# London Borough of Lambeth
# Air Quality Annual Status Summary Report for 2016

## Introduction

This report provides a brief overview of air quality in Lambeth during 2016. For full analysis, please see our Annual Status Report for 2016 available in the Downloads section of our Air Quality Guide. You may also like to view a full list of actions which Lambeth is taking to tackle air pollution and reduce exposure of our citizens to harmful air pollutants in our newly adopted Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022.

UK Air Quality Objectives, which are based on values agreed by the EU, set limits for a number of known air pollutants that member states must meet. Lambeth is required by the Government and the Mayor of London to monitor air pollution in the borough, and take action to reduce it. The Government and the Mayor of London also have a range of responsibilities for taking action to reduce pollution.

Lambeth is exceeding EU limits for the gas Nitrogen Dioxide ($NO_2$) in parts of the borough. The main areas of concern are: central Brixton and along the A23 from Brixton to Streatham Railway Station, the north of the borough, especially Vauxhall Cross, Waterloo Road and Kennington Oval, and along Clapham Road from Stockwell to Clapham North tube stations.

Particulate Matter, both $PM_{10}$ and finer $PM_{2.5}$ also remain a concern. Many parts of Lambeth, especially in the north of the borough and around central Brixton only marginally meet objectives for these pollutants. Brixton Road monitoring station recorded the maximum $PM_{10}$ reading allowed within limit. There was a slight decrease in $PM_{10}$ at Vauxhall Bondway Interchange compared to 2015 but overall concentrations are still borderline.

We are currently meeting Air Quality Objectives for all other air pollutants.

The main sources of pollution in the borough are road transport, domestic and commercial gas use, and construction activities.

**$NO_2$**

We monitor Nitrogen Dioxide ($NO_2$) across the borough at three continuous monitoring stations. In 2016, overall, levels of $NO_2$ decreased slightly but we are still exceeding limit values in a number of areas, most notably in central Brixton and around Vauxhall Cross.

**$PM_{10}$**

We monitor Particulate Matter ($PM_{10}$) across the borough at three continuous monitoring stations. In 2016, levels of $PM_{10}$ at Vauxhall Bondway Interchange were slightly down on 2015 but were still high and only marginally within limits. Brixton was also technically within limits but recorded the highest annual mean concentration allowed and the highest in the last 7 years. Levels at our background station in Streatham Green were slightly higher than in 2015 but the overall trend seems to be unchanged.

## $NO_2$ Monitoring

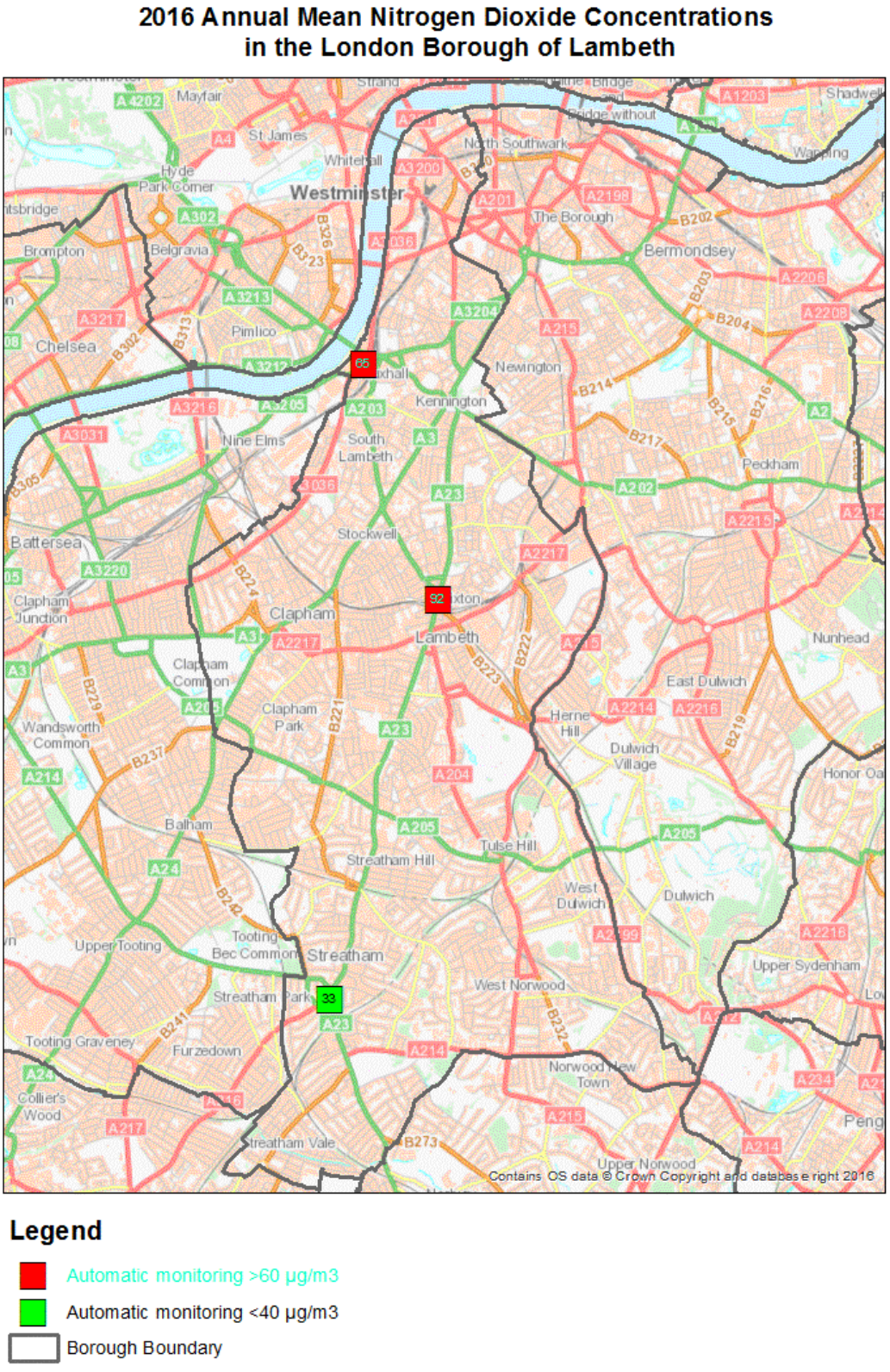


**Figure 1 Map of $NO_2$ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Lambeth, showing annual mean results from 2016**

## $PM_{10}$ Monitoring

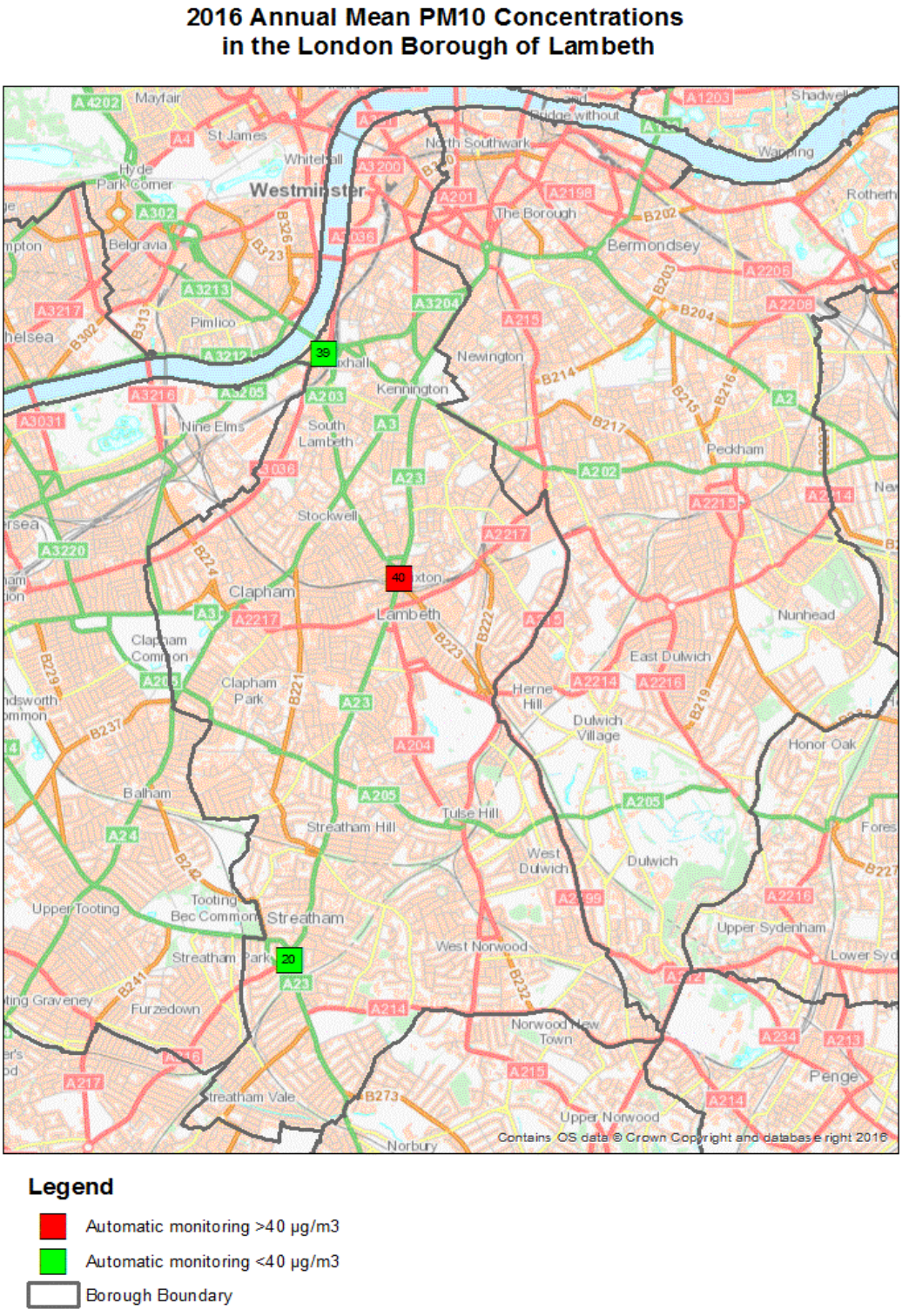


**Figure 2 Map of $PM_{10}$ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Lambeth, showing annual mean results from 2016**

## Actions to Improve Air Quality

Lambeth's two main air quality achievements in 2016 were:

1. **Engaging schools, residents and businesses** to raise awareness of air quality issues in the borough, recommending ways to avoid exposure and promoting a shift towards less polluting modes of transport. Our Air-Mazing school engagement project with Sustrans involved 10 primary schools in areas of poor air quality and delivered a variety of activities for school children, parents and school staff; it has reached 2,300 school children and at least 250 parents. 2016 was also successful for engaging schools in the TfL STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe) accreditation programme, with 50% more schools involved than in the previous year, bringing the total number to 56 schools. Residents and businesses were invited to monitor air quality outside their homes or work as part of our Love Lambeth Air project with Mapping for Change, with 60 people signing up. We continued to tackle engine idling, which causes high localised pollution, as part of the Mayor's Air Quality Fund Vehicle Idling Action Days run across 12 London boroughs to maximise impact. 2016 also saw the beginning of our Low Emission Logistics project, also funded by the Mayor's Air Quality Fund. We engaged with businesses and conducted a feasibility study on reducing emissions from deliveries.

2. **Making air quality an integral aspect of Lambeth's work across departments.** Examples include: working with the Planning department to give greater emphasis to air quality in planning decisions; changing the way we think about transport, including a review of the council fleet ready for moving to the New Town Hall; review of the emission-based parking charge scheme; close cooperation with Public Health Lambeth to raise awareness about effects of air pollution on health.

Lambeth's two main priorities to reduce exposure to poor air quality for the year ahead are:

1. **To continue and to expand our air quality engagement and information programme**, with particular focus on sensitive receptors to poor air quality. Sensitive receptors include children, young people, older people and those suffering from heart and lung conditions. We will also run projects aimed at raising awareness among people living in areas with high index of multiple deprivation, many of whom are from ethnic minority groups. This is because those areas tend to be closer to busy roads, more populous and with less green infrastructure to protect them from air pollution.

2. **To work with developers to ensure that emissions from construction are minimised.** Air pollution from construction is the third biggest source of poor air quality in Lambeth. We will work with colleagues in planning and developers to tackle this.

## Further information

For more detailed information on air pollution in the borough see:
www.lambeth.gov.uk/AirQuality

To read our Air Quality Action Plan for 2017-2022 please go to:
www.lambeth.gov.uk/AQAP

Live and historic air quality monitoring data for Lambeth and the whole of London can also be found at:
https://www.londonair.org.uk/LondonAir/Default.aspx

## Contact details

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## Pictures

**Picture 1** Vehicle Idling Action Days – Day 6 - Clapham

**Picture 2** Air-Mazing Journeys - Primary school children measuring nitrogen dioxide in the air on school playground

**Picture 3** Children playing air quality-themed snakes & ladders game