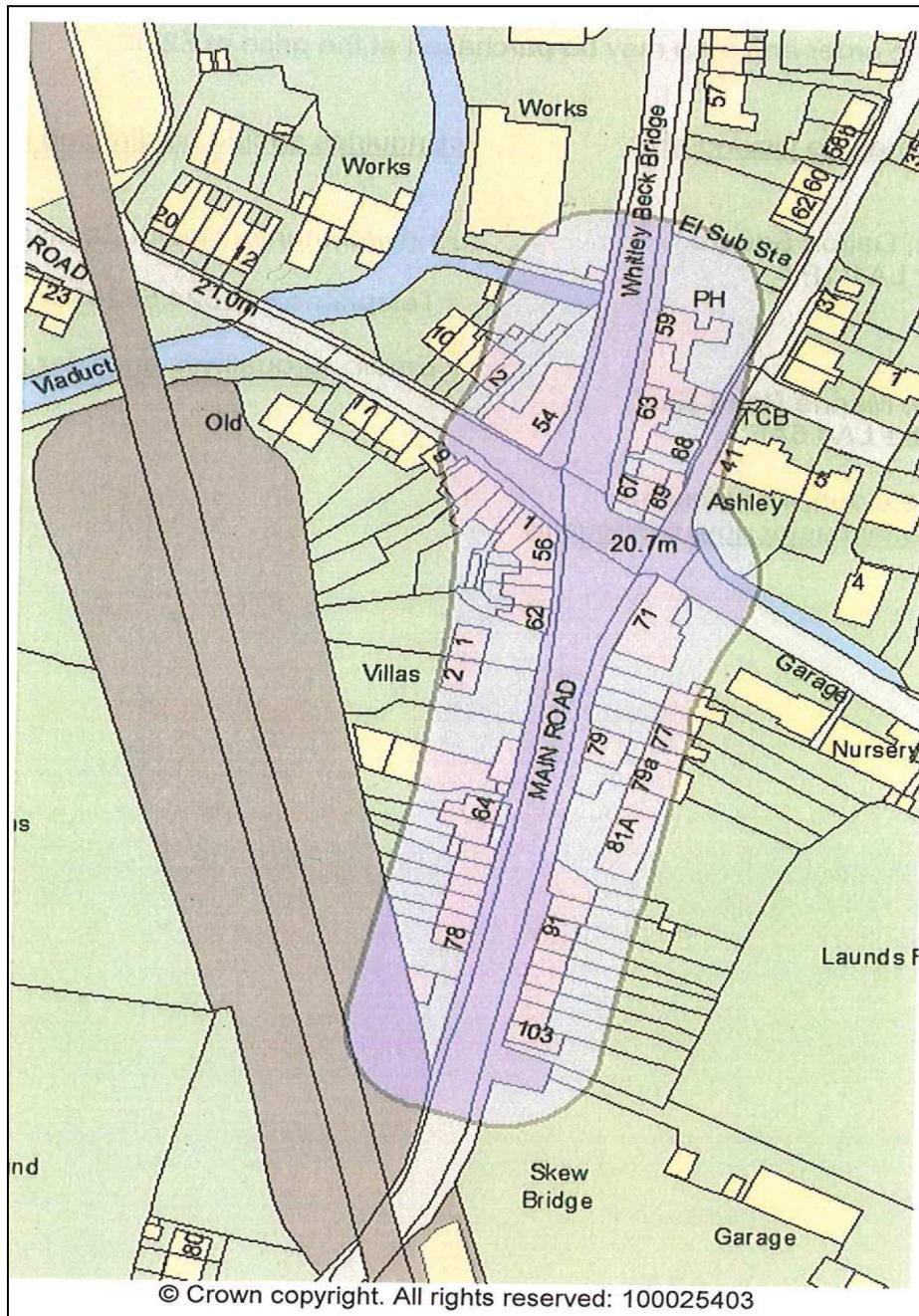


CONSULTATION ON GALGATE FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN A DRAFT AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Lancaster City Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the centre of Galgate in November 2009, after passive monitoring identified an exceedence of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The area of the AQMA is reproduced below.

Figure 1: Galgate Air Quality Management Area



Following the declaration the council undertook a Further Assessment to establish if the decision to declare the AQMA was the correct one. The main findings of the Further Assessment are reproduced below:

The findings of the Further Assessment are as follows:

- There are significant exceedences of the 2005 NO₂ annual mean objective still occurring in Main Road, Galgate at locations where there is relevant exposure as defined by guidance (principally residential properties);
- These exceedences appear to be limited to the stretch of the A6 (Main Road) between the railway bridge, extending north to just beyond the crossroads with Salford Road/Stoney Lane. However, all predicted exceedences are within the current AQMA and there is no need to extend the current boundaries;
- There is also no evidence to suggest that the boundaries could/should be reduced;
- At the worst case monitoring location in Main Road, estimates suggest that local emissions of nitrogen oxides would need to be reduced by around 44% in order to meet the AQ objectives;
- It is thought that the effect of queuing traffic in Main Road is having a significant effect on vehicle emissions. Therefore it is not expected that a 40% reduction in emissions relates to a 40% reduction in vehicle movements as a lower traffic volume may ease congestion;
- Despite Heavy Duty Vehicles only contributing to around 5% of vehicle flows on Main Road, their large size and respectively greater emissions mean that this relatively small number of vehicles contributes over 50% of the nitrogen oxide emissions within Main Road;
- Pollution concentrations in Main Road appear to be dominated by the morning peak hour traffic, although this is likely to be due to meteorological conditions rather than differences in traffic flows.

Having declared the AQMA, the council must now produce an Air Quality Action Plan which will identify and implement actions designed to reduce the levels of nitrogen dioxide to below the objective. The council is consulting stakeholders, including the public, and inviting them to comment on the Further Assessment and to suggest actions to be included in a long list.

Further reading

A copy of the Further Assessment together with a range of relevant information can be viewed on the council's website at www.lancaster.gov.uk/airquality or by visiting Lancaster central library, Lancaster town hall or Morecambe town hall.

How to comment during the public consultation

Comments can be emailed to airquality@lancaster.gov.uk or posted to:

Head of Health and Housing
Lancaster City Council
Town Hall
Marine Road East
Morecambe
LA4 5AF

If you have any questions please contact Janice Johnston, Pollution Control Team Leader, using the above email address or telephone 01524 582935.