

## News Alert: Air Pollution episode 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

On the Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the majority of Scotland is experiencing a moderate air pollution episode with several locations on the east coast recording levels in the high banding.

The air pollutant of concern is mainly Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) however moderate ozone is also being measured widely across Scotland. Figure 1 below illustrates the elevated pollution being measured at sites across Scotland.

Investigations into what is causing this episode has identified that air masses from the east as illustrated in Figure 2, along with strong easterly winds affecting the country, are blowing over polluted air from the continent. It has also been identified that these strong easterly winds are blowing over smoke from large fires located in eastern Europe and Russia. The satellite image in Figure 3 identifies the fires and smoke in eastern Europe (highlighted by the green circle) as well as smoke blowing over Scandinavia towards the east coast of Scotland (highlighted by the red circle).

Air mass trajectories and winds are forecast to change direction to the west on Thursday (see Figure 4 image) which will bring in cleaner air from the Atlantic and should see concentrations decrease significantly with levels generally returning to the low banding.

For the latest concentrations measured please go to <http://www.scottishairquality.scot/latest/>.

For further information on Air pollution, how it affects your health and the air pollution banding and daily air quality index please go to <http://www.scottishairquality.scot/air-quality/daqi>.

**Figure 1: Elevated Air pollution monitoring sites in Scotland on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

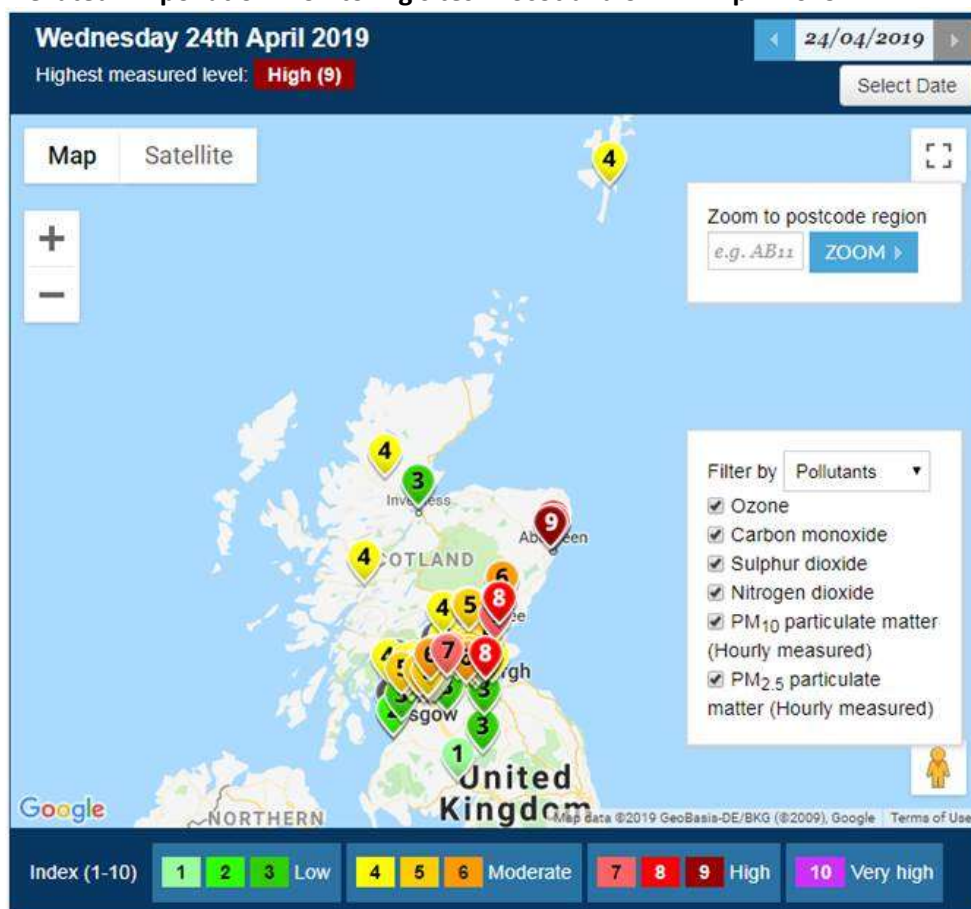


Figure 2: Air mass back trajectories for 96 hours up to 12:00 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Air mass back trajectories for 96 hours  
upto 12:00 Wednesday 24-04-2019

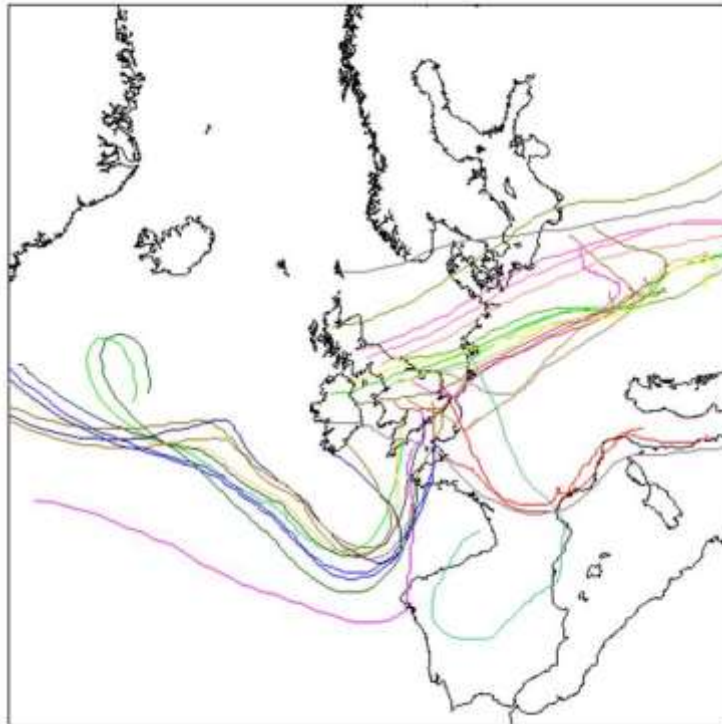


Figure 3: Satellite image of fires and smoke from Eastern Europe and Russia

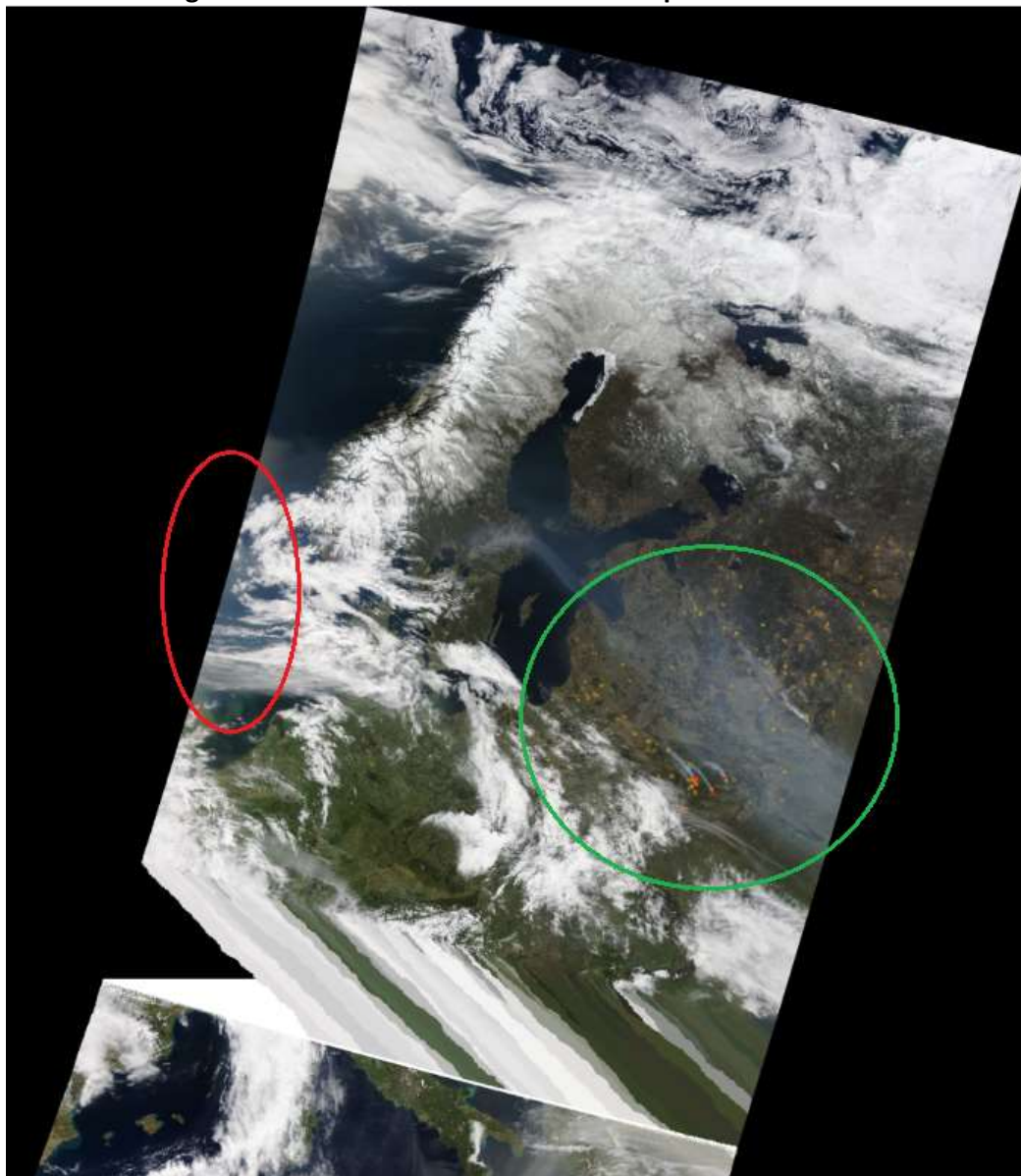


Figure 4: Airmass back trajectories for 96 hours up to 12:00 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Airmass back trajectories for 96 hours  
upto 12:00 Thursday 25-04-2019

