

Community Safety Select Committee – Air Quality

22nd October 2026

Air Quality Objectives

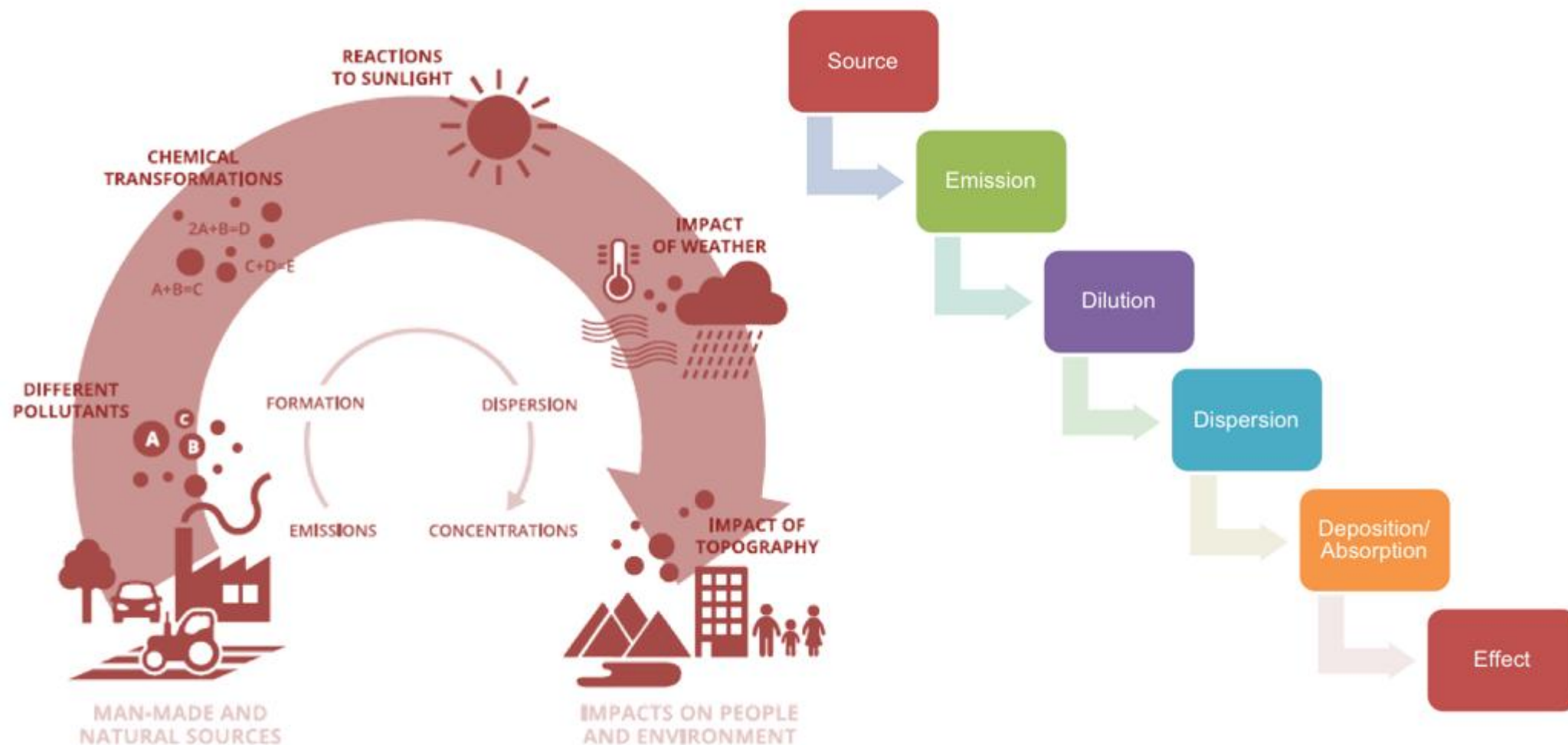
Pollutant	Objective	Averaging Period	Obligation
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	All local authorities
	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	All local authorities
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	All local authorities
	50µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year	24-hour mean	Scotland only
	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	All local authorities
	18µg/m ³	Annual mean	Scotland only
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Work towards reducing emissions/concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	Annual mean	England only
	10µg/m ³	Annual mean	Scotland only
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	266µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	All local authorities
	350µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	All local authorities
	125µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	All local authorities
Benzene (C ₆ H ₆)	16.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	All local authorities
	5µg/m ³	Annual mean	England and Wales only
	3.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	Scotland and Northern Ireland only
1,3-Butadiene (C ₄ H ₆)	2.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	All local authorities
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	10mg/m ³	Maximum daily running 8-hour mean	England, Wales and Northern Ireland only
	10mg/m ³	Running 8-hour mean	Scotland only
Lead (Pb)	0.5µg/m ³	Annual mean	All local authorities
	0.25µg/m ³	Annual mean	All local authorities

6.2 Environment Act PM2.5

[The Environmental Targets \(Fine Particulate Matter\) \(England\) Regulations 2023 \(https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/contents/made\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/contents/made)

Pollutant & metric	Target	Target year
PM2.5 annual mean concentration	Interim target: 12 µg/m ³	2028
PM2.5 annual mean concentration	Legally binding target: 10 µg/m ³	2040
PM2.5 population exposure	Interim target: 22% reduction in exposure compared to 2018	2028
PM2.5 population exposure	Legally binding target: 35% reduction in exposure compared to 2018	2040

Air Quality Emmission Pathway



NO2, PM2.5 & PM10

NO2 – combustion process mainly from road transport, electric supply industry and aviation.

NOX domestic boilers

PM10 is typically from dust, car wear and tear and domestic wood burners.

PM2.5 is typically from car wear and tear, tyres and break disks etc and domestic wood burners.

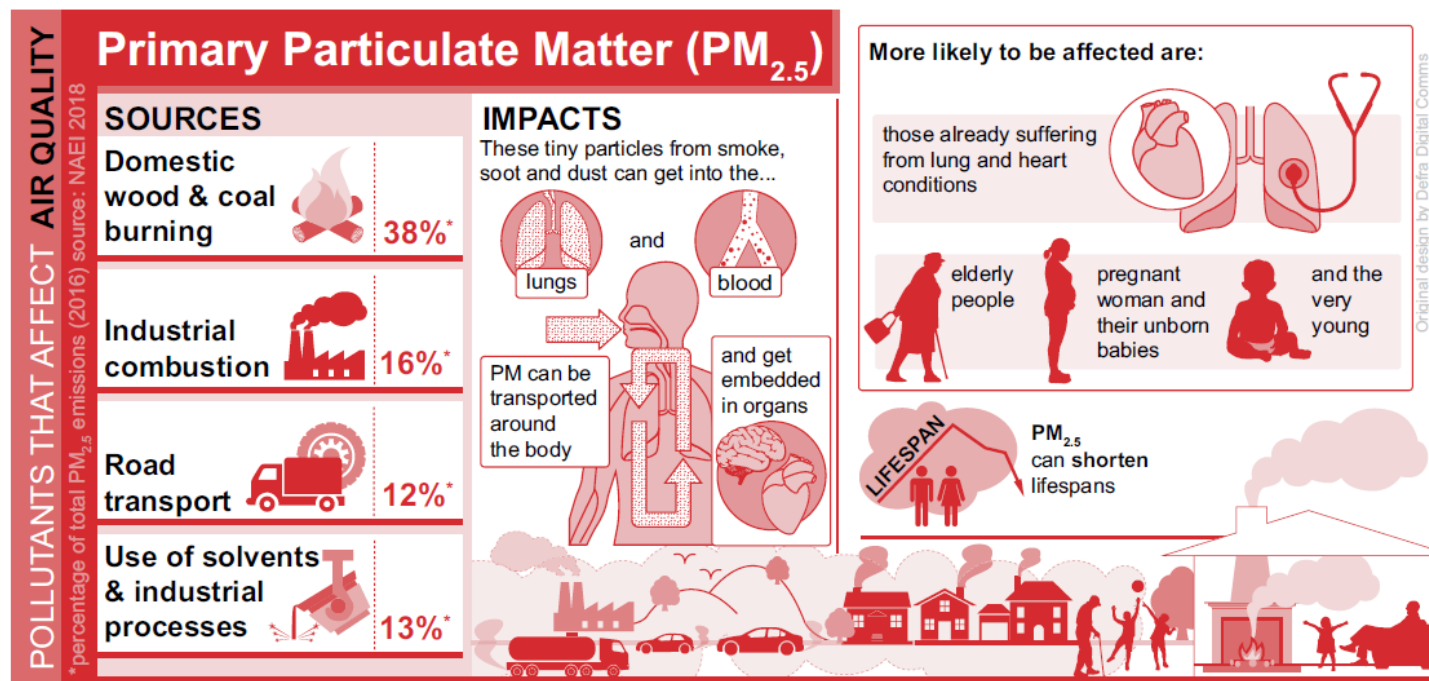
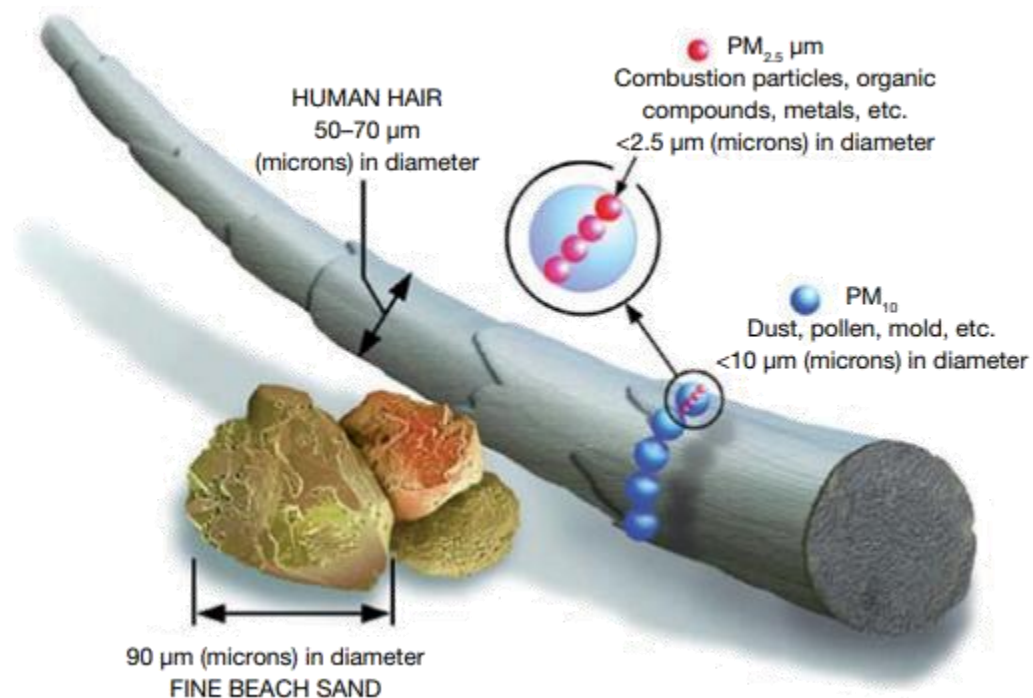
Ammonia- Agriculture

Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)- electricity generation fuelled by coal, shipping, railways

Benzene- Road transport, domestic burning of coal and wood for heating.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/345329/9789240034228-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

PM



Particulate Matter (PM) Basics | US EPA

Automatic Monitoring

- Eaglescliffe- NO2, PM2.5, PM10 and Benzene
- Stockton A1305- NO2 & PM2.5
- Calibrated every 2- 4 weeks to ensure equipment and data is accurate for use.
- Data is logged every hour and is available as public information.
- Data is ratified quarterly.



UK Monitoring Network

Interactive monitoring networks map

Use the interactive map below to explore different UK monitoring networks. The map shows the current sites within the network selected. Information about the selected network is shown below the map.

Map options

Filter by network

☒ Automatic Urban and Rural
Markers show latest pollution index

☐ Locally-managed automatic monitoring

☐ Automatic Hydrocarbon

☐ Non-Automatic Hydrocarbon

☐ PAH

☐ TOMPs

☐ Black Carbon

☐ Heavy Metals

☐ Particulates

☐ Stratospheric Ozone and UV

☐ UKEAP: Precip-Net

☐ UKEAP: Acid Gas and Aerosol

☐ UKEAP: Rural NO₂

☐ UKEAP: National Ammonia

☐ UKEAP: MARGA

☐ UKEAP: Automatic Mercury

☐ UK Urban NO₂ Network

Map

Satellite

+

-

Filter by environment type

Uncheck all

?

Diffusion Tubes

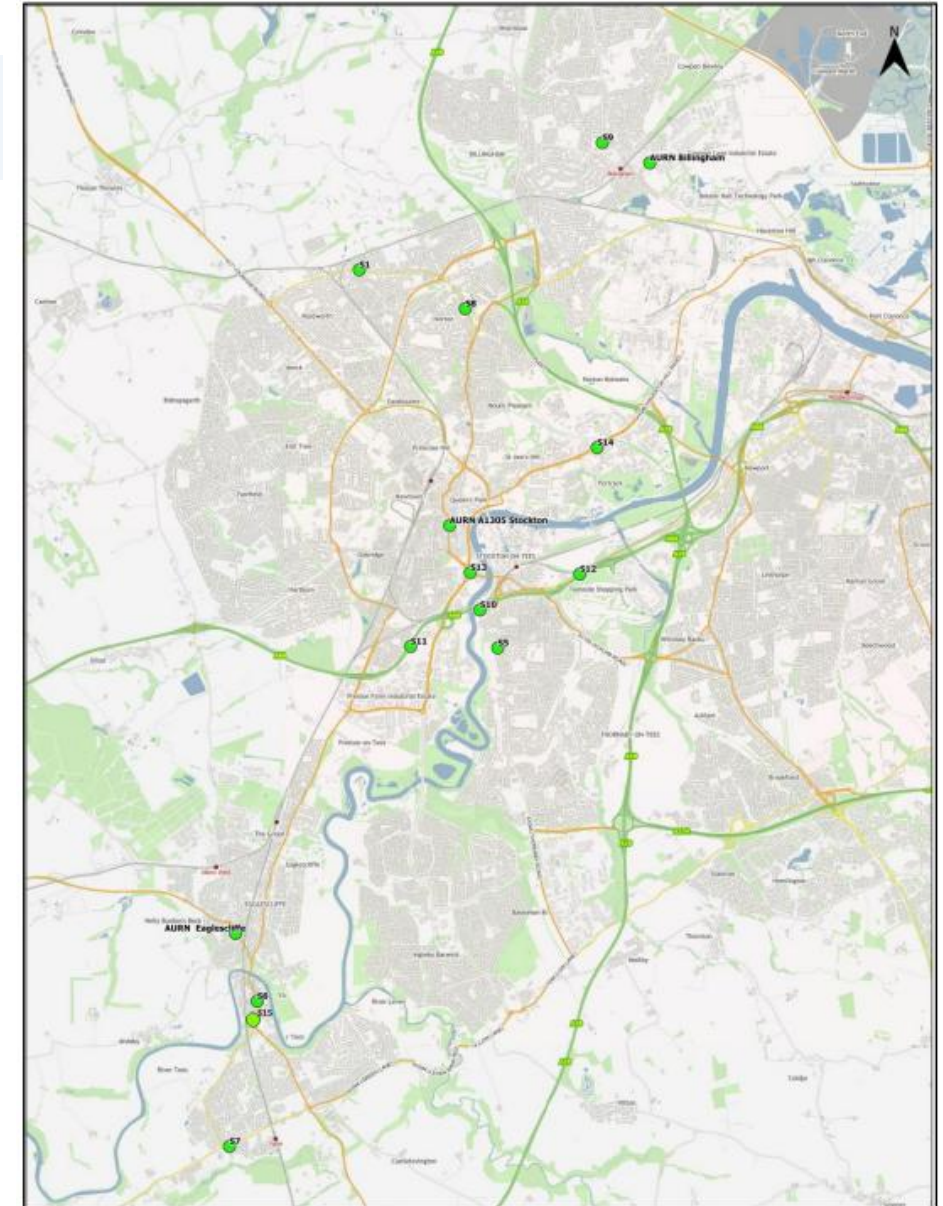
Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) ⁽¹⁾	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) ⁽²⁾	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
S01	Junction Road, Norton	Roadside	443225	522314	NO2	No	15.0	1.3	No	2.3
S02, S03, S04	AQM Eaglescliffe	Roadside	441627	513678	NO2	No	8.0	5.0	Yes	3.0
S05	Thornaby Road, Thornaby	Roadside	445024	517414	NO2	No	6.0	3.0	No	2.4
S06	High Street, Yarm	Roadside	441924	512846	NO2	No	3.0	20.0	No	2.1
S07	Green Lane, Yarm	Roadside	441536	510919	NO2	No	23.0	3.0	No	2.4
S08	High Street, Norton	Roadside	444598	521807	NO2	No	1.0	3.0	No	2.5
S09	Marsh House Avenue, Billingham	Roadside	446383	523972	NO2	No	2.0	2.5	No	2.5
S10	A66 Sun Gardens	Roadside	444783	517906	NO2	No	82.0	3.0	No	2.7
S11	A66 Yarm Road	Roadside	443890	517425	NO2	No	43.0	6.5	No	2.4
S12	A66 Middlesbrough Road	Roadside	446112	518388	NO2	No	40.0	5.5	No	2.6
S13	St John's Crossing, Stockton	Roadside	444677	518386	NO2	No	21.0	8.3	No	2.1

LAQM Annual Status Report 2023

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document was classified as: OFFICIAL

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) ⁽¹⁾	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) ⁽²⁾	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
S14	Portrack Lane, Stockton	Roadside	446312	520022	NO2	No	370.0	3.5	No	2.5
S15	High Street, Yarm 2	Roadside	441911	512717	NO2	No	7.5	10.7	No	2.1



Air Quality Data Processing

UK Air website for automatic data [Data Archive - Defra, UK](#)

Diffusion tube data emailed monthly.

Diffusion tube data processing.

All data feeds into the ASR.

Sample Number	Site	Date and Time ON	Date and Time OFF	Exposure Time (Hours)	Total µg	µg m ⁻³	ppb	Comments
STOCK/23A/NA6S1	121 Junction Rd	30/08/2023 07:38	04/10/2023 08:47	841.15	1.12	19.1	9.9	
STOCK/23A/NA6S2	AQM 1 - Eaglescliffe	30/08/2023 08:39	04/10/2023 10:46	842.12	0.88	15	7.8	
STOCK/23A/NA6S3	AQM 2 - Eaglescliffe	30/08/2023 08:39	04/10/2023 10:46	842.12	0.82	13.9	7.2	
STOCK/23A/NA6S4	AQM 3 - Eaglescliffe	30/08/2023 08:39	04/10/2023 10:46	842.12	0.96	16.3	8.5	
STOCK/23A/NA6S5	237, Thornaby Rd, Thornaby	30/08/2023 08:16	04/10/2023 10:07	841.85	1.55	26.3	13.7	
STOCK/23A/NA6S6	High Street, Yarm	30/08/2023 09:00	04/10/2023 10:42	841.70	1.32	22.4	11.6	
STOCK/23A/NA6S7	Green Lane, Yarm	30/08/2023 09:11	04/10/2023 10:32	841.35	0.82	14	7.3	
STOCK/23A/NA6S8	High St, Norton	30/08/2023 07:44	04/10/2023 08:52	841.13	1.31	22.3	11.6	
STOCK/23A/NA6S9	Marsh House Av, Billingham	30/08/2023 07:26	04/10/2023 08:38	841.20	1.13	19.3	10	

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	NO ₂ Mean Concentrations (µg/m ³)												Simple Annual Mean (µg/m ³)			Comment
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.76) and Annualised	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	
S01	443225	522314	30.6	20.1	27.3	21.5	15.1	14.2	14.5	17.2	19.5	21.2	9.1	27.0	19.8	15.0		
S02	441627	513678	14.1	8.8	20.3	15.6	8.7	6.7	9.4	13.7	15.8	14.2	15.1	16.5	-	-		Triplicate Site with S02, S03 and S04 - Annual data provided for S04 only
S03	441627	513678	17.0	9.4	20.2	16.0	8.9	6.5	9.5	14.6	16.4	12.7	14.7	18.1	-	-		Triplicate Site with S02, S03 and S04 - Annual data provided for S04 only
S04	441627	513678	15.2	6.5	14.5	15.9	9.7	6.7	9.4	12.6	16.5	13.4	4.2	19.8	13.0	9.9		Triplicate Site with S02, S03 and S04 - Annual data provided for S04 only
S05	445024	517414	25.2	17.6	33.4	26.2			17.6	21.8	23.9	22.4	28.1	30.9	24.7	18.8		
S06	441924	512846	29.6	18.0	29.1	27.8	18.2	12.7	17.3	23.1	24.2	25.4	23.1	29.5	23.2	17.6		
S07	441536	510919	14.5	9.3	11.8		7.4	6.9	9.0	13.7	12.1	12.0	13.8	15.9	11.5	8.7		
S08	444598	521807	29.8	16.8	26.5	21.1	17.3	15.4	17.9	19.6	20.5	20.1	25.2	28.4	21.6	16.4		
S09	446383	523972			15.4		13.4	12.2	13.7	16.8	18.7	22.7	21.0	24.5	17.6	13.4		
S10	444783	517906	42.8	20.0	37.9	49.4	33.6	29.7	38.3	47.2	51.0	29.5	34.1	36.6	37.5	28.5		
S11	443890	517425			41.8	51.8		34.9	43.1	48.5	47.7	43.7	40.3		44.0	34.2		
S12	446112	518388	60.4	39.4	51.4	34.4	29.4	29.2	33.2	34.3	35.1	34.2	43.5	49.6	39.5	30.0		
S13	444677	518386	41.3		34.1	30.8	26.3	26.5	28.4	29.0	30.0	33.2	9.4	38.0	29.7	22.6		
S14	446312	520022	44.6	27.9	41.4	30.2	22.3	22.8	22.8	28.5	28.1	29.9	27.3	36.3	30.2	22.9		
S15	441911	512717	27.3	23.7	19.3	21.1	17.9	17.7	18.7	19.7	21.8	21.1	17.4	28.1	21.2	16.1		

Clean Air Day

- Park Events- 278 people spoken to with 183 kites issued for children to exercise outdoors.
- Social Media Posts- 5,206 views across three social media platforms
- KYIT Views (SBC Intranet)- 1,738 views to the Local Authorities Intranet page where an article for Clean Air Day was posted.
- Stockton Council Driver Fleet- Information was shared with vehicle fleet Managers which has the potential to reach approximately 400 drivers.
- Information shared with hackney carriage drivers waiting on ranks- 30 drivers
- Information shared with Cowpen Depot who distributed information to drivers who came for vehicle tests- 34 drivers
- Information was shared with taxi group social media page, private messaging group and private hire drivers which combined had the potential to reach 950 drivers.

Totalling potential contact made with **8,456 residents, employees and drivers.**

This is the first Clean Air Day campaign which has been ran by the Authority for a number of years and has been hailed a success.



Clean Air Day – 15 June 2023

"Clean up our air to look after your mind this #CleanAirDay"

Clean Air Day, the UK's largest campaign on air pollution is happening on **Thursday 15 June 2023.**

Cleaning up our air is good for us in many ways: it not only benefits our physical health and the environment but can also protect our mental health. The physical health impacts of air pollution – such as asthma, heart disease and cancers – have been recognised for decades. More recently, researchers are beginning to understand how air pollution can affect our mental health.

Exposure to air pollution increases the risk of certain mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and dementia.

This year's campaign will encourage people to visit the [Clean Air Hub](#) to:

- **Learn:** find out more about how air pollution impacts our mental, physical and planet's health.
- **Act:** walk, wheel or use public transport to reduce your exposure and contribution to air pollution. If you drive, try leaving the car behind on Clean Air Day and one day every week.

This Clean Air Day there are simple steps we can all take to help us cut down on the pollution we cause. Any reductions in air pollution that we make will lead to health improvements for us and for our local community.

This year as part of Clean Air Day Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are engaging with local residents at Ropner and Preston parks to discuss air quality and encourage active transport, as well information being available via the Council's website. We will also be contacting retailers about changes to legislation with regards to the sale of solid fuels, posting messages on social media, encouraging vehicle anti-idling through our licensed taxi drivers and our Council fleet drivers.

Within Stockton-on-Tees we monitor air quality at three sites using automatic monitoring equipment and at an additional 13 locations using passive diffusion tubes. The data from this monitoring demonstrates that as an Authority we are not breaching National air quality objective levels and as such do not need to declare an Air Quality Management Area.

Despite not having an Air Quality Management Area the Authority has an established Air Quality Working Group which meets on a regular basis comprising of the Heads of Service from Environmental Health, Fleet Management, Highways, Planning, Public Health, Planning and Environment & Leisure whose purpose is to further improve the Air Quality within the Borough in order to protect Public Health.

For further information on Clean Air Day please visit the [Action for clean air website](#) by Global Action Plan.

The latest copy of our annual Air Quality report which has been approved by DEFRA can be requested by emailing Environmental.Health@Stockton.gov.uk

 **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council** @stocktoncouncil · 10 Jun

☀️ Clean Air Day is coming up next week (June 15)! There are lots of things you can do to help reduce air pollution, like walking or cycling where you can.

👉 To find out more, visit cleanairday.org.uk

#CleanAirDay



Clean Air Day

Last week we told you about a range of activities which were held on Clean Air Day on Thursday 15 June. Environmental Health and Public Health colleagues attended Ropner Park and Preston Park where they were joined by Councillor Stephenson to speak with residents about air quality and ways in which they can contribute to improve air quality within our Borough.

Through a combination of engaging with residents in the parks, sharing messages on social media, and disseminating information through various channels, we reached close to 8,500 residents, employees and drivers which we hope will have long-term behaviour changes to ensure air quality levels are improved throughout the Borough for our residents.

Aside from Clean Air Day, work is also continuing within Environmental Health and the wider Authority to improve air quality levels and raise awareness around air quality. This week, Environmental Health held a meeting with the Head Teachers of all our Primary Schools. The team aim to deliver assemblies and roll out a Key Stage Two lesson plan to pupils from September which aims to educate our next generation about air quality. We also have work on-going with retailers around changes to legislation about the sale of fuel for domestic use, and in the coming weeks work is due to commence on our Air Quality Strategy.

Find out more about [air quality in the Borough](#).

[Visit the Clean Air Hub](#) to learn more about air pollution and how you can take action.

KS2 Project

- KS2 lesson plan created
- Assembly plan to be created
- Anti idling signs to be erected at all schools in the Borough
- Enforcement to patrol (advice only at this stage).
- Reviewing legislation with legal following amendments to Environment Act 21 regarding anti-idling enforcement provisions.



KS2 Lesson Plan

Living things in their environments

Introduction:

This lesson will provide children the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of living things, personal health and the health of the environment. The children will be encouraged to consider the positive and negative effects of manmade pollutants on their environment through investigation and by improving their knowledge and understanding via classroom teaching and participation. This document supports the Every Child Matters document and the National Curriculum.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the need for protection of living things
- Understand the need for protection of the environment
- To develop an understanding of health issues relating to environmental pollution
- Learn about habitats and how pollution affects other species

National Curriculum links:

- Sc2 Life process and living things (5a)
- ways in which living things and the environment need protection
- Sc2 Life process and living things (5b)
- different plants and animals found in different habitats

Differentiation:

- All children will understand that pollution is manmade and affects our environments and health
- Most children will be able to identify the sources of pollution and how they can be avoided or reduced
- Some children will understand how our health and environment is impacted by chemical pollutants

Resources:

- Air Quality Fact Sheets
- Air Quality Quiz Sheet
- Air Quality Picture Sheet

KS2 Lesson Plan

Living things in their environments

Key vocabulary:

Environment	Poison	Particulates
Pollution	Transport	Greenhouse gas
Emissions	Carbon	Monoxide Recycled
Industrial revolution	Sulphur Dioxide	Travel plan
Smog	Nitrogen Dioxide	Fossil fuel

Lesson plan:

1. Before the lesson starts, ask the children what they know about pollution and transport/travel issues, while recording on a board any information that they give for both differences and similarities.
2. Using the information sheets provided, explain the historical emphasis of pollution in the UK and how the Industrial Revolution and London smogs forced the government to respond to the increasing levels of air pollution.
3. Progress to discuss the concerns from traffic pollution and how the choices they make when travelling to and from school affect local air quality.
4. Take the class to the local road where cars normally drop children off for school. Conduct a traffic count over a period of time and allow each child to record the number and type of vehicles that use the route. Secondly ask the class to observe and identify any plants or animals they think may be living in the area.

Extension activity:

1. Count the traffic at different times of the day (include the busiest time, e.g. either the start of the day or at home time). Work out an average of how much traffic passes the school each day.
2. Returning to the classroom, ask the children to create pictographs or similar charts to express their findings.
3. Discuss with the class how their health and the environment is affected by traffic pollution and how cutting the number of vehicles on the road will help to improve the situation. Finish by asking the class to consider how they can help the situation by changing their transport choices.
4. Allow the class to complete the word search and their poster competition entries.
- N.B. Risk assess the class participation close to a busy road!

KS2 Lesson Plan

Living things in their environments

We all need to breathe to stay alive but how clean is the air we breathe?

If you breathe in dirty air you are more likely to develop health problems and become ill. Plants and animals need clean air too. A lot of the things that make our lives more comfortable such as cars, electricity and heating create bad gases and make the air dirty. 'Air pollution' is what we call all bad gases in the air that we breathe and that are harmful to us.

Take a few deep breaths and you will feel your rib cage moving in and out, this opens up your lungs so that air is sucked in. In the lungs, a gas called oxygen passes from the air into your blood. The oxygen is carried in the blood all round your body. You need oxygen for everything you do and it is the oxygen in the air that keeps you alive.

500 years ago in Britain, the burning of coal was increasing in London. Coal was used in factories and also used to heat homes. When coal is burnt it makes a lot of smoke, which makes the air very dirty.

Around 200 years ago the Industrial Revolution began in Britain. Factories were built, and increasing amounts of coal was burnt. Air pollution was becoming a massive problem, especially when the weather was foggy. In foggy conditions and light winds the smoke or air pollution covered the whole city, and would not move. Smoke and fog together is called smog.

Smog was a big problem in the winter when the cold weather, fog and more coal being burnt to warm houses all made the air quality very poor. When smog was stuck over the city, it became really hard to breathe and see clearly. In 1952, the Great London Smog occurred and more than 4,000 people died!

New laws were created after this catastrophe in 1956 and 1968, so that it would not happen again. These laws were called the **Clean Air Acts**. These laws were made so that air would become cleaner. The laws encouraged people to use less coal or use cleaner coal in their homes and switch to other fuels such as gas. Factories started using tall chimneys so that the smoke would go high up in the sky and no longer were cover cities, and most new factories were built in the countryside. Smog occurred less often and the air became cleaner.



KS2 Lesson Plan

Living things in their environments

Today, when we think of air pollution, we should think of transport, especially cars:

Today there are about 23 million vehicles on the road in Britain, and 20 million of them are cars! The fuels they use release a lot of pollution into the air and once again are polluting our cities. The problem starts when the car exhausts bad gases, which create air pollution. These gases can be very dangerous for children. Although the fuels are becoming cleaner, air quality is still affected as more and more cars are used.

Transport is not the only reason why we have air pollution. Factories also release bad gases into the air even with the 'Clean Air Acts'; it still causes a lot of air pollution. There is of course less pollution from coal today but across the world air pollution has not really fallen, because of new bad gases which are released into the air from other sources.

The gases which are a problem are:

- **Carbon monoxide** - a gas that pollutes the air, and is mainly released by cars and other vehicles. It has no colour or smell.
- **Nitrogen oxides** - emitted from vehicles, like cars and trucks. During rush hour periods, a lot more is released into the air. Nitrogen oxides are also emitted from power stations. These gases also make acid rain.
- **Hydrocarbons** - produced when fuel is not fully burnt. They are one of the causes of modern-day smog.
- **Particulates** - very small particles, like soot, dust and fumes that are released into the air.
- They are caused by vehicles, factories and smoke from homes burning coal for heating.
- **Sulphur dioxide** - has no colour and most of it is released by power stations. It causes acid rain when mixed with water in the air.



KS2 Lesson Plan

Living things in their environments

There are many things we can do to help reduce air pollution and global warming

This lesson will provide children the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of living things, personal health and the health of the environment. The children will be encouraged to consider the positive and negative effects of manmade pollutants on their environment through investigation and by improving their knowledge and understanding via classroom teaching and participation. This document supports the Every Child Matters document and the National Curriculum.

Energy is produced to generate electricity and to keep us warm:

Most energy is produced by the burning of fossil fuels, like coal, oil and gas, which release carbon dioxide, a **greenhouse gas**. Fuel burnt in our cars also releases carbon dioxide. As a child, you do not have a lot of control on how your energy is produced. However, you can control the way in which you use that energy. Using less energy means less of it needs to be produced. So less carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

We can also help prevent pollution from our own homes which may contribute to acid rain and poor air quality, and increase emissions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. **Turning off lights** when they are not needed and **not wasting electricity** will reduce the demand for energy. Less electricity will need to be produced and so less coal, oil and gas will have to be burnt in power stations, which means less air pollution and less carbon dioxide!

Most of the rubbish we throw away can be **recycled**, such as glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans, plastic bottles and waste paper. Recycling used materials uses less energy than making new ones.

Composting fruit and vegetable waste reduces the amount of rubbish buried at rubbish dumps.

Pollution word search

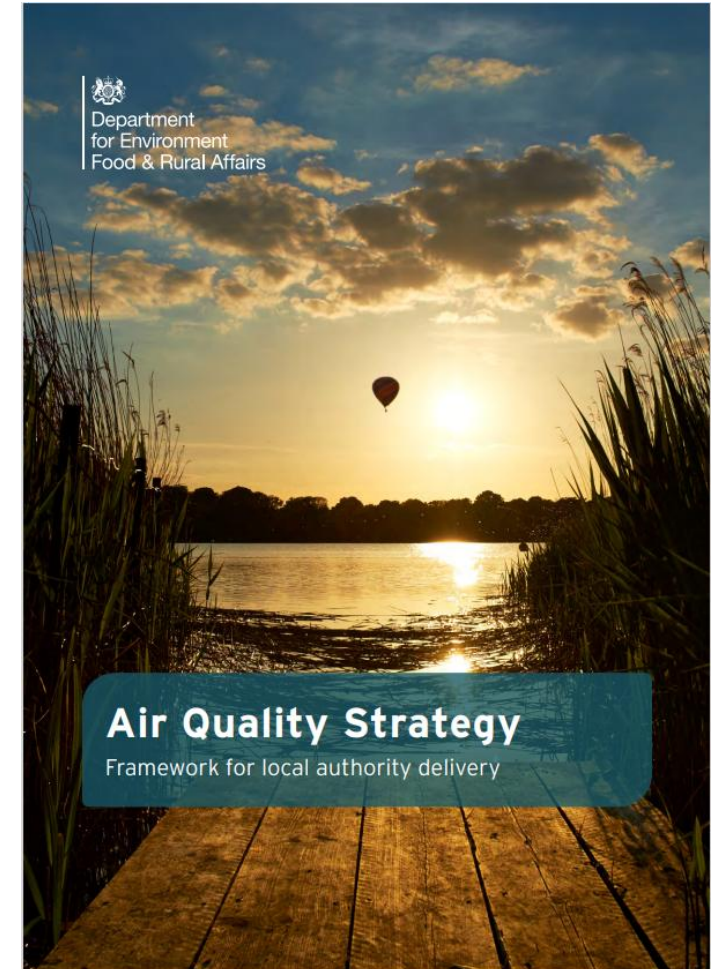
Can you find the hidden environmental words in only ten minutes?

- Greenhouse
- Transport
- Emissions
- Energy
- Recycled
- Pollution
- Smog
- Environment
- Industrial
- Poison

E	R	T	F	G	D	D	Y	L	P	O	I	S	O	N	G	E	O	P	X
N	N	S	K	L	G	H	H	E	T	Y	U	M	S	D	O	H	R	T	N
V	D	E	G	Y	C	W	C	O	D	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	I	A	L
I	Z	J	R	H	G	K	S	L	G	H	D	D	G	E	Q	H	R	H	K
R	W	J	S	G	C	K	F	Q	H	G	N	H	R	P	E	S	M	W	T
O	M	G	C	J	Y	D	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R	M	T	T	N	A	P
N	B	M	K	K	E	H	K	F	K	K	L	G	E	T	V	C	N	Y	N
M	C	L	E	X	J	G	J	A	E	K	E	C	K	H	R	B	B	O	
E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	W	K	W	E	C	G	D	S	F	E	I
N	T	I	U	M	O	R	T	L	B	R	Y	R	Q	V	H	F	L	N	T
T	G	O	J	O	L	D	L	R	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T	Z	U
R	H	R	T	G	K	K	W	V	K	H	T	E	U	D	P	W	G	E	L
H	W	T	H	L	J	I	Y	B	D	G	J	A	E	F	G	K	E	E	O
N	F	J	K	G	R	E	E	N	H	O	U	S	E	F	H	G	H	T	P

Air Quality Strategy & ASR

The air quality strategy for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Annual Status Report

Legal document which all Local Authorities have to submit to DEFRA by the end of June each year as part of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management, as amended by the Environment Act 2021.

Failure to submit will result in DEFRA looking to escalate the LA through its enforcement sanctions.

Have to report on where AQ is monitored, all results, any trends, major developments, new hot spots, identify what work the LA is undertaking to reduce AQ.

DEFRA review document and then it is to be made available to the public.

Annual Status Report – Key Messages

Key Message: Air quality remains good across the Borough

No air quality objectives were exceeded at any monitoring location.

No Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is required.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), PM10 and PM2.5 all remain well below national limits.

Most monitoring locations showed improving trends compared with 2024.

Stockton continues to demonstrate strong air quality performance.

Annual Status Report – Plaudits from Defra

DEFRA Accepted All Conclusions

DEFRA's appraisal was highly positive and included several commendations:

- ✓ Transparent reporting against every action in the Air Quality Strategy.
 - ✓ Strong monitoring and quality assurance arrangements.
 - ✓ Clear mapping and presentation of monitoring data.
 - ✓ Excellent adherence to monitoring requirements.
 - ✓ Inclusion of benzene monitoring despite it not being required.
 - ✓ Continued reference to public health outcomes.
 - ✓ Confirmation that Stockton continues to experience good air quality and does not require an AQMA.
-

Overall conclusion: DEFRA accepted the Council's findings for all pollutants and emission sources.

Annual Status Report

Launch of Stockton-on-Tees' first Air Quality Strategy.

Air quality education delivered to **4,767 Key Stage 2 pupils**.

Participation in Clean Air Day.

Monitoring network expanded and reviewed.

Promotion of active travel and public transport.

Council fleet improvements including electric vehicles and Euro 6 standards.

Air quality considerations embedded within planning decisions.

Next Priority

Continue delivery of the Air Quality Strategy to protect and further improve air quality across the Borough.

Comparison AQ Results to National Objective

Pollutant	Highest Result	National Objective
NO ₂ (Automatic)	15.5 µg/m ³	40 µg/m ³
NO ₂ (Diffusion Tube)	29.0 µg/m ³	40 µg/m ³
PM2.5	7.9 µg/m ³	20 µg/m ³
Benzene	0.45 µg/m ³	5 µg/m ³

In simple terms:

- Every pollutant monitored was comfortably below legal limits.
- PM2.5 levels are already below the future 2040 target.
- Air quality remains stable and well managed across the Borough.
- Air pollution related mortality in Stockton-on-Tees reduced to **4.3%**.
- This is an improvement from **4.6%** in the previous year.
- Better than the **England average of 5.3%**.
- Supports the Council's wider public health and prevention agenda.
- Demonstrates the value of continued investment in air quality improvement.

Annual Status Report

"The 2026 DEFRA appraisal confirms that Stockton-on-Tees continues to deliver good air quality outcomes, robust monitoring arrangements, strong public health performance and effective strategic leadership through its Air Quality Strategy."