



# **2014 Air Quality Progress Report for Blaenau Gwent CBC**

**In fulfillment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995  
Local Air Quality Management**

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

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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 2013 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,

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Table 1.1 Air Quality Objectives

# 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.

Much of the traditional coal and steel industry that historically populated the Borough has been replaced by a diverse industrial base comprising of businesses such as pharmaceuticals, battery and computer systems, electronic and high tech engineering companies. The closure of much of the heavy industry in the area has had an adverse impact on the local economy but conversely it has meant the removal of significant sources of air pollution.

Blaenau Gwent has experienced enormous regeneration investment in recent years, with much more to come. Major projects like the re-opening of the Ebbw Valley railway and the re-development of the former Corus steelworks site in Ebbw Vale will transform the face of the borough.

The map provided in Appendix 1 to this report outlines the administrative area of Blaenau Gwent.

## 1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedences are considered likely, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and

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prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in





## 1.4 Summary of Previous Review and Assessments

Table 1.2 provides a comprehensive list of the reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a result of previous rounds of review and assessment of the air quality within the Borough, and summarises the main findings of each report.

**Table 1.2 - Reports Produced By Blaenau Gwent CBC As A Result Of Previous Rounds Of Local Air Quality Review And Assessment**

<b>Report</b>	<b>Review And Assessment Undertaken &amp; Conclusions</b>	<b>Year Published</b>
<b>1999 First Stage Review and Assessment</b>	Initial screening of industrial, transport and other significant sources of air pollution within the Borough. Concluded that it is unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	1999
<b>2003 Updating and Screening Assessment</b>	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.	2003
<b>2004 Progress Report</b>	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.	2004
<b>2005 Progress Report</b>	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.	2005
<b>2006 Updating and Screening Assessment</b>	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.	2006
<b>2007 Progress Report</b>	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality	

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<b>2010 Progress Report</b>	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
<b>2011 Progress Report</b>	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
<b>2012 Updating and Screening Assessment Report</b>	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	\by-5@@@Ubey-5@@@Ubi@@@Ubyy@@5@kKVb @

## **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

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**Figure 2: Measured Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide for 2009-2013**







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