

County Borough Council

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council 2023 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, as amended by the Environment Act 2021

Local Air Quality Management

Date: September 2023

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Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air Quality in Blaenau Gwent

This progress report is the latest in a series of reports relating to air quality and has been compiled and published by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The report contains the latest air quality data for the calendar year of 2022 applicable to the County Borough and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact on air quality.

The UK's National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality objectives for seven key pollutants which Local Authorities are legally required to have regard to. These include Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) & (PM 2.5) and Sulphur Dioxide. The sources of these pollutants vary but include emissions to atmosphere from a variety of industrial processes, energy generation, domestic and industrial combustion and road traffic.

Local authorities are obliged to periodically review the air quality within their area to determine the risk of the air quality objectives set out in the national strategy being exceeded. If a Local Authority identifies a risk of any of the objectives being exceeded within its area, then they must proceed to a Detailed Assessment for that pollutant and declare an air quality management area (AQMA).

Much of the traditional coal and steel industry that historically populated the Borough has been replaced by a diverse industrial base comprising of businesses such as pharmaceuticals, battery and computer systems, electronic and high-tech engineering companies. The closure of much of the heavy industry in the area has had an adverse impact on the local economy but conversely it has meant the removal of significant sources of air pollution.

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The previous reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC have concluded that it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have regard to, are being exceeded or will be exceeded within the Borough and therefore no Detailed Assessment for any pollutant has been carried out to-date. Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any AQMA's.

This 2023 air quality progress report **does not** identify the need for Blaenau Gwent CBC to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any of the seven pollutants identified in the UK's National Air Quality Strategy.

The next Air Quality Progress Report for the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent is scheduled to be published in September 2024.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any air quality management areas (AQMA) within our borough and so as a result has not had to produce an air quality action plan.

The environmental health section continues to work closely with other internal council departments, such as planning control, to monitor and review developments that may impact on local air quality. We also continue to regulate a variety of industrial processes that hold environmental permits. We also respond and deal with air quality pollution incidents and smoke nuisance complaints.

Local Priorities and Challenges

Blaenau Gwent CBC aims to continue to protect the public health of people living in Blaenau Gwent by maintaining good levels of air quality within our area. This is being done by carrying out additional air quality monitoring at a number of sensitive locations

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including schools within our borough. The results from these new monitoring locations are reported in this air quality progress report.

How to Get Involved

Further information on air quality within the Blaenau Gwent area can be found by visiting the air quality section of the council's website:

http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/

Or by contacting us directly at:

Environmental Health Section, Environmental Protection Team, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Anvil Court, Church Street, Abertillery, NP13 1DB.

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1 Actions to Improve Air Quality

Previous Work in Relation to Air Quality

Table 1.1 provides a comprehensive list of the reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a result of previous rounds of review and assessment of the air quality within the Borough and summarises the main findings of each report.

Table 1.1 - Reports Produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as A Result of Previous Rounds of Local Air Quality Review and Assessment

Report	Review And Assessment Undertaken & Conclusions	Year
		Published
1999 First Stage Review and Assessment	Initial screening of industrial, transport and other significant sources of air pollution within the Borough. Concluded that it is unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	1999
2003 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2003
2004 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2004
2005 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2005

2006 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2006
2007 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2007
2008 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2008
2009 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2009
2010 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2010
2011 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2011
2012 Updating and Screening	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant	2012

Assessment Report	changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	
2013 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2013
2014 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2014
2015 Updating and Screening Assessment Report	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2015
2016 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2016
2017 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2017
2018 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2018

2019 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2019
2020 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2020
2021 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2021
2022 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2022

Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when air quality is close to or above an acceptable level of pollution (known as the air quality objective (Please see Appendix B)). After declaring an AQMA the authority must prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months setting out measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality to at least the air quality objectives, if not even better. AQMA(s) are seen by local authorities as the focal points to channel resources into the most pressing areas of pollution as a priority.

Blaenau Gwent CBC currently does not have any AQMAs.

Implementation of Action Plans

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any air quality management areas and as a result has not published an air quality action plan.

2 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives

Summary of Monitoring Undertaken in 2022

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring of any of the pollutants relevant to the UK National Air Quality Objectives.

2.1.2 Non-Automating Monitoring Sites

Blaenau Gwent CBC undertook diffusion tube monitoring at 29 sites throughout the Borough during 2022, the details of which are presented in Table 2.2. A map indicating the approximate location of each current monitoring site within the borough is provided in Appendix D and individual maps for each monitoring location is provided in Appendix E to this report.

The diffusion tubes are exposed for four-week periods in accordance with the National NO₂ exposure calendar. Gradko Environmental was used to analyse and provide data from all the NO₂ diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent during 2022.

Gradko Environmental used the 50% TEA in Acetone method to prepare the diffusion tubes for analysis and have indicated that they are following the procedures set out in the Harmonisation Practical Guidance. It has also been confirmed that Gradko Environmental demonstrated satisfactory performance in the Air- PT scheme for the period of 2022.

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake a co-location study for its NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring, in previous years the 'National' bias adjustment factor has been used for the results of the monitoring undertaken during each specific year. The bias adjustment factor for Gradko Environmental for 2022 was 0.82.

The last full audit of all monitoring sites used by Blaenau Gwent CBC was undertaken in September 2021. The next full audit will be carried out by December 2023 with monitoring at new monitoring locations identified due to begin in January 2024.

Table 2.1 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with Named AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Collocated with a Continuous Analyser?	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) (1)	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
BGBC- 01	The Darren, Daren-felen Road, Brynmawr	Roadside	N	319538	211956	2	N	0	10	10
BGBC- 04	22 Parkhill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale	Urban Background	N	317298	211287	2.1	N	10	10	30
BGBC- 05	Willow Tree Bungalow, Aberbeeg	Urban Background	N	321139	201114	2	N	0	11	13
BGBC- 13	3 Kings Arms Cottages, Trefil, Tredegar	Roadside	N	312012	212782	2	N	0	4	4
BGBC- 16	49 Aberbeeg Road, Aberbeeg	Roadside	N	321434	202668	2	N	0	7	7
BGBC- 18	Welfare Hall, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale	Roadside	N	317543	211688	2	N	0	4	4

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with Named AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Collocated with a Continuous Analyser?	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) (1)	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
BGBC- 19	42 Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale	Roadside	N	316670	211597	2	N	0	3	3
BGBC- 20	122 Beaufort Road, Tredegar	Roadside	N	314858	210240	2	N	0	5	5
BGBC- 21	14 Bryn Rhosyn, Merthyr Road, Tredegar	Other	N	312846	210586	2	N	0	14	14
BGBC- 22	2 King Street, Brynmawr	Roadside	N	319562	212128	2	N	0	11	11
BGBC- 24	4 Glen View, Nantybwch, Tredegar	Roadside	N	313145	210769	2	N	0	9	9
BGBC- 25	Red Rose Care Centre, Park Road, Ebbw Vale	Roadside	N	316996	207898	2	N	0	3	3
BGBC- 26	2 The Dingle, Ebbw Vale	Roadside	N	316980	209842	2	N	0	10	10
BGBC- 27	Tyn y Rhyn, Llangynidr Road, Ebbw Vale	Other	N	316720	212796	2	N	0	11	11

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with Named AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Collocated with a Continuous Analyser?	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) (1)	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
BGBC- 28	1 Coates Row, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	Other	N	314488	211642	2	N	0	62	62
BGBC- 29	10 lvy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.	Industrial	N	315331	211938	2	N	0	n/a	n/a
BGBC- 30	8 Annes Court, Ebbw Vale.	Industrial	N	316010	210183	2	N	0	n/a	n/a
BGBC- 31	18 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.	Industrial	N	312674	210974	2	N	0	n/a	n/a
BGBC- 32	Ebbw Fawr Learning Campus, Primary School, Ebbw Vale.	Roadside	N	317392	208313	2	N	5	25	20
BGBC- 34	Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar.	Roadside	N	314838	208257	2	N	6.4	18	14
BGBC- 35	Brynbach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar.	Roadside	N	313061	210466	2	N	0	8	12

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with Named AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Collocated with a Continuous Analyser?	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) (1)	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
BGBC- 36	St Mary's RC Primary School, Catholic Road, Brynmawr.	Roadside	N	319229	211601	2	N	0	17	17
BGBC- 37	Abertillery Learning Campus, Tillery Street, Abertillery.	Roadside	N	321893	204604	2	N	7	19	38
BGBC- 38	Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar.	Roadside	N	313914	209839	2	N	0	17	17
BGBC- 39	Six Bells Primary Campus, Abertillery Learning Community, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, Abertillery,	Roadside	N	322050	202976	2	N	8	26	18
BGBC- 40	1 Waterloo Terrace, Cwm, Ebbw Vale.	Roadside	N	318967	204130	2	N	0	5	5

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with Named AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Collocated with a Continuous Analyser?	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) (1)	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
BGBC- 41	8 Briar Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.	Industrial	N	316165	212466	2	N	0	n/a	n/a
BGBC- 42	Rhos Y Fedwen Primary School, Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	Roadside	N	315750	211940	2	N	0	15	15
BGBC- 43	37 Pen Y Craig, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	Industrial	N	315831	212298	2	N	0	n/a	n/a

Notes:

(1) 0m indicates that the sited monitor represents exposure and as such no distance calculation is required.

2022 Air Quality Monitoring Results

Table 2.2 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2022 (%) (2)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BGBC-01	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	17.2	15.7	10.8	12	13.4
BGBC-04	Urban Background	Diffusion Tube	100	100	7.7	7.3	5.9	5.8	5.5
BGBC-05	Urban Background	Diffusion Tube	100	100	12.9	12	9.2	9.9	10.2
BGBC-13	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	4.8	4.9	3.6	3.8	3.8
BGBC-16	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	18.1	18.9	15.4	14.8	15.9
BGBC-18	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	20.2	15.3	12.9	12.3	11.5
BGBC-19	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	21.4	21.4	17	16.1	15.9
BGBC-20	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	22.3	21.2	16.1	17.3	18.5
BGBC-21	Other	Diffusion Tube	100	100	11.7	12.4	9.9	9.2	9.8
BGBC-22	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	15.7	13.7	10.5	9.9	12.4
BGBC-24	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	82.7	82.7	12.6	12	9.6	10.3	9.1
BGBC-25	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	12.2	12.6	8.2	8.8	10.8
BGBC-26	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	14	13.9	11	11	9.2
BGBC-27	Other	Diffusion Tube	100	100	8.7	8.3	6.2	6.2	6.7

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2022 (%) ⁽²⁾	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BGBC-28	Other	Diffusion Tube	100	100	8.7	8.1	6	6.6	6.2
BGBC-29	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	100	100	7.4	7.2	5.6	5.8	6
BGBC-30	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	100	100	8.5	7.7	6.2	6.2	6.6
BGBC-31	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	100	100	6.4	6	5	4.9	4.8
BGBC-32	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92.3	92.3	9.3	8.6	6.2	6.5	6.8
BGBC-34	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	9.2	7.7	6.2	6.5	6.3
BGBC-35	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92.3	92.3	10.8	11.2	7.9	8.2	8.7
BGBC-36	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	12	11.2	9.2	8.7	9
BGBC-37	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	8.5	7.5	6.1	5.9	6.7
BGBC-38	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	n/a	n/a	7.2	6.8	7.4
BGBC-39	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92.3	92.3	n/a	n/a	7	7.9	7.8
BGBC-40	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8
BGBC-41	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	80.8	80.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.9
BGBC-42	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.5
BGBC-43	Industrial	Diffusion Tube	92.3	92.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.6

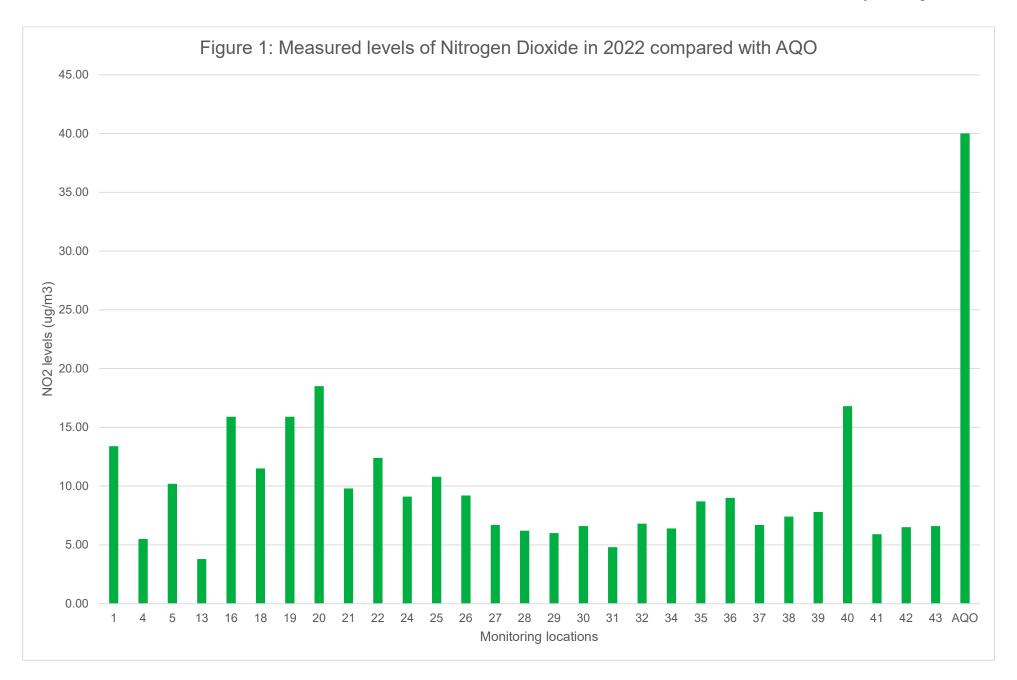
Notes:

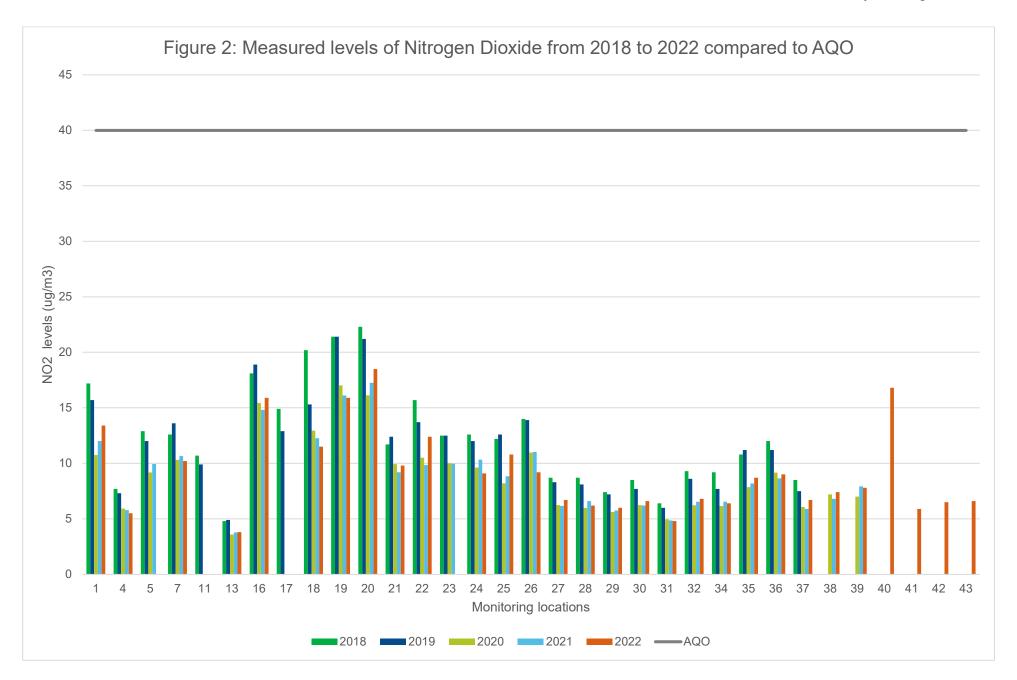
Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

 NO_2 annual means exceeding $60\mu g/m^3$, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined.**

Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been "annualised" as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

- (1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.
- (2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).





Comparison of 2022 Monitoring Results with Previous Years and the Air Quality Objectives

2.1.3 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring for nitrogen dioxide.

Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data

A summary of the results obtained from the Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion monitoring undertaken at the 29 sites within the Borough for the period of 2022 is presented in Table 2.3. Full details of the monthly mean values for each site are provided in Appendix A to this report.

None of the results from the diffusion tube monitoring are based on triplicate or collocated tubes, the results are based on 12 months' worth of data for the calendar year 2022, none of the data has been annualised.

Table 2.3 and figure 2 provide a comparison of the results for the period of 2022 with the results of previous years monitoring (where available) for the years 2018 - 2022. The 2022 results identify that there has been an increase in the measured levels of nitrogen dioxide at fifteen of the twenty- nine monitoring locations when compared with the 2021 levels. This is possibly a trend in the return to previous traffic/ transport levels to those prior to the covid pandemic. Nine monitoring locations recorded decreases in results when compared to the previous year's monitoring results with one monitoring location remaining the same. It is worth noting that four of the monitoring sites where in their first year of operation and so had no previous results to compare against.

2.1.4 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for particulate matter (PM₁₀).

2.1.5 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

2.1.6 Other Pollutants Monitored

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for any other pollutants.

Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives as of 2022

Blaenau Gwent CBC has examined the results from monitoring in the borough.

Concentrations are all below the Objectives, therefore no further action is required.

3 New Local Developments

Road Traffic Sources (and Other Transport)

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/ newly identified narrow congested streets with residential properties close to the kerb or busy streets where people may spend one hour or more close to traffic. Also, there are no new/newly identified roads with high flows of buses and/or HGVs.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/newly identified busy junctions or roads with significantly changed traffic flows within the local authority area. Also, there are no new bus stations within the local authority area.

Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources

Since the last assessment Blaenau Gwent CBC has approved a part B environmental permit for Advanced Furniture, Unit 21, Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale to manufacture wood products and operate a waste wood biomass boiler on site. An air quality assessment was provided and reviewed as part of the permit application process and no exceedances of air quality standards where identified.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no other new or proposed industrial installations for which an air quality assessment has been carried out and there are no existing industrial installations where emissions have increased substantially, or new relevant exposure has been introduced. Blaenau Gwent CBC also confirms that there are no new or significantly changed installations with no previous air quality assessment within the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no major fuel (petrol) storage depots, no new petrol stations or no poultry farms with the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new potential sources of fugitive or uncontrolled particulate matter, new landfill sites, quarries, unmade haulage roads on industrial sites or waste transfer stations within the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there is one new biomass combustion plant within our area, as outlined above, and there are no areas of significant domestic solid fuel burning within the local authority area.

Other Sources

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new or newly identified local developments which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that all the following have been considered:

- Road traffic sources
- Other transport sources
- Industrial sources
- Commercial and domestic sources
- New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources.

Planning Applications

Each planning application is judged on its merits and due regard is given to the Planning Policy Wales document regarding Air Quality published by the Welsh Government, and other relevant guidance.

A link to the Local Development Plan (LDP) is available at-

http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/

The Planning Division classify applications that are received into minor and major developments in accordance with the Welsh Office Planning Statistics guidance. Major developments are classified as being the following:

- > major dwelling is 10 or more dwellings or if an outline application 0.5 hectares
- ➤ For other types of applications major equates to 1000m² floor area or 1 hectare if the application is in outline

Table 3.1: Applications for Major Developments Received and Approved During 2022

Planning Reference	Type of development	Location	Potential Impact on		
			Local Air Quality		
C/2021/0366	Small scale residential development	Thorntons Quarry site, Rassau Road, Ebbw Vale.	Low		
C/2022/0100	Erection of building for B1/B2/B8 use, to provide six units, together with associated parking, access and cycle	Unit 33A Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale	Low		
C/2022/0103	Proposed new welsh medium primary school, incorporating a new drop-off area facility, staff parking, bus turning	Chartist Way, Tredegar.	Low		
C/2022/0123	Construction of 13 no. self-build houses, with associated external works.	Land at Cemetery Road, Ebbw Vale.	Low		
C/2022/0164	Erection of a new detached storage building over existing hard standing area, with additional ancillary office	Shoda Sauces, Unit 19-20 Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina.	Low		
C/2022/0182	Change of use of former shopping mall into a mixed use business centre comprising Use Classes A, B and D.	Festival Park Shopping Centre, Ebbw Vale	Low		

Major Planning Applications Approved 2022

None of the above major planning applications that were received and approved in 2022 were considered to have a potential negative impact on air quality within the Blaenau Gwent area.

In 2022 Blaenau Gwent CBC approved planning application for a glass bottle manufacturing plant on the Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale, which has been identified as having the potential to impact on local air quality. This development will require an environmental permit from Blaenau Gwent CBC to operate.

4 Policies and Strategies Affecting Airborne Pollution

Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Blaenau Gwent CBC has a Departmental Air Pollution Control Policy and Procedure document to facilitate the management of Air Quality with the Borough.

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not developed an air quality strategy and at this time does not propose to do so as all of the results at our monitoring locations are significantly below the air quality standards.

Blaenau Gwent CBC actively participates in the work of the Welsh Air Quality Forum which assists in co-ordinating the management of Air Quality at an all-Wales level amongst the 22 Local Authorities and other partners.

Further information regarding the work of the Welsh Air Quality Forum is available at

http://www.welshairquality.co.uk/

Air Quality Planning Policies

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not have a specific air quality planning policy however it is outlined as a development management policy within the Local Development Plan that 'the proposal does not result in airborne emissions which have an unacceptable effect on the health, amenity or natural environment of the surrounding area, taking into account cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity.'

Local Transport Plans and Strategies

Local Authorities are now required to produce individual transport plans however the South East Wales Valleys Authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Torfaen) got together produced a joint plan that was published in January 2015.

The South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (January 2015) can be viewed at the following website:

http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/TransportSchemesandPolicies/TransportPolicyandlocalTransportPlan.aspx

The local transport plan sets down the vision and objectives for transport in the SE Wales Valleys area and provides a short- and long-term programme for interventions to work towards achieving these goals. The longer-term programme identifies aspirations up to 2030.

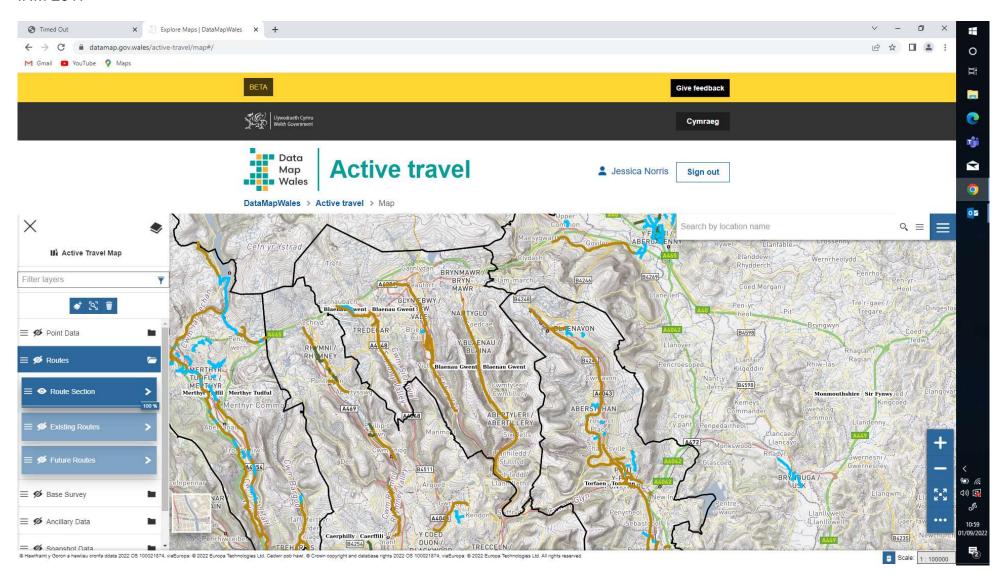
Part of the process of the development of the Local Transport Plan requires the production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will consider air quality issues.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Study Report and Scoping Report are also available at the above website.

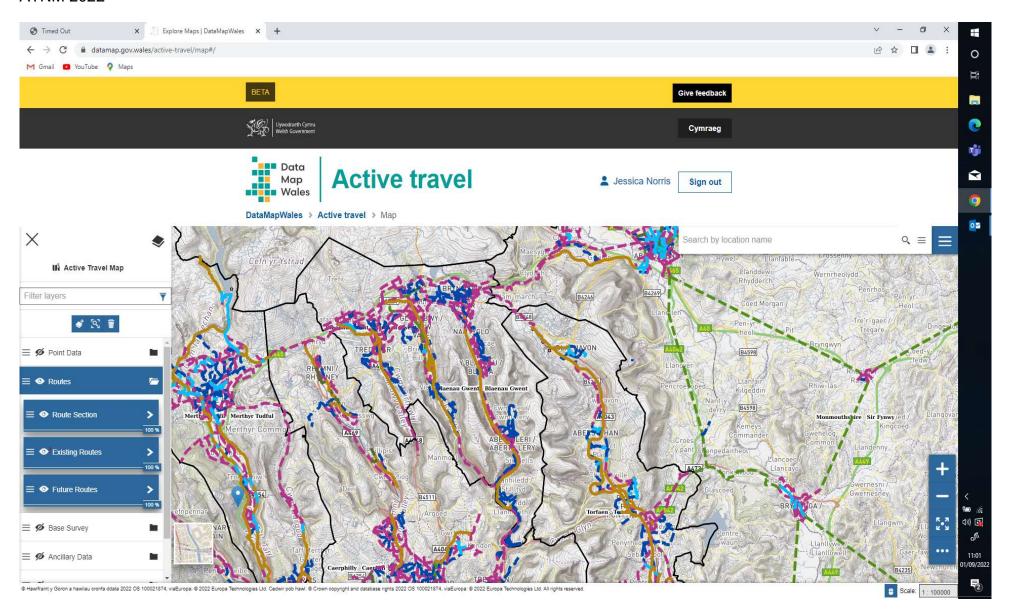
Active Travel Plans and Strategies

Blaenau Gwent CBC has recently updated its Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), which has expanded on the previous edition (previously referred to as the INM). The updated proposed ATNM was recently approved by Welsh Government (August 2022). The routes shown on the map have been prioritised (short, medium and long term) and Blaenau Gwent CBC will improve these routes to increase active travel connectivity throughout the borough and reduce the reliance on cars for short purposeful journeys. Below are the maps from 2017 and 2022 to show the comparison of the network between the two editions and the location of the proposed routes:

INM 2017



ATNM 2022



Blaenau Gwent CBC successfully bid for a grant from the Active Travel Fund to improve some of its routes in 2022/23, and there are several schemes that are currently underway to improve routes to make walking and cycling safer and easier for residents and visitors of Blaenau Gwent.

Local Authorities Well-being Objectives

Air quality was considered as part of the local well-being assessment carried out by the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board which has resulted in well-being objective number 3 being introduced which is- "Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environments." The key steps identified by the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board in order to meet this objective include-

- Lead on taking action against climate change through the delivery of a carbon positive project.
- Promote active travel to reduce our collective carbon footprint.
- Make Blaenau Gwent a cleaner, greener place where nature can thrive.

Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies

Working collaboratively over the past 12 months the 5 local Authorities in Greater Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly and Newport) along with partners in the private and third sector have continued deliver on the *Gwent Green Grid Partnership* (GGGP) has supported woodland management, ecology, access, landscape projects and wellbeing projects. This project came to an end in July 2023. However, the GGGP has managed to secure additional funding through SPF and Nature Networks Fund to continue with the delivery of the projects. The Local Nature Partnership have also helped steer funding for Local Places for Nature and has supported grassland and woodland management. Countryside access improvements have been delivered under the Access Improvement Grant.

Climate Change Strategies

Blaenau Gwent CBC has developed a decarbonisation plan detailing how we aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. The plan can be accessed via the link to the Blaenau Gwent CBC website below. An example of a practical implementation of this plan is the purchase and use of electric vehicles in our highways department.

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/policies-plans-strategies/decarbonisation-plan-2020-2030/

Blaenau Gwent CBC is also continuing to install electric vehicle charging points at locations throughout the borough.

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/news/more-electric-vehicle-charge-points-on-their-way-to-blaenau-gwent/

5 Conclusion and Proposed Actions

Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Blaenau Gwent CBC has examined the results from monitoring in the Borough of Blaenau Gwent for the period of 2022. Concentrations are all below the relevant UK National Air Quality Objectives.

Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

Blaenau Gwent CBC has assessed all new or significantly changed sources in the Borough and relevant new or significantly changes sources in nearby Local Authority areas and has concluded that it is unlikely that the impact of these will result in a potential exceedance of any of the UK National Air Quality Objectives within the Borough.

Other Conclusions

This report has not identified the need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant relevant to the UK National Air Quality Objectives.

Proposed Actions

Blaenau Gwent CBC will continue to monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide subject to the continuous review and assessment of the existing and newly identified monitoring sites for the calendar year of 2024.

It is proposed that the results of monitoring carried out during the calendar year of 2023 will be presented in the 2024 Air Quality Progress Report which will be prepared as part of the Updating and Screening Assessment process.

References

Blaenau Gwent CBC, all previous reports produced as part of the air quality review process. https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/

Blaenau Gwent CBC, Decarbonisation plan 2020-30. https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/policies-plans-strategies/decarbonisation-plan-2020-2030/

Blaenau Gwent CBC, update on electric vehicle charging points in the borough

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/news/more-electric-vehicle-charge-points-on-their-way-to-blaenau-gwent/

DEFRA, (2022), Local Air Quality Management - Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(22), DEFRA.- https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/featured/uk-regions-exc-london-technical-guidance/

Air PT Scheme results for Laboratory- https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/qa-qc-framework/

National Bias Adjustment Factors- https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/national-bias/

Appendices

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

Appendix D: Blaenau Gwent CBC boundary area and diffusion tube location plan

Appendix E: Individual location plans for all diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent for 2022

Appendix A: Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Data

Table A.1 – Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2022 (µg/m³)

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure (2)
BGBC- 01	22.8	10.6	21.8	15.5	11.4	11.9	13.1	22.4	16.3	14.3	17.9	18.2	16.3	13.4	
BGBC- 04	10.2	6.8	7.8	5.3	5.2	4.1	4.4	5.2	5.3	7.0	8.7	10.7	6.7	5.5	
BGBC- 05	21.2	9.5	15.0	11.1	7.6	9.2	10.5	11.7	12.3	10.1	14.6	16.6	12.5	10.2	
BGBC- 13	6.1	4.1	6.4	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.8	6.0	6.6	4.6	3.8	
BGBC- 16	30.3	21.0	18.6	15.7	18.1	15.6	15.6	14.3	17.4	18.9	22.6	24.3	19.4	15.9	
BGBC- 18	22.3	14.7	17.0	10.5	11.5	10.1	10.3	11.7	10.7	13.0	19.0	17.6	14.0	11.5	
BGBC- 19	25.7	17.7	23.4	16.2	17.8	15.5	16.2	17.7	17.0	19.5	25.8	20.2	19.4	15.9	
BGBC- 20	25.2	15.4	28.2	20.2	21.1	18.5	20.7	21.0	21.5	26.1	27.9	24.9	22.6	18.5	
BGBC- 21	22.0	9.2	15.4	10.7	9.1	8.2	9.9	11.1	10.4	10.4	12.2	15.0	12.0	9.8	

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure (2)
BGBC- 22	22.3	10.9	17.0	11.9	30.7	8.5	9.9	13.6	11.0	11.3	15.8	18.4	15.1	12.4	
BGBC- 24	16.9	11.5	14.3	9.1	9.5	8.8	9.4	8.5	8.8	14.6			11.1	9.1	
BGBC- 25	19.0	10.5	14.1	12.2	11.0	10.2	11.9	17.4	12.0	10.9	12.5	16.1	13.1	10.8	
BGBC- 26	16.8	10.2	11.2	7.1	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.6	12.8	11.6	17.4	19.4	11.2	9.2	
BGBC- 27	9.7	8.0	9.7	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.9	7.2	7.4	8.6	10.3	11.2	8.2	6.7	
BGBC- 28	10.1	6.0	9.9	6.0	5.3	5.2	5.8	7.4	6.0	6.8	11.8	10.3	7.5	6.2	
BGBC- 29	12.1	7.5	9.4	5.8	5.4	4.4	5.9	5.6	6.5	6.5	9.8	9.4	7.4	6.0	
BGBC- 30	13.8	6.6	9.8	7.1	6.1	5.0	7.2	6.3	8.2	6.2	8.5	12.0	8.1	6.6	
BGBC- 31	7.3	5.5	7.9	4.5	4.5	3.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	6.6	8.5	8.6	5.8	4.8	
BGBC- 32	14.7	6.4	10.0	5.5	4.3		5.9	5.1	8.3	7.9	11.0	12.3	8.3	6.8	
BGBC- 34	13.3	7.9	9.1	6.3	5.2	4.2	5.2	5.6	6.5	7.0	9.8	12.8	7.7	6.3	
BGBC- 35	15.9	9.0	14.3	9.5	8.0	7.0	8.3	9.4		8.7	12.2	14.1	10.6	8.7	

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure ⁽²⁾
BGBC- 36	19.6	11.3	12.1	8.7	8.3	7.1	7.5	8.1	8.9	11.6	13.9	14.7	11.0	9.0	
BGBC- 37	14.6	6.7	9.8	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2	6.9	9.5	12.1	11.0	8.1	6.7	
BGBC- 38	16.7	8.1	11.4	7.7	6.3	5.5	5.9	6.5	7.4	7.1	11.2	14.0	9.0	7.4	
BGBC- 39	17.5	8.3	11.7	6.9	5.6	5.8	6.3	7.2		8.1	13.4	13.7	9.5	7.8	
BGBC- 40	27.4	15.1	23.3	15.8	18.1	18.4	20.7	19.5	22.3	20.4	22.8	22.1	20.5	16.8	
BGBC- 41	9.5	7.5	8.1			4.5	5.7	5.5	5.5	6.8	10.3	8.9	7.2	5.9	
BGBC- 42	13.4	7.3	11.0	6.5	5.6	5.6	7.7	2.4	7.6	7.4	9.8	10.7	7.9	6.5	
BGBC- 43	14.0	7.9		5.7	6.0	5.2	6.6	5.9	8.2	7.7	11.2	10.0	8.0	6.6	

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of $40\mu g/m^3$ are shown in **bold**.

 NO_2 annual means exceeding $60\mu g/m^3$, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

- (1) See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.
- (2) Distance corrected to the nearest relevant public exposure

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Purpose of an Annual Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment Act 1995, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, and associated government guidance. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are being achieved. Where exceedances occur, or are likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months of declaration setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. Action plans must then be reviewed and updated no later than every five years; or if a local authority considers there is a need for further or different measures to be taken in order to achieve air quality standards; or if significant changes to sources occur within your local area.

For Local Authorities in Wales, an Annual Progress Report replaces all other formal reporting requirements and have a very clear purpose of updating the general public on air quality, including what ongoing actions are being taken locally to improve it if necessary.

Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138), Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298), and are shown in Table B.1.

The table shows the objectives in units of microgrammes per cubic metre $\mu g/m^3$ (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table B.1 – Air Quality Objectives Included in Regulations for the Purpose of LAQM in Wales

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as	Date to be achieved by	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	40μg/m³	Annual mean	31.12.2005	
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2010	
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	10ua/m3		31.12.2010	
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	350µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004	
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	125µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004	
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	266µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005	
Benzene	16.25µg/m³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003	
Benzene	5µg/m³	Annual mean	31 12 2010	
1,3 Butadiene	2.25µg/m³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003	
Carbon Monoxide	10.0mg/m³	Maximum Daily Running 8-Hour mean	31.12.2003	
Lead	0.25μg/m³	Annual Mean	31.12.2008	

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

- Gradko Environmental provided and analysed all of our diffusion tubes in 2022 using the 50% TEA in Acetone method. They demonstrated satisfactory performance in the Air PT scheme.
- The same diffusion tube supplier (Gradko Environmental) was used for the full calendar year for all monitoring sites.
- The monitoring has been completed in adherence with the 2022 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Calendar.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Blaenau Gwent CBC recorded data capture of 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data. In addition, any sites with a data capture below 25% do not require annualisation.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Blaenau Gwent CBC have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.82 to the 2022 monitoring data. A summary of bias adjustment factors used by Blaenau Gwent CBC over the past five years is presented in Table C.1.

Table C.1 – Bias Adjustment Factor

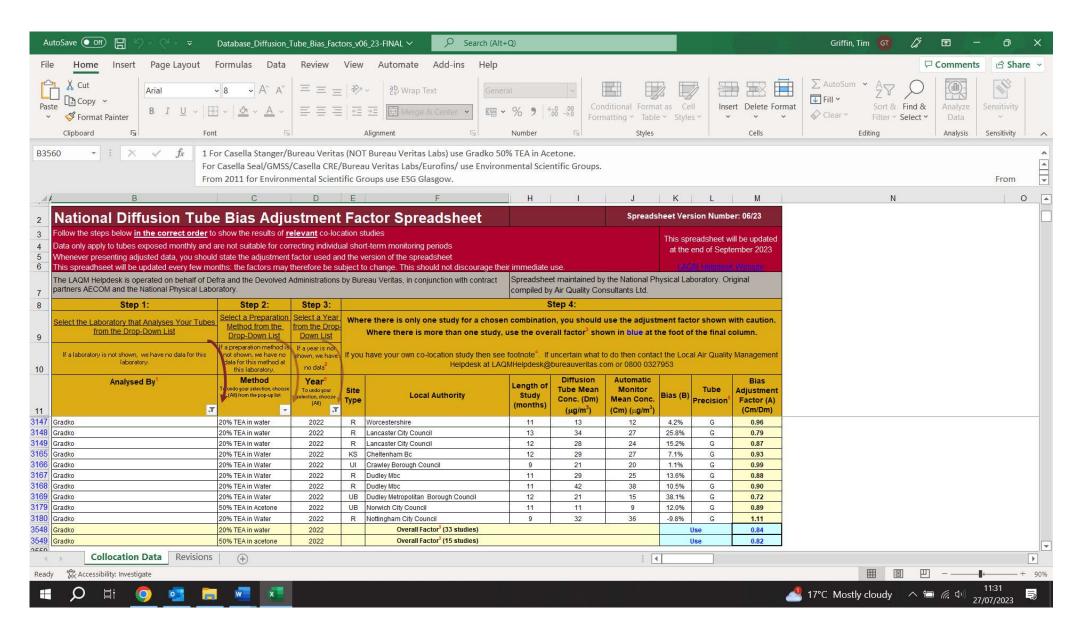
Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2022	National	06/23 (15 studies)	0.82
2021	National	6/22	0.82
2020	National	03/21	0.82
2019	National		0.89
2018	National		0.89

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

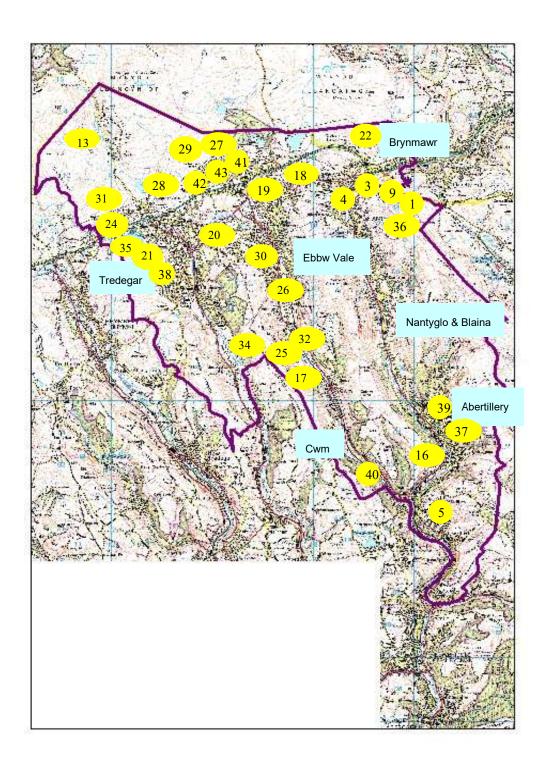
No diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring locations within Blaenau Gwent required distance correction during 2022.

QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not undertake any automatic monitoring.



Appendix D: Blaenau Gwent boundary area and diffusion tube location plan

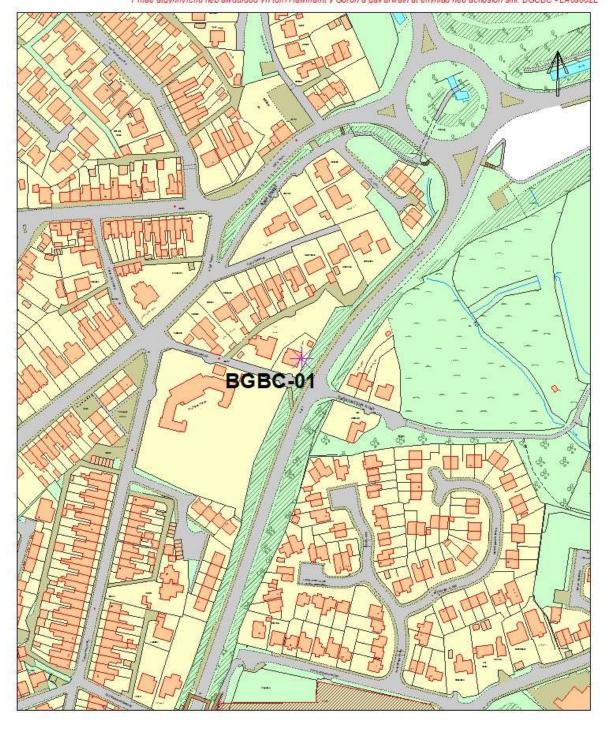


Appendix E- Individual location plans for all diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent 2022



Location: BGBC-01- The Darren, Daren-felen Road, Brynmawr

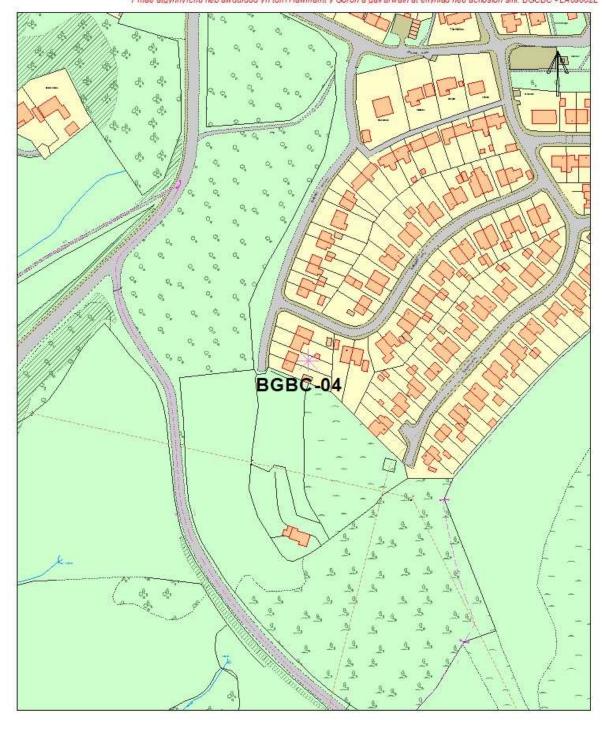
Easting: 319540 Northing: 211953





Location: BGBC-04- 22 Parkhill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale

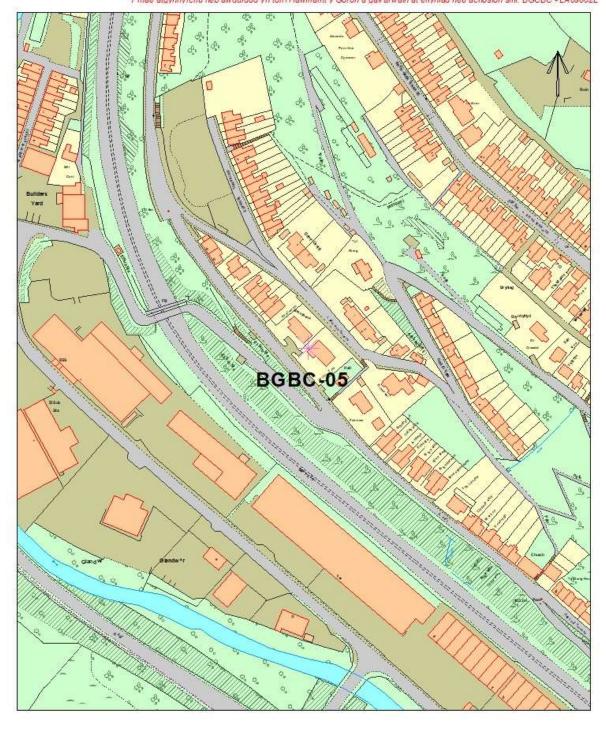
Easting: 317307 Northing: 211285





Location: BGBC-05- Willow Tree Bungalow, Aberbeeg

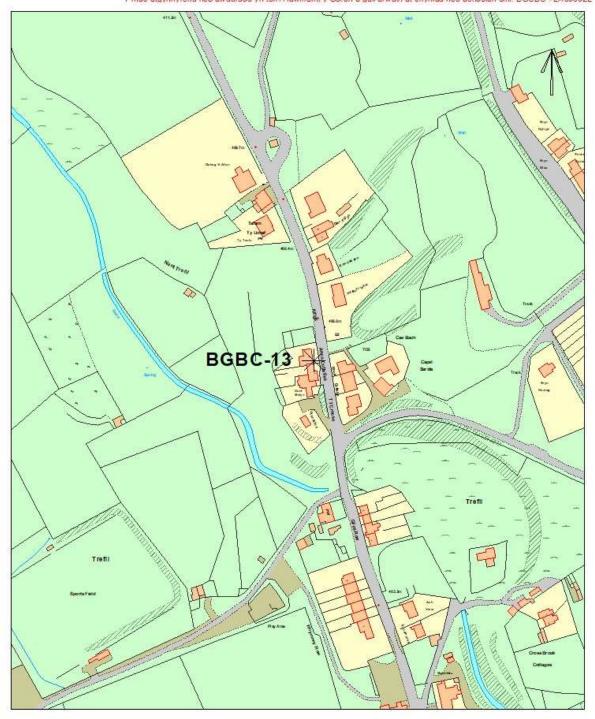
Easting: 321132 Northing: 201113





Location: BGBC-13- 3 Kings Arms Cottages, Trefil, Tredegar

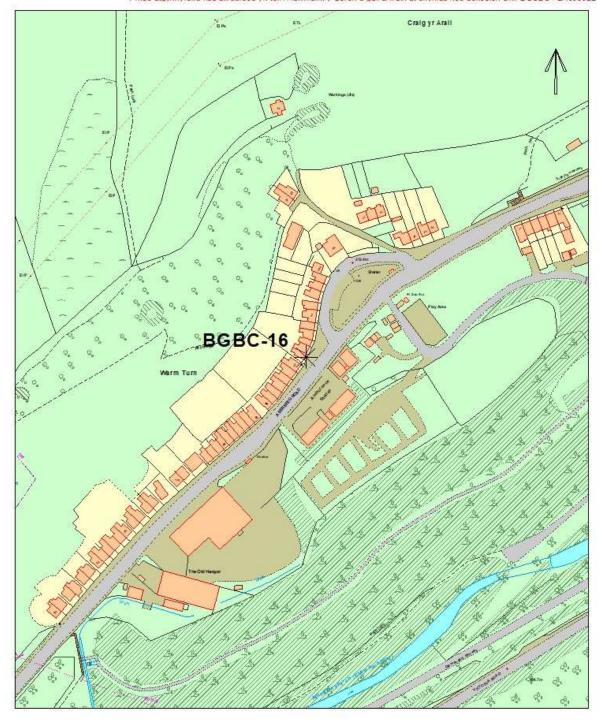
Easting: 312004 Northing: 212779





Location: BGBC-16- 49 Aberbeeg Road, Aberbeeg

Easting: 321432 Northing: 202667





Location: BGBC-18- Welfare Hall, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale

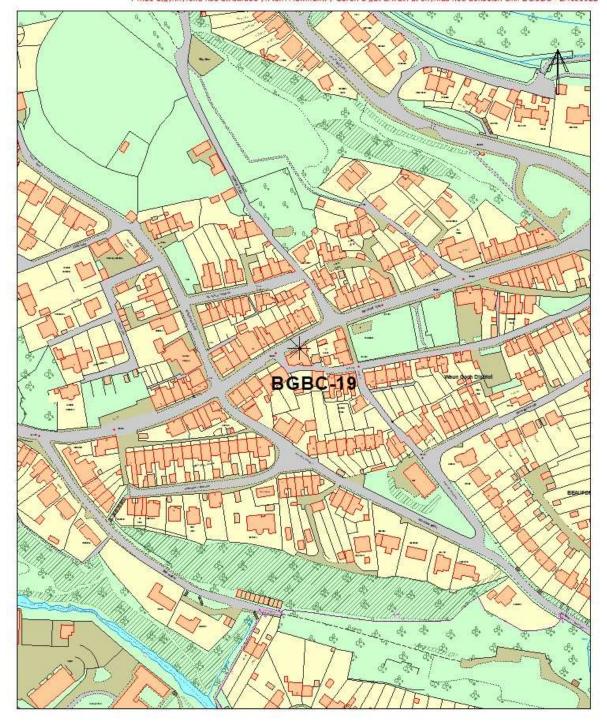
Easting: 317543 Northing: 211693





Location: BGBC-19- 42 Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale

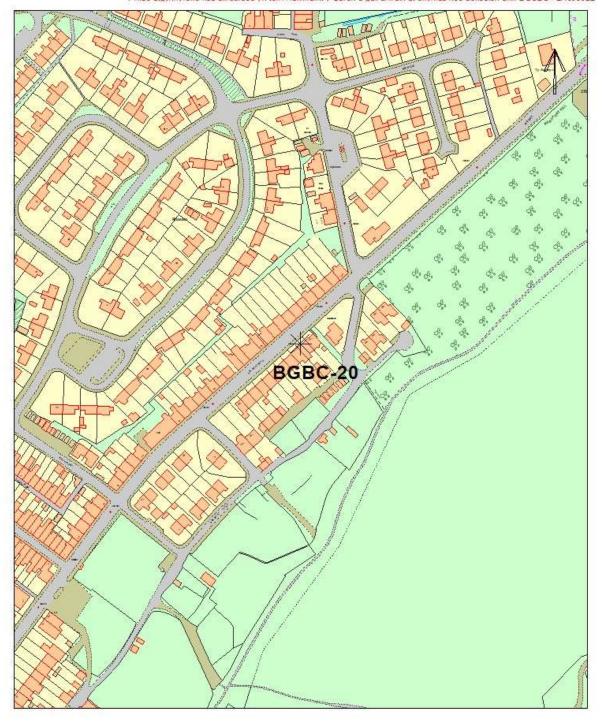
Easting: 316672 Northing: 211595





Location: BGBC-20 - 122 Beaufort Road, Tredegar

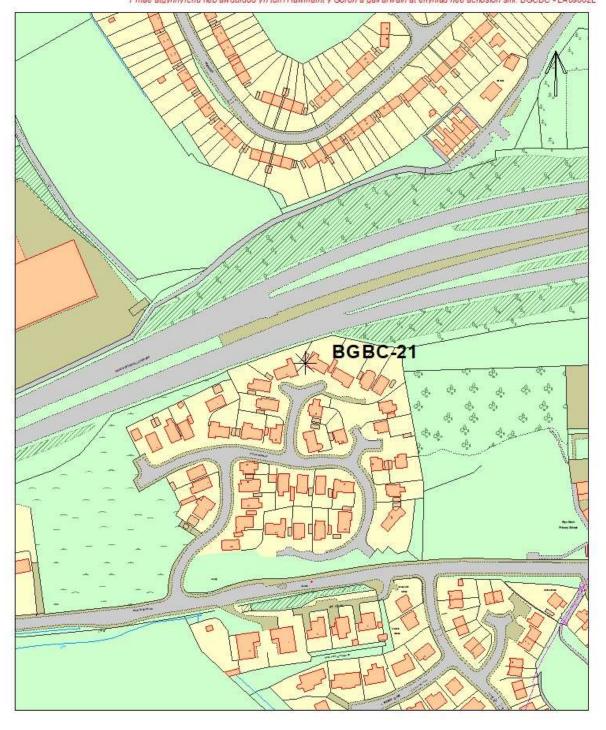
Easting: 314854 Northing: 210235





Location: BGBC-21 - 14 Bryn Rhosyn, Merthyr Road, Tredegar

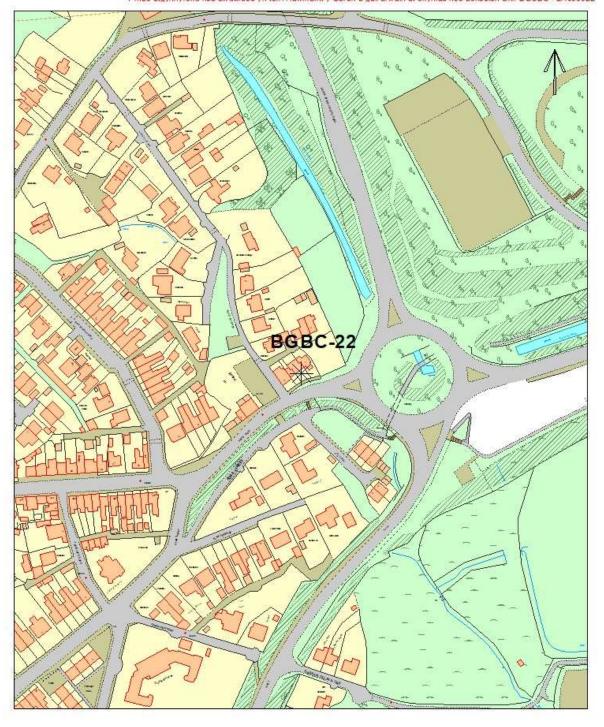
Easting: 312842 Northing: 210590





Location: BGBC-22- 2 King Street, Brynmawr

Easting: 319561 Northing: 212138





Location: BGBC-24-4 Glen View, Nantybwch, Tredegar

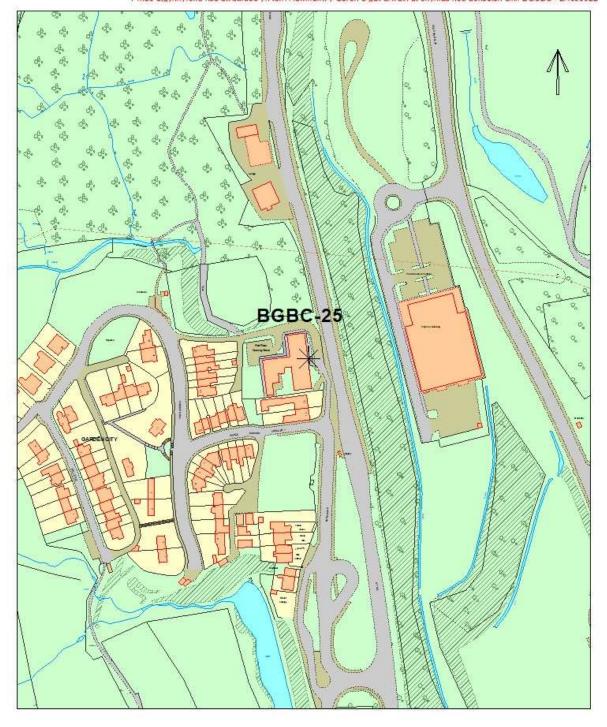
Easting: 313147 Northing: 210770





Location: BGBC-25- Red Rose Care Centre, Park Road, Ebbw Val

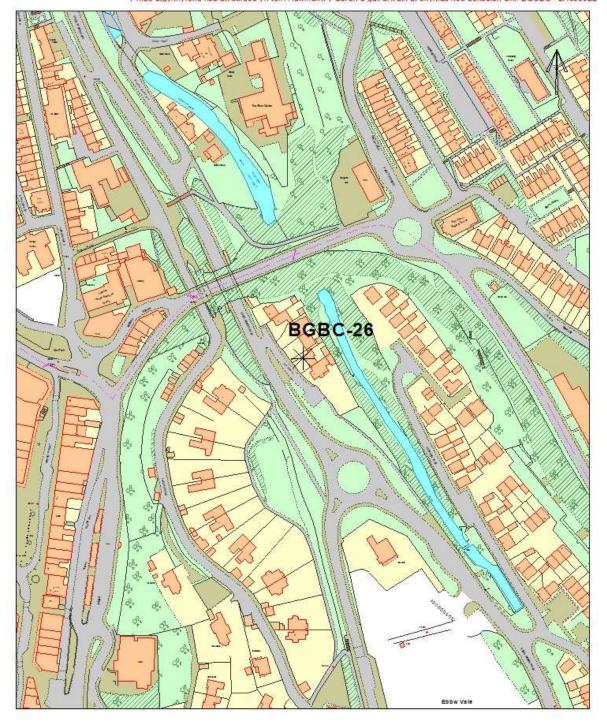
Easting: 316990 Northing: 207896





Location: BGBC-26- 2 The Dingle, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 316979 Northing: 209842





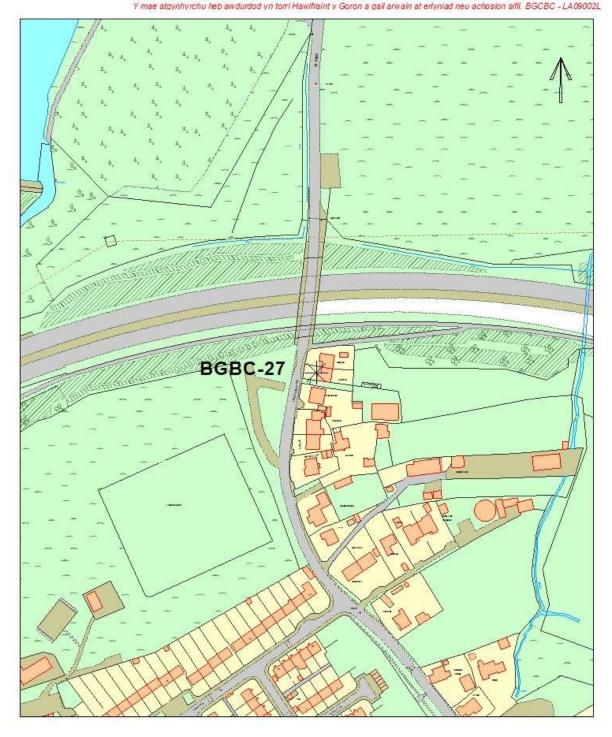
Location: BGBC-27 - Tyn y Rhyn, Llangynidr Road, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 316712 Northing: 212801

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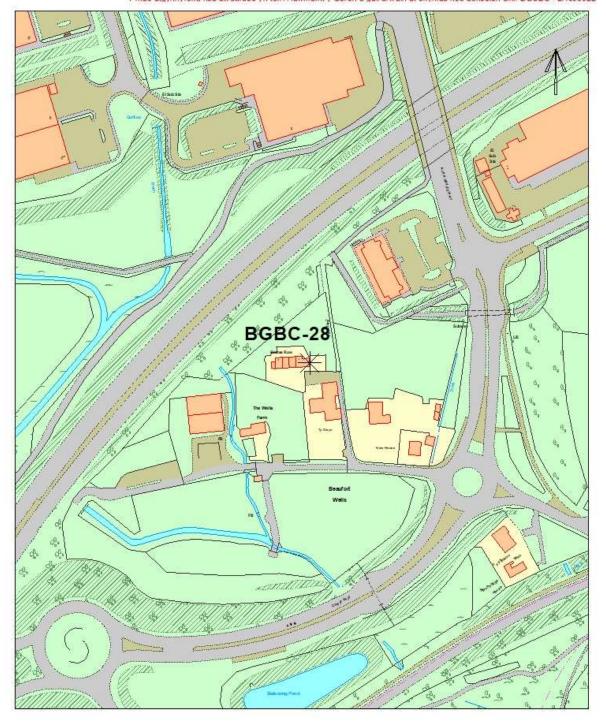
Atgynhyrchwyd o Fapiau'r Ordnance Survey chaniatad Rheolwr Llyfifa Ei Mawrhydi (c) Hawlfraint y Goron.





Location: BGBC-28-1 Coates Row, Rassau, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 314491 Northing: 211644





Location: BGBC-29- 10 lvy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.

Easting: 315323 Northing: 211938





Location: BGBC-30- 8 Annes Court, Ebbw Vale.

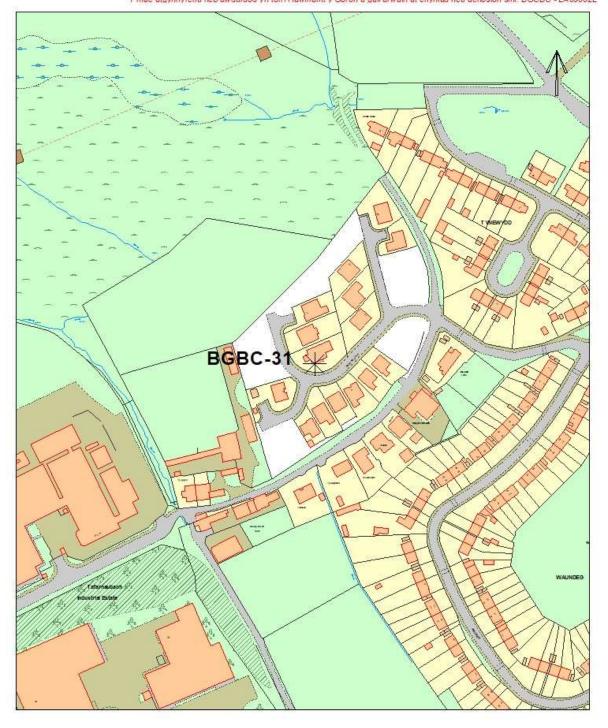
Easting: 316005 Northing: 210184





Location: BGBC-31- 18 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.

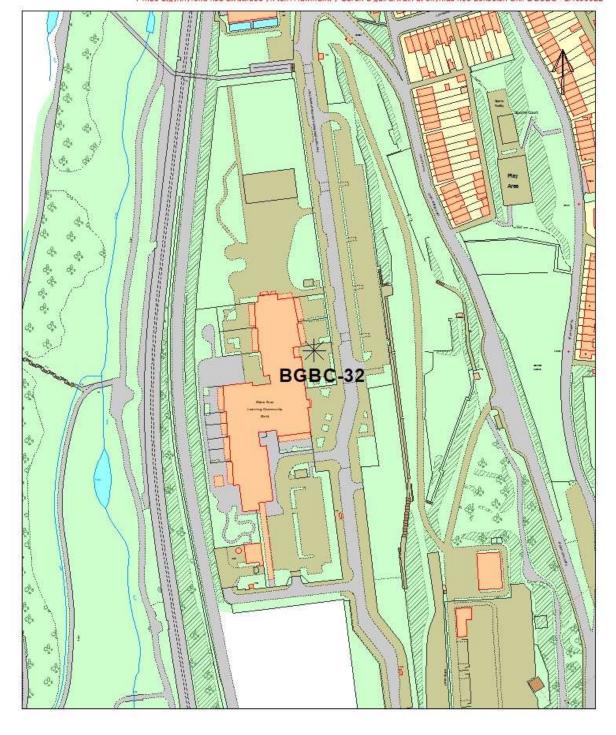
Easting: 312664 Northing: 210970





Location: BGBC-32- Ebbw Fawr Learning Campus, Primary School

Easting: 317389 Northing: 208312





Location: BGBC-34- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road,

Easting: 314842 Northing: 208255





Location: BGBC-35- Brynbach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tr

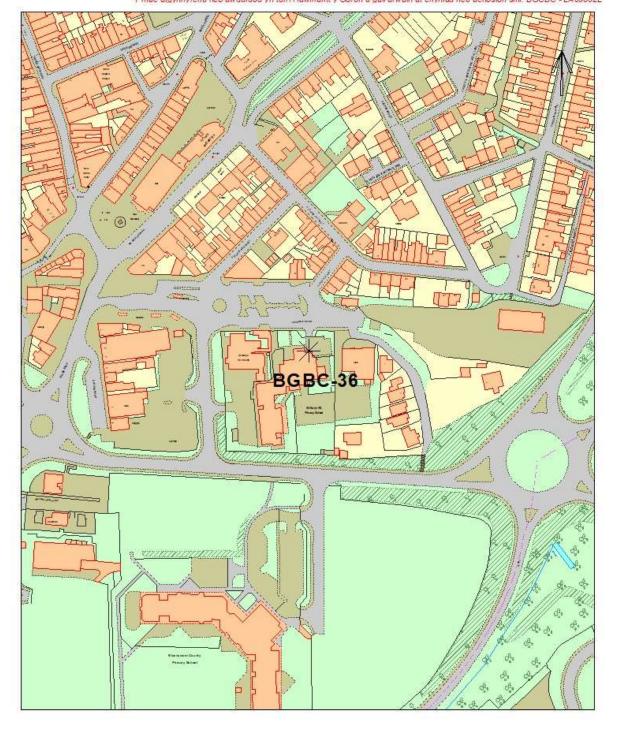
Easting: 313056 Northing: 210464





Location: BGBC-36- St Mary's RC Primary School, Brynmawr.

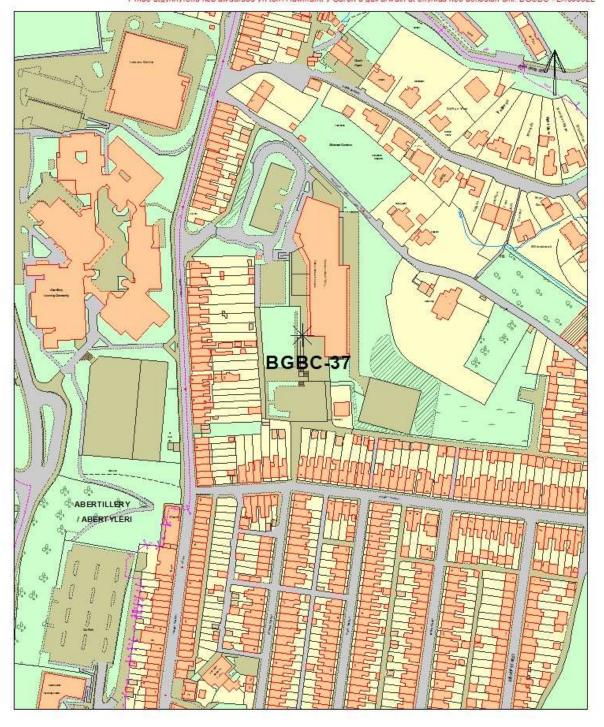
Easting: 319229 Northing: 211595

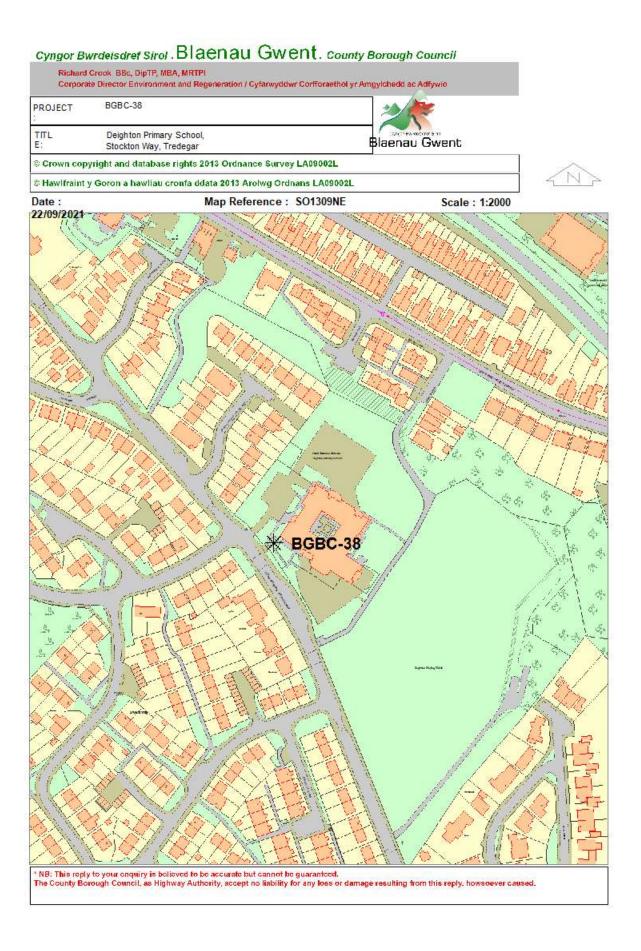


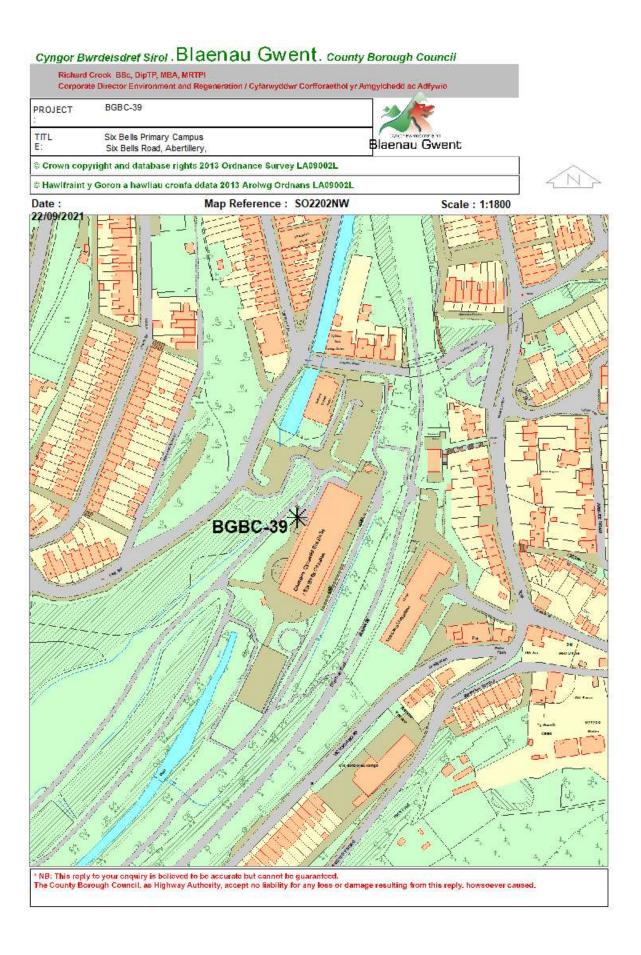


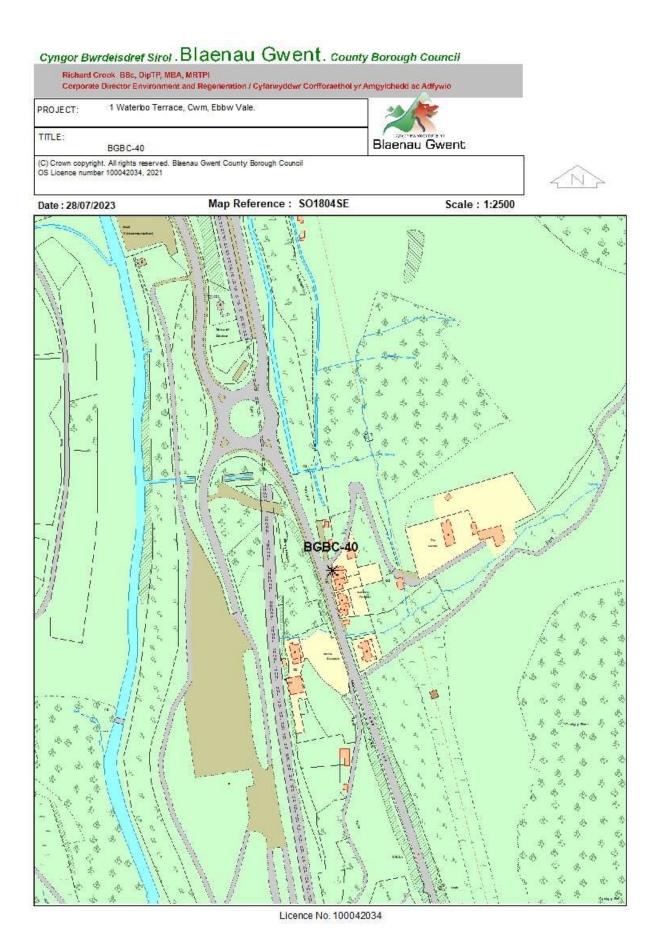
Location: BGBC-37- Abertillery Learning Campus, Tillery Stre

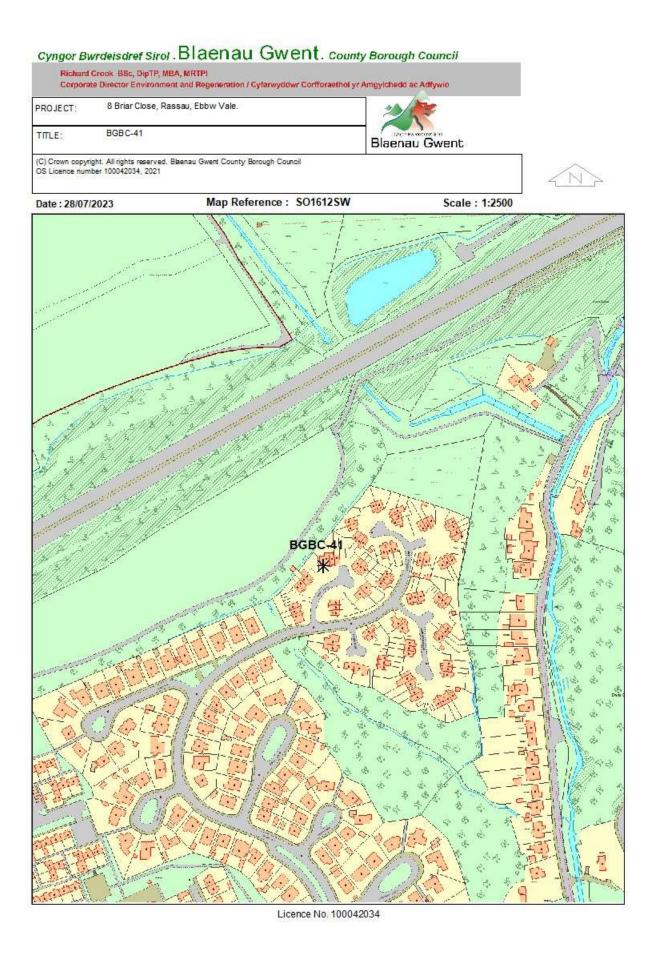
Easting: 321892 Northing: 204585

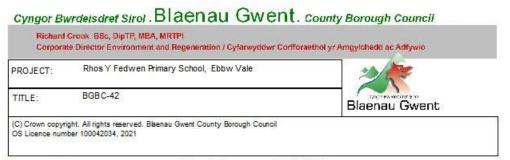




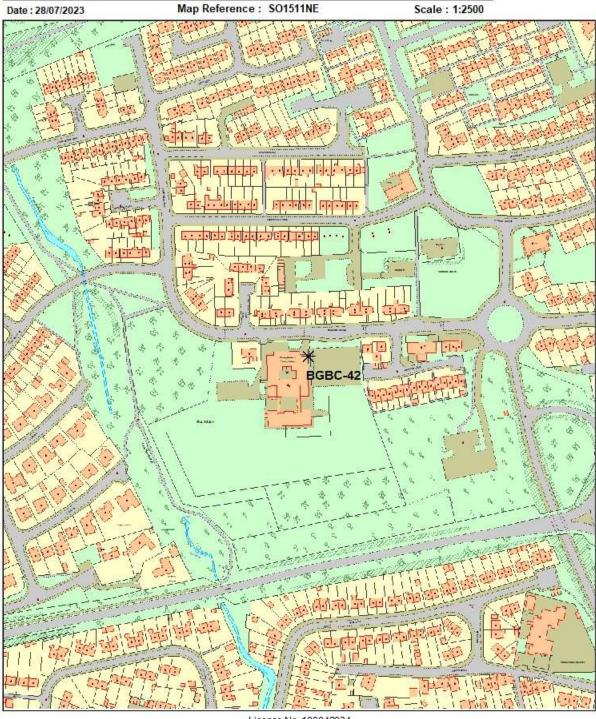




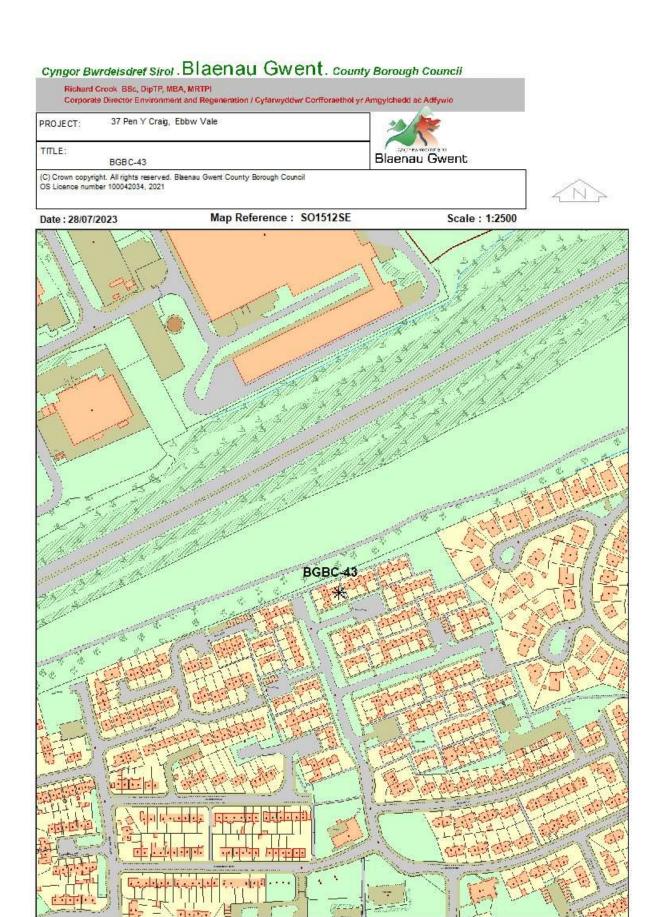








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Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description					
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the LA intends to achieve air quality limit values'					
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives					
APR	Air quality Annual Progress Report					
AURN	Automatic Urban and Rural Network (UK air quality monitoring network)					
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs					
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by Highways England					
FDMS	Filter Dynamics Measurement System					
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management					
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide					
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides					
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less					
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less					
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control					
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide					