

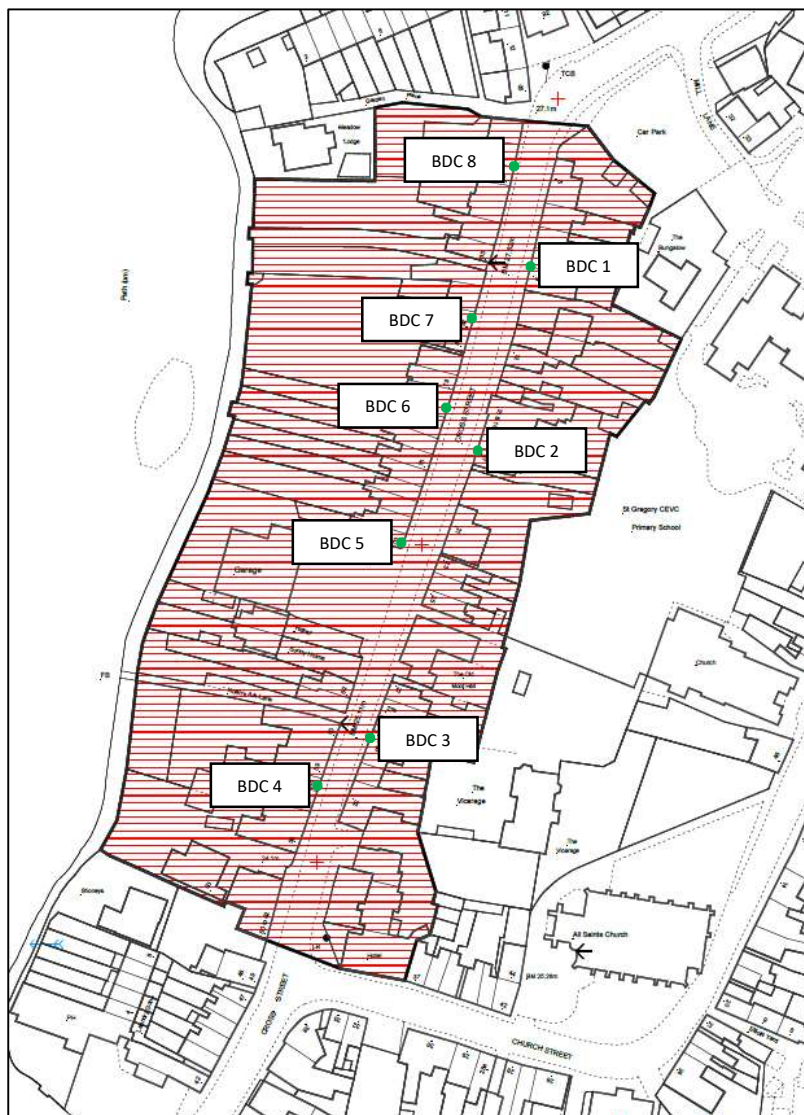
## Public Consultation: Revocation of the Cross Street, Sudbury, Air Quality Management Area

### Summary

Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Babergh District Council must review air quality and declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where national Air Quality Objectives are unlikely to be met. Once compliance is consistently achieved, the AQMA should be revoked.

In 2008, monitoring on Cross Street recorded annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels of up to 64.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, exceeding the national objective of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Council therefore designated the area as an AQMA (see Figure 1).

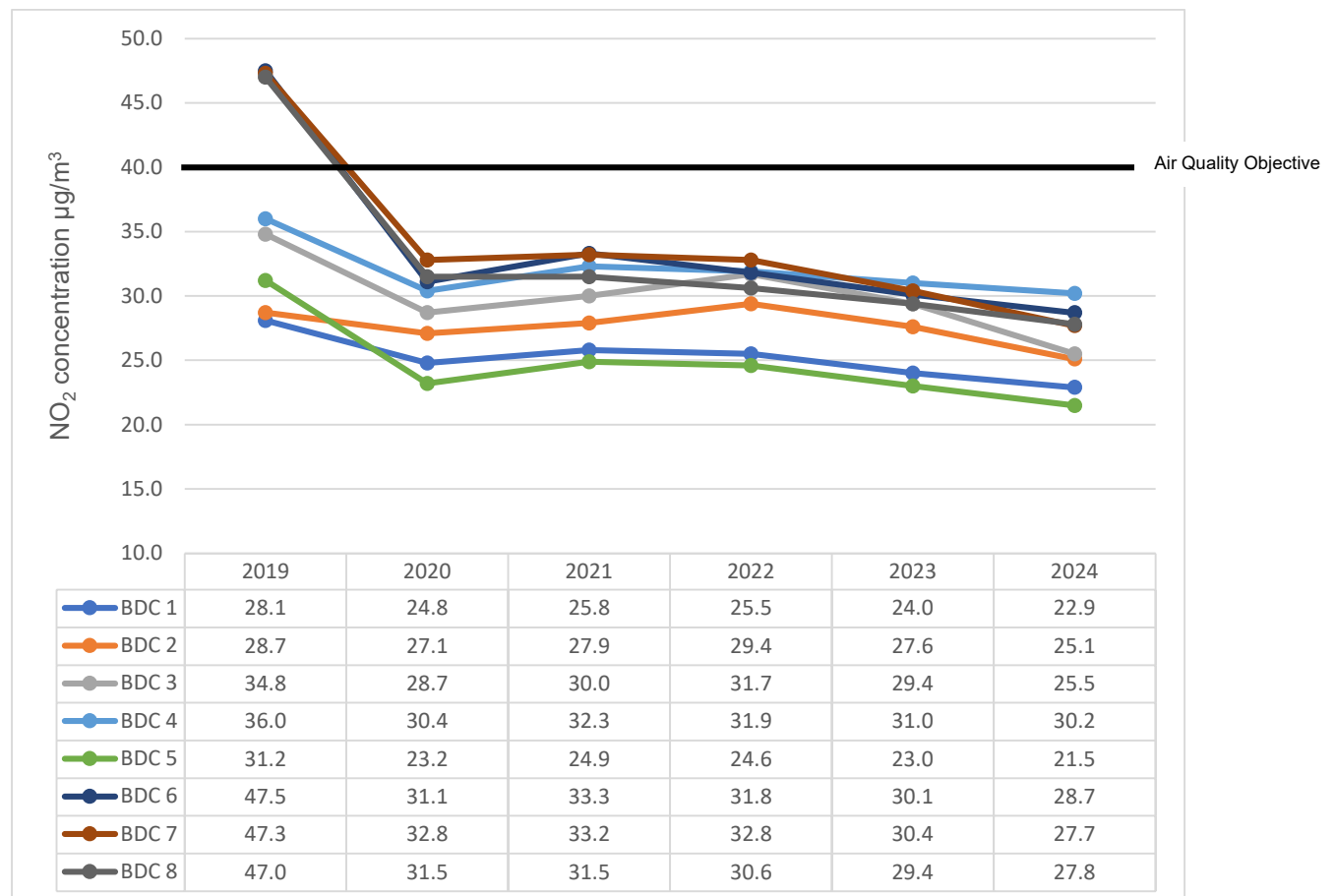
**Figure 1: Cross Street Air Quality Management Area and monitoring locations**



An Action Plan was developed with Suffolk County Council Highways and other stakeholders, including a key measure implemented in January 2020: removal of two sets of on-street parking bays to improve traffic flow and reduce emissions.

Since then, NO<sub>2</sub> levels have declined steadily. The last exceedance occurred in 2019, and the highest recorded level in 2024 was 30.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> — well below the objective (see Figure 2). While the initial reductions in 2020-21 reflected COVID-19 travel restrictions, sustained low levels confirm the effectiveness of the parking removal and broader trends such as increased electric vehicle use. Monitoring data show no breaches for five consecutive years. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recommends at least three years of compliance before revocation and has endorsed this proposal in its feedback on our 2025 annual report.

**Figure 2: Trends in Annual Mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations for monitoring locations within the Cross Street AQMA**



**Conclusion:** The Cross Street AQMA no longer meets the statutory threshold for designation and should be revoked.

## Future Monitoring and Further Information

Revocation does not end monitoring. The Council will continue to track air quality in Sudbury and across Babergh and is preparing a local air quality strategy for publication in Spring 2026.

Detailed information about the history of the AQMA, the AQMA Action Plan, and annual monitoring reports can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.babergh.gov.uk/w/air-quality](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/air-quality).

## Consultation

We are consulting residents and stakeholders to ensure all relevant factors are considered.

Comments should be submitted by email or post by **5pm on 9 January 2026**:

Email: [environmental@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environmental@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

Post: Environmental Protection, Babergh District Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX