
Local Authority:	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Reference:	ASR16-034
Date of issue	July 2016

Annual Status Report

The Report sets out the Annual Status Report, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

The Local Authority has declared an AQMA for exceedences of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) objective and daily mean PM₁₀ objective along the A14 from Bar Hill to Milton. Results from their monitoring sites show that neither objective has been exceeded in the last two years and concentrations are continuing to decline. The local authority should consider whether they are in a position to move to revoke the AQMA once 2016 data are collected.

The local authority has had an action plan in place for this AQMA since 2009 and has reported on progress on a limited number of measures. The main source of emissions in this AQMA is the A14 and over the next five years, the Highways England plans to implement some major improvements along this route. The local authority is also working to develop more sustainable transport options and work with developers to achieve improvements in air quality through planning conditions.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants although they should note the commentary below.

The next step for South Cambridgeshire District Council is to submit their next Annual Status Report in 2017. The local authority is also to review their quality strategy in 2016-2017.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are made regarding the existing AQMA. The local authority should consider the comments below in determining whether they will be in a position to revoke the AQMA in their 2017 report.

1. With respect to the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective, there have been no measured exceedences since 2013. The only measured exceedence in that year was at site DT16, a roadside site within the AQMA which is 5 metres from the nearest relevant receptor. There have been no exceedences at any of the other sites in the last five years. There is no therefore evidence presented that suggests that there are exceedences of the objective at relevant properties. The local authority state that the AQMA will need further monitoring and modelling and this action is supported.
2. In terms of the PM₁₀ monitoring data, Table A.5 and Table A.6 show a sharp decline in concentrations in 2014 and 2015 (compared to previous years) at the Impington roadside site. It is recognised that there was a low data capture rate in 2014 which may have explained the low concentrations, but the data capture in 2015 was good. There is no discussion or explanation in the report to why the concentrations have markedly declined and this needs to be included in the 2017 ASR. If concentrations remain below the daily mean objective in 2016, then they should move to revoke or amend the AQMA for this objective
3. Appendix C should have provided a justification for using the local diffusion tube bias adjustment factor and compared this value with the national adjustment factor and those applied in previous years.

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 Updating and Screening Assessment 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, as appropriate – or by emailing the form to reportappraisal@ttr-ltd.com.

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

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: