

Air Quality Review and Assessment - Stage 3

A report produced for Strabane District
Council

March 2003

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Title	Air Quality Review and Assessment-Stage 3
Customer	Strabane District Council
Customer reference	
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File reference	J/eq/Stage3_R&A/Strabane
Report number	AEAT/ENV/R/ 1410
Report status	Issue 1

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Executive Summary

The UK Government published its strategic policy framework for air quality management in 1995 establishing national strategies and policies on air quality which culminated in the Environment Act, 1995. The Air Quality Strategy provides a framework for air quality control through air quality management and air quality standards. These and other air quality standards¹ and their objectives² have been enacted through the Air Quality Regulations in 1997 and 2000. The Environment Act 1995 requires Local Authorities to undertake an air quality review. In areas where the air quality objective is not anticipated to be met, Local Authorities are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas to improve air quality.

In Northern Ireland there are at present no equivalent Air Quality Regulations. However, there is a duty to meet the Air Quality limit values set within the European Commission Air Quality Framework Directive on which the UK National air quality objectives are based. Consequently, Councils in Northern Ireland have proceeded with the review and assessment process of air quality on a non-statutory basis.

The first step in this process is to undertake a review of current and potential future air quality. The number of reviews necessary depends on the likelihood of achieving the objectives.

This report on domestic fuel combustion forms part of the stage three air quality review for Strabane District Council. Only PM₁₀ and sulphur dioxide are considered in this report. This is because PM₁₀ and sulphur dioxide are the only pollutants of concern when considering domestic fuel combustion. This report investigates current and potential future PM₁₀ and sulphur dioxide levels through an examination of the location and size of domestic combustion sources, emissions modelling exercises and by reference to monitored air quality data.

As part of this report, detailed modelling using ADMS version 3.1 has been undertaken at six kilometre square grids identified in the Stage 2 assessment. These are:

- 1 - Head of the Town
- 2 - Ballycolman area
- 3 - Melmount area
- 4 - Newtownstewart
- 5 - Castlederg
- 6 - Sion Mills

Particulates (PM₁₀)

The modelling results suggest that it is likely that there will be an exceedence of the PM₁₀ objectives in all six areas modelled. It is therefore suggested that monitoring is continued at Springhill Park, so that the concentrations can be closely observed.

It is recommended that consideration is given to declaring an air quality management area (AQMA) for PM₁₀ for domestic fuel burning for all six areas modelled.

¹ Refers to standards recommended by the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards. Recommended standards are set purely with regard to scientific and medical evidence on the effects of the particular pollutants on health, at levels at which risks to public health, including vulnerable groups, are very small or regarded as negligible.

² Refers to objectives in the Strategy for each of the eight pollutants. The objectives provide policy targets by outlining what should be achieved in the light of the air quality standards and other relevant factors and are expressed as a given ambient concentration to be achieved within a given timescale.

Sulphur dioxide

The modelling results suggest that it is unlikely that there will be an exceedence of the 15 minute mean SO₂ objective in all six areas modelled. This is the most stringent SO₂ objective and therefore if this is predicted to be met then it is likely that the hourly and daily SO₂ objectives will also be met.

It is recommended that Strabane District Council continue monitoring for SO₂ at Springhill Park so that concentrations can be closely observed. A comparison with monitoring at Belfast East has shown that the concentrations recorded since the Springhill Park site has been in operation are far lower than that recorded in 1999, 2000 or 2001.

*It is **not** recommended that Strabane District Council consider declaring an AQMA for sulphur dioxide from domestic fuel burning.*

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Acronyms and definitions

ADMS	an atmospheric dispersion model
AQDD	Common Position on Air Quality Daughter Directives
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
AUN	Automatic Urban Network
d.f.	degrees of freedom
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
EA	Environment Agency
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
EPAQS	Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards
GIS	Geospatial Information System
LADS	Urban background model specifically developed for Stage 3 Review and Assessment work. This model allowed contributions of the urban background and domestic emissions to be calculated
n	number of pairs of data
NAEI	National Atmospheric Emission Inventory
NAQS	National Air Quality Strategy (now called the Air Quality Strategy)
NETCEN	National Environmental Technology Centre
ppb	parts per billion
r	the correlation coefficient
roadside	1 to 5 m from the kerb
SDC	Strabane District Council

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	PURPOSE OF THE STUDY	1
1.2	GENERAL APPROACH TAKEN	1
1.3	VERSION OF THE POLLUTANT SPECIFIC GUIDANCE USED IN THIS ASSESSMENT	1
1.4	NUMBERING OF FIGURES AND TABLES	1
1.5	UNITS OF CONCENTRATION	1
1.6	STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT	2
2	The updated Air Quality Strategy	3
2.1	THE NEED FOR AN AIR QUALITY STRATEGY	3
2.2	OVERVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES AND MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY	4
2.2.1	National Air Quality Standards	5
2.2.2	Relationship between the UK National Air Quality Standards and EU air quality Limit Values	7
2.2.3	Recent proposed changes to the UK National Air Quality Standards	7
2.2.4	Policies in place to allow these objectives to be achieved	7
2.2.5	Timescales to achieve the objectives	8
2.3	AIR QUALITY REVIEWS	8
2.4	LOCATIONS THAT THE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT MUST CONCENTRATE ON	11
3	Information used to support this assessment	14
3.1	MAPS	14
3.2	METEOROLOGICAL DATA USED IN THE DISPERSION MODELLING	14
3.3	AMBIENT MONITORING	14
3.3.1	Particulates (PM ₁₀)	14
3.3.2	Sulphur dioxide	14
4	Review and Assessment for PM₁₀ from domestic fuel combustion	15
4.1	INTRODUCTION	15
4.2	LATEST STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PM10	15
4.3	THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE	16
4.4	MONITORING DATA	16
4.5	COMPARISON OF MONITORING DATA WITH DERRY	17

5	Review and Assessment for SO ₂ from domestic fuel combustion	18
5.1	INTRODUCTION	18
5.2	LATEST STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES FOR SO ₂	18
5.3	THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE	18
5.4	MONITORING DATA	19
5.5	COMPARISON OF MONITORING DATA WITH BELFAST EAST SITE.	19
6	Results of the fuel use survey	20
6.1	INTRODUCTION	20
6.2	EMISSION FACTORS USED IN THE MODELLING	20
6.3	GRID 1 - HEAD OF THE TOWN	21
6.4	GRID 2 - BALLYCOLMAN	21
6.5	GRID 3 - MELMOUNT	22
6.6	GRID 4 - NEWTOWNSTEWART	22
6.7	GRID 5 - CASTLEDERG	23
6.8	GRID 6 - SION MILLS	23
7	Detailed modelling	24
7.1	METEOROLOGICAL DATA	24
7.2	OVERVIEW OF THE MODELLING APPROACH	24
7.2.1	Model bias	24
7.2.2	Model validation	24
7.3	RESULTS OF MODELLING	25
7.3.1	Head of the Town, Ballycolman and Melmount	25
7.3.2	Newtownstewart	25
7.3.3	Castlederg	25
7.3.4	Sion Mills	26
7.4	SUMMARY OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF EXCEEDING THE OBJECTIVES FOR SO ₂	26
7.5	SUMMARY OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF EXCEEDING THE OBJECTIVES FOR PM ₁₀	26
7.6	RECOMMENDATIONS	26
8	References	27

Appendix 1 Strabane District Council Fuel Use Survey

1. Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

AEA Technology's National Environmental Technology Centre (NETCEN) was commissioned to complete the domestic fuel combustion section of the third stage review and assessment for Strabane District Council (SDC).

1.2 GENERAL APPROACH TAKEN

The approach taken in this study was to:

- Collect and interpret additional data to support the third stage assessment, including detailed fuel use survey data for locations where exceedences were predicted;
- Utilise the monitoring data from the Council's monitoring campaign to assess the ambient concentrations produced by domestic fuel combustion and to validate the output of the modelling studies.
- Model the concentrations of PM₁₀ and SO₂ in the selected grid squares, concentrating on the locations (receptors) where people might be exposed over the relevant averaging times of the air quality objectives;
- Present the concentrations as contour plots of concentrations and assess the uncertainty in the predicted concentrations

1.3 VERSION OF THE POLLUTANT SPECIFIC GUIDANCE USED IN THIS ASSESSMENT

This report has used the guidance in LAQM.TG(03), published in February 2003.

1.4 NUMBERING OF FIGURES AND TABLES

The numbering scheme is not sequential, and the figures and tables are numbered according to the chapter and section that they relate to.

1.5 UNITS OF CONCENTRATION

The units throughout this report are presented in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (which is consistent with the presentation of the new AQS objectives), unless otherwise noted.

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This document is a Third Stage Air Quality review for Strabane District Council for PM₁₀ and SO₂ from domestic fuel combustion. This chapter, Chapter 1 has summarised the need for the work and the approach to completing the study.

Chapter 2 of the report describes the most recent developments in the UK's Air Quality Strategy (AQS). In addition, it discusses when implementation of an AQMA is required.

Chapter 3 contains details of the information used to conduct the stage 3 review and assessment for Strabane District Council.

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 describe the results of the assessment and discusses whether both the PM₁₀ and sulphur dioxide objectives will be exceeded in Strabane in 2004/5. The results of the analysis are displayed as contour plots.

2 The updated Air Quality Strategy

2.1 THE NEED FOR AN AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

The Government published its proposals for review of the National Air Quality Strategy in early 1999 (DETR, 1999). These proposals included revised objectives for many of the regulated pollutants. A key factor in the proposals to revise the objectives was the agreement in June 1998 at the European Union Environment Council of a Common Position on Air Quality Daughter Directives (AQDD).

Following consultation on the Review of the National Air Quality Strategy, the Government prepared the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for consultation in August 1999. It was published in January 2000 (DETR, 2000).

The Environment Act (1995) provides the legal framework for requiring LA's to review air quality and for implementation of an AQMA. The main constituents of this Act are summarised in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Major elements of the Environment Act 1995

Part IV Air Quality	Commentary
Section 80	Obliges the Secretary of State (SoS) to publish a National Air Quality Strategy as soon as possible.
Section 81	Obliges the Environment Agency to take account of the strategy.
Section 82	Requires local authorities, any unitary or Borough, to review air quality and to assess whether the air quality standards and objectives are being achieved. Areas where standards fall short must be identified.
Section 83	Requires a local authority, for any area where air quality standards are not being met, to issue an order designating it an air quality management area (AQMA).
Section 84	Imposes duties on a local authority with respect to AQMAs. The local authority must carry out further assessments and draw up an action plan specifying the measures to be carried out and the timescale to bring air quality in the area back within limits.
Section 85	Gives reserve powers to cause assessments to be made in any area and to give instructions to a local authority to take specified actions. Authorities have a duty to comply with these instructions.
Section 86	Provides for the role of County Councils to make recommendations to a district on the carrying out of an air quality assessment and the preparation of an action plan.
Section 87	Provides the SoS with wide ranging powers to make regulations concerning air quality. These include standards and objectives, the conferring of powers and duties, the prohibition and restriction of certain activities or vehicles, the obtaining of information, the levying of fines and penalties, the hearing of appeals and other criteria. The regulations must be approved by affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament.
Section 88	Provides powers to make guidance which local authorities must have regard to.

2.2 OVERVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES AND MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

The main elements of the AQS can be summarised as follows:

- The use of a health effects based approach using national air quality standards and objectives.
- The use of policies by which the objectives can be achieved and which include the input of important actors such as industry, transportation bodies and local authorities.
- The predetermination of timescales with a target dates of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2010 for the achievement of objectives and a commitment to review the Strategy every three years.

It is intended that the AQS will provide a framework for the improvement of air quality that is both clear and workable. In order to achieve this, the Strategy is based on several principles which include:

- the provision of a statement of the Government's general aims regarding air quality;
- clear and measurable targets;
- a balance between local and national action and
- a transparent and flexible framework.

Co-operation and participation by different economic and governmental sectors is also encouraged within the context of existing and potential future international policy commitments.

2.2.1 National Air Quality Standards

At the centre of the AQS is the use of national air quality standards to enable air quality to be measured and assessed. These also provide the means by which objectives and timescales for the achievement of objectives can be set. Most of the proposed standards have been based on the available information concerning the health effects resulting from different ambient concentrations of selected pollutants and are the consensus view of medical experts on the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQS). These standards and associated specific objectives to be achieved between 2003 and 2010 are shown in Table 2.2. The table shows the standards in ppb and $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ with the number of exceedences that are permitted (where applicable) and the equivalent percentile.

Specific objectives relate either to achieving the full standard or, where use has been made of a short averaging period, objectives are sometimes expressed in terms of percentile compliance. The use of percentiles means that a limited number of exceedences of the air quality standard over a particular timescale, usually a year, are permitted. This is to account for unusual meteorological conditions or particular events such as November 5th. For example, if an objective is to be complied with at the 99.9th percentile, then 99.9% of measurements at each location must be at or below the level specified.

Table 2.2 Air Quality Objectives in the Air Quality Regulations (2000) for the purpose of Local Air Quality Management.

Pollutant	Concentration limits		Averaging period	Objective	
	($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	(ppb)		($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	[number of permitted exceedences a year and equivalent percentile] date for objective
Benzene	16.25	5	running annual mean	16.25	by 31.12.2003
	5		Annual mean	5	by 31.12.2010
1,3-butadiene	2.25	1	running annual mean	2.25	by 31.12.2003
CO	10,000	8,600	running 8-hour mean	10,000	by 31.12.2003
Pb	0.5	-	annual mean	0.5	by 31.12.2004
	0.25	-	annual mean	0.25	by 31.12.2008
NO₂ (see note)	200	105	1 hour mean	200	by 31.12.2005 [maximum of 18 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99.8 th percentile]
	40	21	annual mean	40	by 31.12.2005
PM₁₀ (gravimetric) (see note)	50	-	24-hour mean	50	by 31.12.2004 [maximum of 35 exceedences a year or ~ equivalent to the 90 th percentile]
	40	-	annual mean	40	by 31.12.2004
SO₂	266	100	15 minute mean	266	by 31.12.2005 [maximum of 35 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99.9 th percentile]
	350	132	1 hour mean	350	by 31.12.2004 [maximum of 24 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99.7 th percentile]
	125	47	24 hour mean	125	by 31.12.2004 [maximum of 3 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99 th percentile]

Notes

1. Conversions of ppb and ppm to ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) correct at 20°C and 1013 mb.
2. The objectives for nitrogen dioxide are provisional.
3. PM₁₀ measured using the European gravimetric transfer standard or equivalent. The Government and the devolved administrations see this new 24-hour mean objective for particles as a staging post rather than a final outcome. Work has been set in hand to assess the prospects of strengthening the new objective.

2.2.2 Relationship between the UK National Air Quality Standards and EU air quality Limit Values

As a member state of the EU, the UK must comply with European Union Directives.

There are three EU ambient air quality directives that the UK has transposed in to UK law. These are:

- **96/62/EC** Council Directive of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management. (the Ambient Air Framework Directive)
- **1999/30/EC** Council Directive of 22 April 1999 relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air. (the First Daughter Directive)
- **2000/69/EC** Directive of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 Nov 2000 relating to limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air. (the Second Daughter Directive)

The first and second daughter directives contain air quality Limit Values for the pollutants that are listed in the framework directive. The United Kingdom (i.e. Great Britain and Northern Ireland) must comply with these Limit Values. The UK air quality strategy should allow the UK to comply with the EU Air Quality Daughter Directives, but the UK air quality strategy also includes some stricter national objectives for some pollutants, for example, sulphur dioxide.

The Government is ultimately responsible for achieving the EU limit values. However, it is important that Local Air Quality Management is used as a tool to ensure that the necessary action is taken at local level to work towards achieving the EU limit values by the dates specified in those EU Directives.

2.2.3 Recent proposed changes to the UK National Air Quality Standards

DEFRA have recently issued a consultation document with proposed changes to the UK AQS for benzene, carbon monoxide and particulate matter (DEFRA, 2001). The proposed changes are:

For **benzene**

- An objective derived from the long-term policy aim of **3.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a running annual mean** recommended by UK EPAQS (Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards). The objective for benzene included in the 2000 Strategy is 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a running annual mean to be achieved by 2003. This is derived from the EPAQS recommended standard. The UK adopted the second EU Air Quality Daughter Directive (which sets limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide) in 2000. This Daughter Directive sets a limit value for benzene of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as an annual mean to be achieved by 2010.

For **particulates** new provisional objectives of

- for **all parts of the UK**, except London and Scotland, a **24-hour mean of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 7 times per year** and an **annual mean of 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** , both to be achieved by the end of 2010;
- for London, a 24-hour mean of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 10 times per year and an annual mean of 23 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, both to be achieved by the end of 2010;
- for Scotland, a 24-hour mean of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 7 times per year and an annual mean of 18 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, both to be achieved by the end of 2010.

2.2.4 Policies in place to allow these objectives to be achieved

The policy framework to allow these objectives to be achieved is one that takes a local air quality management approach. This is superimposed upon existing national and international regulations in order to effectively tackle local air quality issues as well as issues relating to wider spatial scales. National and EC policies which already exist provide a good basis for progress towards the air quality objectives set for 2003 to 2010. For example, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows for the monitoring and control of emissions from industrial processes and various EC Directives have ensured that road transport emission and fuel standards are in place. These policies are being developed to

include more stringent controls. Developments in the UK include the announcement by the Environment Agency in January 2000 on controls on emissions of SO₂ from coal and oil fired power stations. This system of controls means that by the end of 2005 coal and oil fired power stations will meet the air quality standards set out in the AQS.

Local air quality management provides a strategic role for local authorities in response to particular air quality problems experienced at a local level. This builds upon current air quality control responsibilities and places an emphasis on bringing together issues relating to transport, waste, energy and planning in an integrated way. This integrated approach involves a number of different aspects. It includes the development of an appropriate local framework that allows air quality issues to be considered alongside other issues relating to polluting activity. It should also enable co-operation with and participation by the general public in addition to other transport, industrial and governmental authorities.

An important part of the Strategy is the requirement for local authorities to carry out air quality reviews and assessments of their area against which current and future compliance with air quality standards can be measured. Over the longer term, these will also enable the effects of policies to be studied and therefore help in the development of future policy. The Government has prepared guidance to help local authorities to use the most appropriate tools and methods for conducting a review and assessment of air quality in their Borough. This is part of a package of guidance being prepared to assist with the practicalities of implementing the AQS. Other guidance covers air quality and land use planning, air quality and traffic management and the development of local air quality action plans and strategies.

2.2.5 Timescales to achieve the objectives

In most local authorities in the UK, objectives will be met for most of the pollutants within the timescale of the objectives shown in Table 2.2. It is important to note that the objectives for NO₂ remain provisional. The Government has recognised the problems associated with achieving the standard for ozone and this will not therefore be a statutory requirement. Ozone is a secondary pollutant and transboundary in nature and it is recognised that local authorities themselves can exert little influence on concentrations when they are the result of regional primary emission patterns.

2.3 AIR QUALITY REVIEWS

A range of Technical Guidance has been issued to enable air quality to be monitored, modelled, reviewed and assessed in an appropriate and consistent fashion. This includes the Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(03), and the previous version LAQM.TG4(00) May 2000, on 'Review and Assessment: Pollutant Specific Guidance'. This review and assessment has considered the procedures set out in the guidance.

The primary objective of undertaking a review of air quality is to identify any areas that are unlikely to meet national air quality objectives and ensure that air quality is considered in local authority decision making processes. The complexity and detail required in a review depends on the risk of failing to achieve air quality objectives and it has been proposed therefore that reviews should be carried out in three stages. All three stages of review and assessment may be necessary and every authority is expected to undertake at least a first stage review and assessment of air quality in their authority area. The Stages are briefly described in the following table, Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Brief details of Stages in the Air Quality Review and Assessment process

Stage	Objective	Approach	Outcome
First Stage Review and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all significant pollutant sources within or outside of the authority’s area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile and collate a list of potentially significant pollution sources using the assessment criteria described in the Pollutant Specific Guidance 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify those pollutants where there is a risk of exceeding the air quality objectives, and for which further investigation is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sources requiring further investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision about whether a Stage 2 Review and Assessment is needed for one or more pollutants. If not, no further review and assessment is necessary.
Second Stage Review and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further screening of significant sources to determine whether there is a significant risk of the air quality objectives being exceeded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of screening models or monitoring methods to assess whether there is a risk of exceeding the air quality objectives. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify those pollutants where there is a risk of exceeding the objectives, and for which further investigation is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment need only consider those locations where the highest likely concentrations are expected, and where public exposure is relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision about whether a Stage 3 Review and Assessment is needed for one or more pollutants. If, as a result of estimations of ground level concentrations at suitable receptors, a local authority judges that there is no significant risk of not achieving an air quality objective, it can be confident that an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) will not be required. However, if there is doubt that an air quality objective will be achieved a third stage review should be conducted.

Table 2.3 (contd.) Brief details of Stages in the Review and Assessment process

Stage	Objective	Approach	Outcome
Third Stage Review and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate and detailed assessment of both current and future air quality. Assess the likelihood of the air quality objectives being exceeded. Identify the geographical boundary of any exceedences, and description of those areas, if any, proposed to be designated as an AQMA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of validated modelling and quality-assured monitoring methods to determine current and future pollutant concentrations. The assessment will need to consider all locations where public exposure is relevant. For each pollutant of concern, it may be necessary to construct a detailed emissions inventory and model the extent, location and frequency of potential air quality exceedences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the location of any necessary Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Once an AQMA has been identified, there are further sets of requirements to be considered. A further assessment of air quality in the AQMA is required within 12 months which will enable the degree to which air quality objectives will not be met and the sources of pollution that contribute to this to be determined. A local authority must also prepare a written action plan for achievement of the air quality objective. Both air quality reviews and action plans are to be made publicly available.

2.4 LOCATIONS THAT THE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT MUST CONCENTRATE ON

For the purpose of review and assessment, the authority should focus their work on locations where members of the public are likely to be exposed over the averaging period of the objective. Table 2.4 summarises the locations where the objectives should and should not apply.

Table 2.4 Typical locations where the objectives should and should not apply

Averaging Period	Pollutants	Objectives <i>should</i> apply at ...	Objectives <i>should not</i> generally apply at ...
Annual mean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,3 Butadiene • Benzene • Lead • Nitrogen dioxide • Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All background locations where members of the public might be regularly exposed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building facades of offices or other places of work where members of the public do not have regular access.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building facades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, libraries etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardens of residential properties.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerbside sites (as opposed to locations at the building facade), or any other location where public exposure is expected to be short term
24 hour mean and 8-hour mean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon monoxide • Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) • Sulphur dioxide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All locations where the annual mean objective would apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerbside sites (as opposed to locations at the building facade), or any other location where public exposure is expected to be short term.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardens of residential properties. 	

Table 2.4 (contd.) Typical locations where the objectives should and should not apply

Averaging Period	Pollutants	Objectives should apply at ...	Objectives should generally not apply at ...
1 hour mean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen dioxide • Sulphur dioxide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All locations where the annual mean and 24 and 8-hour mean objectives apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerbside sites where the public would not be expected to have regular access.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerbside sites (e.g. pavements of busy shopping streets). 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those parts of car parks and railway stations etc. which are not fully enclosed. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any outdoor locations to which the public might reasonably be expected to have access. 	
15 minute mean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sulphur dioxide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All locations where members of the public might reasonably be exposed for a period of 15 minutes or longer. 	

It is unnecessary to consider exceedences of the objectives at any location where public exposure over the relevant averaging period would be unrealistic, and the locations should represent non-occupational exposure.

Key Points

- ◆ The Environment Act 1995 has required the development of a National Air Quality Strategy for the control of air quality.
- ◆ A central element in the Strategy is the use of air quality standards and associated objectives based on human health effects that have been included in the Air Quality Regulations.
- ◆ The Strategy uses a local air quality management approach in addition to existing national and international legislation. It promotes an integrated approach to air quality control by the various actors and agencies involved.
- ◆ Air quality objectives, with the exception of ozone, are to be achieved by specified dates up to the end of 2010.
- ◆ A number of air quality reviews are required in order to assess compliance with air quality objectives. The number of reviews necessary depends on the likelihood of achieving the objectives.

3 Information used to support this assessment

This Chapter presents the information used to support this review and assessment.

3.1 MAPS

Strabane District Council provided detailed maps of the six kilometre grid squares of concern.

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3.2 METEOROLOGICAL DATA USED IN THE DISPERSION MODELLING

Hourly sequential data was obtained for 1999 from the Meteorological Office for the Aldergrove site for input into the ADMS dispersion model.

3.3 AMBIENT MONITORING

3.3.1 Particulates (PM₁₀)

PM₁₀ has been monitored:

- By continuous monitoring since April 2002 at Springhill Park (OS Grid Reference 2351 3972) in the Head of the Town area.

The concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor are provided in Section 4.4.

3.3.2 Sulphur dioxide

Sulphur dioxide has been monitored by:

- By continuous monitoring since April 2002 at Springhill Park (OS Grid Reference 2351 3972) in the Head of the Town area.

The concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor are provided in Section 5.4

4 Review and Assessment for PM₁₀ from domestic fuel combustion

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Airborne particulate matter varies widely in its physical and chemical composition, source and particle size. Particles are often classed as either primary (those emitted directly into the atmosphere) or secondary (those formed or modified in the atmosphere from condensation and growth). PM₁₀ particles (the fraction of particulates in air of very small size, <10 µm aerodynamic diameter) can potentially pose significant health risks as they are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs. Larger particles are not readily inhaled.

A major source of fine primary particles is combustion processes, in particular diesel combustion, where transport of hot exhaust vapour into a cooler tailpipe or stack can lead to spontaneous nucleation of "carbon" particles before emission. Secondary particles are typically formed when low volatility products are generated in the atmosphere, for example the oxidation of sulphur dioxide to sulphuric acid. The atmospheric lifetime of particulate matter is strongly related to particle size, but may be as long as 10 days for particles of about 1 µm in diameter.

Concern about the potential health impacts of PM₁₀ has increased very rapidly over recent years. Increasingly, attention has been turning towards monitoring the smaller particle fraction, PM_{2.5}, which is capable of penetrating deepest into the lungs, or to even smaller size fractions or total particle numbers.

4.2 LATEST STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PM10

The government and the devolved administrations have adopted two air quality objectives for fine particles (PM₁₀), which are the equivalent to the EU Stage 1 limit values in the first Air Quality Daughter Directive. The gravimetric objectives are:

- An annual mean of 40 µg/m³.
- A 24 hour mean of 50 µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 35 days per year.

The EU has also set indicative limit values for PM₁₀ which are to be achieved by 1st January 2010. These stage 2 limit values are considerably more stringent and are:

- For England and Wales (except London), a 24 hour mean of 50 µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 7 days per year and an annual mean of 20 µg/m³ to be achieved by the end of 2010;
- For London, a 24 hour mean of 50 µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 10 days per year and an annual mean of 23µg/m³ to be achieved by the end of 2010. An annual mean objective of 20µg/m³ to be achieved by the end of 2015 has also been set.

The 24 hour objective is more stringent than the annual mean objective in 2004. However, the opposite is true in 2010, and the annual mean objective is more stringent than the 24 hour objective.

4.3 THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

National UK emissions of primary PM₁₀ have been estimated as totalling 213,000 tonnes in 1996. Of this total, around 24% was derived from road transport sources, 38% from industrial sources, 16% from power stations and 17% from domestic and other low-power combustion. It should be noted that, in general, the emissions estimates for PM₁₀ are less accurate than those for the other pollutants with prescribed objectives, especially for sources other than road transport.

The Government established the Airborne Particles Expert Group (APEG) to advise on sources of PM₁₀ in the UK and current and future ambient concentrations. Their conclusions were published in January 1999 (APEG, 1999). APEG concluded that a significant proportion of the current annual average PM₁₀ is due to the secondary formation of particulate sulphates and nitrates, resulting from the oxidation of sulphur and nitrogen oxides. These are regional scale pollutants and the annual concentrations do not vary greatly over a scale of tens of kilometres. There are also natural or semi-natural sources such as wind-blown dust and sea salt particles. The impact of local urban sources is superimposed on this regional background. Such local sources are generally responsible for winter episodes of hourly mean concentrations of PM₁₀ above 100 µg m⁻³ associated with poor dispersion. However, it is clear that many of the sources of PM₁₀ are outside the control of individual local authorities and the estimation of future concentrations of PM₁₀ are in part dependent on predictions of the secondary particle component.

Further advice to local authorities on review and assessment of particles has now been published in the Technical Assistance with the Review and Assessment of PM₁₀ concentrations in relation to the proposed EU Stage 1 Limit Values (Moorcroft *et al.*, 1999).

4.4 MONITORING DATA

PM₁₀ concentrations have been continuously monitored in Strabane District at Springhill Park since April 2002 (OS Grid Reference 2351, 3972).

All the PM₁₀ concentrations presented and used in this study are in gravimetric equivalents. A summary of the PM₁₀ concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor is provided in Table 4.4 below.

QA/QC of continuous monitoring data

The data from the continuous monitor located at Springhill Park has been ratified by Netcen. The data conforms to the QA/QC standards used in the Defra network.

Summary statistics

Table 4.4 shows the daily average measured concentrations from the 26th April 2002 until the 28th January 2003. The average concentration (ratified) for the Springhill site exceeds the annual and 24 hour objective for PM₁₀.

Table 4.4 Summary of continuous PM₁₀ ratified data from the 26th April 2002 to the 28th January 2003 inclusively. Concentrations are in gravimetric equivalents.

	Concentration, µg m ⁻³
	PM ₁₀
Average over period	43
90 %ile of 24hour mean	73
Data capture	98%

For the results of the modelling carried out in this study to predict PM₁₀ concentrations in the six areas of concern, please see Section 6.

4.5 COMPARISON OF MONITORING DATA WITH DERRY

The modelling carried out for this report has used 1999 meteorological data from Aldergrove. Therefore a comparison has been made between PM₁₀ concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor in Derry in 1999 with that recorded between 26th April and the 28th January 2003 when the Springhill park site was in operation. Ideally a comparison would have been done with more monitoring sites but Derry was the only site for which data was available and for which was deemed suitable. The results are shown in Table 4.5 below. All results shown are in gravimetric equivalents.

Table 4.5 Comparison of PM₁₀ concentrations in Springhill park with the Derry site.

Site	90 th percentile daily mean (µg/m ³) in 1999	90 th percentile daily mean (µg/m ³) from 26 th April 2002 to 28 th Jan 2003
Derry	39	37.7
Springhill Park	*	73

* It is estimated that in 1999, Springhill Park would have recorded a 90th percentile daily mean PM₁₀ concentration of approximately 75.5 µg/m³. This result has been used in the modelling to correct for bias.

5 Review and Assessment for SO₂ from domestic fuel combustion

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Sulphur dioxide is a corrosive acid gas which combines with water vapour in the atmosphere to produce acid rain. Both wet and dry deposition have been implicated in the damage and destruction of vegetation and in the degradation of soils, building materials and watercourses. SO₂ in ambient air is also associated with asthma and chronic bronchitis.

The principal source of this gas is power stations burning fossil fuels which contain sulphur. Episodes of high concentrations of SO₂ now only tend to occur in cities in which coal is still widely used for domestic heating, in industry and in power stations. As most power stations are now located away from urban areas, SO₂ emissions may affect air quality in both rural and urban areas. Since the decline in domestic coal burning in cities and in power stations overall, SO₂ emissions have diminished steadily and, in most European countries, they are no longer considered to pose a significant threat to health.

5.2 LATEST STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES FOR SO₂

Two new objectives have been introduced for SO₂ in the AQS based on the limit values in the Air Quality Daughter Directive. Hence there are now three objectives:

- 266 µg m⁻³ as a 15 minute mean (maximum of 35 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99.9th percentile) to be achieved by the 31st December 2005
- 350 µg m⁻³ as a 1 hour mean (maximum of 24 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99.7th percentile) to be achieved by the 31st December 2004
- 125 µg m⁻³ as a 24 hour mean (maximum of 3 exceedences a year or equivalent to the 99th percentile) to be achieved by the 31st December 2004

The 15 minute mean objective is the most stringent; the other two objectives will not be exceeded if this objective is not exceeded.

5.3 THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sulphur dioxide is emitted in the combustion of coal and oil. Emissions today are dominated by fossil-fuelled power stations which in 1997 accounted for 62% of the national total emission. Emissions from road transport are a very small fraction of the national total: 2%.

Exceedences of the 15-minute air quality standard currently occur near industrial processes for which the stack heights were designed to meet previous air quality standards and downwind of large combustion plant such as power stations. Exceedences are also possible in areas where significant quantities of coal are used for space heating. These large combustion plant are currently regulated under BATNEEC and the EPA 1990, and will come under the provisions of the IPPC. The government considers that bearing in mind the envisaged change in fuel use, it does not expect exceedences of the 15-minute objective by 2005 from these sources.

5.4 MONITORING DATA

Sulphur dioxide concentrations have been continuously monitored at Springhill Park in Strabane since April 2002. The site is in a dense domestic fuel burning area. A summary of the concentrations recorded at the site are shown in Table 5.4 below. The data has been ratified by Netcen and conform to the Defra standards.

Table 5.4 Summary of continuous SO₂ data 26th April 2002 to the 28th January 2003

	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)
Average	8
Maximum daily	29.3
Maximum hourly mean	90.4
99.9 th %ile 15 minute mean	74.5
Data capture	93.4%

The most stringent SO₂ objective is the 99.9 percentile 15 minute mean. If this objective is met then it is likely that all the other objectives will be met. The 99.9th % percentile 15 minute mean concentration at the Strabane site is well below the objective of 266 µg/m³ for sulphur dioxide during the period of monitoring.

5.5 COMPARISON OF MONITORING DATA WITH BELFAST EAST SITE.

The modelling carried out for this report has used 1999 meteorological data from Aldergrove. Therefore a comparison has been made between SO₂ concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor at Belfast East in 1999 with that recorded between 26th April and the 28th January 2003 when the Springhill park site was in operation. Ideally a comparison would have been done with more monitoring sites but Belfast East was the only site for which data was available and for which was deemed suitable. The results are shown in Table 5.5 below.

Table 5.5 Comparison of 99.9 percentile 15 minute mean SO₂ concentrations in Springhill park with the Belfast East site (µg/m³).

Site	1999	2000	2001	26 th April 2002 to 28 th Jan 2003
Belfast East	338	274	373	162
Springhill Park	*	N/a	N/a	74.5

The Belfast East site recorded far higher 99.9 percentile 15 minute mean SO₂ concentrations in 1999, 2000 and 2001 than during April 2002 to January 2003 when the Springhill site has been in operation. Therefore it is likely that although the concentrations recorded by the monitor in Strabane are well below the SO₂ 15 minute mean objective, that this period of monitoring is unrepresentative of the norm.

* It is estimated that in 1999, Springhill Park would have recorded a 99.9 percentile 15 minute mean SO₂ concentration of approximately 155 µg/m³. This figure has been used to bias correct the modelled results.

6 Results of the fuel use survey

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Strabane District Council commissioned Mallett & Associates Research Consultancy to carry out a domestic fuel survey in six areas identified in the Stage 2 Review and Assessment.

The survey aimed to determine the following:

- The types and quantities of fuels used in the domestic sector
- Seasonal use of heating fuels
- The types of heating appliances used
- The total number of persons who live in coal burning households in each of the six designated survey areas.
- The total number of houses that burn coal in each of the survey areas.

The six survey areas were:

- The head of the town
- Ballycolman
- Melmount
- Newtownstewart
- Castleberg
- Sion Mills

The aim was to take a 15% random sample of households in three high density housing areas in Strabane and a 10% random sample in the lower density areas (Castleberg, Newtownstewart and Sion Mills).

Table 6.1 Estimated number of houses in each grid area and the achieved number of surveys.

Grid Area	No. houses	Respondents	% asked
Head of town	560	81	14.5
Ballycolman	1266	187	14.8
Melmount	724	106	14.6
Newtownstewart	477	49	10.3
Castleberg	589	58	9.8
Sion Mills	505	50	9.9

The results of the survey showed that overall oil was the most popular primary heating source in all grid areas combined (61.2% of all households). Coal accounted for 35.4% of all households as the main heating source and an additional 14% of all households reported using coal as a secondary source of heat.

6.2 EMISSION FACTORS USED IN THE MODELLING

The SO₂ and PM₁₀ emissions arising from domestic fuel combustion were taken from the UK emission factor database (www.naei.org.uk). This web site is managed by Netcen on behalf of Defra. The exception to this is the emission factor for sulphur dioxide from household coal which has been taken

from a CRE study carried out for Belfast City Council. It was felt that this locally derived emission factor maybe more representative of fuel burnt in Northern Ireland.

Table 6.2 Emissions arising from domestic fuel combustion

Fuel type	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	Units
Anthracite	13	3.59	kt/mt fuel burnt
Burning Oil	0.42	0.01	kt/mt fuel burnt
Coal	10*	10	kt/mt fuel burnt
SSF	16	5.6	kt/mt fuel burnt
Wood	0.03	7.9	kt/mt fuel burnt

Source: UK emission factor database (www.naei.org.uk)

SSF = solid smokeless fuel

* - emission factor taken from CRE, 1997.

The emission factors provided in the above table have been used to derive PM₁₀ and SO₂ emissions for each of the six survey areas.

6.3 GRID 1 - HEAD OF THE TOWN

In Grid square 1, there were estimated to be 560 households. The following two tables summarise the results of the survey in this grid. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.3A % of households burning different fuel types in the Head of the Town.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	46	1	1	52	100
Secondary fuel	0	0	17	5	22

SF = solid fuel

Table 6.3B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in the Head of the Town survey area.

Type	Ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	79	0	4	10	7

In the head of the town survey area, it was found that there was roughly an even split between those households burning oil as their main heating source and those that burn coal.

The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 1 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

6.4 GRID 2 - BALLYCOLMAN

In Grid square 2, there were estimated to be 1,266 households. The following two tables summarise the results of the fuel survey in this grid 2. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.4A % of households burning different fuel types in Ballycolman.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	70	0	4	26	100
Secondary fuel	0.5	1	4	11	15

Table 6.4B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in Ballycolman

Type	ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	62	0	25	10	3

In the Ballycolman survey area it was found that the majority of households burnt oil for their main heating source (70% of households). A lesser proportion burnt coal or solid fuel.

The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 2 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

6.5 GRID 3 - MELMOUNT

In Grid square 3, there were estimated to be 724 households. The following table summarises the results of the fuel survey in this grid. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.5A % of households burning different fuel types in Melmount.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	80	0	1	19	100
Secondary fuel	0	0	5	16	21

Table 6.5B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in Melmount

Type	ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	37	0	50	13	0

In survey area 3, the majority of respondents burn oil as their main fuel (80%).

The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 3 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

6.6 GRID 4 - NEWTOWNSTEWART

In survey area 4, there were estimated to be 477 households. In this area, there is lower density housing than in the previous survey areas 1- 3. The following table summarises the results of the fuel survey in this grid 4. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.6A % of households burning different fuel types in Newtownstewart.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	39	0	0	61	100
Secondary fuel	6	0	0	20	27

Table 6.6B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in Newtownstewart

Type	ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	94	0	0	6	0

In survey area 4, the majority of respondents burn coal / solid fuel as their main fuel (61%). The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 4 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

6.7 GRID 5 - CASTLEDERG

In survey area 5, there were estimated to be 589 households. The following table summarises the results of the fuel survey in this grid. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.7A % of households burning different fuel types in Castlederg.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	57	0	0	43	100
Secondary fuel	0	1.7	9	19	29

Table 6.7B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in Castlederg

Type	ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	60	0	13	27	0

The majority of households surveyed in Castlederg burn oil followed by coal / solid fuel as their main fuel source.

The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 5 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

6.8 GRID 6 - SION MILLS

In survey area 6, there were estimated to be 505 households. The following table summarises the results of the fuel survey in this grid 6. For further details please see Appendix 1.

Table 6.8A % of households burning different fuel types in Sion Mills.

Use	oil	gas	elec	coal/SF	Total
Main fuel	46	0	6	48	100
Secondary fuel	4	0	8	12	24

Table 6.8B The type of coal and / or solid smokeless fuel used (%) in Sion Mills

Type	ordinary	smokeless	anthracite	Wood	turf/peat
% who use	48	0	3	38	11

In Sion Mills there is approximately an even number of households burning oil and coal / solid fuel as their main fuel source. There is a large amount of wood and turf / peat burning.

The emission factors shown in Table 6.3.2 above have been applied to the results of the fuel survey for grid square 6 to calculate an average PM₁₀ and SO₂ emission arising from the area.

7 Detailed modelling

7.1 METEOROLOGICAL DATA

Hourly sequential meteorological data for 1999 for Aldergrove was obtained from the Meteorological Office. The meteorological data provided information on wind speed and direction and the extent of cloud cover for each hour of 1999.

7.2 OVERVIEW OF THE MODELLING APPROACH

The dispersion model ADMS 3.1 developed by CERC has been used to predict the PM₁₀ and SO₂ levels in Strabane district. ADMS is a PC-based model that includes an up-to-date representation of the atmospheric processes that contribute to pollutant dispersion and has been deemed suitable for use in the review and assessment process.

The emissions arising from each survey area have been modelled as a volume source. Emissions have been weighted with both seasonal and diurnal emission patterns. The seasonal emission pattern was obtained from the Building Research Establishment Domestic Energy Model (BREDEM, BRE, 1985). The pattern was derived using formulae that allow a degree day to be calculated. The degree day provides a method to weight emissions to the colder periods of the year. A seasonal profile was derived using the 1999 Aldergrove meteorological data.

The modelled concentrations have then been added to estimated background concentrations (taken from the NAEI web site).

7.2.1 Model bias

The monitoring site at Springhill Park has been used as a reference site: e.g. model concentrations have been adjusted by taking the ratio between the modelled concentration at the site and the predicted measured value in 1999 from the modelled values at other locations in Strabane. The purpose of this adjustment was to ensure that the modelled concentrations equalled the measured values at the monitoring site.

7.2.2 Model validation

The calculations have not taken account of:

- uncertainties in the fuel use survey as only 10 - 15% of households were questioned;
- uncertainties in how the burning of domestic fuel might change in future years;
- Uncertainty resulting from year to year variations in atmospheric conditions;
- Model errors at the receptor sites;
- Model errors at the reference site;
- Uncertainty in the location of the monitor with respect to local sources
- Monitoring over a short time period
- Uncertainty in emission factors (See section 6.2)

Pollutant emissions are expected to decrease generally due to national measures (which will affect the background concentrations). However, for SO₂ in particular the background contribution is small.

Concentration plots are therefore only shown for 1999 as this is the year for which modelling has been carried out and it is assumed that the results of the survey are applicable to both 1999 and 2004/5.

7.3 RESULTS OF MODELLING

7.3.1 Head of the Town, Ballycolman and Melmount

Figure 1 shows modelled SO₂ concentrations in the Head of the Town, Ballycolman and Melmount areas in 1999. The model predicts that the 99.9 percentile of the 15 minute mean SO₂ concentration will not be exceeded in the Head of the Town, Melmount and Ballycolman areas. The highest concentrations are predicted in the Head of the Town area. This is due to a higher proportion of households burning coal (52%) than in Ballycolman (26%) and Melmount (19%).

Due to the uncertainty in the domestic fuel burning in future years and the minute contribution of background SO₂ no attempt has been made at predicting concentrations in 2004/5. They are assumed to be similar to that modelled in 1999.

Table 5.5 showed the variation in SO₂ concentrations between 1999 and 2002 in Belfast East. This has highlighted the fact that the SO₂ concentrations recorded by the continuous monitor in Springhill Park in Strabane between April 2002 and January 2003 might not be representative of the norm.

Figure 5 shows modelled PM₁₀ concentrations in the Head of the Town, Ballycolman and Melmount areas in 1999. The model predicts that the 90.41 percentile of 24 hour PM₁₀ concentrations will be exceeded in all three areas. Due to the uncertainty in the domestic fuel burning in future years, no attempt has been made to predict PM₁₀ concentrations in 2004. It is assumed that they will be similar to those predicted in 1999 and that the objective will be exceeded.

7.3.2 Newtownstewart

Figure 2 shows modelled SO₂ concentrations in Newtownstewart in 1999. The model predicts that the 99.9 percentile of the 15 minute mean SO₂ concentrations will not be exceeded. However, the concentrations predicted are higher than those predicted in the Head of the Town area due to the higher proportion of coal burning as a heating source.

Figure 6 shows modelled PM₁₀ concentrations in the Newtownstewart area in 1999. The model predicts that the 90.41 percentile of 24 hour PM₁₀ concentrations will be exceeded in this area.

7.3.3 Castlederg

Figure 3 shows modelled SO₂ concentrations in Castlederg in 1999. The model predicts that the 99.9 percentile of the 15 minute mean SO₂ concentrations will not be exceeded.

Figure 7 shows modelled PM₁₀ concentrations in the Castlederg area in 1999. The model predicts that the daily mean 90.41 percentile of 24 hour PM₁₀ concentrations will be exceeded in the main town area where the most dense housing is found.

7.3.4 Sion Mills

Figure 4 shows modelled SO₂ concentrations in Sion Mills in 1999. The model predicts that the 99.9 percentile of the 15 minute mean SO₂ concentrations will not be exceeded.

Figure 8 shows modelled PM₁₀ concentrations in the Sion Mills area in 1999. The model predicts that the 90.41 percentile of 24 hour PM₁₀ concentrations will be exceeded in the main residential areas.

7.4 SUMMARY OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF EXCEEDING THE OBJECTIVES FOR SO₂

Detailed modelling using ADMS version 3.1 has been undertaken at six locations where large amounts of domestic fuel burning is common. The modelling (corrected for bias) predicts that at all locations modelled exceedences of the SO₂ objectives are unlikely.

A comparison of the monitoring data recorded at Belfast East during April 2002 to January 2003 (when the continuous monitor at Springhill Park was in operation) with data recorded during 1999, 2000 and 2001 showed that during the time that the Strabane site has been in operation, far lower values have been recorded than in previous years. Therefore the data recorded so far at Springhill Park may not be representative of future concentrations.

7.5 SUMMARY OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF EXCEEDING THE OBJECTIVES FOR PM₁₀

Detailed modelling using ADMS version 3.1 has been undertaken at six locations where large amounts of domestic fuel combustion is common.

The modelling (corrected for bias) predicted that at all of the locations modelled that an exceedence of the PM₁₀ objectives was likely.

7.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that consideration is given to declaring an air quality management area (AQMA) for all six areas modelled for PM₁₀. It is not recommended that an AQMA is declared for sulphur dioxide in any of the six areas modelled.

It is advisable that monitoring is continued at Springhill Park so that the concentrations of both PM₁₀ and SO₂ can continue to be closely observed.

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Appendix 1

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