

**Climate Change Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental Statement Volume 1 Appendix 16.3 - Greenhouse Gas
Baseline Information**

Land North of Birch Business Park



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix provides the baseline information for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Assessment in support of the Proposed Development. This should be read in conjunction with Environmental Statement Volume 1: Chapter 16 - Climate Change and the other Technical Appendices.

2.0 **BASELINE**

2.1 **Introduction**

2.1.1 The baseline for assessment comprises two elements:

- National and regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and,
- Baseline GHG emissions generated by the existing Site prior to development.

2.1.2 These are detailed in the following Sections.

2.2 **National and Regional Emissions**

2.2.1 The first element of the baseline comprises existing national and regional GHG emissions, which provide reference points against which the impact of the Proposed Development can be compared.

2.2.2 On 3rd July 2025, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) released the latest version of 'UK local authority and regional GHG emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023'¹. The data contains the most up to date available GHG emission estimates for the UK, England and Rochdale, presenting total and sectoral emissions. The GHG emission estimates for 2023 are provided in Table A16.3.1.

Table A16.3.1 UK, England and Rochdale GHG Estimated Emissions 2023

Region	Annual Emissions (ktCO ₂ e)								
	Industry	Commercial	Public Sector	Domestic	Transport	LULUCF ^(a)	Agriculture	Waste	Total
UK	56,675	29,590	10,380	76,897	113,307	1,119	48,288	19,838	356,094
England	39,084	25,312	8,599	63,148	93,952	-598	29,819	16,312	275,589
Rochdale	107	70	23	249	390	0	17	16	872

¹ UK local authority and regional GHG emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023, DESNZ, 2025.

2.2.3 Based on the information provided in Table A16.3.1, the administrative area of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) contributed 0.32% and 0.24% to the total GHG emissions for England and the UK in 2023, respectively.

2.2.4 The largest sectoral contributor to GHG emissions for Rochdale, England and the UK was road transport emissions.

2.2.5 It is anticipated that national and regional GHG emissions will continue to decline over the lifetime of the Proposed Development in line with existing and committed climate policies, targets, and regulatory measures towards net-zero by 2050.

2.3 Current Land Use

2.3.1 The second element of the baseline represents GHG emissions generated by the existing Site prior to development. This may include emissions from existing projects (e.g. energy consumption from a building which is scheduled for refurbishment, demolition or replacement) and infrastructure (e.g. current operational and end-user emissions of a road due to be upgraded). In the context of this assessment, the current baseline has considered potential GHG emissions from the existing Site use.

2.3.2 The Site covers approximately 4.1ha of open vacant land with a mixture of unmanaged vegetation. This land use typically supports relatively low levels of carbon sequestration.

2.3.3 The current land use does not include any notable sources of GHG emissions, such as buildings, energy consumption, industrial activities or traffic-generating uses. As such, existing emissions from the site were considered to be negligible.

2.3.4 Peaty soils are carbon-rich and act as a natural carbon store, with disturbance potentially leading to GHG emissions. A review of the Natural England Open Data Publication² indicated that the Site is not located in an area comprising peaty soils. As such, no release of stored carbon from peat disturbance is anticipated.

² <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::peaty-soils-location-england/explore?location=53.393523%2C-1.908959%2C10>.

- 2.3.5 The existing land use is unlikely to be a significant source or sequester of GHG emissions. Therefore, for the purpose of the assessment, baseline emissions from the Site were considered to be negligible and all emissions generated by the Proposed Development are in excess of current levels.
- 2.3.6 In the absence of future development, no change in emissions from the Site are anticipated and emissions will remain negligible.