REPORT

Ratification of data produced by the UK Ambient Automatic Hydrocarbon Air Quality Network, 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

A report produced for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland

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1 Introduction

This report contains information on the quality and statistical parameters associated with ratified data from the UK Ambient Automatic Hydrocarbon Air Quality Network (The UK Hydrocarbon Network). The presented information and data cover the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005. The ratified data have been made available on the World Wide Web at http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/data and statistics home.php

This report contains:

- The definition of a Data Quality Code for each reported hydrocarbon.
- The Data Quality Codes assigned to the data presented on the web.
- A list of periods of data loss, reasons for data loss and descriptions of the most significant causes of data loss.
- Statistical information for each measured hydrocarbon.

In this report the unit used for expressing concentrations of gases is micrograms per cubic metre (μ g/m³), where some earlier reports have used parts per billion (ppb). This allows comparison to the relevant Air Quality Standards that are now expressed in micrograms per cubic metre (μ g/m³).

2 Hydrocarbon Data Quality

All hydrocarbon data are assigned a quality value. In general ratified hourly data have an uncertainty (at 95% confidence) of $\pm 10\%$ for values above 0.5 µg/m³ and ± 0.05 µg/m³ for values below 0.5 µg/m³. These data are termed 'good quality'.

In some cases, because of instrument problems, data cannot be described as 'good' quality, but the data may still be of use to modellers and is therefore included in the archive. This is termed 'acceptable' quality data, and has an uncertainty (at 95% confidence) of \pm 25% above 0.5 µg/m³ and \pm 0.1 µg/m³ below 0.5 µg/m³.

Data that do not meet either the 'good' or 'acceptable' criteria do not appear in the archive.

Previous reports have used five separate data quality codes to describe the data. The separate quality codes are derived on the basis of the proportion of monthly data that is deemed either 'good' or 'acceptable'. These codes are shown below:-

- A. all 'good' quality data
- B. most (> 75%) data points 'good', remainder 'acceptable' quality
- C. roughly equal numbers of 'good' and 'acceptable' quality data
- D. some (< 25%) data points 'good' quality; remainder 'acceptable' quality
- E. all points 'acceptable' quality

On examination of data reported since 2002, predominantly data codes A and E have been used. On this basis a decision has been made to rationalise on the data codes used and all future data will be reported according to the following data codes: -

A. all 'good' quality data B. all points 'acceptable' quality

3 Summary of Site Operational Issues

The following section provides a summary of data gaps and the main site operational problems during this reporting period. The number of hours and percentage of data lost is also given.

Site	Reason	Start date	End date	Hours	% Total hours
Cardiff	Calibrations			3	0.14
	Cabin refurbishment	10/05/05	30/06/05	1241	56.82
	Miscellaneous			5	0.23
Glasgow	Calibrations			33	1.51
	Carrier gas supply fault	11/04/05	20/04/05	212	9.71
	PC/GC communication problem	08/05/05	09/05/05	26	1.19
	PC/GC communication problem	16/06/05	17/06/05	27	1.24
Harwell	Calibrations			37	1.69
Marylebone	Calibrations			32	1.47
Road	Miscellaneous			5	0.23
Eltham	Calibrations			46	2.11
	Pump fault	17/04/05	20/04/05	72	3.30
	ESU service visit	20/04/05	21/04/05	21	0.96
	Mains power supply failure	22/05/05	24/05/05	53	2.43
	Miscellaneous			9	0.41

Table 1. Summary of data gaps

'Miscellaneous' is undocumented gaps in the data usually caused by computer systems resets or data deleted during the ratification process. These gaps are of short duration and typically \leq 2 hours.

4 Data Capture and Ratified Data

4.1 DATA CAPTURE TARGETS

The data capture values in previous reports have been presented as the number of ratified hourly data values expressed as a percentage of the total number of hours in the specified period. The EU Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management and it's associated Daughter Directives states that in calculating data capture, losses of data due to the regular calibration or normal maintenance of the instrument should not be considered. The periods where the instruments have been calibrated and routine maintenance undertaken have, therefore, been included in the total data capture of the period.

The 3rd Daughter Directive relating to ozone in ambient air, states that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) should be monitored to assess their concentrations as ozone precursor. A data capture target is not specified for ozone precursor VOCs, however, it is important to achieve high data capture for all measured VOCs. The 2nd daughter directive relating to limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air, sets the benzene minimum data capture target at 90%. The UK Air Quality Strategy suggests 1,3-butadiene data capture also be set to 90%. Defra have specified that all other VOC compounds have a minimum data capture of 50%.

Tables 1 to 5, Appendix 1 contain statistical information relating to the ratified data, for each measured hydrocarbon, over the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005. The tables list the percentage data capture, maximum concentration, mean concentration and minimum concentration of each hydrocarbon.

4.2 THE RATIFIED DATA

The data capture and data quality codes for each site for benzene and 1,3-butadiene are summarised in table 2 below. For comparison, the calculations of data capture using the previous method have been included.

Site	Pollutant	Data capture % (previously reported)	Data capture % (DD2 43)	Data Quality Code
Cardiff	Benzene	42.40	42.54	А
	1,3-Butadiene	42.45	42.59	В
Glasgow	Benzene	86.36	87.87	А
	1,3-Butadiene	86.36	87.87	А
Harwell	Benzene	96.25	97.94	А
	1,3-Butadiene	96.25	97.94	В
Marylebone	Benzene	97.02	98.49	А
Road	1,3-Butadiene	98.31	99.78	А
Eltham	Benzene	90.48	93.55	А
	1,3-Butadiene	86.68	89.75	А

Table 2. Data capture summary

4.2.1 Cardiff

For the Cardiff site the data capture for benzene was 42.54% and for 1,3-butadiene was 42.59%. Data quality code B is applied to 1,3-butadiene and quality code A for all other compounds for this quarter.

Refurbishment of the cabin at the Cardiff site commenced in May, and all equipment was removed by the CMCU. No data has been collected from 10^{th} May until the quarter end.

There have been no other significant problems for the period covered by this report.

4.2.2 Glasgow

For the Glasgow site the data capture for benzene was 87.87% and for 1,3-butadiene was 87.87%. Data quality code A is applied to all compounds for this quarter.

212 hours of data was lost in April, due to a fault with the nitrogen carrier gas supply. A nitrogen carrier gas leak occurred on 11^{th} April; the local site operator was unable to rectify the fault and the analyser was switched off. The carrier gas supply was restored by the LSO on 20^{th} April.

There have been no other significant problems for the period covered by this report.

It should be noted that the hydrocarbon instrumentation at the Glasgow site samples air through a separate inlet from that used for the inorganic measurements. The inlet for the inorganic measurements is within one metre from the kerb and hence these are classed as kerbside measurements. The sample inlet for the hydrocarbon measurements is more than one metre from the kerb (but less than five metres) and hence these are classed as roadside measurements.

4.2.3 Harwell

For the Harwell site the data capture for benzene was 97.94% and for 1,3-butadiene was 97.94%. Data quality code B is applied to 1,3-butadiene and quality code A for all other compounds for this quarter.

Data capture for Ethylbenzene failed to reach 50%, due to poor integration of the peak at low concentrations.

There have been no significant problems for the period covered by this report.

4.2.4 Marylebone Road

For the Marylebone Road site the data capture for benzene was 98.49% and for 1,3-butadiene was 99.78%. Data quality code A is applied to all compounds for this quarter.

There have been no significant problems for the period covered by this report.

4.2.5 Eltham

For the Eltham site the data capture for benzene was 93.55% and for 1,3-butadiene was 89.75%. Data quality code A is applied to all compounds for this quarter.

A sample pump failure occurred on the 17th April resulting in the loss of 72 hours of data. The pump was replaced on 20th April during the ESU service visit. A mains power supply interruption in May resulted in 53 hours of lost data. The analyser was restarted on 24th May.

There have been no other significant problems for the period covered by this report.

4.3 1,3-BUTADIENE DATA FOR THE VOC71M

During the process of calculating response factors for the data covered in this report it was observed that the 1,3-butadiene peak had merged with a neighbouring peak, trans-2-butene, in the chromatograms of the calibration samples. The reported peak areas for 1,3-butadiene in the standards were therefore, overestimated. As a result an accurate response factor for 1,3-butadiene could not be generated, as the degree of overestimation could not be accurately quantified.

An alternative approach was used to generate the response factor for 1,3-butadiene. The response factor for cis-2-butene, a well-resolved peak, was used to derive a response factor for 1,3-butadiene. The relative response factors for 1,3-butadiene and cis-2-butene are fairly constant over time when both peaks are well resolved. The cis-2-butene response factor and relative response factor were used to derive a response factor for 1,3-butadiene.

It is likely that this approach generates a relatively accurate response factor for 1,3-butadiene. However due to the increased uncertainty associated with this method, all the 1,3-butadiene data at Cardiff and Harwell has been assigned data quality code B.

4.4 CONCENTRATION TRENDS

The periods when data for benzene and 1,3-butadiene were available, for all the sites, are plotted graphically in Figures 1 to 10, Appendix 2. The measured concentrations of 1,3-butadiene fell below 0.02 μ g/m³ on a number of occasions see Figures 2, 4, 6 and 8, Appendix 2. Where concentrations fell below 0.02 μ g/m³ the ratified concentrations have been reported as 0.00 μ g/m³.

At Cardiff, Harwell and Eltham the measured concentrations of hydrocarbons were low for most of the period covered by this report. At these urban background and rural sites there tends to be a pattern of seasonal variation with higher levels during the winter when dispersion is generally poorer and photochemical removal is at a minimum.

The Glasgow and Marylebone Road data tend to exhibit higher levels with less seasonal variation than is apparent in data from the other three sites. The measured concentrations and trends are typical of sites close to busy roads where the source of the measured hydrocarbons is close to the monitoring location, and they will have had little time to mix and react in the atmosphere. The measured concentrations at Marylebone Road for April to June 2005 exhibited no significant episodes of elevated concentrations. There is insufficient information to provide an explanation of the observed difference in the trends from site to site, although spatial variations in meteorological conditions may well be the cause. The variation in trends from site to site is probably due to variations in atmospheric dispersion.

A comparison between Marylebone Road and Eltham has been made to look at the relationship between a roadside site and an urban background site, measuring the same air mass. Figure 4, Appendix 3, shows that the ratio between the compounds measured is very similar at both sites, with levels at Eltham approximately half of those at Marylebone Road.

Figure 5, Appendix 3, graphically shows the increase in isoprene over the quarter. Due to seasonal variation and temperature increase, isoprene levels began to rise in late May. These elevated levels continued to rise reaching a maximum hourly mean for the quarter of $5.43 \,\mu\text{g/m}^3$ at 18.00 on 20 June 2005. In winter isoprene is well correlated to anthropogenic emissions. However during the growing season the isoprene can be attributed to strong emissions from vegetation (biogenic sources).

4.5 COMPARISON WITH AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES

The Air Quality Strategy for the UK has set Air Quality Objectives for benzene and 1,3-butadiene. The Air Quality Objective for benzene in the UK is 16.25 μ g/m³ expressed as a running annual mean to be met by 31 December 2003. In England and Wales there is an additional objective for benzene of 5 μ g/m³ expressed as an annual mean to be met by end of 2010. In Scotland a more stringent objective has been set for benzene of 3.25 μ g/m³ to be met by the end of 2010. The Air Quality Objective for 1,3-butadiene is specified as a running annual mean of 2.25 μ g/m³ to be met by the end of 2003.

The annual means for benzene and 1,3-butadiene for 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 together with the quarterly mean for the first and second quarter of 2005 are given in Tables 3 and 4 below and can be seen graphically in Appendix 3. For benzene the annual means for 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 were well below the Air Quality Objective of 16.25 μ g/m³ to be met by the end of 2003. The annual means for 2004 were also below the Air Quality Objective to be met by 2010 for the respective region.

The means for benzene and 1,3-butadiene for quarter 2, 2005 were was lower than the means for quarter 1, 2005.

Monitoring Site	2001	2002	2003	2004	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	2005	2005
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Cardiff Centre	\$\$	1.22\$	1.17	0.84	0.84	0.65
Glasgow	\$\$\$	2.33 \$	1.82	1.40	1.49	1.07
Harwell	0.62	0.60	0.59	0.40	0.58	0.29
Marylebone Road	4.55	3.91	3.32	2.75	2.14	2.08
Eltham	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	0.76	0.97	0.62

Table 3. Means of measured benzene concentrations ($\mu g/m^3$) at each of the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Sites.

\$ Annual means calculated from significantly less than 12 months data.

\$\$ The Cardiff Centre site was installed on 5th September 2002.

\$\$\$ The Glasgow site was installed on 1st August 2002.

\$\$\$\$ The Eltham site was installed on 17th October 2003.

Table 4. Means of measured 1,3-butadiene concentrations (μ g/m³) at each of the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Sites.

Monitoring Site	2001	2002	2003	2004	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	2005	2005
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Cardiff Centre	\$\$	0.15\$	0.15	0.11	0.07	0.04
Glasgow	\$\$\$	0.36\$	0.42	0.28	0.20	0.18
Harwell	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Marylebone Road	1.12	0.95	0.64	0.56	0.43	0.45
Eltham	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	0.15	0.13	0.07

\$ Annual means calculated from significantly less than 12 months data.

\$\$ The Cardiff Centre site was installed on 5th September 2002.

\$\$\$ The Glasgow site was installed on 1st August 2002.

\$\$\$\$ The Eltham site was installed on 17th October 2003.

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Table 1. Percentage data capture, maximum, mean and minimum values of the ratified data from the Cardiff site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Compound	% Data	Maximum	Mean	Minimum hourly
	capture	hourly	concentration	concentration
		concentration	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)
		(µg/m³)		
1,3-Butadiene	42.59	0.81	0.04	0.00
Benzene	42.54	3.24	0.65	0.03
Toluene	42.95	8.19	2.37	0.38
Ethylbenzene	32.51	4.36	0.35	0.04
(m+p)-Xylene *	42.45	10.93	0.97	0.09
o-Xylene	34.98	8.55	0.48	0.04

* (m+p)-Xylene data are reported as the sum of the 2 individual components due to the fact that they are not sufficiently well resolved in the chromatogram.

Table 2. Percentage data capture maximum, mean and minimum values of ratified data from the Glasgow site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Compound	0/ Data	Maximum	Maan	Minimum
Compound	% Data	Maximum	Mean	
	capture	hourly	concentration	hourly
		concentration	(µg/m³)	concentration
		(µg/m³)		(µg/m³)
1,3-Butadiene	87.87	1.77	0.18	0.00
Benzene	87.87	3.73	1.07	0.16
Toluene	87.87	23.72	3.21	0.42
Ethylbenzene	87.45	3.13	0.57	0.04
(m+p)-Xylene *	87.59	8.86	2.03	0.26
o-Xylene	87.59	36.76	1.63	0.31

* (m+p)-Xylene data are reported as the sum of the 2 individual components due to the fact that they are not sufficiently well resolved in the chromatogram.

Table 3. Percentage data capture, maximum, mean and minimum values of ratified data from the Harwell site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Compound	% Data capture	Maximum hourly concentration (µg/m ³)	Mean concentration (µg/m ³)	Minimum hourly concentration (µg/m ³)
1,3-Butadiene	97.94	2.09	0.02	0.00
Benzene	97.94	1.98	0.29	0.00
Toluene	94.27	6.31	0.73	0.04
Ethylbenzene	49.81	1.28	0.18	0.04
(m+p)-Xylene *	84.98	4.54	0.48	0.04
o-Xylene	65.11	1.59	0.22	0.04

* (m+p)-Xylene data are reported as the sum of the 2 individual components due to the fact that they are not sufficiently well resolved in the chromatogram.

Table 4. Percentage data capture, maximum, mean and minimum values of ratified data from the Marylebone Road site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Compound	% Data	Maximum	Mean	Minimum
	capture	hourly	concentration	hourly
		concentration	(µg/m ³)	concentration
		(µg/m³)		(µg/m³)
Ethane	99.78	59.00	8.22	2.22
Ethene	99.82	15.69	3.81	0.26
Propane	99.82	112.76	4.83	0.90
Propene	99.82	9.26	2.08	0.21
Ethyne	99.82	21.62	3.73	0.27
2-Methylpropane	99.82	33.71	3.59	0.31
n-Butane	99.82	76.15	7.16	0.55
trans-2-Butene	99.82	4.89	0.56	0.16
1-Butene	99.68	3.75	0.51	0.05
cis-2-Butene	99.82	3.54	0.35	0.05
2-Methylbutane	99.82	145.82	9.97	0.57
n-Pentane	99.82	34.37	2.93	0.27
1,3-Butadiene	99.78	2.90	0.45	0.04
trans-2-Pentene	99.55	6.75	0.64	0.03
cis-2-Pentene	99.09	3.41	0.35	0.00
2-Methylpentane	99.82	25.82	3.00	0.21
3-Methylpentane	99.64	14.84	1.82	0.07
Isoprene	99.04	4.13	0.37	0.03
n-Hexane	76.84	6.65	1.22	0.07
n-Heptane	97.39	16.55	0.62	0.04
Benzene	98.49	9.57	2.08	0.16
Toluene	99.68	74.28	9.91	0.42
Ethylbenzene	99.32	9.03	1.54	0.09
(m+p)-Xylene *	99.36	31.56	5.60	0.26
o-Xylene	99.78	11.99	2.12	0.09
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	99.64	4.69	0.70	0.05
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	99.46	13.42	2.59	0.20

* (m+p)-Xylene are reported as the sum of the 2 individual components due to the fact that they are not sufficiently well resolved in the chromatogram.

Table 5. Percentage data capture, maximum, mean and minimum values of ratified data from the Eltham site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Compound	% Data	Maximum	Mean	Minimum
	capture	hourly	concentration	hourly
		concentration	(µg/m³)	concentration
		(µg/m³)		(µg/m³)
Ethane	92.86	39.04	4.63	1.10
Ethene	91.62	6.01	0.76	0.02
Propane	93.55	17.29	2.31	0.00
Propene	93.09	2.92	0.38	0.02
Ethyne	88.88	3.42	0.46	0.02
2-Methylpropane	93.59	17.31	1.35	0.10
n-Butane	93.68	26.02	2.36	0.19
trans-2-Butene	93.78	0.77	0.14	0.07
1-Butene	93.13	1.51	0.12	0.00
cis-2-Butene	93.59	0.58	0.07	0.02
2-Methylbutane	93.73	22.54	2.10	0.06
n-Pentane	93.68	5.06	0.57	0.03
1,3-Butadiene	89.75	0.70	0.07	0.00
trans-2-Pentene	86.82	0.55	0.06	0.00
cis-2-Pentene	75.83	0.29	0.03	0.00
2-Methylpentane	93.64	6.51	0.46	0.04
3-Methylpentane	93.36	4.47	0.32	0.04
Isoprene	91.35	5.43	0.28	0.00
n-Hexane	93.23	9.37	0.29	0.04
n-Heptane	92.58	1.46	0.21	0.04
Benzene	93.55	3.05	0.62	0.16
Toluene	92.04	19.62	2.03	0.15
Ethylbenzene	90.11	2.95	0.35	0.04
(m+p)-Xylene *	84.48	12.16	1.15	0.13
o-Xylene	89.56	4.67	0.44	0.04
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	77.06	2.39	0.25	0.00
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	59.16	7.68	0.80	0.15

* (m+p)-Xylene are reported as the sum of the 2 individual components due to the fact that they are not sufficiently well resolved in the chromatogram.

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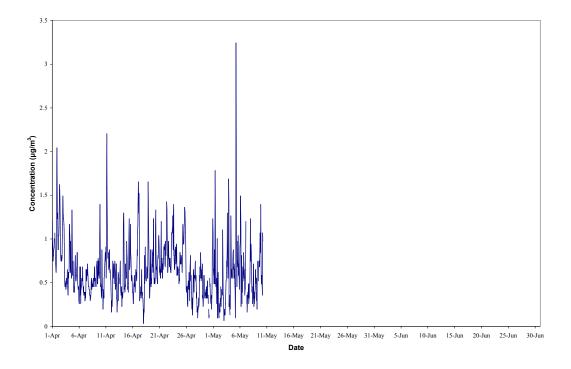


Figure 1. Time series plot of the ratified benzene data from the Cardiff site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

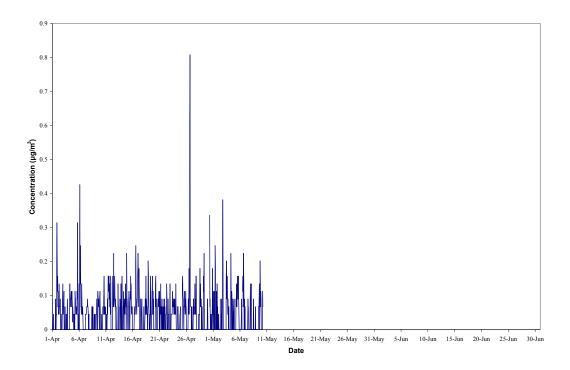


Figure 2. Time series plot of the ratified 1,3-butadiene data from the Cardiff site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

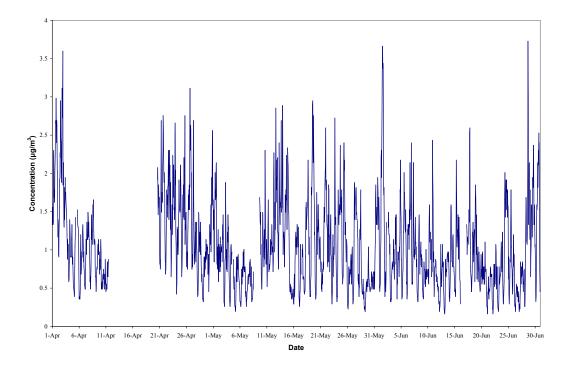


Figure 3. Time series plots for the ratified benzene data from the Glasgow site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

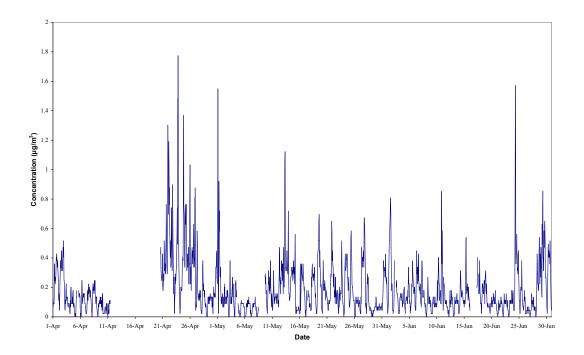


Figure 4. Time series plots for the ratified 1,3-butadiene data from the Glasgow site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

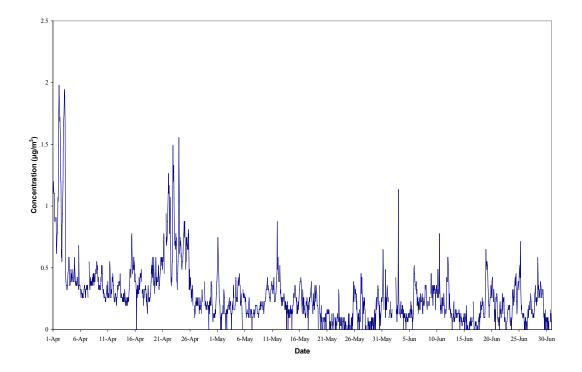


Figure 5. Time series plots for the ratified benzene data from the Harwell site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

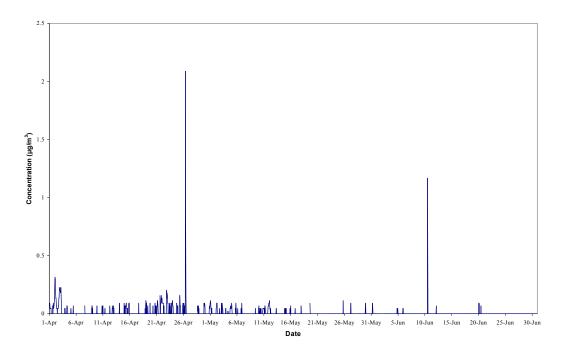


Figure 6. Time series plots for the ratified 1,3-butadiene data from the Harwell site of The UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

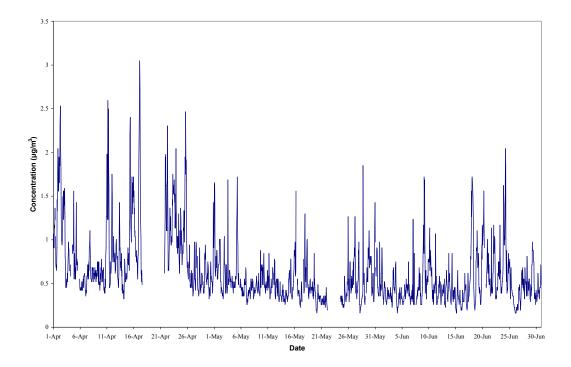


Figure 7. Time series plots for the ratified benzene data from the Marylebone Road site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

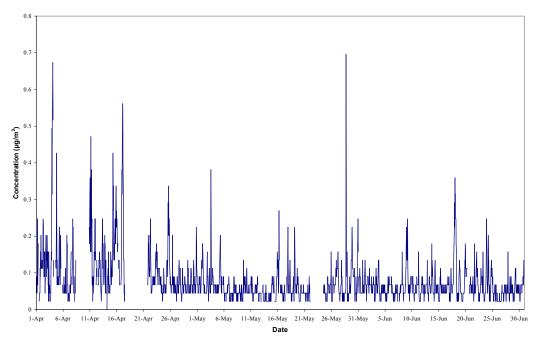


Figure 8. Time series plots for the ratified 1,3-butadiene data from the Marylebone Road site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

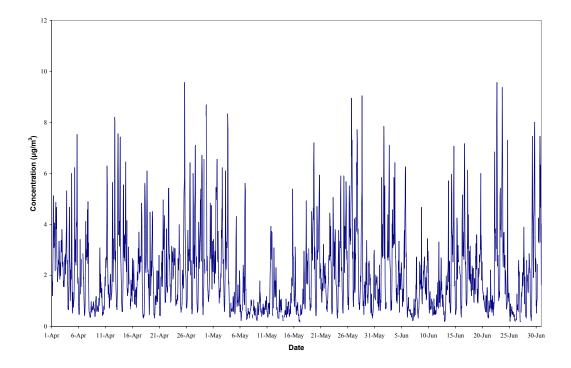


Figure 9. Time series plots for the ratified benzene data from the Eltham site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

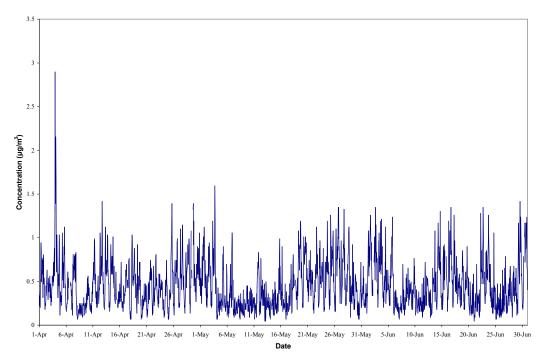


Figure 10. Time series plots for the ratified 1,3-butadiene data from the Eltham site affiliated to the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

Appendix 3 Annual and Quarterly Mean Plots

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- Figure 5. Time series plot of the ratified isoprene data from the Eltham site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

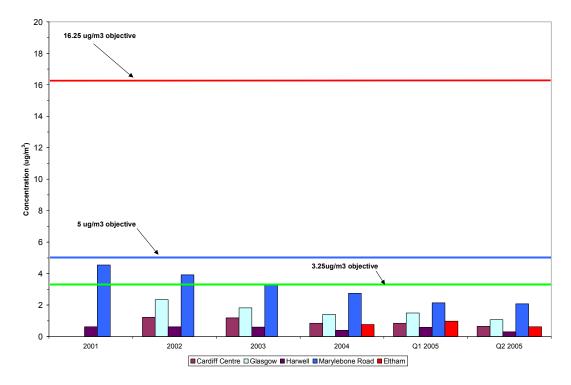


Figure 1. Mean benzene concentrations for the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Network, 2001-2004 and quarter 1, 2005

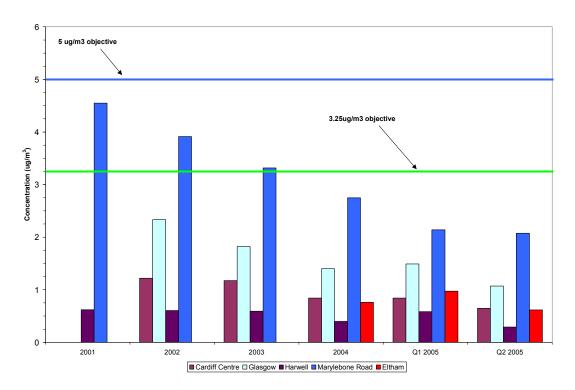


Figure 2. Mean Benzene concentrations for the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Network, 2001-2004 and quarter 1, 2005 (magnified y-axis)

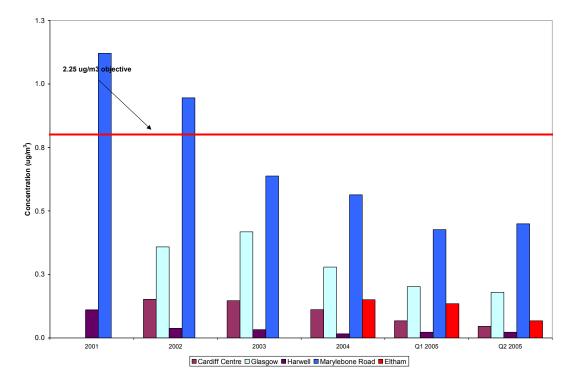


Figure 3. Mean 1,3-Butadiene concentrations for the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Network, 2001-2004 and quarter 1, 2005

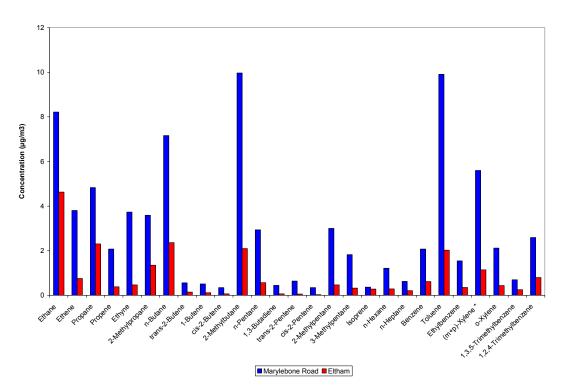


Figure 4.Mean concentrations for all compounds measured at Marylebone road and Eltham for the UK Automatic Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005

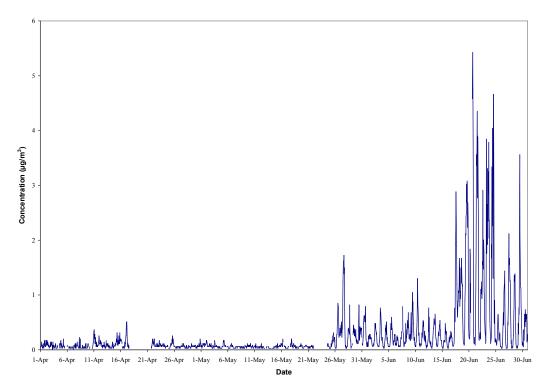


Figure 5. Time series plot of the ratified isoprene data from the Eltham site of the UK Hydrocarbon Network, for the period; 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005