, opportunities for green corridors and other linkages.*
- *Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan.*
- *the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Manchester.*
- *the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Manchester, which gives detailed consideration to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), including the Rochdale Canal SAC just outside the district boundary.*
- *the River Basin Management Plan for the Northwest.*
- *the Manchester Tree Strategy.*

Any adverse impacts on biodiversity will need to be justified against the wider benefits of the proposal, assessed against other LDF policies. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, developers will be required to provide appropriate mitigation and/or compensation.

Development should wherever possible seek to maintain, enhance, or restore existing geology.'

Policy EN 16 Air Quality

This policy states that *'the Council will seek to improve the air quality within Manchester, and particularly within Air Quality Management Areas, located along Manchester's principal traffic routes and at Manchester Airport. Developers will be expected to take measures to minimise and mitigate the local impact of emissions from traffic generated by the development, as well as emissions created by the use of the development itself, including from Combined Heat and Power and biomass plant.*

When assessing the appropriateness of locations for new development the Council will consider the impacts on air quality, alongside other plan objectives. This includes cumulative impacts, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas'.

Policy EN 19 Waste

This policy states that the Council will:

- *'Require all developers, including those of new waste management facilities within the District, to demonstrate the proposal's consistency with the principles of the waste hierarchy (prevention, reduction, re-use, recycling/composting, energy recovery, final disposal)*
- *Require all developers to submit a waste management plan to demonstrate how both construction and demolition waste will be minimised and recycled on site wherever possible and how the sustainable waste management needs of the end user will be met.*
- *Promote the development of innovation and technological advancement within the sustainable waste management industry, aiming to achieve a closed-loop waste management system.*
- *Require waste management practices to have full regard to the environmental, social & economic impacts of such development and encourage long-term benefits in improving the environment, the regeneration of areas in need of investment and co-location with other employment uses where appropriate.*
- *Encourage communities to take responsibility for the waste created by provision of accessible facilities.'*

3.3. Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document

The Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in April 2017. The SPD is a material planning consideration for applications; however, it is not part of the development plan. While it references policies from the old Local Plan (UDP) which have been superseded it is still useful as a general guide to development. It includes a section on environmental standards, with sub sections on energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental design, water management and weather resilience, waste management, construction management, biodiversity, and waterways.

4. RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1. Introduction

This section of the report details how the proposed development will address the issue of climate change, in line with Manchester City Council's policies identified in Chapter 3. In particular, this section looks to address Manchester Local Plan policies EN4, EN6 and EN8.

4.2. Carbon Reduction

Carbon reduction is key to tackling climate change. When discussing carbon in relation to climate change, this is a term used to cover all greenhouse gas emissions and is measured in terms of CO₂ equivalent. The carbon emissions associated with the development include embodied carbon, construction related carbon, and operational carbon, associated with the energy demand and transport needs of the occupants.

Buildings emit greenhouse gas emissions throughout their operation; this is associated with the energy used to heat, cool, light and ventilate the building, and also energy associated with any other systems used within the building (e.g., plug-in equipment). There are also more indirect operational carbon emissions associated with people's transport to, from and within the development. In addition, there are also significant carbon emissions associated with the construction of the building, including embodied carbon within the materials from which the building is built.

4.2.1. Construction-Related Carbon Emissions

Due to the nature of the development, it is not expected that there will be significant construction related carbon emissions, however construction related transport emissions will be recorded and monitored through the targeted BREEAM Man 03 credit and within the Monitoring of Construction – Site Impacts Energy, Water and Transport.

4.2.2. Operational Carbon and Energy

The development will aim to minimise operational CO₂ emissions from the development and the associated impact upon climate change by adhering to the energy hierarchy below, demonstrating compliance with Policy EN 4 Reducing CO₂ Emissions by Enabling Low & Zero Carbon Development (summarised in section 3.2) (See: Hoare Lea 'LOW AND ZERO CARBON FEASIBILITY STUDY' for information provided below)

Energy hierarchy principles:

- Lean - Use advanced building modelling & passive construction techniques as far as is cost effective.
- Mean - Incorporate high efficiency systems and effective controls throughout the design.
- Green - Incorporate renewable and low carbon energy sources where necessary and economically viable to achieve targets or provide desirable benefits.

4.2.2.1. Passive Measures – Lean

The team have maximised passive measures to reduce the initial load of the building in terms of heating and anticipated lighting loads with the following measures:

- U values are defined as the ability of an element to transmit heat from a warm space to a cold space in a building, and vice versa. The lower the U-value, the better insulated the building element. Therefore, the U values that exceed minimum Building Regulation Standards 2021 Part L2 as below

Element	Limiting U-Values from Approved Building Regulations 2021 L2 (w/m ² K)	Proposed U-Value (w/m ² K)
External walls	0.26	0.12
Exposed Floor	0.18	0.10
Glazing (and Rooflights)	1.60	1.20
Roof (Flat)	0.18	0.11

- Air leakage rates that exceed minimum Building Regulations:

Air Permeability	Worst acceptable standard	This building
M ³ /(h.m ²) at 50 Pa	8	1

- Optimising solar gain through the provision of specialised glazing.

4.2.2.2. Energy Efficiency Measures - Mean

The next stage of the design development was to establish energy efficiency measures to meet the demand of the building, these options being:

- Efficient Heat Recovery in other systems
- Internal lighting design incorporates the use of high efficiency lighting combined with daylight linking.
- Air Source Heat Pumps to increase Hot Water Generating Efficiencies
- Improved Lighting Controls.
- Enhanced fabric efficiency parameters

4.2.2.3. Renewable & Low Carbon Technologies - Green

The final aspect of the design has been to establish what renewable and low carbon technologies can be adopted. A review of possible technologies has been completed. (See: Hoare Lea 'Low and Zero Carbon Technology Report'.) It is proposed that Solar Photovoltaic Panels and air to water heat pumps are to be incorporated into the design.



Rooftop photovoltaic panels are to be provided to the new building, located at an angle of 30-40 degrees south facing of an area approximately 386m². Typical the system will generate 61,745kWh per year, saving approximately 28.15% of CO₂ over the base build. Additionally, an air to water source heat pump can be installed to heat water which in turn can be circulated within a traditional low temperature heating system such as underfloor heating.

By including these technologies, this ensures the proposed development is in compliance with policies EN 4 'Reducing CO₂ Emissions by Enabling Low and Zero Carbon Development' and EN 6 'Target Framework for CO₂ reductions from low or zero carbon energy supplies'.

4.2.2.4. Energy Related Carbon Emissions

Regulated CO₂ emissions are those associated with heating, lighting and ventilation. Hoare Lea have modelled this emission scenario summarised as below;

Assessment	TER	BER	Betterment over Part L2 2021
Improved U Values, Space Heating: Direct Electric, DHW: ASHP / 36Kwp PV Array	7.85	7.34	6.49%

The development is predicted to have an average regulated CO₂ emission rate of 7.34 kgCO₂/m²/per annum. This represents a 6.49% carbon reduction compared to the Part L2: 2021 Target emission rate, this exceeds the requirements of policy EN6 'Target Framework for CO₂ reductions from low or zero carbon energy supplies' which requires a betterment of 15% on Part L 2010.

Unregulated carbon emissions are much harder to determine as they depend upon the staffs use of 'plug-in' equipment. Building users will be encouraged to minimise their unregulated energy use through the provision of information and guidance, for example on the use of energy efficient white goods and other electrical equipment.

4.2.3. Embodied Carbon Emissions

While operational carbon occurs gradually over the life of a building, embodied carbon emissions occur predominantly in the building materials and therefore are emitted immediately. Once the building is constructed, they cannot be reduced further. Reduction of embodied carbon emissions therefore plays an essential part in achieving the net zero targets. Typically, the embodied carbon emissions will represent over 25% of the total carbon emissions of a healthcare development.

As part of the BREEAM targeted credits a detailed Life Cycle Analysis has been carried out, modelling the main impacts of the newly specified superstructure, sub structure, hard landscaping and finishes during the detailed design stages. Optioneering will seek to reduce the initial assumptions by incorporating low carbon, locally sourced alternatives as well as using low carbon construction techniques where appropriate.

4.2.4. Transport

A Transport Statement and Travel Plan Addendum has been prepared by Curtins (May 2023), which includes a review of the existing situation with regards to transport to and from the site, including by car, public transport, walking and cycling. The site is located in West Didsbury, approximately 7.5km south of Manchester City Centre in an area of high public transport accessibility.

The site is in an area of well-established pedestrian network which caters for journeys on foot. The site is located within a 500m walking distance of several residential areas within the local community, and within several bus stops along Burton Road. Overall, the footways in the area are of good quality, well-lit and wide. Importantly, there are dropped kerbs, tactile paving, and controlled crossing facilities. Additionally, the site is well situated to benefit from existing cycle provision, with the wider local highway network in the vicinity of the site comprising on-road cycle facilities such as cycle lanes along Barlow Moor Road and Palatine Road for ease of cycling on the carriageway. Route 85 on the National Cycle Network runs to the west boundary of the site, which takes the form of a 3m wide shared footway/ cycleway running along the eastern side of Princess Road. Cyclists can also utilise the existing local roads to gain access to the site. It has been considered that local roads are of sufficient width with low-speed limits to encourage staff and visitors to cycle. Overall, the development is well suited to pedestrian and cycle access.

The site is within the close vicinity of the Burton Road Metrolink Stop and bus services on Burton Road and Barlow Moor Road. The site has an accessibility index of 20.15, suggesting the site has a good level of public transport. The site is also within walking distance of local amenities and services including various food outlets, and a school.

As an overview, there are currently a total of 440 car parking spaces at the site (403 standard bays, 30 disabled bays, 5 EV bays for MFT Transport, and 2 public EV charging bays). As part of the development proposals, 6 parking bays (all of which would be accessible) would be provided for use by visitors. All 6 of the new parking bays would also be equipped with electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities. 3 spaces within to the existing car park (to the north-west of the proposed building) would also be converted into drop-off bays for visitors to the proposed development. Additionally, regarding cycle spaces, there are currently 54 in total, with 42 of these long stay for staff, and 12 short stay for visitors. In line with the Trust's plan, a further 8 cycle spaces should be implemented. Due to a number of changes to the wider site arrangement, the proposed development would result in the minor reduction of the car park capacity of the wider hospital site from 440 to 427.

4.3. Climate Change Adaptation

As the scheme design develops, the team will ensure that the effects of climate change on the development are mitigated wherever possible as directed by EN8 Adaptation to Climate Change. As several of the targeted BREEAM credits, the change in climate will be considered when designing both the external envelope and the building services and the buildings will be future proofed where reasonably possible.

The potential impacts of climate change considered include:

- increased temperatures (including the heat island effect)
- flood risk
- increased weather volatility
- impacts on water resources.
- changes in ground conditions

The heat island effect occurs when a development is significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas. Sustained high temperatures can have impacts on health, local microclimate/weather conditions and energy use (for cooling). Methods which will be considered for adapting to or reducing the heat island effect include, but are not limited to:

- design to enable airflow throughout the development.
- external finishes that are designed to avoid heat absorption (e.g., light-coloured surfaces)
- site layout/orientation to maximise microclimatic cooling.

Rising sea levels and increases in average winter precipitation, as well as a general increase in the frequency, duration and intensity of rainfall may result in flood risks. Methods for adapting to increased flood risk include, but are not limited to:

- flood resilient buildings and materials
- managing flood pathways
- use of sustainable drainage systems

The above has been considered as part of the Flood Risk Assessment report produced by CCS Consulting (April 2024), which accounts for climate change scenarios. The Environment Agency maps confirm that the site is in a Flood Zone 1 (Low probability from flooding). The report indicates that no flood water flows will be affected, and no flood water will be displaced. Additionally, safe access and egress can be gained to and from the proposed building up to the 1000-year return period. Regarding drainage, the surface water will be managed using SuDS methods to control the water at source, reduce pollutants, and to reduce the risk of flooding to areas within or near the site. This demonstrates compliance with policies EN 8 Adaptation to Climate Change and EN 14 Flood Risk.

It is thought that extreme weather events may occur as a result of climate change, including storms, high winds, cold events, and heatwaves. The confidence level in predictions for these is low and there are a number of diverging projections. However, it is important to ensure the development is designed so that it will be resilient against future extreme weather wherever possible. This will be taken into consideration when specifying materials and structural detailing.

5. OTHER AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE

5.1. Introduction

Sustainability measures that consider the site as a whole are proposed to be integrated into the final design solution, in line with the requirements of national, regional, and local planning policy.

5.2. Materials and Waste

Sustainable use of resources includes both efficient use of materials and minimisation of waste. The development will be designed to be durable and resilient. This will help to reduce the need to repair and replace materials resulting from damage to exposed elements of the building and landscape. The proposed development will seek to minimise waste as much as possible in line with best practice efficiency benchmarks with construction waste no greater than 7.5m³ or 6.5 tonnes per 100m² gross internal floor area and the provision of a centralised hospital wide waste storage area, with space for clinical and general waste. This waste facility should also comply with HTM 07-01, to demonstrate compliance with Policy EN 19 Waste.

5.3. Biodiversity

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been produced by RSK Biocensus. The proposed site boundary of CDC Withington is c.0.9 ha, and includes sections of mixed scrub, scattered trees, introduced shrubs and sealed surfaces. The site is bordered to the North by the current hospital building and car park, to which the proposed new building will connect. The site is bordered by major roadways and residential dwellings to the East and the South. Buccleuch Lodge, an intermediate care home surrounded by amenity grassland is located to the West of the site. The wider landscape is urban with the residential areas of Withington, West Didsbury, East Didsbury, and Wythenshawe. There are pockets of greenspace present, including parks, playing fields and vegetated railway corridors. The PEA consisted of a desk study which included records of designated sites, and a field survey which informed habitat mapping, an assessment of the possible presence of protected or priority species and the likely importance of habitat features.

Overall, the majority of habitats on the site are not species rich and have little botanical value. However, the scattered trees are of inherent ecological value and should be retained where possible. The key ecological features on site in relation to the works proposed are areas of scrub and scattered trees on the site which provide suitable nesting habitats for a range of common and widespread bird species. Precautionary measures are required to prevent destruction of any bird nests during the works. Additionally, all trees on site were assessed from ground level for their suitability to support roosting bats. Eight trees within the proposed site boundary have been identified as having potential roost features to support bats. There is one building present on the site. However, it is understood the quality of roosting habitats for bats within the building in the vicinity of the development is low. The habitats of the proposed development provide a low-quality habitat for foraging and commuting bats. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that most of the suitable habitat can be retained as part of the proposed development. Finally, the site provides a suitable habitat for hedgehogs, and some low-quality habitat for common amphibians.

Within the PEA it was recommended that the planting of native species would benefit badgers, birds, and other protected species. Additionally, planting trees and hedgerows on site would create commuting corridors for many species including bats and hedgehogs. Bird boxes should be incorporated into the development design, and bat boxes on site should be retained as far as possible. Finally, log piles should be incorporated into quiet and varied habitats in the development to offer refuge for hedgehogs and other species. The above demonstrates compliance with Policy EN 15 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

5.4. Air Quality

An Air Quality Assessment has been prepared by Miller Goodall Ltd. The site is not located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). However, there are several pockets of the Greater Manchester AQMA on the roads surrounding the hospital. There are no background monitoring locations in the vicinity of the proposed development site, therefore background concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} have been obtained from the background concentration maps provided by Defra for the grid squares covering the proposed development.

It is not anticipated that any significant adverse impacts on local air quality will occur, and the Proposed Development is considered to be compliant with the NPPF and MCC Planning Policies. From the evidence presented, the Proposed Development is expected to comply with all relevant air quality policy. As such, air quality should not pose any significant obstacles to the planning process thus demonstrating compliance with EN 16 Air Quality.

5.5. Noise Pollution

A noise impact assessment has been produced by DBX acoustics. Manchester City Council require that BS 4142 should be used to assess the likely impact of noise from new items of plant. An environmental noise survey was carried out on Friday 5th May 2023 between approximately 17:00h and 19:45h, typical of the lowest background noise levels for noise impact at the surrounding residential receptors during the anticipated operating hours of the building and associated plant. The nearest noise sensitive receptors were identified as the neighbouring residences on Fielden Road and Burton Road. Importantly, the proposed development will be mechanically ventilated, with an enclosed plant room at first level to the Southwest of the building facing Burton Road.

As the existing hospital building is within close proximity to the new development, it is proposed that the building services rating level should not exceed the existing background sound level at this location to minimise adverse noise impact. There are understood to be no patient windows which overlook the proposed development. Overall, in line with the requirements of Manchester City Council, the noise impact report suggested that noise should not be considered a limiting factor in granting planning permission for the proposed development.

5.6. BREEAM

A BREEAM preassessment has been undertaken by a licensed BREEAM Assessor. This indicates that the development will achieve a BREEAM Excellent certification under BREEAM New Construction V6 Assessment.

Many of the BREEAM targeted credits also support and demonstrate how the development addresses and often exceeds the Policies listed above.

Achieving an Excellent certificate at Post Construction stage exceeds the requirement to achieve a minimum of BREEAM 'Very Good' set out in CS Policy DM 1: Development Management.

6. CONCLUSION

When reviewing the energy and sustainability strategy for this development, careful consideration has been given to the context of the site, local planning policy and the 2021 Building Regulations.

The approach taken for the proposed energy strategy for the development has followed a sequential approach. The Energy Hierarchy has been adopted - assessing in turn the feasibility of reducing the energy demand of the building, using energy more cleanly and finally applying renewable technologies.

A number of measures are to be implemented including optimising the thermal performance of the building envelope beyond the minimum U value and air infiltration standards set out in Part L Volume 1 of the Building Regulations. Key proposed energy efficient building services systems include the use of heat pumps, LED lighting installations with daylight linking, and low energy mechanical ventilation systems.

A feasibility assessment has been undertaken into the applicability of renewable technologies. The proposed scheme implements air source heat pumps for domestic hot water generation and an array of approximately 36Kwp of roof mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar panels. The Energy Model has been calculated to take account the selected renewable energy technologies proposed for this proposed development. Current results are showing a betterment over the 2021 Part L2 baseline of around 6.49%, which is an improvement on the 15% improvement required against Part L 2010 to satisfy the requirements of Policy EN6 of the Manchester Core Strategy Development Plan. The scheme will continue to see decarbonisation in line with decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid.

Wider sustainability aspects are also proposed for the scheme, these include provision of cycle storage together with a strategy for the key issues of material, water and waste efficiency.

It is considered that the scheme has maximised the opportunities for sustainable improvement and decarbonisation on the site compared to and within the constraints of the existing development and proposed end use.



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