



<https://sussex-air.net/>

- Sussex Air is a partnership, set up in 2000, comprised of officers from all 15 Local Authorities in Sussex
- All partners pay an annual subscription
- Hosted by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC)
- Chaired jointly by Adur & Worthing Councils and Lewes-Eastbourne Councils
- Brighton & Hove and Horsham have led on DEFRA bids and funded projects
- Meet quarterly to discuss air quality policy and practice, review existing contract performance and work on joint project delivery, etc.

- Aim and objectives of the Partnership
 - Aim - assist partners with their Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties and improve air quality and health.
 - Objectives - to pool limited resources to provide:
 - air quality evidence base
 - information and advice to the public
 - strategic work/projects.

Data Management/Monitoring

- Coordination of a data management contract
- Contractor manages:
 - website
 - air quality monitoring data
 - assists with Annual Status Reports, Air Quality Action Plans and Air Quality Strategies.

Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)

- Places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to regularly review and assess air quality and to determine whether air quality objectives are likely to be achieved
- If exceedances are likely, LAs must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out how they propose to reduce levels of pollutants
- LA's with no AQMA must produce an Air Quality Strategy (AQS)
- LA's must produce an Annual Status Report (ASR) for Defra
- ASR details progress of measures in AQAP or AQS and air quality monitoring results and analysis.

The 'best' air is that which is of naturally occurring composition with the absence of any effects of man-made processes or any natural pollutants.

Boundary: A real or imagined line that marks the edge or limit of something.

Air Pollution is transboundary:

- recognises no administrative borders
- will travel where and when it pleases subject *only* to atmospheric conditions .

Definition of Transboundary – Air Quality Style.....

- Buncefield – a major fire in 2005 at the Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal
- Saharan Desert dust over UK
- Icelandic volcanic dust over UK
- Industrial Pollution from Europe to the UK
- Industrial Pollution from the UK to Scandinavian countries (1970's – 'Dirty Man of Europe')

This pollution forms the 'background' levels of a pollutant, then local pollution sources are factored in to give the overall levels in each geographical region.

Overview of Air Quality in Sussex

Mostly very good with the majority of the county having 'clean' air with low pollution.

However, a few areas with relatively higher average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM).

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are in place where levels above the annual objective concentration of NO₂ of 40µg/m³ are recorded.

Details of AQMAs are provided in Annual Status Reports which are available to download from the Sussex-air website:

<https://sussex-air.net/>

Air Quality Management Areas in Sussex

As of 1st October 2025, there are 14 Air Quality Management Areas in Sussex

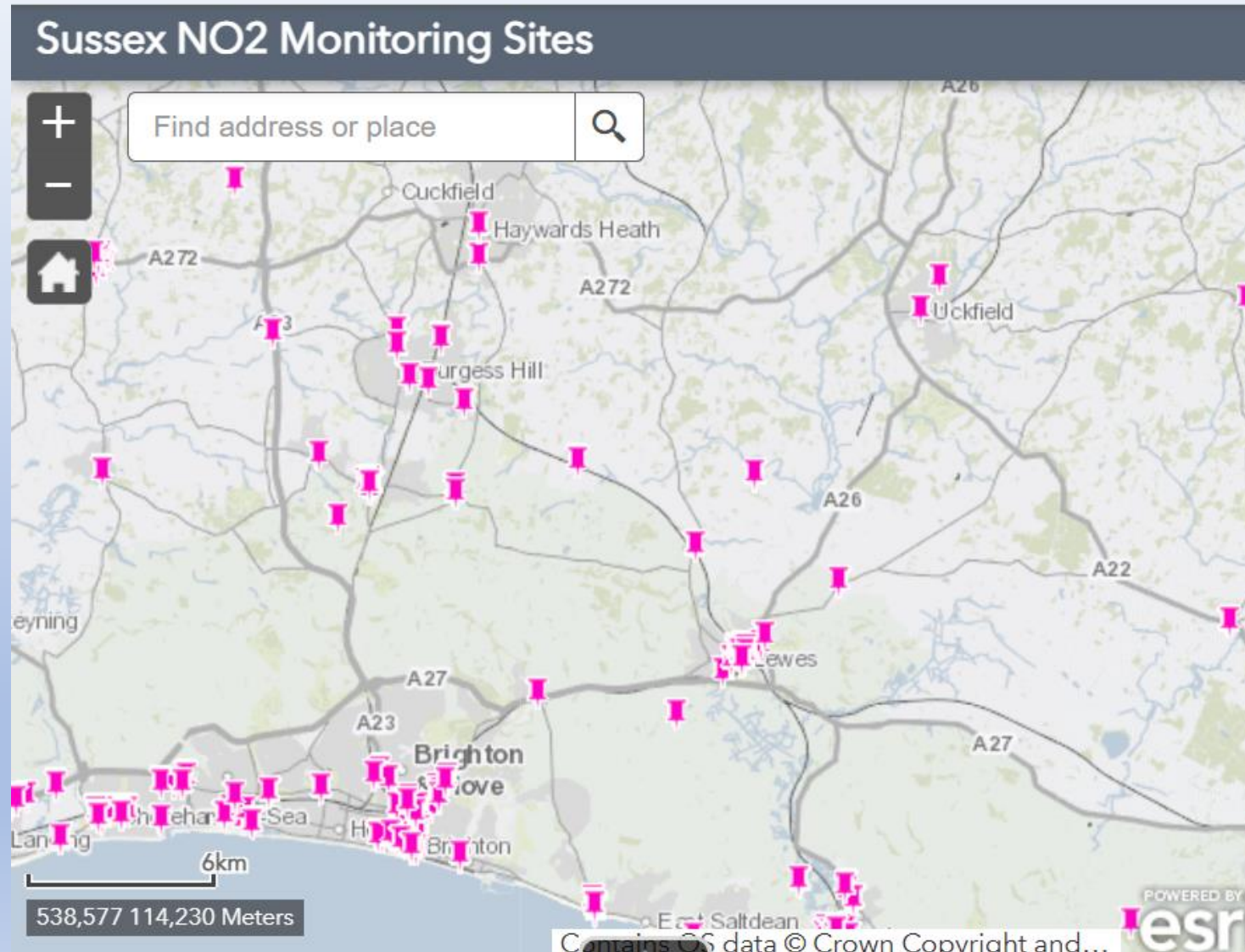
Sussex Local Authority Air Quality Management Areas

- Brighton & Hove CC x 6
- Chichester x 2
- Horsham x 2
- Lewes x 2
- Worthing x 1
- Crawley x 1

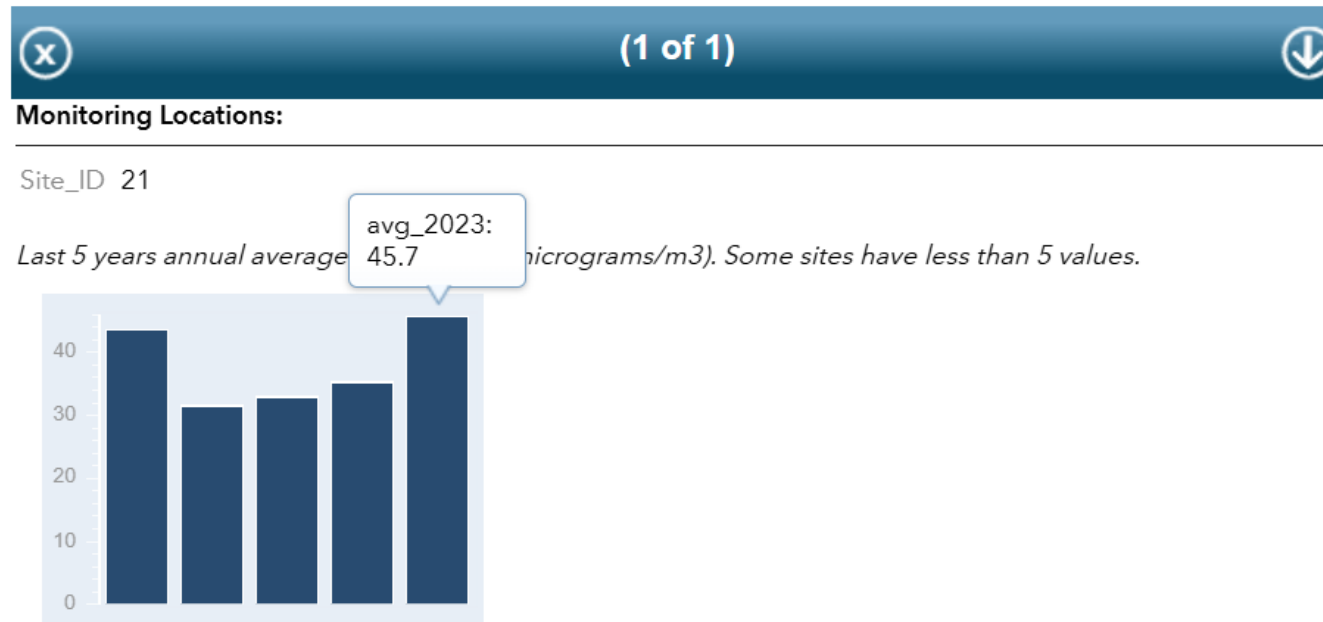
Traffic emissions (NO₂) are the cause of all breaches of air quality in Sussex. AQAPs for each authority detail how they aim to reduce levels in that area

All Local Authority Annual Status Reports (ASRs) are available on the Sussex-air website: <https://sussex-air.net/>

Current diffusion tube locations (NO₂ passive monitoring)



Trend data for a specific monitoring site over five years



Examples of what Sussex Authorities doing to tackle poor AQ

- Walking and cycling plans
- Funding for electric vehicle charging points
- Sussex Air Quality Planning Guidance document - provide advice to developers on how to assess and mitigate the impact of new developments on air quality
- Car clubs and car sharing
- Funding for bus companies to retrofit/phase out older Euro standard buses
- Working with Sustrans to promote active travel to school in Sussex through the Defra funded schools project since 2018
- Clean Burn project to encourage safer burning of solid fuels

Sustrans (Walk Wheel Cycle Trust)



National Planning Policy Framework

•Paragraph 199:

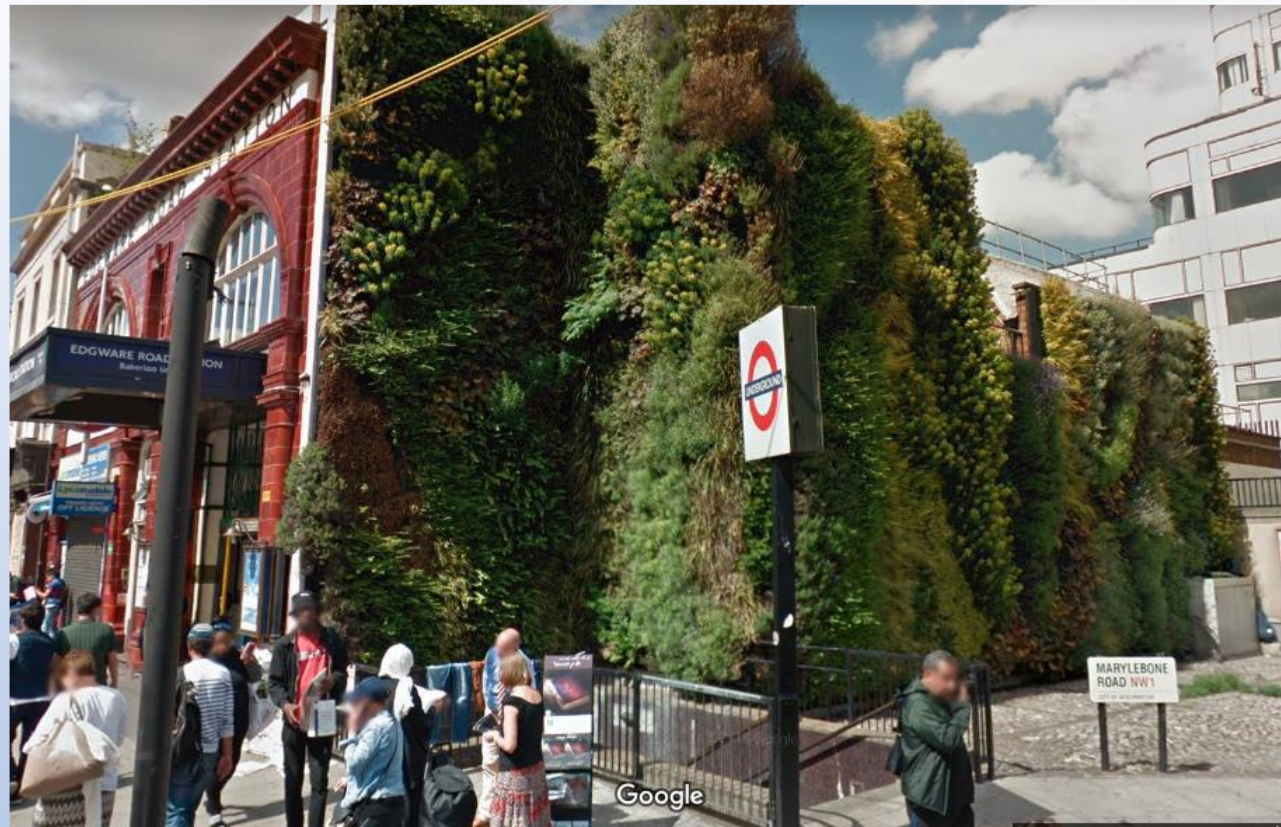
‘Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement.’

‘Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.’





Awareness raising of local air quality issues providing information and encouraging active travel.



Living green walls not only look good but help to capture airborne particulate matter.



The Air Quality
(Domestic Solid Fuels
Standards) (England)
Regulations 2020 came
into force in May 2023
and have brought about
an end to the sale of wet
wood and house coal.



Contact Details:

Jeanette Brown, Project Officer

Sussex Air Quality Partnership

Jeanette.Brown@midsussex.gov.uk

sussex-air.net