



Air Quality Review and Assessment Progress Report for Scottish Borders Council 2007

Report to Scottish Borders Council

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Executive summary

Scottish Borders Council has undertaken an air quality assessment programme under the strategic policy framework for air quality management published by the Scottish Executive. Under this strategy each local authority has to undertake an Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) to determine the progress of their local air quality management to date. A USA has to be submitted to the Scottish Executive every three years and an annual progress report every other year until 2010.

Scottish Borders Councils USA 2007 concluded that the Air Quality Objectives for each of the pollutants were unlikely to be exceeded at any location in the district, and therefore a Detailed Assessment would not be required.

As part of their air quality monitoring programme, Scottish Borders Council monitors nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), using diffusion tubes. During 2006 there were 4 additional diffusion tube monitoring sites added to the 15 sites already located throughout the region. These sites were installed to assess the impact of the new A7 inner relief road project in Galashiels.

The new data and information confirms the conclusions of the previous reports that a Detailed Assessment is not required for any pollutant. However, in the case of NO₂, the additional monitoring data currently being collected will need to be reviewed in the next years Progress Report.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Description of the Scottish Borders Area

The Scottish Borders is located between Dumfries and Galloway in the west, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian in the north west, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian to the north; and the non-metropolitan counties of Northumberland and Cumbria in England to the south.

Geographically the region is hilly in the south, west and north, with the River Tweed flowing west to east through the region. The east of the region is primarily flat with isolated small groups of hills. The Tweed and its tributaries drain the entire region with the river flowing into the North Sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and forming the border with England for the last twenty miles or so of its length.

Parts of the area have historically been heavily industrialised, although much of this has now gone and the area as a whole is predominantly rural. The main routes through the area are the A1, A68, and A7, and the East Coast Mainline railway.

1.2 Purpose of the Progress Report

The provisions of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995¹ establish a national framework for air quality management, which requires all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales to conduct local air quality reviews. Section 82 of the Act¹ requires these reviews to include an assessment of the current air quality in the area and the predicted air quality in future years. Should the reviews indicate that the standards prescribed in the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS)² and the Addendum to the Strategy will not be met, the local authority is required to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Action must then be taken at a local level to ensure that air quality in the area improves. This process is known as 'Local Air Quality Management' (LAQM).

The Review and Assessment process has a three year cycle with an Updating and Screening Assessment, followed by two Progress Reports. The annual Progress Report provides continuity of assessment between the 3-yearly Updating and Screening Assessments of local air quality.

This Progress Report has been prepared for Scottish Borders Council to comply with the LAQM system introduced in the Environment Act 1995. The report conforms to the Progress Report Guidance, LAQM.PRG(03)³ the Policy Guidance, LAQM.PG(S)(03)⁵ and Technical Guidance, LAQM TG(03)⁴ issued under Section 88(1) of the Environment Act 1995. Pursuant to Section 88(2) of the Environment Act 1995 Scottish Borders Council and the author of this report have had due regard to the relevant guidance.

As outlined in LAQM.PRG(03), additional information should be included in the Progress Report, if relevant. This includes:

- Progress on implementation of action plans;
- an assessment of the monitoring data in relation to likely exceedences of the objectives;
- Progress on local air quality strategies
- a list of planning applications that have the potential to affect local air quality
- progress on implementing those elements of the local transport strategy that might affect air quality; and
- any relevant updates on planning policies that relate specifically to air quality

Scottish Borders Council have not implemented any action plans or air quality strategies and have no new planning policies or planning applications that relate specifically to air quality. Hence, though considered, these topics have not been included in this Progress Report.

1.3 Air Quality Strategy Objectives

The NAQS identifies eight ambient air pollutants that have the potential to cause harm to human health. These pollutants are associated with local air quality problems, with the exception of ozone, which is instead considered to be a regional problem.

The Air Quality Regulations set standards for the seven pollutants that are associated with local air quality. These objectives aim to reduce the health impacts of the pollutants to negligible levels.

Table 1: Objectives included in the Air Quality Regulations and Subsequent Amendments, for the purpose of Local Air Quality Management

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene			
All authorities	16.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	running annual mean	31.12.2003
Authorities in England and Wales only	5.00 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	annual mean	31.12.2010
Authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland only	3.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-Butadiene	2.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide			
Authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland only	10.0 mg m^{-3}	maximum daily running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Authorities in Scotland only	10.0 mg m^{-3}	running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ 0.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	annual mean annual mean	31.12.2004 31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide^a	200 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	1 hour mean annual mean	31.12.2005 31.12.2005
Particles (PM₁₀) (gravimetric)^b	50 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	24 hour mean annual mean	31.12.2004 31.12.2004
Authorities in Scotland only ^c	50 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year 18 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$	24 hour mean annual mean	31.12.2010 31.12.2010
Sulphur dioxide	350 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year 125 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year 266 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	1 hour mean 24 hour mean 15 minute mean	31.12.2004 31.12.2004 31.12.2005

a. These objectives are provisional.

b. Measured using the European gravimetric transfer sampler or equivalent.

c. These 2010 Air Quality Objectives for PM₁₀ apply in Scotland only, as set out in the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002.

In Scotland, the PM₁₀ objectives for 2010 have been adopted into regulation and hence, assessment against these objectives is required. However, In England, Wales and Greater London the 2010 objectives for PM₁₀ are not currently included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM.

1.4 Summary of Conclusions of the 2006 Updating and Screening Assessment

The Scottish Borders Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) 2006⁸ was performed for the seven UK criteria pollutants in the Scottish Borders District. The aim was to determine whether there was the potential for exceedences of any of the UK national air quality objectives (stated in Table 1).

Results from this USA indicated that a Detailed Assessment would not be required for any of the seven pollutants assessed. None of the UK air quality objectives were likely to be breached within Scottish Borders District. There are no Local Air Quality Management Areas within the Scottish Borders District.

2 Air Quality Monitoring

Prior to 2006 the air quality monitoring carried out by Scottish Borders consisted of 15 NO₂ Diffusion tubes situated around the district. The locations of these tubes can be seen in Table 2. During 2006 the number of NO₂ diffusion tubes locations was increased to 19, with the 4 new monitoring sites being introduced to assess the impact of the new A7 inner relief road at Galashiels. The locations of all sites are illustrated in Appendix 2.

The Diffusion Tubes used (which are 71mm long with an internal diameter of 11mm) are made up of two stainless steel gauzes at one end. These contain an absorbent to trap the pollutant to be measured, in the case of nitrogen dioxide the absorbent used is triethalamine, which converts the nitrogen dioxide to nitrate, and this is trapped in the steel gauze to be analysed later in the laboratory. The other end of the tube is left open to the atmosphere, facing down to earth to prevent any rain or dust entering the tube. To ensure that the tubes do not collect pollutant after leaving their site they are sealed before their journey to the laboratory.

The low cost of the tubes enables sampling at a number of points in an area of interest and this can be useful in highlighting 'hotspots' of high concentrations where more detailed studies may be required. However with the low running costs and simplistic nature, and in line with recent studies, diffusion tubes are found to be less accurate than the automated monitoring. To overcome this inaccuracy a Bias Adjustment factor is applied.

Short-term continuous automatic monitoring of NO₂ in Galashiels and PM₁₀ in Newcastleton were undertaken in the winter of 2004/5. From June 2007 to June 2008, continuous PM₁₀ monitoring will be undertaken within the village of Newcastleton following the review of the Detailed Assessment.

The following NAQS pollutants are not monitored by Scottish Borders Council:

- Benzene
- 1,3 Butadiene
- Carbon Monoxide
- Lead
- Sulphur Dioxide

There are no existing or planned developments that are likely to result in any exceedences of these abovementioned pollutants. Furthermore, it was concluded in the Scottish Borders USA⁸ that it is unlikely that any exceedences of the NAQS objectives for any of these pollutants would occur and hence, no monitoring is required.

2.1 Quality Assurance and Quality Control

As outlined in Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(3)⁴, it is important to employ adequate QA/QC procedures in order to ensure that the air quality monitoring data are reliable and credible. The following list outlines fundamental data requirements:

- Accuracy.
- Precision.
- Trace ability to national/international metrology standards.
- Long-term consistency.

The following section outlines the QA/QC procedures employed by South Yorkshire Trading Standards, who supply NO₂ diffusion tubes to Scottish Borders Council.

2.2.1 Bias Adjustment Factor

When using Diffusion Tube monitoring, co-location studies with Chemiluminescence automatic NO₂ analysers are carried out to determine how far out the Diffusion tubes are from the more accurate automate analysers. From these studies a Bias Adjustment Factor is calculated and used to adjust the diffusion tube results, to give a more representative concentration.

Scottish Borders do not carry out a co-location study and have in turn used the bias adjustment factor of **1.01** provided by the Air Quality Review and Assessment Helpdesk Website⁶, for their diffusion tube suppliers South Yorkshire Trading Standard. The value of 1.01 is the mean result of co-location studies in Barnsley and Oxford and the AEA intercomparison sites in London.

The effect of the bias adjustment factor on the concentrations given is minimal and does not affect the figures (round up to the nearest µgm⁻³) stated in Table 2.

2.2 Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring

Table 2: Scottish Border Air Quality Sites NO₂ Concentrations

Site	NO ₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µgm ⁻³)					% change between 2005 and 2006	2002 – 2006 mean	% change between 2002-2006 and 2006
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006			
Galashiels City Chambers	31	31	28	25	27	8	28.4	5
Galashiels Stanley Street	13	14	11	10*	10*	0	11.6	16
Galashiels High Street	45	42	42	37	41	11	41.4	1
Peebles Gladstone Place	13	11	11	11	10	-9	11.2	12
Peebles High Street	27	27	25	23	21	-9	24.6	17
Hawick Sandbed	27	27	26	21	22	5	24.6	12
Hawick High Street	36	32	37	30	35	17	34	-3
Hawick Renwick Terrace	10	15	12	9	8	-11	11	38
Hawick Silverbuthall Road	11	11	10	11	9	-18	10.4	16
Hawick Bourtree Place	34	27	36	28	33	18	31.6	-4
Hawick Market Street	23	26	24	18	21	17	22.4	7
Hawick Commercial Road	18	19	18	18	15	-17	17.6	17
Kelso Bridge Street	21	21	21	18	18	0	19.8	10
Kelso Mercers Court	10	10	9	8	7	-13	8.8	26
Melrose St Dunstons Park	11	12	10	9	8	-11	10	25
Rogersons High Street Galashiels					35 [#]			

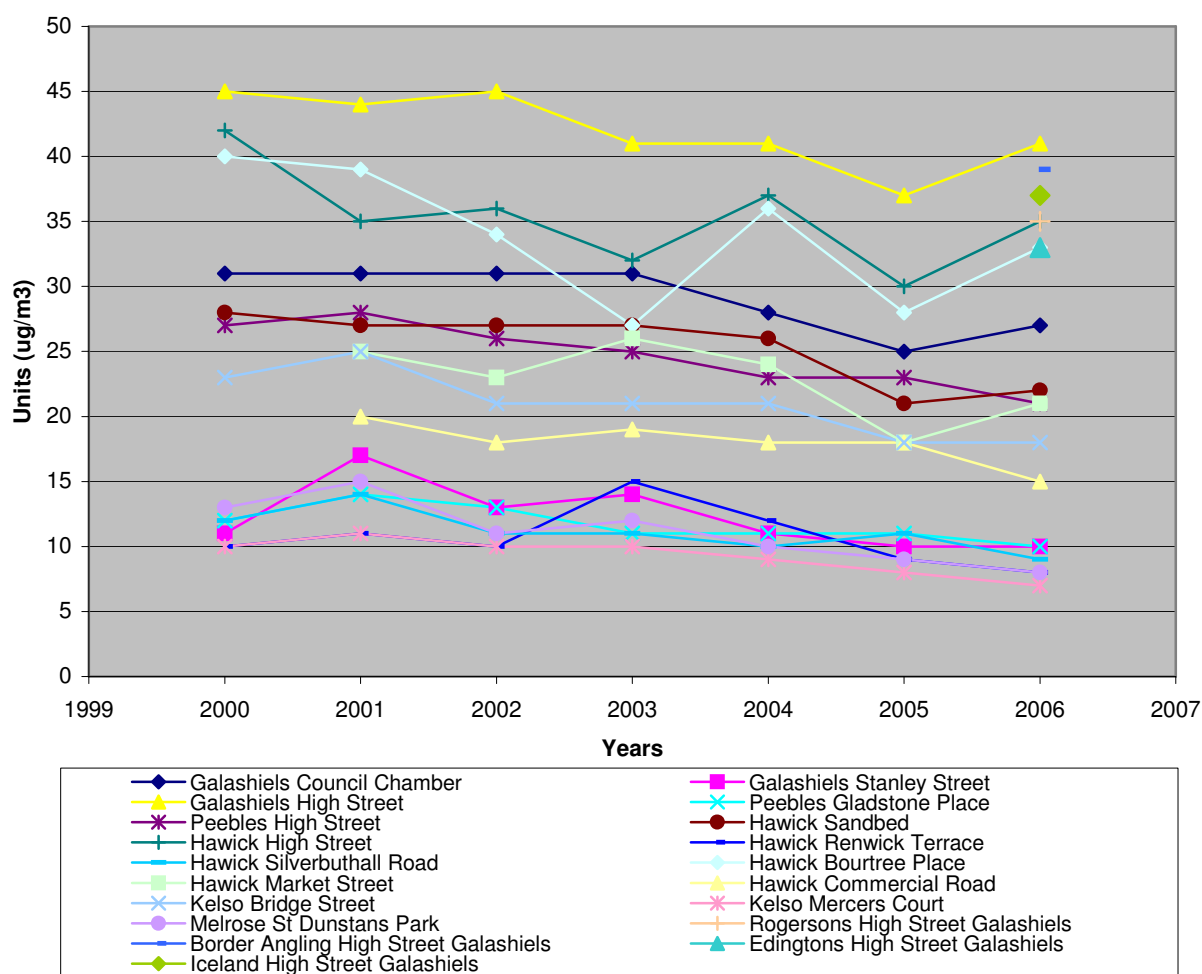
NO ₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µgm ⁻³)								
Site	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change between 2005 and 2006	2002 – 2006 mean	% change between 2002-2006 and 2006
Border Angling High Street Galashiels					39 [#]			
Edingtons High Street Galashiels					33 [#]			
Iceland, High Street Galashiels					37 [#]			

* indicates only 6 months of Data collected for that site.

indicates only 9 months of data collected at that site.

Analysing the the data obtained from the Scottish Borders sites it can be seen that there is a slight downward trend in concentration levels from 2000 to 2006. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below. This downward trend did not however continue for all sites between 2005 and 2006. At sites; Galashiels City Chambers, Galashiels High Street, Hawick Sandbed, Hawick High Street, Hawick Bourtree and Hawick Market Street, the average annual mean concentrations increased from the previous year.

Figure 1: Scottish Borders NO₂ Annual Mean Concentrations

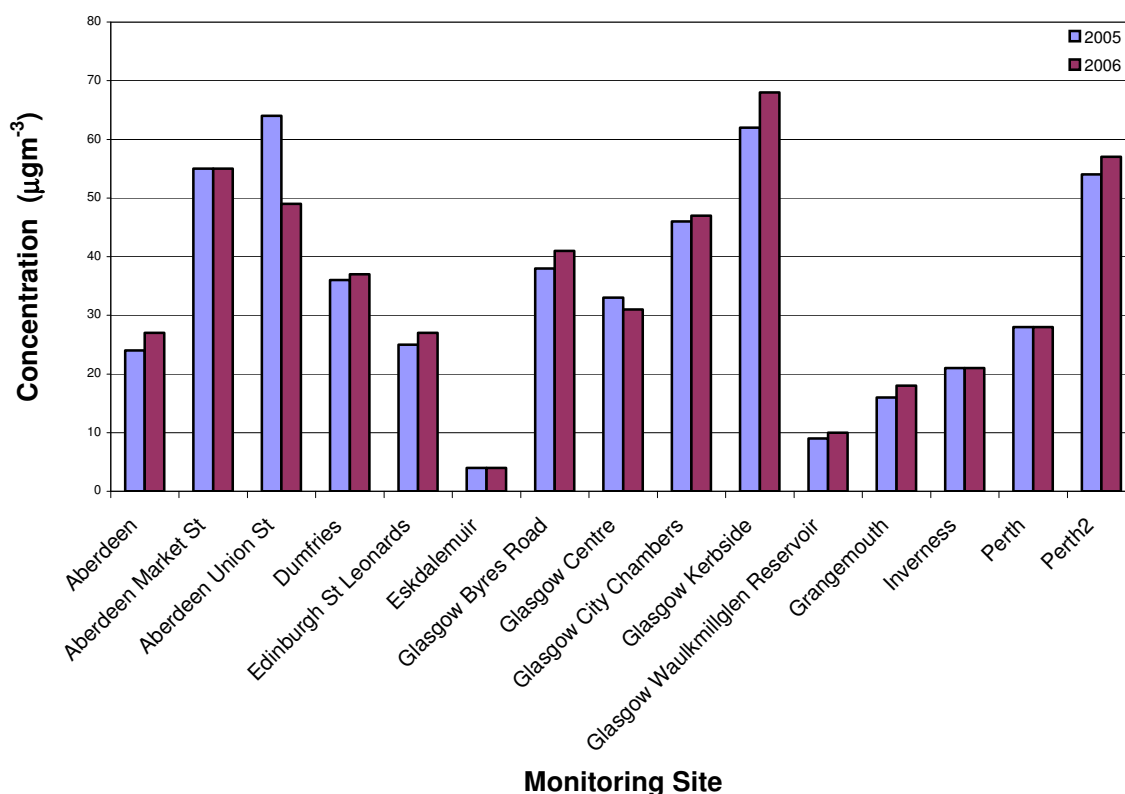


This increase in NO₂ concentrations, however was a trend seen at a number of locations across the Scotland, as can be seen in Figure 2. These results, taken from the Air Quality in Scotland website⁹, indicate that the increase in NO₂ levels was a widespread event, not isolated to the Scottish Border sites. On average across all the Scottish Borders sites there was a 1% decrease in NO₂ concentrations from 2005 levels.

The Galashiels High street site is the only site that continues to be over the NAQS annual average objective for NO₂ of 40µgm⁻³. However, the annual average concentration at this site in 2006 was 41µgm⁻³ and concentrations have decreased since 2000. Further decreases are anticipated in the future with a reduction in traffic in the High Street due to the development of the Inner Relief Road (refer to section 3.2) In addition, continuous automatic monitoring during the winter of 2004/5 showed no exceedance of the objective at this location.

Due to the measured concentration at this location it is recommended that monitoring at Galashiels High Street should continue. The additional diffusion tube monitoring will also aid in assessing the impact of the new inner relief road on the traffic flow through Galashiels High Street, and in turn the anticipated decrease in NO₂ concentrations.

Figure 2: Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations From a Range of Monitoring Sites in Scotland, 2005 and 2006



3 New Developments

The LAQM.PR(03)⁵ progress report guidance lists three categories of new developments that may affect air quality and thus should be assessed in the progress report. The three categories are:

- new industrial developments (PPC Part A, or Part B processes);
- new commercial, residential, transport or amenity developments likely to have an impact on air quality which have been granted planning permission; and
- new landfill or quarry locations with relevant public exposure.

The NSCA (National Society for Clean Air) provides further guidance on the type of new commercial, residential, transport or amenity developments that are likely to cause significant impacts on local air quality. NSCA guidance suggests that developments that should be considered for air quality impacts are those resulting in:

- increased congestion;
- a > 5% change in traffic flow;
- a >10kph change in vehicle speed;
- any road with greater than 10,000 vehicles per day;
- altering traffic composition (e.g. bus stations, HGV parks or increased delivery traffic from a retail distribution centre);
- new car parking facilities (>300 spaces), lorry or coach parks; and
- developments located close to sensitive ecological sites or within areas known to be of poor air quality. (Examples include construction of new residential properties close to a major road or within an AQMA, or developments within or near to designated environmental sites e.g. SSSIs).

3.1 New Industrial Developments

The following industrial developments have taken place within the Scottish Borders District:

Ahlstrom a global manufacturer of specialty papers and non-wovens, situated in Berwickshire, have made several changes to their stacks. These changes, carried out in October 2006, are likely to reduce ground levels of SO₂ concentrations.

These changes included: -

- Stack A3 (viscose press) which was 16.7m high and 0.46m wide, is no longer used and now vents via stack A7, which is 20.7m high, and 1.75m wide
- Stack A4 (NO₂ drier exhaust) was 16.7m high and 0.76m wide is no longer in use and vents via stack A7, as above
- Stack A5 (catox exhaust) was increased from 17.4m to 24.1m high and the stack diameter was reduced from 1.2m to 0.9m.
- Stack A6 (wet scrubber) was increased from 17.4m to 21.4m in height and the stack diameter was increased from 0.9m to 1.1m wide.

Ahlstrom are also proposing to install a new paper machine, but this will not be operational until September 2008.

Dalkia, a company that provides facility and energy management services, were due to burn off their remaining stock of gas oil in March of this year (157,000 litres in total) so that they could replace this with a low sulphur fuel. This is a one-off occurrence and the impact of this activity will be captured in the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory return for 2007.

3.2 New Transport, Commercial and Residential Developments.

Construction started on an inner relief road for the A7, around Galashiels in January 2006. The target completion date is the end of February 08, with further work to the old road taking place by February 2009. To monitor the impact of this development an additional 4 NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring locations were set up (for illustrations of these locations refer to Appendix 2). Monitoring at these site started in March 2006. Locations of these sites are given below:-

- **Rogersons, High Street Galashiels**
- **Border Angling, High Street Galashiels**
- **Edingtons, High Street Galashiels**
- **Iceland, High Street Galashiels.**

When all the new construction work is completed additional NO₂ monitoring will be taken along the new road. These new monitoring locations will be sited in consultation with SEPA and will run in parallel with the existing tubes within the High Street area.

The Inner relief road is part of a £12 million road scheme looking to reduce congestion within Galashiels town centre. The construction will be carried out over 4 separate schemes as shown below. (Data taken from Scottish Borders Council web page⁷). Appendix 1 shows a map of the proposed development.

Scheme 1:

Scheme 1 will be carried out in three phases, as shown below:

Phase one - 18 weeks

- Build a three-lane road bridge over Gala Water
- Build a new roundabout at Currie Road
- Provide a new, free, long-stay car park at the east end of Currie Road.

Phase two - 2 weeks

- Provide access to the Health Centre from the new road and roundabout formed in Phase One.

Phase three - 20 weeks

- Demolish Station Brae.
- Build a new Station Brae roundabout.
- Connect the roundabout to Melrose Road with a new road.
- Build a new bridge over the line of the proposed Waverley railway. Build a new, controlled pedestrian crossing to link Market Street to the Health Centre and the proposed Asda superstore.

Scheme 2: Development of Paton Street to Albert Place, scheduled to take place in 2006/7.

Scheme 3: Development of Ladhope Vale to Bridge Place, scheduled to take place in 2006/7.

Scheme 4: Town Centre Traffic Management will take place in 2007/8. The transport 'interchange' is linked with the Waverly rail project, with work proposed to take place in 2008/9.

The Tesco development in Galashiels is now complete and work on the Lochcarron site is more than 50% complete. The two-way traffic flow along Ladhope Vale has yet to be set up, however, when this is completed, the only traffic using the old High Street route will be for local services only. All other traffic will be sent along Ladhope Vale.

3.3 New Quarry and Landfill Developments

There are no new quarry developments. However there have been significant extensions to two existing quarries. These extensions at Dolphinton Sand Quarry and Shiphorns Quarry (situated north of Peebles) should have no significant impact on local air quality as one relates to an increase in area quarried rather than output, and the other the relocation of Office facilities. There is also a third non-regulated hard rock quarry near Peebles, which has re-opened.

4 Conclusion

Scottish Borders Council USA 2006 concluded that the national air quality objectives for each of the pollutants were unlikely to be exceeded at any location in the district, and therefore a Detailed Assessment would not be required.

Diffusion tube monitoring of NO₂ in 2006, at all sites except one site in Galashiels High Street, shows that there is no exceedance of the NO₂ Objectives.

At Galashiels High Street diffusion tube monitoring in 2006 shows that concentrations of NO₂ may have exceeded the objective for this pollutant. However, concentrations at this site are decreasing and expected to decrease further with the construction of the inner relief road. Also additional NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring at other location on Galashiels High Street does not show an exceedance and continuous automatic monitoring in the winter of 2004/5 indicated no exceedance was likely. Hence, no action is required but it is recommended that monitoring should continue as at present to observe any future changes.

The main new developments within the district are the commencement of the new road scheme within Galashiels. It is predicted that this work will alleviate traffic congestion within the town centre, especially the High Street area. No other proposed development is likely to significantly affect pollutant concentrations.

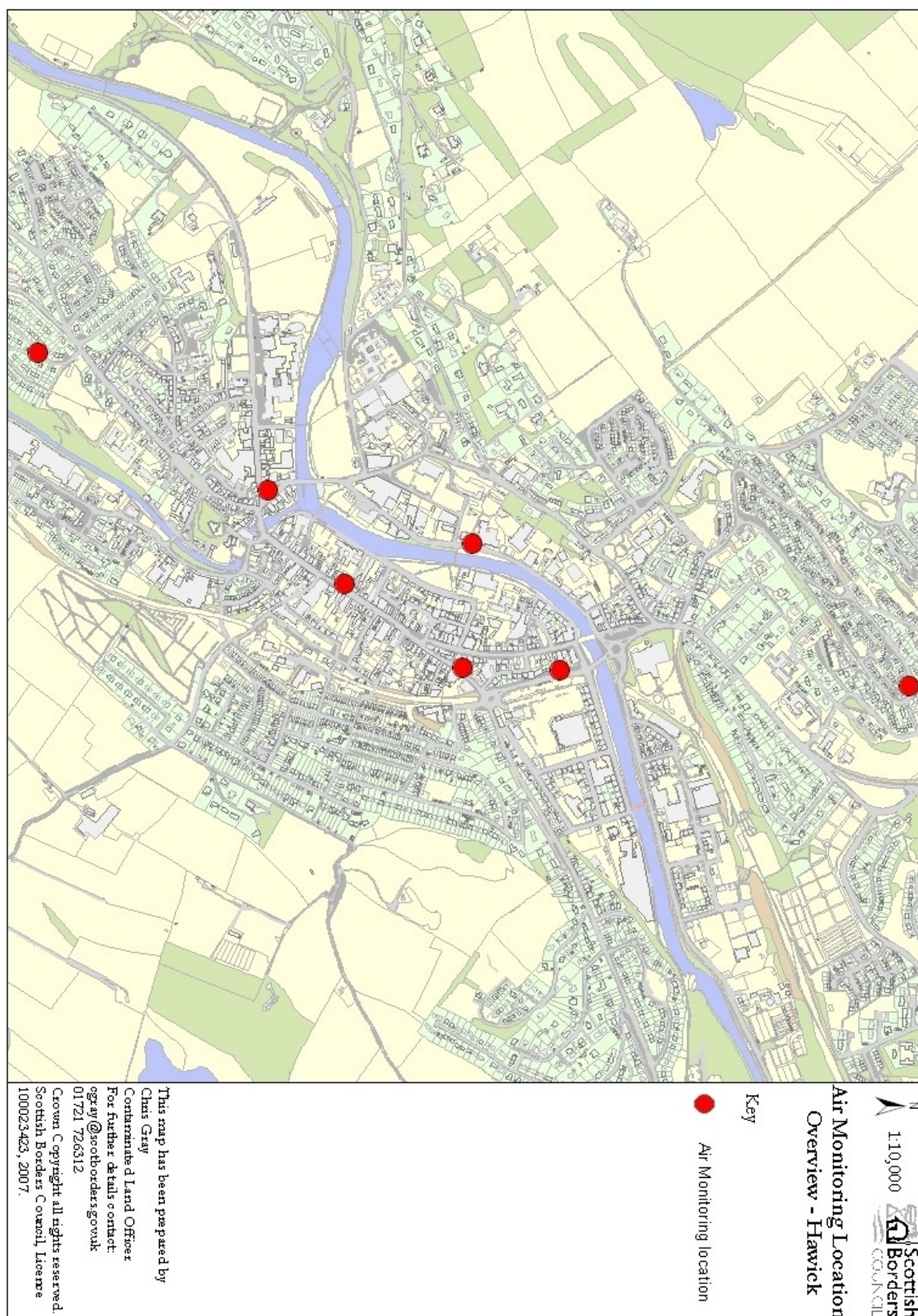
Hence it is concluded that the Scottish Borders Council do not need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant.

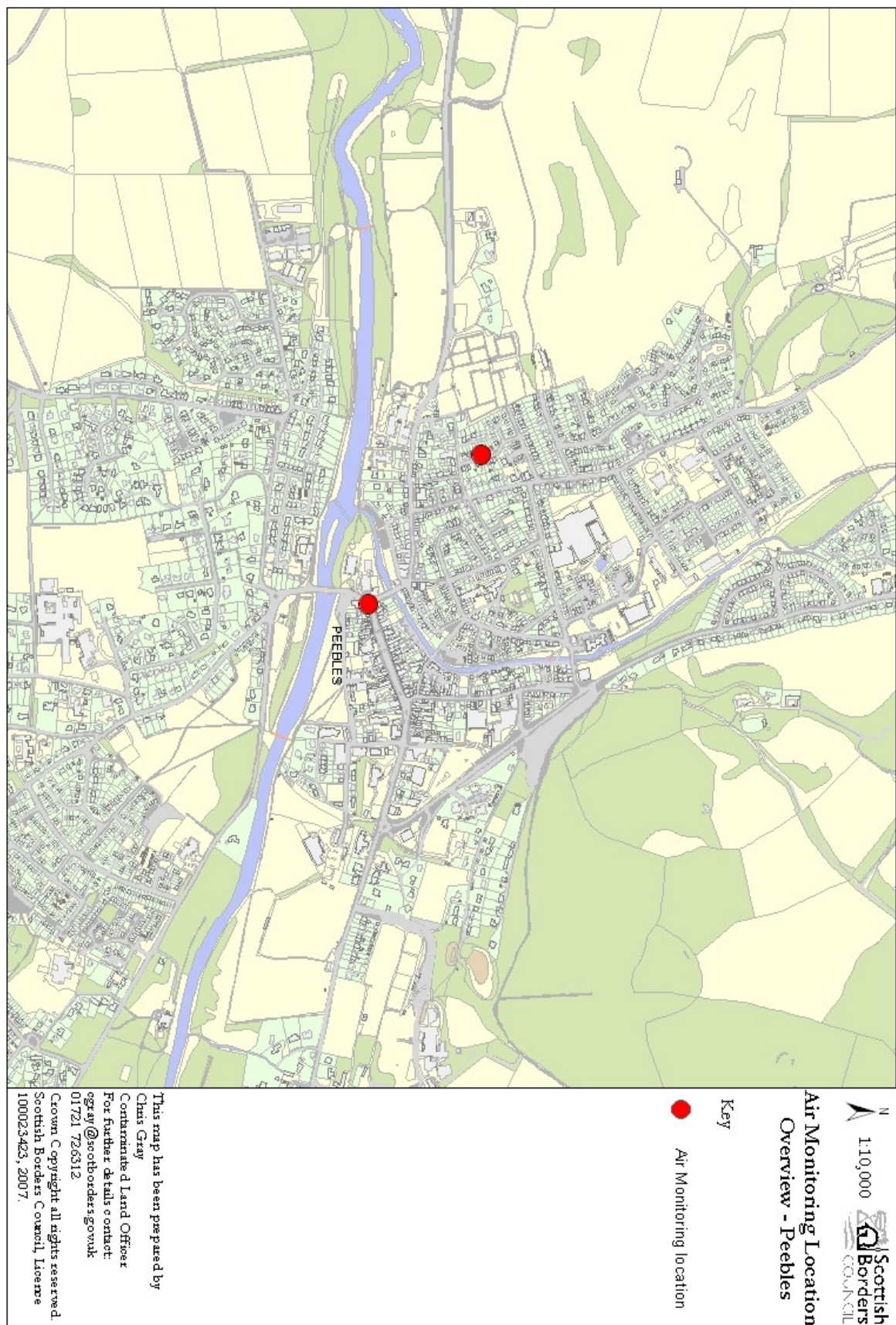
Scottish Borders Council accepts the above conclusions and will implement the recommendations.

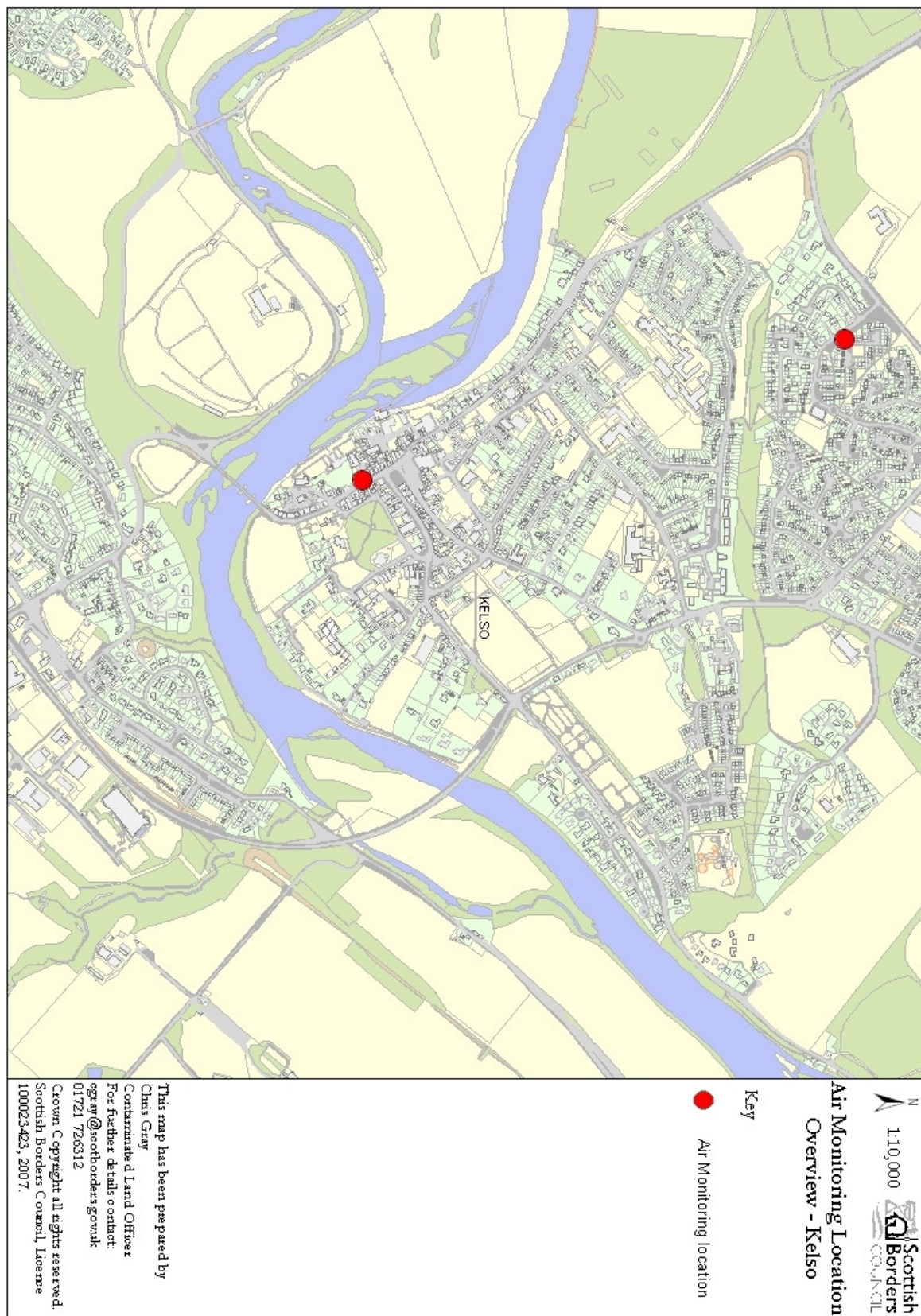
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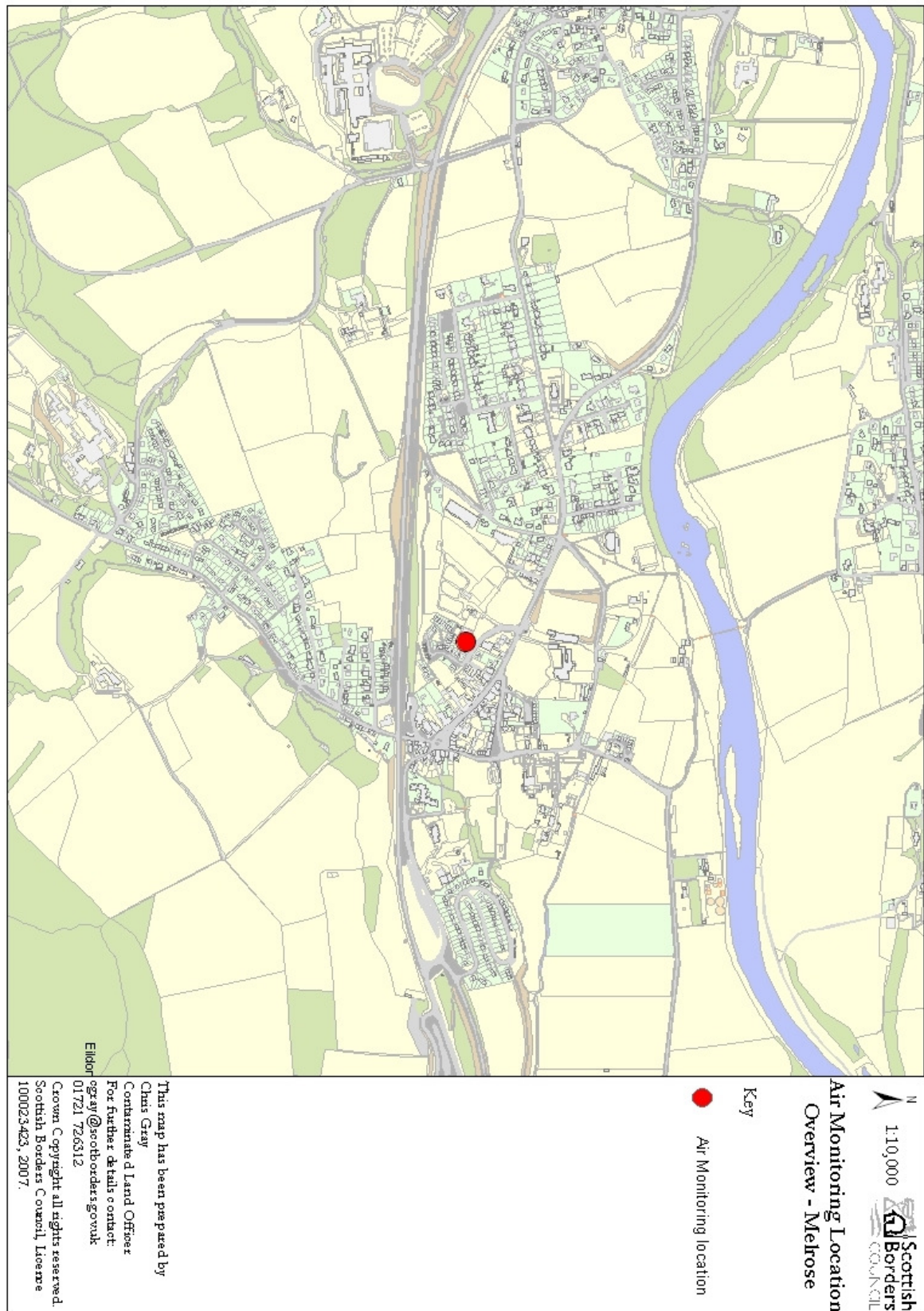
1. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Section 82
2. UK National Air Quality Strategy, DEFRA 2000
3. Local Air Quality management, Progress Report Guidance LAQM PRG(03), DEFRA 2003
4. Local Air Quality Management. Technical Guidance LAQM TG(03), DEFRA 2003
5. Local Air Quality Management. Policy Guidance, LAGM PG(S)(03), DEFRA 2003
6. Review and Assessment Helpdesk Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Spreadsheet – v03/07
www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/review/diffusiontube300307.xls
7. Scottish Borders Website: www.scotsborders.gov.uk
8. Scottish Borders Updating and Screening Assessment (USA), 2006
9. Air Quality in Scotland www.scottishairquality.co.uk

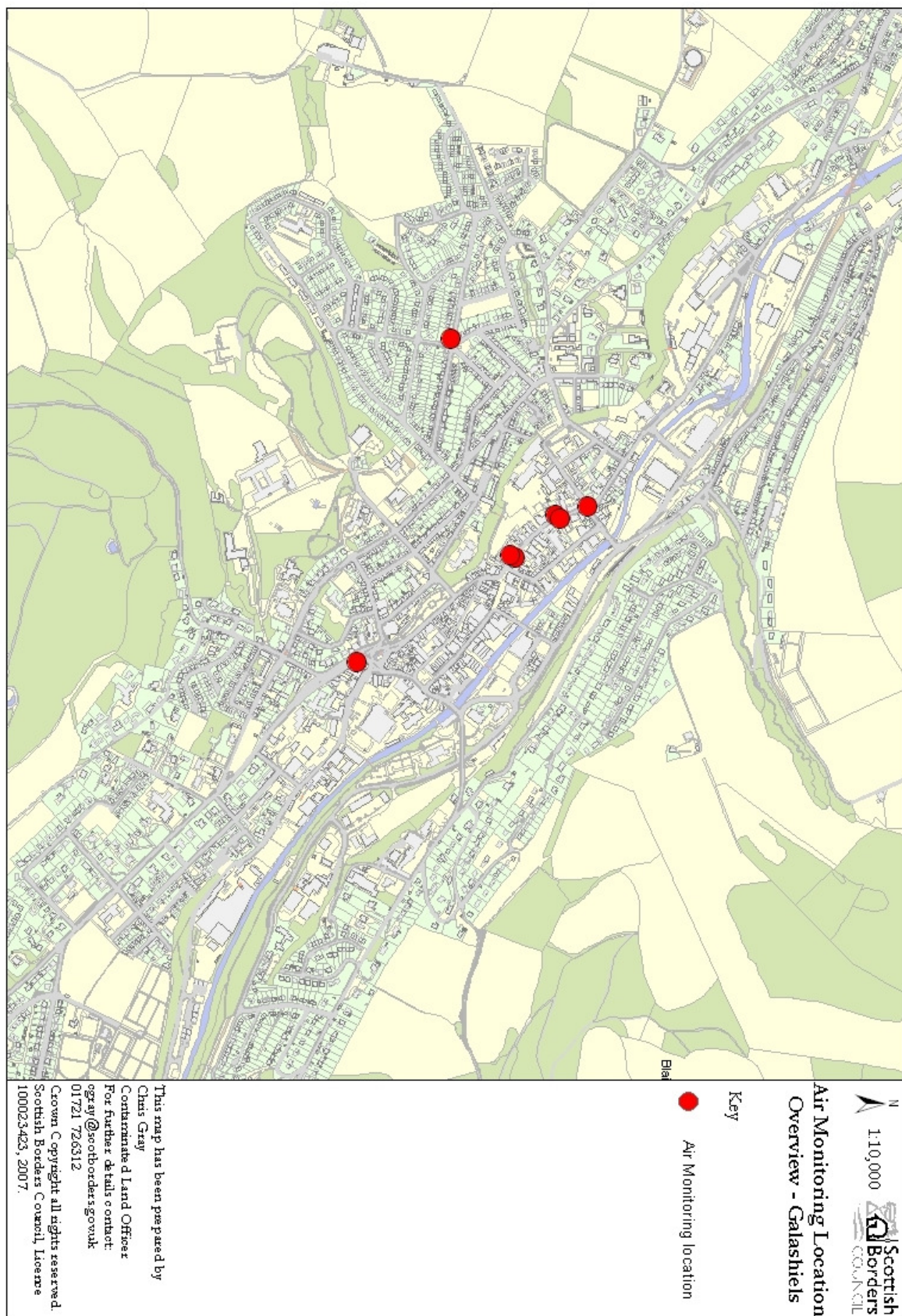
Appendix 2: Air Quality Monitoring Locations:

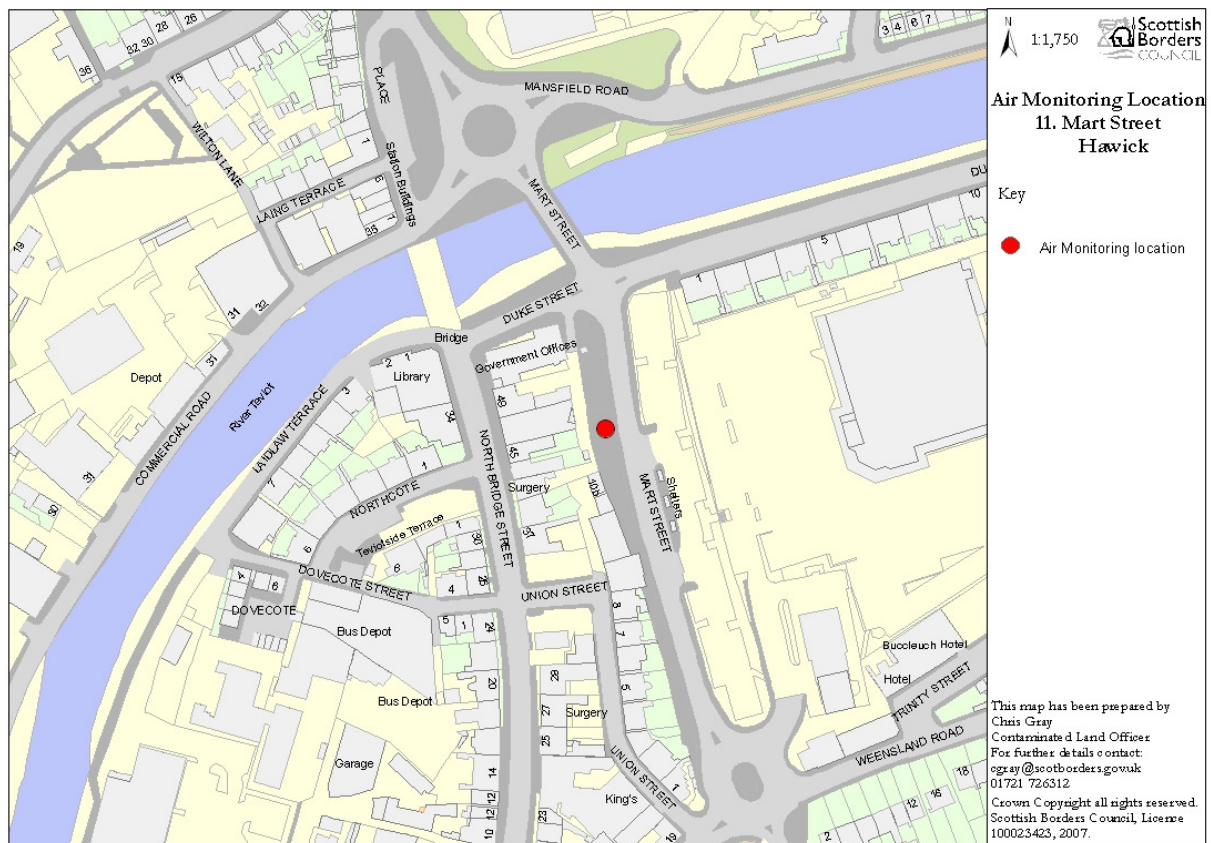




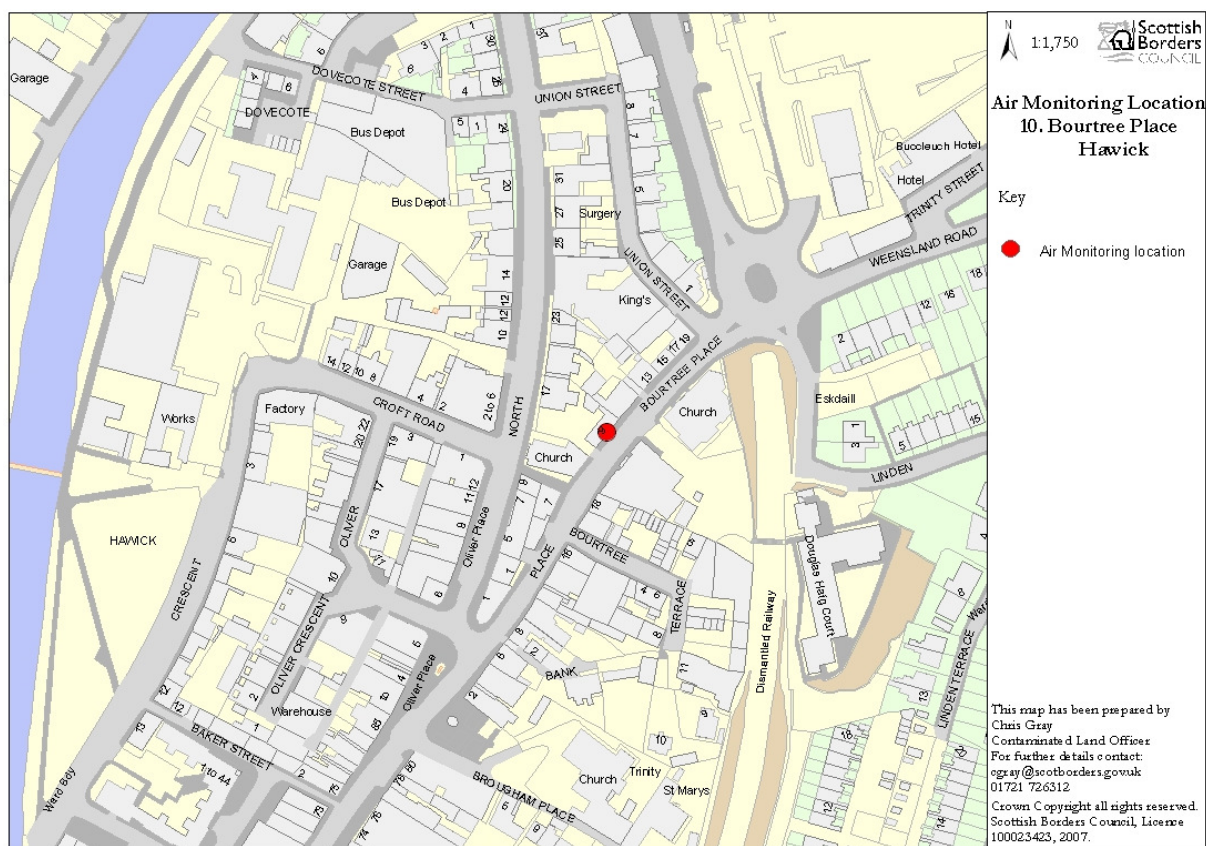
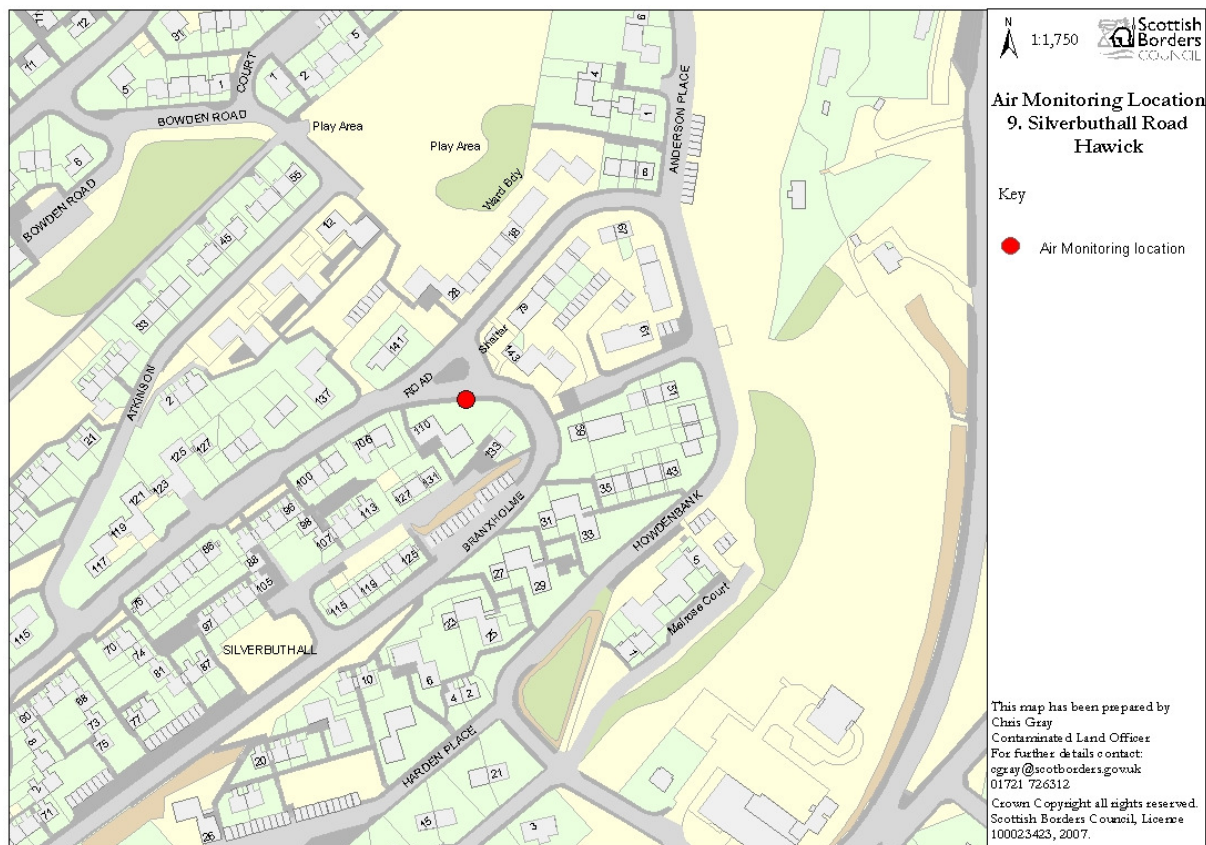


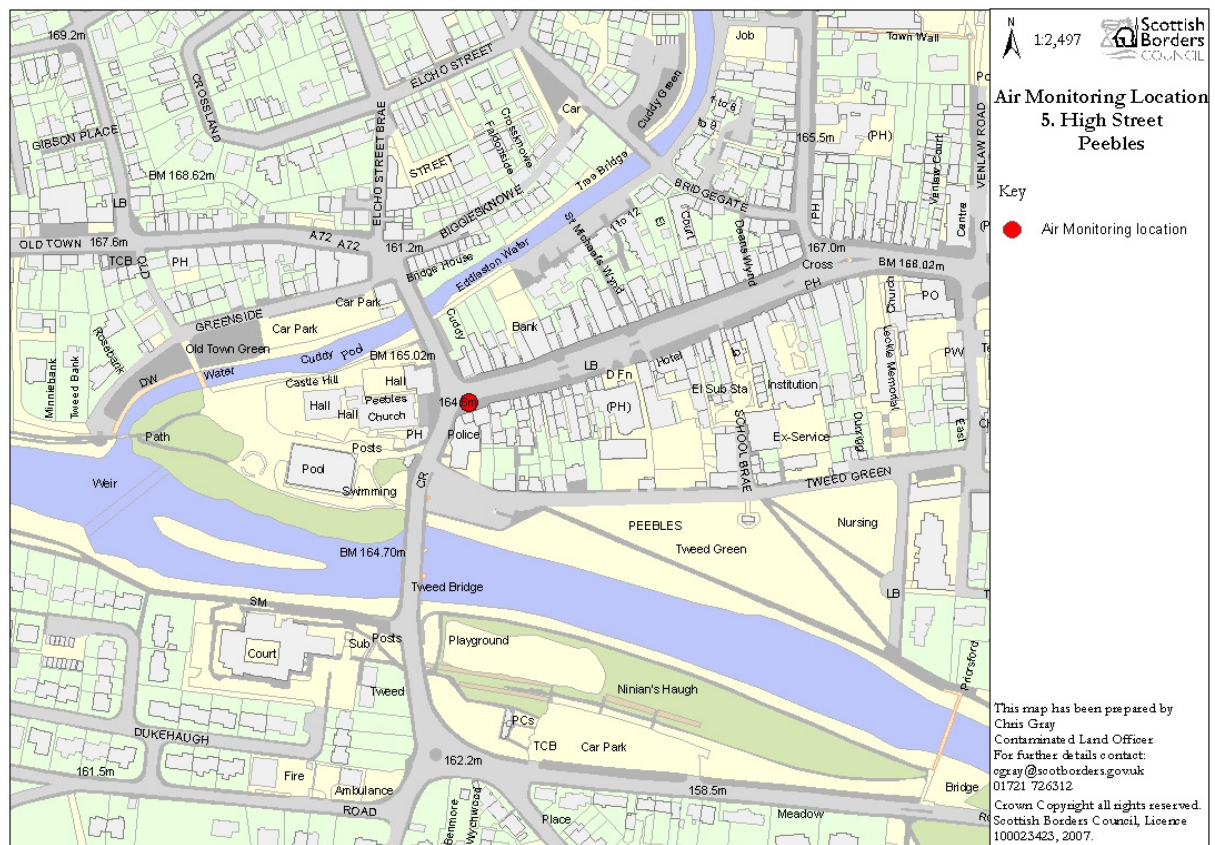


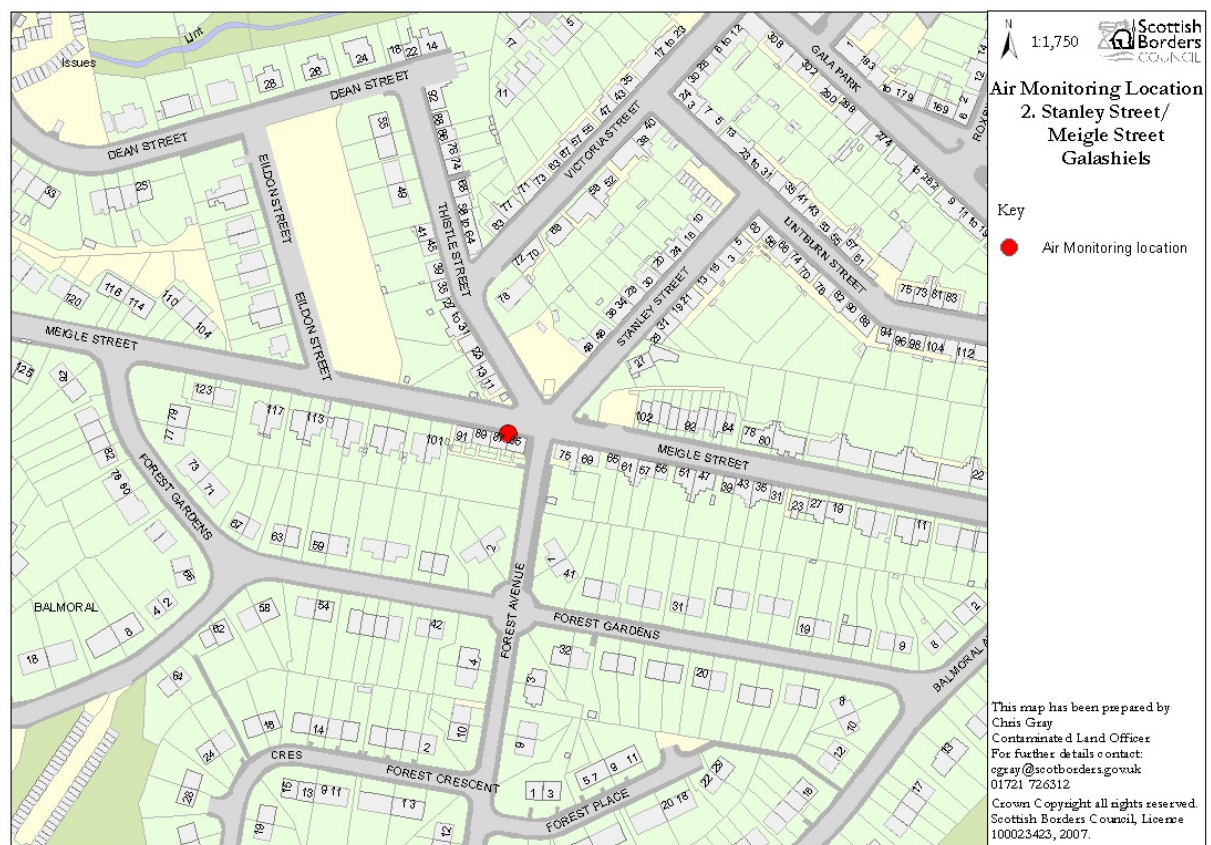
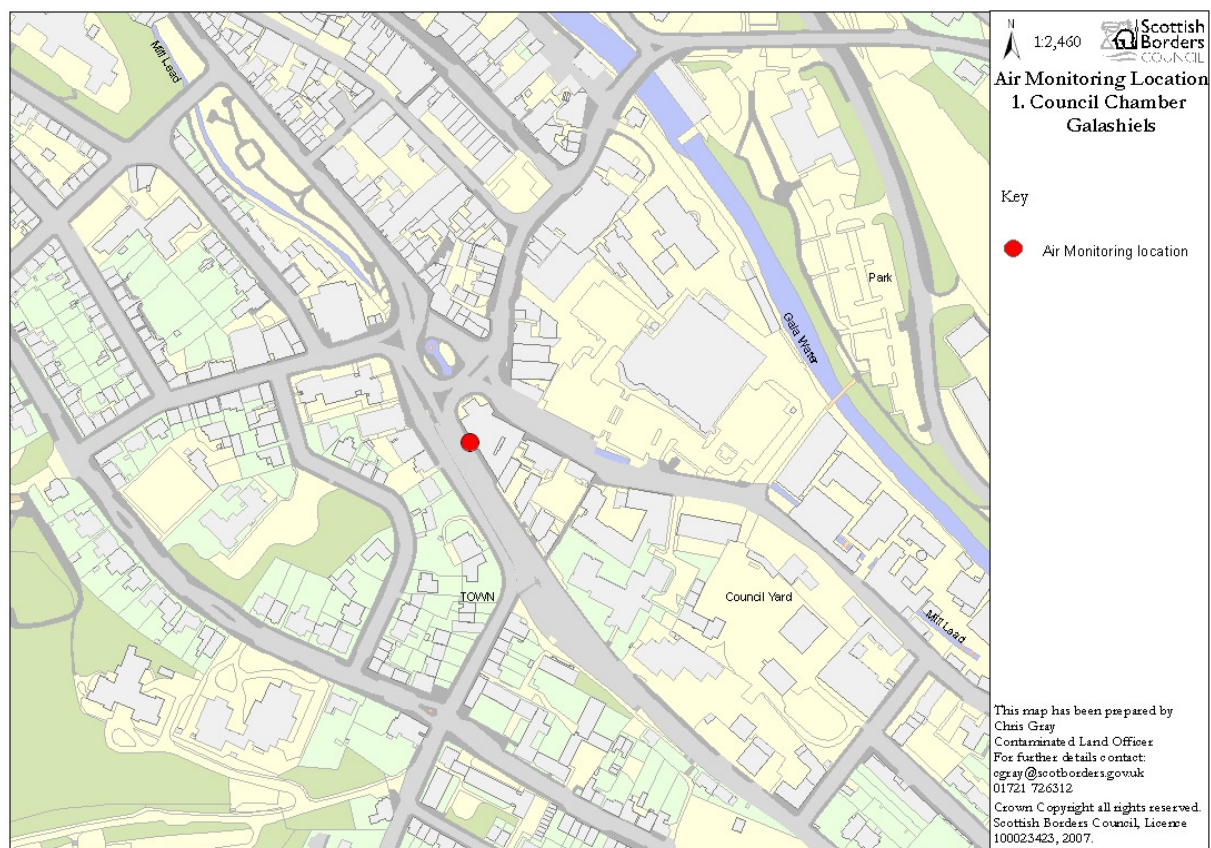


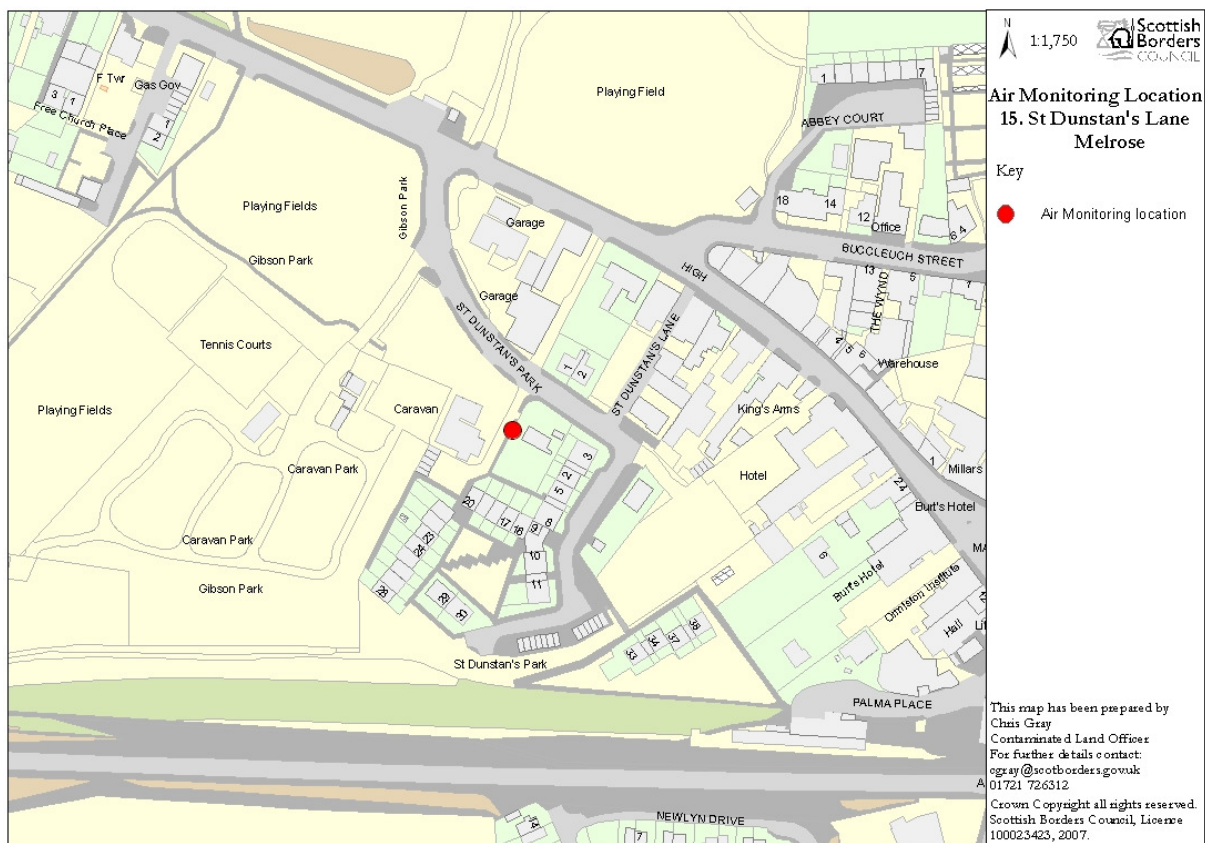
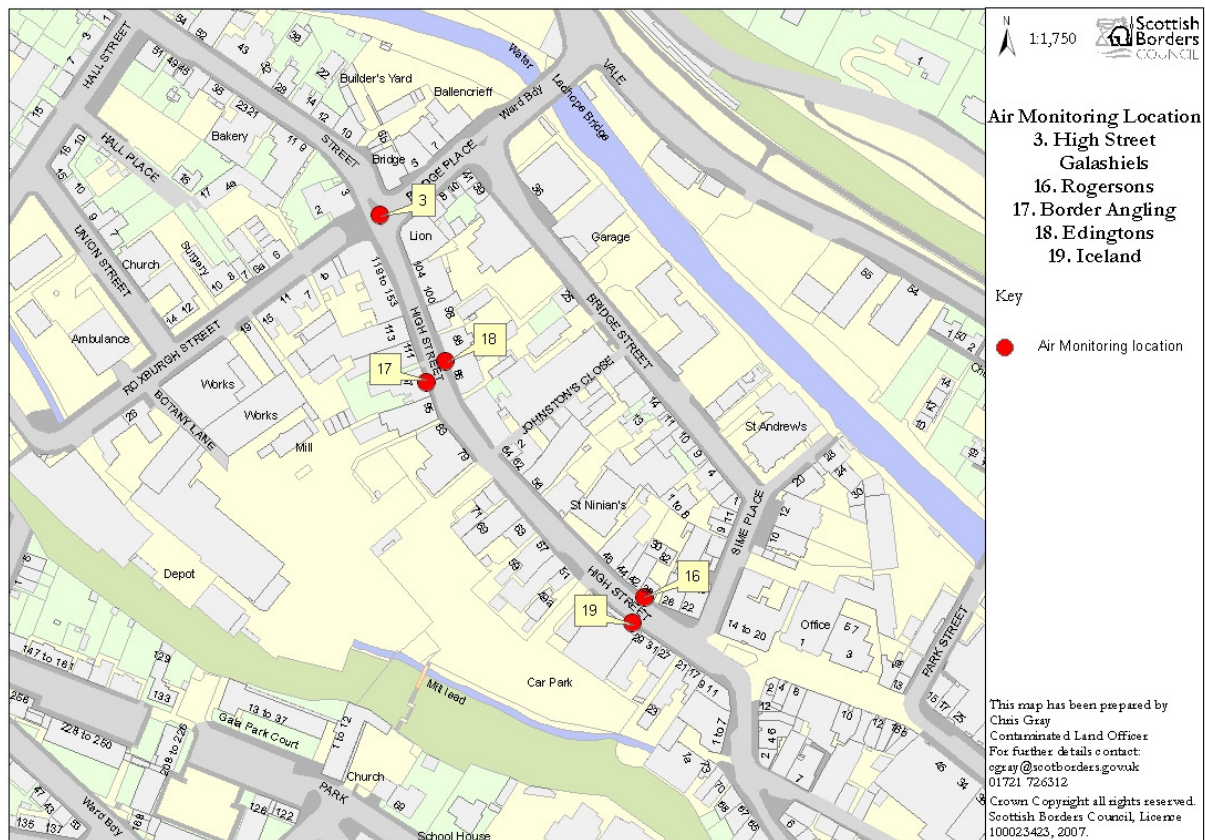














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