

Summary of the site history and the Revocation Assessment Report prepared for the Air Quality Management Area located at Stratford St. Andrew

The Council has a duty under the Local Air Quality Management Regime, introduced under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, to review and assess air quality within the district against the Governments set Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives. The AQS objectives for England are set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.

Where any of the objectives are exceeded, the Council must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce an Action Plan to improve the air quality so that levels fall below those set AQS objectives. The Action Plan sets out the measures the Council intend to put in place to reduce air pollutant levels and comply with the objectives.

With implementation of the Action Plan, and national policies aimed at reducing the emission of pollutants, it is expected that the air quality within AQMAs should improve and remain below the objectives. An AQMA can then be formally revoked by Order under section 83 of the Environment Act 1995.

East Suffolk Council complies with the above requirements by following Technical Guidance produced by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). All reports produced by East Suffolk Council can be found on our website at [Stratford St Andrew AQMA](#) [» East Suffolk Council](#)

In 2011 East Suffolk Council began monitoring for the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) on the A12 at Little Glemham, Farnham and Stratford St. Andrew. The results indicated that the site at Stratford St. Andrew (Long Row), measuring an annual mean NO₂ concentration of 43.3µg/m³, was above the national Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objective – set at 40µg/m³. Additional monitoring was undertaken on the A12 in Stratford St. Andrew which confirmed the exceedance at Long Row. All other locations monitored on the A12 were within the AQS objective.

In 2014, as required by legislation, an AQMA was declared covering the 4 houses in Long Row, Stratford St. Andrew for the annual mean NO₂ concentration. This AQMA is titled “The Suffolk Coastal District Council Air Quality management Area Order No3, 2014”.

A Steering Group was formed which included District and County Council Officers and Members, together with the Parish Council. The Steering Group drafted an Action Plan for public consultation, which was finalised in 2017. The Action Plan investigations suggested that the change in the southbound speed limit from 30mph to 50mph, located at the end of the Long Row houses, was a cause of increased emissions as vehicles began to accelerate level with the houses and was a large part of the problem. The Action Plan consists of two short term, priority action measures and six longer term aspirational measures. The main priority measure in the Action Plan was for Suffolk County Council to move the 30/50mph change of speed limit further south out of the village, and this was undertaken in December 2017. The second priority measure ‘Assessment of planning applications for impact on air

quality' has been implemented by The Environmental Protection team at East Suffolk Council for more than 20 years and is on-going.

Monitoring for NO₂ has continued, and since 2015 NO₂ levels within the AQMA have shown a downward trend, with the last exceedance seen in 2016 and the lowest recorded level to date in 2023 being 26.2µg/m³ - well below the objective level of 40µg/m³.

Defra has confirmed that the AQMA should now be revoked by the Council and a local air quality strategy prepared.

The revocation process necessitates an assessment to confirm that revocation is the correct course of action - that the National AQS objectives are now being met and that this is predicted to continue in the future. The revocation assessment has been produced on behalf of ESC by external consultants Aecom and can be viewed on the East Suffolk website at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-management-areas/stratford-st-andrew-agma>

The revocation assessment sets out the evidence relied upon by East Suffolk Council in seeking to revoke this AQMA. It considers;

- the monitoring data collected
- the projected roadside NO₂ concentrations 5 years into the future
- local and national trends in NO₂ emissions
- local and regional factors that may impact on the AQMA. This includes the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) planned to commence within East Suffolk.

The Development Consent Orders (DCOs) for Sizewell C, East Anglia ONE North and TWO Offshore Windfarms were assessed in detail for air quality impacts, both individually and in combination. No scenario was predicted to cause significant impacts within the AQMA at Stratford St. Andrew in the Early Years before completion of the bypass.

The revocation assessment concludes that having considered the historical monitoring data associated with The Suffolk Coastal District Council AQMA Order No. 3, national trends in emissions and any likely local impacts on the air quality within the AQMA, the Council is satisfied that the AQMA can be revoked. Whilst NO₂ concentrations within the AQMA have been consistently below the AQS objective for six years, it has also been demonstrated that this is likely to continue with the highest future predictions within the AQMA in 2028 being 20.1µg/m³.

The report recommends that the AQMA be revoked at the earliest opportunity. **If the decision is made to revoke the AQMA, as recommended by Defra, this will not alter our monitoring regime - the Council will continue to monitor air quality in Stratford St. Andrew and along the A12.** In addition, as per paragraph 4.12 of LAQM.PG(22), the Council's published Air Quality Strategy will effectively supersede local action planning work in the event of revocation, ensuring continued air quality improvements beyond statutory designations.