



## **Carmarthenshire County Council**

### **Environment Act 1995**

### **Local Air Quality Management**

### **2015 Carmarthen AQMA Boundary Consultation Review & Report**

(December 2015)

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## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

This report reviews the response to the public consultation on the proposed Air Quality Management Area boundary map for the town of Carmarthen. The air quality monitoring work has identified areas of exceedence of the nitrogen dioxide Air Quality Objective (AQO) in locations within the town and therefore the authority must proceed to designating an Air Quality Management Area. As part of this process a public consultation has been held on the proposed boundary of the area in order to gather feedback on how appropriate the boundary is.

## **2.0 Background**

Air quality monitoring has been carried out for a number of years across the town and it was identified that nitrogen dioxide levels were increasing. An in depth review of the monitoring locations was performed and identified there were a number of monitoring sites that did not comply with the guidance criteria. The review also identified areas of the town where there was no monitoring but where it was considered a potential for traffic related air quality problems to exist.

This resulted in an overhaul of the monitoring network in the town such that a number of sites were removed and new sites set up. The data gathered from this exercise was reviewed and allows the potential problem areas to be looked at in more detail. This work then became the Detailed Assessment of air quality with the objective of defining the boundaries for the areas of exceedence. The data acquired from this exercise failed to identify any boundaries and therefore the Detailed Assessment continued for another year with some modifications to the monitoring locations.

Data from the extended Detailed Assessment work confirmed that the areas of exceedence were limited in size and associated with particular locations that suffered from congestion and large traffic volumes. However, due to the nature of the road network serving the town there was little potential to tackle these specific geographical locations as they are impacted by the wider road network. This led to the development of the proposed AQMA boundary map, which is shown in Appendix 1.

## **3.0 Public Consultation**

A public consultation was launched on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 seeking views on the proposed boundary for the AQMA. Notification of the consultation was provided to relevant statutory consultees, local councillors for those areas affected, Chamber of Trade and members of the public. The consultation was posted on the 'iLocal' section of the Authority's website and news feeds sent out via Twitter and Facebook. The consultation was for a period of about eight weeks with the closing date for comments being the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

### 3.1 Response to Consultation

A summary of the responses received to the public consultation are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Summary of Responses

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Response</b>
Welsh Government (Air)	No response
Carmarthen Town Council	Agreed with proposed boundary and welcomed the designation of an AQMA and development of an Action Plan in order to take appropriate action. In particular would like to see relevant road markings refreshed, such as 'Keep Clear', and Introduction of more filter lanes to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow.
Carmarthen Chamber of Trade	Agreed with the proposed boundary and concurred with the hot spot areas. Welcome the designation of an AQMA and continued monitoring of pollution levels.
Natural Resources Wales	No response.
Public Health Wales	Expressed a wish to participate in assisting the Local Authority develop an Action Plan and quantify health impacts collaboratively with its partner organisations.
Individual Ward Councillors	Concern that the boundary does not include Jobswell Road, College Road or extend out to Old St Clears Road and down to Llansteffan Road.
Farmers Union of Wales	No response
National Union of Farmers	No response
Residents and Businesses	No responses
Website visits	76 hits

No specific objections have been received in respect of setting the boundary although concerns were raised that it did not include Jobswell Road, College Road and Llansteffan Road. There is support for the need to designate an AQMA.

Historically, air quality monitoring has been carried out for College Road and Jobswell Road and identified that it was unlikely there would be a breach of the AQO. A screening exercise has previously been carried out for Llansteffan Road, in accordance with the government guidance, and this also identified that it was very unlikely there would be a breach of the AQO.

Due consideration has been given to the concerns in respect of these roads, and it is acknowledged that some sections of the roads suffer from considerable congestion. The new Carmarthen West developments and link road also have to be taken in to account and, as yet, the impacts from these developments are unknown. It is anticipated that the link road will actually take pressure off of the roads previously mentioned. With these factors in mind it is considered that it would not be appropriate at this time to include these roads within the AQMA boundary.

The situation will be kept under review and if circumstances dictate then consideration for designating an AQMA for these locations can be progressed. To assist the on-going review it has been decided to set up an additional three NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring locations at Old St Clears Road, College Road and Llansteffan Road. These will be active from January 2016.

It has therefore been decided not to amend the previously proposed boundary map and this is now part of the Air Quality Management Order that is shown in Appendix 1.

#### **4.0 Monitoring Data**

The NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring results obtained from the sites within the AQMA boundary for the last five years are detailed in Table 2 below. The figures in brackets are the Bias Adjustment Figures used for each year, and the results in red text are those that have exceeded the Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The results highlight that the areas of exceedence are very limited but, because of their location, the means to improve the situation are determined by the wider road networks.

Table 2 – Carmarthen NO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion Tube Results

Tube Id	Location	2015 (0.81)	2014 (0.81)	2013 (0.80)	2012 (0.79)	2011 (0.83)
DAC/06	Glenholme Nursery	30.6	32.6	30.3	34.6	-
DAC/13	Richmond Terrace (2)	32.6	33.5	32.7	-	-
Carm/109	Richmond Terrace	38.1	40.9	40.1	42.4	43.9
DAC/08	85 Priory Street (E)	50.5	55.5	58.0	65.0	-
DAC/14	50 Priory Street	36.1	35.4	35.3	-	-
DAC/15	Old Oak rdbt (E)	30.1	30.1	30.6	-	-
Carm/111	Church Street	30.7	33.7	34.2	36.6	-
DAC/12	24 Spilman Street	33.7	34.4	35.6	37.2	37.0
DAC/04	Water Street (Probabtion Office)	22.7	23.7	23.9	26.5	-
Carm/072	St Catherine Street rdbt	34.4	30.9	32.7	34.4	38.0
DAC/02	15 Park Terrace	42.9	43.5	43.4	47.6	-
DAC/16	6 Park Terrace	36.1	39.7	39.1	-	-
Carm/001	St Catherine Street	32.3	30.5	33.1	36.1	35.8
Carm/084	Water Street	32.6	36.5	36.4	38.8	39.4
DAC/05	44 Water Street	34.6	34.7	33.9	38.1	-
Carm/106	St Catherine Street (A)	38.8	37.9	36.6	43.6	42.4
Carm/126	Jobs Well Road	22.0	22.7	25.0	-	-

## **5.0 Conclusion**

Having reviewed the responses to the public consultation and the air quality data it is considered appropriate and necessary to proceed with designating an Air Quality Management Area within the town of Carmarthen in order to pursue the improvement of air quality and to try to achieve the Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> at relevant locations.

## Appendix 1 – Carmarthen Air Quality Management Order



Environment Act 1995 Part IV Section 83(1)

Carmarthenshire County Council  
AQMA Order

Carmarthenshire County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995, hereby makes the following Order.

This Order may be cited/referred to as the Carmarthenshire County Council Air Quality Management Area [Carmarthen 2016] and shall come into effect on [date]

The area shown on the attached map within the red boundary is to be designated as an air quality management area (the designated area). The designated area incorporates the Jobs Well Road junction on the B4312 in Johnstown and travels in an easterly direction up Monument Hill and down Picton Terrace to meet the St Catherine's Street roundabout. It continues along St Catherine's Street, spurring north up Water Street to the junction with Glannant Road and Pentrefelin Street, on to Barn Road and Francis Terrace and continuing to Richmond Terrace before bearing right along Old Oak Lane and reaching Old Oak roundabout. The boundary spurs left up Priory Street, through Abbey Mead and as far as Tanerdy roundabout on the A484, being the eastern extent of the AQMA. At Old Oak roundabout the boundary also spurs right along Priory Street and through Church Street, Spilman Street and on to the junction on the A484 below County Hall. The boundary travels south over Towy Bridge as far as the Towy Bridge roundabout, which is the southern extent of the AQMA. From the junction below County Hall the boundary travels west along Coracle Way and on to Morfa roundabout before heading north up Morfa Lane to meet up with St Catherine's Street roundabout and completing the AQMA boundary.

This Area is designated in relation to a likely breach of the nitrogen dioxide (annual mean) objective as specified in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000.

This Order shall remain in force until it is varied or revoked by a subsequent order.

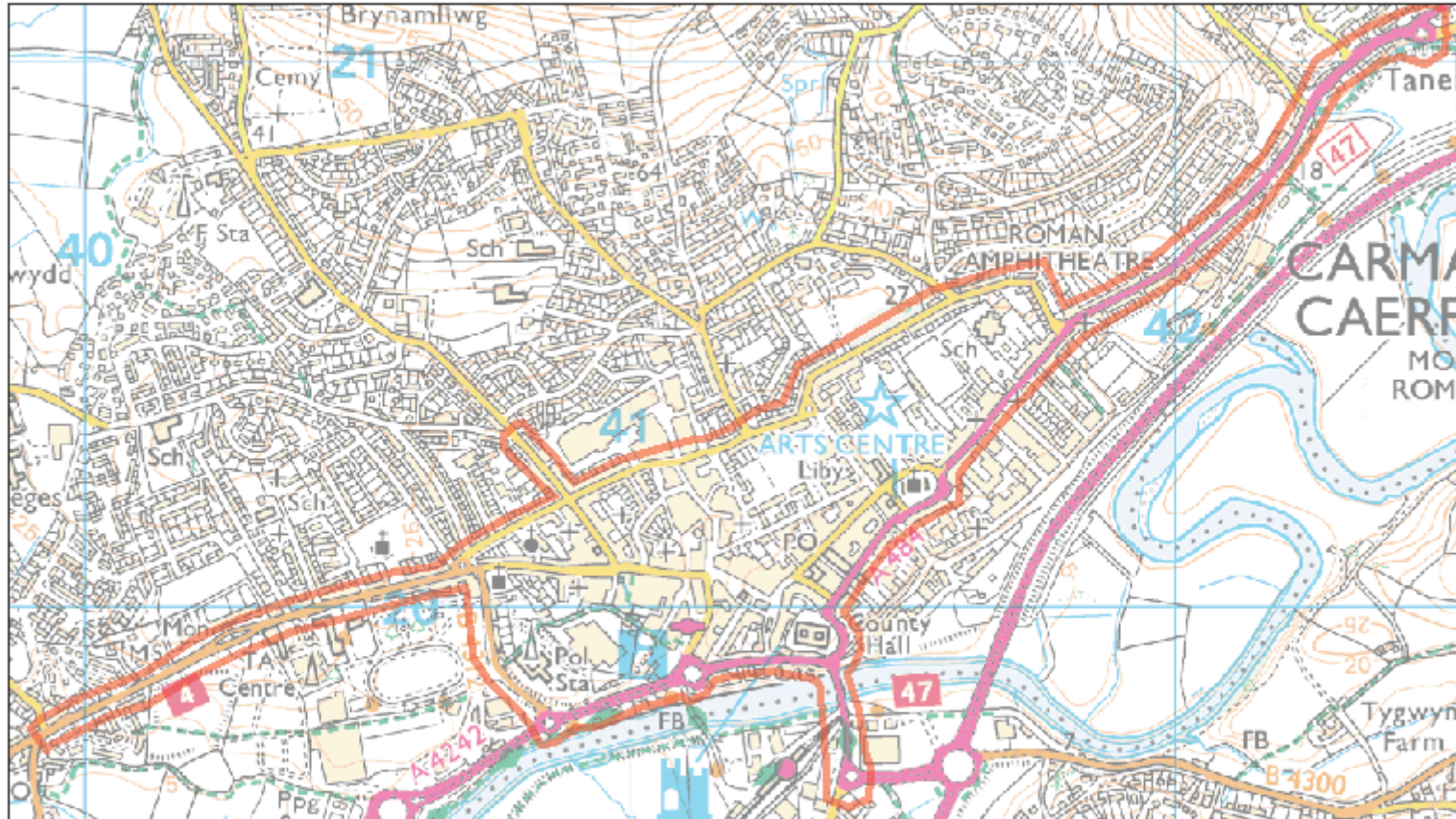
The Common Seal of Carmarthenshire County Council  
was hereto affixed on [date] and signed in the presence of /on behalf  
of said Council

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### Carmarthen AQMA Boundary Map



0 100 200 300m

Graddfa Scale 1:10000

Canol y Map Map Centre [241198.83,220357.85]

Dyddiad Date 23/12/2015

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