

2012 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment

Addendum:

Cribbs Causeway AQMA

South Gloucestershire Council proposed the revocation of the Cribbs Causeway air quality management area (AQMA) in its 2012 Updating and Screening Assessment (USA). The appraisal of USA by Defra in February 2013, however, recommended the Cribbs Causeway air quality management area (AQMA) be retained, pending further monitoring results.

While the 2011 (and 2010) monitoring results were below the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide, pollutant concentrations can vary significantly from one year to another. Consequently, Defra advised the Council should wait and review further monitoring data before making the decision to revoke the AQMA or not.

The Council has accepted Defra's recommendation to retain the Cribbs Causeway AQMA. Triplicate diffusion tube monitoring, which is considered to be more robust, has been set up at the façade of the single property within the AQMA. These results will be reported in the 2014 Progress Report. In the meantime, 2012 data will be reported in the 2013 Air Quality Progress Report.

As the AQMA can be only be revoked through a detailed assessment or Updating and Screening Assessment, any decision as to whether to revoke the AQMA or not is likely to be made in the next USA due in 2015. By this time, the Council will have 5 years of monitoring data, of which 2 years will be triplicate monitoring. It is proposed to review the situation at this stage when there may also be a clearer picture of the future development proposed for the Cribbs Causeway area, which could impact on the AQMA.

This addendum updates the position with regard to any references to the Cribbs Causeway AQMA in the 2012 USA.

April 2013

Executive Summary

This Updating and Screening Assessment has been carried out in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 which requires local authorities to review and assess air quality within their administrative area. The Updating and Screening Assessment includes a review of all the monitoring data for 2011, where the results are compared with national air quality objectives, and screens for various potential sources of pollution within South Gloucestershire in accordance with the Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 2009 (LAQM.TG(09)).

The Updating and Screening Assessment has concluded the following:

- While there are still exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective, these are either:
 - within the Kingswood and Staple Hill air quality management areas (AQMAs), confirming that the AQMAs are still justified; or
 - where relevant exposure is set back from the monitoring site so, when adjusted for distance, the concentrations are below the objective.
- There is however, one location in Warmley High Street (site 116) with relevant exposure and not within an AQMA that potentially exceeds the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective. A Detailed Assessment will be required to confirm the exceedence and investigate the extent of the potential air quality problem in this area. This location was also identified as a potential road traffic source, being a narrow, congested street with residential properties close to the kerb, which also triggers the need for the Detailed Assessment.
- The 2011 monitoring results for the Cribbs Causeway AQMA show nitrogen dioxide concentrations are below the annual mean objective. Following on from the Further Assessment report conclusions, this now provides sufficient evidence the annual mean objective has been met within the AQMA at locations of relevant exposure and confirms the AQMA is no longer required. The appropriate course of action is to proceed with the revocation of the Cribbs Causeway AQMA.

Proposed Actions

South Gloucestershire Council will initiate a Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide in Warmley High Street with a view to submitting the report to Defra by the end of April 2014 following a year of monitoring. The revocation of the Cribbs Causeway AQMA will proceed and a formal revocation order will be made. Current monitoring will continue across the district and the results will be reported to Defra in a Review and Assessment Progress Report by the end of April 2013, along with an update on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Kingswood and Staple Hill AQMAs.