
Local Authority:	East Suffolk Council
Reference:	ASR21-1115
Date of issue	December 2021

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Report sets out the Annual Status Report (ASR), which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 2021 and associated Regulations.

East Suffolk Council currently have two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)s in place. AQMA no.1 was declared in 2006 designated for exceedances of annual mean NO₂ concentrations. The AQMA covers an area encompassing a number of properties near the junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, Thoroughfare and St. John's Street in Woodbridge. An Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for this AQMA was published in 2011. The ASR includes an assessment submitted for the purpose of revoking this AQMA as recommended as part of the review of the ASR submitted in 2020.

AQMA no.3 was declared in 2014 for exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective. The AQMA covers the four properties situated within 1-5 Long Row, Main Road (A12), in Stratford St. Andrew. An AQAP relevant to the current AQMA was published in 2018.

Automatic monitoring of NO₂ is completed within AQMA No.1. Monitoring has been co-located at this site to be able to inform a local bias adjustment factor which has been used for diffusion tubes located within the Woodbridge area in 2020.

Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ was undertaken at 78 sites during 2020, including 12 new sites. Two monitoring sites have been annualised in accordance with LAQM.TG16, with the Council having utilised the Diffusion Tube Data Processing Tool.

There were no monitored exceedances of the air quality objectives for NO₂ during 2020.

A high level of detail is presented within the ASR detailing the actions that are currently being taken to reduce concentrations of air pollutants across both of the AQMAs, this is welcomed.

QA/QC procedures are correctly detailed within Appendix C and the annualisation of monitoring sites has been conducted, where required, in line with guidance provided within TG(16). A local bias adjustment factor has been utilised within the 2020 diffusion tube data within the Woodbridge AQMA and a National factor used for all other sites following a review of both national and local factors.

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The Air Quality Strategy was published in 2021 which contains supplementary policies and measures to further reduce pollutant concentrations.

Appendix G provides evidence for the revocation of AQMA No.1. The evidence includes a review of existing local and national pollutant concentration trends. No detailed dispersion modelling has been completed. It is considered, given the scale of the AQMA and the evidence of consistent monitoring below the Air Quality objective, prior to 2020, that sufficient evidence is presented to revoke the AQMA.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority, the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, East Suffolk Council should proceed with the revocation of the AQMA no.1. Following this an Annual Status Report should be submitted in 2022.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are designed to help inform future reports.

1. The national diffusion tube bias adjustment factor has been taken from the 06/21 version of the national database and this has been used for all diffusion tubes outside the Woodbridge AQMA. A new version (09/21) was the latest available published version at the time of submission. It is not considered that this latest version would significantly change the results presented within the report but the local authority is reminded to keep up to date with the latest available tools. It is noted that this was also an issue in last year's ASR. A Local factor has been used for monitoring within the Woodbridge AQMA. This is consistent with previous years.
2. Within Table A.1, it is specified that the monitoring site is within an AQMA. Please include the AQMA within which the monitoring is located within this table in future.
3. A high level of detail has been provided within the ASR in regard to the positive works being undertaken by the Council in terms of working to reduce air pollutant concentrations across the city. This is welcomed and updates for all described measures should be provided within the 2022 ASR.
4. Maps are clearly provided for each monitoring location in detail within the local authority, this is welcomed. A map showing an overview across the whole local authority may be helpful within future ASRs.
5. Within the excel sheet uploaded, a different value is provided to that within the word document. Table 2.1 of the Excel file has a different level of exceedance in AQMA No.3 (27.1 in report and 27.4 in excel). It is believed the value should be 27.1 in line with monitoring in Table A.4. The local authority is reminded to check for consistency across all submitted documents.
6. Information has been submitted for the revocation of AQMA no.1, it is considered the evidence submitted is sufficient to determine that it is unlikely that there would be future exceedances of the annual mean objective for NO₂ within this AQMA.
7. Appendix F has been completed detailing the local authority's approach to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is welcomed that the council has found opportunities to improve sustainable travel infrastructure as a result of the pandemic.

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8. The report provides a very good overview of air quality within the Local Authority in 2020. The council are encouraged to continue their excellent work in developing partnerships and improving air quality.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Progress Report adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: