



Air Quality Annual Status Summary Report 2016

April 2017

Introduction

This report provides an overview of air quality in the London Borough of Southwark during 2016. The full Annual Status Report is available at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/air-quality/strategies-plans-and-reports>

The EU sets objective limits for a number of air pollutants that the UK must meet. The London Borough of Southwark is exceeding EU limits for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in parts of the borough. The main areas of concern are in the north west of the Borough and along the main roads and arterial routes. The London Borough of Southwark is required by the Government and the Mayor of London to monitor air pollution in the borough and to take action to reduce pollutant levels. The Government and the Mayor of London also have some responsibilities for taking action to reduce pollution.

Southwark currently meets the limits that are set by the EU for all other air pollutants of concern. We keep a watching brief on Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) because these pollutants have detrimental impacts on health and there are occasional poor air quality events due to trans-boundary particulate pollution originating from the continent.

The main sources of pollution in the borough are road transport, construction and gas boilers used to heat domestic and commercial premises.

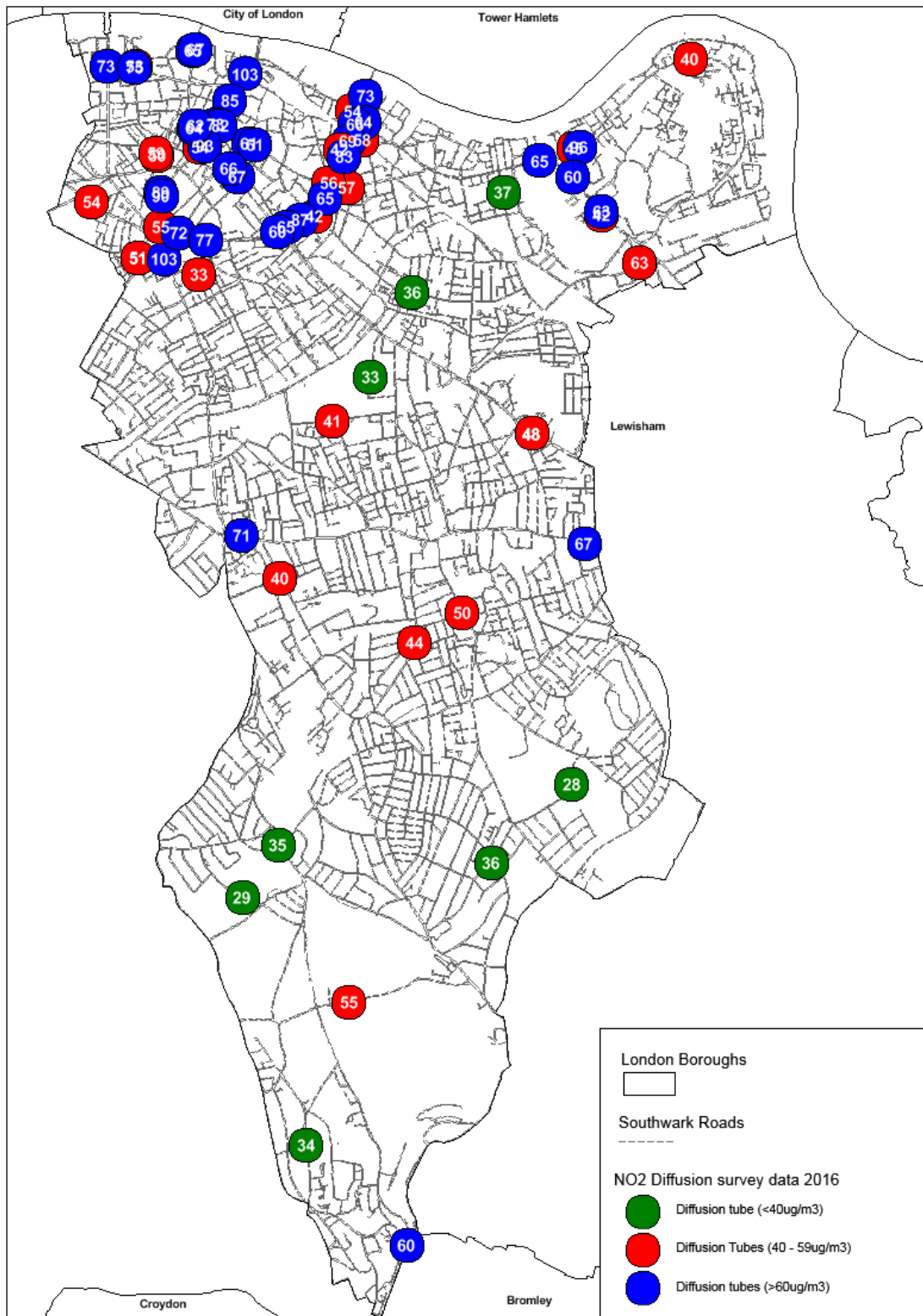
NO₂

We monitor NO₂ across the borough through a combination of highly accurate continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations and indicative low-cost diffusion tubes. In 2016 the levels of NO₂ a slight increase overall.

PM₁₀

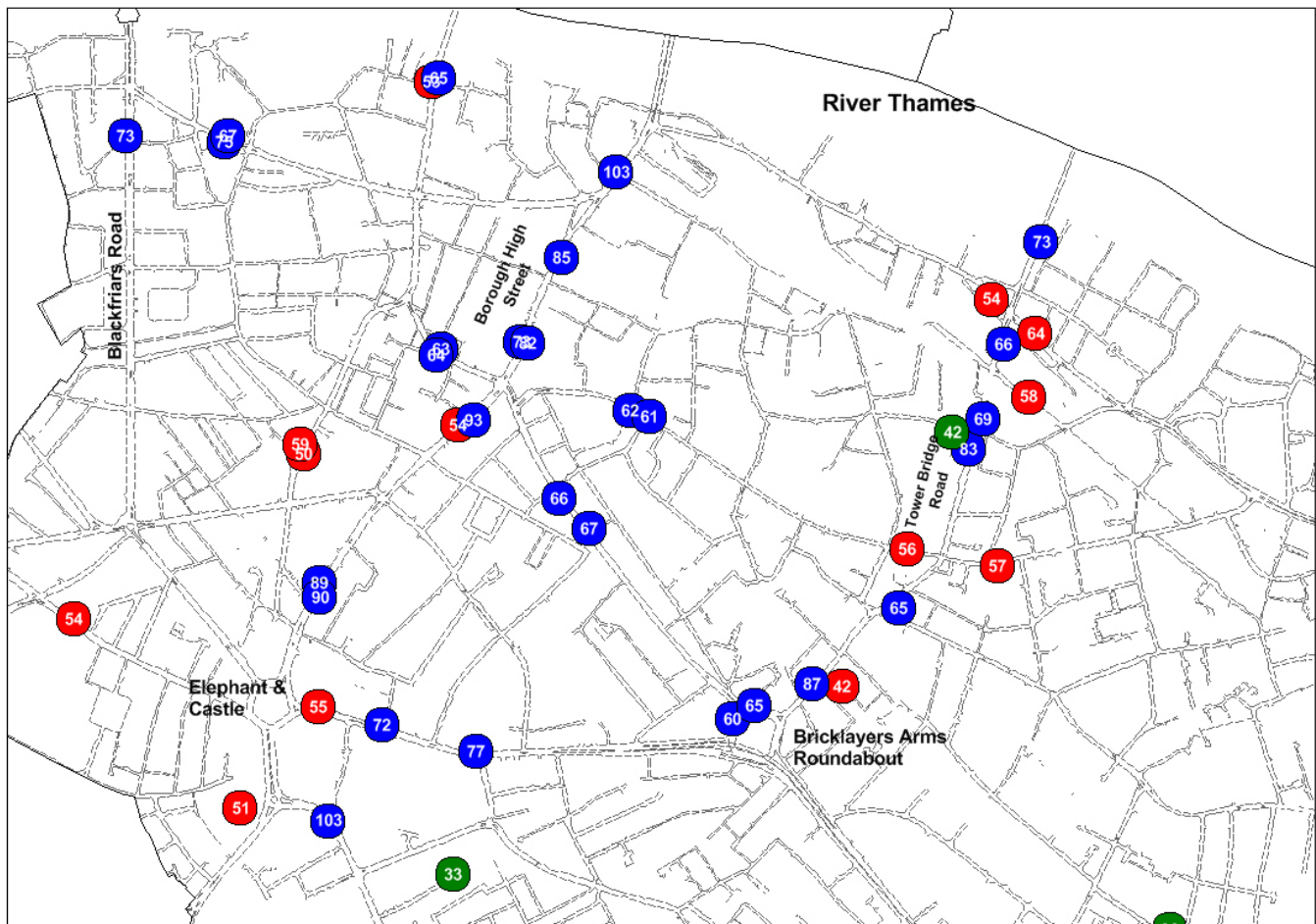
We monitor PM₁₀ at two continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations. In 2016, overall, levels of PM₁₀ showed no significant change.

NO₂ Monitoring



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Figure 1a – Map of NO₂ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Southwark, showing annual mean results from 2016



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Figure 1b – Map of NO₂ monitoring sites in the northwest area of London Borough of Southwark, showing annual mean results from 2016

Key

On Figures 1a and 1b, the circles represent NO₂ diffusion tubes. The EU limit value for annual mean NO₂ is 40µg.m⁻³. All monitoring sites that recorded NO₂ concentrations above this level are coloured in red and blue and all that are below this level are coloured in green. The numbers in each circle are the annual mean NO₂ concentration for 2016.

The results from the NO₂ diffusion tubes, that have been in place since 2012, show that the majority of locations have concentrations of NO₂ exceeding the EU Directive Objective Limit Values. In 2016 the NO₂ diffusion tube survey was extended to assist the authority in reviewing the Authority’s Air Quality Management Area in the future.

The authority has two NO₂ continuous monitors in the Borough. These are co-located with the PM₁₀ monitors, the locations are shown in Figure 2. The annual mean concentration at the Elephant & Castle Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) was 39µg.m⁻³ and the annual mean concentration at the Old Kent Road AQMS was 53µg.m⁻³. The monitoring stations show that the annual means is above the EU Directive Nitrogen Dioxide Limit of 40µg.m⁻³ at the roadside station; however the background station is under by 1µg.m⁻³ of the objective.

PM₁₀ Monitoring



Figure 2 – Map of PM₁₀ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Southwark, showing annual mean results from 2016

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Key

The green squares represent continuous PM₁₀ monitors. The EU limit value for annual mean PM₁₀ is 40µg.m⁻³. All monitoring sites recorded levels beneath this threshold so are coloured green. The numbers in each square are the recorded annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations for 2016.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

The London Borough of Southwark main air quality achievements in 2016 were:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board made local air quality a public health priority for the Borough and work has commenced on including air quality in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- The air quality web pages on the Southwark website were revised and improved
- The number of NO₂ Diffusion monitoring sites in the Borough was increased from 46 to 72
- 4 anti idling action days were held
- A public information campaign (#onething) was run on-street, in the press and on-line to advise on how to reduce personal emissions e.g. choose active travel, use click n collect for deliveries, etc. with 70 anti idling banners were installed across the borough

Southwark's 4 main priorities to reduce exposure to poor air quality for the year ahead are:

- For the Cabinet to ratified the revised Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2022 commence implementation of the large range of measures it contains
- To introduce the enforcement of vehicle idling legislation
- To begin to remove diesel vehicles from our, and our contractor's, fleets where possible
- To install temporary road closures at the beginning and end of the school day at suitably located school entrances

Further information

For more information on air pollution in Southwark follow this link <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/air-quality>

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