Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area Public Consultation

**Revocation of Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area Order 2013**

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| **An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Musselburgh was declared in November 2013 due to exceedances of the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) Annual Mean Air Quality Objective. An Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was developed and approved with measures to reduce air pollution levels in Musselburgh. There have been no exceedances in NO2 since2016 and as a result, East Lothian Council are seeking to revoke the AQMA.** |

**Overview**

East Lothian Council has statutory obligations to monitor air quality and to take corrective action where specified pollutant concentrations are above permitted objective levels. The council has a statutory duty to provide an Annual Progress Report to the Scottish Government in regard to air quality standards and any action being taken by the council to fulfil statutory obligations.

The Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared by East Lothian Council in 2013 for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) due to exceedances of the Annual Mean air quality objective. Automatic monitoring of NO2 has been ongoing since 2013. You can find the link to the AQMA Order and Map here [Air Quality Management Area Order | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/12755/air_quality_management).

Annual Progress Reports submitted to the Scottish Government on air quality within East Lothian since 2016 have highlighted that NO2 concentrations are consistently below the air quality objective for NO2 as a result of the actions put in place by the council to reduce pollution in the area.

In addition, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was developed and published in 2017. It was subject to wide consultation over 6 weeks, both internal and external, including with transport operators, residents, Musselburgh Community Council, local businesses and elected members. The feedback from the consultation shaped the finalised Action Plan and the priority given to each measure. The finalised Action Plan was published in 2017 and lists the measures considered worthy of pursuit and details timescales for their implementation. The AQAP can be accessed here [Air Quality Action Plan 2017 | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23473/air_quality_action_plan_2017)

Furthermore, in 2022 a [Detailed Assessment](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/33067/detailed_assessment_of_musselburgh_aqma_2022) of air quality in Musselburgh was independently carried out by air quality consultants which concluded East Lothian Council may wish to consider revocation of the Musselburgh AQMA for NO2. The proposal to revoke the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area was presented to the Scottish Government in December 2022 to seek agreement for revocation of the AQMA and to allow consultations on the Musselburgh draft revocation report to begin.The Scottish Government were content with the revocation of the Musselburgh AQMA. The proposed Musselburgh Revocation Report can be viewed on the council’s website [here](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210568/environmental_health/12172/pollution/4).

East Lothian Council hereby notifies its intention to revoke the Musselburgh AQMA for NO2 in exercise of powers conferred upon it by Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995. It is proposed that the AQMA is revoked in relation to continued compliance of the NO2 Air Quality Objectives as set out in the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000, the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002 and the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

Revocation of the AQMA will not impact the frequency of monitoring or reporting for the area.

Further information on Air Quality within East Lothian, including access to annual air quality reports, can be obtained from the council’s website at: [Air quality | Pollution | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210568/environmental_health/12172/pollution/4).

**Consultation Response**

The council invites responses to the consultation questions below by **14November 2025** on its proposal to revoke the Musselburgh AQMA. Responses should be sent to the email address [envprot@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:envprot@eastlothian.gov.uk) with Musselburgh Air Quality Revocation Consultation Response in the subject header, or posted to East Lothian Council, Environmental Protection, c/o John Muir House, Brewery Park, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3HA.

All comments will be given consideration, and the revocation report may be updated if necessary.

**Questions:**

* **Do you have all the information you need to understand why the council is revoking the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area?**

Enter your response here.

* **Do you support the council’s proposal to revoke the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area?**

Enter your response here.

* **Do you believe that the data and evidence provided by the council supports the revocation of the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area?**

Enter your response here.

* **Do you understand that the revocation of the Musselburgh Air Quality Management Area will not impact the frequency of any existing air quality monitoring and reporting?**

Enter your response here.

* **If there is anything else you wish the council to know regarding the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area, please detail it below.**

Enter your response here.