



## High Peak Borough Council

### Smoke Control Area Information Booklet.



This booklet contains supporting information regarding rules and regulations within a Smoke Control Area (SCA), along with health impacts from burning and further links for you to find out more prior to completing the Smoke Control Area survey that we have created.

## Overview:

This consultation aims at obtaining the views of residents, businesses, and stakeholders on High Peak Borough Council's current proposal to make changes to the current SCAs, to cover a larger part of the borough.

This is part of wider efforts to improve air quality and improve public health across the borough.

The current SCAs across the High Peak cover parts of Glossop, Buxton, Hadfield, Padfield and Gamesley, shown below in figure 1.



Figure 1 – A map showing the current High Peak SCAs. [Interactive Planning Map](#), 2026.

## What is a Smoke Control Area?

Under the [Clean Air Act 1993](#), Local Authorities can designate SCAs. In these areas, it is an offence:

- To emit substantial smoke from a chimney
- To buy or sell unauthorised fuel for use in a smoke control area, unless it is to be used in an exempt appliance.

Unauthorised fuel is any fuel that is **not listed** on Defra's [Authorised/Certified Fuels list](#). Wood is an example of an unauthorised fuel – if you live in an SCA, you can only burn wood in an **exempt appliance**.

An exempt appliance is any stove that has been approved by Defra for use in smoke control areas, following emissions tests. Find out if you have an exempt appliance by checking the list on [Defra's website](#).

## Why are we doing this?

All domestic burning, but particularly the burning of wood and coal, can potentially have significant negative impacts on public health due to air pollution.

## Health impacts from air pollution...

- Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) released during combustion has the ability to penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, affecting every organ in the [body](#), and leading to or exacerbating various health issues. This includes the brain, lungs, cardiovascular system, metabolism, kidneys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, bones and skin.
- There is no safe level of air pollution and despite concentrations of many pollutants falling rapidly in the last three decades, it remains a major cause of chronic ill health as well as premature mortality.
- A recent [report](#) by the Royal College of Physicians estimates that the statistical equivalent of around 30,000 deaths a year in the UK were attributed to air pollution in 2025.

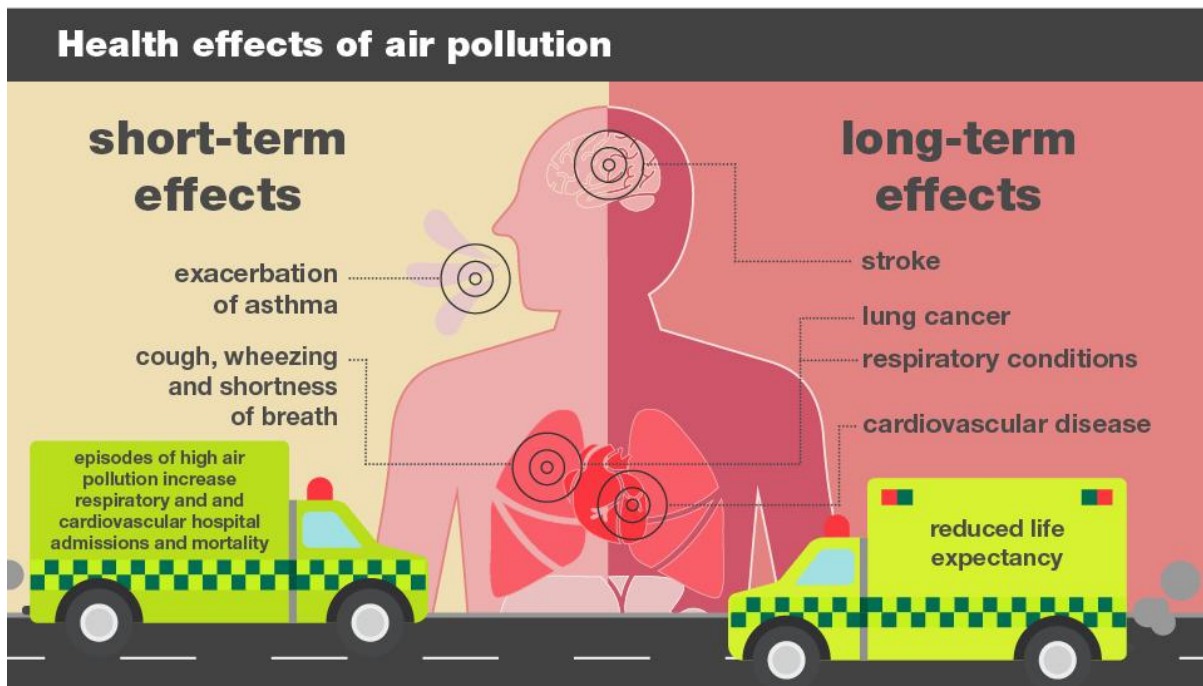


Figure 2 – some of the short-term and long-term health effects of breathing polluted air. Public Health England, [2018](#).

### Emissions:

Burning domestic solid fuels at home is a key source of PM2.5 emissions. The main solid fuels burned in the home include:

- Traditional house coal (or bituminous coal) – a naturally occurring mined product.
- Smokeless coal (or anthracite) – a form of naturally occurring, mined, high-purity coal.
- Manufactured solid fuels – fuels manufactured from coal products with other ingredients that have low smoke emissions.
- Wet wood – a naturally occurring product.
- Seasoned wood – wood that has been left for at least two years to naturally air dry.
- Kiln dried wood – wood that has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture.

For air pollution emissions, there is substantial difference between the different open fire and stove designs, the age of the appliance and how well maintained it is, and the moisture content of the wood, for those who want to burn wood. In urban areas, burning wood has the potential to [worsen](#) local air quality significantly.

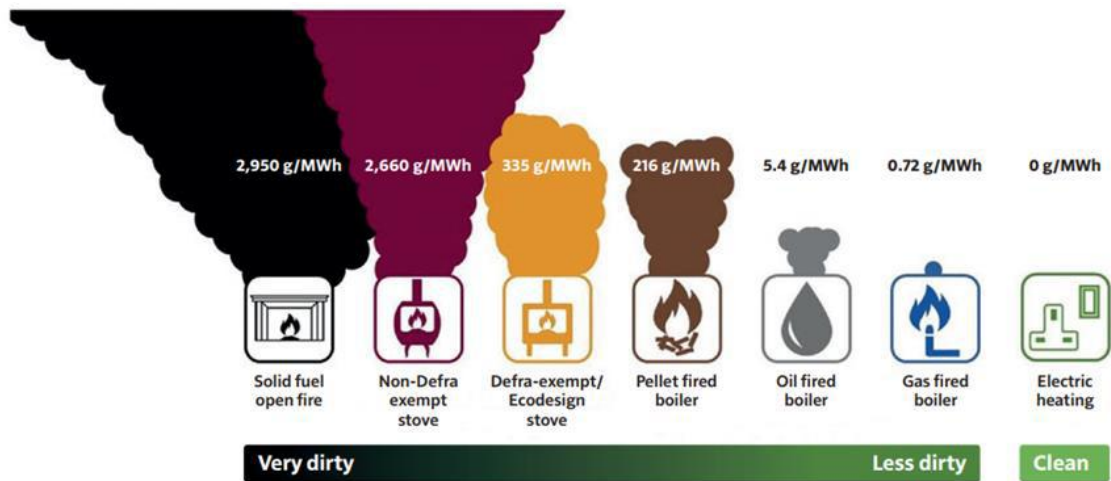


Figure 3 - Different methods of domestic burning emit different amounts of PM2.5 relative to each other. Defra, [2018](#).

### Summary:

By increasing Smoke Control Areas across our district, there will be restrictions on what can be burnt. This in turn will reduce the amount of particulate matter being released into the air and therefore reduce the amount of particulate matter being breathed into our bodies and entering our blood stream.

We hope that if Smoke Control Areas are increased, air pollution will reduce and public health shall improve.

### Scale of the problem

It is estimated that **long-term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK** has an annual effect equivalent to:



**28,000 to 36,000 deaths**

Over the following 18 years a **1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> reduction in fine particulate air pollution in England** could prevent around:



**50,900** cases of coronary heart disease

**16,500** strokes



**9,300** cases of asthma

**4,200** lung cancers

Figure 4 – deaths attributed to long-term air pollution exposure in the UK. Public Health England, [2018](#).

### **What Can You Do?**

We would like to hear from you. What do you think about the potential changes to SCAs?

Electronic copies of the SCA consultation survey can be found here:

[\*\*High Peak Borough Council Smoke Control Area Public Consultation – Fill in form\*\*](#)

Please complete the online survey by **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2026**.

If you wish to complete the survey in paper format, copies of these can be found in Buxton Town Hall, Glossop library, Hadfield library, New Mills library and Whaley Bridge library.

Please see the following links below for more information on SCA rules:

[Smoke Control Areas - do you know the rules? A practical guide](#)

[Clean Air Act 1993](#)

[DEFRA exempt appliances](#)

[DEFRA authorised fuels](#)

Please see the following links to read more on the health impacts of air pollution:

[RCP Report](#)

[Public Health England](#)