



# Whole Life Carbon Report

## Lanwades Woodland Park

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## Revision History

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## About Environmental Economics

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- *Sustainability Statements*
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  - *Part L (SAP) & Future Homes Standard*
  - *Part F (ventilation)*
  - *Part G (water)*
  - *Part O (overheating)*
- *Overheating - TM59 dynamic modelling*
- *Overheating – simple method*
- *Life cycle carbon assessments*
- *Net zero carbon assessments*
- *BREEAM*
- *SBEM (existing and new build)*
- *Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES)*
- *Thermal Bridging (Psi value calculations)*

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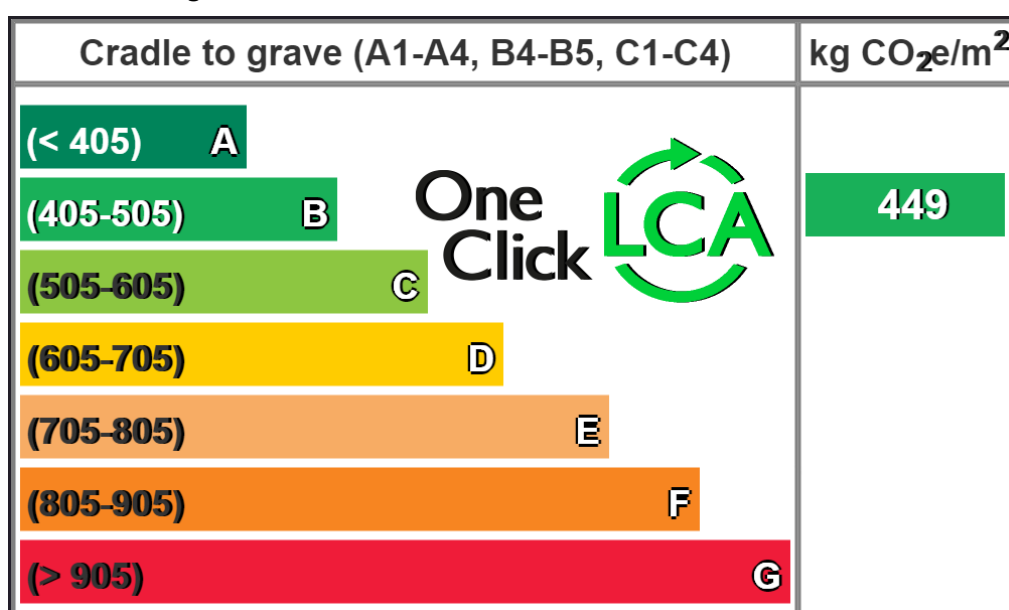
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.1. Environmental Economics Ltd has been commissioned by Lochailort Kentford Ltd to prepare a Whole Life Carbon (WLC) Report for the residential site Lanwades Woodland Park.
- 1.1.2. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the latest published RICS Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the Built Environment Guidance (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, July 2024). Whole Life Carbon calculations within this report align with the latest RICS methodology and guidance.
- 1.1.3. The assessed residential build specification shows an embodied carbon benchmark rating of B, showing that the current assumed build specification is of a high standard, as shown in Figure 1 below:



**Figure 1 - Embodied Carbon benchmark**

- 1.1.4. More detail on embodied carbon benchmarks can be found in section 4.4 below.
- 1.1.5. Results show that operational carbon is expected to be the highest source of emissions, making up 58.9% of total emissions, whilst cradle to grave embodied carbon emissions are responsible for 41.1% of emissions. This is based on an assumed build specification at present and can be reduced through targeted product specification as the detail of build specification is progressed.
- 1.1.6. The build specification of this development sets a high standard for WLC and is seen as an improvement on industry standard specifications.

## 2. Project Overview

### 2.1. Description of Site

- 2.1.1. The site proposal consists of the construction of approximately 1000 residential dwellings, along with several non-domestic buildings including retail units, a care home, a school and office buildings.
- 2.1.2. The proposed site plan is shown in Appendix A.

### 2.2. Brief

- 2.2.1. Lochailort Kentford Ltd have commissioned a Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the site Lanwades Woodland Park to show how the embodied carbon associated with the development performs against industry standard benchmarks. Recommendations are included to show how the development can improve upon the embodied carbon emissions shown within this report.
- 2.2.2. This report seeks to address both operational and embodied carbon for the development and show how the scheme improves upon national standards.
- 2.2.3. Further details on the operational carbon can be found in the associated Energy and Sustainability Report for this development.
- 2.2.4. A sample house type has been assessed using the current residential build specification to show the WLC performance of the development.
- 2.2.5. Assessments in this report are based on the residential build specification, owing to the higher proportion of the development site which is to be residential in nature. Due to the sizing and nature of the non-residential aspects of this development, it is considered that the build specification is likely to be very similar to the residential build specification. It can therefore be assumed that the embodied carbon results per square meter will be highly consistent across the development as a whole.
- 2.2.6. Further assessments can be commissioned at a later date should the non-residential build specification diversify in any considerable amount when compared to the residential build specification.

## 3. Operational Carbon

### 3.1. Assessment Methodology

3.1.1. It is expected that the proposed dwellings for this development will fall under the Future Homes Standard Building Regulations. Currently, there is no modelling software available to test whether the sample house types will pass the future regulations. Therefore, SAP 10 methodology was used. The software provides several outputs, and based on the provided specification for this proposed development, we are able to assess the following areas for our calculations:

- *Building regulations compliance, including:*
  - *Carbon emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*
  - *Primary Energy Demand (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/annum)*
  - *Fabric Energy Efficiency (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/annum)*
- *Energy usage per year (kWh/annum)*
- *Energy costs per year (£/annum)*
- *More detailed breakdowns by end use (space heating, water heating, cooking, lighting, appliances)*

3.1.2. Each of these outputs can be used in different ways to analyse the performance of the dwelling. The total regulated carbon emissions for each property is based upon:

- *Space heating;*
- *Water heating;*
- *Electricity for pumps and fans;*
- *Electricity for lighting.*

3.1.3. Part L 2021 requires all newbuild properties to be designed to operate space heating at lower temperatures to ensure suitability for heat pumps (AD-L, section 5.10). It is therefore a natural decision to adopt heat pumps to deliver space heating and hot water on this development.

3.1.4. SAP software is issued by independent software suppliers, and checked and approved on behalf of government by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

3.1.5. Non-domestic units will be assessed using an approved SBEM software tool during detailed design.

## **3.2. Operational Energy Results**

- 3.2.1. The combination of improved fabric specification and implementation of ASHP and dMEV for this particular development result in lower carbon missions than is required by national and local policy requirements.
- 3.2.2. Representative data from sample SAPs completed for the Energy and Sustainability Report for this development are used to show operational carbon emissions within the WLC assessment in this report.
- 3.2.3. Results show that whilst the operational emission rates are improved beyond the required levels, operational energy still makes up 58.9% of total carbon emissions of the representative house type.
- 3.2.4. Full details of the approach to operational energy and emissions can be found in the Energy and Sustainability Report for this development.

## 4. Embodied Carbon

### 4.1. Context

- 4.1.1. As building regulation requirements and decarbonisation of grid electricity make buildings more energy efficient, operational carbon emissions will make up a decreasing proportion of a development's emissions over time.
- 4.1.2. Whole Life Carbon (WLC) assessments are therefore becoming increasingly important to value engineer a development and reduce the carbon emissions associated with other aspects of a development, such as embodied carbon (emissions generated in producing materials).
- 4.1.3. Whilst not yet a requirement under Building Regulations or the West Suffolk Council Joint Development Management Policies Document (2015), WLC assessments are increasingly a requirement of local planning policy, most notably within the Greater London Authority (GLA) through its inclusion in the London Plan.
- 4.1.4. By assessing the WLC of the build specification for this development, Lochailort Kentford Ltd are pre-empting the wider adoption of WLC requirements and ensuring that they are meeting or exceeding the current WLC benchmarks.
- 4.1.5. The WLC assessments carried out will also allow for the value engineering of the build specification as the development progresses through detailed design stage. This will allow for the selection of materials with lower embodied carbon impacts whilst maintaining the high standards of fabric efficiency to contribute toward reduced operational carbon emissions.
- 4.1.6. Examples of this would be the assessment of insulation materials to allow for the selection of a high performing insulation product with lower embodied carbon emissions than the baseline material used at this stage.



## 4.2. Assessment Methodology

- 4.2.1. Environmental Economics have modelled a sample residential dwelling in a baseline masonry specification using One Click LCA software.
- 4.2.2. One Click LCA utilises a library of EPDs including product specific, manufacturer specific and generic Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) in accordance with RICS guidance. Owing to the early stage of design at which this assessment was carried out, limited detail was available in relation to specific products which are to be utilised during construction. The closest applicable generic EPDs have therefore been used within the assessment to give an accurate representation of the build specification.
- 4.2.3. Further analysis of WLC using a more refined specification will be possible once products have been specified, allowing for a more accurate representation of embodied carbon emissions from the development.
- 4.2.4. One Click LCA assessments are aligned with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Conventions and reports on RIBA life cycle stages A-C, as shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1 – RIBA life cycle stages for Whole Life Carbon analysis**

<i>Product Stage</i>			<i>Construction Process Stage</i>		<i>Use Stage</i>							<i>End of Life Stage</i>			
Raw material supply	Transport	Manufacturing	Transport to building site	Installation into building	Use / application	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Operational energy use	Operational water use	Deconstruction / demolition	Transport	Waste processing	Disposal
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4

- 4.2.5. Operational Carbon is considered within the WLC assessment, however greater detail can be found through SAP. More detail on operational carbon can be found in the Energy and Sustainability Report for this development.
- 4.2.6. The assessment is based on an assumed 60 year life-cycle for a building, in accordance with RICS PS 2023 guidance.

### 4.3. Whole Life Carbon Build Specification

- 4.3.1. The build specification utilised for the WLC assessment on Lanwades Woodland Park follows generic EPDs from the One Click LCA EPD library.
- 4.3.2. Assumptions have been made to allow for a complete assessment based on limited currently specified materials. These assumptions include a generic masonry wall build up following the dimensions of the house type assessed and generic roof construction. These are based on industry standards and can therefore be assumed to be accurate prior to specific materials being specified.
- 4.3.3. In depth bill of quantities are not currently available, so measurements and volumes of individual materials are based on the available drawings.
- 4.3.4. Table 2 below gives a breakdown of the overarching build constructions per build element:

**Table 2 – Construction Specifications per Build Element**

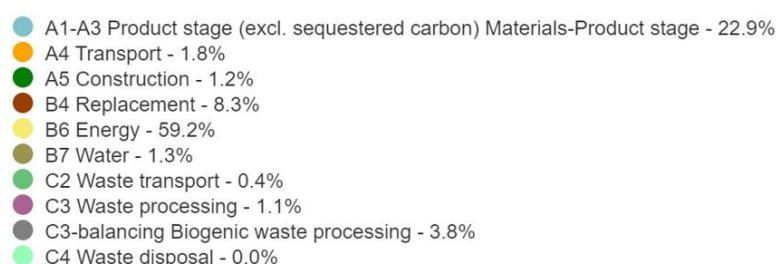
<i>Element</i>	<i>Construction</i>
<b>Foundations</b>	Concrete strip foundations with pre cast concrete trench blocks
<b>Ground Floor</b>	Concrete beam and EPC block flooring system with EPS insulation and screed overlay, laminate flooring finish
<b>External Walls</b>	Brick and mortar finish, Rockwool insulated cavity, Aircrete and mortar inner leaf, plasterboard on dabs, painted plaster finish
<b>External Roof</b>	Waterproof roofing system external finish with 500mm mineral wool insulation across joists
<b>Intermediate Floor</b>	Wooden I-joists, chipboard and carpet upper finish, plasterboard finished with plaster and paint ceiling finish
<b>Internal Walls</b>	Timber stud walls, plasterboard finished with plaster and paint
<b>Windows</b>	uPVC double glazed
<b>External Doors</b>	Wooden external door
<b>Internal Doors</b>	Wooden internal doors
<b>Staircase</b>	Quarter turn wood staircase

- 4.3.5. These constructions are based on industry standards and the most up to date information on build specification. Results can be updated for accuracy as build specification is progressed.

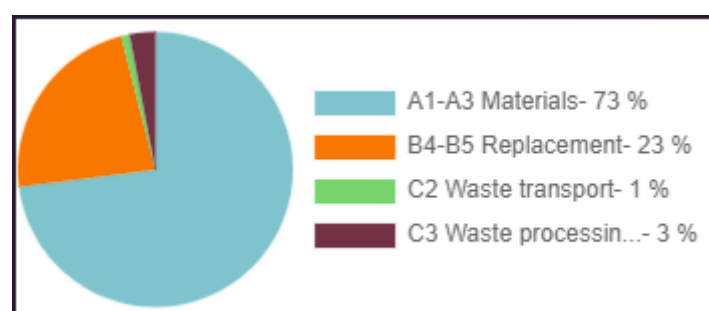
## 4.4. Whole Life Carbon Results

- 4.4.1. A sample residential dwelling has been assessed using the above methodology with the above build specification for the Lanwades Woodland Park development.
- 4.4.2. Figures 2 and 3 below shows the carbon emissions of the sample build specification per life-cycle stage:

### Global warming potential - Non-Decarbonised scenario kg CO<sub>2</sub>e - Life-cycle stages



**Figure 2 - Carbon emissions per life-cycle stage**



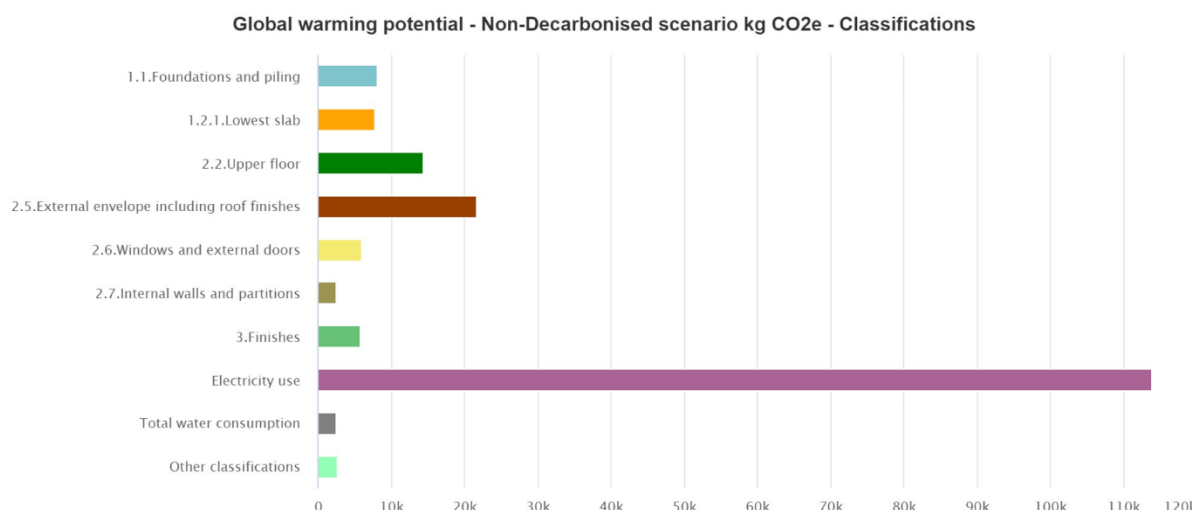
**Figure 2 - Embodied carbon per life-cycle stage**

- 4.4.3. Figure 2 shows that the largest contributing factors to the overall emissions associated with this assessment are operational energy, which is assessed in detail in the Energy and Sustainability Report for this development.
- 4.4.4. Figure 3 shows embodied carbon emissions with operational emissions removed, which shows that RIBA stages A1-A3 are the most contributing factors in relation to embodied carbon.

4.4.5. This shows that the greatest savings in emissions can be made through improvements to the operational energy usage and the material specification used for the development. As the build specification evolves, materials can be selected which improve both the operational energy efficiency (in order to reduce B6) and the material embodied carbon (A1-A3).

4.4.6. For the purposes of this report, material embodied carbon (A1-A3) is the focus.

4.4.7. Figure 4 below shows which building elements have the greatest impact on embodied carbon emissions:



**Figure 3 - Embodied carbon emissions per building element**

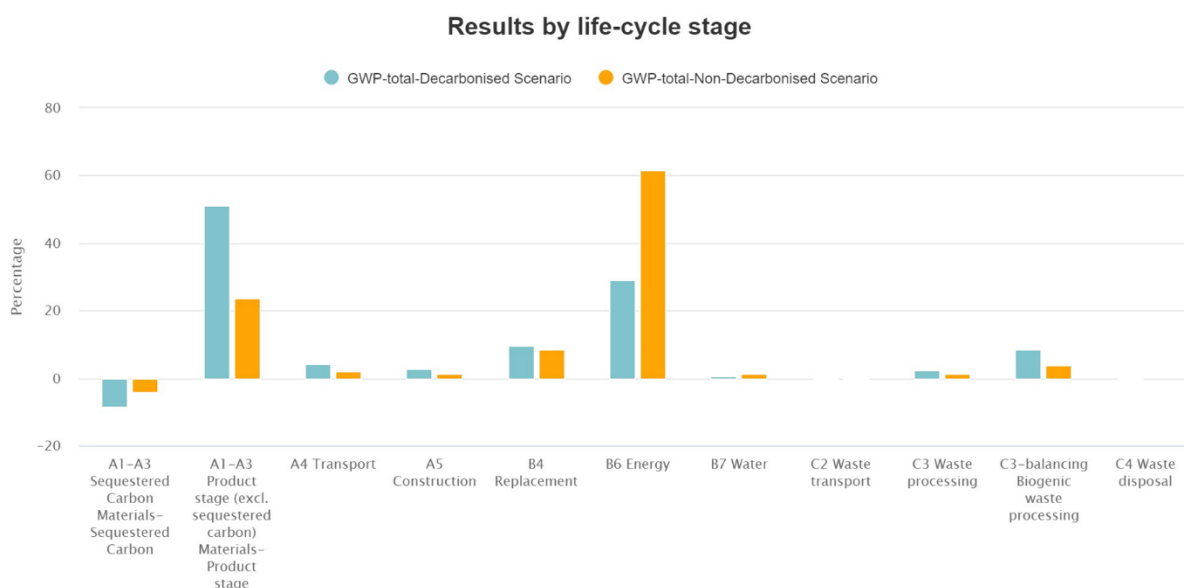
4.4.8. With the current build specification, it can be seen that the largest contributing material element (excluding operational use) is associated with the external envelope including roof finishes. It can therefore be seen that improvements can be made through the specification of lower impact materials utilised in these building elements.

4.4.9. The highest contributing materials to the WLC emissions are:

- *Lightweight concrete blocks;*
- *Stone wool insulation;*
- *Ready mix concrete;*
- *Red brick;*
- *Screed.*

4.4.10. The present build specification utilised for this assessment utilises generic EPD data for the above building materials. As the build specification is progressed, it is recommended that higher performing materials are utilised for these elements. Recommendations can be found in section 4.5.

4.4.12. Figure 5 below shows how embodied carbon will differ based on both a decarbonised (based on grid decarbonisation assumptions over the life-cycle of the assessment) and non-decarbonised scenario (business as usual):



**Figure 4 - Decarbonised scenario (blue) vs. non-decarbonised scenario (orange)**

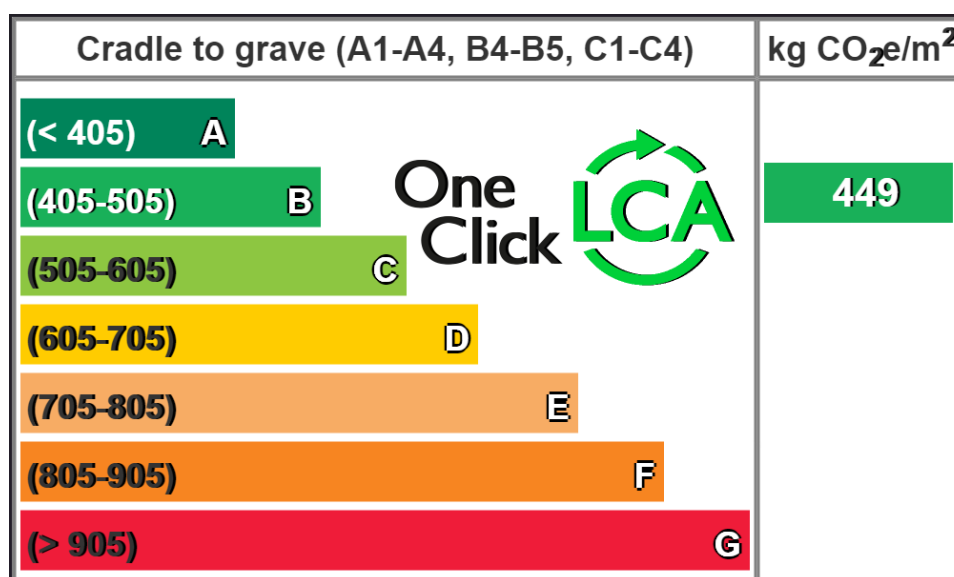
4.4.13. Figure 5 shows that as grid electricity is predicted to continue decarbonising, the operational emissions associated with a building become a smaller proportion of overall emissions.

4.4.14. The predicted continuing decarbonisation of the grid greatly increases the benefits which can be gained from value engineering a build specification to reduce material embodied carbon.

4.4.15. Recommendation on how the development at Lanwades Woodland Park can reduce embodied carbon emissions can be found in section 4.5.

4.4.16. A more detailed breakdown of WLC results from the One Click LCA software can be found in Appendix B, whilst a full breakdown of all data used in the assessment can be found in Appendix C.

4.4.17. To show how the residential build specification for Lanwades Woodland Park compares to industry standard build specifications for the same or similar building types, One Click LCA software has been used to produce an embodied carbon benchmark rating, as show in Figure 1 on the next page:



**Figure 5 - Embodied Carbon benchmark**

- 4.4.18. The embodied carbon benchmark is calculated by comparing the assessed build specification to available data of the same or similar building types to produce a comparative ranking of how much embodied carbon is associated with the assessed specification.
- 4.4.19. The residential build specification that has been assessed for this development achieves an embodied carbon emission rating of 449 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>. This level of embodied carbon emissions compares positively against the available data against which it has been compared, and is ranked as a B.
- 4.4.20. This comparatively low embodied carbon rating shows that the assessed build specification for this development can be considered a positive sustainable specification for residential dwellings.

## 4.5. Recommendations

4.5.1. As discussed in section 4.4, the highest contributing building elements are:

- *Lightweight concrete blocks;*
- *Stone wool insulation;*
- *Ready mix concrete;*
- *Red brick;*
- *Screed.*

4.5.2. As generic EPDs have been utilised for these elements, there are several products within the One Click LCA EPD library which have a lower embodied carbon than those utilised in the assessment.

4.5.3. Product specific EPDs are available for several building materials including concrete blocks, ready mix concrete, red brick, screed and mortar which have lower embodied carbon associated with them. Specifying these products at detailed design stage will allow for a significant reduction in overall embodied carbon and improved WLC performance.

4.5.4. Several insulation products are available which perform better than stone wool insulation. Examples of this include PIR board, which performs over twice as well as the specified insulation for embodied carbon, and blown bead insulation which improves greatly upon stone wool.

4.5.5. A timber frame construction specification can also be considered. Timber frame construction would have a large improvement when compared to the concrete block construction associated with masonry dwellings. It is recommended that this is considered at detailed design stage.

4.5.6. These potential improvements to the build specification will be considered during detailed design stage and a finalised build specification will be agreed upon which reduces embodied carbon whilst maintaining low operational emissions.

4.5.7. It is recommended that a finalised build specification is assessed using One Click LCA to ensure a reduced embodied carbon impact to improve overall life-cycle performance of the development.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1. This Life Cycle Carbon Report has been produced for the proposed development at Lanwades Woodland Park.
- 5.1.2. Assessments were performed using the current available data and assumptions for the residential build specification at this development.
- 5.1.3. Results show that the development performs well in comparison to nationally available data for embodied carbon for the same of similar building types, with an embodied carbon benchmark rating of B.
- 5.1.4. It can be seen from the assessments used for this report that the most contributing building materials for embodied carbon are:
- *Lightweight concrete blocks;*
  - *Stone wool insulation;*
  - *Ready mix concrete;*
  - *Red brick;*
  - *Screed.*
- 5.1.5. As build specification is developed through detailed design stage, it is recommended that embodied carbon of individual building materials and elements is considered in a holistic way in order to further reduce Whole Life Carbon costs. It is further recommended that the materials highlighted in section 5.1.3 above are focused on for value engineering the specification.
- 5.1.6. The site is found to present a positive sustainable development based on the assessed criteria.



## Appendix A – Proposed Site Layout



## Appendix B – Breakdown of Results

Entity users	Project name	Design name	Indicator name
Rob Holbrook	Lanwades 4 bed detached	2 - Baseline	Whole life carbon assessment, RICS - 2nd Edition
Section	Result category	Global warming potential - Decarbonised scenario kg CO2e	Global warming potential - Non-Decarbonised scenario kg CO2e
A0	Pre-construction		
A1-A3 Sequestered Carbon	Construction Materials-Sequestered Carbon	-7361.95	-7361.95
A1-A3 Product stage (excl. sequestered carbon)	Construction Materials-Product stage	44143.48	44143.48
A4	Transportation to site	3562.05	3562.05
A4-leg1	Transportation to site - leg 1	3559.08	3559.08
A4-leg2	Transportation to site - leg 2	2.97	2.97
A5	Construction/installation process	2288.12	2288.12
A5-1	Pre-construction demolition		
A5-2	Site operations		
A5-3	Site waste	2288.12	2288.12
A5-4	Transportation of workers to the site		
B1	Use phase		
B1-1	Carbonation		
B1-2	Refrigerant emissions		
B2	Maintenance		
B3	Repair	0	0
B3a	Repair - materials	0	0
B3b	Repair - transport	0	0
B3b-leg2	Repair - transport leg 2	0	0
B3c	Repair - waste	0	0
B3d	Repair scenario		
B4	Material replacement and refurbishment	8175.18	15998.07
B4a	Material replacement - materials	4682.35	9032.66
B4b	Material replacement - transport	695.12	1390.24
B4b-leg2	Material replacement - transportleg 2	2.44	4.88
B4c	Material replacement-Eol	2436.58	4872.77
B4d	Material replacement -site waste	358.69	697.52
B6	Energy consumption	25104.05	113944.46
B6-building	Energy impact-Building	25104.05	113944.46
B6-External works	Energy impact-External works	0	0
B7	Water use	510.76	2553.8
B7-Essential	Water use-Essential Building	510.76	2553.8
B7-Other	Water use-Other Building		
B7-Non-building	Water use- Non-building		
C1-C4	End of life	9781.76	10119.61
C1	Deconstruction/demolition		
C2	Waste transport	337.88	675.73
C3	Waste processing	9390.47	9390.47
C4	Waste disposal	53.41	53.41
D	External impacts (not included in totals)	-3159.57	-6318.57
D	Installed Materials - benefit	-2609.1	-5217.68
A5-benefit	Construction site - material wastage - benefit	-95.66	-191.32
A5m-benefit	Construction site - material use - benefit		
B3-benefit	Repair - benefit	0	0
B4-B5-benefit	Material replacement - benefit	-454.8	-909.56
D-reused	Benefit - reused as material		

## Appendix C – Full Table of Data

*Table of data starts on next page.*

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