

From: Environmental Health
Sent: 04 November 2025 15:58
To: Christopher Harrison
Subject: PLANNING APP 4/25/2241/0F1 - WOODLAND NURSERIES, STANFORD HILL, LOWCA

Erection of new glasshouse for plant production facility as extension to existing nursery, with associated infrastructure

Thank you for your recent email outlining representations in objection to the above planning application.

An Air Quality Assessment for this development is not considered necessary, given the relatively low levels of air pollutants that affect the Copeland district and it is not expected that this development will significantly affect local air quality.

Cumberland Council has produced its 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) which is available online –

https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-08/asr_cumberland_2024_final.pdf

This contains data from 24 x non-automatic monitoring sites within the Copeland District, monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) emissions from road traffic, industry and domestic sources.

The objection has raised a potential impact on local air quality from the development, specifically from road traffic and machinery (NO₂ and Particulate Matter), pesticides and fuels (VOCs), Ozone, Ammonia and pesticide / herbicides chemicals.

The Council monitors NO₂ levels by way of passive diffusion tubes. The nearest monitoring site is at Main Street, Distington (roadside) which recorded an annual mean level of NO₂ of 14.6 ug/m³. It is, however, possible to extract data from DEFRA air quality monitoring sites for Lowca that show modelled background annual mean levels for 2024 for the following pollutants:

<u>Air pollutant</u>	<u>Lowca Level (ug/m3)</u>	<u>National UK Air Quality Objectives (ug/m3)</u>
NO ₂	2.61	40
PM ₁₀	6.72	40
PM _{2.5}	4.05	20
Benzene (VOC)	0.13	5 (annual average)
Ozone	0 days in 2024 where the daily maximum running 8 hour mean exceeded 180 ug/m ³	

As can be noted from the above figures, the predicted annual background levels of air pollutants in Lowca are well below the national target objectives and local air quality is described as good.

The <https://naei.energysecurity.gov.uk/emissionsapp/> website provides a map of 1km squares for Ammonia (NH₃) emissions in the UK.

NH₃ emissions in the Lowca area are given as 1.31 tonnes per annum, of which 1.16 tonnes is from agriculture and farming.

The Gov.UK website for emissions of [Ammonia](#) show that the trend of UK emissions is downward, and that the major sources of NH₃ emissions are from cattle and other livestock.

The Agent has already provided a written response (dated September 2025) with regards to use of chemicals in the nursery, and use of larger capacity HGVs in transportation. Environmental Health would have capacity to hire portable gas monitors for any residents that suffer odour or nuisance from pollutants.

We again also reiterate that there has been no past complaints in relation to noise, and the statutory nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 may provide potential redress for any residents affected by excessive noise from the development.

In summary, Environmental Health do not object to this proposed development and the available data for local air quality should provide reassurance to residents that Lowca is not unduly affected.

Regards

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