Ards and North Down Borough Council

2026 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfillment of Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

Local Air Quality Management

June 2026

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Executive Summary

The Air Quality Strategy has established the framework for air quality management in the UK. Local Authorities have a duty under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent regulations to review and assess air quality in their areas on a periodic basis to identify all areas where the air quality objectives are being or are likely to be exceeded. A phased approach has been adopted for the review and assessment process so that the level of assessment undertaken is commensurate with the risk of an exceedance of an air quality objective.

An updating and screening assessment (USA) is required to be prepared every three years by all local authorities in the UK. The last updating and screening assessment of air quality was undertaken in 2024.

This report is the 2026 progress report for Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) and has been completed using the recommended template. The assessment is fully compliant with the applicable policy and technical guidance. This report identified no exceedances of the Air Quality Strategy objectives for 2025 for any of the pollutants assessed with relevant exposure. Planning applications have been examined by ANDBC Environmental Health and Regulatory Services to determine if an air quality impact assessment is required.

NO_2 levels due to vehicle emissions remain the main source of concern within ANDBC. It is a popular residential area due to the easy commute to Belfast city centre. The automatic monitoring site in Holywood is positioned on the A2 Bangor to Belfast main route to the city centre where the highest traffic flow is recorded within the Borough. The NO_2 results have shown a reduction in emissions from pre-COVID, possibly due to changes in working patterns and the growing popularity of low emission vehicles. The trend over the past 5 years shows no significant change in the NO_2 results, which have remained below the objective at all monitoring locations. Two new NO_2 monitoring sites were established in 2024, the Portaferry Road in Newtownards and Donaghadee Town Centre where traffic can become congested at times with relevant exposure.

Monitoring will continue in 2026 on the A2 main arterial route into Belfast City and hot spots around the Borough where traffic congestion is common at rush hour.
A large housing development in the Movilla area of Newtownards across to the Bangor Road now has established phases and new phases under construction. A new link road has commenced to improve traffic flows when building work is completed. During the planning process these and other smaller housing developments were examined by the Environmental Health and Regulatory Services Department and were found to have no significant impact on Air Quality. Ards & North Down Borough Council are actively working towards improving Air Quality within the Borough. The plans to extend existing coastal Green Ways, providing new cycle and pedestrian routes are under construction with sections completed. This will connect with the Belfast cycle route and the City Centre, also giving easy access to the new Belfast Rapid Transport System from Dundonald. Translink are also planning to develop a new 450 space Park & Ride in Newtownards on the lands of the former council leisure centre.

ANDBC launched a new initiative in 2019 in primary schools “Engine off Prevent the Cough”, educating pupils and parents to the harmful emissions from vehicles with the emphasis on idling engines outside schools, this remains available to schools and has been extended to public carparks and leisure centres to educate drivers.

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Appendices

1 Introduction

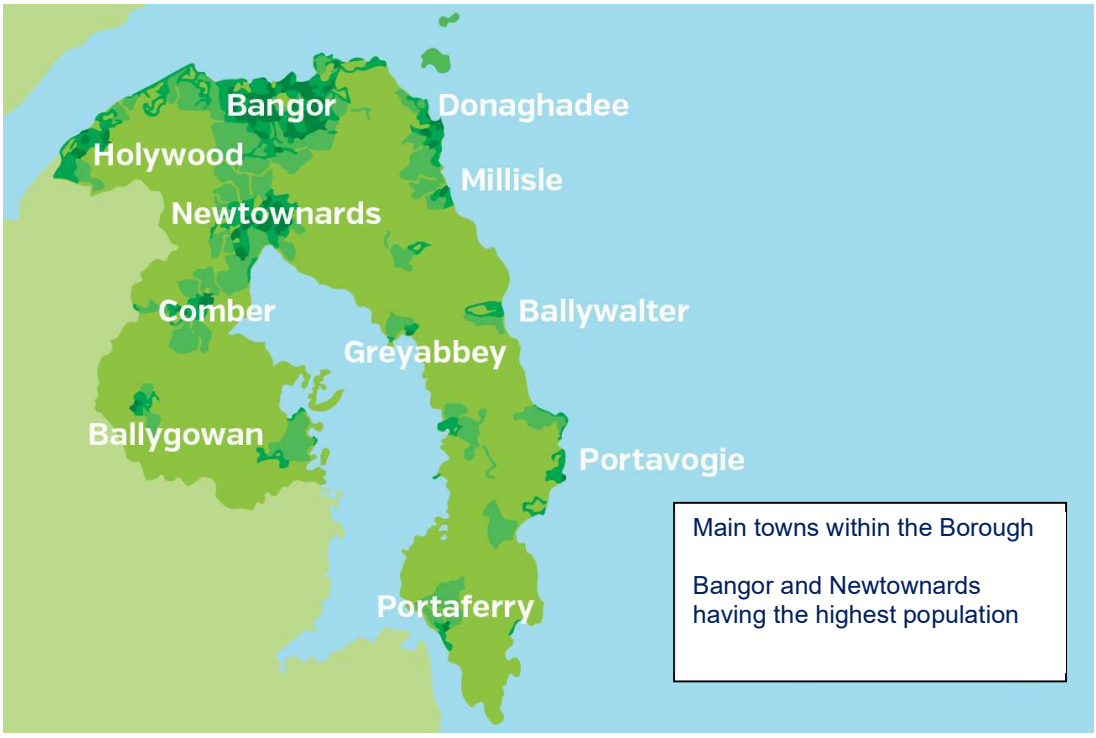
1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) is one of 11 councils in Northern Ireland, with an approximate population of 162,714. The Borough is of mixed urban and rural character situated east of Belfast City and the two largest towns Bangor City and Newtownards are popular residential areas due to the ease of commute to Belfast City. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest bounded by over 100 miles of coastline and the prevailing wind direction is south-westerly.

Air Quality in ANDBC is generally good as there is good ventilation from sea breezes. There are few industrial processes in the area that are significantly detrimental to air quality and heavy fuel oil is not widely used for heat generation, solid fuel is still very popular as a secondary fuel. However, there are a number of very busy trunk roads in the area and four main arterial routes into Belfast, the busiest being the A2 commuter route from Bangor to Belfast with approximate average daily traffic flows of over 44,000 vehicle movements per day at Holywood, this remains the main area of concern with relation to Air Quality, for Nitrogen Dioxide and $PM_{10,}$ an automatic monitoring site is located at this point. Several Nitrogen Dioxide monitoring sites are located at relevant exposure along the A2 the main arterial route to Belfast. Other sites are located at congested points throughout Newtownards, Bangor, Comber and Donaghadee town centres. All present monitoring within the Borough indicates that the objectives in the air quality strategy are not currently being exceeded at relevant exposure.

Figure 1.1 Map of Ards and North Down Borough Council within Northern Ireland

Figure 1.2 Ards and North Down Borough Council area



1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) 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 the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances 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.

For Local Authorities in Northern Ireland, 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 LAQM 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 exceedance 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 micrograms per cubic metre μg/m^3 (milligrams per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table 1.1 – 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 µg/m^3	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	3.25 µg/m^3	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-butadiene	2.25 µg/m^3	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m^3	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m^3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate matter (PM_{10}) (gravimetric)	50 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 µg/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 following reports have previously been submitted by ANDBC

2015 Update and Screening Assessment	All sites were below the air quality objective
2016 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2017 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2018 Update and Screening Assessment	All sites were below the air quality objective
2019 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2020 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2021 Update and Screening Assessment	All sites were below the air quality objective
2022 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2023 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective
2024 Update and Screening Assessment	All sites were below the air quality objective
2025 Progress report	All sites were below the air quality objective

2 New Monitoring Data

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

ANDBC has one automatic monitoring site on the A2 in Holywood, monitoring NO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Manual calibrations are carried out by the Local Air Quality Officer. Air Quality Data Management (AQDM) are employed to ratify and validate the data. A specialist engineer is employed to service and maintain the site as required. Results and correction factors are detailed in Appendix A.

In 2025 a co-location study for the NO_2 diffusion tubes was also carried out at this site. Results from this study were submitted to be included in the June 2026 national database. Results and correction factors are detailed in Appendix A.

Figure 2.1 Position of the automatic air monitoring site within ANDBC

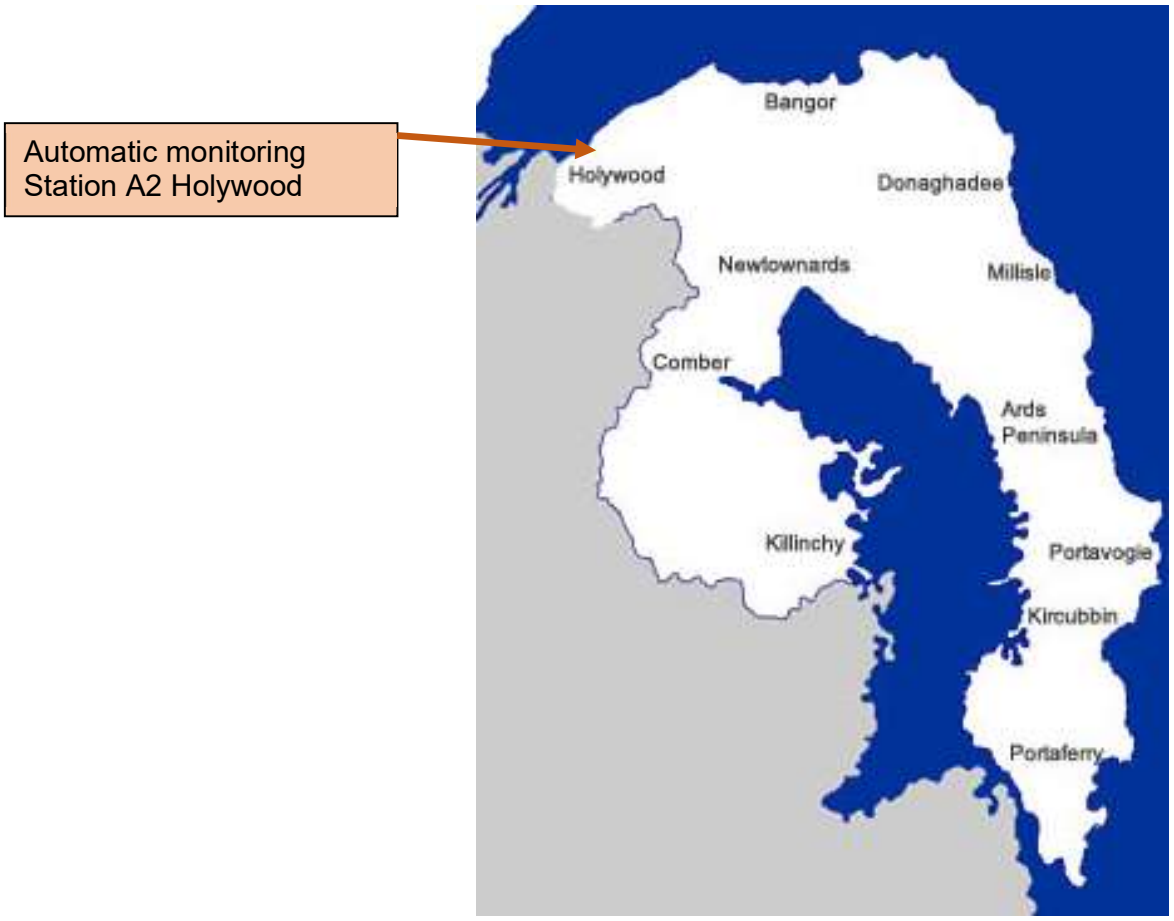


Figure 2.2 Position of Automatic Monitoring Site on the A2 Holywood

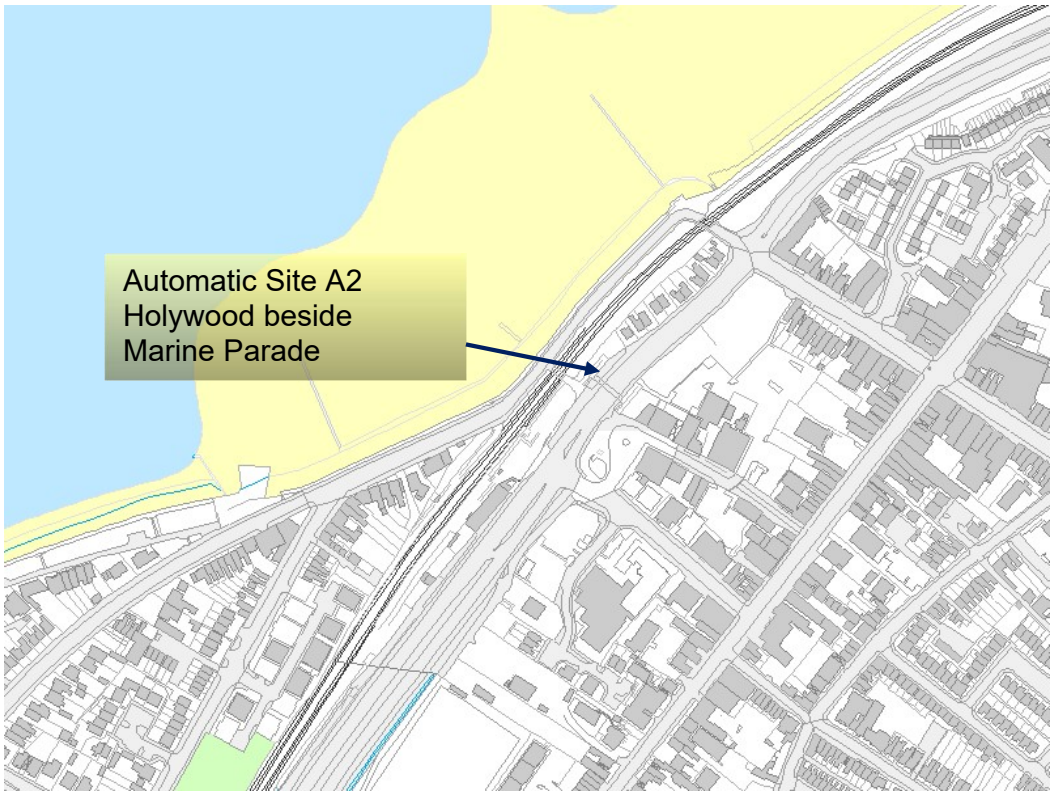


Figure 2.3 Aerial photo of Automatic Monitoring Station A2 Holywood

Table 2.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site Name	**Site Type**	**X OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)**	**Y OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)**	**Inlet Height (m)**	**Pollutants Monitored**	**In AQMA?**	**Monitoring Technique**	**Relevant Exposure?** (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	**Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m)** (N/A if not applicable)	**Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?**
Marine Parade Holywood A2	Roadside	339481	379328	2.5	PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ NO_2	N	FIDAS 200 Chemiluminescence	YES 30m	4.6M	YES

2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

In 2025 ANDBC had 15 NO_2 diffusion tube sites. Seven are positioned along the A2 main arterial route into Belfast from Bangor at roadside and one on the facade of the closest dwelling to the roadside. Four of these sites are located at the Holywood junction where traffic flows are at their highest and there are a number of roadside residential properties. The remainder of the tubes are at relevant exposure at various hotspots where there is traffic congestion at rush hour in Newtownards, Bangor, Comber, Donaghadee and Holywood town centre, and where further development has been planned. In 2024 new sites were identified where congestion can occur, namely the Portaferry Road in Newtownards, and Donaghadee Town centre that have relevant exposure.

A co-location study is carried out at the automatic site in Holywood. These results can be found in Appendix A and have also been submitted into the national database to be included in the June 2026 data sheet. It has not been possible to determine a trend from the diffusion tube studies for the past five years (See Fig. 2.16). Levels have remained consistent, they are reduced from pre COVID levels, possibly due to changes in working patterns and the increased popularity of low emission vehicles. The NO_2 diffusion tubes were supplied and analysed by Gradko Environmental. The bias adjustment factor from the co-location study is **0.68.** This was calculated using the DEFRA precision and accuracy spreadsheet. A decision was made to apply the national figure of **0.89** as this is the average of a number of studies and deemed to be a more realistic figure.

Details of the QA/QC for the diffusion tubes and the reason for the use of the bias adjustment factor can be found in Appendix A

Below are maps of the diffusion tube sites.

Figure 2.4 Map(s) of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

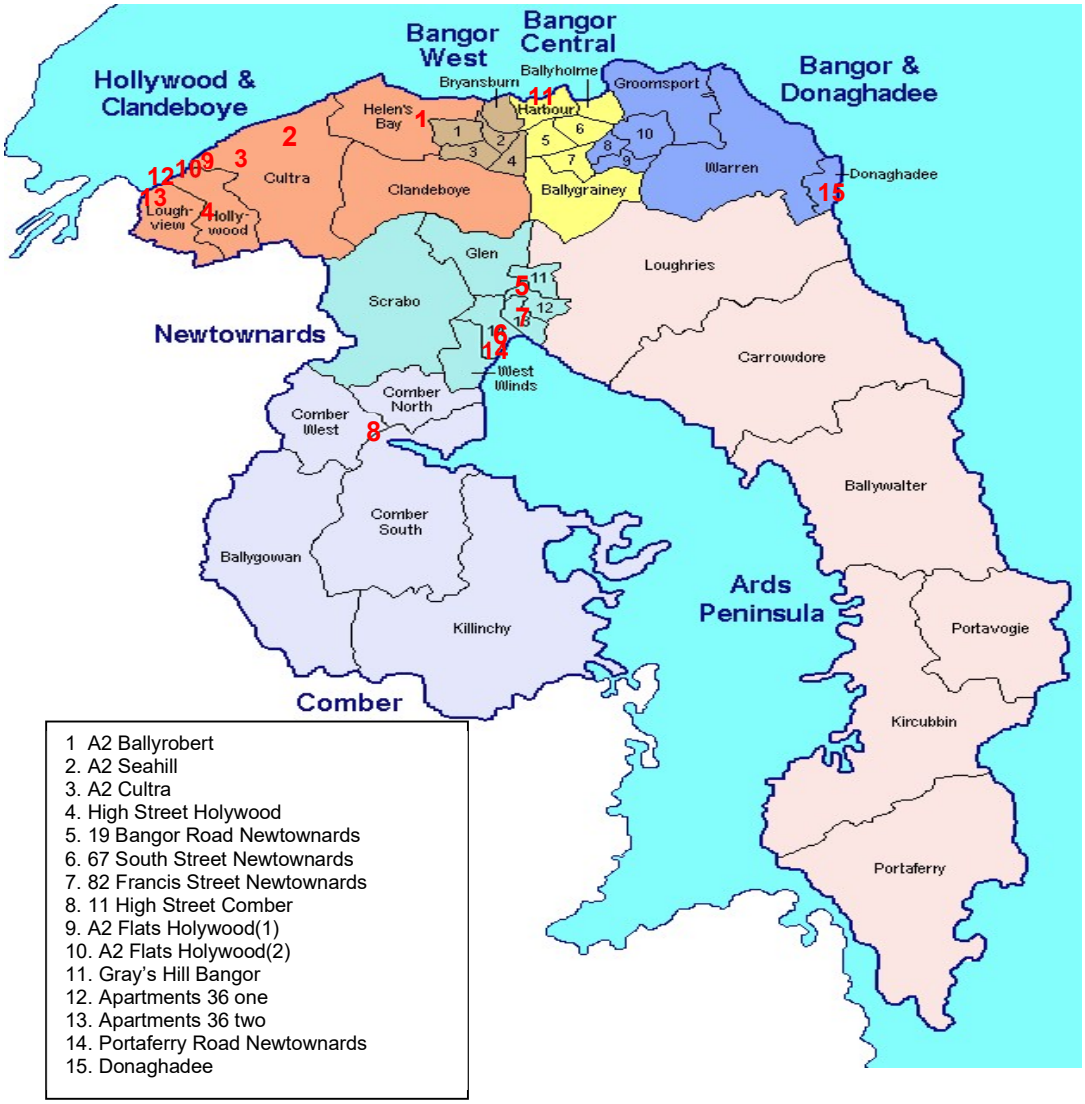


Figure 2.5 Position of Diffusion tube sites 5-7 in Newtownards

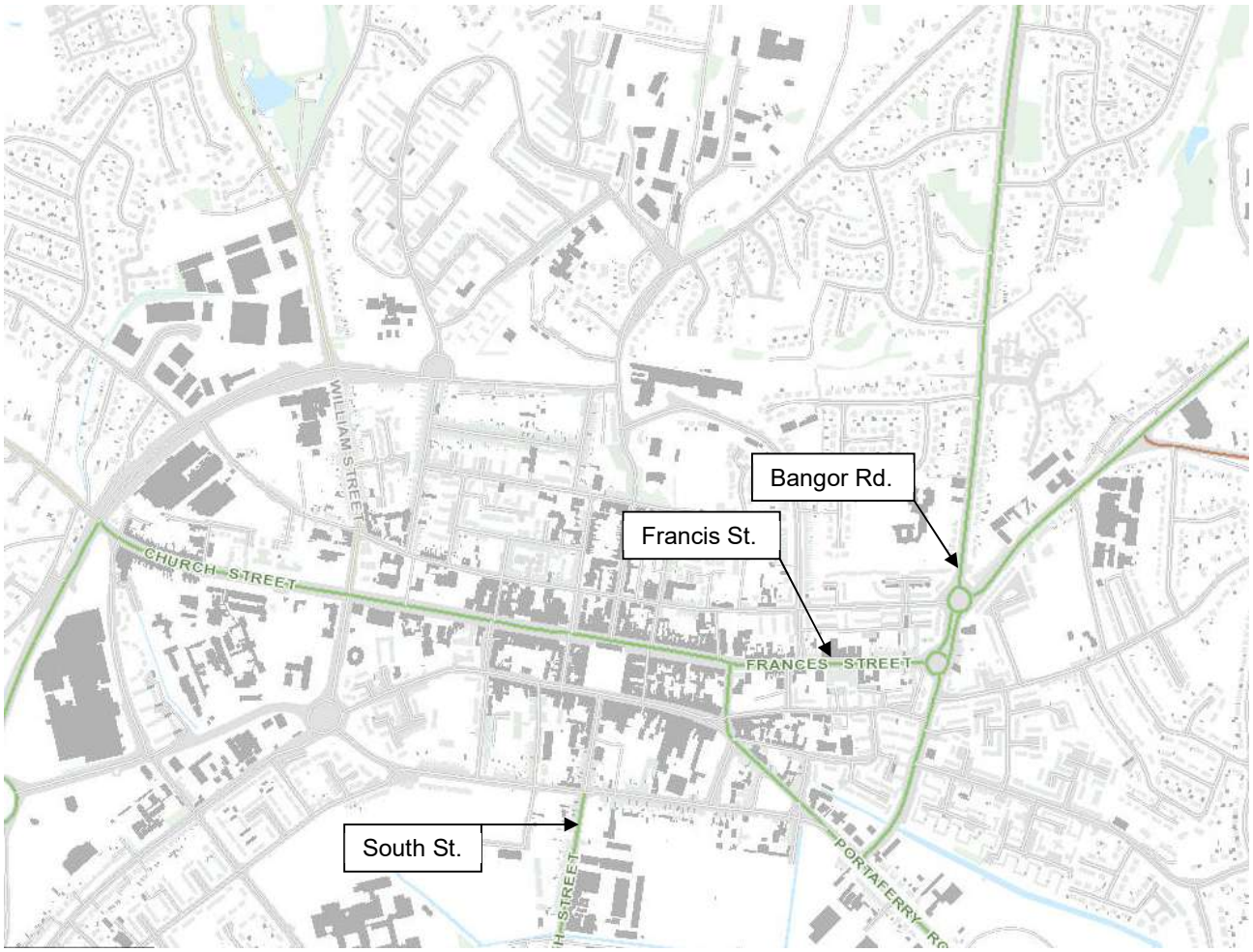
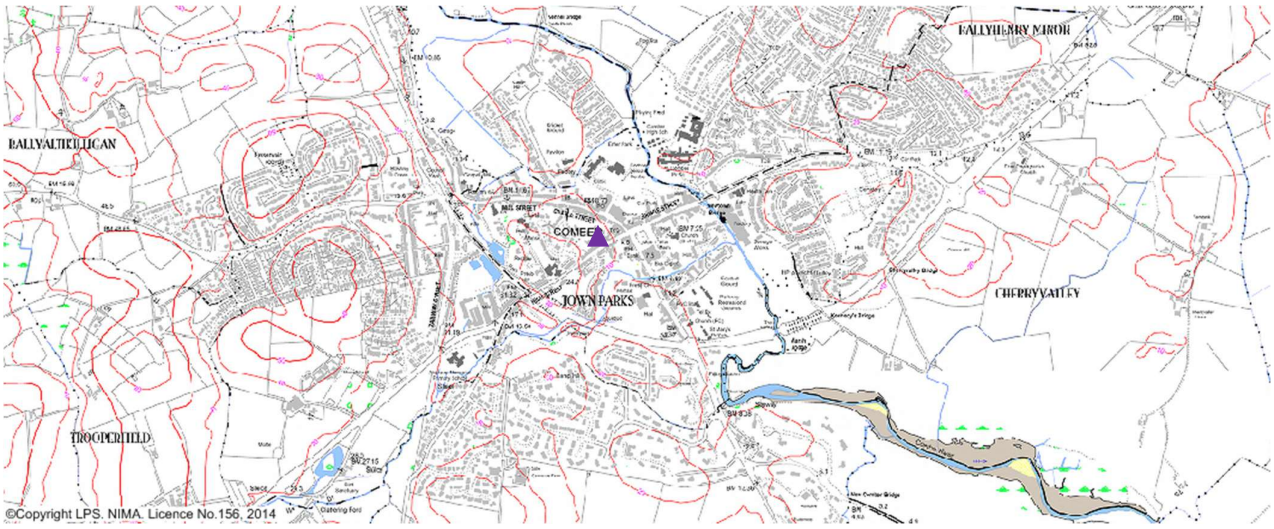
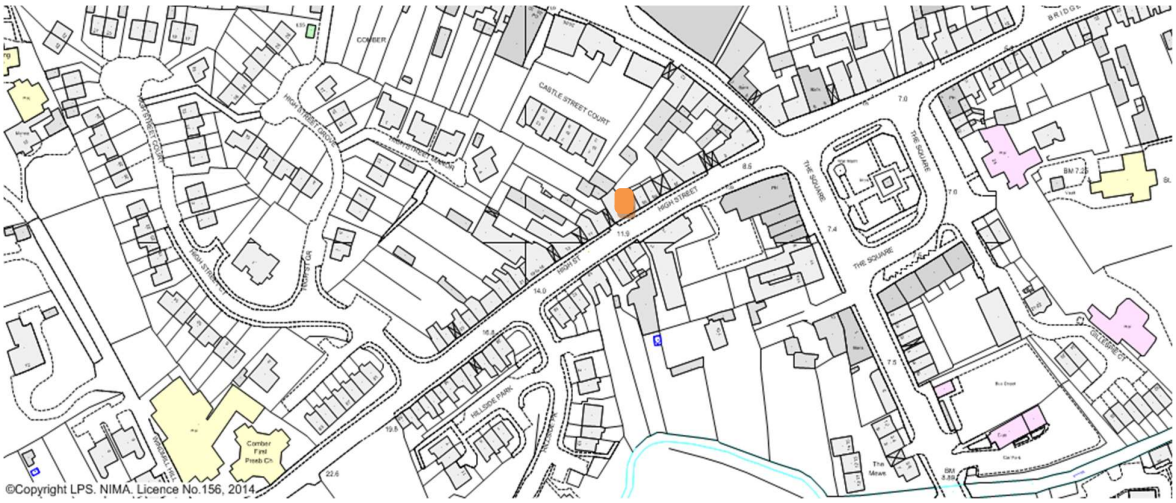


Figure 2.6 Position of tube 8 in Comber



▲ Position of diffusion tube in Comber Centre

Figure 2.7 Position of tube 8 on High Street in Comber



Position of diffusion tube 8 - High Street Comber

Figure 2.8 Position of tubes 1-4,9,10,12,13 on and near A2

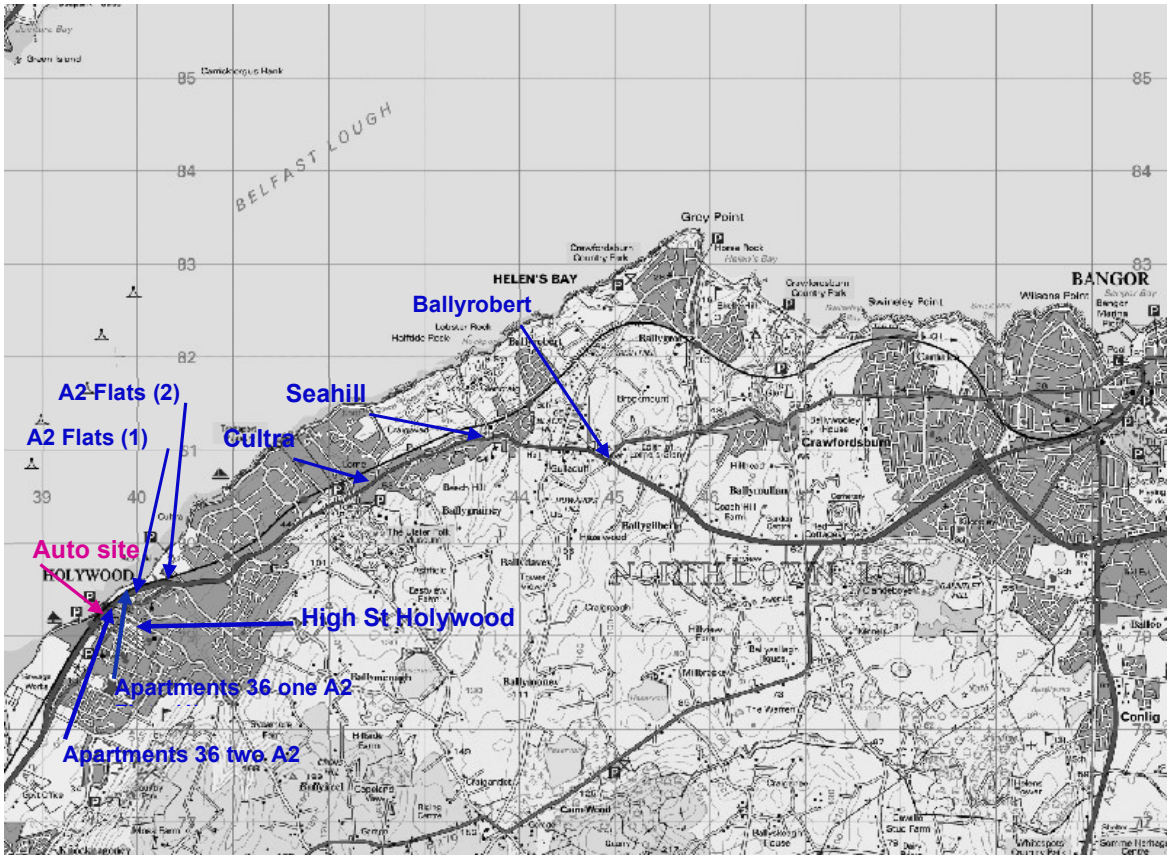
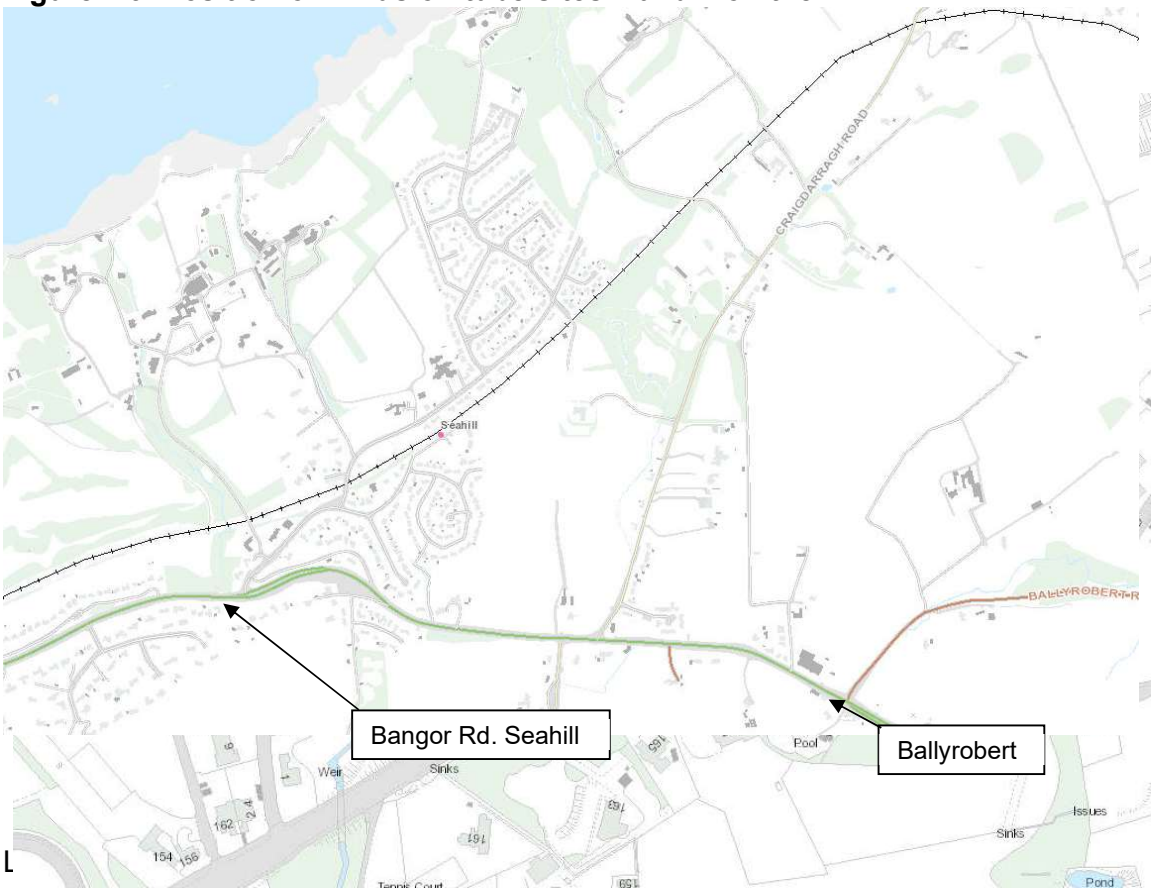


Figure 2.9 Position of Diffusion tube sites 1 and 2 on the A2



Figures 2.10 Position of Diffusion tube sites 4,9,10,12 and 13 on the A2 Holywood (Shore Road junction).

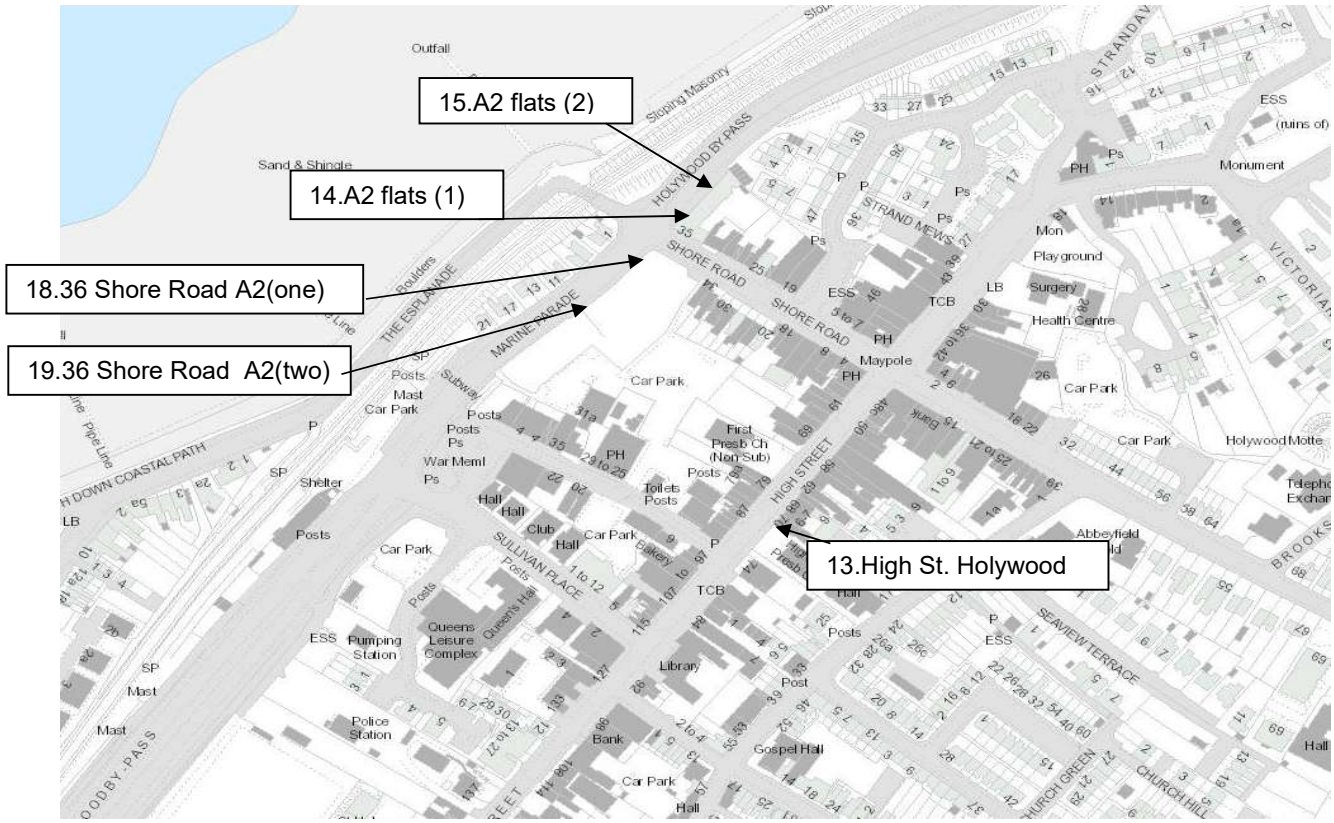
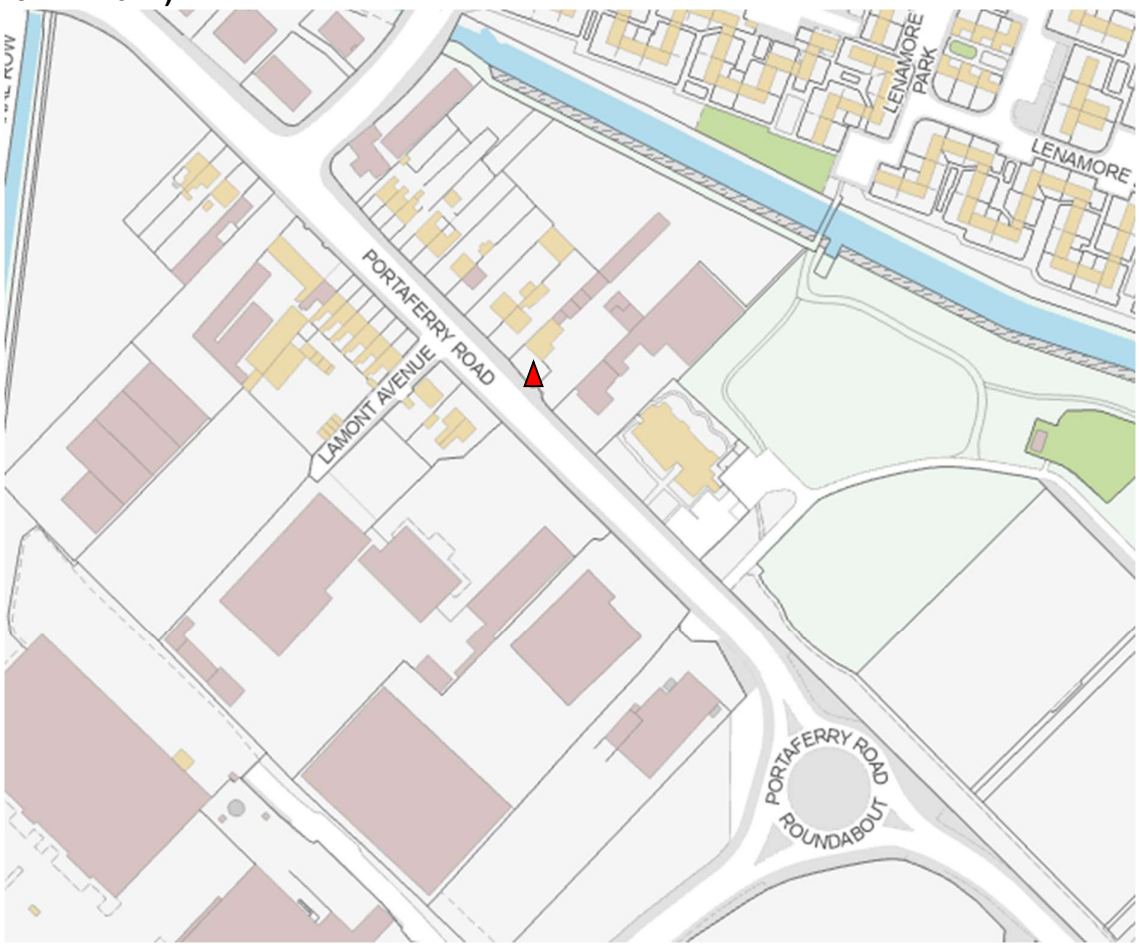


Figure 2.11 Holywood junction pictured from A2

Tubes 9, 10 A2 flats Holywood **Tubes 12, 13 at apartments 36 Shore Road A2**

Figure 2.12 Position of Diffusion tube site 14, Portaferry Road Newtownards (new in 2024)

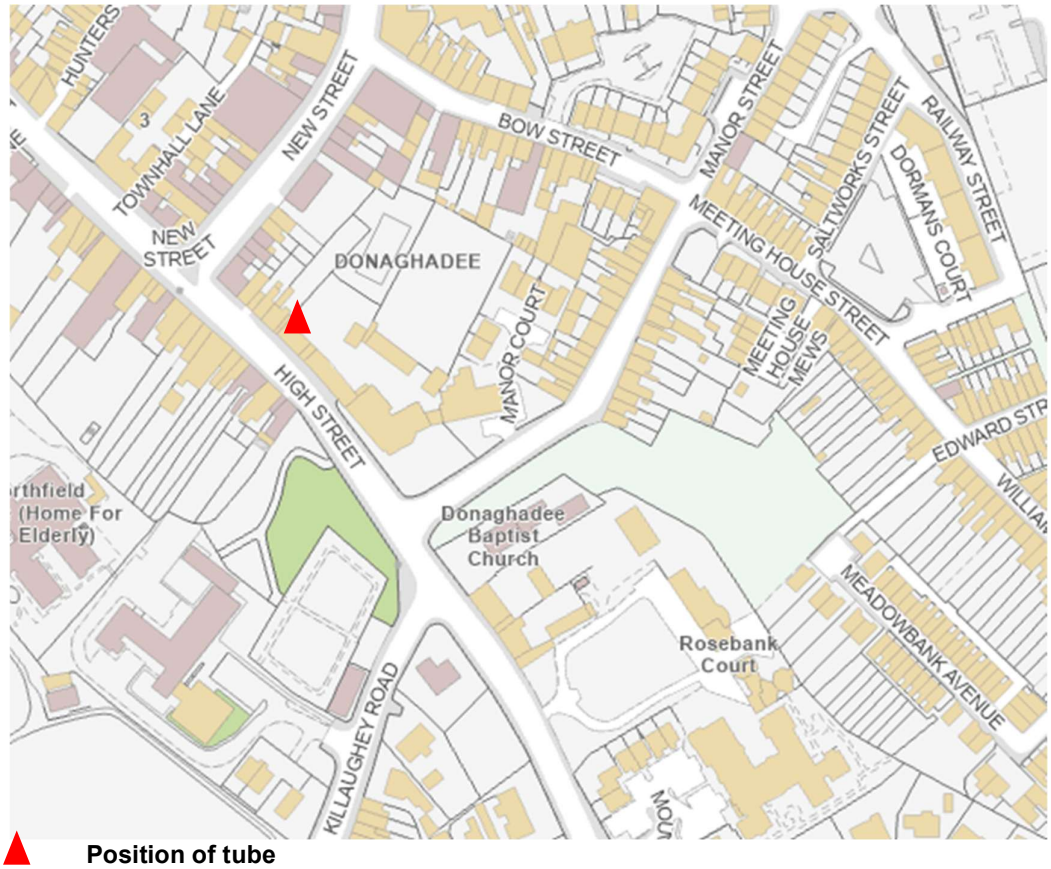


▲ **Position of tube**

Figure 2.13 Position of Diffusion tube site 11 at 17 Grays Hill Bangor

Position of tube

Figure 2.14 Position of Diffusion tube site 15 Donaghadee (new 2024)



Position of tube

Table 2.2 – Details of Non- Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)	Y OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)	Site Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
1	A2 Ballyrobert	Roadside	345002	380823	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (<1m)	3m	Y
2	A2 Seahill	Roadside	343545	381102	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (<1m)	10m	Y
3	A2 Station Rd Cultra roadside	Roadside	342461	380656	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (5m)	1.3m	Y
4	High Street Holywood	Roadside	339785	379119	2.5	NO_2	No	No	Y (20m)	1.5	Y
5	19 Bangor Rd Newtownards	Roadside	349687	374267	2.5	NO_2	No	No	Y (1.5m)	1.5m	Y
6	67 South St. Newtownards (b)	Roadside	348238	373590	2.5	NO_2	No	No	Y (0.5m)	1.5m	Y
7	82 Frances St. Newtownards	Roadside	349324	369201	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (0.5)	1.5m	Y
8	11 High St Comber	Roadside	345827	369201	2.5	NO_2	No	No	Y (0.5)	1.5m	Y
9	A2 Flats Holywood(1)	Roadside	339756	379330	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (0.5m)	2.9m	Y
10	A2 Flats Holywood(2)	Roadside	339774	379351	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (0.5m)	2.9m	Y

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)	Y OS Grid Reference (Irish Grid)	Site Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
12	Grays Hill Bangor	Roadside	350195	381781	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (11m)	2m	Y
13	Apartment 36 A2 one	Roadside	339729	379277	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (5.1)	2.9m	Y
14	Apartment 36 A2 two	Roadside	339691	379264	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (5.1)	2.9m	Y
11	Portaferry Road	Roadside	349481	373726	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (2m)	8m	Y
15	Donaghadee	Roadside	359133	379813	2	NO_2	No	No	Y (0)	10m	Y

The sites in green commenced in 2024

2.2 Comparison of Monitoring Results with Air Quality Objectives

No exceedances of the AQS objectives have been identified from the monitoring data collected since the last Update and Screening Assessment. All monitored pollutant concentrations have been below their respective air quality objective limits at relevant exposure.

2.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

In the following section results are presented for NO_2 at the automatic and diffusion tube sites and compared with the objective.

All sites meet the objective at relevant exposure.

Automatic Monitoring Data

Table 2.3 presents the annual mean concentrations of NO_2 determined at the automatic site in 2025 from the hourly measurements.

Table 2.3 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for NO_2: Comparison with Annual Mean Objective

Site ID	X OS Grid Ref (Irish Grid)	Y OS Grid Ref (Irish Grid)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
A2 Holywood	339481	379328	Roadside	96	96	22	22	20.5	19.4	18.9

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if valid data capture is less than 75%

* Annual mean concentrations for previous years are optional

Figure 2.15 – Trends in Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations Measured at Automatic Monitoring Sites

Results have been consistent since the COVID pandemic. Any variation was most probably due to climatic conditions. There have been no exceedances of the hourly mean.

Table 2.4 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for NO_2: Comparison with 1-hour Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period % [a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 % [b]	Number of Hourly Means > 200µg/m^3				
					2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
A2 Holywood	Roadside	NO	N/A	96	0	0	0	0	0

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective (200µg/m^3 – not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year)

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] If the data capture for full calendar year is less than 85%, include the 99.8th percentile of hourly means in brackets

* Number of exceedances for previous years is optional

Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data

Results of the NO_2 diffusion tube sites situated within the borough are shown below in Table 2.5.

They are sited in accordance with the technical guidance LAQM.TG 22

A diffusion tube co-location study in 2025 was carried out at the Holywood automatic site. The results of this study have been submitted into the national data base to be included in the June results, the 2025 local bias was **0.68,** as in previous years a decision has been made to apply the national bias adjustment factor of **0.89** obtained from the March spreadsheet, the only available figure at present, this is based on a number of studies and therefore deemed to be a more realistic figure.

https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Database_Diffusion_Tube_Bias_Factors_v03_26-FINAL.xlsx

The A2 Holywood junction continues to be a source of concern as this is where the highest traffic flows can normally be found on this main arterial route to the City Centre. At this roadside location there are two large residential apartment blocks and there are four diffusion tubes positioned here. The NO_2 results from the automatic real time monitor, positioned across from the diffusion tube sites at this Holywood junction are lower, with an annual mean 18.9ug/m^3, however its location benefits from sea breezes as the diffusion tubes at the apartment blocks are sheltered. A picture of these sites can be found in figures 2.10 and 2.11. Results reduced in 2020 due to the reduced traffic flows during the COVID pandemic and they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels most probably due to the change in working patterns and a larger number of low emission vehicles.

Results of the Co-Location study and local bias and details of the QA/QC for the diffusion tubes and the reason for the use of the bias adjustment factor **0.89** can be found in Appendix A

Trends for the 15 diffusion tube sites within the Council area are shown in figure 2.16

Table 2.5 – Annual Results Summary (2025)

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Irish Grid)	Y OS Grid Ref (Irish Grid)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted <(0.89)>	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure
A2 Ballyrobert	345002	380823	22.3	24.6	26.8	28.0	27.9	26.5	24.8	24.9	21.0	22.1	19.8	20.1	24.0	21.4	N/A
A2 Seahill	343545	381102	10.8	9.2	10.7		10.1	10.0	7.9	9.5		9.6	9.6	9.1	9.6	8.6	
A2 Station Rd Cultra roadside	342461	380656	40.1	35.3	29.3	38.0	29.1	35.6	25.0	35.4	36.3	37.1	34.3	34.4	34.2	30.4	
High Street Holywood	339785	379119	18.6	23.0	21.3	18.0	17.4	14.5	11.5	17.5	15.2	17.7	22.4	20.1	18.1	16.1	
19 Bangor Rd Newtownards	349687	374267	27.5	24.2	24.7	25.4	22.3	20.1	14.7	20.4	20.2	22.2	23.4	29.0	22.8	20.3	
67 South St. Newtownards (b)	348238	373590	29.6	21.7	24.3	19.4	20.5	19.3	17.9	18.4	20.2	25.4	22.2	25.3	22.0	19.6	
82 Frances St. Newtownards	349324	369201	20.6	20.2	20.5	17.9	17.5	14.8	12.9	12.7	16.8	18.7	19.9	23.1	18.0	16.0	
11 High St Comber	345827	369201	28.7	23.7	27.6	23.8	25.8	25.3	22.7	21.0	23.4	26.7	25.7	28.1	25.2	22.4	
A2 Flats Holywood(1)	339756	379330	34.6		28.6	36.5	27.7	27.9	26.1	31.1	28.9	30.0	27.4	32.3	30.1	26.8	
A2 Flats Holywood(2)	339774	379351	34.4	32.5	25.5	29.9	24.0	28.6	24.9	25.7	28.1	29.5	32.3	31.0	28.9	25.7	
Grays Hill Bangor	350195	381781	22.2	17.4	16.8	17.4	17.7	14.5	11.9	14.6	17.1	17.3	17.3	19.1	16.9	15.1	

Apartment 36 A2 one	339729	379277	29.5	35.3	32.1	42.4	25.9	37.0	18.2	31.1	32.5	32.2	35.6	37.1	32.4	28.8	
Apartment 36 A2 two	339691	379264	26.3	22.3	32.2	32.1	24.0	26.9	18.9	29.9	21.9	28.9	26.4	24.1	26.1	23.3	
Portaferry Road Newtownards	349481	373726	28.0	21.3	20.4	20.0	16.4	18.7	16.8	17.0	19.0	21.0	20.9	23.2	20.2	18.0	
Donaghadee	359133	379813	16.5	15.5	21.6	23.8	22.4	17.5	2.5	20.2	16.7	13.0	13.9	14.4	16.5	14.7	

These sites were new in 2024

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

Underlined, annual mean > 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective

[a] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

[b] If an exceedance is measured at a monitoring site not representative of public exposure, NO_2 concentration at the nearest relevant exposure should be estimated based on the "NO_2 fall-off with distance" calculator (http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/tools-monitoring-data/no2-falloff.html), and results should be discussed in a specific section. The procedure is also explained in paragraphs 7.77 to 7.79 of LAQM.TG22.

Table 2.6 – Results of NO_2 Diffusion Tubes (2021 to 2025)

Site ID	Site Type	With in AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) - Adjusted for Bias [a]				
			2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.83)	2023 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2024 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2025 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)
A2 Ballyrobert	Kerbside	N	23	22	22	22.1	21.4
A2 Seahill	Roadside	N	15	10	9	9.8	8.6
A2 Station Rd Cultra	Kerbside	N	29	34	30	29.5	30.4
High Street Holywood	Kerbside	N	21	19	19	17.1	16.1
19 Bangor Rd Newtownards	Kerbside	N	23	23	22	21.5	20.3
67 South St. Newtownards (b)	Kerbside	N	22	22	21	21.4	19.6
82 Frances St. Newtownards	Kerbside	N	21	20	17	15.8	16.0
11 High St Comber	Kerbside	N	22	25	24	22.8	22.4
A2 Flats (1) Holywood	Kerbside	N	28	26	28	25.6	26.8
A2 Flats (2) Holywood	Kerbside	N	25	28	26	25.4	25.7
Grays Hill Bangor	Kerbside	N	17	17	15	14.3	15.1

Site ID	Site Type	With in AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) - Adjusted for Bias [a]				
			2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.83)	2023 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2024 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.84)	2025 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.89)
Apartment 36 shore Road A2 one	Kerbside	N	30	32	28	28.6	28.8
Apartment 36 Shore Road A2 two	Kerbside	N	30	32	32	26.6	23.3
Portaferry Road Newtownards	Kerbside	N				17.5	18.0
Donaghadee	Kerbside	N				15.9	14.7

These sites were new in 2024

In bold, exceedance of the NO_2 annual mean AQS objective of 40µg/m^3

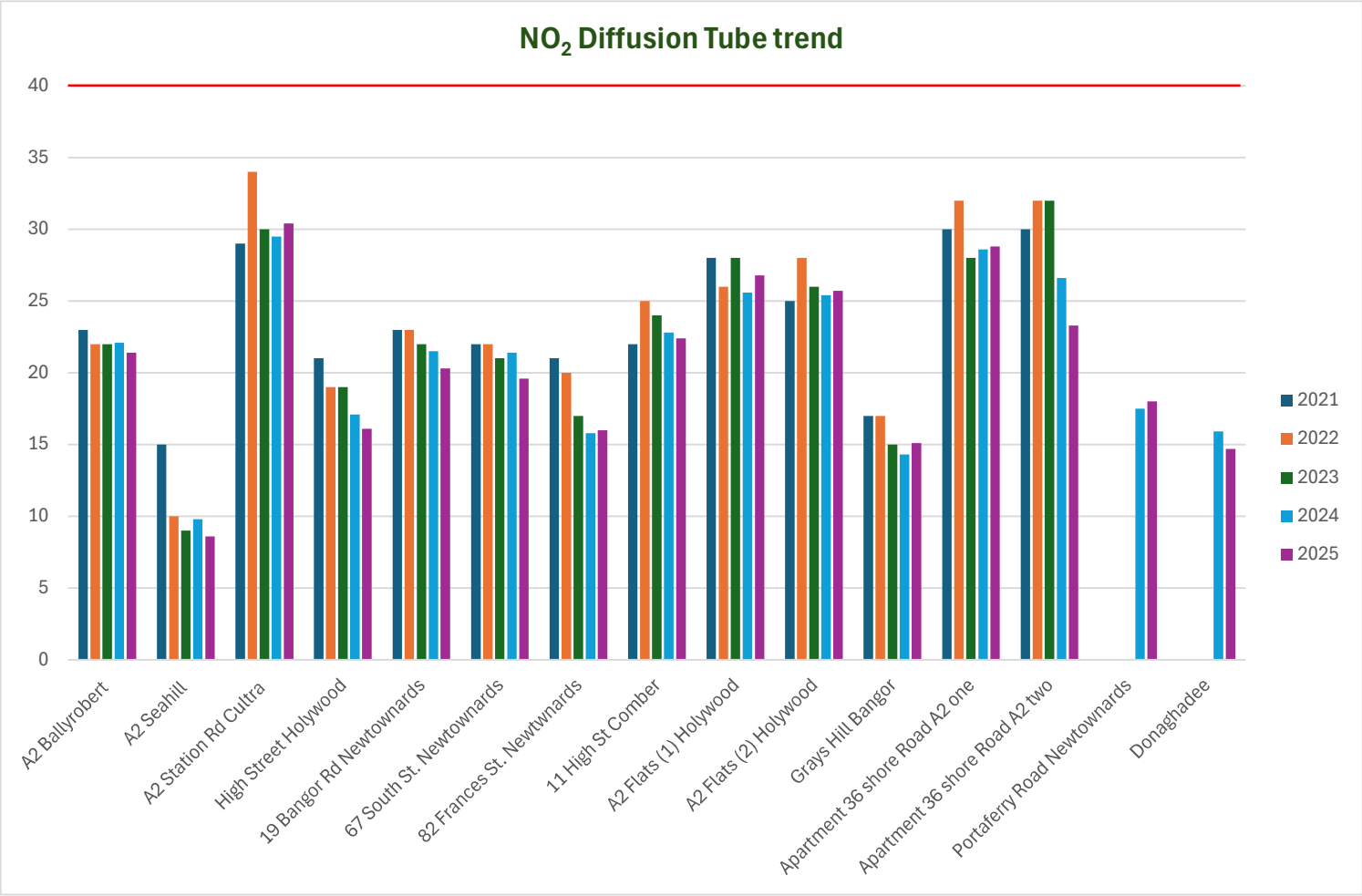
Underlined, annual mean > 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 hourly mean AQS objective

[a] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

[b] If an exceedance is measured at a monitoring site not representative of public exposure, NO_2 concentration at the nearest relevant exposure should be estimated based on the "NO_2 fall-off with distance" calculator (http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/tools-monitoring-data/no2-falloff.html), and results should be discussed in a specific section. The procedure is also explained in paragraphs 7.77 to 7.79 of LAQM.TG22.

Figure 2.16 – Trends in Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations Measured at Diffusion Tube Monitoring Sites

NO_2 diffusion tube results have remained consistent since 2021 any annual variation is more likely to be as a result of climatic conditions rather than changes in emissions, all sites are below the 40ug/m^3 annual mean objective.



2.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM_{10})

Automatic monitoring of PM_{10} was recorded at the Holywood site using a FIDAS 200 instrument which also monitors $PM_{2.5}$. The results are ratified and adjusted accordingly by the data management company AQDM, and ESU1 were employed to service and maintain the site.

Summaries of this data, with regard to annual and hourly mean objectives, are presented below.

Results continued in 2025 to be below the air quality objective.
The data was downloaded onto the NI Air Quality website, providing real-time data, and advice on expected levels of air pollution. www.airqualityni.co.uk

Reports from the ratified data and the QA/QC applied can be found in appendix A.

Table 2.7 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for PM_{10}: Comparison with Annual Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for monitoring Period %[a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 %[b]	Confirm Gravimetric Equivalent (Y or NA)	Annual Mean Concentration μg/m³				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
A2 Holywood	Roadside	N	N/A	96.2	Y	12	13	12	12	13.4

In bold, exceedance of the PM_{10} annual mean AQS objective of 40μg/m³

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] Means should be "annualised" as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if valid data capture is less than 75%

* Annual mean concentrations for previous years are optional

Table 2.8 – Results of Automatic Monitoring for PM_{10}: Comparison with 24-hour Mean Objective

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for monitoring Period %[a]	Valid Data Capture 2025 %[b]	Confirm Gravimetric Equivalent	Number of Daily Means > 50µg/m³				
						2021* [c]	2022* [c]	2023* [c]	2024* [c]	2025 [c]
A2 Holywood	Roadside	N	N/A	96.2%	Y	0	0	0	0	0

In bold, exceedance of the PM_{10} daily mean AQS objective (50µg/m³ – not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year)

[a] i.e. data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year

[b] i.e. data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for six months the maximum data capture for the full calendar year would be 50%)

[c] if data capture for full calendar year is less than 85%, include the 90.4th percentile of 24-hour means in brackets

* Number of exceedances for previous years is optional

Figure 2.17 – Trends in Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations

PM_{10} has remained consistently low in Holywood

2.2.3 Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

Ards and North Down Borough Council did not carry out any monitoring of SO_2 in 2025. No new sites were identified through the planning process or Air Quality Assessments submitted.

2.2.4 Benzene

No monitoring of Benzene was carried out in 2025. ANDBC review all planning applications and all air quality assessments received. No major changes have been identified requiring a further assessment of Benzene. ANDBC borders Belfast City Council with the largest population and traffic flows within Northern Ireland, Benzene has been monitored in Belfast since 2002 and remains well below the objective of 3.25 ug/m^3

Site ID	Site type	Within AQMA? Which AQMA?	Valid Data Capture 2024 %	Running annual mean concentrations (µg/m^3)				
				2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Belfast Centre (Lombard Street)	Urban Background	N	96	0.37	0.39	0.38	0.42	0.39

2.2.5 Other Pollutants Monitored

Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

At the beginning of 2021 a new FIDAS 200 monitoring PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ was installed at the Holywood automatic site, the annual mean results for $PM_{2.5}$ in 2025 were 7.5 ug/m^3 with 96.2% data capture, below the UK limit value of 20 ug/m^3

$PM_{2.5}$	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ug/m^3	7.0	8.0	6.5	6.7	7.5

2.2.6 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives

Ards and North Down 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.

3 New Local Developments

Ards and North Down 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 resulting in exceedances of the Air Quality Objectives.

Ards and North Down Borough council confirms that all the following have been considered:

- **Road traffic sources**
- **Other transport sources**
- **Industrial sources**
- **Commercial and domestic sources**
- **New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources.**

3.1 Road Traffic Sources

ANDBC can confirm they have considered

- Narrow congested streets with residential properties close to the kerb.
- Busy streets where people may spend one hour or more close to traffic.
- Roads with a high flow of buses and/or HGVs.
- Junctions.
- New roads constructed or proposed since the last Updating and Screening Assessment.
- Roads with significantly changed traffic flows.
- Bus or coach stations

Environmental Health and Regulatory Services has commented on planning applications where an air quality impact assessment may be necessary. No new road traffic sources were identified.

3.2 Other Transport Sources

ANDBC can confirm they have considered

- Airports.
- Locations where diesel or steam trains are regularly stationary for periods of 15 minutes or more, with potential for relevant exposure within 15m.
- Locations with a large number of movements of diesel locomotives, and potential long-term relevant exposure within 30m.

Ports for shipping.

Environmental Health and Regulatory Services comments on all planning applications where air quality may be impacted. No new other transport sources were identified.

3.3 Industrial Sources

ANDBC can confirm they have considered the following

- **Industrial installations:** new or proposed installations for which an air quality assessment has been carried out.
- **Industrial installations:** existing installations where emissions have increased substantially or new relevant exposure has been introduced.
- **Industrial installations:** new or significantly changed installations with no previous air quality assessment.
- Major fuel storage depots storing petrol.
- Petrol stations.

Poultry farms.

Environmental Health and Regulatory Services comments on planning applications were an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) may be necessary. No applications required further action in relation to Air Quality.

3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

ANDBC can confirm they have considered the following

- Biomass combustion plant – individual installations.

- Areas where the combined impact of several biomass combustion sources may be relevant.
- Areas where domestic solid fuel burning may be relevant.

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant.

Environmental Health and Regulatory Services comments on planning applications where an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) may be necessary, no applications required further action in relation to Air Quality.

3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

ANDBC can confirm they have considered the following

- Landfill sites.
- Quarries.
- Unmade haulage roads on industrial sites.
- Waste transfer stations, etc.

Environmental Health and Regulatory Services comments on planning applications where an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) may be necessary, no applications required further action in relation to Air Quality.

4 Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

ANDBC does not have a Local Air Quality Strategy, however within the Local Development Plan presently being established improving air quality is an objective.

5 Planning Applications

A number of planning applications were examined by Environmental Health and Regulatory Services. No issues were identified in relation to air quality.

An Air Quality Impact Assessment was submitted in support of the following planning applications in the reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025:

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
LA06/2024/1095/F	Lands to the north, west and south of 171 Donaghadee Road, to the south and east of Nos 1-19 Ashburn Park, and north-east of Nos 14-26 (even) 45-51 (odd) Wyndell Park, Newtownards	Residential development of 62No. dwellings and 4No. apartments (on zoned lands NS20 as set out in Ards and Down Plan 2015) with access off new roundabout on Donaghadee Road, connecting housing NS20 with housing zoning NS21 to the north, provision of new section of distributor road through NS20.
LA06/2024/0436/F	Residential development of 93 dwellings (including, detached, semi-detached and apartments) and all related ancillary works including: (1) Stage 1 of the distributor link road connecting Bowtown Road to Movilla Road (replacing Ballyreagh Road); (2) a new roundabout on Bowtown Road; (3) foul sewerage infrastructure and storm drainage infrastructure; (4) Stage 1 of the greenway foot and cycle link connecting Bowtown Road with Movilla Road; and (5) public open space and landscape works.	Lands on Ballyreagh Road to the north of Bowtown Road south and east of Nos. 36 and 38 Ballyreagh Road and east of Burnreagh Drive, Greenlea Crescent, Fairfield Way and Fairfield Place in eastern Newtownards; the site comprises part of the NS19 Housing Zoning
LA06/2025/0938/F	Land Approx 124m SW of 11 Lusky Road, Ballygowan	Hen house for 39k broilers, incorporating new access onto Lusky Road, ancillary building, 2 x meal silos, new swale for storm water attenuation, pv panels to roof, of hen house. New concreted turning area, retaining walls and additional landscaping around site

6 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

6.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

No monitoring sites at relevant exposure within the Council Area have shown exceedances of the air quality objectives. The NO_2 diffusion tube sites on the A2, the main arterial route to Belfast City, remain the highest monitored levels within the Borough. However, these are below the annual mean objective of 40ug/m^3 with the maximum annual mean recorded 30.4ug/m^3. Since 2021 monitored results have not increased showing a general trend in Air Quality improvement post COVID. The results from the automatic real time NO_2 monitor, positioned across from the Holywood junction on the A2 are much lower than the diffusion tube sites on this road, however its location benefits from sea breezes as the diffusion tubes are positioned at more sheltered locations with relevant exposure.

No new sites were identified in 2025 through the planning process, however monitoring has continued at the two new sites on the Portaferry Road in Newtownards and in Donaghadee Town Centre, which were identified due to local knowledge of traffic congestion at these locations at peak times.

6.2 Conclusions Relating to New Local Developments

There are no new local developments that will require more detailed consideration in the next Updating and Screening Assessment.

6.3 Proposed Actions

This 2026 Progress Report for Ards and North Down Borough Council has identified there is no need to proceed to a detailed assessment for any of the pollutants.
Ards and North Down Borough Council is focused upon improving air quality as a whole. Therefore all existing monitoring sites shall continue in 2026 to help determine if a trend in reduction of NO_2 can be established and if more stringent objectives could be met, if introduced.

Ards and North Down Borough Council initiated a no idling outside schools campaign launched in 2019. This remains available to schools and was extended to council

carparks and leisure centres to help educate the public on the effects of vehicle emissions. This is currently fully funded by Ards and North Down Borough Council.

A picture may be found in Appendix A.

7 References

TG (2022) Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the Environment Act 2021.

Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III

Appendices

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

QA/QC Data of automatic sites

Ards and North Down Borough Council commissioned AQDM Technology to provide the QA/QC of the automatic measurements of NO_2 and PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ for the A2 Holywood site. Local authority staff act as the local site operator and visit the site on a weekly basis carrying out any manual calibration or filter changes required.

ESU1 were employed to service and maintain the analyser.

Automatic station reports produced by data management company

Air Quality Report

Produced by AQDM on behalf of North Down
NORTH DOWN HOLYWOOD A2 2025
Fully ratified by AQDM to the LAQM TG22 standards using the AURN methodology

Site Environment and Description

Marine Highway
ROADSIDE Map Photo Dashboard

Statistical Summary Report

This 2025 report contains all the statistics required for the LAQM reporting.

The full results and statistics are available from the Air Quality in Northern Ireland website https://www.airqualityni.co.uk.

Gravimetric $PM_{2.5}$

The Gravimetric $PM_{2.5}$ is the FIDAS $PM_{2.5}$ / 1.06

Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI)

The table below shows the duration within the bands of the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI).
The DAQI was introduced by Defra in January 2012 and revised April 2013.

DAQI Pollutant	Moderate	High	Very High
Nitrogen Dioxide	0 hours	0	0
PM_{10} Particulate Matter	0 days	0	1
$PM_{2.5}$ Particulate Matter	1 day	0	0

Gravimetric PM_{10} was Very High on 28th Sept with a daily mean reaching 120.0 µg m^{-3}.
Gravimetric $PM_{2.5}$ was Moderate on 20th Mar with a daily mean reaching 36.0 µg m^{-3}.

Air Quality Exceedances of the AQS Objectives

NO_2 - annual data capture was 96.0 %
The annual mean was 18.9 µg m^{-3} which did not exceed the 40 µg m^{-3} Objective.

The maximum hourly mean was 101.0 µg m^{-3} so there were no exceedances of the NO_2 hourly limit of 200 µg m^{-3}. There is an annual allowance of 18 hours so the Objective was not exceeded.

Gravimetric PM_{10} - annual data capture was 96.2 %
The annual mean was 13.4 µg m^{-3} which did not exceed the 40 µg m^{-3} Objective.

The maximum daily mean was 120.0 µg m^{-3} so there was 1 exceedance of the PM_{10} daily limit of 50 µg m^{-3}. There is an annual allowance of 35 days so the Objective was not exceeded.

Gravimetric $PM_{2.5}$ - annual data capture was 96.2 %
The annual mean was 7.5 µg m^{-3} which did not exceed the 20 µg m^{-3} Objective.

Air Quality Report
NORTH DOWN HOLYWOOD A2 2025

Air Quality Statistics

Pollutant	NO_2	NO	NO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_1
Number Very High #	0	-	-	1	0	-
Number High #	0	-	-	0	0	-
Number Moderate #	0	-	-	0	1	-
Number Low #	8411	-	-	346	346	-
Maximum 15-min mean	112.6 µg m^{-3}	320.0 µg m^{-3}	571.5 µg m^{-3}	- µg m^{-3}	- µg m^{-3}	117.2 µg m^{-3}
Maximum hourly mean	101.0 µg m^{-3}	249.8 µg m^{-3}	479.5 µg m^{-3}	2593.0 µg m^{-3}	321.4 µg m^{-3}	93.7 µg m^{-3}
Maximum running 8-hr mean	85.0 µg m^{-3}	162.9 µg m^{-3}	334.8 µg m^{-3}	337.6 µg m^{-3}	48.0 µg m^{-3}	43.9 µg m^{-3}
Maximum running 24-hr mean	61.9 µg m^{-3}	87.7 µg m^{-3}	196.5 µg m^{-3}	120.3 µg m^{-3}	38.4 µg m^{-3}	36.6 µg m^{-3}
Maximum daily mean	59.9 µg m^{-3}	87.5 µg m^{-3}	194.1 µg m^{-3}	120.0 µg m^{-3}	36.0 µg m^{-3}	34.4 µg m^{-3}
Average	18.9 µg m^{-3}	13.7 µg m^{-3}	39.9 µg m^{-3}	13.4 µg m^{-3}	7.5 µg m^{-3}	5.7 µg m^{-3}
Data capture	96.0 %	96.0 %	96.0 %	96.2 %	96.2 %	96.2 %

Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI) as defined by COMEAP January 2012 and revised April 2013
+ PM_{10} as measured by a FIDAS instrument using 1 gravimetric factor
~ $PM_{2.5}$ as measured by a FIDAS instrument using 0.94 gravimetric factor
$ PM_1 as measured by a FIDAS instrument
Mass units for the gases are at 20'C and 1013mb
NO_X mass units are NO_X as NO_2 µg m^{-3}

Air Quality Exceedances

Pollutant	Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003	Max Conc	Number	Days	Allowed	Exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual mean > 40 µg m^{-3}	18.9 µg m^{-3}	0	-	-	No
Nitrogen Dioxide	Hourly mean > 200 µg m^{-3}	101.0 µg m^{-3}	0	0	18 hours	No
PM_{10} Particulate Matter (Gravimetric)	Annual mean > 40 µg m^{-3}	13.4 µg m^{-3}	0	-	-	No
PM_{10} Particulate Matter (Gravimetric)	Daily mean > 50 µg m^{-3}	120.0 µg m^{-3}	1	1	35 days	No
$PM_{2.5}$ Particulate Matter (Gravimetric)	Annual mean > 20 µg m^{-3}	7.5 µg m^{-3}	0	-	-	No

Air Quality Report
NORTH DOWN HOLYWOOD A2 2025

Monthly Data Captures %

Pollutant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nitrogen Dioxide	99.9	100.0	99.7	93.3	93.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.4	91.4	86.1	89.1
Grav PM_{10}	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.5	94.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	91.4	86.1	89.1
Grav $PM_{2.5}$	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.5	94.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	91.4	86.1	89.1
PM_1	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.5	94.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	91.4	86.1	89.1

Monthly Means

Pollutant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nitrogen Dioxide µg m^{-3}	26.2	19.3	20.1	20.6	18.2	14.2	12.8	15.1	17.9	18.2	21.6	22.8
Grav PM_{10} µg m^{-3}	14.2	17.4	17.7	16.5	13.2	12.5	9.8	12.8	13.4	10.9	9.3	13.1
Grav $PM_{2.5}$ µg m^{-3}	8.3	10.2	10.7	9.6	6.9	7.4	5.9	7.2	4.9	6.1	5.2	7.7
PM_1 µg m^{-3}	6.6	8.0	8.7	7.6	5.1	5.8	4.8	5.5	2.7	4.4	3.7	5.6

North Down Holywood A2 Air Quality Report produced by:
Geoff Broughton
Air Quality Data Management (AQDM)
Tel: 01235 559761
Geoff.Broughton@aqdm.co.uk
http://www.aqdm.co.uk
http://uk.linkedin.com/pub/Geoff-Broughton/22/187/87/
http://www.UKAirQuality.net

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

In 2025 the NO_2 tubes were prepared and supplied by Gradko International Limited, using the preparation method 20%TEA/Water.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Factor from Local Co-location Studies

A co-location study was carried out at the Holywood site the local bias adjustment figure of **0.68** was calculated using the DEFRA Precision and Accuracy tool as below:

Checking Precision and Accuracy of Triplicate Tubes

AEA Energy & Environment
From the AEA group

Diffusion Tubes Measurements

Period	Start Date dd/mm/yyyy	End Date dd/mm/yyyy	Tube 1 µgm^{-3}	Tube 2 µgm^{-3}	Tube 3 µgm^{-3}	Triplicate Mean	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation (CV)	95% CI of mean	Automatic Method: Period Mean	Automatic Method: Data Capture (% DC)	Data Quality Check: Tubes Precision Check	Data Quality Check: Automatic Monitor Data
1	09/01/2025	04/02/2025	34.1	36.2	35.1	35	1.0	3	2.5	24.6	99.7	Good	Good
2	04/02/2025	04/03/2025	30.2	30.7	33.7	32	1.9	6	4.6	20.5	99.9	Good	Good
3	04/03/2025	01/04/2025	22.9	27.8	26.5	26	2.5	10	6.2	19.5	99.6	Good	Good
4	01/04/2025	29/04/2025	27.6	30.0	28.3	29	1.3	4	3.2	19.9	94	Good	Good
5	29/04/2025	03/06/2025	23.0	26.1	20.7	23	2.7	12	6.7	18	93	Good	Good
6	03/06/2025	01/07/2025	23.1	22.8	23.0	23	0.2	1	0.4	15	99.9	Good	Good
7	01/07/2025	06/08/2025	16.2	16.1	16.8	16	0.4	2	0.9	12	99.9	Good	Good
8	06/08/2025	03/09/2025	24.8	24.9	25.4	25	0.4	1	0.9	17	99.9	Good	Good
9	03/09/2025	02/10/2025	27.3	26.4	25.4	26	1.0	4	2.4	18	99.3	Good	Good
10	02/10/2025	04/11/2025	28.9	29.4	31.0	30	1.1	4	2.7	18	91.8	Good	Good
11	04/11/2025	02/12/2025	37.5	31.0	29.9	33	4.1	13	10.2	22.6	79.9	Good	Good
12	02/12/2025	06/01/2026	39.1	32.0	33.9	35	3.6	10	9.1	21.4	94.3	Good	Good
13													

It is necessary to have results for at least two tubes in order to calculate the precision of the measurements

Overall survey --> Good precision | Good Overall DC

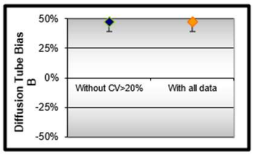
Site Name/ ID: ANDBC HOLYWOOD

Precision: 12 out of 12 periods have a CV smaller than 20%

(Check average CV & DC from Accuracy calculations)

Accuracy (with 95% confidence interval) without periods with CV larger than 20%
Bias calculated using 12 periods of data
Bias factor A 0.68 (0.65 - 0.72)
Bias B 47% (39% - 55%)
Diffusion Tubes Mean: 28 µgm^{-3}
Mean CV (Precision): 6
Automatic Mean: 19 µgm^{-3}
Data Capture for periods used: 96%
Adjusted Tubes Mean: 19 (18 - 20) µgm^{-3}

Accuracy (with 95% confidence interval) WITH ALL DATA
Bias calculated using 12 periods of data
Bias factor A 0.68 (0.65 - 0.72)
Bias B 47% (39% - 55%)
Diffusion Tubes Mean: 28 µgm^{-3}
Mean CV (Precision): 6
Automatic Mean: 19 µgm^{-3}
Data Capture for periods used: 96%
Adjusted Tubes Mean: 19 (18 - 20) µgm^{-3}



Jaume Targa, for AEA
Version 04 - February 2011

The data has been submitted to the national data base https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/national-bias/ to be included in the June spreadsheet. The available National spreadsheet at this time is March 2026. The National Bias for Gradko is **0.89** as shown below.

National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet — Spreadsheet Version Number: 03/26

Follow the steps below **in the correct order** to show the results of **relevant** co-location studies
Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods
Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet
This spreadsheet will be updated every few months: the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.

This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of June 2026

LAQM Helpdesk Website

The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with contract partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory.

Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.

Step 1:	Step 2:	Step 3:	Step 4:
Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List	Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List	Select a Year from the Drop-Down List	Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor[3] shown in blue at the foot of the final column.
If a laboratory is not shown, we have no data for this laboratory.	If a preparation method is not shown, we have no data for this method at this laboratory	If a year is not shown, we have no data[2]	If you have your own co-location study then see footnote[4]. If uncertain what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953

Analysed By[1]	Method (To undo your selection, choose (All) from the pop-up list)	Year[2] (To undo your selection, choose (All))	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m³)	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m³)	Bias (B)	Tube Precision[5]	Bias Adjustment Factor (A) (Cm/Dm)
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	The Highland Council	11	15	12	22.9%	G	0.81
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Eastleigh Borough Council	12	29	25	17.1%	G	0.85
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	UB	Eastleigh Borough Council	12	19	18	1.1%	G	0.99
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Eastleigh Borough Council	12	20	19	8.5%	G	0.92
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Cheshire West And Chester	12	28	28	-0.5%	G	1.00
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Cheshire West And Chester	12	27	25	8.4%	G	0.92
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Liverpool City Council	11	32	26	24.0%	G	0.81
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	KS	Liverpool City Council	10	46	40	15.9%	G	0.86
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Nottingham City Council	10	25	24	3.3%	G	0.97
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Belfast City Council	12	40	34	17.2%	G	0.85
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Belfast City Council	12	33	31	6.5%	G	0.94
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Wychavon District Council	12	27	26	5.5%	G	0.95
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	R	Worcestershire	12	12	13	-6.6%	G	1.07
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025	KS	Brighton & Hove City Council	10	37	29	28.0%	G	0.78
Gradko	20% TEA in water	2025		Overall Factor[3] (28 studies)				Use		0.89

Decision to use the bias adjustment factor 0.89

The results of the local co-location study at the Holywood site have been submitted to the national database. The Holywood local bias adjustment factor was calculated at **0.68,/** This co-location study is on one of the main arterial routes into Belfast City centre. Ards and North Down Borough Council has confidence in the data from the automatic site, with 96% data capture.

The March 2026 national bias adjustment figure for Gradko in 2025 is **0.89.**
A decision was made to apply the national figure of **0.89** as 28 studies were included in this and therefore deemed to be a more realistic figure.

Picture of the new No Idling initiative signage

New aluminium signage solely funded by Ards and North Down Borough Council