

Our Ref AMP/14862CO/70/AMP

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RSA GEOTECHNICS LTD

For the attention of Mr Stuart Dunlop, Pollution Control Officer

By Email only –
stuart.dunlop@hackney.gov.uk

Dear Stuart

**STONE STUDIOS, 80 TO 84 & 88 WALLIS ROAD, HACKNEY WICK E9 5LN
- RADIELLO CARTRIDGE AIR MONITORING FOR VOC & SVOC**

This letter reports the findings of the seventieth round of air monitoring around the boundary of the above site by RSA Geotechnics Limited, at the request of Telford Homes PLC. Following the continuous monitoring undertaken during the bulk excavation of the basement areas of the site between May and September 2019, the monitoring was paused on cessation of earthworks. The monitoring recommenced on 28 October 2019, in advance of the remaining earthworks to be undertaken in the corridor area between the two basements; these works started on 18 November 2019. Excavation works were paused from 4 December 2019 to evaluate the control of groundwater and were re-started on 29 January 2020. Significant excavation works ceased on 28 February, with a single day of works undertaken on 18 March.

The monitoring detailed in this report covers the period between 13 and 22 May 2020, during which time excavation works were in progress in the corridor area between the two basements.

1. Introduction

Earlier investigation of the site identified the potential for significant odour/vapour release during development. CFA piling works brought to surface hydrocarbon contaminated soils, as identified within the earlier site investigation. Some odours were reported, and odour/vapour issues were more pronounced during the initial bulk excavation phase for basement construction for Block A in September 2018; these works were ceased due to odour issues at that time.

Bulk earthworks recommenced under a new methodology on 7 May 2019. A detailed programme of daily site monitoring was maintained during these works, including continuous PID monitoring on the site boundary and on Wallis Road, as well as sampling and testing of ambient air to confirm concentrations are acceptable. This is

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supplemented by passive monitoring at the site boundary and in the surrounding area, as detailed in this report, which is reported on a nominal weekly basis.

Radiello 130 passive diffusive sampling tubes are installed at five locations around the perimeter of the site, at two residential receptor locations to the west and north of the site, and on the boundary of Mossbourne Academy School to the east of the site. This monitoring enables measurement of time-weighted average concentrations of BTEX, VOC and SVOC. Testing for speciated total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) is also undertaken, for two locations on the site boundary (Locations T1 and T2) and one location at the school (Location T3). Monitoring locations are as illustrated on drawing number 14862CO/2 Version B. As above, this passive longer-term monitoring is supplemented by additional monitoring and sampling in 'real-time' during active works on site.

Key volatile constituents of the contamination at the site were considered to be benzene and naphthalene, and these compounds have been adopted as markers for the initial assessment of contamination.

Initial assessment was undertaken adopting the EH40 Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) for 8 hour time-weighted average (TWA) exposure for benzene of 1 ppm (3.25 mg/m³). There is no UK WEL screening value for naphthalene, however, the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets a Permissible Exposure limit (PEL) of 10 ppm (50 mg/m³) for naphthalene in workplace air (8 hour TWA). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 'immediately dangerous to life or health' (IDLH) screening value for naphthalene in air is 250 ppm.

A detailed air quality assessment was subsequently undertaken by Peak Environmental Solutions, to determine human health risk based vapour monitoring criteria for adjacent land users, taking into account adjacent and distal commercial, school and residential receptors, for the main earthworks proposed to be undertaken over a period of nominally 10 weeks. The assessment report was submitted to LLDC, Hackney Council and PHE for review, and a revised version of the report was submitted on 17 January 2019 to LLDC responding to queries raised on the initial review of the report. The screening values are influenced by the duration of the works; the longer the exposure, the lower the thresholds. A Technical Note was issued in April 2019 providing threshold values for works of 10, 15, 20 and 25 weeks, and was supplemented by a further Technical Note in December 2019 providing threshold values for 30, 40 and 52-week exposure. Tables 1a and 1b below summarise threshold values for 10, 25 and 40 week exposure:

Table 1a – Passive Threshold-Uc Criteria in mg/m³				
Substance	Passive Threshold-Uc in mg/m³ 10-25-40 week exposure			
	Adjacent	Distal		
	Commercial & Passer-by	Commercial	School	Residential
Naphthalene	0.16-0.06-0.04**	0.16-0.06-0.04**	0.06-0.02-0.014**	0.04-0.015-0.0094**
Sum TPH	25-20-13	25-20-13	18-7-4.7	10-5-3.1
Aliphatic TPH C5-C6	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH
Aliphatic TPH C6-8				
Aliphatic TPH C8-10				
Aliphatic TPH C10-12				
Aliphatic TPH C12-16				
Aromatic TPH C5-7 (threshold Benzene)				
Aromatic TPH C7-8 (Toluene)				
Aromatic TPH C8-C10	7.4-4.1-2.6	7.4-4.1-2.6	1.8-0.8-0.5	1.3-0.54-0.34
Aromatic TPH C10-12	7.4-4.1-2.6	7.4-4.1-2.6	1.8-0.8-0.5	1.3-0.54-0.34
Aromatic TPH C12-16				
Sum Methylnaphthalenes				
Benzene	0.3-0.18-0.11	0.3-0.18-0.11	0.2-0.08-0.05**	0.14-0.055-0.034**
Toluene	Pragmatic 10-4.7-2.9	Pragmatic 10-4.7-2.9	4-1.9-1.7	3-1.3-1.1
Ethylbenzene			1.7	1.1
Sum Xylenes			1.2	0.8
Sum TMB	0.14-0.08-0.05**	0.14-0.08-0.05**	0.04-0.02-0.01**	0.03-0.01-0.0065**

Notes: These thresholds take into account parameter CF-est where relevant (correction factor for time-weighted average concentrations).
* =Benzene Criteria for the residential receptor is approaching the UK AQS (0.005) so needs to be applied with caution.
** =Naphthalene, methylnaphthalene and TMB criteria are very low, so need to be applied with caution.

Table 1b – Active Threshold-Uc Criteria in mg/m³				
Substance	Active Threshold-Uc in mg/m³ 10-25-40 week exposure			
	Adjacent	Distal		
	Commercial & Passer-by	Commercial	School	Residential
Naphthalene	0.55-0.22-0.14	0.55-0.22-0.14	0.19-0.08-0.048**	0.04-0.015-0.0094**
Sum TPH	100-74-46	100-74-46	60-25-16	10-5-3.1
Aliphatic TPH C5-C6	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH	Via Sum TPH
Aliphatic TPH C6-8				
Aliphatic TPH C8-10				
Aliphatic TPH C10-12				
Aliphatic TPH C12-16				
Aromatic TPH C5-7 (threshold Benzene)				
Aromatic TPH C7-8 (Toluene)				
Aromatic TPH C8-C10	35-14-15	35-14-9	6-2.7-1.7	1.3-0.54-0.34
Aromatic TPH C10-12	35-14-15	35-14-9	6-2.7-1.7	1.3-0.54-0.34
Aromatic TPH C12-16				
Sum Methylnaphthalenes				
Benzene	1.5-0.61-0.38	1.5-0.61-0.38	0.7-0.28-0.17	0.14-0.055-0.034
Toluene	Pragmatic 10	Pragmatic 10	Pragmatic 5-5-4	3-1.3-1.1
Ethylbenzene				1.1
Sum Xylenes				0.8
Sum TMB	0.45-0.27-0.17	0.45-0.27-0.17	0.13-0.053-0.033	0.03-0.01-.0065**

Notes: * =Benzene Criteria for the residential receptor is approaching the UK AQS (0.005) so needs to be applied with caution.
** =Naphthalene, methylnaphthalene and TMB criteria are very low, so need to be applied with caution.

The values in Table 1a are used in the assessment of results from the time-weighted average passive sorbent tube monitoring, while the values in Table 1b are relevant to comparison with active 'real-time' sampling using vacuum canisters, pumped sorbent tubes or other methods.

2. Fieldwork

The seventieth round of monitoring discussed in this report was undertaken over a nine-day period between 13 and 22 May 2020.

3. Laboratory Analysis

Cross reference between the laboratory test references and the sample locations is given in Table 3.

Table 3 – Laboratory reference and sample location summary	
Location	Laboratory sample reference
V1	Z868M
V2	Z874M
V3	Z865M
V4	Z866M
V5	Z867M
V6	Z870M
V7	Z873M
V8	Z872M
T1	Z869M
T2	Z875M
T3	Z871M

The laboratory analysis included suites of both VOCs and SVOCs. The results were calculated as time-weighted average concentrations.

Concentrations of VOCs were all below the detection limit for the test method, of 1 µg/m³ (equivalent to 0.0003 ppm for benzene). Concentrations of SVOCs were generally below the detection limit for the test method. A single measurable but low concentration of 2 µg/m³ of naphthalene was recorded at location V3 on the inside southern boundary of the site. The recorded concentration was well below the screening threshold value.

Threshold values are influenced by the duration of the exposure; thresholds will be lower for an extended earthworks period. Re-assessment will be undertaken as the works progress to ensure the thresholds remain protective.

It should be noted that the methods of test for VOC and SVOC are significantly different; VOC analysis is undertaken using headspace analysis while the SVOC analysis uses a solvent to desorb determinands from the sampling tube prior to analysis. Consequently there may be some variation in concentrations of determinands measured depending on the method of analysis.

Testing for speciated total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) was undertaken at two locations on the site boundary and one location at the school (Locations T1, T2 and T3). All locations recorded concentrations to be below the detection limit for the test method of 100 µg/m³.

4. Conclusions

Concentrations of VOC, SVOC and BTEX were well below the screening values adopted for assessment, as described in this letter report.

Monitoring will be maintained during active earthworks activities at the site, and will be reported nominally on a weekly basis.

Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely
RSA Geotechnics Ltd



Adrian Phillips, FGS
Technical Director

Encs Passive Air Monitoring - Drawing Number 14862CO/2 Version B
Laboratory Test Reports (ELAB, 20-28272, 20-28284 & 57142)

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