
Local Authority:	South Kesteven District Council
Reference:	ASR22-1349
Date of issue	July 2022

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by South Kesteven District Council as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared across South Kesteven District Council, which encompasses Manthorpe Road, Wharf Road, High Street and London Road within Grantham. As a result, South Kesteven District Council published their standalone Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) in 2016. Since this is now 6 years old, the Council should consider updating this within the next reporting year, or if it is determined that the AQMA is no longer required, they should begin the process of revoking the AQMA.

South Kesteven District Council do not currently undertake any automatic monitoring; however they undertake passive monitoring of NO₂ at 35 sites, with a total of 58 individual diffusion tubes deployed with some duplicate and triplicate sites. During 2021, there were no exceedances of the AQO recorded at any of the passive monitoring sites. The maximum recorded concentration was 36.6 µg/m³ at duplicate monitoring location SK33/34, located on A607 Manthorpe Road in the Grantham AQMA. Overall, the general trend shows that concentrations of NO₂ are decreasing in the area, however, there has been a slight increase observed in concentrations from 2020 to 2021, as traffic levels within the area are starting to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The Council have included a detailed discussion of their approach to reducing PM_{2.5} concentrations and emissions in the local area, and the Council have declared 42 Smoke Control Areas (SCA's), where only authorised fuels and 'exempt appliances' are not subject to the rules. The Council have also included the D01 indicator from the Public Health Outcomes Framework, which shows that the area has a fraction of mortality of 5.0%, which is both below the average for England overall (5.6%) and the East Midlands region (5.2%).

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2021 monitoring data with a relevant national bias adjustment factor having been determined and selected, as a local bias adjustment factor could not be derived due to a lack of co-location studies at any roadside locations. No annualisation was required for the monitoring data in 2021 due to data capture being sufficiently high. Nor was any distance correction carried out for the 2021 monitoring data. All calculations that were carried out were clearly outlined and justified.

Local Authority:	South Kesteven District Council
Reference:	ASR22-1349
Date of issue	July 2022

The Council has detailed its plans and measures to address the issue of air quality within its administrative boundaries. There are 10 measures to improve air quality within the area. Some examples which have been included are the improvement of traffic management at key junctions within the AQMA, the rolling programme of replacing their fleet with newer, cleaner vehicles and increasing the number of cycle lanes to make cycling a more attractive mode of transport. The Council have also highlighted their completed measures which include the reduction in idling traffic and the promotion of cleaner or alternative fuels where possible.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are accepted for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, South Kesteven District Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2023.

Local Authority:	South Kesteven District Council
Reference:	ASR22-1349
Date of issue	July 2022

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. Comments from last year's ASR have been mentioned and addressed, which is welcomed, and it is encouraged that this continues with future ASRs.
2. The AQAP is now six years old and is therefore due for review next year.
3. All graphs are well presented and are clear to read, with the addition of the AQO allowing for visual analysis of the monitoring data. Formatting is consistent between all charts. The Council have also provided a detailed discussion of these trends.
4. The Council should consider the relocation of some monitoring sites where there has been continuously low concentrations for a number of years, for example site SK3.
5. Overall, the report is detailed and provides a good insight into the work that South Kesteven District Council are doing within its area, and all of the measures it has put in place to improve air quality.

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 Annual Status 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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

Local Authority:	South Kesteven District Council
Reference:	ASR22-1349
Date of issue	July 2022

Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: