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Stevenage Borough Council

2026 Air Quality Annual Status Report

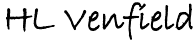
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Stevenage ***BOROUGH COUNCIL***

2026 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management, as amended by the
Environment Act 2021

Date: June 2026

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Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air Quality in Stevenage

Breathing in polluted air affects our health and costs the NHS and our society billions of pounds each year. Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer and can cause a range of health impacts, including effects on lung function, exacerbation of asthma, increases in hospital admissions and mortality.

Air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society, children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. Low-income communities are also disproportionately impacted by poor air quality, exacerbating health and social inequalities.

Table ES.1 provides a brief explanation of the key pollutants relevant to Local Air Quality Management and the kind of activities they might arise from.

Table ES.1 – Description of Key Pollutants

Pollutant	Description
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Nitrogen dioxide is a gas which is generally emitted from high-temperature combustion processes such as road transport or energy generation.
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂) is a corrosive gas which is predominantly produced from the combustion of coal or crude oil.
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5})	Particulate matter is everything in the air that is not a gas. Particles can come from natural sources such as pollen, as well as human made sources such as smoke from fires, emissions from industry and dust from tyres and brakes. PM₁₀ refers to particles under 10 micrometres. Fine particulate matter or PM_{2.5} are particles under 2.5 micrometres.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂):

Stevenage Borough Council monitored the concentration of NO₂ across the Borough in 2025 via the following mechanisms:

- Passively, via a diffusion tube monitoring network of 26 sites.
- Automatically, via a continuous analyser located on St George's Way.

During 2025, all passive and automatic sites reported NO₂ annual mean concentrations lower than 10% below the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³ (i.e. below 36 µg/m³). The maximum NO₂ annual mean concentration at a single diffusion tube monitoring site was 28.8 µg/m³ (Site 34), whilst the NO₂ annual mean concentration at the automatic monitoring station on St George's Way (AQMS2) was 15.4 µg/m³. In relation to the previous reporting year of 2024, the NO₂ annual mean concentration had increased at 20 sites and decreased at 6. However, these changes were small with the maximum increase and decrease in NO₂ concentration being 2.0 µg/m³ (Site 24 / 39) and 1.6 µg/m³ (Site 34), respectively. The 2025 NO₂ annual mean concentration recorded at the automatic monitoring station on St George's Way (AQMS2) was an increase of 1.8 µg/m³ from that recorded in the previous reporting year. However, when analysed as part of a wider trend, the annual mean concentration in 2025 is lower than that in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The data from both the passive diffusion tube network and automatic continuous monitor demonstrate that the annual mean NO₂ concentration in Stevenage has consistently remained below the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³ between 2021 – 2025.

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}):

Stevenage Borough Council monitored the concentration of PM_{2.5} across the Borough in 2025 via the following mechanism:

- Automatically, via a continuous analyser located on St George's Way.

During 2025, the PM_{2.5} annual mean concentration at the automatic monitoring station on St George's Way (AQMS2) was 9.0 µg/m³. The concentration in 2025 was a small increase from the 7.5 µg/m³ recorded at the site in the previous reporting year (2024).

However, the PM_{2.5} concentration in 2025 is in alignment with the concentrations recorded over the previous five years, in the range of 7.0 – 9.0 µg/m³ and is also below the annual mean target of 10 µg/m³ set by the Fine Particulate Matter (England) Regulations 2023, that is not to be exceeded by the end of 2040.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Whilst air quality has improved significantly in recent decades, there are some areas where local action is needed to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution. As Stevenage Borough Council does not have any declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) due to the continued compliance with the air quality objectives, there is no formally adopted Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

However, Stevenage Borough Council are to adopt the [Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy](#), which is currently in draft format (November 2025) and is due to be finalised in 2026 following the closure of the consultation on 22nd March 2026. The Draft Air Quality Strategy has been developed with the aim of achieving the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Hertfordshire will become a place where everyone knows the sources of pollution which affect air quality and the impacts this creates.
- **Outcome 2:** Everyone will have an opportunity to inform decision making and take action to promote healthier air.
- **Outcome 3:** Hertfordshire will become a place known for healthier air innovation by working with a diverse set of partners.
- **Outcome 4:** A Hertfordshire wide monitoring and modelling network will provide the data required to make local evidence-based decisions.
- **Outcome 5:** Emissions of and exposure to air pollution will be reduced across Hertfordshire with a particular focus on where there are added benefits.

Stevenage Borough Council will be following the [Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy](#) closely and adopt its findings as air quality is best dealt with at a wider regional level. This is also likely to be more effective in the future as there are currently proposals for Stevenage Borough Council to merge with other councils to form a unitary council.

Conclusions and Priorities

During 2025, the NO₂ annual mean objective was not exceeded at any passive (diffusion tube) or automatic (continuous analyser) monitoring site. This is a continuing trend that has been observed across the Borough in the last five consecutive years (2021 – 2025) and indicates that Stevenage continues to experience good air quality. The concentration of PM_{2.5} in 2025 was also below the air quality target, indicating that there are no air quality concerns relating to PM_{2.5} across Stevenage.

Although the pollutant concentrations remain below the air quality objectives, Stevenage Borough Council are continuing to implement a range of measures to further improve air quality. These measures will help to simultaneously reduce emissions of NO₂ and PM_{2.5}. During 2026, Stevenage Borough Council's priorities are:

- **Priority 1:** Develop the Local Plan Mobility Strategy for the Cycling Network.
- **Priority 2:** Raise awareness of air pollution through events such as Clean Air Day.
- **Priority 3:** Ensure air quality is considered on all new planning applications.

How to get Involved

The public can help to improve air quality within Stevenage by:

- Using the excellent network of cycle paths laid out across the Borough, through the use of the [Beryl Bike Share Service](#). Across Stevenage, there are 45 Beryl Bays providing access to a total of 150 electronic bikes – the [Interactive Map](#) shows the location of these bays, and the availability of bikes at each collection point.
- Ensuring cars are serviced regularly.
- Reducing the use of a private vehicle for short journeys, in replacement for a more sustainable mode of transport (i.e. walking / cycling).
- Consider a more efficient, cleaner type when changing vehicles.

Whilst Stevenage Borough Council are implementing a range of measures to further improve air quality, significant improvement relies on a collective effort from residents of Stevenage. Therefore, actions by individuals can have a combined effect on reducing the pollutant concentrations across the whole of the Borough.

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1 Local Air Quality Management

This report provides an overview of air quality in Stevenage during 2025. It fulfils the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), as amended by the Environment Act (2021), and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.

The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in order to achieve and maintain the objectives and the dates by which each measure will be carried out. This Annual Status Report (ASR) is an annual requirement showing the strategies employed by Stevenage Borough Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.

The statutory air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in England are shown in Table E.1.

2 Actions to Improve Air Quality

2.1 Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of an air quality objective. After declaration, the authority should prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months. The AQAP should specify how air quality targets will be achieved and maintained and provide dates by which measures will be carried out.

Stevenage Borough Council has no declared AQMAs and, therefore, has no formally adopted AQAP. However, Stevenage Borough Council are continuing to implement a range of measures to further improve air quality. These are outlined in Table 2.1.

Stevenage Borough Council are also to adopt the [Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy \(AQS\)](#), which is due to be finalised in 2026. An update on the adoption of the AQS will be provided in the next update of this report in 2027.

2.2 Progress and Impact of Measures to address Air Quality in Stevenage

Defra's appraisal of last year's ASR concluded that:

1. **SBC have stated that they are currently seeking consultancy support to update their Air Quality Strategy which is commended and shows the Council's decision to maintaining good air quality within the region. Update on the progress of this is expected in future ASRs.**
 - Stevenage Borough Council are working with Hertfordshire County Council to adopt the Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy.
2. **The Council have used version 04/25 of the National Bias Adjustment Factor Calculations Spreadsheet as opposed to the latest version 06/25. Both versions provide the same adjustment factor (0.88), as such, there is no impact on the data reported but it is good practice to use the latest version when available.**
 - Stevenage Borough Council have used the latest version of the National Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet (03/26) when preparing this report.

3. **Defra recommends that Directors of Public Health approve draft ASRs. Sign off is not a requirement, however collaboration and consultation with those who have responsibility for Public Health is expected to increase support for measures to improve air quality, with co-benefits for all. Please bear this in mind for the next annual reporting process.**
 - Stevenage Borough Council have collaborated and consulted with colleagues / departments responsible for Public Health during the preparation of this report.
4. **The Council have clearly stated where the Defra Calendar has been followed and provide appropriate analysis to justify using the data from deployments where the Defra Calendar hasn't been following. Such QA/QC measures are encouraged, and this level of detail should be maintained in future ASRs.**
 - During 2025, all diffusion tubes deployed by Stevenage Borough Council adhered to the dates outlined in the Defra Calendar.
5. **It is encouraging to see that SBC have included concentrations from Defra modelled background and the Public Health Outcomes Framework to provide additional context regarding base PM levels and health impacts within the Borough.**
 - PM_{2.5} concentrations from the Defra Background Maps and the impact of the pollutant upon public health from the Public Health Outcomes Framework are included in this report.
6. **The Council have provided detailed trends of NO₂ concentrations within the Borough over recent years which has been split into regions within the Borough for focussed discussion of pollution levels and their effects. This is commended and this level of detail should be carried forward into future ASRs.**
 - The graphs in this report have been grouped by geographic region to analyse air pollution trends across different parts of the Borough.

Stevenage Borough Council has taken forward a number of direct measures during the current reporting year of 2025 in pursuit of improving local air quality. Details of all measures completed, in progress or planned are set out in Table 2.1. Ten measures are included within Table 2.1, with the type of measure and the progress Stevenage Borough Council have made during the reporting year of 2025 presented. Where there have been, or continue to be, barriers restricting the implementation of the measure, these are also presented within Table 2.1.

Key completed measures are:

- **Establishment of an 'Air Pollution Episode Alert System'**: The Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Episode Alert System is a free service which is utilised to alert residents of forecasted pollution levels that are classified as moderate, high or very high according to the UK Air Quality Banding System.

Stevenage Borough Council's priorities for the coming year are:

- **Priority 1**: Develop the Local Plan Mobility Strategy for the Cycling Network.
- **Priority 2**: Raise awareness of air pollution through events such as Clean Air Day.
- **Priority 3**: Ensure air quality is considered on all new planning applications.

Stevenage Borough Council expects the following measure to be completed over the course of the next reporting year:

- **Adoption of the Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy**: The AQS is currently being reviewed following a period of consultation which finished in March 2026, and the AQS is expected to be finalised by the end of 2026.

Table 2.1 – Progress of Measures to Improve Air Quality

Measure No.	Measure Title	Category	Classification	Year Measure Introduced in AQAP	Estimated / Actual Completion Date	Organisations Involved	Funding Source	Funding Status	Estimated Cost of Measure	Measure Status	Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Key Performance Indicator	Progress to Date	Comments / Barriers to Implementation
Priority Air Quality Actions														
3	Local Plan Mobility Strategy - Cycle Network	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle network	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	-	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	To be updated as part of new Local Plan.
7	Promotion of Clean Air Day	Public Information	Via the internet	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	-	Ongoing	Public Information	Not Known	Ongoing - annual	None
10	Consider AQ on new planning applications	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Air quality planning and policy guidance	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	-	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	None
1	Local Plan Mobility Strategy - Promotion of Cycling	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of cycling	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	None
2	Local Plan Mobility Strategy - Promotion of Walking	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of walking	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	First phase successful, second phase on-going
4	Relocating diffusion tubes	Other	Other	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	No direct impact on emissions - some tubes have been removed and new locations found	Tube deployed	Ongoing	None
5	Local plan mobility strategy - Cycle Hire	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Public cycle hire scheme	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	None
6	Electric car club	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Car clubs	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Reduced vehicle emissions	Not Known	Ongoing	None
8	Monitoring air quality	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Hertfordshire County Council / Stevenage Borough Council	Hertfordshire County Council / Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Public Information	Not Known	Ongoing	None
9	Engagement with Comms	Public Information	Via the internet	Prior to 2016	Ongoing	Stevenage Borough Council	Stevenage Borough Council	None	None	Ongoing	Public Information	Not Known	Ongoing	None

2.3 PM_{2.5} – Local Authority Approach to Reducing Emissions and/or Concentrations

As detailed in Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22 (Chapter 8) and the Air Quality Strategy¹, local authorities are expected to work towards reducing emissions and/or concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). There is clear evidence that PM_{2.5} (particulate matter smaller 2.5 micrometres) has a significant impact on human health, including premature mortality, allergic reactions, and cardiovascular diseases.

PM_{2.5} Monitoring:

Stevenage Borough Council undertook monitoring of PM_{2.5} on St George's Way via an automatic continuous analyser (BAM 1020). During the last five years (2021 – 2025), the PM_{2.5} annual mean concentration recorded at the site has been between 7.0 – 9.0 µg/m³, which is below the PM_{2.5} target set by the Fine Particulate Matter (England) Regulations 2023 of 10 µg/m³, that is not to be exceeded by the end of 2040.

PM_{2.5} Background Concentrations:

The Defra Background Maps² for Stevenage Borough Council in 2025 show that the PM_{2.5} annual concentration averaged across the 26 locations (1km x 1km grid square resolution) in the Borough is 7.3 µg/m³, whilst the maximum and minimum PM_{2.5} concentration at a given location is 7.8 µg/m³ and 7.0 µg/m³, respectively. The data from the background maps and the automatic monitoring station combined indicate that the concentration of PM_{2.5} throughout Stevenage is relatively low. Nevertheless, Stevenage Borough Council continue to implement a range of measures to further reduce the concentration of PM_{2.5}, due to the impact that exposure to the pollutant has on public health, even at low levels.

Impact of PM_{2.5} on Public Health:

According to the Public Health Outcomes Framework³ developed by Public Health England, the fraction of adult mortality attributable to PM_{2.5} in Stevenage is 5.4%. This is comparable to the average for the whole of England (5.3%).

¹ Defra. Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery, August 2023

² Defra. Data Archive – Background Mapping Data for Local Authorities (2021), November 2024.

³ Public Health England – Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Smoke Control Areas:

Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) are designated zones in which it is an offence to emit smoke from a chimney of a building, from a furnace, or from any fixed boiler. It is also an offence to acquire an unauthorised fuel for use within a SCA unless it is used within an exempt appliance (exempted from the controls which generally apply in SCAs). The majority of the Borough was declared a SCA in 1972, which was subsequently revised to include the whole Borough. Therefore, the whole of Stevenage is currently a SCA.

3 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives and National Compliance

This section sets out the monitoring undertaken within 2025 by Stevenage Borough Council and how it compares with the relevant air quality objectives. In addition, monitoring results are presented for a five-year period between 2021 and 2025 to allow monitoring trends to be identified and discussed.

3.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

3.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Stevenage Borough Council undertook automatic (continuous) monitoring at one site during 2025, located on St Georges Way (South). Table A.1 shows the details of the automatic monitoring site, which measures concentrations of NO₂ and PM_{2.5}. The [Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Monitoring Data](#) page presents the automatic monitoring data for the site. Maps showing the location of the monitoring site are provided in Appendix D. Further details on how the monitors are calibrated and how the data has been adjusted are included in Appendix C.

3.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Stevenage Borough Council undertook non-automatic (i.e. passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 26 sites during 2025. There were no changes to the network since the previous reporting year, with monitoring completed at the same 26 sites in 2024. Table A.2 presents the details of the non-automatic sites. Maps showing the location of the monitoring sites are provided in Appendix D. Further details on Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) for the diffusion tubes, including bias adjustments and any other adjustments applied (e.g. annualisation and/or distance correction), are included in Appendix C.

3.2 Individual Pollutants

The monitoring results presented in this section are, where relevant, adjusted for bias, annualisation (where the annual mean data capture is below 75% and greater than 25%), and distance correction. Further details on adjustments are provided in Appendix C.

3.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Table A.3 and Table A.4 compare the ratified and adjusted monitored NO₂ annual mean concentrations for the past five years with the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³. Note that the concentration data presented represents the concentration at the location of the monitoring site, following the application of bias adjustment and annualisation, as required (i.e. the values are exclusive of any consideration to fall-off with distance adjustment).

During 2025, the maximum NO₂ annual mean concentration recorded across the diffusion tube monitoring network was 28.8 µg/m³ (Site 34), meaning that the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ was not exceeded at any monitoring location within Stevenage. This site has recorded the maximum annual mean concentration over the last five years (2021 – 2025). In relation to the previous reporting year of 2024, across the 26 diffusion tube monitoring sites, the NO₂ concentration in 2025 increased at 20 sites and decreased at 6 sites. The changes were however relatively small, with a maximum increase of 2 µg/m³ (Site 24 / 39) and a maximum decrease of 1.6 µg/m³ (Site 34). The data indicates that the NO₂ concentrations across Stevenage have remained stable since 2024, and below the air quality objective. For diffusion tubes, the full 2025 dataset of monthly mean values is provided in Appendix B. Note that the concentration data presented in Table B.1 includes distance corrected values, only where relevant.

At the automatic monitoring station on St Georges Way (South), the 2025 NO₂ annual mean concentration was 15.4 µg/m³, which is an increase of 1.8 µg/m³ compared to that recorded in the previous reporting year (13.6 µg/m³). However, when analysed as part of a wider trend (i.e. 2021 – 2025), the annual mean concentration in 2025 is lower than the NO₂ annual mean concentration in 2021, 2022, and 2023 and is significantly below the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³.

Table A.5 compares the ratified continuous monitored NO₂ hourly mean concentrations for the past five years with the air quality objective of 200 µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year. During 2025, the maximum hourly mean concentration recorded was 85.3 µg/m³, meaning that the NO₂ hourly mean objective of 200 µg/m³ was not exceeded on any occasion at the automatic monitoring station on St Georges Way (South) in 2025. Additionally, as no diffusion tube monitoring site recorded an annual mean concentration greater than 60 µg/m³, it can also be inferred that the NO₂ hourly mean objective was not exceeded at any passive diffusion tube monitoring site across Stevenage during 2025.

As a result of both the automatic monitoring station and the passive diffusion tube network recording NO₂ concentrations below the annual and hourly objective, no AQMA has needed to be declared for NO₂ within Stevenage. It is therefore evident from the data that Stevenage continues to enjoy good air quality in relation to concentrations of NO₂.

3.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Table A.6 presents the ratified and adjusted monitored PM_{2.5} annual mean concentrations for the past five years. During 2025, the annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration recorded by the St Georges Way (South) automatic monitoring station was 9.0 µg/m³, which is a slight increase from the 7.5 µg/m³ recorded in the previous reporting year (2024). However, when analysed as part of a wider trend (i.e. 2021 – 2025), the 2025 PM_{2.5} annual mean concentration is in alignment with the concentrations recorded over the previous five years (7.0 – 9.0 µg/m³). Therefore, the increase observed in 2025 is not considered to be a concerning trend and the PM_{2.5} annual mean concentration remains below the annual mean target set by the Fine Particulate Matter (England) Regulations 2023 of 10 µg/m³, that is not to be exceeded by the end of 2040.

Appendix A: Monitoring Results

Table A.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Which AQMA? ⁽¹⁾	Monitoring Technique	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) ^(1,2)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) ⁽¹⁾	Inlet Height (m)
AQMS2	St Georges Way	Roadside	523980	224265	NO ₂ , PM _{2.5}	No	-	Chemiluminescent (NO ₂) / BAM (PM _{2.5})	85.0	1.5	2.9

Notes:

(1) N/A if not applicable

(2) 0m if the monitoring site is at a location of exposure (e.g. installed on the façade of a residential property).

Table A.2 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

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)
1	Town Centre	Roadside	523771	224090	NO ₂	No	102.0	4.0	No	2.4
3	Monks View	Suburban	524345	224468	NO ₂	No	9.5	0.2	No	2.9
4	Bedwell Crescent	Kerbside	525373	226985	NO ₂	No	20.0	0.8	No	2.5
7	High Street	Roadside	523278	225479	NO ₂	No	9.0	2.4	No	3.0
9	Magpie Crescent	Kerbside	526652	223438	NO ₂	No	12.5	2.0	No	2.9
10	Shoreham Close	Roadside	522075	225568	NO ₂	No	8.0	2.1	No	2.5
11	Newlyn Close	Suburban	522126	224862	NO ₂	No	3.5	1.7	No	2.7
12	Chadwell Road	Suburban	522955	223335	NO ₂	No	25.0	0.4	No	2.6
13	Whitney Drive	Suburban	523070	226070	NO ₂	No	8.0	1.9	No	2.3
17	Hitchin Road	Roadside	522700	226550	NO ₂	No	14.0	2.4	No	2.5
18	Fairlands Valley Park	Urban Background	525425	224183	NO ₂	No	167.0	172.5	No	2.6
19	7 Tates Way	Roadside	522700	226570	NO ₂	No	0.0	9.0	No	2.3
21	13 Hitchin Road	Roadside	523128	225677	NO ₂	No	0.0	16.0	No	2.2
22	Townsend Mews	Roadside	523360	224786	NO ₂	No	0.0	7.8	No	2.7

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)
23	Hitchin Road - Longfields	Roadside	523014	226029	NO ₂	No	7.4	2.5	No	2.1
24	Martins Way	Kerbside	525987	226368	NO ₂	No	8.0	0.8	No	2.2
26	Vardon Road	Roadside	524542	225654	NO ₂	No	10.2	7.7	No	2.6
28	Chells Way	Roadside	526078	224818	NO ₂	No	1.5	1.5	No	2.4
31	Hydean Way	Roadside	525160	223069	NO ₂	No	0.0	6.0	No	2.6
34	A602/A1(M) Junction 7	Kerbside	523697	225920	NO ₂	No	>50	2.2	No	2.2
35	A602 The Chequers	Kerbside	527020	221097	NO ₂	No	>50	0.5	No	2.2
37	Fishers Green Road	Roadside	522608	225880	NO ₂	No	2.9	1.7	No	2.6
38	High Street - Costa	Roadside	523406	225035	NO ₂	No	4.0	4.3	No	2.0
39	High Street - Bike Stop	Roadside	523319	225021	NO ₂	No	3.5	5.0	No	2.0
40	London Road	Kerbside	524097	222765	NO ₂	No	>50	0.9	No	2.0
41	St Georges Way South	Roadside	523981	224264	NO ₂	No	85.0	1.5	Yes	2.9

Notes:

(1) 0m if the monitoring site is at a location of exposure (e.g. installed on the façade of a residential property).

(2) N/A if not applicable.

Table A.3 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

Site ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AQMS2	523980	224265	Roadside	99.6	99.6	23.1	19.5	17.7	13.6	15.4

☒ **Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22.**

☒ **Reported concentrations are those at the location of the monitoring site (annualised, as required), i.e. prior to any fall-off with distance correction.**

☒ **Where exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective occur at locations not representative of relevant exposure, the fall-off with distance concentration has been calculated and reported concentration provided in brackets for 2025.**

Notes:

The annual mean concentrations are presented as µg/m³.

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

Concentrations are those at the location of monitoring and not those following any fall-off with distance adjustment.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Table A.4 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	523771	224090	Roadside	90.4	90.4	25.7	22.1	16.0	13.9	15.5
3	524345	224468	Suburban	75.0	75.0	16.7	16.7	15.3	14.2	15.5
4	525373	226985	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	14.9	16.0	14.7	12.9	13.5
7	523278	225479	Roadside	100.0	100.0	22.2	22.8	21.2	19.0	20.6
9	526652	223438	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	16.6	19.7	16.6	15.6	14.9
10	522075	225568	Roadside	100.0	100.0	18.7	18.8	16.8	16.1	14.8
11	522126	224862	Suburban	100.0	100.0	13.4	13.9	12.6	11.1	12.4
12	522955	223335	Suburban	100.0	100.0	13.2	13.0	11.2	10.5	11.8
13	523070	226070	Suburban	100.0	100.0	14.9	16.8	16.0	13.1	13.9
17	522700	226550	Roadside	100.0	100.0	33.6	32.9	31.7	29.3	28.0
18	525425	224183	Urban Background	100.0	100.0	9.7	11.1	9.0	9.8	8.7
19	522700	226570	Roadside	90.4	90.4	27.0	27.1	26.5	22.4	22.8
21	523128	225677	Roadside	100.0	100.0	17.4	18.4	16.8	15.7	16.1
22	523360	224786	Roadside	100.0	100.0	18.2	19.4	18.4	15.8	17.5
23	523014	226029	Roadside	100.0	100.0	25.7	24.2	23.5	21.7	22.5
24	525987	226368	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	23.8	22.9	20.5	18.6	20.6
26	524542	225654	Roadside	100.0	100.0	14.6	17.6	15.4	12.6	13.8
28	526078	224818	Roadside	100.0	100.0	16.9	17.4	16.7	15.1	15.8
31	525160	223069	Roadside	100.0	100.0	16.1	17.3	16.5	14.3	14.8

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
34	523697	225920	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	38.2	36.8	33.8	30.4	28.8
35	527020	221097	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	18.0	17.0	15.3	15.8	15.7
37	522608	225880	Roadside	92.3	92.3	16.8	16.6	14.7	13.7	15.0
38	523406	225035	Roadside	100.0	100.0	18.3	20.4	20.0	18.2	19.8
39	523319	225021	Roadside	100.0	100.0	21.0	22.5	20.3	17.5	19.5
40	524097	222765	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	21.4	21.9	20.9	19.6	20.9
41	523981	224264	Roadside	100.0	100.0	-	22.0	18.3	15.3	16.2

☒ Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22.

☒ Diffusion tube data has been bias adjusted.

☒ Reported concentrations are those at the location of the monitoring site (bias adjusted and annualised, as required), i.e. prior to any fall-off with distance correction.

Notes:

The annual mean concentrations are presented as $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

Concentrations are those at the location of monitoring and not those following any fall-off with distance adjustment.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure A.1 – Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations: South of the Borough

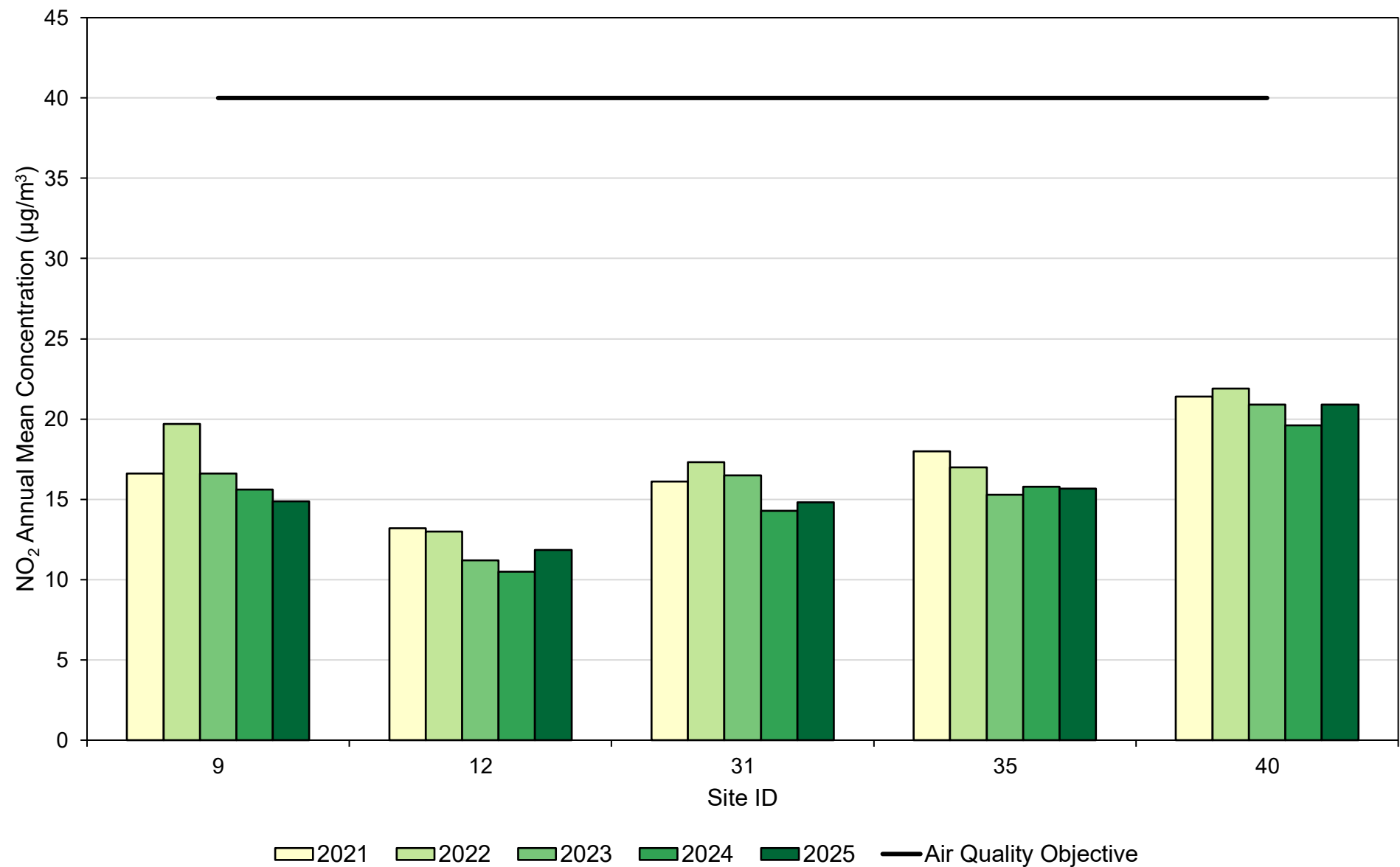


Figure A.2 – Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations: East of the Borough

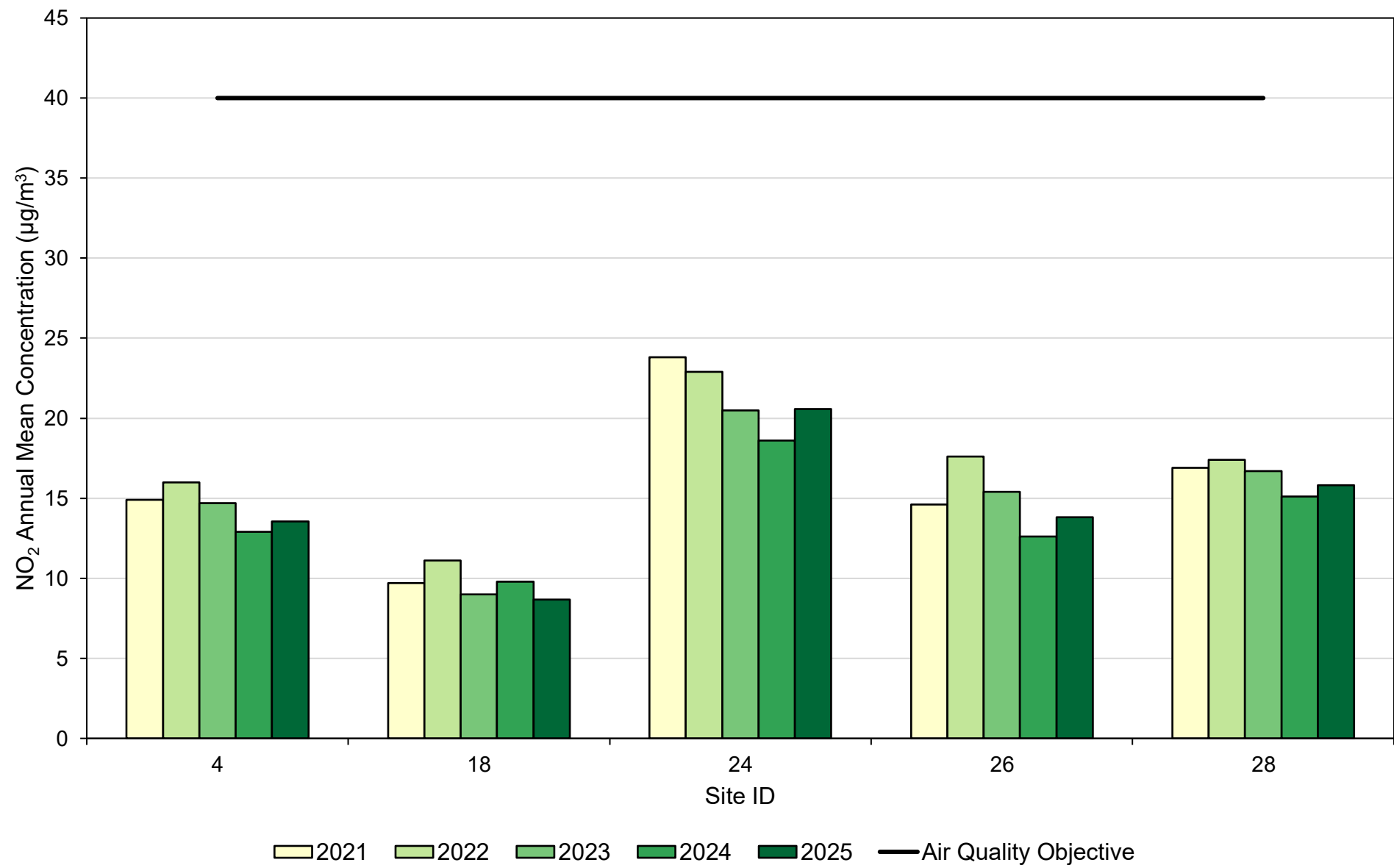


Figure A.3 – Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations: West of the Borough (1)

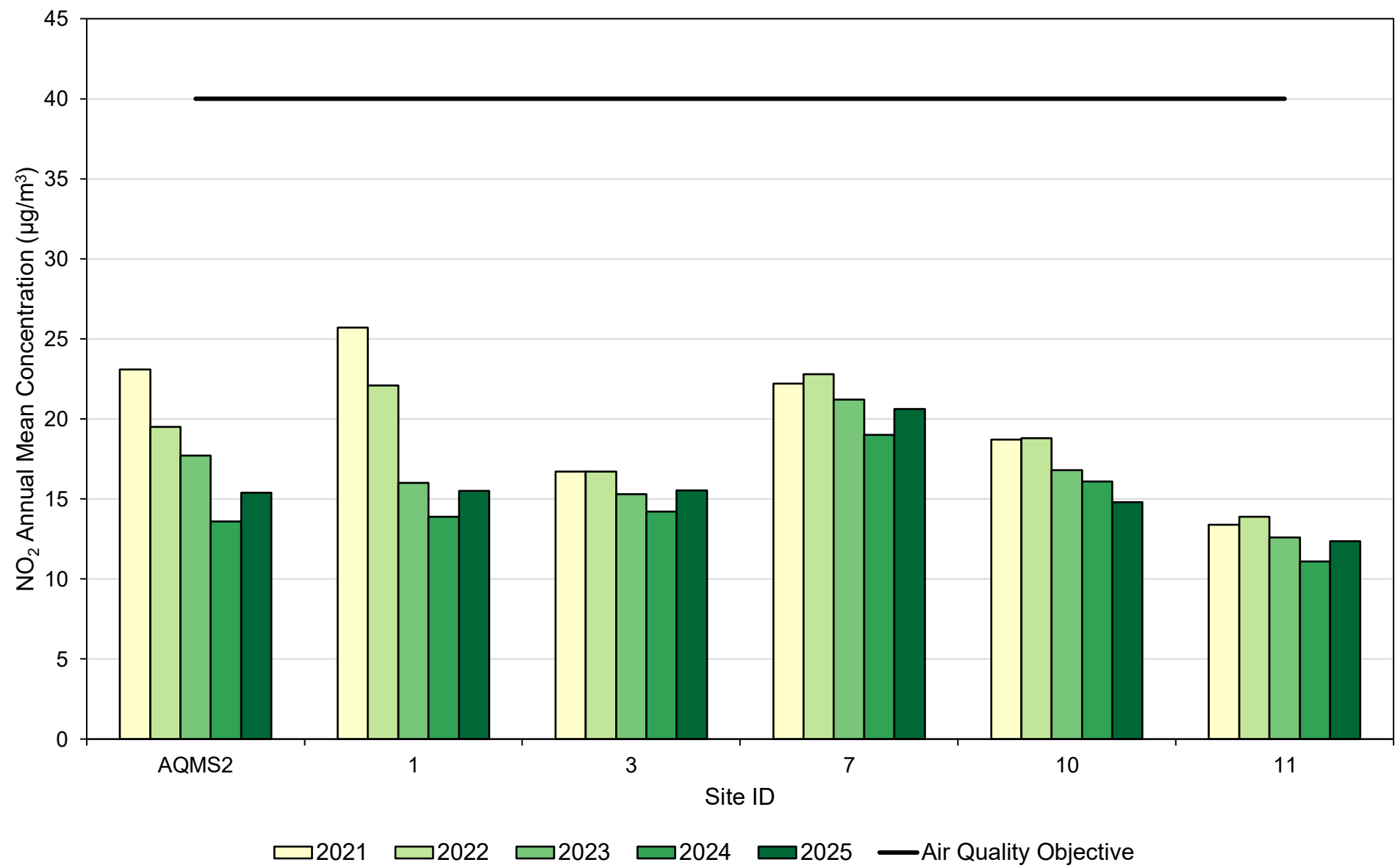


Figure A.4 – Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations: West of the Borough (2)

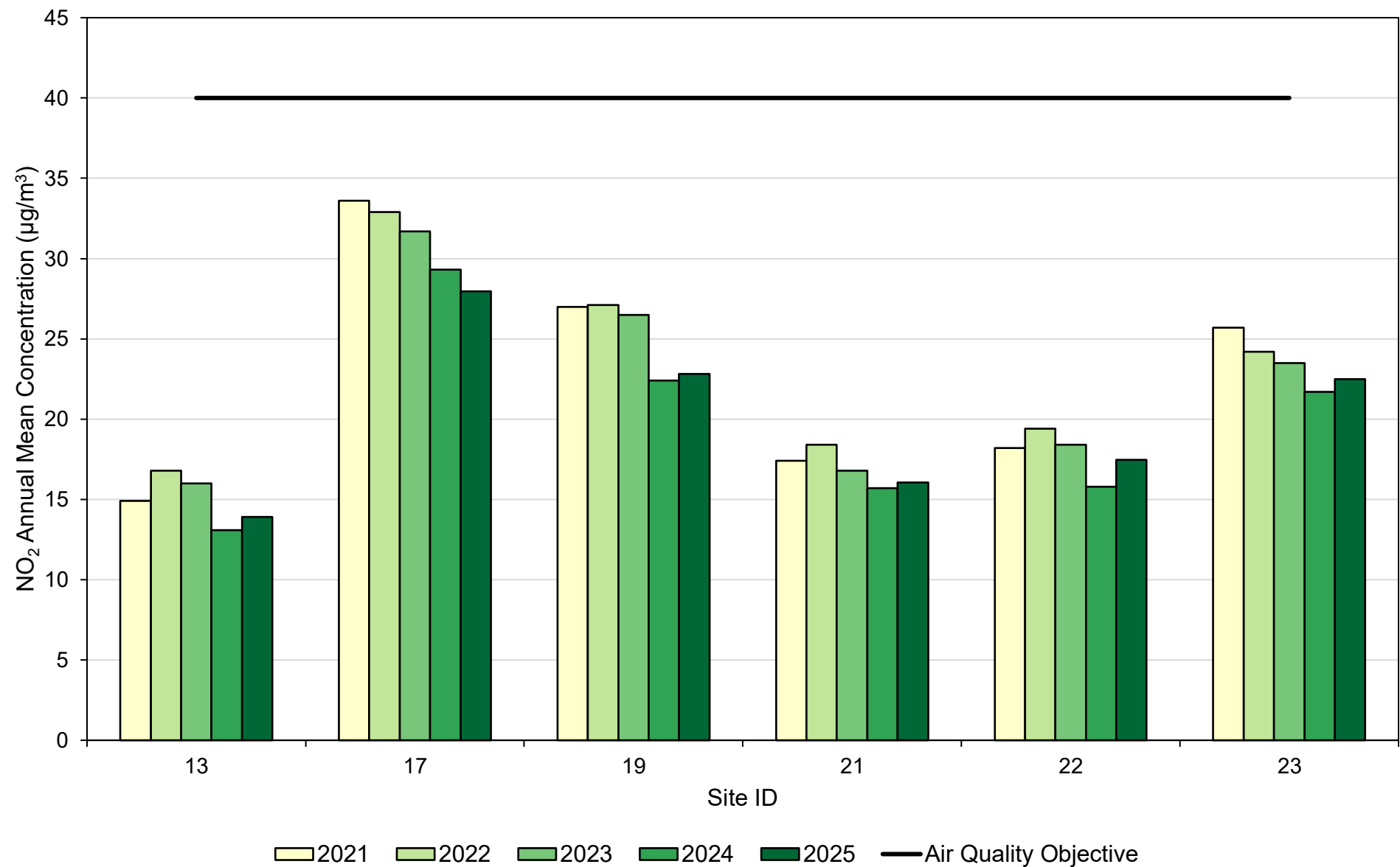


Figure A.5 – Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations: West of the Borough (3)

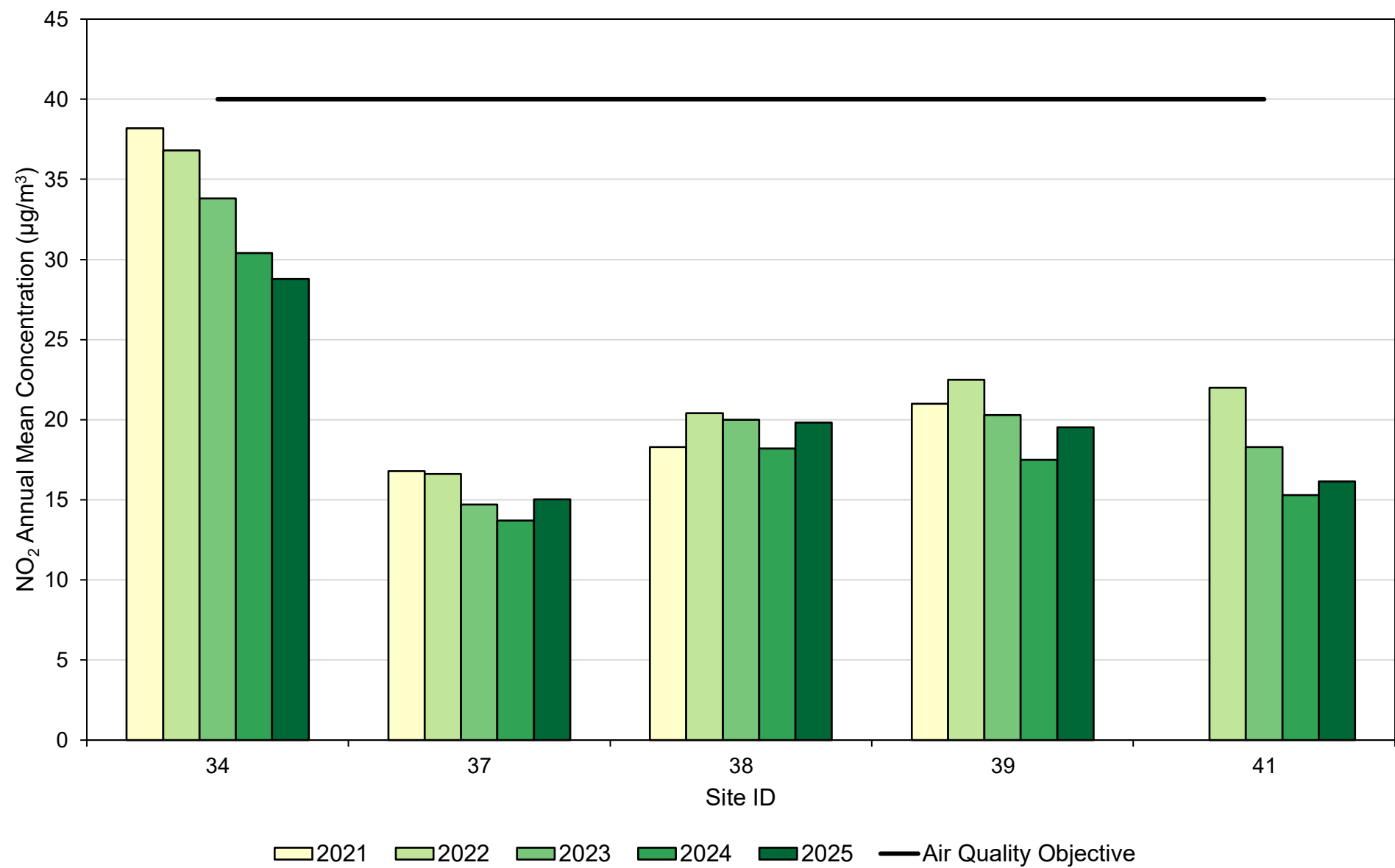


Table A.5 – 1-Hour Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results > 200 µg/m³

Site ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AQMS2	523980	224265	Roadside	99.6	99.6	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

Results are presented as the number of 1-hour periods where concentrations greater than 200µg/m³ have been recorded.

Exceedances of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective (200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times/year) are shown in **bold**.

If the period of valid data is less than 85%, the 99.8th percentile of 1-hour means is provided in brackets.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Table A.6 – Annual Mean PM_{2.5} Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

Site ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2025 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AQMS2	523980	224265	Roadside	98.2	98.2	7.0	9.0	7.0	7.5	9.0

☒ **Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22.**

Notes:

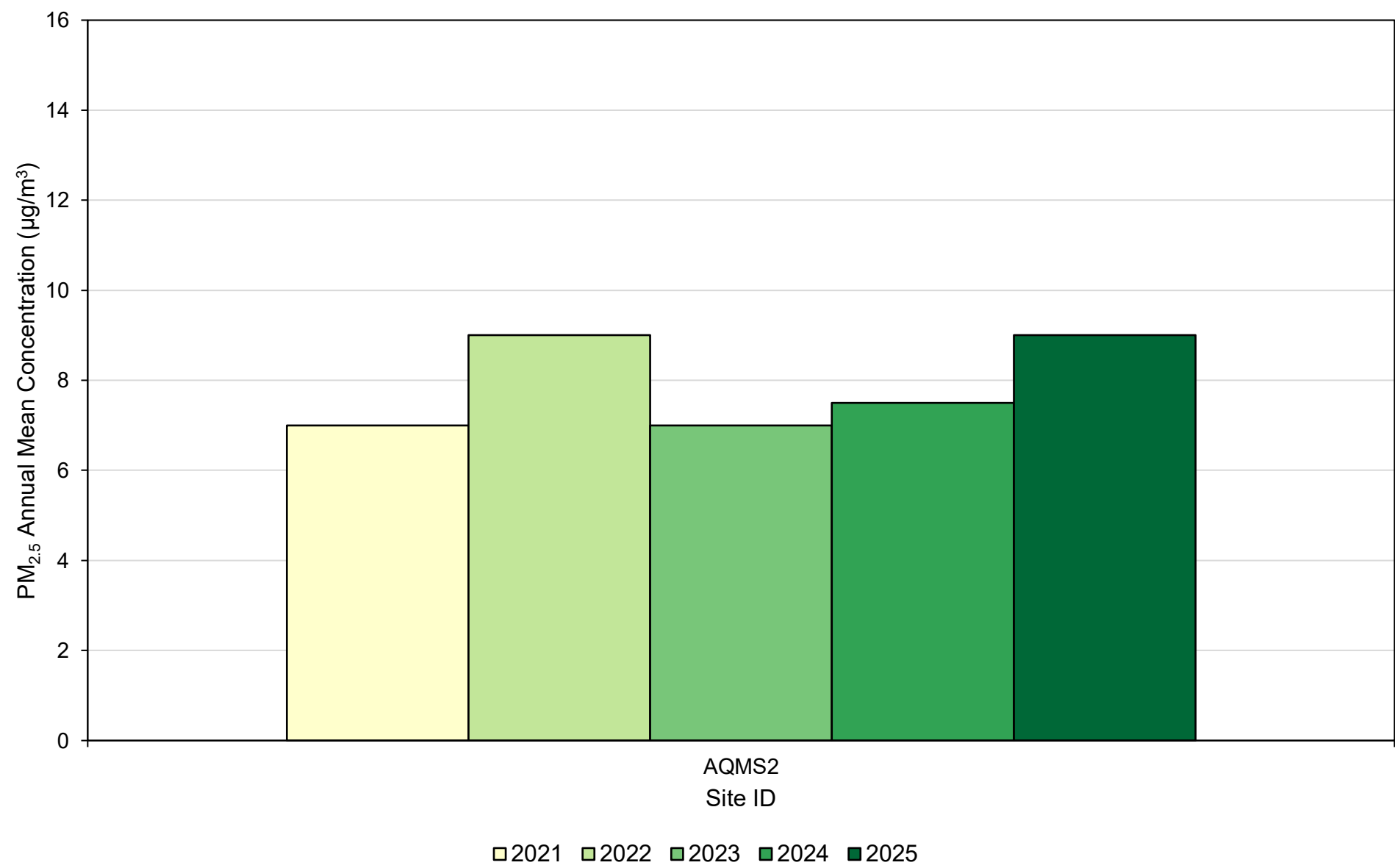
The annual mean concentrations are presented as µg/m³.

All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure A.6 – Annual Mean PM_{2.5} Concentrations



Appendix B: Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2025

Table B.1 – NO₂ 2025 Diffusion Tube Results (µg/m³)

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted (0.92)	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
1	523771	224090	29.2	25.8	22.3	15.4	11.1	11.7	12.0	12.7	15.6	-	9.7	19.8	16.8	15.5		Tube Missing October
3	524345	224468	31.3	20.2	20.1	14.2	9.3	-	11.1	14.1	13.7	-	-	17.8	16.9	15.5		Tube Missing June, October, and November
4	525373	226985	27.4	22.0	17.2	15.8	9.8	9.0	11.5	9.9	11.9	14.2	10.3	17.7	14.7	13.5		
7	523278	225479	35.3	26.7	30.8	21.8	18.8	18.6	19.0	19.6	19.1	21.6	14.0	23.7	22.4	20.6		
9	526652	223438	26.2	20.0	22.2	16.0	13.8	14.8	16.4	9.0	11.4	15.5	10.8	17.9	16.2	14.9		
10	522075	225568	26.6	21.9	20.9	13.2	12.0	13.4	14.1	9.5	13.6	16.6	10.4	20.8	16.1	14.8		
11	522126	224862	25.4	21.1	18.1	11.6	8.7	9.7	10.8	10.3	11.1	13.1	7.8	13.6	13.4	12.4		
12	522955	223335	17.7	18.2	20.4	14.2	11.3	7.1	7.9	10.5	11.3	11.4	8.1	16.4	12.9	11.8		
13	523070	226070	27.8	20.9	18.0	10.7	10.0	11.2	12.7	10.3	15.0	15.1	11.4	18.4	15.1	13.9		
17	522700	226550	41.0	36.4	34.0	28.4	28.6	31.5	29.9	29.6	25.7	29.1	18.1	32.2	30.4	28.0		
18	525425	224183	20.3	14.8	12.5	8.3	4.9	6.2	6.5	7.4	7.7	4.9	7.0	12.6	9.4	8.7		
19	522700	226570	35.4	30.0	33.3	22.6	-	18.2	23.5	17.7	21.7	25.3	16.4	28.6	24.8	22.8		Tube Missing May
21	523128	225677	28.7	24.3	22.4	18.8	13.0	11.5	13.4	12.6	15.1	17.2	11.3	21.3	17.5	16.1		
22	523360	224786	28.7	26.3	23.9	18.3	15.5	13.2	14.4	17.0	18.0	18.8	12.0	21.8	19.0	17.5		
23	523014	226029	33.4	33.0	35.4	32.6	12.4	19.2	20.5	21.4	21.3	23.0	14.4	26.5	24.4	22.5		

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted (0.92)	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
24	525987	226368	32.8	27.1	27.1	24.6	20.4	19.9	19.9	22.9	19.8	22.3	10.0	21.7	22.4	20.6		
26	524542	225654	30.5	21.2	18.9	14.6	8.3	9.8	8.8	11.9	13.0	12.3	11.3	19.6	15.0	13.8		
28	526078	224818	29.2	23.3	24.1	19.0	12.3	11.2	15.0	12.3	13.8	16.6	10.0	19.8	17.2	15.8		
31	525160	223069	28.7	20.5	21.8	13.9	10.7	12.2	12.2	11.7	16.0	15.1	10.2	20.2	16.1	14.8		
34	523697	225920	38.2	36.4	38.3	29.7	27.3	32.9	25.3	33.1	31.4	32.0	20.1	30.5	31.3	28.8		
35	527020	221097	27.0	23.9	21.0	17.9	16.9	14.1	15.6	14.4	12.6	15.7	9.5	15.8	17.0	15.7		
37	522608	225880	28.0	22.4	22.1	15.1	13.6	11.7	12.2	-	13.6	14.5	9.1	17.3	16.3	15.0		Tube Missing August
38	523406	225035	28.3	30.3	30.0	27.8	18.1	17.3	18.4	20.4	17.6	16.6	13.8	20.1	21.5	19.8		
39	523319	225021	32.7	28.0	27.4	18.4	16.4	18.5	17.6	20.8	20.9	15.8	14.6	23.6	21.2	19.5		
40	524097	222765	40.1	28.3	23.5	26.6	17.8	18.7	24.6	19.7	17.1	22.1	11.2	23.0	22.7	20.9		
41	523981	224264	27.3	24.7	23.1	14.8	12.1	12.5	13.8	14.5	16.8	17.6	12.0	21.6	17.6	16.2		

☒ All erroneous data has been removed from the NO₂ diffusion tube dataset presented in Table B.1.

☒ Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22.

☐ Local bias adjustment factor used.

☒ National bias adjustment factor used.

☒ Where applicable, data has been distance corrected for relevant exposure in the final column.

☒ Stevenage Borough Council confirm that all 2025 diffusion tube data has been uploaded to the Diffusion Tube Data Entry System.

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

Appendix C: Supporting Technical Information / Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

New or Changes Sources Identified within Stevenage During 2025

Stevenage Borough Council has not identified any new sources relating to air quality during the reporting year of 2025.

Additional Air Quality Works Undertaken by Stevenage Borough Council During 2025

Stevenage Borough Council has not completed any additional air quality works during the reporting year of 2025.

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

During the 2025 monitoring year, diffusion tubes were supplied and analysed by Gradko International, using the 50% TEA in acetone preparation method. Gradko International are a UKAS accredited laboratory and participate in the AIR-PT scheme for NO₂ diffusion tube analysis and Annual Field Intercomparison Exercise. These provide strict criteria relating to performance that participating laboratories must meet, ensuring that the reported NO₂ concentrations are of a high calibre. For all AIR-PT rounds for diffusion tubes analysed during 2025, Gradko International received the following scores:

- January – February 2025 (AIR-PT AR068) = 50%.
- April – June 2025 (AIR-PT AR069) = 75%.
- July – September 2025 (AIR-PT AR071) = 100%.
- October – December 2025 (AIR-PT AR072) = 100%.

The percentage score reflects the results deemed satisfactory based on the z-score of ± 2 .

Additionally, the precision of the NO₂ diffusion tubes (50% TEA in acetone) supplied by Gradko International was classified as 'good' for all 18 observations in 2025. This reflects the laboratory's performance and consistency in preparing and analysing the diffusion

tubes, as well as the subsequent handling of the tubes in the field. Tubes are considered to have 'good' precision where the coefficient of variation of duplicate or triplicate diffusion tubes for either or more monitoring periods during the year is less than 20%. Further information on the precision results is available on the [LAQM Website](#).

Diffusion Tube Deployment Calendar

During 2025, the diffusion tubes deployed by Stevenage Borough Council adhered to the dates outlined on the Defra monitoring calendar.

Diffusion Tube Data Capture

During 2025, the diffusion tube monitoring network was well maintained by Stevenage Borough Council, with all sites obtaining a minimum data capture of 75%. Throughout the full monitoring year, a total of only six monthly concentrations were missing across the entire diffusion tube network, which included:

- Site 1 = 1 month missing (October);
- Site 3 = 3 months missing (June, October, November);
- Site 19 = 1 month (May); and
- Site 37 = 1 month (August).

Therefore, from the 41 diffusion tubes deployed for 12 months, a total of 492 monthly concentrations would have expected to have been received. Accounting for the six missing months of data, the data capture rate across the entire diffusion tube monitoring network during 2025 was 99%, indicating that the monitoring network was well maintained in 2025.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring sites within Stevenage recorded a data capture of 75% or greater in 2025, therefore it was not required to annualise any diffusion tube data.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

The diffusion tube data presented within the 2025 ASR has been corrected for bias using an adjustment factor. Bias represents the overall tendency of the diffusion tubes to under- or over-read relative to the reference chemiluminescent analyser. LAQM.TG22 provides guidance with regard to the application of a bias adjustment factor to correct diffusion tube monitoring. Triplicate co-location studies can be used to determine a local bias adjustment factor based on the comparison of diffusion tube results with data taken from a NO_x/NO₂ continuous analyser. Alternatively, the national database of diffusion tube co-location surveys provides national factors for the relevant laboratory and preparation method.

Stevenage Borough Council do not undertake a triplicate co-location study and, therefore, have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.92 to the 2025 monitoring data presented in the ASR (as shown in Figure C.1). The national bias adjustment factor spreadsheet (version 03/26) was used to identify the factor for 50% TEA in acetone diffusion tubes analysed by Gradko. A summary of the bias adjustment factors used by Stevenage Borough Council over the past five years is presented in Table C.1.

Figure C.1 – National Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet (03/26)

National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet					Spreadsheet Version Number: 03/26							
Follow the steps below in the correct order to show the results of relevant co-location studies								This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of June 2026 LAQM Helpdesk Website				
Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods												
Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet												
This spreadsheet will be updated every few months: the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.												
The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with contract partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory.					Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.							
Step 1:		Step 2:	Step 3:	Step 4:								
Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List		Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List	Select a Year from the Drop-Down List	Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor ⁴ shown in blue at the foot of the final column.								
If a laboratory is not shown, we have no data for this laboratory.		If a preparation method is not shown, we have no data for this method at this laboratory.	If a year is not shown, we have no data ³	If you have your own co-location study then see footnote ⁴ . If uncertain what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953								
Analysed By ¹		Method ²	Year ³	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m ³)	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m ³)	Bias (B)	Tube Precision ⁵	Bias Adjustment Factor (A) (Cm/Dm)	
-X		-Y	-Z									
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	UB	City Of London Corporation	12	24	22	8.4%	G	0.92	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	City Of London Corporation	12	31	28	9.8%	G	0.91	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	Lb Hounslow	10	31	25	22.1%	G	0.82	
Gradko		50% TEA in Acetone	2025	UC	Falkirk Council	11	27	25	6.1%	G	0.94	
Gradko		50% TEA in Acetone	2025	UB	Falkirk Council	11	11	15	-22.6%	G	1.29	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	KS	Marylebone Road Intercomparison	12	37	31	17.7%	G	0.85	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	SU	Redcar And Cleveland Borough Council	12	11	9	29.0%	G	0.78	
Gradko		50% TEA in Acetone	2025	R	London Borough Of Merton	12	27	22	22.7%	G	0.81	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	UB	London Borough Of Wandsworth	12	20	18	9.0%	G	0.92	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames	12	15	18	-17.8%	G	1.22	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	KS	London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames	10	30	26	15.9%	G	0.86	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	B	London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames	12	13	13	1.5%	G	0.99	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	Sandwell Mbc	11	28	24	16.6%	G	0.86	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	UB	Sandwell Mbc	11	19	20	-5.2%	G	1.05	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	UB	City Of York Council	12	13	12	13.4%	G	0.88	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	City Of York Council	12	20	19	6.6%	G	0.94	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	City Of York Council	10	16	15	7.0%	G	0.93	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025	R	City Of York Council	11	21	18	18.1%	G	0.85	
Gradko		50% TEA in acetone	2025		Overall Factor ⁴ (18 studies)					Use		0.92

Table C.1 – Bias Adjustment Factor

Monitoring Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2025	National	03/26	0.92
2024	National	04/25	0.88
2023	National	03/24	0.83
2022	National	03/23	0.82
2021	National	03/23	0.82

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

Wherever possible, monitoring locations are representative of exposure. However, where this is not possible, the NO₂ concentration at the nearest location relevant for exposure has been estimated using the Diffusion Tube Data Processing Tool/NO₂ fall-off with distance calculator available on the LAQM Support website.

During 2025, no diffusion tube site within Stevenage required distance correction.

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

Automatic measurements of PM_{2.5} were made using a Beta Attenuation Mass (BAM) 1020 monitor, whilst automatic measurements of NO₂ were made using a Cura Terrae (CT) Model 200E chemiluminescent analyser. All measurements logged by the analysers were collected by Cura Terrae each hour. The data from the automatic monitoring station was validated by Ricardo using the most up-to-date calibration factors and was disseminated in real time on the [Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Quality Network Website](#).

PM_{2.5} Monitoring Adjustment

The type of PM_{2.5} analyser (BAM 1020) used at the St Georges Way (South) automatic monitoring station does not require the application of a correction factor. This is outlined in Section 7.167 of LAQM.TG22:

“The Met One PM_{2.5} Smart Heated BAM 1020 can be used by local authorities without the need for correction for slope and/or intercept”.

Automatic Monitoring Annualisation

The St Georges Way (South) automatic monitoring station recorded a data capture greater than 75% in 2025 for both NO₂ (99.6%) and PM_{2.5} (98.2%), therefore it was not required to annualise any automatic monitoring data.

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

Wherever possible, monitoring locations are representative of exposure. However, where this is not possible, the NO₂ concentration at the nearest location relevant for exposure has been estimated using the NO₂ fall-off with distance calculator available on the LAQM Support website.

The data from the automatic monitoring station on St Georges Way (South) was not required to be corrected for distance to relevant exposure.

Appendix D: Maps of Monitoring Locations

Figure D.1 – Map of Monitoring Sites (Stevenage Overview)

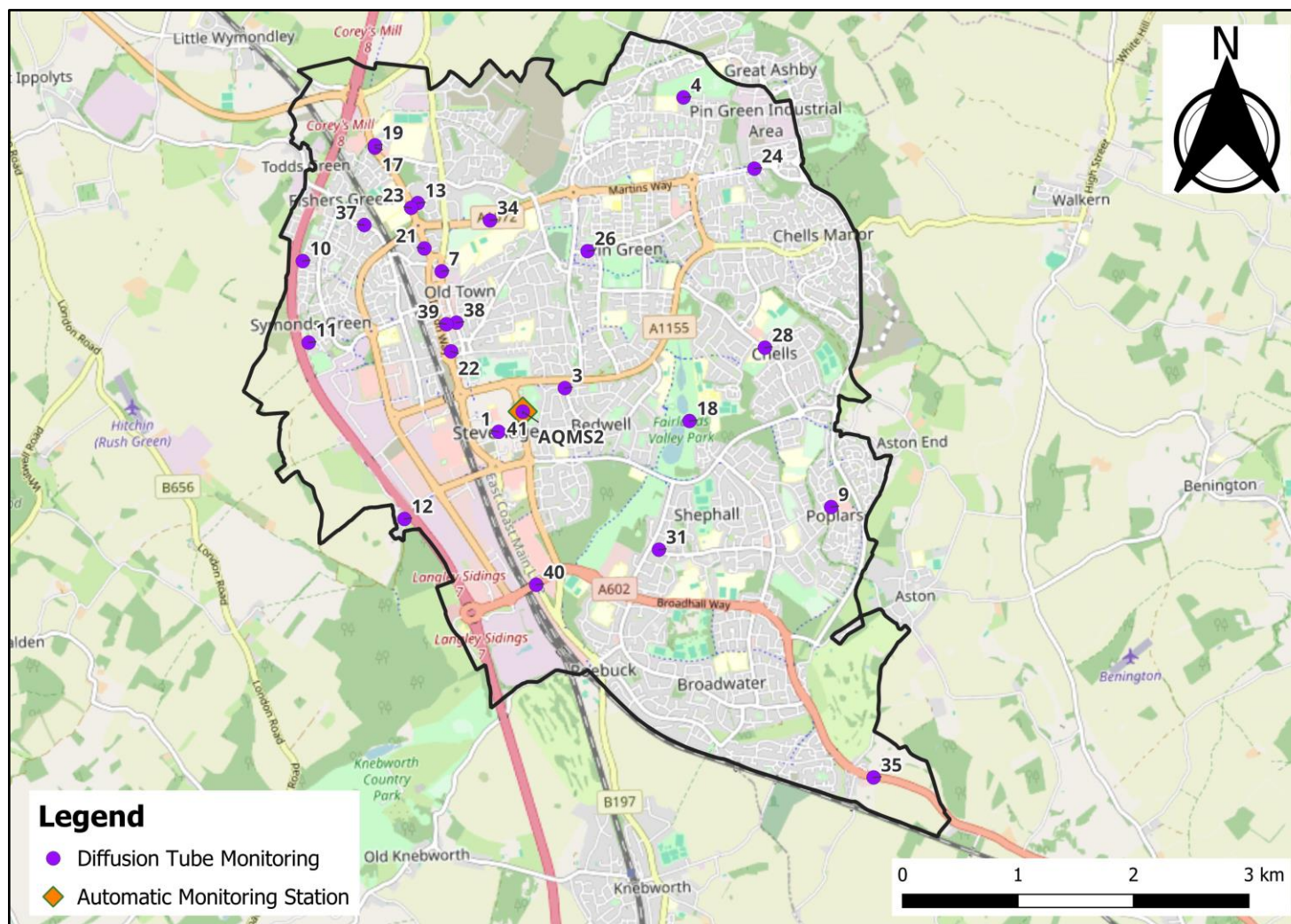


Figure D.2 – Map of Monitoring Sites (South of the Borough)

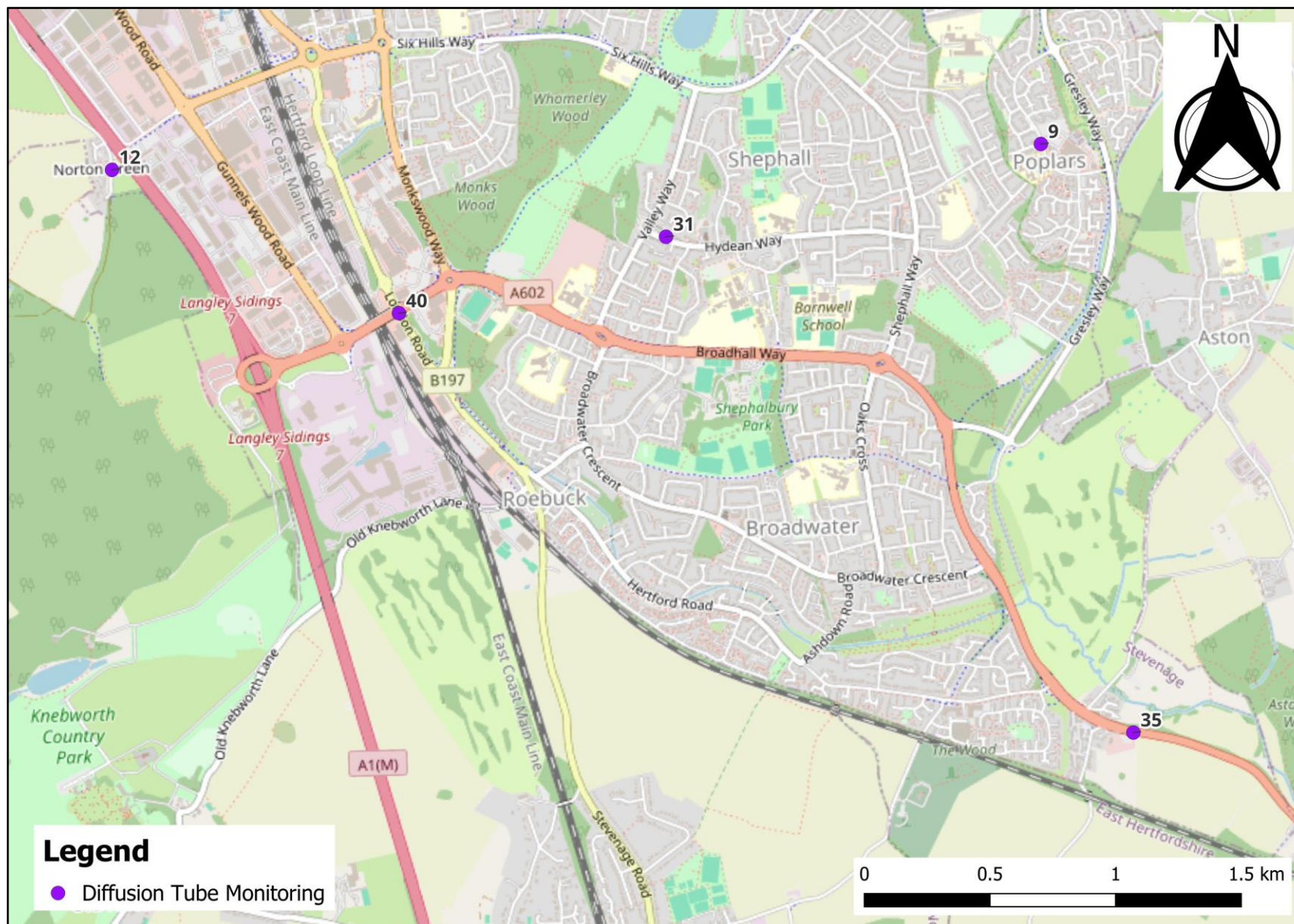


Figure D.3 – Map of Monitoring Sites (East of the Borough)

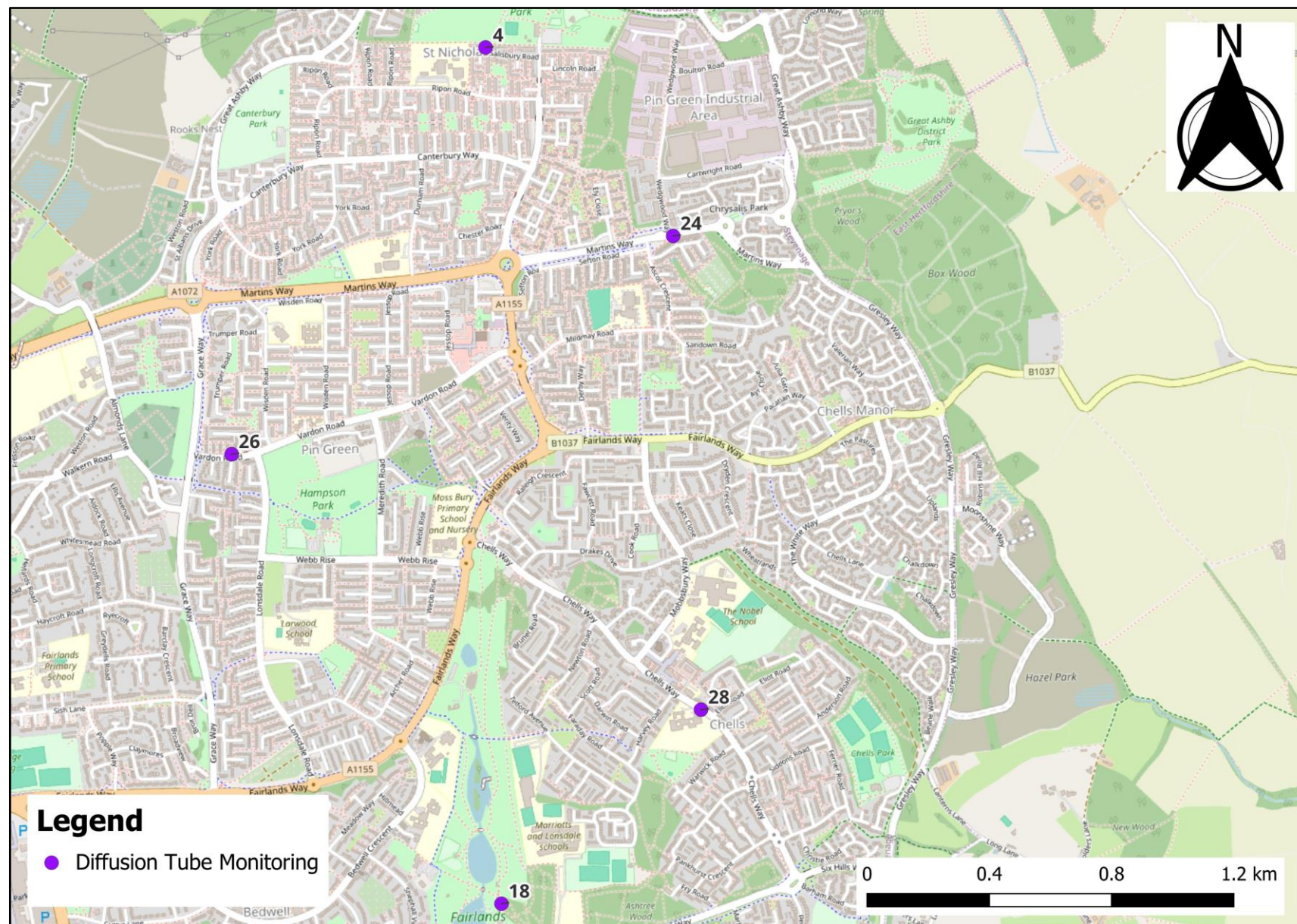
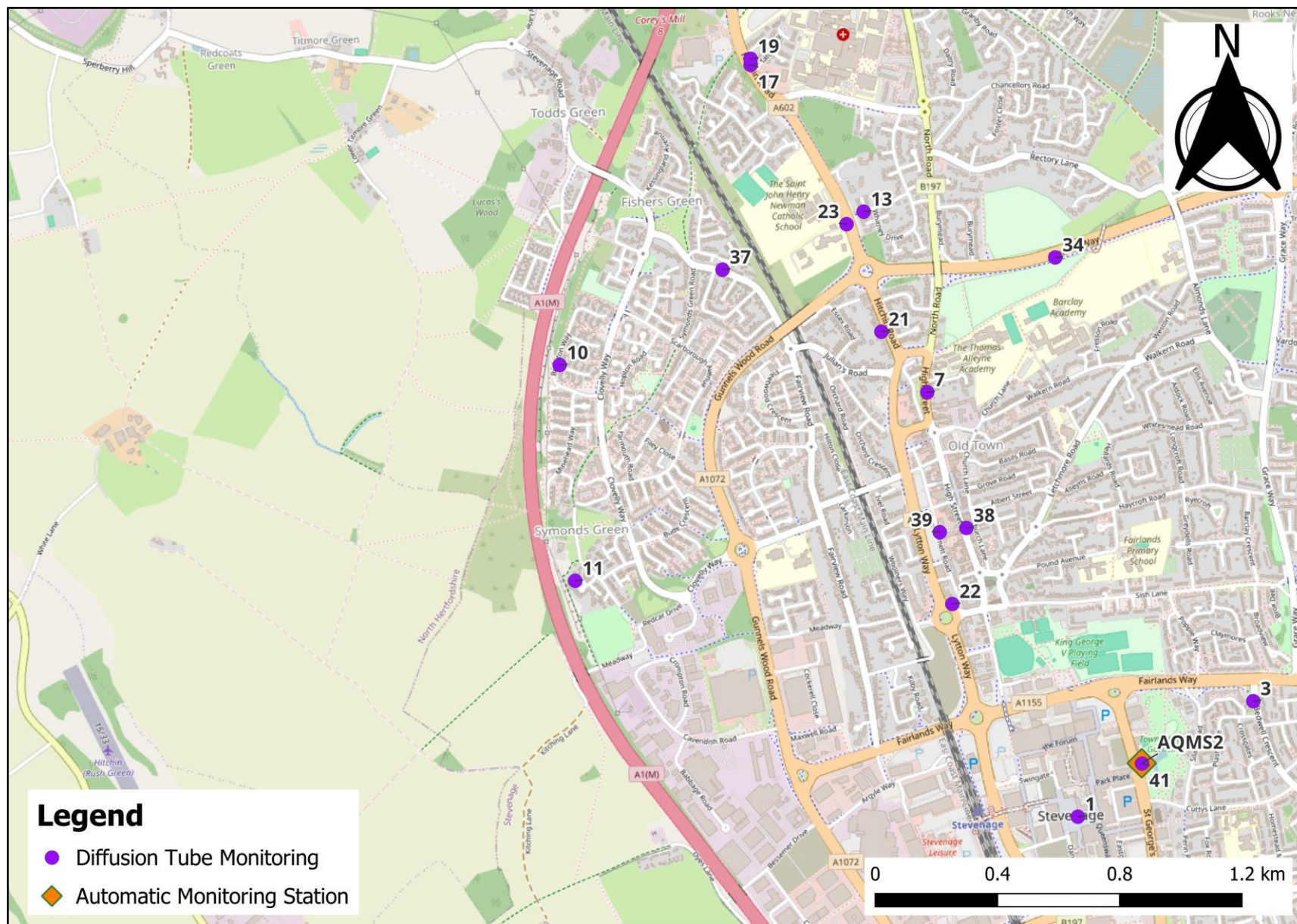


Figure D.4 – Map of Monitoring Sites (West of the Borough)



Appendix E: Summary of Air Quality Objectives in England

Table E.1 – Air Quality Objectives in England⁴

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	350µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	125µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	266µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean

⁴ The units are in microgrammes of pollutant per cubic metre of air (µg/m³).

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the local authority intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
ASR	Annual Status Report
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by National Highways
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm or less
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide

References

- [Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery](#). August 2023.
Published by Defra.
- [Chemical Hazards and Poisons Report: Issue 28](#). June 2022. Published by UK Health Security Agency
- [Hertfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy \(Draft\)](#). November 2025.
Published by Hertfordshire County Council.
- [Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG22](#). August 2022.
Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.
- [Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22](#). August 2022.
Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.