



COLERAINE BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013 Air Quality Progress Report for Coleraine Borough Council

In fulfillment of Environment (Northern Ireland) Order
2002

Local Air Quality Management

April 2013

Coleraine Borough Council

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Report Reference number	CBC 2013
Date	April 2013

Executive Summary

Under The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, local authorities are obliged to regularly review and assess air quality in their boroughs. The review and assessment plays an important role in the continuing process of Local Air Quality Management, whereby the local authorities aim to achieve the Air Quality Objectives for the following seven air pollutants: carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3- butadiene, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particles (PM10).

The review and assessment process consists of 2 stages. The first stage, known as the updating and screening assessment identifies all relevant changes since the earlier work was carried out and then uses simple tools to check if there is a current risk of the relevant pollution objectives being exceeded. If this is the case the 2nd stage, known as the Detailed Assessment, must then be carried out. If the Detailed Assessment concludes that the relevant Air Quality Objective will be exceeded then an Air Quality Management Area must be declared.

This document addresses the current and future situation with regard to all the pollutants currently contained within the Air Quality Strategy. For all of the pollutants, previous monitoring concluded that there was no likelihood of any of the standards being breached.

This document has confirmed that nothing significant has occurred to alter those conclusions. There is no requirement for a detailed assessment for any of the pollutants addressed.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

The Borough of Coleraine, which covers approximately 190 square miles, has a static population of approximately 59, 000, although large numbers of tourists swell the population during the summer months. The Borough stretches along the coastline from Downhill and Castlerock in the west to Portballintrae in the east, embracing the main coastal resorts of Portrush and Portstewart and inland to the rural towns of Kilrea and Garvagh. The River Bann borders the eastern edge of the Borough and flows through the town of Coleraine. The northern edge of the Borough is mainly coastal. The Coleraine farmland landscape extends along the north coast from Castlerock to Portrush and southwards along the River Bann valley towards Kilrea and Garvagh. Coleraine is located on the mainline rail link from Belfast to Derry with a spur line to Portrush and is approximately 55 miles from Belfast and 35 miles from Derry. Coleraine boasts an impressive history originating in the first known human settlement on the island some 8,000 years ago. Coleraine is also a university town, being home to the headquarters campus of Ireland's largest university, the University of Ulster.



Figure 1. Coleraine Borough Council Area

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1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, 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 prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

Progress Reports are required in the intervening years between the three-yearly Updating and Screening Assessment reports. Their purpose is to maintain continuity in the Local Air Quality Management process.

They are not intended to be as detailed as Updating and Screening Assessment Reports, or to require as much effort. However, if the Progress Report identifies the risk of exceedence of an Air Quality Objective, the Local Authority (LA) should undertake a Detailed Assessment immediately, and not wait until the next round of Review and Assessment.

1.3 Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Northern Ireland are set out in the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland 2003, no. 342, and are shown in Table 1.1. This table shows the objectives in units of microgram's per cubic metre $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (milligram's per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedences in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

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Table 1 Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	3.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-Butadiene	2.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m^3	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) (gravimetric)	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

1.4 Summary of Previous Review and Assessments

The cornerstone of the LAQM process is the review and assessment of air quality. This is a statutorily required process whereby local air quality is assessed against national air quality standards and objectives. Updating and Screening Assessments cover new monitoring data, new objectives, new sources or significant changes to existing sources and any other local changes that may affect air quality. Where objectives are breached or are predicted to be breached, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is declared. An Action Plan must then be produced stating how the district council will drive air quality towards the objective.

The Updating and Screening Assessment (completed in April 2012) did not identify the need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant or identified any need for additional monitoring, or changes to the existing monitoring programme. Coleraine Borough Council continued to measure NO₂ at thirty sites throughout the borough.

The Borough has no existing AQMAs.

2 New Monitoring Data

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

Coleraine Borough Council has continued to monitor nitrogen dioxide levels located at thirty sites throughout the council borough. The results for the month of July are missing as there was a manufacturing fault with the tubes and they were unable to be tested.

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Coleraine Borough Council does not currently carry out any automatic monitoring.

2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitric oxide (NO) are both oxides of nitrogen, and are collectively referred to as nitrogen oxides. All combustion processes produce nitrogen oxide emissions, largely in the form of nitric oxide, which is then converted to nitrogen dioxide mainly as a result of reactions with ozone in the atmosphere. Exposure to high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide is reported to sensitise asthmatics to allergens such as irritant chemicals, house dust mites and pollen.

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In urban areas, particularly close to major roads, motor vehicles account for the largest proportion of nitrogen oxide emissions. The contribution of road transport to nitrogen oxide emissions has declined significantly in recent years as a result of various national policy measures. Coleraine Borough Council is currently monitoring nitrogen dioxide at 30 sites around the district using passive diffusion tubes.

Diffusion tubes are a type of passive sampler; they absorb the pollutant to be monitored directly from the surrounding air. Diffusion tubes represent a simple and cost-effective method of monitoring air quality in an area, to give a good general indication of average pollution concentrations. They are particularly useful for assessment against annual mean objectives. Monitoring sites are chosen to provide data on locations where there is relevant public exposure and where possible, are close to the nearest receptor to the busy road or road junction of interest. The sites are subject to periodic review.

Tubes are replaced once per month resulting in an exposure period of one month. At the end of the monitoring period the tubes are collected, documentation filed and then sent to the laboratory (Gradko) to undergo analysis.

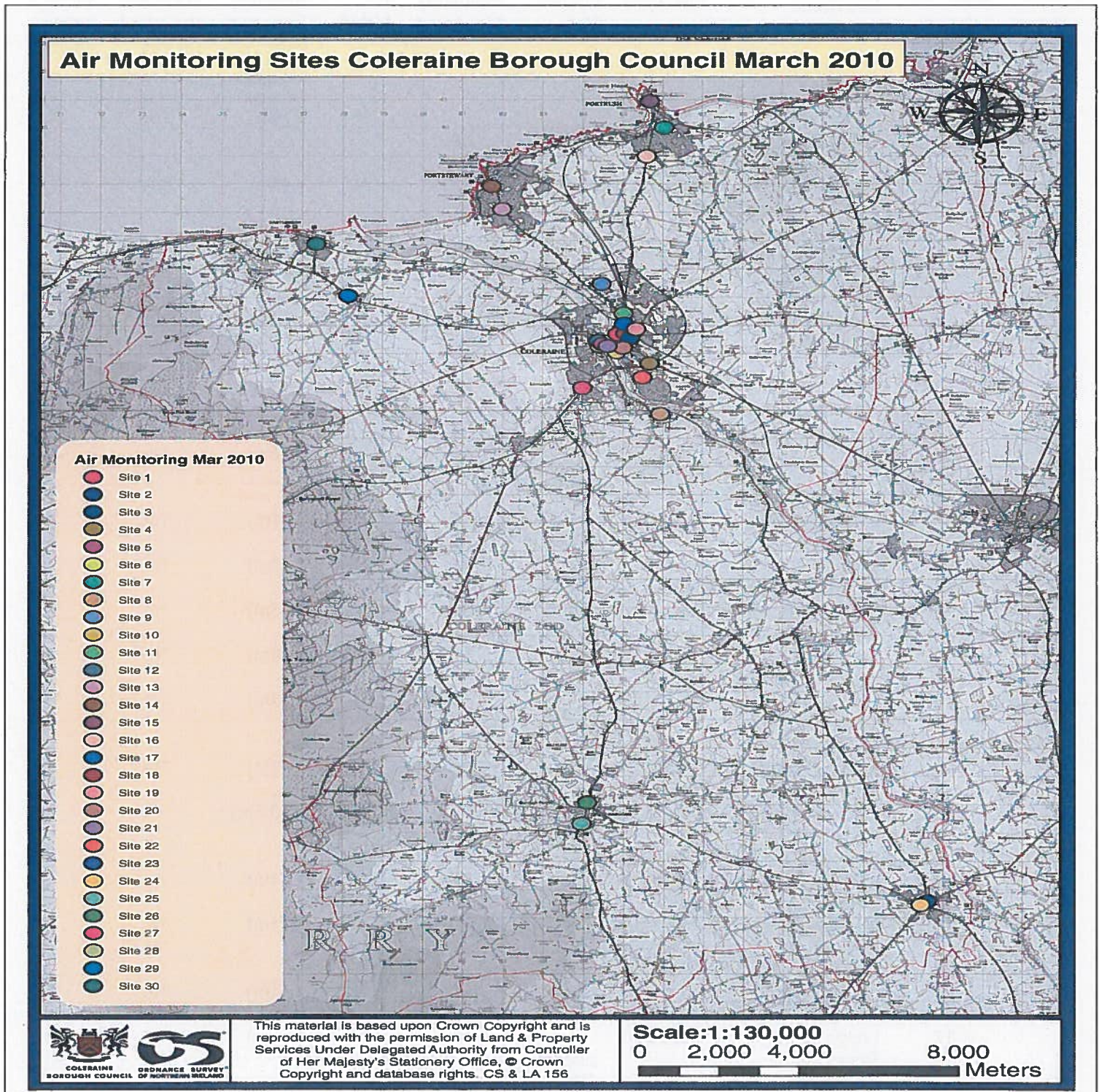
On completion of analysis the results are e mailed by Gradko to Coleraine Borough Council Environmental Health Department and which are recorded for use in the final results tabulation for the year.

Results obtained from diffusion tube analysis require correction for possible positive bias (over-read), or negative bias (under-read). The preparation method used was an absorbent of 20% TEA (Triethanolamine) in water. The bias adjustment factor for Gradko and the technique in 2012 is 0.97. This factor is based on 27 studies and is taken from the defra website at:

<http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/bias-adjustment-factors/national-bias.html>

The monitoring sites referred to in this report are shown in the maps detailed in Appendix B. All maps are subject to Ordnance Survey copyright.

Figure 2 Map of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites



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Table 2 Details of Non- Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site reference number	Site Name	Site Type	OS Grid Ref	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA	Relevant Exposure (Y/N) with distance (m) to relevant exposure	Distance to kerb of nearest road	Worst case location
13	Outside 114 Coleraine Road, Portstewart	Kerbside	282003 437106	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
14	Outside O'Hara Court, Portstewart	Kerbside	281742 437925	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
15	Corner of Antrim Gardens, Main Street, Portrush	Kerbside	285684 440929	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
7	Crocknamack Roundabout, Portrush	Kerbside	286048 439997	NO ₂	N	Y (2m)	1m	Y
16	Outside 118 Coleraine Road, Portrush	Suburban	285608 438986	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
9	UUC, Coleraine	Urban background	284487 434466	NO ₂	N	Y (2m)	1m	Y
17	Millburn Road, Coleraine	Roadside	285040 433065	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
1	Bottom of Union Street, Coleraine	Urban centre	284876 432701	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
18	Corner of Brook Street, Coleraine	Urban centre	285075 432722	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
2	Top of Union Street, Coleraine	Urban centre	285247 432709	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
19	Outside 42 Bushmills Road, Coleraine	Roadside	285350 432873	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
3	Railway Road, Coleraine	Urban centre	285197 432555	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
20	Outside 75 Long Commons, Coleraine	Roadside	285022 432209	NO ₂	N	Y (0.5m)	1m	Y
10	Outside Tesco, Coleraine	Urban centre	284855 432048	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
21	Hanover Place Post 34, Coleraine	Roadside	284637 432268	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
5	Strand Road, Coleraine	Kerbside	284495 432337	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
17	Lodge Road, Roundabout, Coleraine	Roadside	285677 431651	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	1m	Y
22	Mountsandel,	Roadside	285506	NO ₂	N	Y (5m)	1m	Y

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	Rugby Avenue Roundabout, Coleraine		431161					
8	Glenara Court, Castleroe, Coleraine	Rural	285950 429864	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
23	Kilrea, Lower Diamond	Roadside	292590 412560	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	0.5m	Y
24	Kilrea, Maghera Street	Roadside	292420 412440	NO ₂	N	Y (2m)	2m	Y
25	Outside 8 Carhill Road, Garvagh	Roadside	283972 415319	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
26	Opposite SuperValu, Garvagh	Roadside	284105 416066	NO ₂	N	Y (0.5m)	1m	Y
27	Post 11, Lismurphy, Greenmount	Suburban	284003 430787	NO ₂	N	Y (5m)	0.5m	Y
28	Outside Killowen House, Coleraine	Roadside	284433 432263	NO ₂	N	Y (3m)	1m	Y
29	Dunboe Gardens, Post 24, Articlave	Roadside	278148 434046	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
30	41 Sea Road, Castlerock	Suburban	277358 435877	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
12	Bottom of Castlerock Road, Coleraine	Urban	248397 432451	NO ₂	N	Y (7m)	1m	Y
6	Dunnes Car Park, Coleraine	Urban	284619 432418	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y
11	End of Portstewart Road, Coleraine	Urban	285036 433417	NO ₂	N	Y (4m)	1m	Y

2.2 Comparison of Monitoring Results with Air Quality Objectives

On the basis of previous rounds of review and assessment and identified requirements, Coleraine Borough Council currently monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide only. The Borough has no air quality management areas and thus has no continuous automatic monitoring equipment. The details of the diffusion tube results relevant for this assessment are shown below.

2.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Coleraine Borough Council has assessed air quality for Nitrogen Dioxide since 2004. In 2008, the Borough changed diffusion tube supplier from Lambeth Scientific Services to Gradko. This resulted in an overlap of the two suppliers for a period of 10 months of the year. During the period of assessment only one site has exceeded the objective of 40µg/m³ in 2006. This exceedence was .3µg/m³ and was not deemed to be significant enough to go to detailed assessment. Data in subsequent years has shown no exceedence in this or any other area. In order to continue to properly fulfil our statutory duty the department has decided to supplement the data with further tubes to this and other areas.

When one compares the annual adjusted mean for 2010 against 2012 28 sites are lower in 2012 the two exceptions are the corner of Brook Street, Coleraine and outside 42 Bushmills Road, Coleraine. The Bushmills Road reading is only marginally higher in 2012 with 0.47 of a difference. The Brook Street reading is 4.23ug/m³ higher. This site is located on an extremely busy street next to a pedestrian crossing where three lanes of traffic stop for brief periods.

In comparison to the 2011 findings 28 sites are higher in 2012. Although there is an increase in 2012 all increases are marginal and no sites have exceeded the objective of 40ug/m³.

The lowest annual adjusted mean was in Castleroe area of the borough. This is consistent with the 2010 and 2011 findings. This is a rural area which comprises of two small housing developments. Traffic delays are not synonymous with this area.

Figure 3: NO₂ mean concentration measured at diffusion tube monitoring sites during 2012

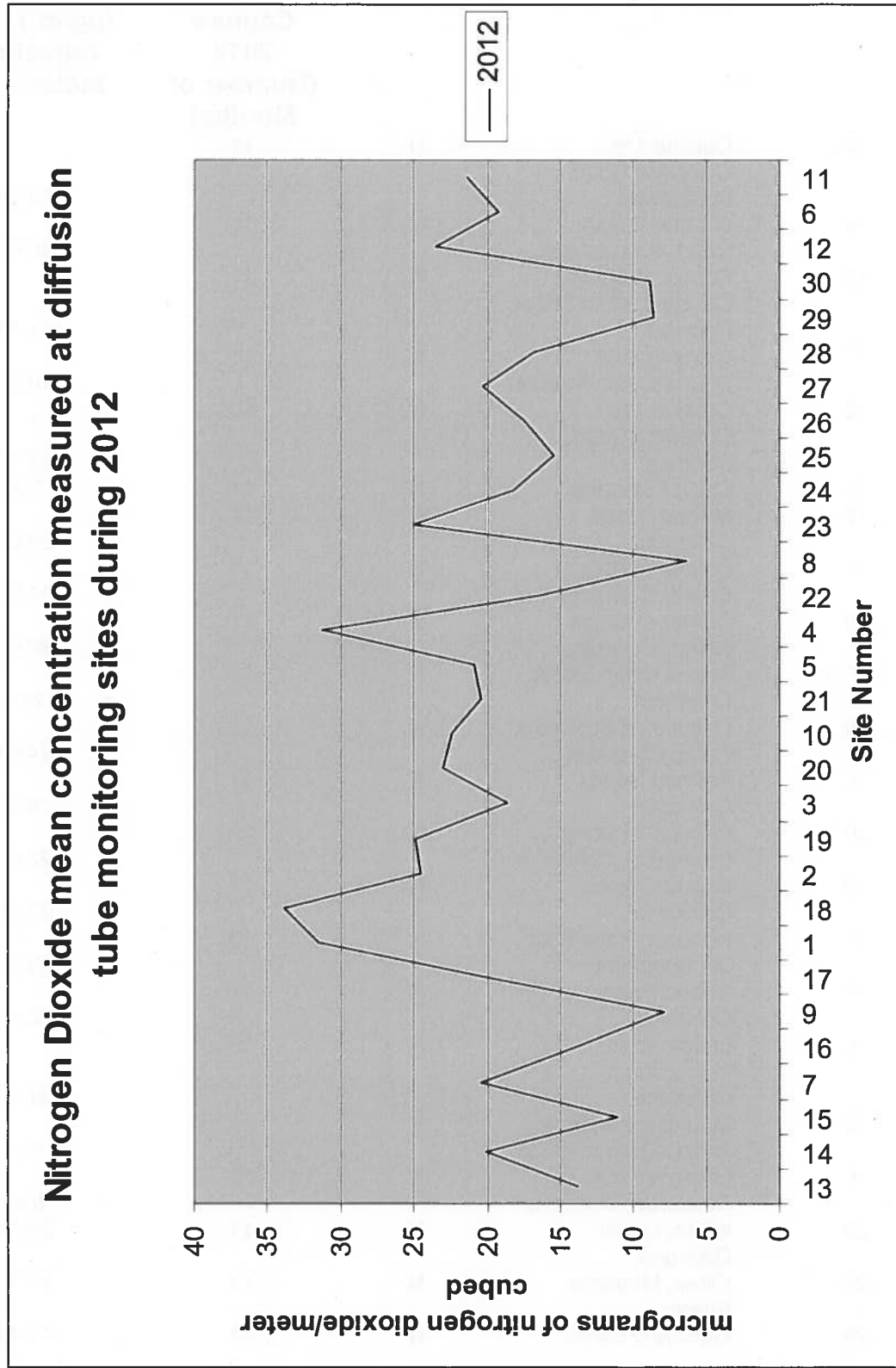


Table 3: Results of NO₂ Diffusion Tubes 2012

Site reference number	Site Name	Within AQMA	Full Calendar Year Data Capture 2012 (Number of Months)	2012 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m ³) - Bias Adjustment factor – 0.97
13	Outside 114 Coleraine Road, Portstewart	N	11	13.84
14	Outside O'Hara Court, Portstewart	N	11	20.03
15	Corner of Antrim Gardens, Main Street, Portrush	N	11	11.11
7	Crocknamack Roundabout, Portrush	N	11	20.39
16	Outside 118 Coleraine Road, Portrush	N	10	13.75
9	UUC, Coleraine	N	11	7.92
17	Millburn Road, Coleraine	N	11	20.05
1	Bottom of Union Street, Coleraine	N	11	31.53
18	Corner of Brook Street, Coleraine	N	11	33.88
2	Top of Union Street, Coleraine	N	11	24.5
19	Outside 42 Bushmills Road, Coleraine	N	11	24.91
3	Railway Road, Coleraine	N	11	18.59
20	Outside 75 Long Commons, Coleraine	N	11	22.99
10	Outside Tesco, Coleraine	N	11	22.38
21	Hanover Place Post 34, Coleraine	N	10	20.37
5	Strand Road, Coleraine	N	11	20.84
4	Lodge Road, Roundabout, Coleraine	N	10	31.25
22	Mountsandel, Rugby Avenue Roundabout	N	11	16.4
8	Glenara Court, Castleroe, Coleraine	N	11	6.32
23	Kilrea, Lower Diamond	N	11	24.98
24	Kilrea, Maghera Street	N	11	18.15
25	Outside 8 Carhill	N	11	15.42

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26	Road, Garvagh Opposite SuperValu, Garvagh	N	11	17.49
27	Post 11, Lismurphy, Greenmount	N	10	20.26
28	Outside Killowen House, Coleraine	N	11	16.76
29	Dunboe Gardens, Post 24, Articlave	N	11	8.61
30	41 Sea Road, Castlerock	N	11	8.88
12	Bottom of Castlerock Road, Coleraine	N	11	23.44
6	Dunnes Car Park, Coleraine	N	11	19.19
11	End of Portstewart Road, Coleraine	N	11	21.34

Table 4: Results of NO₂ Diffusion Tubes (2009 to 2012)

Site reference number	Site Name	Within AQMA?	2009 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.90)	2010 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.95)	2011 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)	2012 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.97)
13	Outside 114 Coleraine Road, Portstewart	N	14.92	16.25	11.67	13.84
14	Outside O'Hara Court, Portstewart	N	20.54	23.56	17.81	20.03
15	Corner of Antrim Gardens, Main Street, Portrush	N	13.33	12.65	10.03	11.11
7	Crocknamack Roundabout, Portrush	N	24.43	23.83	19.49	20.39
16	Outside 118 Coleraine Road, Portrush	N	13.98	15.52	12.31	13.75
9	UUC, Coleraine	N	8.74	10.26	7.45	7.92
17	Millburn Road, Coleraine	N	18.82	21.95	17.03	20.05
1	Bottom of Union Street, Coleraine	N	32.35	31.66	29.81	31.53
18	Corner of Brook Street, Coleraine	N	33.14	29.65	27.21	33.88

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Site reference number	Site Name	Within AQMA?	2009 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.90)	2010 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.95)	2011 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)	2012 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.97)
2	Top of Union Street, Coleraine	N	23.34	25.12	21.34	24.5
19	Outside 42 Bushmills Road, Coleraine	N	24.73	24.44	22.24	24.91
3	Railway Road, Coleraine	N	17.06	18.61	15.62	18.59
20	Outside 75 Long Commons, Coleraine	N	20.36	24.66	19.47	22.99
10	Outside Tesco, Coleraine	N	22.86	27.23	20.91	22.38
21	Hanover Place post 34, Coleraine	N	23.84	25.72	21.92	20.37
5	Strand Road, Coleraine	N	22.28	23.53	18.87	20.84
4	Lodge Road roundabout, Coleraine	N	26.09	32.52	26.01	31.25
22	Mountsandel, Rugby Avenue Roundabout	N	15.68	20.19	14.21	16.4
8	Glenara Court, Castleroe, Coleraine	N	7.79	8.26	6.68	6.32

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Site reference number	Site Name	Within AQMA?	2009 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.90)	2010 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.95)	2011 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)	2012 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.97)
23	Kilrea, Lower Diamond	N	24.04	25.1	23.36	24.98
24	Kilrea, Maghera Street	N	17.57	19.77	16.58	18.15
25	Outside 8 Carhill Road, Garvagh	N	15.96	16.96	13.28	15.42
26	Opposite Super Valu, Garvagh	N	17.36	18.9	15.7	17.49
27	Post 11, Lismurphy, Greenmount	N	18.97	20.53	17.73	20.26
28	Outside Killowen House, Coleraine	N	18.53	20.82	15.91	16.76
29	Dunboe Gardens, Post 24, Articlave	N	10.52	10.34	7.85	8.61
30	41 Sea Road, Castlerock	N	10.19	13.32	8.6	8.88
12	Bottom of Castlerock Road. Coleraine	N	23.7	27.17	20.6	23.44
6	Dunnes Car park, Coleraine	N	20.8	20.8	19.97	19.19
11	End of Portstewart Road, Coleraine	N	23.19	22.87	20.86	21.34

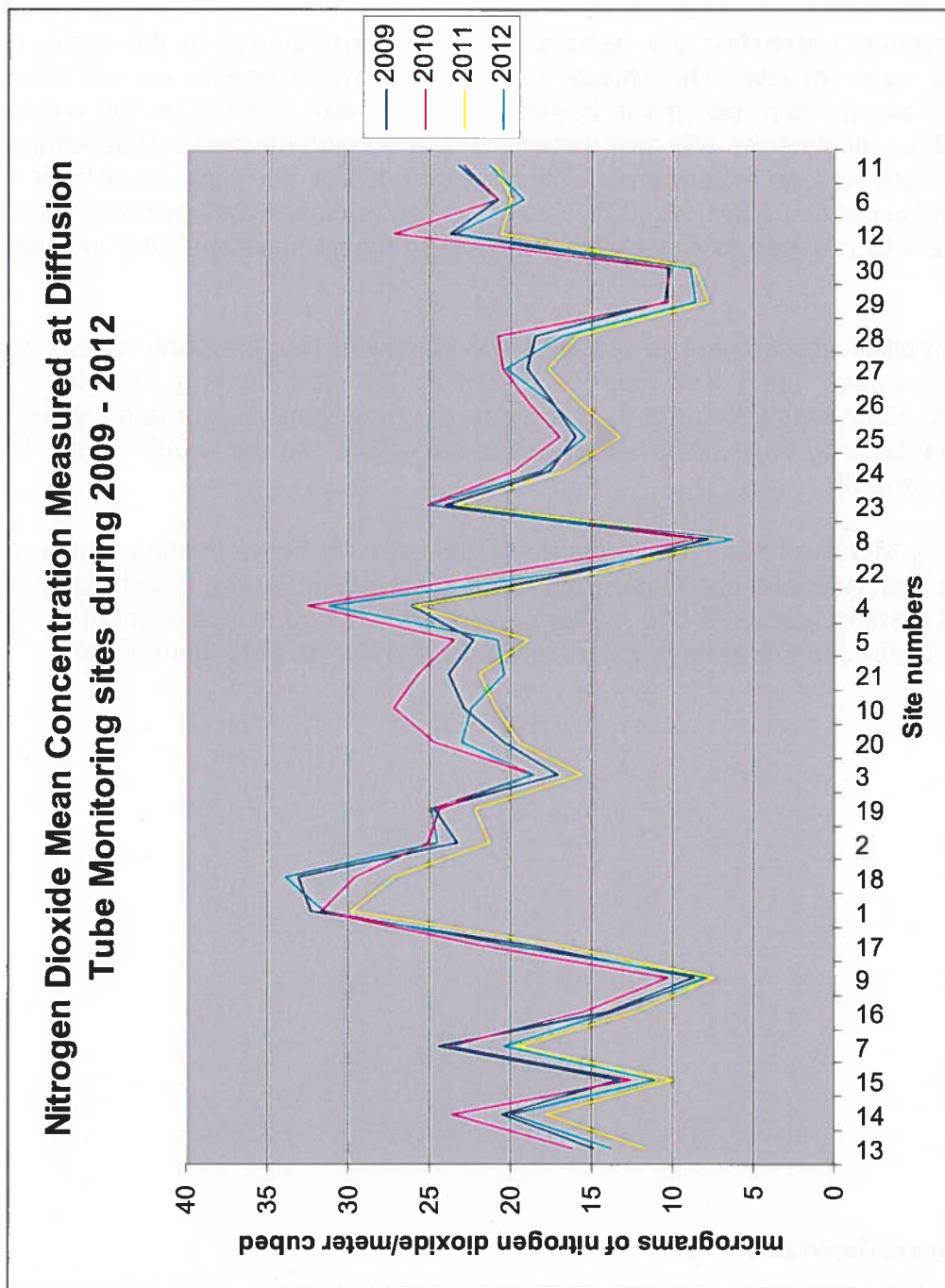


Figure 4 Trends in Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations Measured at Diffusion Tube Monitoring Sites

2.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

In 2006 Coleraine Borough Council completed its updating and screening assessment of local air quality. The areas of Articlave, Liffock, Castlerock, 3 areas in Garvagh, Mettican, Kilrea, Larchfield and Macosquin were assessed for domestic fuel combustion. Housing counts were undertaken from maps and location visits. Information detailing the number of Housing Executive houses and heating type was obtained from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Heating Co-ordination Unit. The proportion of solid fuel users in private housing was obtained from the Northern Ireland Housing Condition Survey 2001 Main Report.

This assessment identified the need to conduct a fuel survey in the areas of Castlerock and Articlave. The objective of this fuel survey was to provide more accurate data on solid fuel use in homes in these areas. Data from this survey was used to calculate the effective density of coal burning houses and determine whether there was an exceedence of the criterion in the nomograms laid out in Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (03). This in turn determined whether there was a requirement to proceed to a detailed assessment for particulate matter in these areas.

Where detailed assessment is required the modelling requirements would be highly dependent upon the manner in which the coal-burning houses are distributed. Care was taken not to aggregate the emissions over a large area in which coal burning does not predominantly take place, as this would dilute the emission strength.

This survey identified that oil is the primary fuel used for home heating in private homes in both Articlave and Castlerock. Both areas fell under the threshold of 50 solid fuel burning homes in 500 x 500m and therefore further assessment is not required. Coleraine therefore does not currently monitor for particulate matter.

2.2.3 Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

The first round of review and assessment concluded that there were no Part A or B processes with the potential to emit significant quantities of sulphur dioxide. It identified 2 significant combustion systems with thermal power rating greater than 5MW. It also identified three 1x1 km grid squares in Coleraine, one in Portstewart and one in Portrush, with more than 300 houses burning coal. It recommended a second stage review for sulphur dioxide with respect to domestic combustion and the two industrial combustion systems. Further modeling concluded that the objective for sulphur dioxide would most likely be met.

2.2.4 Benzene

The first round of Review and Assessment concluded that there were no significant sources of benzene in the Coleraine area or in neighbouring areas and that there were no proposals for developments likely to emit this pollutant. It stated that national policies were expected to deliver the air quality objective by the end of 2003 and that the objective for benzene was likely to be achieved in the Coleraine area.

2.2.5 Other Pollutants Monitored

Coleraine Borough Council does not routinely monitor for any other pollutants.

2.2.6 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives

Coleraine Borough Council has examined the results from monitoring in the Borough. Concentrations are all below the objectives, therefore there is no need to proceed to a detailed assessment.

2.2.2 Air Quality

The first part of the report is a summary of the current air quality in the Coleraine area. It is based on data from the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DENI) and the Department of the Environment, Scotland (DESI). The data shows that the air quality in the Coleraine area is generally good, with only a few instances of poor air quality. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the Coleraine area is a relatively small town, and that there are no major roads or industrial areas in the area. However, there are a few areas of concern, particularly in the area of the Coleraine Harbour, where there is a high level of pollution from ships and boats. This is a concern for the Council, as it is a major source of pollution in the area, and it is important to take steps to reduce this pollution.

2.2.3 Noise

The second part of the report is a summary of the current noise levels in the Coleraine area. It is based on data from the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DENI) and the Department of the Environment, Scotland (DESI). The data shows that the noise levels in the Coleraine area are generally low, with only a few instances of high noise levels. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the Coleraine area is a relatively small town, and that there are no major roads or industrial areas in the area. However, there are a few areas of concern, particularly in the area of the Coleraine Harbour, where there is a high level of noise from ships and boats. This is a concern for the Council, as it is a major source of noise in the area, and it is important to take steps to reduce this noise.

2.2.4 Other Environmental Issues

The third part of the report is a summary of the current environmental issues in the Coleraine area. It is based on data from the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DENI) and the Department of the Environment, Scotland (DESI). The data shows that there are a number of environmental issues in the Coleraine area, including air quality, noise, and pollution. These issues are a concern for the Council, and it is important to take steps to address them.

2.2.5 Summary of Findings

The fourth part of the report is a summary of the findings of the report. It shows that the air quality in the Coleraine area is generally good, with only a few instances of poor air quality. The noise levels in the Coleraine area are generally low, with only a few instances of high noise levels. There are a number of environmental issues in the Coleraine area, including air quality, noise, and pollution. These issues are a concern for the Council, and it is important to take steps to address them.

3 New Local Developments

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that there are no new or newly identified local developments which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area. In fact several businesses have reduced their throughput as a consequence of a downturn in the commodity market.

3.1 Road Traffic Sources

Coleraine town has a ring road system carrying road traffic into and out of the town centre. The heart of the town has a pedestrian area which caters for delivery vehicles only. The town has several pay and display car parks. Traffic delays do occur on the old bridge area, bottom and top of Union Street, Railway Road and Lodge Road Roundabout.

There has been no new road construction work or change in traffic flow direction since the last updating and screening assessment.

3.2 Other Transport Sources

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that there are no airports, locations where diesel or steam trains are regularly stationary or locations of large numbers of movements of diesel locomotives

3.3 Industrial Sources

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that there are no new industrial installations

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that there are no new commercial and domestic sources.

The anaerobic digestion plant operated by Ballyrashane is now fully operational and works have commenced in building of the new butter manufacturing plant.

3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that there are no new or newly identified local developments which may have an impact on air quality.

Coleraine Borough Council confirms that all of the following have been considered:

- Road traffic sources
- Other transport sources
- Industrial sources
- commercial and domestic sources
- new developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources

4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Coleraine Borough Council has developed and published an Air Quality Strategy which provides a policy framework to help deliver cleaner air and to ensure a less polluted environment both now and for future generations.

Given the transboundary nature of air pollutants, this strategy is aimed at complimenting the common aims of the UK Government and the devolved administrations as set out in The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007. In determining the strategic objectives, Coleraine Borough Council will carry out the following activities in order to implement the strategy and attain the vision:

Coleraine Borough Council

- Carry out air monitoring for pollutant levels including continuance of the air quality monitoring programme relating to oxides of nitrogen and participation in radiation monitoring;
- To offer advice to the general public on air quality;
- To investigate complaints of pollution from industrial, commercial and domestic sources;
- To regulate emissions from industrial processes in the Borough by authorising and monitoring processes making a discharge to air in accordance with the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003; and
- To work with other statutory agencies and stakeholders in ensuring compliance with legislative obligations and targets for air quality.

5 Planning Applications

The Environmental Health Department is consulted by the Planning Service in relation to all proposed developments within the Borough. Developments that may contribute to a reduction in air quality or where odours or noise are likely are required to undergo environmental assessment. Only where the Department is satisfied that the risk from pollution is adequately controlled and that the development will not cause air quality standards to be breached will approval of planning permission be recommended.

Currently there are two planning applications one for an extension to Craigmore waste transfer station and the second planning application for a waste transfer site at Letterloan.

6 Air Quality Planning Policies

Land use planning is currently the remit of the Planning Service for Northern Ireland, an agency within the Department of the Environment. The council is however a statutory consultee for the planning process and as such has regard to the Development Plans for Northern Ireland and the relevant air quality legislation in making recommendations to the Planning Service.

7 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

Coleraine Borough Council is not aware of any major local transport plans or strategies which are likely to impact on air quality.

The upgrade of the railway line between Coleraine and Derry is now complete.

8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Monitoring carried out has identified one exceedence of the air quality objective at one site on one occasion in 2006. Recent monitoring has shown a decrease of levels at this site and more sites have been established nearby in order to better assess this exceedence.

No other sites have shown exceedences of the objective.

8.2 Proposed Actions

The Progress Report has not identified the need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant or identified any need for additional monitoring, or changes to the existing monitoring programme. Coleraine borough Council decided in 2008 to increase the number of sites at which Nitrogen Dioxide is monitored in order to ensure that air quality objectives are not exceeded. It is proposed to continue to monitor at these sites.

The Borough has no existing AQMAs.

The next proposed action by this authority therefore will be to submit a progress report in 2014.

9 References

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2000

Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM.PGNI (03), Department of the Environment.

Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM. TG (03), Defra, 2003.

Progress Report Guidance LAQM.PRGNi (04), Environment and Heritage Service, November 2004.

Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Air Quality Limit Values Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002, S.R. 2002 No.94

The Air Quality Limit Values (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002, S.R. 2002 No. 357

Air Quality Review and Assessment website – Spreadsheet of Bias Adjustment Factors

Appendices

Appendix A: Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Data

Appendix B: Site Maps

Appendix C: QA: QC Data

Coleraine Borough Council

