

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

**MEMORANDUM**

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| To: <b>PLANNING CONTROL AND CONSERVATION</b><br>Saffron Loasby                                                                                                                                               | From: <b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b><br>Alan Stone Ext 4108 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Date: 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                    |
| Our Ref: 6845/26                                                                                                                                                                                             | Your : <b>26/02077/OP</b><br>Ref:                        |
| Subject: Outline Application: Erection of a single dwelling and associated works, with all matters reserved except access.<br>Site Of Former Oakfields Farm, Stevenage Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7JX |                                                          |

**Comments:**

Thank you for consulting Environmental Protection on this application.

I have reviewed the documents submitted in support of this planning application and can confirm that there is no objection to the proposal in terms of noise, other nuisances, land contamination or local air quality. However, please see the comments in relation to land contamination and air quality below.

**Land Contamination:**

This site was subject to a phase 1 and 2 land contamination investigation when the two properties to the north were proposed. The reports found no evidence of contamination. However, I recommend that the following condition is placed on any decision notice for this application, should you be minded to grant approval.

In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development, it shall be reported in writing immediately to the Local Planning Authority. An investigation and risk assessment shall then be undertaken by a competent person, in accordance with BS10175:2026. A written report of the findings should be forwarded for approval to the Local Planning Authority. Following completion of remedial measures a verification report shall be prepared that demonstrates the effectiveness of the remediation carried out. No part of the development should be occupied until all remedial and validation works are approved in writing.

Reason: To prevent unacceptable risk to Human Health and Controlled Waters and to prevent pollution of the Environment in accordance with the aims and Paragraphs 187(f), 196 and 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

**Local Air Quality:**

An approach to considering the impact of a development on air pollution and the potential mitigation of such is in place in the form of the air quality planning guidance that can be

found at <http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/air-quality-and-planning>

Application of the guidance to a development of this scale and location defines the site as being a MINOR scale development and so the following condition is recommended to ensure that appropriate local air quality mitigation is provided.

### **EV Recharging Infrastructure Condition**

Prior to occupation, the proposed new dwelling shall incorporate an Electric Vehicle (EV) ready domestic charging point.

**Reason: To contribute to the objective of providing a sustainable transport network and to provide the necessary infrastructure to help off-set the adverse impact of the operational phase of the development on local air quality.**

### **Informative**

#### **1) EV Charging Point Specification:**

A charging point shall be installed by an appropriately certified electrician/electrical contractor in accordance with the following specification. The necessary certification of electrical installation should be submitted as evidence of appropriate installation to meet the requirements of Part P of the most current Building Regulations.

Cable and circuitry ratings should be of adequate size to ensure a minimum continuous current demand for the vehicle of 16A and a maximum demand of 32A (which is recommended for Eco developments)

- A separate dedicated circuit protected by an RBCO should be provided from the main distribution board, to a suitably enclosed termination point within a garage or an accessible enclosed termination point for future connection to an external charge point.
- The electrical circuit shall comply with the Electrical requirements of BS7671: 2008 as well as conform to the IET code of practice on Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment installation 2012 ISBN 978-1-84919-515-7 (PDF). This includes requirements such as ensuring the Charging Equipment integral protective device shall be at least Type A RCD (required to comply with BS EN 61851 Mode 3 charging).
- If installed in a garage all conductive surfaces should be protected by supplementary protective equipotential bonding. For vehicle connecting points installed such that the vehicle can only be charged within the building, e.g. in a garage with a (non-extended) tethered lead, the PME earth may be used. For external installations the risk assessment outlined in the IET code of practice must be adopted, and may require additional earth stake or mat for the EV charging circuit. This should be installed as part of the EV ready installation to avoid significant on cost later.
- A list of authorised installers (for the Government's Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles>

- UK Government issued legislation in 2021 to require domestic EV charge points to be smart, thus we recommend that all charge points will be capable of smart charging, as detailed in UK Gov regulations.

2) The above condition is considered relevant and reasonable for the following reasons:

- Paragraphs 170 (e), 181 of the NPPF, which refer to the effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution (including air pollution) on health, the natural environment (including air quality).
- Paragraphs 102 (d), 105 (e) and 110 (e) of the NPPF, which refer to the need to promote sustainable transport including the provision for charging plug-in and other ultra low emission vehicles.
- HCC Local Transport Plan (LTP4) 2018-2031 which includes an objective to 'preserve the character and quality of the Hertfordshire environment' and 'make journeys and their impact safer and healthier', as well as its Emissions Reduction Policy 19.
- It is consistent with the approach specified in the NHDC Air Quality Planning Guidance Document, which is referenced within the current consultation version of the Local Plan.

Regards

Alan Stone