



## **Supporting Statement**

# **REVOCAION OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA(AQMA)**

### **Introduction**

Following a successful and sustained reduction in air pollution in Saffron Walden over several years the council is now required to revoke the air quality management area (AQMA) that covers Saffron Walden town centre. Air quality monitoring will not stop as a result of this revocation, nor will our duty to report annually on the status of Air Quality, but it does mean that the AQMA will no longer show on searches as a polluted area.

### **Background**

Local authorities have a duty under the Environment Act 1995 to monitor the quality of air within their administrative areas, produce an annual report (Annual Status Report) and designate special management areas known as air quality management areas (AQMA) where pollutants exceed certain levels.

Breaches of the annual mean air quality objective (AQO) for nitrogen dioxide were occurring in some areas of Saffron Walden and in 2007 three AQMA's were declared, called Saffron Walden 1, 2 and 3. Following a consultation in 2011, a larger AQMA named Saffron Walden AQMA was declared in 2012 and the existing AQMA's were revoked under section 83 (2) of the Act.

Substantial monitoring has been undertaken in Saffron Walden since then including 24 nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes and two fixed air quality monitors. Figure 1 below shows the map of the AQMA boundary. Figure 2 shows the locations of historical exceedances.

# Appendix B

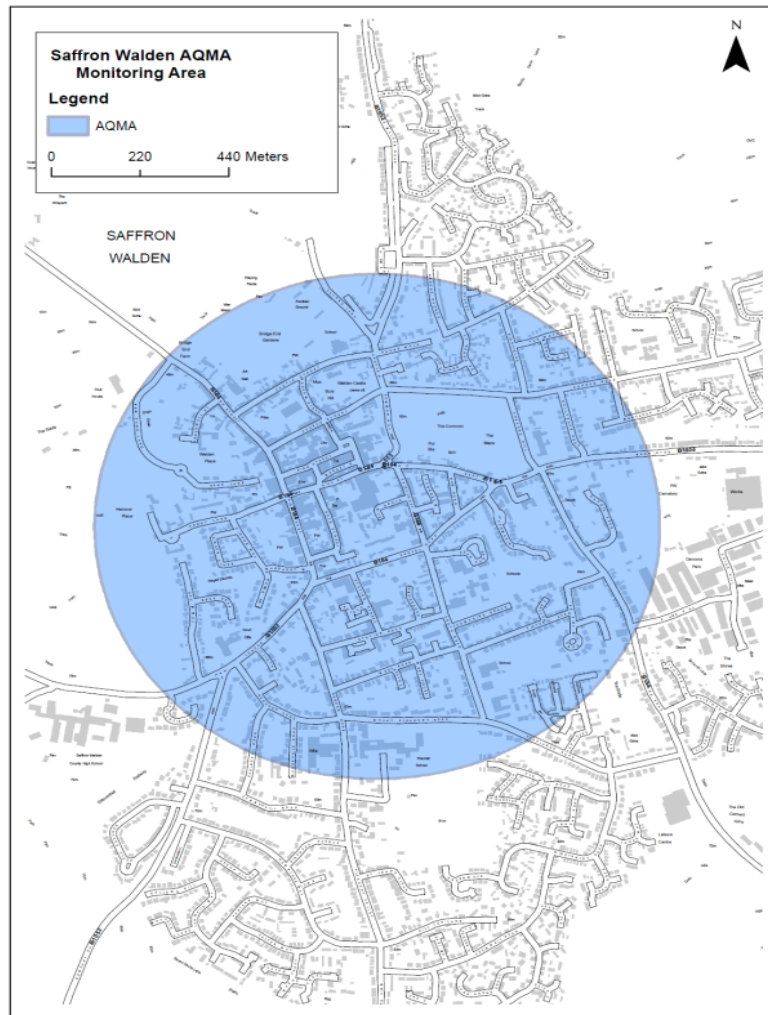


Figure 1. Map of AQMA Boundary

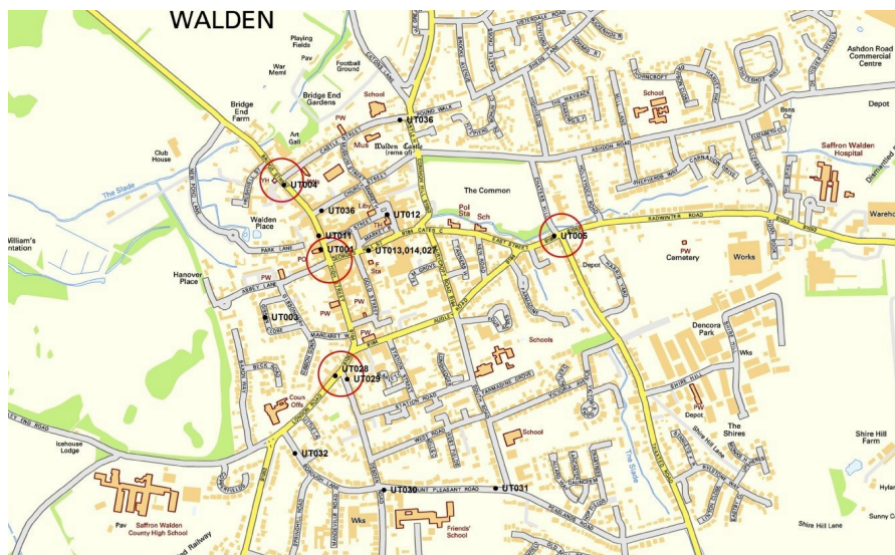


Figure 2. Historic location of exceedances

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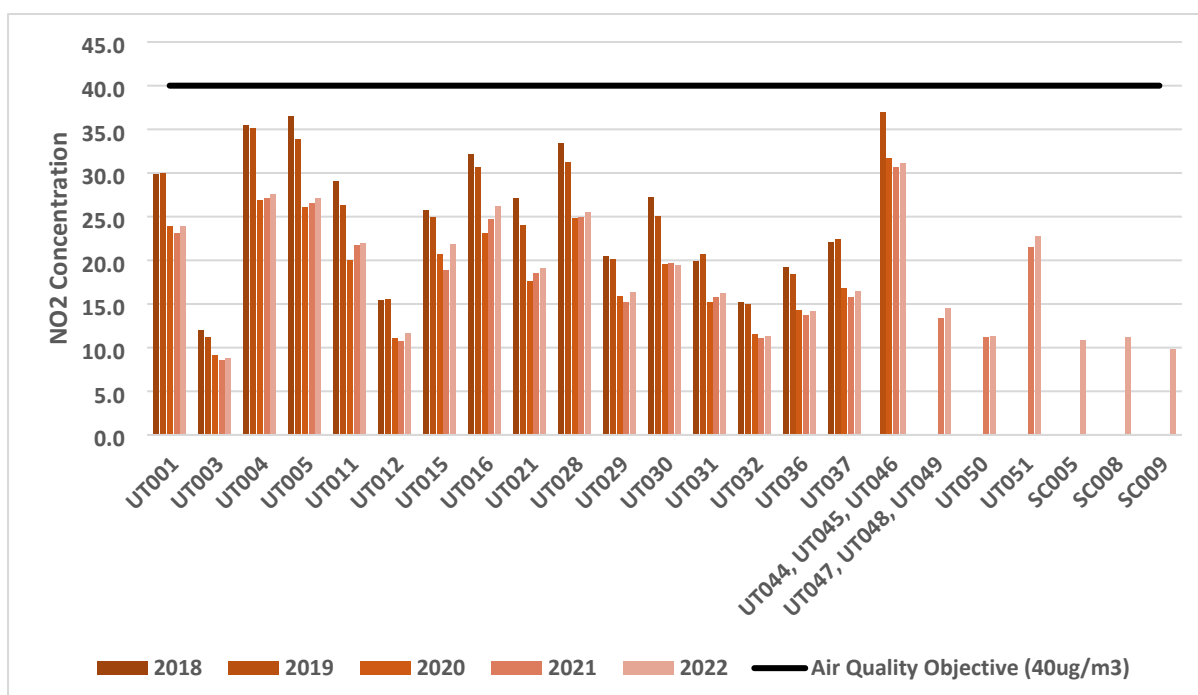
When a Local Authority declares an AQMA, the Environment Act requires an Action Plan to be produced for these designated areas, setting out the actions that the Council intends to take to meet the objectives and to maintain levels below the objective for the 5 year life of the plan. The latest Action plan was adopted in 2017.

Current air quality monitoring within Saffron Walden has shown that levels of nitrogen dioxide are comfortably below the objective level of 40 micrograms per meter cubed (40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). See Appendix 1 for full results.

Recent reductions are likely to be down to changes in improvements in vehicle emission standards and the presence of more hybrid and electric vehicles on the road.

Results are summarised in the chart below and shows a continued downward trend. Please note that 2020 annual results have been impacted by the various COVID-19 related restrictions in place throughout the year.

**Chart 1: Trends of nitrogen dioxide monitoring in Saffron Walden showing all monitoring below the air quality objective of 40 micrograms per meter cubed.**



The above results show there is no breach of air quality objectives and this has been the case for the last seven years. Guidance recommends at least three years without a breach of the air quality objective before revocation.

The proposed revocation was outlined in our 2022 Annual Status Report and Defra have confirmed in their feedback the Council must proceed with plans to revoke the AQMA as keeping AQMA in place longer than required risks diluting their meaning and impacting public trust in LAQM.

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Further information in support of the revocation can be found with the Local Plan Regulation 18 Saffron Walden Air Quality Modelling Assessment, prepared by AECOM in September 2023. This assessment estimated the annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentrations to include the forecast growth and strategic development included within the new Local Plan. The modelling confirms that there will be no nitrogen dioxide concentrations that exceed the AQ objectives in 2040.

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**APPENDIX 1: Saffron Walden Annual Mean NO2 Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (Annual mean AQ objective 40 ug/m3)**

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UT001	553709	238417	Urban Centre	29.8	30.0	23.9	23.1	23.9
UT003	553554	238218	Urban Background	12.0	11.1	9.1	8.5	8.7
UT004	553598	238595	Kerbside	35.5	35.1	26.9	27.1	27.5
UT005	554336	238454	Kerbside	36.4	33.9	26.0	26.6	27.1
UT009	552403	223965	Roadside	33.6	30.1	23.5	23.6	24.4
UT010	551246	233649	Kerbside	22.2	21.5	16.3	14.7	15.3
UT011	553697	238452	Urban Centre	29.0	26.3	19.9	21.7	22.0
UT012	553879	238510	Urban Background	15.4	15.5	11.0	10.8	11.6
UT015	553739	238317	Roadside	25.8	24.9	20.7	18.9	21.8
UT016	554413	238474	Roadside	32.1	30.7	23.1	24.7	26.2
UT017	560023	221444	Roadside	14.9	14.6	10.1	10.4	10.3
UT018	551035	225199	Roadside	26.7	24.4	20.0	18.6	19.2
UT019	550950	225039	Roadside	35.0	31.9	22.8	24.8	25.6
UT020	551535	225065	Roadside	35.7	30.7	25.3	25.2	24.1
UT021	554212	238436	Roadside	27.0	24.0	17.6	18.4	19.1
UT024	554671	221010	Rural	13.1	11.4	9.2	8.3	9.2
UT028	553755	238092	Roadside	33.4	31.2	24.8	25.0	25.5
UT029	553770	238076	Roadside	20.5	20.1	15.9	15.1	16.3
UT030	553875	237764	Kerbside	27.2	25.0	19.6	19.7	19.4
UT031	554178	237767	Roadside	19.8	20.7	15.2	15.8	16.2
UT032	553625	237856	Roadside	15.2	15.0	11.5	11.1	11.2
UT033	551377	224913	Roadside	26.9	23.8	18.7	20.4	20.3
UT034	556101	221243	Roadside	26.2	24.6	18.0	18.1	18.8
UT036	553718	238530	Urban Centre	19.2	18.4	14.3	13.6	14.1
UT037	553923	238770	Kerbside	22.0	22.4	16.8	15.7	16.5
UT039	552154	234033	Roadside	30.1	27.1	20.7	21.8	21.2
UT040	552113	234505	Roadside	19.8	20.5	15.5	15.3	15.8
UT041	552091	233630	Roadside	18.7	19.2	15.5	15.5	15.6
UT042	552152	233878	Roadside	N/A	24.1	18.7	17.2	17.5
UT043	552135	234344	Roadside	N/A	22.9	16.4	18.3	17.9
UT044, UT045, UT046	554357	238443	Roadside	N/A	37.0	31.6	30.7	31.1
UT047, UT048, UT049	553570	237908	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.4	14.5
UT050	554103	238140	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.2	11.3
UT051	553700	238525	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.5	22.8
UT052	561074	225855	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.4	17.6
UT053	562329	221841	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.1	12.7
UT054	561443	230778	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.8	15.3
UT055	551347	224227	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	12.5
UT056	553765	226325	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0	17.9
SC001	551954	234407	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.8
SC002	551745	233551	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.1
SC003	551090	229882	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.5
SC004	550700	242786	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6
SC005	554206	237791	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8
SC006	553183	237809	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.9
SC007	554274	236977	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.3

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Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SC008	553827	238760	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.2
SC009	554647	238768	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.8
SC010	558738	242228	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.9
SC011	560712	237445	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.6
SC012	564448	235428	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.2
SC013	566021	224425	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.0
SC014	562157	223004	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.7
SC015	561768	221940	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.4
SC016	566539	220583	Suburban	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.5
SC017	567888	220640	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.5
SC018	568970	221065	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.3
SC019	567836	220381	Suburban	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6
SC020	559352	213692	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.6
SC021	552205	215040	Urban Background	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.9
SC022	550247	217452	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1
SC023	554805	216625	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.3
SC024	557175	221325	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.5
SC025	556364	221459	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.6
SC026	551926	224040	Suburban	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.8
SC027	550937	222982	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9
SC028	550955	225769	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8
SC029	551258	225077	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8
SC030	559308	235549	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.0
SC031	555570	233402	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.6
SC032	554726	228069	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.5
SC033	547732	224823	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.2
SC034	549109	226575	Kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.8
SC035	547427	231562	Roadside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.1
SC036	544494	239406	Suburban	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.4