



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Local Authority Officer	Tim Griffin
Department	Public Protection Service, Environmental Protection Team.
Address	Municipal Offices, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6XB
Telephone	01495 357813
e-mail	Tim.Griffin@Blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
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Executive Summary

This progress report is the latest in a series of reports relating to air quality and has been compiled and published by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (hereafter referred to as Blaenau Gwent CBC). The report contains the latest air quality data for the calendar year of 2014 applicable to the County Borough, and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact on air quality.

The UK's National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality objectives for seven key pollutants which Local Authorities are legally required to have regard to. These include Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) (gravimetric) and Sulphur Dioxide.

Local authorities are obliged to periodically review the air quality within their area to determine the risk of the air quality objectives set out in the national strategy being exceeded. If a Local Authority identifies a risk of any of the objectives being exceeded within its area then they must proceed to a Detailed Assessment for that pollutant.

The previous reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC have concluded that it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have regard to, are being exceeded or will be exceeded within the Borough and therefore no Detailed Assessment for any pollutant has been carried out to-date.

This 2015 updating and screening assessment **does not** identify the need for Blaenau Gwent CBC to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any of the ttt6eXh8HRRg

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5.1.1 New or Proposed Installations for which an Air Quality Assessment has been

Carried Out..... 2sRohq6.X-8yhyqy

1 Introduction

1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

The County Borough of Blaenau Gwent is located in South East Wales and was formerly part of the County of Gwent. It is approximately 20 miles south to the city of Newport, 30 miles south west to the City of Cardiff and directly north is the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Blaenau Gwent is the smallest of all the Welsh Local Authorities, at about 10,900 hectares. There are three distinctive valleys supporting the five main towns or settlements of Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo and Blaina, and Tredegar.

Although the towns give the County Borough a busy, urban feel, Blaenau Gwent is actually a largely rural area. Forty five per cent of the land area is undeveloped, and the greater part of this is defined as open countryside.

The Borough has witnessed steady population loss over recent years. The most recent figures from the 2011 census identified that there are 69,814 people living in the area. This compares to 70,064 in 2001 (Censuses).

The main trunk route that runs through the County Borough is the A465, Heads of the Valleys road which provides good communication to the Midlands and the North via the M50/M5 and to London via the M4.

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Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

The objective of this Updating and Screening Assessment is to identify any matters that have changed which may lead to risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. A checklist approach and screening tools are used to identify significant new sources or changes and whether there is a need for a Detailed Assessment. The USA report should provide an update of any outstanding information requested previously in Review and Assessment reports.

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	objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	
2009 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2009
2010 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2010
2011 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2011
2012 Updating and Screening Assessment Report	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2012
2013 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2013
2014 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2014

2 New Monitoring Data

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring of any of the pollutants relevant to the UK National Air Quality Objectives.

However, there was an automatic monitoring station within the Borough which was undertaking monitoring for ambient levels of Lead, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at a special source orientated site. Monitoring was required at the site for a minimum period of 12 months during 2008/09. Monitoring at this site has now ceased.

The monitoring station was located at Garnlydan Primary School, Ebbw Vale and was run by Environmental Compliance Ltd on behalf of Envirowales Ltd. Envirowales Ltd is a lead acid battery recycling plant sited at the Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale which was given planning permission on 21st June 2005.

The provision of the monitoring station arose as a result of compliance with the requirements of a formal agreement between Envirowales Ltd and Blaenau Gwent CBC under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act as previously reported in the 2008 Progress Report (Pg 37/38).

The monitoring site location was selected as it was considered to be one of the

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Site
Name

2.2 Comparison of Monitoring Results with Air Quality Objectives

2.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide.

Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data

A summary of the results obtained from the Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion monitoring undertaken at the 21 sites within the Borough for the period of 2014 is presented in Table 2.2. Full details of the monthly mean values for each site are provided in Appendix 3 to this report.

None of the results from the diffusion tube monitoring are based on triplicate or collocated tubes, the results are based on 12 months' worth of data for the calendar year 2014 so none of the data has been annualised.

Table 2.2 Results Of Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tubes For 2014

Site Name

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Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the 2014 measured levels of Nitrogen Dioxide at each monitoring location in comparison with the Air Quality Objective for this pollutant.

In previous reporting years the 'Nitrogen Dioxide with distance from Roads Calculator' had been used to predict the annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide concentration for receptors that are close to roadside monitoring locations but are further from the kerb than the monitor.

As a result of the audit of the monitoring locations carried out in 2009 it was noted that this calculation would no longer be required at any of the monitoring locations, as all roadside monitors are now located on the facade of the nearest receptor. There are no roadside monitoring locations where the receptor is nearer to the kerb than the monitoring site.

Figure 2: Measured levels of nitrogen dioxide for 2009.

3 Road Traffic Sources

3.1 Narrow Congested Streets with Residential Properties Close to the Kerb

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/ne

3.5 New Roads Constructed or Proposed Since the Last Round of Review and Assessment

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/proposed roads.

3.6 Roads with Significantly Changed Traffic Flows

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/newly identified roads with significantly changed traffic flows.

3.7 Bus and Coach Stations

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no relevant bus stations in the Local Authority area.

4 Other Transport Sources

4.1 Airports

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no airports in the Local Authority area.

4.2 Railways (Diesel and Steam Trains)

4.2.1 Stationary Trains

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no locations where diesel or steam trains are regularly stationary for periods of 15 minutes or more, with potential for relevant exposure within 15m.

4.2.2 Moving Trains

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no locati

5 Industrial Sources

5.1 Industrial Installations

5.1.1 New or Proposed Installations for which an Air Quality Assessment has been Carried Out

Blaenau Gwent CBC has assessed new/proposed industrial installations, and concluded that it will not be necessary to proceed to a Detailed Assessment.

In 2015 Blaenau Gwent CBC has approved planning permission for three short term operating reserve (STOR) power plants to be built on Waun Y Pound Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale and Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale. Two of the STOR power plants are gas powered and the third is powered by diesel generators. Air quality assessments have been provided for all three of the STOR power plants, the assessments of the two gas powered plants identified that there will be no exceedances of the air quality objectives. However the air quality assessment for diesel powered STOR power plant has identified possible exceedances of the hourly NO₂ objectives at relevant receptors under certain weather conditions, the assessment also demonstrated that statistically the chances of 18 exceedances of objective in any one year is extremely small. As a result the development of the diesel powered STOR has been conditioned to provide an air quality monitoring

It should be noted however that whilst there have been no new industrial installations during 2014 for which an air quality assessment would have been required, there have been a number of new businesses established which have required an environmental permit from either Blaenau Gwent CBC or Natural Resources Wales. None of the new installations have been assessed as being likely to have a significant impact on the air quality within the borough either individually or as a result of the cumulative impact of the emissions.

A list of the installations regulated by Blaenau Gwent CBC under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 can be provided upon request. There have been no significant changes to any of the existing part A1, A2 and B processes since the 2014 progress report that would likely to have a significant impact on air quality.

5.2 Major Fuel (Petrol) Storage Depots

There are no major fuel (petrol) storage depots within the Local Authority area.

5.3 Petrol Stations

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no petrol stations meeting the specified criteria.

5.4 Poultry Farms

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no poultry farms meeting the specified criteria.

8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Blaenau Gwent CBC has examined the results from monitoring in the Borough of

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Appendix 2

Location of NO₂ Monitoring Sites within Blaenau Gwent 2014



