



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# UK-Air Smoke Control Area GIS Tool

Guidebook

Version 1.1



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## Introduction

The purpose of this tool is to make information on Smoke Control Orders, Exemptions, and their location in England more accessible to the general public. Smoke Control Areas (SCA) are areas in which you cannot:

- emit a substantial amount of smoke from a chimney
- buy or sell unauthorised fuel for use in a smoke control area unless it's used in an ['exempt' appliance](#) (appliances which are approved to use in smoke control areas)

Certain buildings or areas of a Smoke Control Area may be exempt from Smoke Control Area rules. This means that financial penalties for emissions of smoke and/or offences relating to buying and selling of an unauthorised fuel would not apply. These areas are shown as 'Exemptions' on this tool.

The data displayed on this tool has been provided to Defra by local authorities. **Please note that the data displayed is indicative only, and you should always [contact your local authority](#) to find out if you live in an SCA.**

The dataset and this tool will also support local initiatives to help improve air quality in light of changes being made to the Clean Air Act 1993.

## Upcoming changes to Smoke Control Areas

The Environment Act has amended Part III of the Clean Air Act 1993 (CAA) and Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) to enable quicker, simpler and more proportionate enforcement of SCAs in England. The following changes will come into effect from **1 May 2022**:

- Local authorities in England will be able to issue financial penalties to those emitting smoke from their chimney in an SCA, as the criminal offence has been replaced with a civil penalty regime and the statutory defences (using an authorised fuel or exempt appliance) have been removed.
- The system of statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 has been extended to private dwellings in SCAs, so local authorities will be able to issue an abatement notice where smoke from chimneys causes a nuisance.
- Retailers of solid fuels will be under a duty to notify customers of the law regarding the purchase of certain solid fuels for use in SCAs. The limit on the fine for the current offence of delivering these fuels to a building in an SCA has also been removed, so fine levels will be imposed at the discretion of the Court.
- Local authorities will be able to bring moored vessels such as canal boats into the scope of SCAs subject to local public consultation. In such cases, chimney smoke from boats could be liable to a financial penalty.

Further guidance for local authorities on these new functions will be published in May. Defra will also update other relevant guidance on SCAs at this time.

# Licence

On opening the tool, you will be presented with an initial text on a Splash Screen that you should read. Figure 1 shows an image of how the Splash Screen appears to the user when opening the Tool.

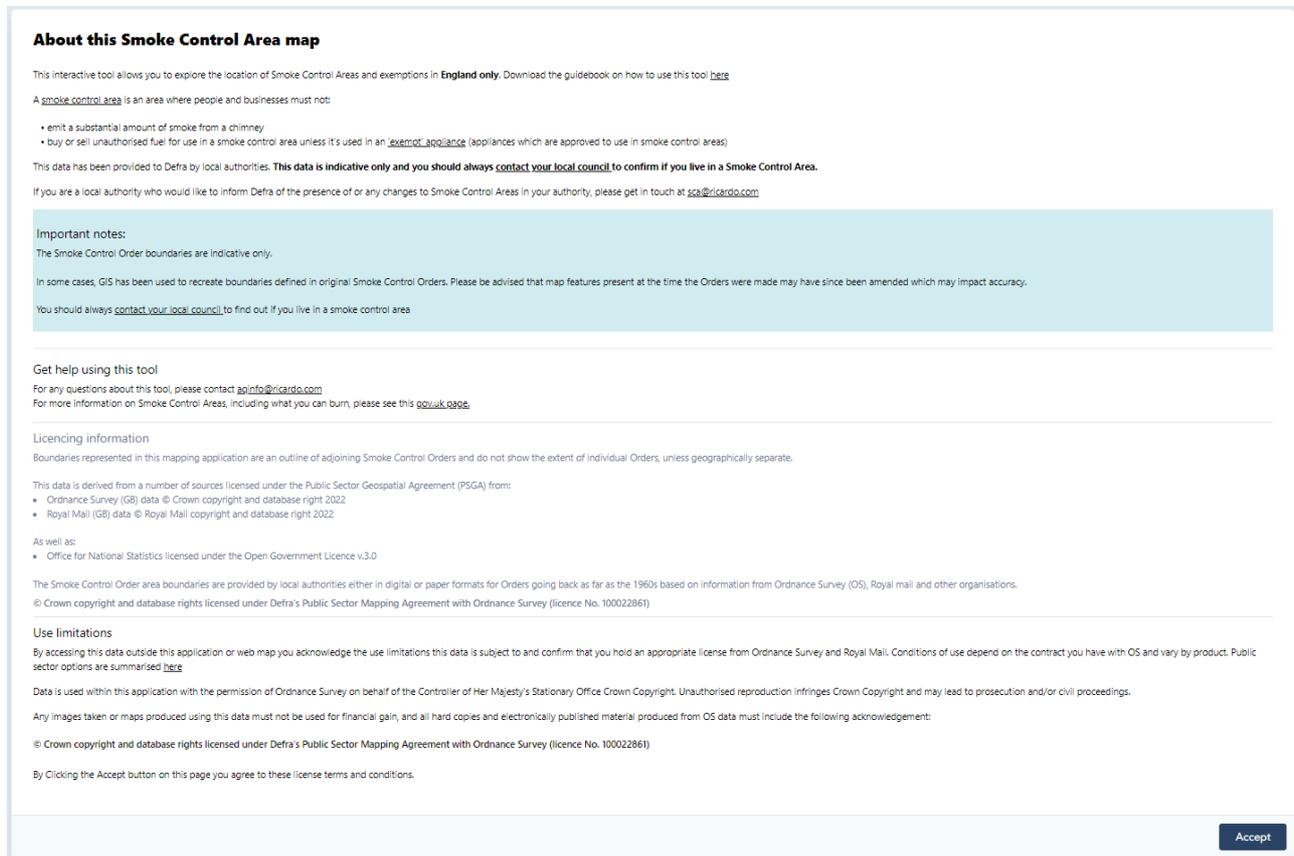


Figure 1 – Initial Splash Screen

**By clicking “Accept” or dismissing the Splash Screen page you are accepting the terms of the license which are as follows:**

Boundaries represented in this mapping application are an outline of adjoining Smoke Control Orders and do not show the extent of individual Orders, unless geographically separate.

This data is derived from a number of sources licensed under the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA) from:

- Ordnance Survey (GB) data © Crown copyright and database right 2022
- Royal Mail (GB) data © Royal Mail copyright and database right 2022

As well as:

- Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0

The Smoke Control Order area boundaries are provided by local authorities either in digital or paper formats for Orders going back as far as the 1960s based on information from Ordnance Survey (OS), Royal mail and other organisations.

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## Interacting with the Tool

The tool allows the user to view, interact and query two map layers:

- Smoke Control Area and Exemptions layer and,
- Local Authority layer.

The tool allows users to:

- 1) Turn each layer off/on independently
- 2) Change the transparency of the layer from a solid colour to fully transparent
- 3) Change the base map layer
- 4) Reset to default
- 5) Search a Postcode or address to zoom to
- 6) Query each feature in the layer with a mouse click
- 7) Retrieve the information of the active layer in a pop-up window

These actions are marked below (1-7) in figures 2 and 3.

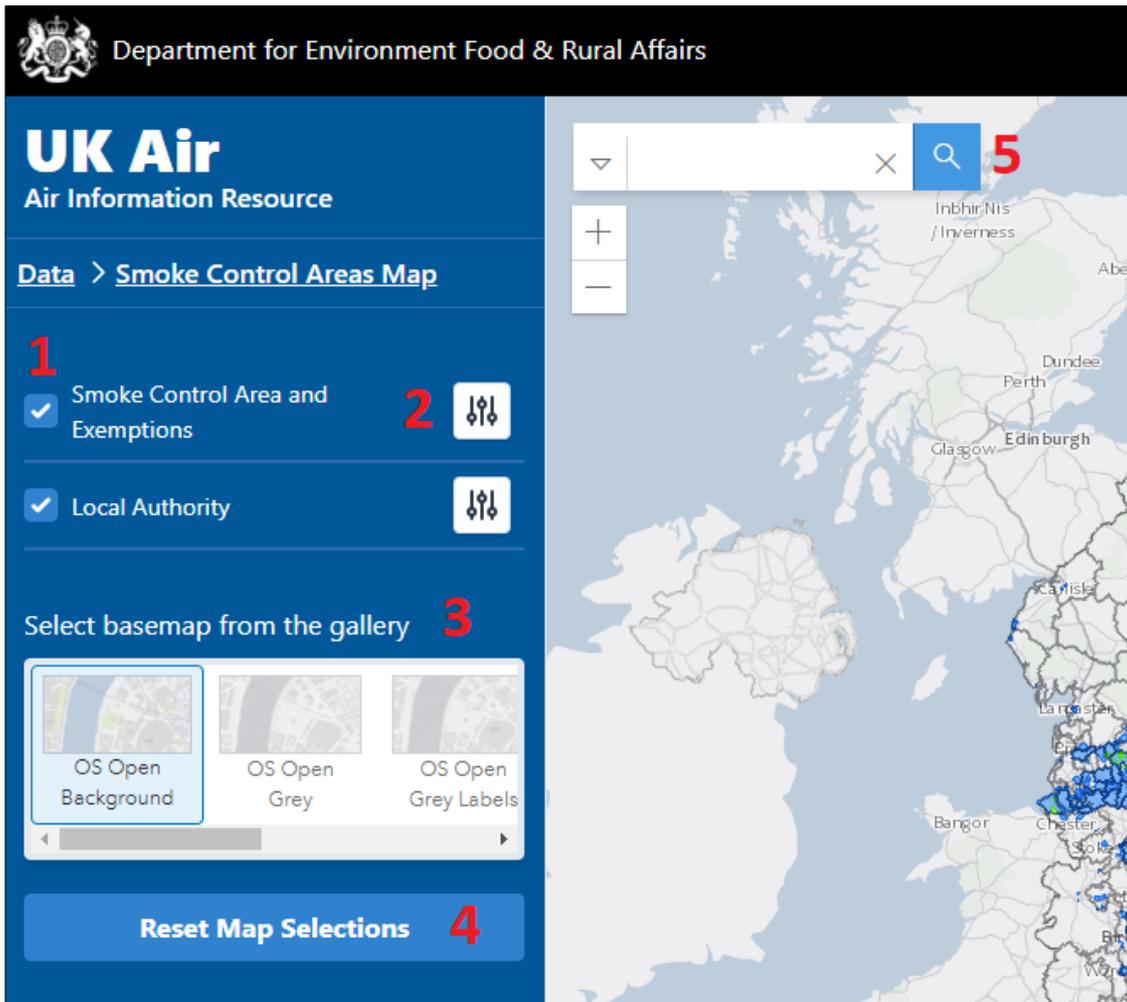


Figure 2 – SCA web app with interactions 1 to 5 highlighted with the respective number in red colour.

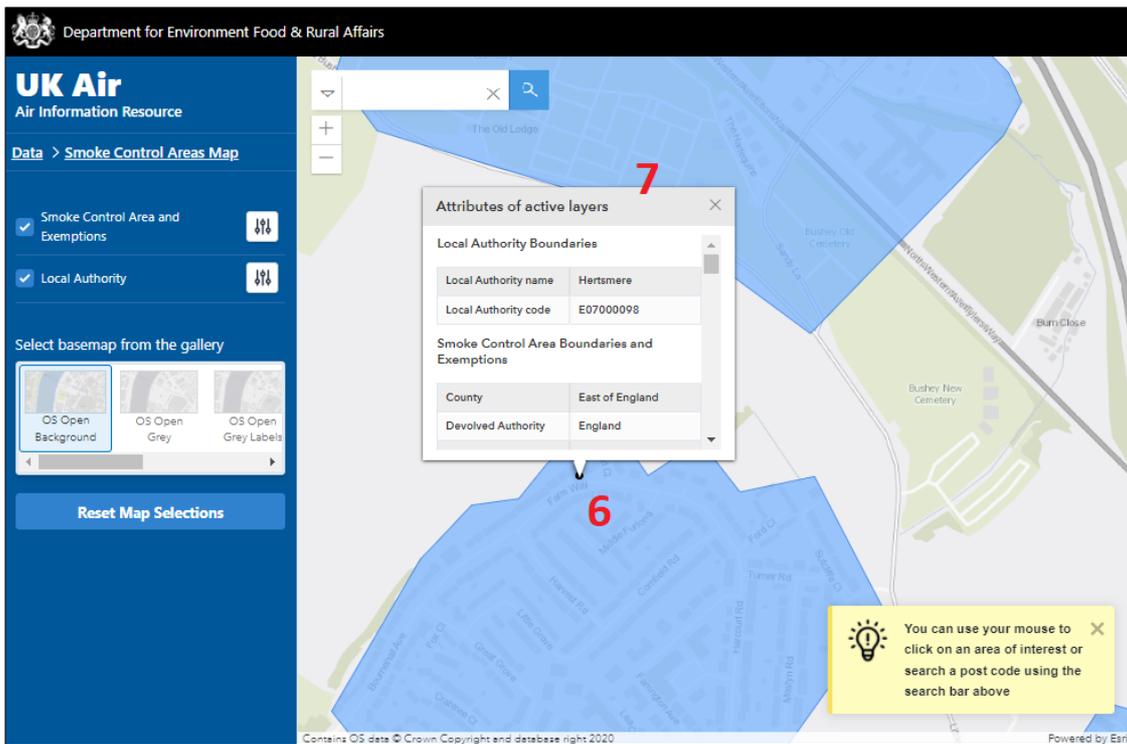


Figure 3 – SCA web app with interactions 6 to 7 highlighted with the respective number in red colour.

### User interactions on the left-hand side pane

The section shows the step-by-step actions available to the user using the left-hand side, with detailed images.

1. Tick the selection box to the left of the layer name to taggle a layer on or off (Figure 4). SCAs will be shown in blue on the map and exempt areas in green, while local authority boundaries are shown as a solid black outline, as depicted by the legend (Figure 5).

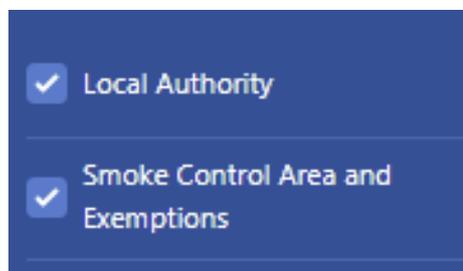


Figure 4 – Selection box to the left side of the tool

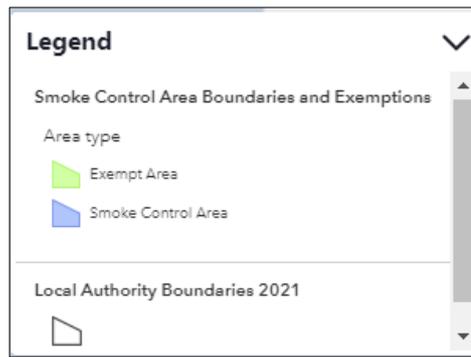


Figure 5 – Legend with style for Smoke Control Areas and Exemptions and Local Authorities boundaries.

2. Use the slider icon on the right of the layer name to change the layer transparency (Figure 6).

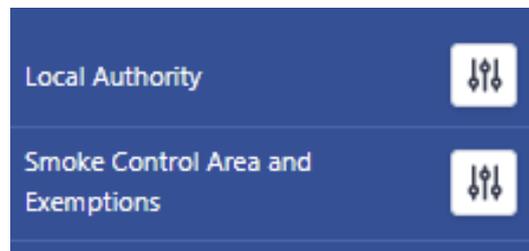


Figure 6 – Slider icon on the right of the layer name to change the transparency.

3. The base map can be changed by clicking on a different basemap name in the gallery. Use the slider bar to see more options (Figure 7).

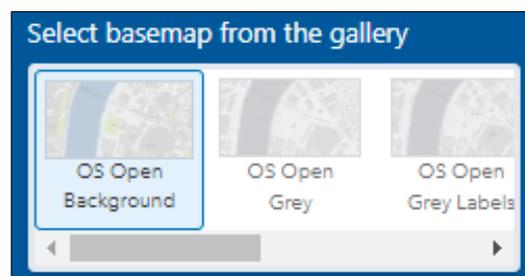


Figure 7 – Basemap gallery widget.

4. To reset the map to defaults, click the blue box 'Reset Map Selections' (Figure 8)

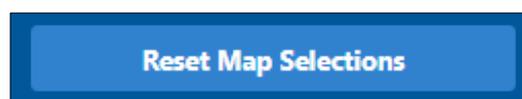


Figure 8 – Reset button.

## Postcode or address search

The section below shows the steps to make a postcode or address search, with detailed images.

1. The search bar allows the user to select the address source database. Options can be selected using the button on the left-hand side of the bar (Figure 9). By default all sources are selected with the option “All”

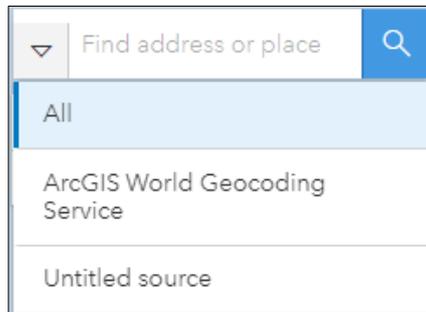


Figure 9 – Selection of address sources in the Search Bar

2. To search for a postcode or address in the search bar (Figure 10)



Figure 10 – Search Bar

3. Click on the bar and start entering the postcode or the address (Figure 11)



Figure 11 – Search Bar with a partial address

4. While entering the postcode or address the search bar will show a list of matching postcodes or addresses from the different sources as you type in a drop down (Figure 12).

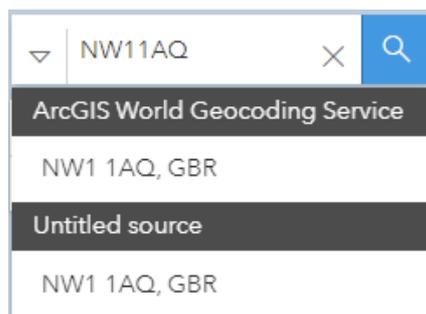


Figure 12 – Search Bar with list of matching addresses

- When pressing enter or the magnifier button the Tool will zoom to the selected postcode or address and drop a pin over the selected location (Figure 13).

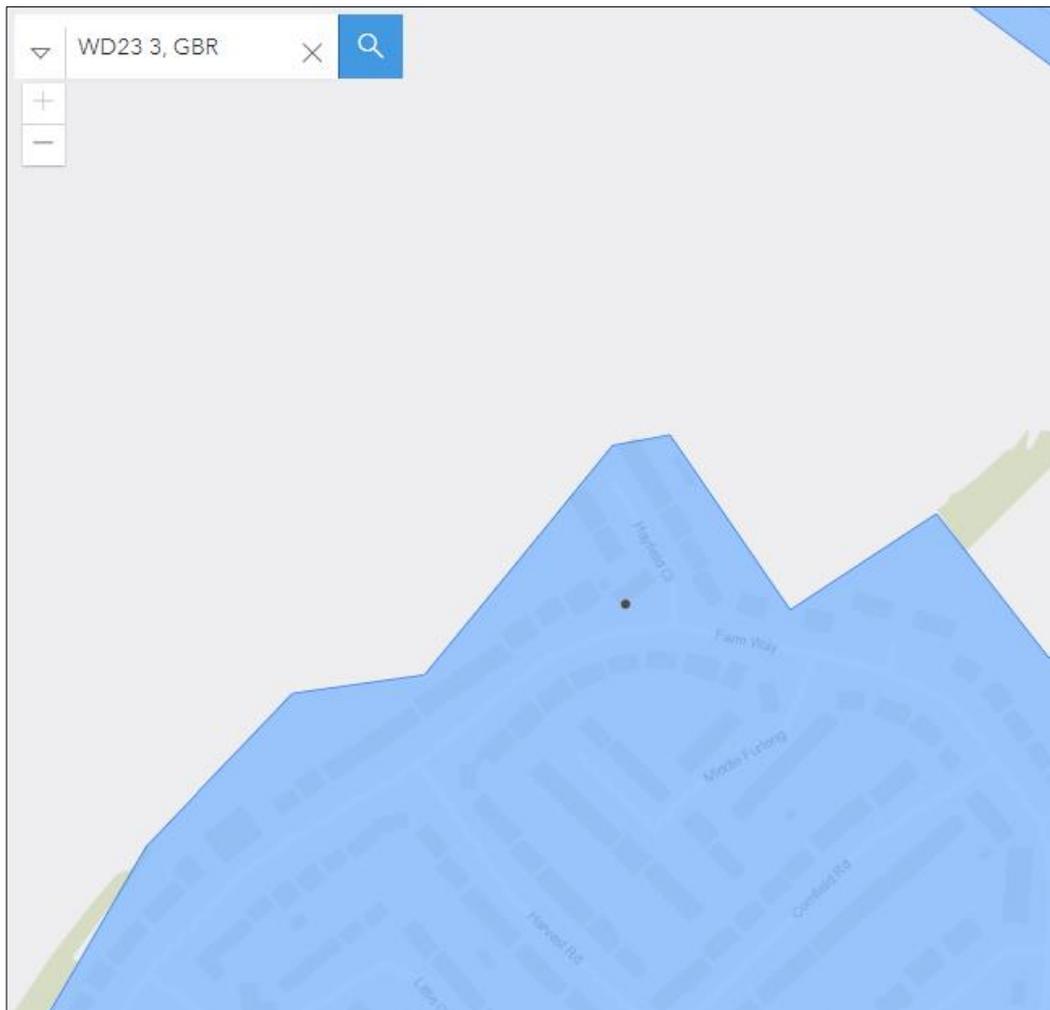


Figure 13 – Pin dropped over the selected location

- You can retrieve information about the location by clicking the mouse button on the map. Information will be retrieved and appear in a pop-up box. What text is displayed will depend on which layers are active (Figure 14). A breakdown of what information can be retrieved for the active layers is shown in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

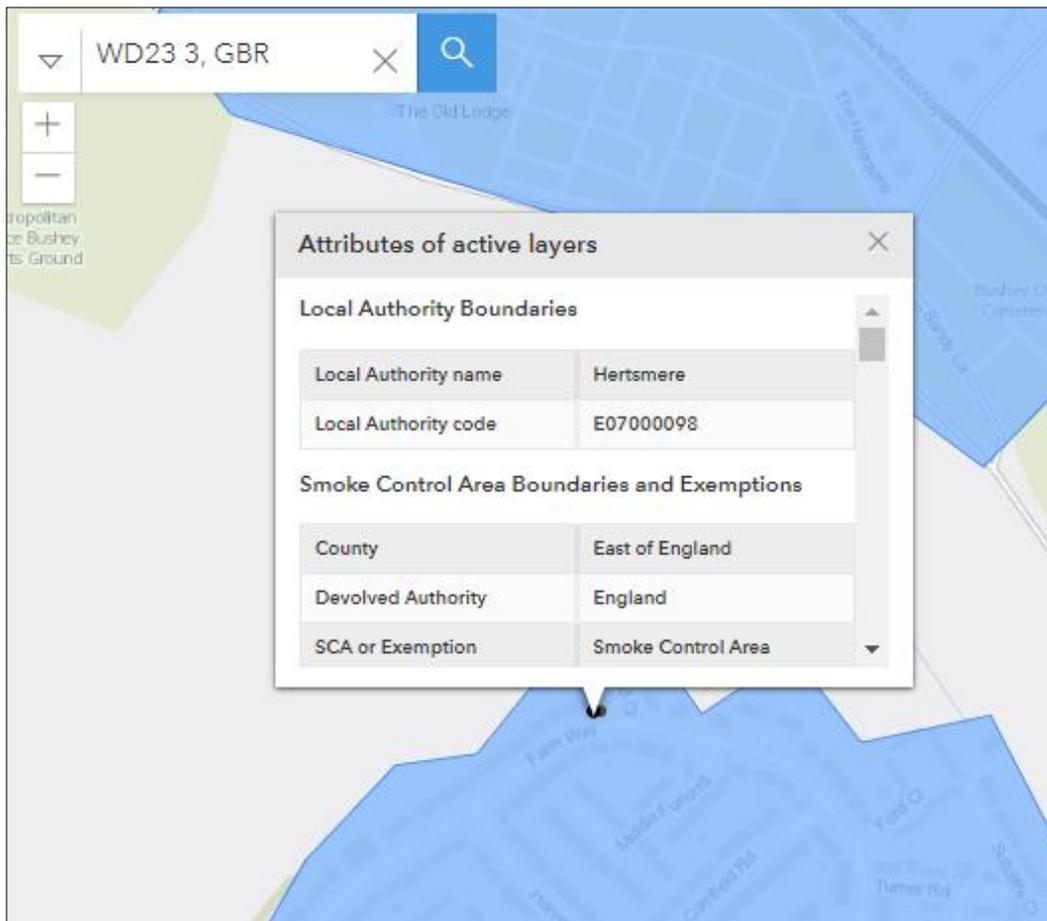


Figure 14 – Retrieved the pop-up box on mouse-click

In the list “Affected postcodes” the user can search for a specific postcode by clicking with the mouse within the list of postcodes and pressing the key on the keyboard [Ctrl+F]. This will open a browser search box as shown on the top right of Figure 15. The postcode can be entered in there and it will be automatically highlighted in the postcode list.

**Note:** The postcode list is not specific to individual SCA features, but it is a combined list of all the postcodes affected within the local authority, where the SCA feature boundary includes or crosses a postcode area.

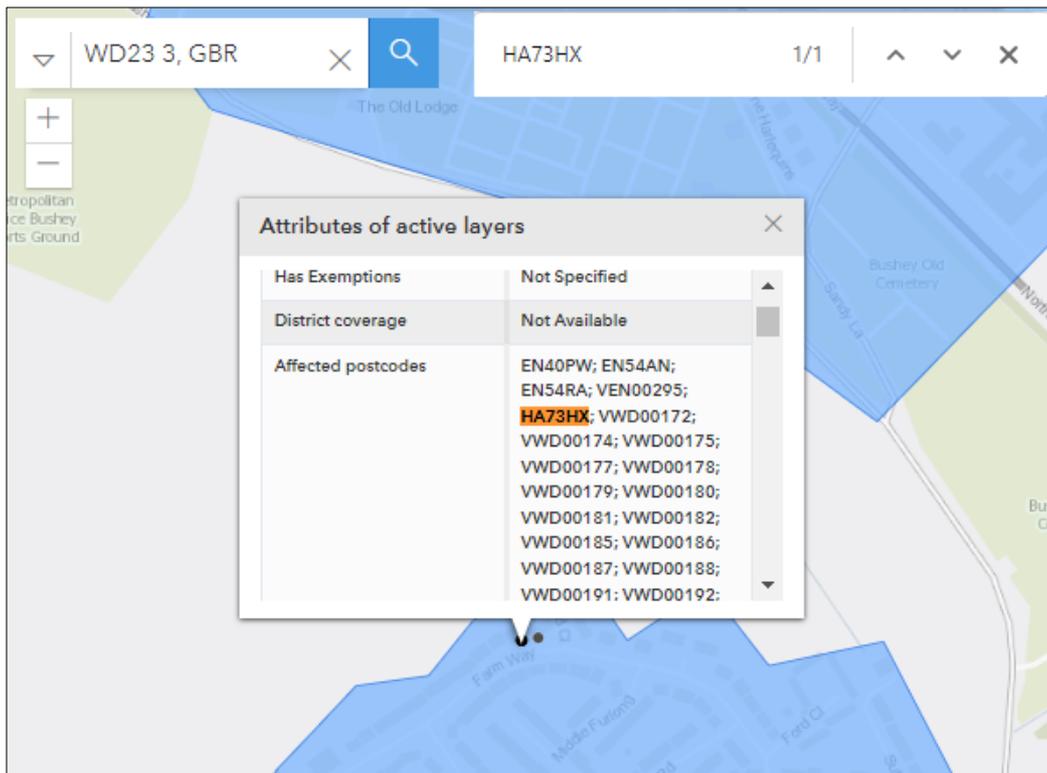


Figure 15 – Text search through the postcode list.

- To remove the selected postcode or address search and the pin on the map press the X button to clear the search bar (Figure 16)



Figure 16 – X button to clear the search

Table 1 – List of retrievable information with definition for the Local Authority layer.

Information Available	Definition
Local Authority name	The local authority name the selected location is contained within
Local Authority code	The local authority code the selected location is contained within. Code in accordance with the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

Table 2 – List of retrievable information with a definition for the Smoke Control Area and Exemptions layer

Information Available	Definition
County	The county the selected feature is contained within
Devolved Authority	The devolved authority the selected feature is located in
SCA or Exemption	Whether an SCA or exemption has been selected
Order Details	Details of any known exemptions. For more details, please contact the relevant local authority.
District Coverage	A flag that indicates if the SCA covers the entire district area (Entire Local Authority), partial (Partial) or not specified (Not Specified)
Affected Postcodes	List of postcodes within the selected SCA

### **Error reporting and getting help using this tool**

If you find any issues with the SCA data, please contact your local authority in the first place.

If you encounter any problems with the operation of this tool or need any help, please contact: [sca@ricardo.com](mailto:sca@ricardo.com).

### **If you are a Local Authority and wish to update the data displayed on the tool**

If you are a local authority who would like to inform Defra of the presence of or any changes to Smoke Control Areas in your authority, please get in touch at [sca@ricardo.com](mailto:sca@ricardo.com)