

Local Authority:	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Reference:	ASR20-0491
Date of issue	July 2020

Annual Status Report Appraisal 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.

There are 2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared across Bracknell Forest Borough Council. AQMA: “Area 1: The Bagshot Road (A322) Horse and Groom Roundabout Downshire Way AQMA” and “AQMA: “Area 2: The Bracknell Road (B3348) and Crowthorne High Street, Crowthorne AQMA”.

The Council undertook automatic monitoring of NO₂ at 1 location during 2019, Downshire Way. The annualised annual mean was 33.6 µg/m³ and there were no exceedances of the 1-hour air quality objective. Passive monitoring of NO₂ took place via diffusion tube monitoring at 21 locations. During 2019, there was 1 exceedance across the passive monitoring network, tube 58xyz at Pine View Bracknell Road, where the NO₂ concentrations rose to 41.5 µg/m³ (36.9 µg/m³ after distance correction). This site is located within AQMA Area 2.

The Council also measures PM₁₀ at 1 location in the Crowthorne AQMA. The annual mean concentration was 17.8 µg/m³ and there were 6 occasions where the 24-hour mean objective.

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2019 monitoring data, outlining the information clearly with respect to the laboratory used for analysis of the diffusion tubes. Both national and local bias adjustment factor have been determined and the higher factor was applied to be conservative. Annualisation was carried in accordance with LAQM.TG16 and distance-correction was conducted for 1 diffusion tube location. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified.

In the report, the Council has detailed measures and plans to continue to address air quality within its administrative boundaries. The main focus is stated to be within AQMA areas. These include the measures described in the Local Transport plan: aiming to reduce traffic congestion and traffic delays, the reduction of GHGs from local vehicles and the promotion of the sustainable public transportation means available to the Council’s residents.

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, Bracknell Forest Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

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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. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied. Distance correction calculations could be provided in future.
2. Annualisation for the diffusion tube site (124 - #229 Yorktown Road) and the automatic site on Bracknell Downshire Way (NO₂ and PM₁₀) was carried out in line with TG(16) guidance, all calculations provided.
3. The Council has included discussion and presented the NO₂ trends observed in both of the AQMAs located within the Council's boundaries.
4. The local monitoring strategy has been updated during the present year and justifications have been given. The movement of monitoring locations is welcomed, allowing the Council to prioritise other areas of higher air pollution as concentrations surrounding the AQMA have been below the Air Quality Objective. This demonstrates the Council's proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across Bracknell.
5. The comments from last year's ASR have been addressed.
6. The Council has multiple measures in place that will help to tackle PM_{2.5}. The Public Health Outcomes Frameworks were referred to, and this is encouraged to continue.
7. The report is a good source for members of the Public to find out about air quality in their area. The Council should continue their hard work.

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 Status 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

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
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Comments on appraisal/Further information: