

Local Air Quality Management

Options for an Air Quality Management Area, Herd Street, Marlborough

August 2010

Wiltshire Council – report log

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Options for an Air Quality Management Area in Marlborough (July 2010 Draft)

The draft Detailed Assessment of the Air Quality in Herd Street, Marlborough concludes that the UK national Air Quality Objective (AQO) for the annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) of 40 µg/m³ is likely to be exceeded.

Consequently the local authority has a duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which will need to cover at least the predicted area of exceedence in Herd Street (shown as Figure 1).

While the air quality problems in Herd Street are known and monitoring is established, there is concern regarding levels of nitrogen dioxide in other areas of the town. As the boundary of an AQMA does not have to mirror exactly the boundaries of the zone of exceedence it is proposed to suggest three alternatives for the AQMA within Marlborough and to consult with relevant parties as to the most suitable option for the town.

The final decision of the boundary and the formal designation of the AQMA is made at the Marlborough Area Board, designated as the decision making body for Wiltshire Council in the Marlborough Area.

The proposed options are set out within this consultation document;

Option 1 - Herd Street AQMA

Figure 1 shows the proposed extent of an AQMA to cover the known zone of exceedence.

Figure 1 – Marlborough AQMA Option 1



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The advantage of this option is that it is known that the Air Quality will exceed the Air Quality Standards for NO₂ throughout the zone.

The disadvantage is that further monitoring in Marlborough is ongoing and it may be that the AQMA will need to be expanded or a separate one declared which will involve significant extra work and introduce further time delays.

Option 2 – Marlborough Main Roads AQMA

Presented in fig 2, option 2 is limited to the known area of exceedence in Herd Street and the major roads feeding traffic towards Herd Street, the A4 and the A338 south of Herd Street. The proposed AQMA thus covers all of option 1 plus the A4 east to the Elcot Lane junction and west to the town hall. The A338 to the south of Marlborough would be included as far as the roundabout with the new industrial estate where a new supermarket is to be developed.

Figure 2 – Marlborough AQMA Option 2



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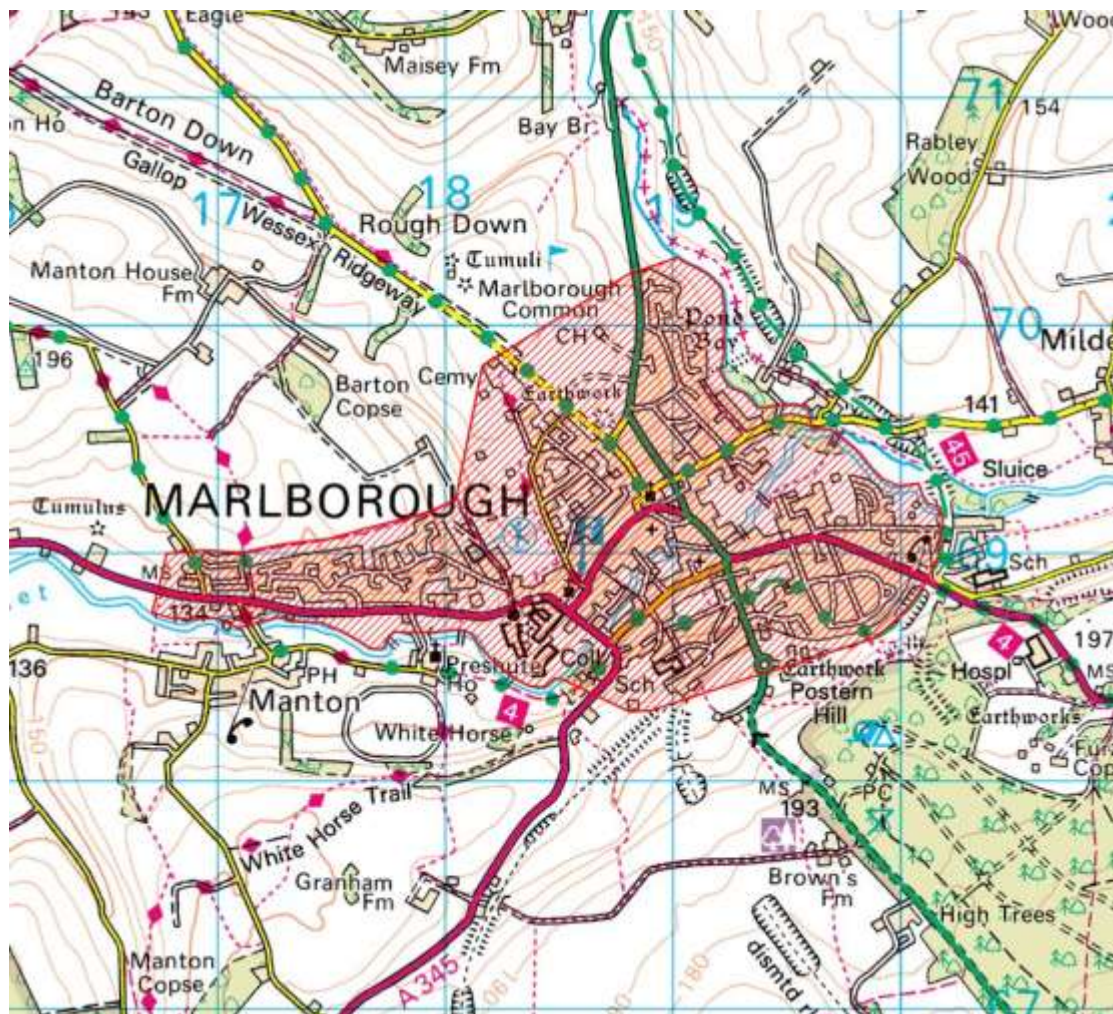
The advantage of an extended AQMA is that it is likely to cover any further exceedences of the Air Quality Objectives in the town. This produces considerable benefits in the Air Quality Management Process in that, should new areas of exceedence be established then the lengthy procedure of completing a detailed assessment will not be required.

It should be noted that the extensive monitoring of the air quality in the High Street over the past 15 years indicates that it is an area that is unlikely to exceed the AQO's.

Option 3 – Marlborough AQMA

Set out below in figure 3, option 3 is a blanket AQMA for the town based upon the main residential area of the town.

Figure 3 – Marlborough AQMA Option 3



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The main advantage of Option 3 is that it will preclude any further requirement to act upon air quality objective exceedences identified within the town.

It is also clear that all Marlborough residents will potentially be living within an Air Quality Management Area. It should be noted that the only known area of exceedence is limited to the Herd Street area itself.

Procedure following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area

Once a new AQMA has been declared the Local Authority is required to complete a Further Assessment of the Air Quality within 12 months of designating the AQMA.

This is intended to supplement the information provided in the Detailed Assessment and it is aimed at confirming the exceedence of the objectives; to define what improvement in air quality, and corresponding reduction in emissions is required to attain the objectives; and provide information on source contributions. The latter will provide useful information for the development of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), and assist in the targeting of appropriate measures.

The AQAP will essentially set out how the local authority will use its powers and also work in conjunction with other organisations in pursuit of the Air Quality Objectives. The AQAP has to be produced within 18 months of the declaration of an AQMA.

It should also be noted that following the declaration of an AQMA, the impact upon the Air Quality of any development proposed within or adjacent to the area will need to be assessed as a material planning consideration. While this would not necessarily prevent development, should an adverse impact upon the air quality be identified then it would need to be taken into account and if necessary remediation measures proposed to counter any likely degeneration in the air quality.

Comments

Please forward any comments you have regarding the proposed options for an Air Quality Management Area within Marlborough to:

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