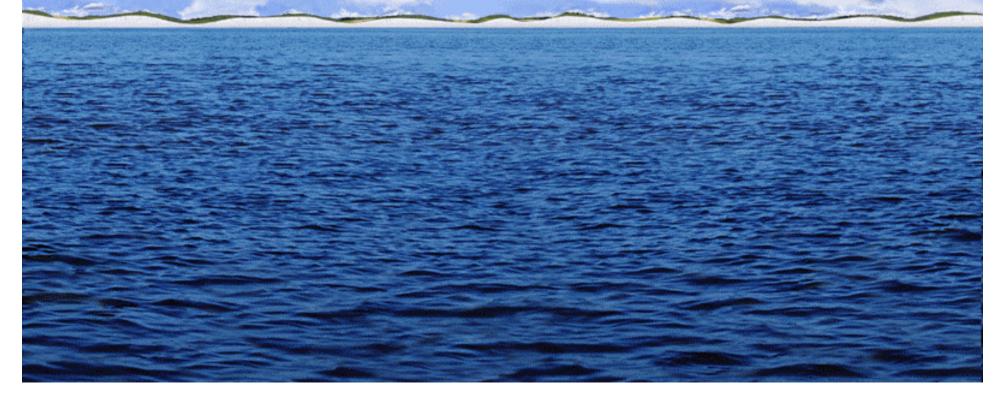
How Local Authorities Can Use Air Quality Forecasting

Andrew Deacon Project Development Officer Sussex Air Quality Steering Group



Introduction



The Sussex Air Quality Steering Group

<u>Aims</u>

 To improve air quality in Sussex by supporting local authorities, to assist in implementing the National Air Quality Strategy and to encourage and facilitate an Air Quality Strategy for Sussex.

Through;

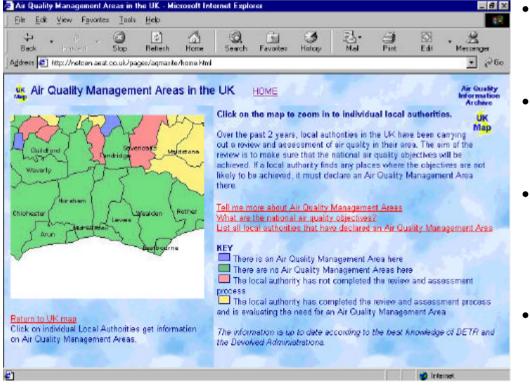
- Collaborative and co-ordinated effort amongst all organisations active in improving air quality in Sussex.
- Collecting, interpreting and disseminating information relevant to understanding and managing air quality in Sussex.

Members

- District / Unitary authorities (12)
- County Councils (2)
- The Environment Agency
- Health Authorities (2)
- Universities (2)

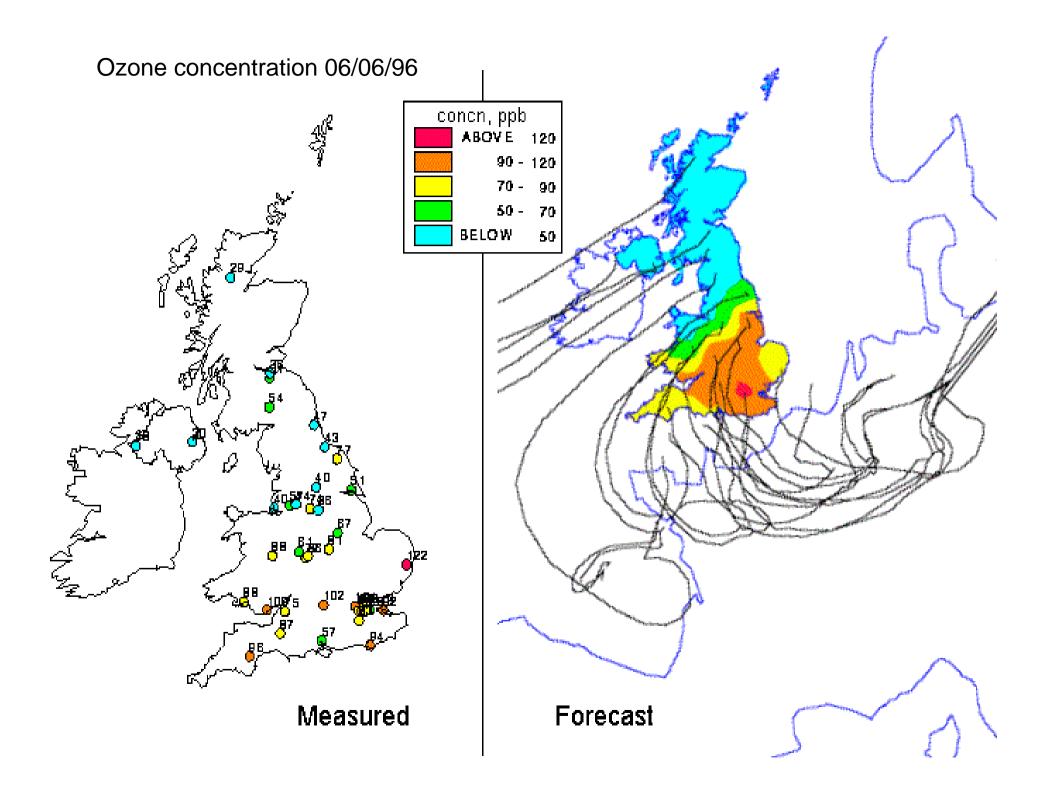


Air Quality Management Areas

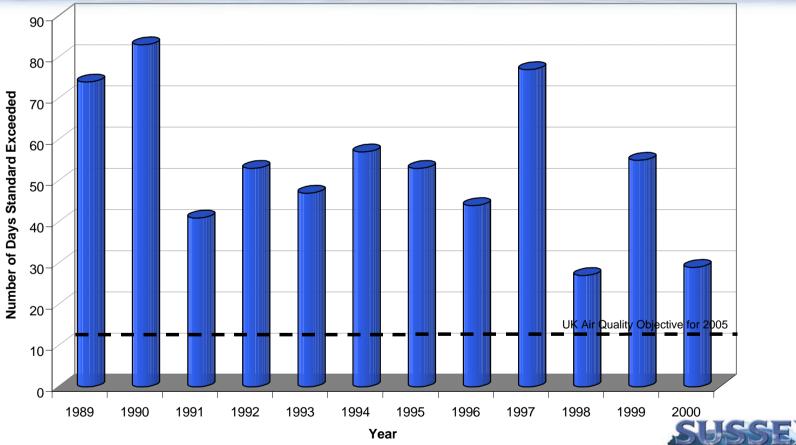


- No Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in Sussex
- A number of areas very close to exceeding the objectives in Sussex
- Local authority review and assessment exercise to be repeated before the end of 2003
- Need to ensure that those areas which are close do not become exceedence areas



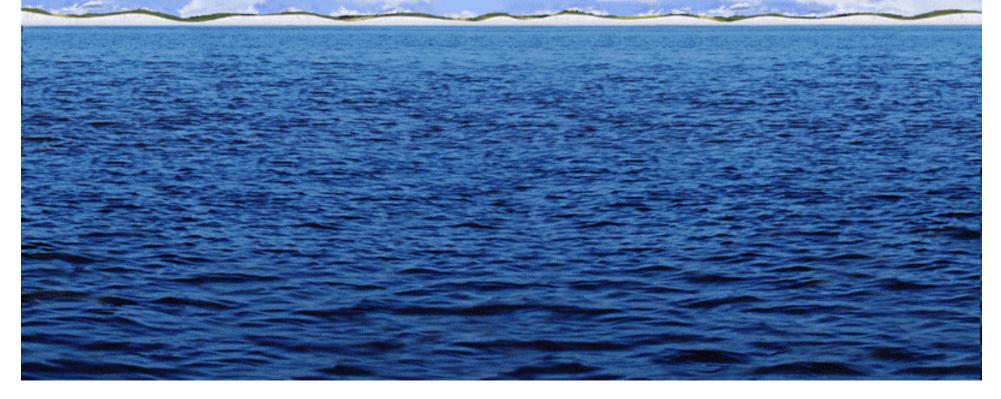


Ozone at Lullington Heath



SUSSEX

The Current System



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Pollution Monitoring
Pollution Modelling
Emissions Inventory
Other Air Quality Sites



<u>Air Pollution EC Air Quality</u> forecasts for Sussex <u>Project</u> E-mail: andrew deacon &sussex-air net

Sussex Air Quality Steering Group

Welcome to the Home page of the Sussex Air Quality Steering Group. These pages are designed to inform you about the work of the Group and about Air Quality in Sussex

Over time links to other air quality sites, and to measured air pollution levels and forecasts will appear. Check back for updates.

Group History

The Sussex Air Quality Steering group was formed in 1995 as a response both to Central Government, who had produced a document "Air Quality: Meeting the Challenge", and to more local work looking at air quality in Sussex.

The group is made up of representatives from City, Borough and District Councils in East and West Sussex, East and West Sussex County Councils, East Sussex Brighton and Hove and West Sussex Health Authorities, the Environment Agency, the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton. A list of Group members with links to their websites can be seen <u>here</u>.

Aims & Objectives

The Group has a number of aims, but these include:

• To support all participating local authorities with their duties under Environment Act 1995 and implementation of the United Kingdom Air Quality Strategy

These aims are to be supported through:

East Sussex Air Quality Forecast

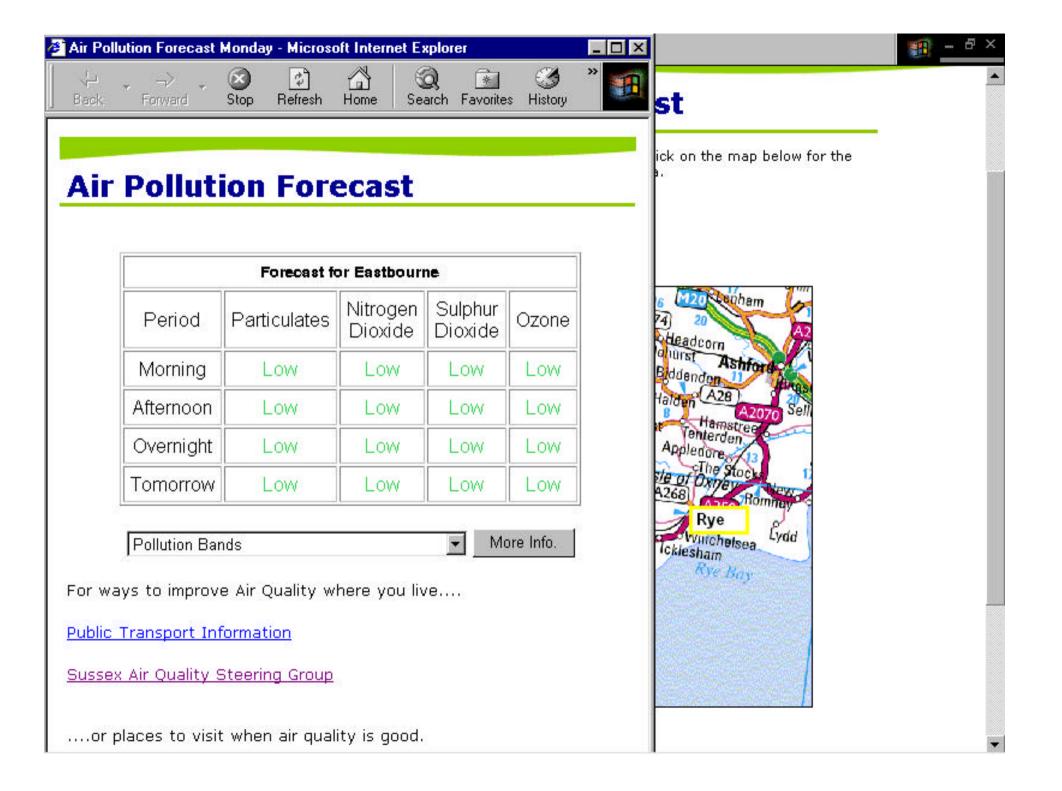


Choose from the location list or click on the map below for the forecast of air quality in your area.

- P

Brighton_and_Hove 👱





Responding to Public Perception

"If you spend a day in London, pick your nose, your bogies are black" (Hove, no health problems)

"It hasn't done me any harm" (Hove, no health problems)

> "The unseen menace" (Hove, no health problems)

"air pollution is a killer" (Hove Group, no health problems)

"If you go to London & come down on the train, walk out into the fresh air it's like a drink of clear water (Hove, health problems) "I can't take a deep breath because it cripples me." (Hove group, health problems)

How Is Air Quality Judged?

"The air looks dirty" (Fiveways, health problems)

- Most people detect air quality is poor by the effect it has on their health
- The smell, taste, feel and appearance of the air are also significant indicators

"The only time I notice it is when I'm stuck in a queue and it's a hot day and it stinks - that's the reason why we really ever think about it because it's in your face" (Hove, no health problems)

"On a hot day you can see it anyway, you get a band across the air just above the town (Fiveways, health problems)

"You can smell it, you can feel it, you can taste it" (Fiveways, health problems)



Communicating Information

"If you're asthmatic, then you'd want to know, but if it doesn't affect me, I don't care" (Hove, no health problems)

I think you should know as much as possible, or have the opportunity to find out as much as possible" (Hove, no health problems) have no idea what a relevant measure is - how many parts per million of CO2 is dangerous" (Hove, no health problems)

> "They tell you in the evening. By then you've been out in it all day" (lewes Road, no health problems)

"We want to know what it means - If it's high pollution, does it mean you shouldn't take babies out? That old ladies shouldn't go for their pensions? High and low are meaningless because we don't know the scale they're measuring on" (Lewes Road, no health problems)

"High and low it's meaningless...it feels like lip service ...I don't know what they're saying, I don't know what the stuff is anyway and it's annoying rather than interesting" Lewes Road, no health problems)

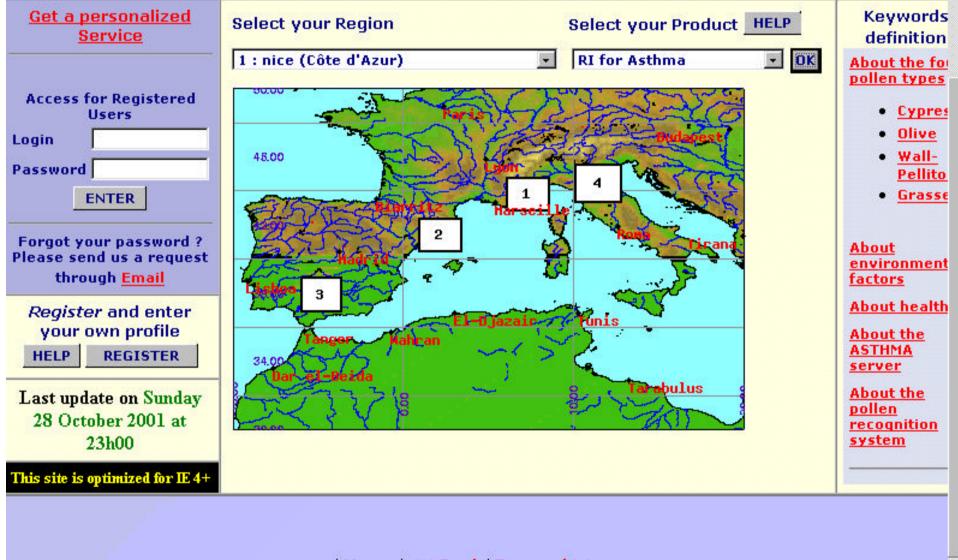
"It's boring, so I don't think you pay a lot of attention" (Lewes Road, no health problems)

Ideas for the Future

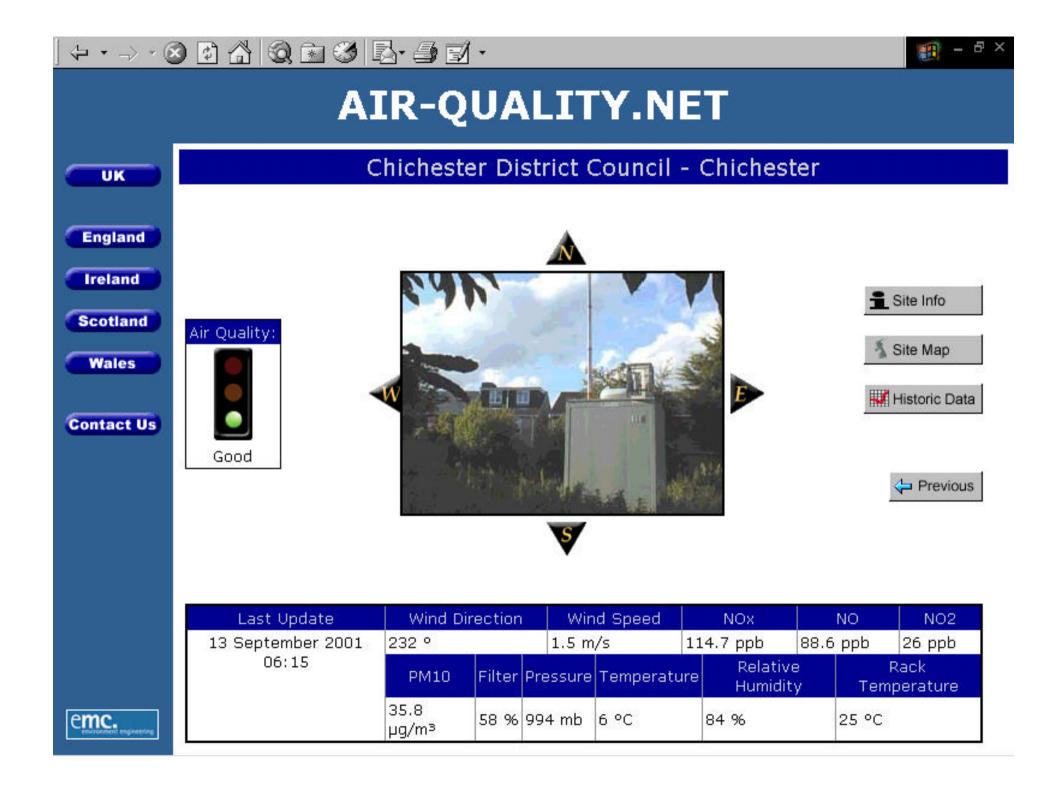


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This service offers high quality forecast on the most important aero-allergens in the Mediterranean area and derived information on envi-contamination Risk Index (RI) over 4 regions in Europe



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Railway Crossing Work

- West Sussex County Council has been experimenting with 'Cut Engine - Cut Pollution' signs at the two railway crossings close to Chichester Station, and a control site (data collected but no signs erected)
- Traffic, crossing gate, numbers of vehicles with engines turned off, and pollution information were all measured over several months before and after the signs were erected
- The study, undertaken between March and November 1998 found that 7.6% of car drivers turned engines off before the signs were erected: 17% did so 6 months after the signs were erected.
- CO pollution levels fell by up to 17% and NO₂ levels by about 15% during the a.m. peak hour at one crossing.



