



Air Quality Annual Status Summary Report 2017

April 2018

Introduction

This report provides an overview of air quality in the London Borough of Southwark during 2017. The full Annual Status Report is available at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/air-quality/strategies-plans-and-reports>

The EU sets objective limits for a number of air pollutants that the UK must meet. The London Borough of Southwark is exceeding EU limits for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in parts of the borough. The main areas of concern are in the north west of the Borough and along the main roads and arterial routes. The London Borough of Southwark is required by the Government and the Mayor of London to monitor air pollution in the borough and to take action to reduce pollutant levels. The Government and the Mayor of London also have some responsibilities for taking action to reduce pollution.

Southwark currently meets the limits that are set by the EU for all other air pollutants of concern. We keep a watching brief on Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) because these pollutants have detrimental impacts on health and there are occasional poor air quality events due to trans-boundary particulate pollution originating from the continent.

The main sources of pollution in the borough are road transport, construction and gas boilers used to heat domestic and commercial premises.

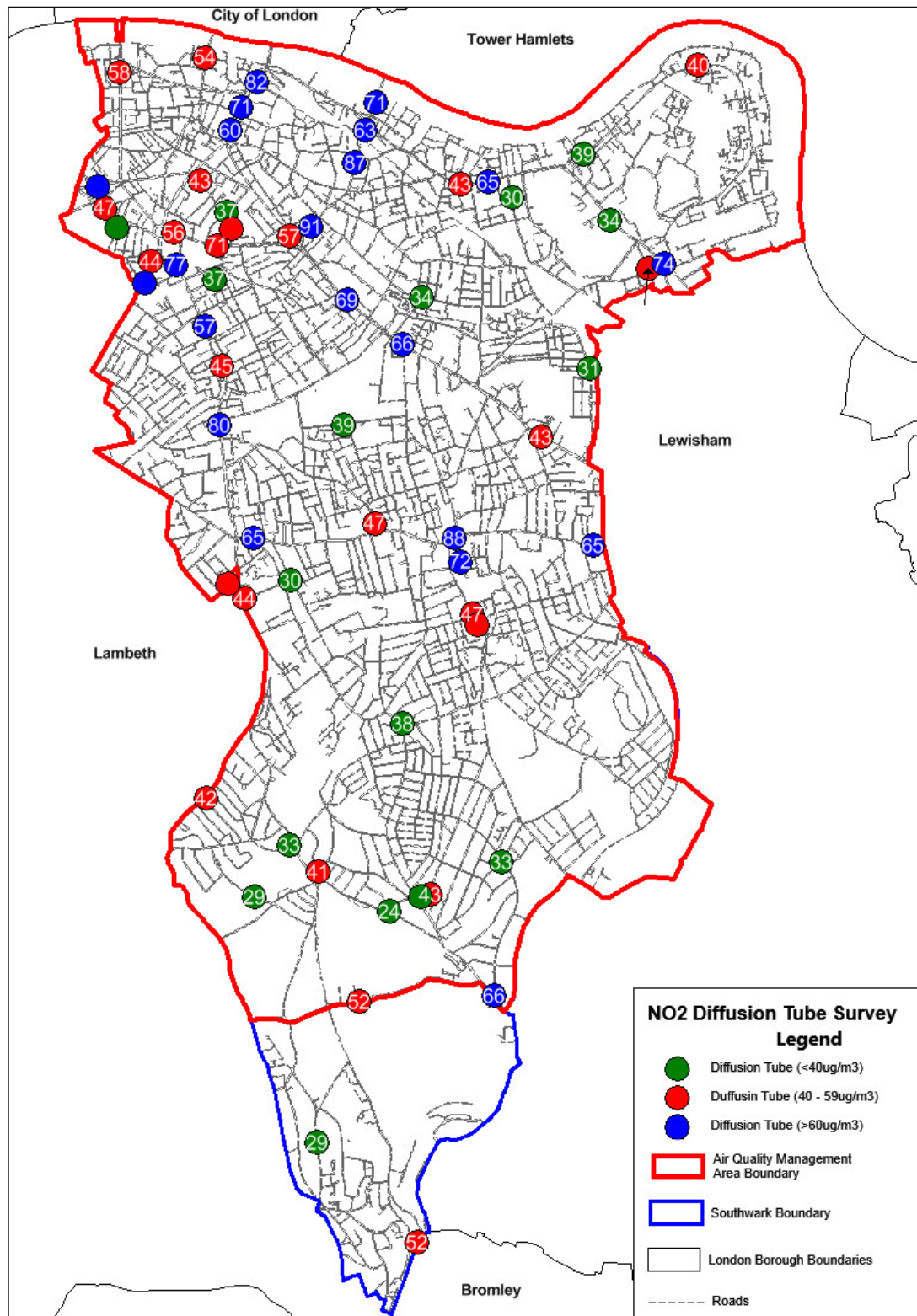
NO₂

We monitor NO₂ across the borough through a combination of highly accurate continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations and indicative low-cost diffusion tubes. In 2017 the levels of NO₂ a slight decrease overall.

PM₁₀

We monitor PM₁₀ at two continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations. In 2017, overall, levels of PM₁₀ showed no significant change.

NO₂ Monitoring



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Figure 1 – Map of NO₂ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Southwark, showing annual mean results from 2017

Key

On Figure 1, the circles represent NO₂ diffusion tubes. The EU limit value for annual mean NO₂ is 40µg.m⁻³. All monitoring sites that recorded NO₂ concentrations above this level are coloured in red and blue and all that are below this level are coloured in green. The numbers in each circle are the annual mean NO₂ concentration for 2017.

The results from the NO₂ diffusion tubes, that have been in place since 2012, show that the majority of locations have concentrations of NO₂ exceeding the EU Directive Objective Limit Values. In 2016 the NO₂ diffusion tube survey was extended to assist the authority in reviewing the Authority's Air Quality Management Area in the future.

The authority has two NO₂ continuous monitors in the Borough. These are co-located with the PM₁₀ monitors, the locations are shown in Figure 2. The annual mean concentration at the Elephant & Castle Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) was 34µg.m⁻³ and the annual mean concentration at the Old Kent Road AQMS was 42µg.m⁻³. The monitoring stations show that the annual means is above the EU Directive Nitrogen Dioxide Limit of 40µg.m⁻³ at the roadside station; however the background station is under by 6µg.m⁻³ of the objective.

The data for Old Kent Road shows that this monitoring station has exceeded the objective every year except in 2014 since its installation in 2011. Since 2013, the data for the Elephant & Castle has shown the annual concentrations of NO₂ have been decreasing to the current level.

Neither site breached the NO₂ hourly mean Air Quality Strategy objective limit of 200µg.m⁻³ in 2017.

PM₁₀ Monitoring

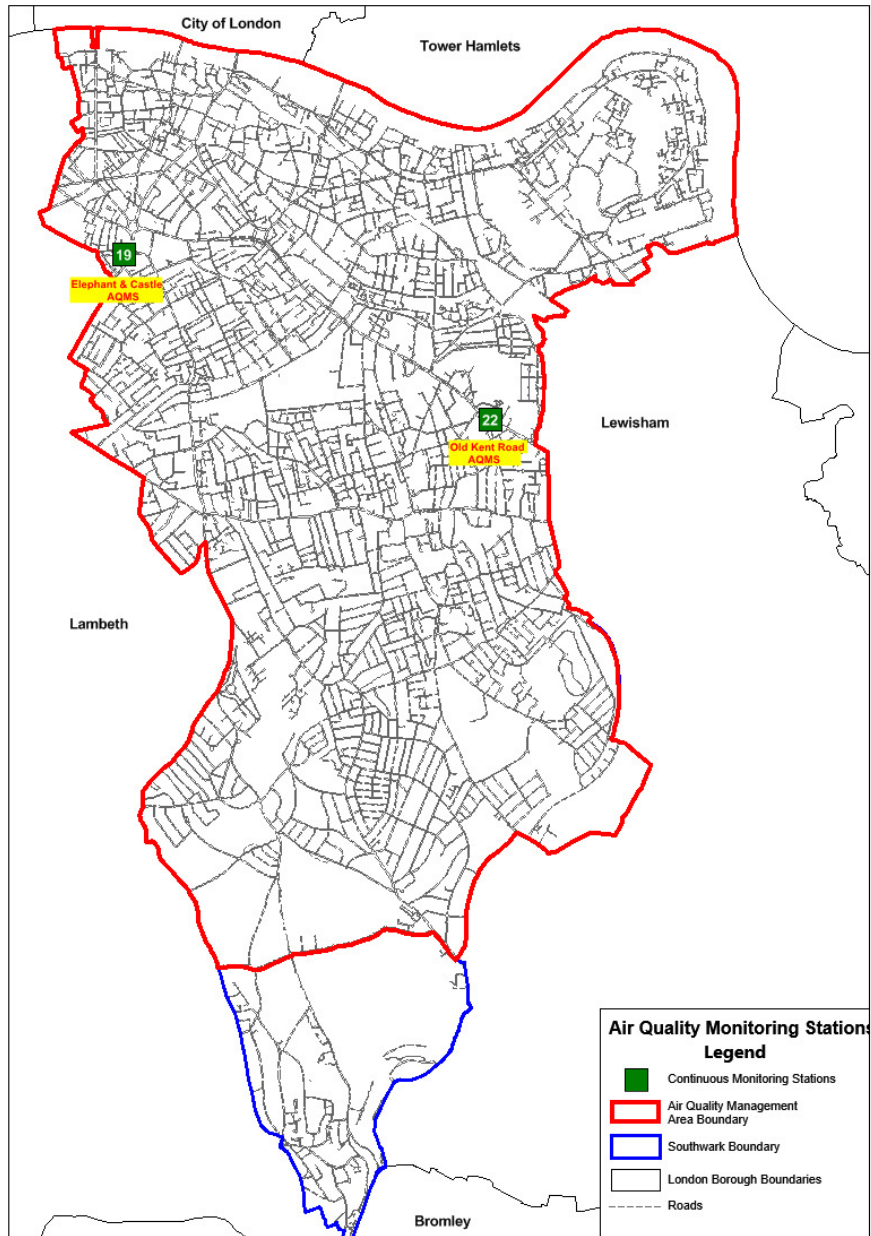


Figure 2 – Map of PM₁₀ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Southwark, showing annual mean results from 2016

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Key

The green squares represent continuous PM₁₀ monitors. The EU limit value for annual mean PM₁₀ is 40µg.m⁻³. All monitoring sites recorded levels beneath this threshold so are coloured green. The numbers in each square are the recorded annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations for 2017.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

The London Borough of Southwark main air quality achievements in 2017 were:

- The cabinet ratified the revised Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2022.
- The Authority commenced the enforcement of vehicle idling legislation at the beginning of 2018.
- The Authority's fleet has procured electric vehicles, to assess the operational viability of the vehicles.
- Work with several schools in the Borough to promote air quality and participated in two air quality audits for schools.
- Worked with Better Bankside and Team London Bridge to achieve funding for the Borough High Street Low Emission Neighbourhood.
- The Authority published its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Air Quality). The document can be viewed at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-in-southwark-jsna/wider-determinants-of-health?chapter=3>

Southwark's 3 main priorities to reduce exposure to poor air quality for the year ahead are:

- To tighten enforcement of the GLA's NRMM requirements on the construction sites in the Borough.
- To work with the GLA, to work towards implementing the recommendation of the GLA Air Quality Audit's subject to resources availability.
- To install a third continuous air quality monitoring station in the Borough.

Further information

For more information on air pollution in Southwark follow this link
<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/air-quality>

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