



# Consideration of Potential Odour Impact from Proposed Pet Crematorium at Dockber Laithe Farm, Sawley, Clitheroe, BB7 4LF.

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Prepared for:

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Martin Environmental Solutions has been commissioned to undertake a consideration of the potential impact from odour emissions in relation to a proposed Pet Crematorium at Dockber Laithe Farm, Sawley, Clitheroe, BB7 4LF.

### **Site Location and Context**

- 1.2. The development site is situated to the west of Dockber Laithe Farm, agricultural/industrial buildings are located to the south, north and east of the building with a slurry tank to the southwest. Additional farm buildings are located further to the west along the access track, including a farm house 120m away and some small privately owned cottages 240m west.
- 1.3. To the north, east and south beyond the immediate farm are agricultural fields. The nearest properties are 670m southeast and 1.2Km west.
- 1.4. An aerial Photograph is enclosed in Figure 1, together with a proposed layout drawing in Figure 2.
- 1.5. The report has been produced to clarify the potential impact on the proposed development and to identify mitigation measures if required to ensure the development is appropriate in terms of odour impact.



## **2. Policy and Guidance**

- 2.1. The Government sets out its policy in relation to planning in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should “preventing new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability”; and “In preparing plans to meet development needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment”
- 2.2. While Odour is not specifically mentioned in is implied by the above and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) note issued by the government on Air Quality states “odour and dust can also be a planning concern, for example; because of the effects on local amenity” it continues to state “mitigation options where necessary, will depend on the proposed development and should be proportionate to the likely impact”.
- 2.3. The Institute of Air Quality Management identify within their guidance document ‘*Guidance on the assessment of odour for planning*’ that before an odour can be present an adverse effect, there must be exposure to the odour and therefore a **source**, a **pathway**, and a **receptor**. Without these three links no exposure can occur. In the case of this application the source is the proposed pet crematorium. The pathway is the air and the receptor are the occupants of the dwellings to eh east of the site , particularly the residential developments.
- 2.4. The above guidance also identifies and clarifies the types of receptors as high, medium or low sensitivity. Details in Table 2 of the guidance document reproduced below.



**Table 2: Receptor sensitivity to odours**

For the sensitivity of people to odour, the IAQM recommends that the Air Quality Practitioner uses professional judgement to identify where on the spectrum between high and low sensitivity a receptor lies, taking into account the following general principles:

<b>High sensitivity receptor</b>	<p>Surrounding land where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• users can reasonably expect enjoyment of a high level of amenity; and</li> <li>• people would reasonably be expected to be present here continuously, or at least regularly for extended periods, as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Examples may include residential dwellings, hospitals, schools/education and tourist/cultural.</p>
<b>Medium sensitivity receptor</b>	<p>Surrounding land where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• users would expect to enjoy a reasonable level of amenity, but wouldn't reasonably expect to enjoy the same level of amenity as in their home; or</li> <li>• people wouldn't reasonably be expected to be present here continuously or regularly for extended periods as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Examples may include places of work, commercial/retail premises and playing/recreation fields.</p>
<b>Low sensitivity receptor</b>	<p>Surrounding land where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected; or</li> <li>• there is transient exposure, where the people would reasonably be expected to be present only for limited periods of time as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</li> </ul> <p>Examples may include industrial use, farms, footpaths and roads.</p>

- 2.5. In assessing the impact of odour on or from a development the scale of the exposure and therefore impact is determined by the parameters collectively known as the FIDO factors (Frequency, Intensity, Duration and Offensiveness). In addition, the sensitivity of the receptor (location) will determine the magnitude of the exposure.



### **3. The Assessment**

#### **The development**

- 3.1 The proposed development consists of two small animal carcase cremators with a total capacity of less than 50Kg/hr, they are therefore deemed by Defra to be small cremators, with limited environmental impact and not subject to the additional controls under the Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) regime in England and Wales.
- 3.2 The cremators are located to the far east of the farm complex in a small addition to a large barn. A single stack is fitted through the roof and terminates above the eaves of the adjacent building. There is no restriction to the final opening ensuring emissions rise and can disperse.
- 3.3 Figure 2 below provides an overview of the proposed development.



## Potential Odour Impact

### Other Potential Odour Sources

- 3.1. A review of the area has been undertaken and additional existing sources of odour identified. Significantly these include the existing farm complex, including slurry storage, slurry spreading on the surrounding fields with the potential to generate offensive odours which will affect the neighbouring receptors.
- 3.2. Dunbia slaughter house is also located to the southeast, a potential for odour releases from animal waste.
- 3.3. Existing use of the surrounding fields by livestock. While considered minor the use of the surrounding fields for grazing has the potential to generate odour emissions.

### Prevailing Wind Direction

- 3.4. The prevailing wind direction has been obtained from the Lea Town and Cockerham weather stations, the nearest data sets to the site. These indicate that the prevailing wind direction is West, West-south-westerly. This would blow any emissions away from the nearest residential properties over open farm land.

### Potential Impact on the development site

- 3.5. The operation of the cremators results in a temperature of +850°C. this is typically regarded as an appropriate temperature to destroy all volatiles and combustible products within the emissions from the cremators, and quoted within PGN guidance notes written to assist local authorities with functions under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (amended) 2016, including larger crematorium processes.
- 3.6. To ascertain the potential impact from odour the IAQM guidance document details the FIDOL parameters to help determine the impact:
  - Frequency
  - Intensity
  - Duration
  - Offensiveness
  - Location
- 3.7. The potential odours would only impact on the neighbouring properties if released from the site. While the greater the distance between the emission point and the receptor



the greater the dilution of emissions would be and the lower the impact at the receptor site.

#### Frequency & Duration

- 3.8. The use of the cremator is limited in both size, duration of each cremation and the business available for the company. It takes around 90 minutes to carry out one cremation this includes the loading a cool down/rake out times so the actual cremation is limited to < 1hour.
- 3.9. The prevailing wind direction taking any emission away from the nearest receptor location in the east over open fields.
- 3.10. The frequency and duration of any emission towards yeh nearest receptor location sis minimal.

#### Intensity (of Odour)

- 3.11. The cremator operates at a high temperature, designed to destroy volatile components (odours), in addition the site is located 120m from the nearest receptor location, which belongs to the owner of the site and is upwind from the cremator. The next nearest property has been identified at 240m away. Allowing adequate dispersion of any odourous emissions should the occur and should the wind not be in the prevailing direction.
- 3.12. The intensity of any emissions will be reduced due to the separating distance between the site and the receptors.

#### Offensiveness

- 3.13. Should any emissions from the cremator occur, the odours would be similar to charcoal-like or burnt meat odours and could be considered mildly offensive. However, given the control measures in place and high cremating temperatures destroying volatiles the emission are not going to be odourous.

#### Location

- 3.14. The site is located in an open area some distance from the nearest receptor locations and upwind from them.



3.16 The development is unlikely to produce any odorous emissions and even if it were the nearest receptors are located upwind of the site and at a sufficient distance to allow dispersion of the odours.

## **4 Conclusion**

- 4.1. An assessment of the odour generating potential of the development has been undertaken and a consideration of other potential sources in the area.
- 4.2. The development operates in such a manner to prevent odours being released from the operations, principally the operating temperatures which are designed to achieve full cremation of the animal carcasses, destroy any volatile emissions and protect the smooth operation of the cremators.
- 4.3. The site has also been located at the far side of the wider farm complex creating a significant distance between the site and the nearest receptor location.
- 4.4. The proposal will therefore not produce any odours that will have the potential to result in a significant adverse impact while the separation distances and location upwind of the nearest receptors will ensure no impact on the nearby residential sensitive receptors as required by the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 4.5. The development therefore complies with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of odour and is considered acceptable.



**Figure 1 – Aerial Photograph**

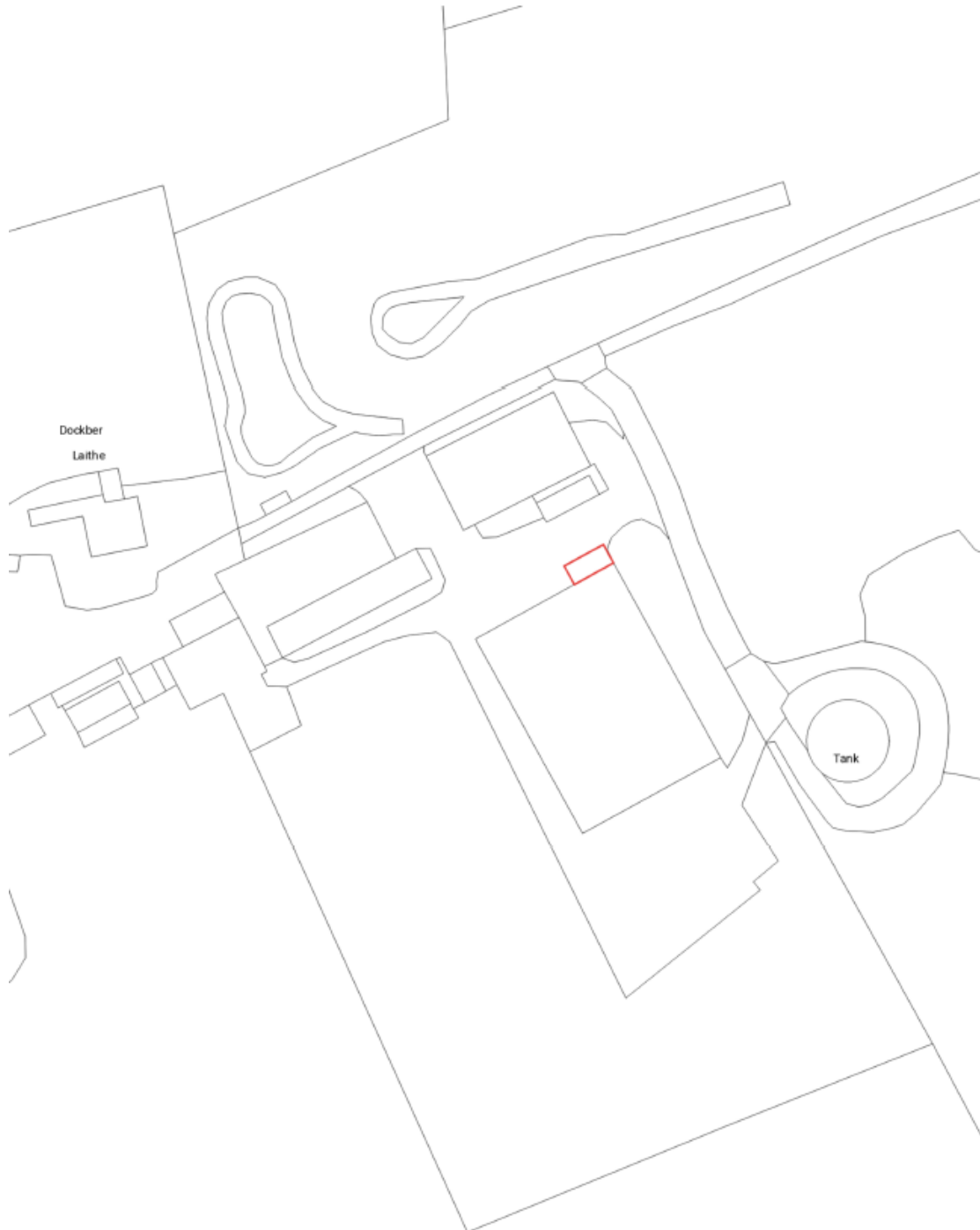




## Figure 2 – Proposed Layout Plan

Pet Crematorium at Dockber  
Laithe, Sawley - Location Plan

RS/JB/Loc01



reduced on Land App, Jul 2, 2025  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 (licence number 100059532)

20 m  
Scale 1:1000 (at A4)



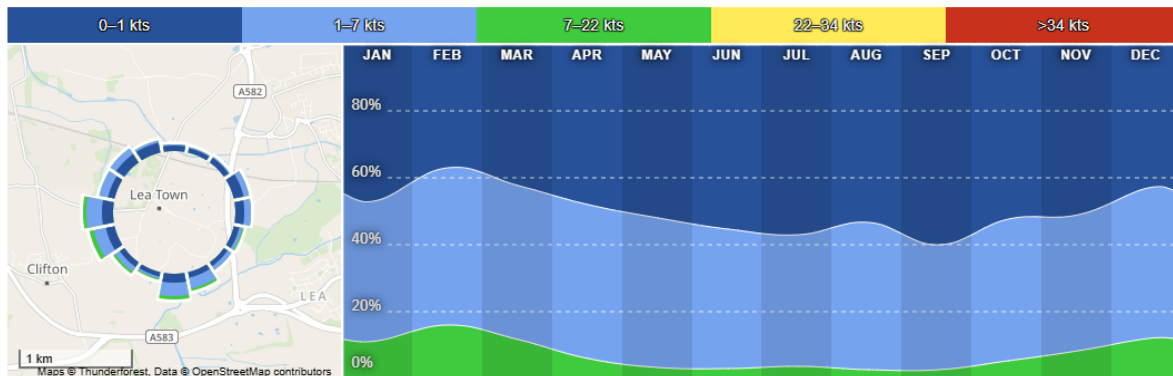


## Appendix A – Prevailing Wind Direction

### Monthly wind speed statistics and directions for Lea Town



### Monthly wind direction and strength distribution



### Monthly wind speed statistics and directions for Cockerham



### Monthly wind direction and strength distribution

