

A Spatial Analysis of Atmospheric Ammonia and Ammonium in the U.K.

M.A. Sutton^{1,*}, Y.S. Tang¹, U. Dragosits^{1,2}, N. Fournier^{1,3},
A.J. Dore¹, R.I. Smith¹, K.J. Weston³, and D. Fowler¹

¹Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh Research Station, Bush Estate, Penicuik, EH26 0QB, U.K.; ²University of Edinburgh, Department of Geography; ³University of Edinburgh, Department of Meteorology

As measures are implemented internationally to reduce SO₂ and NO_x emissions, attention is falling on the contribution of NH₃ emissions to acidification, nitrogen eutrophication, and aerosol formation. In the U.K., a monitoring network has been established to measure the spatial distribution and long-term trends in atmospheric gaseous NH₃ and aerosol NH₄⁺. At the same time, an atmospheric chemistry and transport model, FRAME, has been developed with a focus on reduced nitrogen (NH_x). The monitoring data are important to evaluate the model, while the model is essential for a more detailed spatial assessment.

The national network is established with over 80 sampling locations. Measurements of NH₃ and NH₄⁺ (at up to 50 sites) have been made using a new low-cost denuder-filterpack system. Additionally, improved passive sampling methods for NH₃ have been applied to explore local variability. The measurements confirm the high spatial variability of NH₃ (annual means 0.06 to 11 μg NH₃ m⁻³), consistent with its nature as a primary pollutant emitted from ground-level sources, while NH₄⁺, being a slowly formed secondary product, shows much less spatial variability (0.14 to 2.4 μg NH₄⁺ m⁻³). These features are reproduced in the FRAME model, which provides estimates at a 5-km level. Analysis of the underlying NH₃ emission inventory shows that sheep emissions may have been underestimated and nonagricultural sources over-

estimated relative to emissions from cattle. The combination of model and measurements is applied to estimate spatial patterns of dry deposition to different vegetation types. The combined approach provides the basis to assess NH_x responses across the U.K. to international emission controls.

KEY WORDS: acidification, eutrophication, aerosol, monitoring, atmospheric transport model, deposition

DOMAIN: environmental modeling, environmental monitoring

INTRODUCTION

Atmospheric ammonia (NH₃) is of interest because of its effects on atmospheric chemistry and on seminatural ecosystems. In the atmosphere, NH₃ reacts to form ammonium (NH₄⁺) aerosol, which has a negative effect on radiative forcing, reduces visibility, and may have negative effects on human health. In addition, the formation of NH₄⁺ affects the atmospheric transport distance of SO₂ and NO_x emissions, while NH₄⁺ salts are the vector for most of the transboundary transport and deposition of atmospheric acidity[1,2]. Once deposited, NH₄⁺ releases acidity, since the nitrogen is either accumulated in organic R-NH₂ forms (1 H⁺ produced, originating from SO₂ or NO_x) or nitrified and leached as NO₃⁻ (producing 2 H⁺, including one H⁺ from NH₃ itself)[2]. In addition to the acidifying effect, the input of nitrogen from either

* Corresponding author.

Emails: ms@ceh.ac.uk, yst@ceh.ac.uk, ud@ceh.ac.uk,
nicolas@met.ed.ac.uk, todo@ceh.ac.uk, ris@ceh.ac.uk,
k.weston@met.ed.ac.uk, dfo@ceh.ac.uk.

NH_3 or NH_4^+ (collectively NH_x) leads to eutrophication of seminatural habitats, which may result in species composition changes[3].

As with other atmospheric pollutants, NH_3 emissions have increased substantially in the 20th century[4,5], and there is currently international momentum to set policy measures to reduce these emissions. For example, under the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, international ceilings of NH_3 emissions have been set for the first time with the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. Within the context of expected ecological effects and investigation of the costs of emission abatement, it is essential to have a sound quantification of the concentrations and fluxes of NH_x in the atmosphere. Since neither the distribution of NH_3 emissions nor the distribution of sensitive habitats is uniform, it is necessary to assess the spatial distribution of NH_x concentrations and deposition. Complementary to this is the need to be able to monitor long-term trends in order to quantify the link to emission changes over periods of several years.

Monitoring the complete distribution of NH_3 concentrations at a national level would require an impracticably large (>1000) number of stations, due to the spatial variability characteristic of a primary pollutant emitted at or near ground level[6,7]. Atmospheric transport models therefore serve a complementary role, since, using spatially resolved emission estimates, national maps of predicted NH_3 concentrations may be established at, e.g., 5-km resolution[8,9]. By treating the chemical reactions with other pollutants in such models, they may also be used to assess the interactions with and distribution of NH_4^+ aerosol and wet deposition. A finding of models of this kind is that the distribution of NH_4^+ aerosol is expected to be less spatially variable, since it is formed over the course of minutes to hours as a secondary atmospheric product[10].

Most monitoring data for NH_x in the atmosphere are available for NH_4^+ in precipitation, but there is much less monitoring information available for speciated measurements of gaseous NH_3 and NH_4^+ aerosol[5]. One of the reasons for this is the need for active sampling to distinguish the gas and aerosol, which is either cumbersome or expensive. Similarly, although methods have been reported for passive sampling of NH_3 (see review[11]), these have experienced mixed success, with, in some cases, substantial and uncertain correction factors needing to be applied to data.

To address these problems in the U.K., a new low-cost denuder-filterpack system was developed tuned for long-term sampling. The method, referred to as the DELTA (DENuder for Long-Term Ammonia)[12], allows sampling with 2-weekly or monthly duration and operates robustly for concentrations in the range 0.01 to >40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. In this approach, NH_3 is collected in two acid-coated glass denuders in series, while NH_4^+ aerosol is captured on a subsequent acid-coated paper filter. In parallel, improvements in NH_3 passive sampling have been made to allow reliable implementation. First, the performance of 35-mm path-length diffusion tubes has been improved to permit monthly measurements down to a level of c.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ [11,13]. Second, the ALPHA (Adapted Low-cost Passive High Absorption) sampler with 6-mm path length was developed[14], which is able to sample down to <0.05 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ with a monthly sampling period.

In this article, we report the application of these new sampling methods in the U.K. National Ammonia Monitoring Network (NAMN)[15] and show how these compare with estimates

from the Fine Resolution AMmonia Exchange (FRAME) atmospheric dispersion model[9]. Combined with a disaggregation of NH_3 emissions data, the results are used to compare areas of the U.K. dominated by different major source sector types. Finally, the combination of the measurements and modeling is used to estimate the spatial patterns of NH_3 dry deposition across the U.K. and to consider the implications of the results for environmental policy.

METHODS

Monitoring Network Strategy

The NAMN was established to provide the best-measured NH_3 concentration field for the U.K. and at the same time to provide data for the assessment of models. Given the expense of high time-resolution monitoring[16,17], the strategy for the network was to sample at a large number of sites to assess spatial variability, using low-frequency sampling to allow long-term trends to be assessed at low cost. This strategy of high network density and low sampling frequency contrasts with the alternatives of hourly or daily monitoring[16], which would permit sampling at only a very few (2 to 4) sites with similar resources. A total of 120 potential sites were identified for consideration, and the following criteria for selection were identified[15]:

- Representative spatial coverage of the U.K.
- Representative coverage in relation to predicted FRAME NH_3 concentrations at a 5-km grid level, including key emission peak and trough areas
- Relationship of the sites to local NH_3 sources (avoiding being <150 m from point sources)
- Availability and access to a willing and helpful local contact
- Availability of mains electricity at a site (for DELTA sampling)
- Co-location of the sites in relation to other air-quality and ecosystem-monitoring activities
- Nature conservation interest of the site, particularly in relation to plant community sensitivity to nitrogen deposition and nature reserve status.

On the basis of these criteria, and following establishment of the sampling methods[11], the network was established with 70 sites in 1996, with DELTA sampling at 50 sites, diffusion tube sampling at 30 sites, and both methods implemented at 10 sites. Following a review of the network in 1998, changes were made, resulting in a total of 80 sites and introduction of NH_4^+ sampling. DELTA sites were distributed widely across the U.K. to provide regional patterns of NH_3 and NH_4^+ , while passive sampling concentrated on the assessment of mesoscale variability in source areas as a test of the NH_3 emission-dispersion modeling (Fig. 1). Three mesoscale study areas were identified: Welsh Borders/Shropshire, the Norfolk/Suffolk border, and the Yorkshire Vale. An absence of mains electricity at three active sampling sites led to the development of three solar-wind-powered DELTA systems[12]. Data are reported here up to November 2000, starting in September 1996 for NH_3 and April 1999 for NH_4^+ .

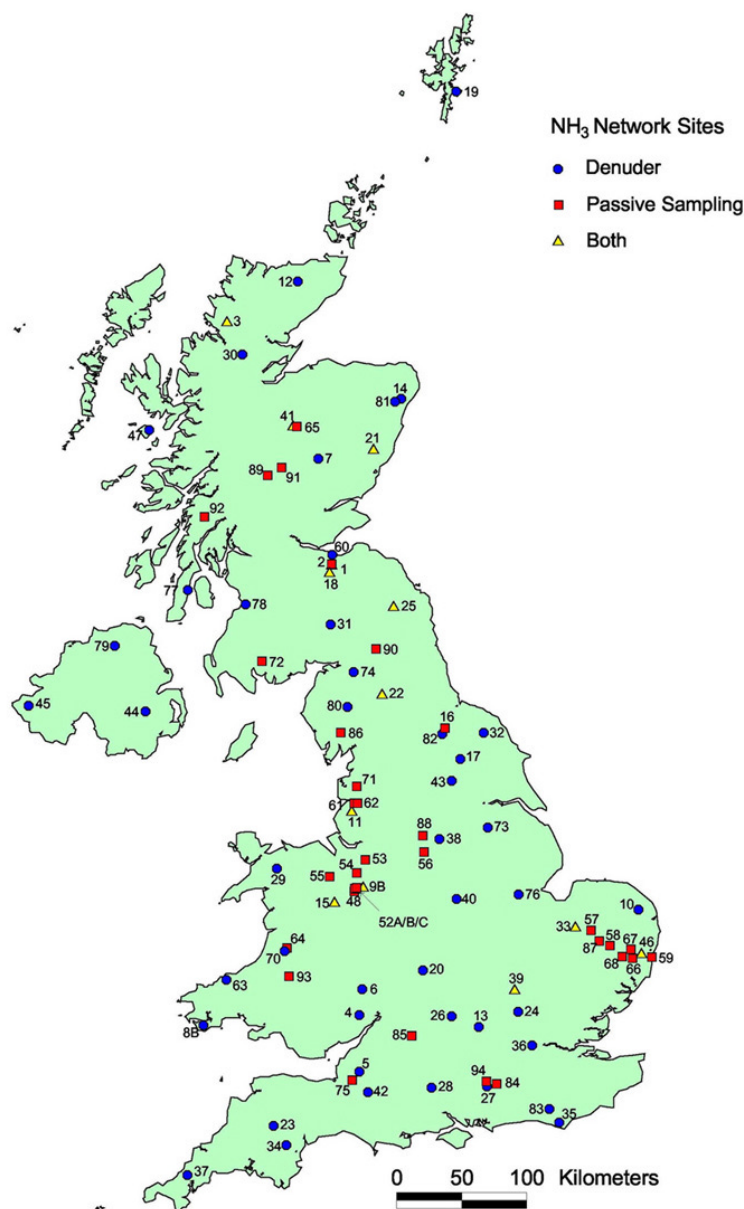


FIGURE 1. Map of sites in the U.K. National Ammonia Monitoring Network using either denuders, triplicate diffusion tubes, or both. (Site numbers are explained in the Appendix.)

Chemical analysis of aqueous extracts from each of the DELTA and passive sampling methods was performed using flow injection analysis with selective membrane diffusion of NH_3 at high pH and detection of NH_4^+ by conductivity[18].

Emission and Atmospheric Transport Modeling

The distribution of NH_3 emissions for the U.K. is modeled in a GIS methodology described by Dragosits et al.[19] For agricultural emissions, parish statistics on livestock numbers and crop areas are combined with satellite-based land-cover data to model emissions at a 1-km resolution, which are subsequently aggregated to the 5-km level. Spatial inventories have been established with this approach for 1988 and 1996.

The FRAME atmospheric chemistry and dispersion model[9,20] is run using the disaggregated NH_3 emissions together with SO_2 and NO_x emissions. FRAME is a statistical Lagrangian dispersion model, which employs straight trajectories and a multilayer dispersion scheme[21] to simulate the vertical profiles of trace gases. In addition, a land-cover-dependent dry deposition scheme is applied for NH_3 . In the model version applied here, dry deposition is limited by characteristic canopy resistances (R_c) set for different vegetation types[9]. It should be noted that the domain of FRAME covers both Britain and Ireland, although results are presented here only for the U.K., which includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The spatial distribution of NH_3 emission source sectors is not uniform across the country. Hence, one of the advantages of a network with many sites is that areas with emissions dominated by different source sectors can be compared. To do this, the spa-

tial NH₃ inventory was analyzed to show areas where >45% of the emission was due to a given source. Areas of background emission (<1 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹) were distinguished, while pig and poultry farms were combined to allow improved visualization and comparison between nonland-based and land-based farming. The resulting map of dominant NH₃ source sectors is shown in Fig. 2. Due to disclosivity issues regarding the data for 1996, Fig. 2 shows the results for 1988, although the patterns for the 2 years are similar.

Deposition Modeling

While the FRAME model provides estimates of the dry deposition field for different vegetation types and with a resolution of 5 km, deposition estimates derived directly from the measurements would be considered more reliable. In the first instance, dry deposition fields may be estimated using the interpolated measured NH₃ concentrations and an inferential resistance model. However, this implies large assumptions in the interpolation of con-

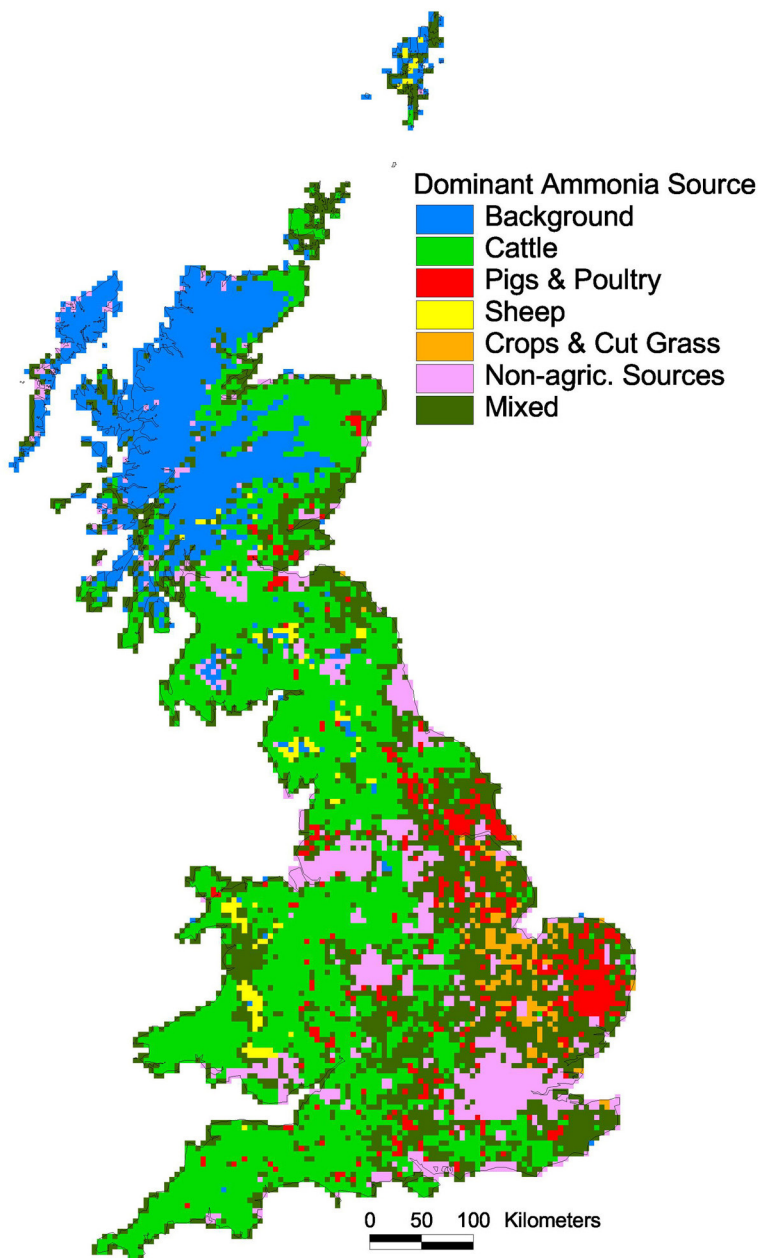


FIGURE 2. Classification of 5-km grid resolution NH₃ emissions for Great Britain (Northern Ireland not included) according to estimated dominant (>45% contribution) source sector. Background is set here at <1 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹.

centrations. Unless the dispersion model provides a perfect fit to the measurements, an alternative approach is therefore to calibrate the dispersion model output concentration estimates, and this method has been applied here. The regression between the mean NAMN concentrations and the FRAME-predicted NH_3 concentrations at the same sites (see Figure 5a) is applied to the FRAME estimates for each grid square in the U.K. to provide a revised NH_3 concentration field. It should be noted that this is merely a calibration of model output, rather than an internal change to the model. The revised NH_3 concentration field is then applied as input in the inferential model of Smith et al.[22]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Measured NH_3 and NH_4^+ Concentrations

Overall, the mean concentrations in the network for the sampling periods reported above were in the range 0.06 to $11 \mu\text{g NH}_3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ and 0.14 to $2.4 \mu\text{g NH}_4^+ \text{ m}^{-3}$ (Fig. 3). A summary of the data is given in the Appendix. In the case of NH_3 , much larger concentrations were seen in source areas, particularly in areas with intensive cattle, pig, and poultry farming, while, within only a few tens of kilometers, much smaller concentrations were found in areas with few NH_3 sources. For example, at North Wyke in De-

von (site 23), the mean concentration was $1.71 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, while 25 km southeast the concentration at Yarnier Wood (site 34) was $0.52 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. This high level of spatial variability is seen even more in the mesoscale variability sampling results. The measurements in Norfolk/Suffolk cover both intensive farming and sink areas and show mean concentrations in the range 1.23 (Dunwich Heath, site 59) to $10.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (Bedlingfield, site 68) with gradients of up to $0.4 \mu\text{g NH}_3 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ km}^{-1}$ over distances of 10 to 20 km. This illustrates the substantial local spatial variability of NH_3 concentrations, even when sampling in the vicinity of point sources is avoided. Even larger gradients occur adjacent to point sources[7,23], making it difficult to assess regional-level variability of NH_3 concentrations, and it was for this reason that sampling near known point sources was avoided.

By contrast, NH_4^+ aerosol showed much less local spatial variability, with a smooth interpolated field decreasing from $2.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in central London (site 36c) and $2.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in a high SO_2 emission area of northern England (Jenny Hurn, site 73) to $0.14 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at Rum on the northwest coast of Scotland (site 47). This reflects the nature of NH_4^+ aerosol as a secondary product that is produced throughout the boundary layer. By sampling with a large number of sites, it was hypothesized that it should be possible to demonstrate this expected smooth pattern, since adjacent sites should have similar concentrations. This is shown in Fig. 3, with the local effects that occur for NH_3 generally not being seen. For

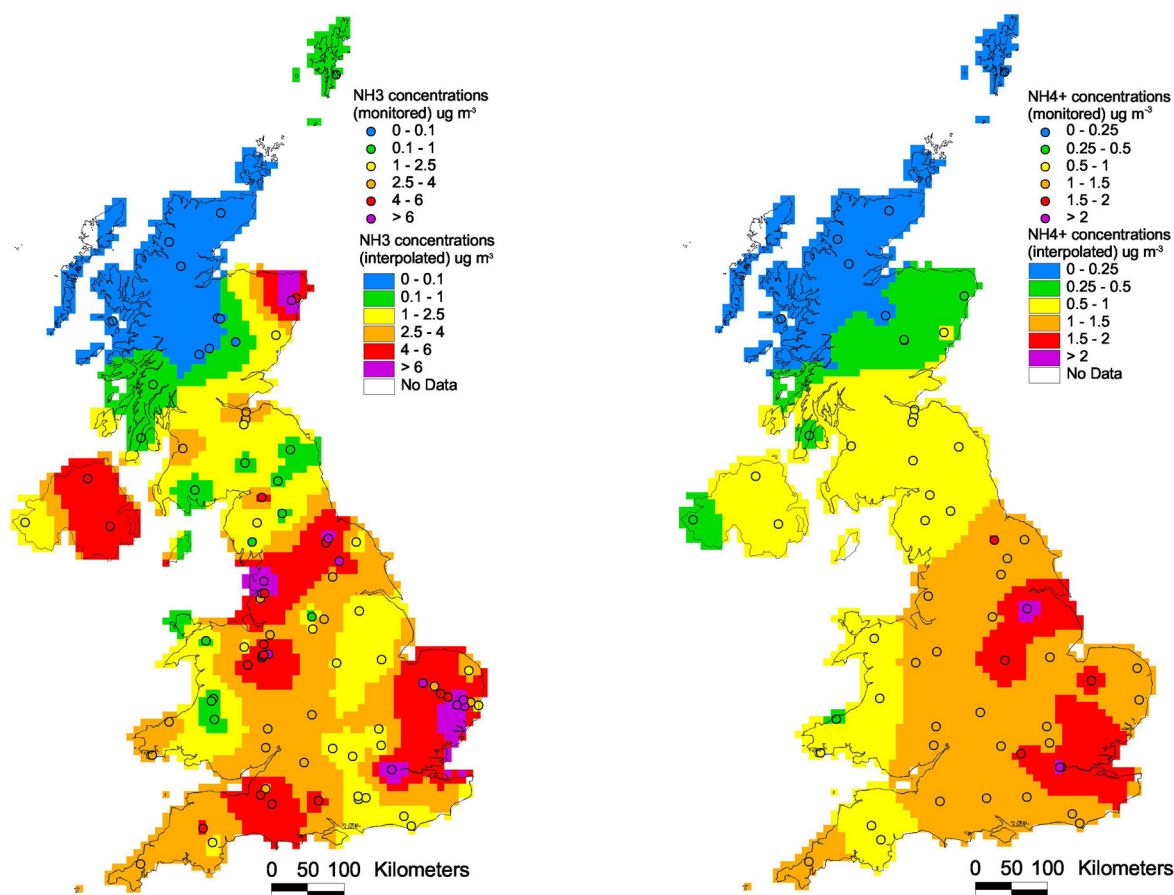


FIGURE 3. Interpolated mean measured gaseous NH_3 and aerosol NH_4^+ concentrations from the U.K. National Ammonia Monitoring Network.

example, the NH_4^+ concentrations at North Wyke and Yarner Wood are 0.93 and $0.90 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively. Such small differences between adjacent sites are typical. As a consequence of this, following November 2000, the number of aerosol sampling sites has been reduced to 30, which is sufficient to resolve the main spatial features of the U.K. NH_4^+ aerosol field.

Modeled NH_3 Concentrations and Comparison with Measurements

The performance of the FRAME model in predicting average NH_3 and NH_4^+ concentrations is shown in Fig. 4. As FRAME is a multilayer model, concentrations can be reported for different heights, and the values in Fig. 4 are the average of the layer at 1 to 2 m. Consistent with NH_3 emissions arising from ground level, the modeled NH_3 concentration field shows substantial spatial variability, and this matches closely to the distribution of NH_3 emissions. The other major factors affecting NH_3 concentration are the removal rates by wet and dry deposition. Hence for a given emission rate, modeled concentrations of NH_3 are higher in eastern rather than western Britain, due to less precipitation scavenging and increased occurrence of agricultural croplands, which experience less dry deposition. The highest modeled concentrations of NH_3 occur in areas with intensive pig and poultry farming (East Anglia, Yorkshire), cattle farming (Shropshire,

Lancashire, Northern Ireland), and nonagricultural emissions (London) (cf. Fig. 2).

As with the measurements, the spatial pattern of modeled NH_4^+ aerosol is much less spatially variable than NH_3 . The highest concentrations again occur in London and in high SO_2 emission areas of northern England, while the lowest concentrations occur in northern and western parts of the U.K.

A comparison of the FRAME predictions with the network measurements for gaseous NH_3 and NH_4^+ aerosol is shown in Fig. 5. The network average for each site is compared against the model estimate for the 5-km grid square in which it occurs, and the point is classified according to the estimated dominant source sector of the square. Since the concentrations in the network and FRAME are log-normally distributed, Fig. 5 shows the comparison on a logarithmic scale. The first point to note is that the correlation for NH_4^+ aerosol ($R^2_{[\log \text{ values}]} = 0.91$; $R^2_{[\text{absolute values}]} = 0.82$) is much higher than that for NH_3 ($R^2_{[\log \text{ values}]} = 0.70$; $R^2_{[\text{absolute values}]} = 0.57$). This may be explained by the large spatial variability of NH_3 , with the result that it is difficult to monitor at the most representative location in a 5-km grid square. Many of the sites where the model overestimates the measurements are, in fact, nature reserve or forest sites. The reason for the overestimation may therefore be due to subgrid variability not addressed by the model, as the monitoring sites in these sink areas would be more than the average distance from sources in the same 5-km grid square. Conversely, some of the outliers, where the

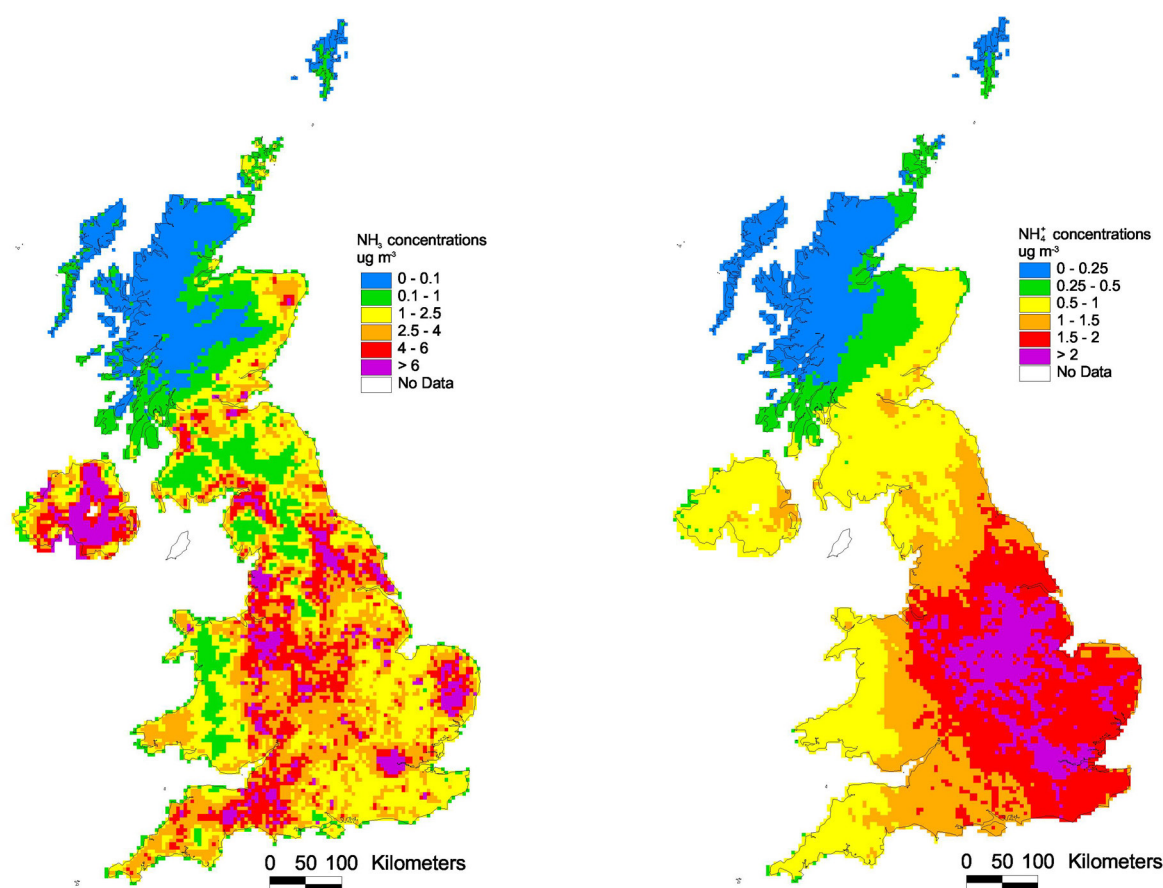


FIGURE 4. Distribution of gaseous NH_3 and aerosol NH_4^+ across the U.K. according to the FRAME model.

measurements are larger than the model, show some indication of being affected by nearby sources. For example, at Glenshee (site 7, emissions dominated by cattle) in the Scottish highlands, the measurement estimate was $2.66 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, while FRAME estimated $0.28 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The 5-km grid square in question consists of a narrow agricultural valley surrounded by seminatural hill moorland. It was initially hypothesized that the higher value at this site was due to site 7 being located at the valley bottom. To investigate such issues of site representativity requires a detailed assessment of local spatial variability. In this case, the 1-km NH_3 emission inventory was analyzed with a local dispersion model, combined with ALPHA sampling at 12 locations across the 5-km grid square[24]. This analysis showed that site 7 overestimated the grid average partly due to its location, plus the existence of unexpected local emissions from animal processing by a gamekeeper. In contrast, analysis of the model and measurements showed that the most representative measured concentration was $0.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, which was very close to the FRAME estimate. Such local assessment studies are obviously not feasible at more than a few locations. Hence, a robust country scale assessment benefits greatly from analysis of many sites, as in Fig. 5.

Fig. 5 shows that, overall, FRAME provides larger NH_3 concentrations than the measurements. There are a number of possible reasons for this, including uncertainties in emissions, vertical diffusion scheme of the model, atmospheric conversion and removal processes, and the possibility that stations are more than the average distance from NH_3 sources within each grid square. Most of these points would be expected to be equally possible for all of the sites. However, in the case of emissions, it is possible that the emission factors for different source sector activities are differentially biased, and this will be reflected in the estimates for the different source sector dominated areas. Taking the regression between the measurements and model as the consequence of all the uncertainties, it is therefore of interest if sites

dominated by different source sectors fall above or below the line. In the case of sheep-dominated areas, the measurements are larger than the average for all the monitoring sites. Conversely, at all of the nonagricultural-dominated sites, the measurements are less than the average. At most of the cattle-dominated sites, the measurements are also less than the average, while for the mixed and pig plus poultry classes, the sites are distributed evenly. These findings suggest that sheep emissions may have been underestimated and nonagricultural sources and cattle overestimated relative to emissions from pig and poultry. The least certain of these comparisons are the nonagricultural sources, which are much less accurately mapped and include a wide diversity of sources that are not represented as dominant sources here. In addition to these source sector differences, there is also a systematic deviation for the background sites, with three quarters of the sites having larger concentrations than the average relationship. This may partly be due to emissions from wild animals and sheep in these background areas, but is most likely due to the existence of a “compensation point” concentration for NH_3 with seminatural vegetation[2,5,6]. This is not represented in the version of FRAME applied here, but is a subject of ongoing model development.

While the correlation for NH_4^+ aerosol is much closer than for NH_3 , it is still substantially above the 1:1 line. This is most likely due to insufficient wet scavenging of NH_4^+ aerosol, which is consistent with an underestimation of wet NH_x deposition by FRAME. Again, this is a subject of ongoing model development, where preliminary tests have shown that increasing the scavenging rate gives better agreement with the measurements for both NH_4^+ aerosol and NH_x wet deposition. It may be noted that there are no discernible differences for NH_4^+ aerosol between the sites dominated by different sectors. This is not surprising, since the NH_4^+ concentration responds to NH_3 emissions and atmospheric chemistry at a regional level.

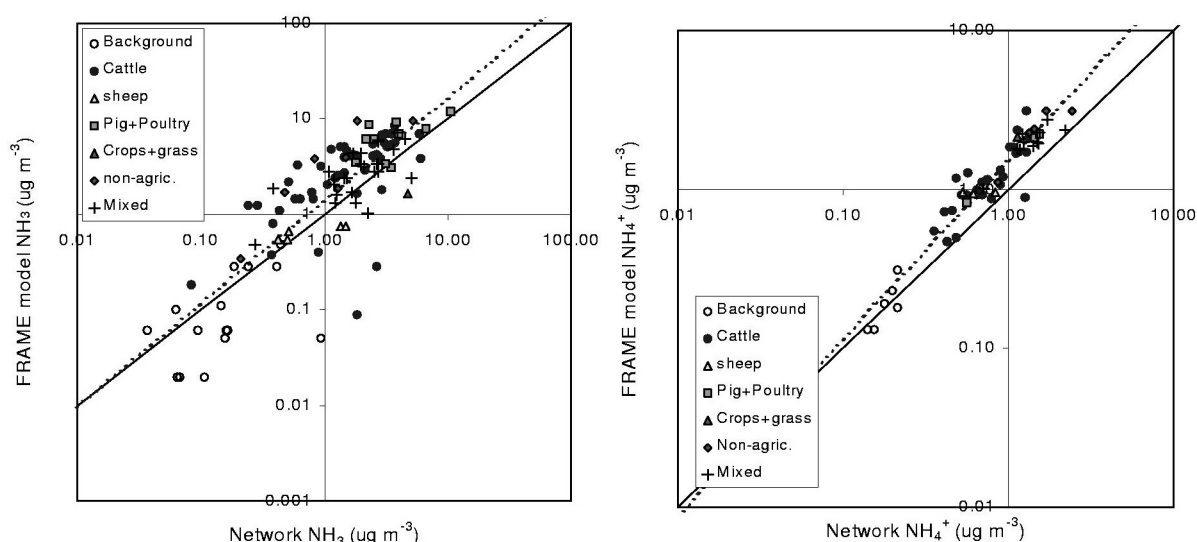


FIGURE 5. Comparison of measured NH_3 and NH_4^+ concentrations in the U.K. with estimates of FRAME classified by estimated dominant NH_3 source sector for the 5-km grids in which sampling sites occur. The regressions are: NH_3 , $\log(\text{FRAME}) = 1.0769 \log(\text{NAMN}) + 0.1379$; NH_4^+ , $\log(\text{FRAME}) = 1.1179 \log(\text{NAMN}) + 0.1732$.

Estimation of Dry Deposition

The FRAME model described here incorporates a simplified treatment of dry deposition according to land cover type. To provide more accurate deposition estimates, a more detailed inferential model is applied, which includes treatment of the ammonia compensation point for agricultural vegetation[22]. The regression between the NH_3 measurements and FRAME is used to scale the FRAME estimates to the network, and this is applied as input to the inferential model. The outputs of this model are maps of NH_3 dry deposition to five major land-cover types: forest, moorland (and low seminatural vegetation), agricultural grassland, arable, and urban. To estimate the budget of U.K. NH_3 dry deposition, these maps are combined according to percentage of land-cover occurrence in each 5-km grid-square, which gives a map of grid average NH_3 dry deposition. Fig. 6 shows as an example the comparison of the average grid square NH_3 dry deposition with that received by moorland/low seminatural vegetation.

Dry deposition NH_3 inputs on a grid-square basis are mostly in the range 0 to 10 $\text{kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$, which is similar to inputs as NH_4^+ in wet deposition. The largest regional dry deposition is

estimated for Wales, where relatively large NH_3 emissions combine with a large percentage of land cover of moorland and seminatural vegetation. By contrast to the rather small values of average dry deposition, the NH_3 dry deposition received by moorland and low seminatural vegetation is much larger, in the range 0 to 40 $\text{kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$, and the distribution of this matches more closely to the pattern of estimated NH_3 concentrations. It should be noted that Fig. 6 shows the deposition that would be received by low seminatural vegetation if present, which explains why values are provided for the whole of the country.

The distinction between maps of dry deposition to grid squares and to receptors is an important one. While the former are useful to integrate total dry deposition for the country, the latter are what should be applied in summing deposition inputs for comparison with critical loads. The application of the grid average dry deposition field would give a substantial underestimation of critical load exceedance for seminatural vegetation because of the slower rates of NH_3 dry deposition to agricultural land. In many locations, the receptor-specific NH_x dry deposition estimates exceed critical loads for nitrogen deposition and acidification, even without counting other atmospheric inputs. It

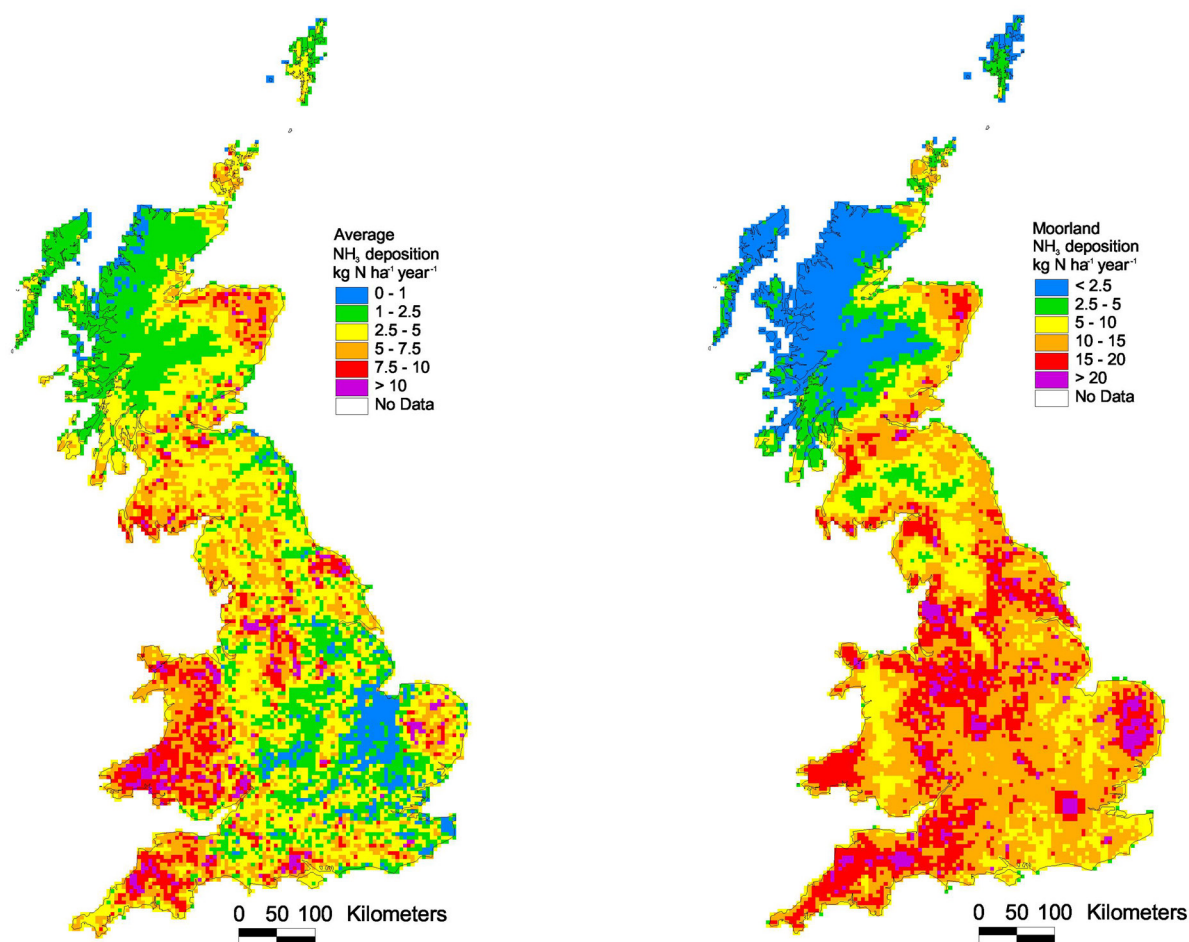


FIGURE 6. Estimated dry deposition of ammonia in Great Britain: a) average dry deposition to grid squares, b) dry deposition received by moorland/low seminatural vegetation where present.

is therefore clear that policies to reduce the effects of acidification and eutrophication must include measures to abate NH₃ emissions and deposition.

CONCLUSIONS

A combination of a monitoring network and modeling capability has been established to quantify the spatial patterns of gaseous NH₃ and NH₄⁺ aerosol concentrations and deposition in the U.K. While monitoring of NH₄⁺ aerosol representatively is possible with only a few tens of sites, the high spatial variability of NH₃ would require thousands of monitoring stations to characterize spatial patterns. The variability of NH₃ is related to its nature as a primary pollutant emitted in the rural landscape, with the result that meso- and local-scale sampling shows potentially as much variability as at the national scale. Precise site representativity may be investigated using sampling with many sites at a sub-5-km grid level, but is only feasible for a few locations. The U.K. network has therefore been established with many NH₃ sampling sites in order to build up a representative picture of NH₃ at the U.K. scale. While the sampling methods have been found to give reliable measurements for the full range of concentrations encountered, the use of over 80 sites proves to be adequate to reveal the major spatial differences in NH₃ across the U.K.. This large number of sites has the advantage that sites in areas dominated by different NH₃ source sectors can also be compared. The analysis here shows that NH₃ emissions from sheep may have been underestimated relative to those from cattle, pig, and poultry.

Combining the measurements with estimates from an atmospheric transport model provides the facility to estimate dry deposition inputs at a 5-km grid resolution. This level of detail is necessary since assessment of critical loads exceedance is made at this or even finer (1-km) scales. While maps of interpolated measured NH₃ concentrations are useful to envisage the main patterns, they are too uncertain to apply in mapping deposition at a 5-km resolution.

The model of NH₃ dry deposition makes the distinction between different land-cover types and simulates the larger inputs characteristic of seminatural compared with agricultural vegetation. This is important, since the receptor-specific estimates for seminatural land may substantially exceed critical loads, even in the absence of other sources of nitrogen deposition. The consequence is that policies to reduce the effects of acidification and eutrophication must include approaches to reduce NH₃ emissions and dry deposition. The U.K. National Ammonia Monitoring Network has been established to address spatial patterns with low-frequency (monthly) sampling. It is therefore well-placed to assess the long-term changes in NH₃ and NH₄⁺ following the implementation of emission control policies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge funding of the National Ammonia Monitoring Network and of the project “Acid Deposition Processes” by the U.K. Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, together with underpinning funding from the Natural

Environment Research Council. We are grateful to Neil Cape and Roger Phillips for their helpful comments on earlier drafts of this article. The Ammonia Network would not be possible without the dedicated input of over 50 local site operators, to whom we express our thanks.

REFERENCES

1. Binkley, D. and Richter, D. (1987) Nutrient cycles and H⁺ budgets of forest ecosystems. *Adv. Ecol. Res.* **16**, 1–51.
2. Sutton, M.A., Pitcairn, C.E.R., and Fowler, D. (1993) The exchange of ammonia between the atmosphere and plant communities. *Adv. Ecol. Res.* **24**, 301–393.
3. Fangmeier, A., Hadwiger-Fangmeier, A., van der Eerden, L., and Jaeger, H.J. (1994) Effects of atmospheric ammonia on vegetation—a review. *Environ. Pollut.* **86**, 43–82.
4. Asman, W.A.H., Drukker, B., and Janssen, A.J. (1988) Modelled historical concentrations and depositions of ammonia and ammonium in Europe. *Atmos. Environ.* **22**, 725–735.
5. Sutton, M.A., Asman, W.A.H., Ellerman, T., van Jaarsveld, J.A., Acker, K., Aneja, V., Duyzer, J.H., Horvath, L., Paramonov, S., Mitosinkova, M., Tang, Y.S., Achermann, B., Gauger, T., Bartnicki, J., Nefel, A., and Erisman, J.W. (2001) Establishing the link between ammonia emission control and measurements of reduced nitrogen concentrations and deposition. In *UNECE Ammonia Expert Group (Berne 18-20 Sept. 2000) Proceedings*. Menzi, H. and Achermann, B., Eds. SAEFL, Bern. pp. 57–84.
6. Asman, W.A.H., Sutton, M.A., and Schjoerring, J.K. (1998) Ammonia: emission, atmospheric transport and deposition. *New Phytol.* **139**, 27–48.
7. Duyzer, J.H., Nijenhuis, B., and Westrate, H. (2001) Monitoring and modelling of ammonia concentrations and deposition in agricultural areas of the Netherlands. *Water Air Soil Pollut.: Focus 1*, 131–144.
8. Asman, W.A.H. (1992) A detailed ammonia emission inventory for Denmark and some deposition calculations. In *Ammonia Emissions in Europe: Emission Coefficients and Abatement Costs*. Klaassen, G., Ed. IASIA, Laxenburg, Austria. pp. 159–168.
9. Singles, R.J., Sutton, M.A., and Weston, K.J. (1998) A multi-layer model to describe the atmospheric transport and deposition of ammonia in Great Britain. *Atmos. Environ. (Ammonia Special Issue)* **32**(3), 393–399.
10. Erisman, J.W., Vermetten, A.W.M., Asman, W.A.H., Waijers-Ijpelaar, A., and Slanina, J. (1988) Vertical distribution of gases and aerosols: the behaviour of ammonia and related components in the lower atmosphere. *Atmos. Environ.* **22**, 1153–1160.
11. Sutton, M.A., Miners, B., Tang, Y.S., Milford, C., Wyers, G.P., Duyzer, J.H., and Fowler, D. (2001) Comparison of low cost measurement techniques for long-term monitoring of atmospheric ammonia. *J. Environ. Monit.* **3**(5), 446–453.
12. Sutton, M.A., Tang, Y.S., Miners, B., and Fowler, D. (2001) A new diffusion denuder system for long-term, regional monitoring of atmospheric ammonia and ammonium. *Water Air Soil Pollut.: Focus 1*, 145–156.
13. Thijsse, T.R., Wyers, G.P., Duyzer, J.H., Verhagen, H.L.M., Wayers, A., and Möls, J.J. (1996) Measurement of ammonia with diffusion tube samplers. *Atmos. Environ. (Ammonia Special Issue)* **32**(3), 333–337.
14. Tang, Y.S., Cape, J.N., and Sutton, M.A. (2001) Development and types of passive samplers for NH₃ and NO_x. In *Proceedings of the International Symposium on Passive Sampling of Gaseous Air Pollutants in Ecological Effects Research*. *TheScientificWorld*, **1**, 513–529.

15. Sutton, M.A., Tang, Y.S., Miners, B.P., Coyle, M., Smith, R.I., and Fowler, D. (1998) Spatial and temporal patterns of ammonia concentration in the UK. Results of the National Ammonia Monitoring Network. Final Report to the DETR. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Edinburgh. 79 pp.
16. Buijsman, E., Aben, J.M.M., Van Elzakker, B.G., and Mennen, M.G. (1998) An automatic atmospheric ammonia network in the Netherlands: set-up and results. *Atmos. Environ. (Ammonia Special Issue)* **32**(3), 317–324.
17. Burkhardt, J., Sutton, M.A., Milford, C., Storeton-West, R.L., and Fowler, D. (1998) Ammonia concentrations at a site in S. Scotland from continuous measurements over 2 years. *Atmos. Environ. (Ammonia Special Issue)* **32**(3), 325–331.
18. Wyers, G.P., Otjes, R.P., and Slanina, J. (1993) A continuous flow denuder for the measurement of ambient concentrations and surface fluxes of ammonia. *Atmos. Environ.* **27A**, 2085–2090.
19. Dragosits, U., Sutton, M.A., Place, C.J., and Bayley, A. (1998) Modelling the spatial distribution of ammonia emissions in the UK. *Environ. Pollut. (Nitrogen Conference Special Issue)* **102**, S1, 195–203.
20. Fournier, N., Pais, V.A., Sutton, M.A., Weston, K.J., Dragosits, U., Tang, Y.S., and Aherne, J. (2002) Parallelisation and application of a multi-layer atmospheric transport model to quantify dispersion and deposition of ammonia over the British Isles. *Environ. Pollut.*, **116**, 95–107.
21. ApSimon, H.M., Barker, B.M., and Kayin, S. (1994) Modelling studies of the atmospheric release and transport of ammonia—applications of the TERN model to an EMEP site in eastern England in anticyclonic episodes. *Atmos. Environ.* **28**, 665–678.
22. Smith, R.I., Fowler, D., Sutton, M.A., Flechard, C., and Coyle, M. (2000) Regional estimation of pollutant gas deposition in the UK: model description, sensitivity analyses and outputs. *Atmos. Environ.* **34**, 3757–3777.
23. Dragosits, U., Theobald, M.R., Place, C.J., Lord, E., Webb, J., Hill, J., ApSimon, H.M., and Sutton, M.A. (2002) Ammonia, emission, deposition and impact assessment at a field scale: a case study of sub-grid spatial variability. *Environ. Pollut.*, **116**, 147–158.
24. Tang, Y.S., Dragosits, U., Theobald, M.R., Fowler, D., and Sutton, M.A. (2001) Sub-grid variability in ammonia concentrations in an upland landscape. In *Air Surface Exchange of Gases and Particles*. Edinburgh 2000. Poster Proceedings. CEH Edinburgh. pp. 48–57.

This article should be referenced as follows:

Sutton, M.A., Tang, Y.S., Dragosits, U., Fournier, N., Dore, A.J., Smith, R.I., Weston, K.J., and Fowler, D. (2001) A spatial analysis of atmospheric ammonia and ammonium in the U.K. In *Optimizing Nitrogen Management in Food and Energy Production and Environmental Protection: Proceedings of the 2nd International Nitrogen Conference on Science and Policy*. *TheScientificWorld* **1**(S2), 275–286.

Received:	August	8, 2001
Revised:	October	10, 2001
Accepted:	October	15, 2001
Published:	November	28, 2001

APPENDIX
Summary of Data from the U.K. National Ammonia
Monitoring Network (Netw) and Comparison with the FRAME Model

Site No	Site Name	National Grid Ref.	Netw. NH ₃	FRAME NH ₃	Netw. NH ₄ ⁺	FRAME NH ₄ ⁺	DS
1	Bush OTC	nt245635	2.54	2.77	0.71	1.02	5
2	Bush Cabin	nt247638	1.08	2.77			5
3	Inverpolly	nc187088	0.07	0.02	0.16	0.13	0
4	Penallt	so523095	1.45	2.69	1.15	1.70	1
5	Priddy	st525526	1.47	3.92	0.07	1.62	1
6	Holme Lacy	so554357	2.14	2.91	1.29	1.70	1
7	Glen Shee	no117693	2.66	0.28	0.36	0.54	1
7b	Gulabin Lodge	no110701	1.84	0.09	0.43	0.47	1
8	Stackpole	sr982947	2.26	1.04			6
8b	Orielton	sr954992	1.30	2.56	0.74	1.15	1
9	Brown Moss	sj559396	5.94	6.91			1
9b	Brown Moss 2	sj563390	3.50	6.91	1.15	2.36	1
10	Bure Marshes	tg334161	1.21	2.33	1.24	1.98	6
11	Mere Sands Wd.	sd447157	1.98	3.33	1.40	1.89	6
12	Halladale	nc902488	0.94	0.05	0.21	0.18	0
13	Aston Rowant.	su727979	1.69	1.7	1.54	2.26	6
14	Ellon Ythan	nj945304	1.53	4.64	0.46	0.74	1
15	Llyncllys Comn.	sj273237	1.34	5.01	1.07	1.85	1
16	Northallerton	se360930	3.66	4.75	1.51	1.94	6
17	Easingwold	se540675	4.52	6.06	1.22	2.22	6
18	Auchencorth	nt221562	0.81	1.45	0.71	1.12	1

APPENDIX (CONTINUED)
Summary of Data from the U.K. National Ammonia
Monitoring Network (Netw) and Comparison with the FRAME Model

Site No	Site Name	National Grid Ref.	Netw. NH ₃	FRAME NH ₃	Netw. NH ₄ ⁺	FRAME NH ₄ ⁺	DS
19	Shetland	hu500400	0.15	0.11	0.20	0.23	0
20	Drayton	sp165549	3.46	3.09	1.45	2.12	2
21	Glensaugh	no664799	0.29	1.24	0.52	0.92	1
22	Moor House	ny751334	0.24	0.28	0.64	0.92	0
23	North Wyke	sx659983	1.71	4.15	0.93	1.20	1
24	Rothamsted	tl123129	1.29	1.84	1.34	2.26	5
25	Sourhope	nt867218	0.51	0.55	0.53	0.95	3
26	Wytham Woods	sp452083	1.21	2.03	1.21	2.24	6
27	Alice Holt	su809379	1.24	1.58	1.14	1.81	6
28	Porton Down	su253365	1.72	4.34	1.18	1.78	6
29	Llydaw	sh695572	1.36	0.74	0.62	0.94	3
30	Strathvaich Dm.	nh348750	0.11	0.02	0.18	0.19	0
31	Eskdalemuir	nt235030	0.37	0.37	0.56	0.92	1
32	High Muffles	se776939	1.84	1.64	1.01	1.83	1
33	Stoke Ferry	tl700988	2.19	6.05	1.56	2.21	2
34	Yarner Wood	sx789788	0.52	2.15	0.90	1.08	1
35	Lullington Hth.	tq538016	0.64	1.44	1.29	3.10	1
36b	London, Vict.	tq291790	1.85	9.5	1.69	3.10	5
36c	London, Crom.	tq266791	5.25	9.5	2.42	3.10	5
37	5 Acres	sw794486	0.93	3.16	1.27	0.89	1
38	Sheffield	sk332870	0.84	3.8	1.44	2.39	5
39	Silsoe	tl088356	1.51	2.42	1.49	2.29	6
40	Sutton Bonntn.	sk505268	5.15	2.41	1.72	2.75	6
41	Laggania	nh856037	0.16	0.06	0.21	0.31	0
42	Castle Cary	st609319	3.69	5.53	1.12	1.67	1
43	Tadcaster	se452455	2.10	3.15	1.22	2.21	6
44	Hillsborough	ij243577	3.22	5.07	0.64	1.00	1
45	Lough Navar	ih065545	0.43	1.08	0.41	0.72	1
46	Sibton	tm363722	2.67	3.4	1.49	2.00	6
47	Rum	nm408992	0.16	0.05	0.14	0.13	0
48	Wem Moss	sj473343	2.91	6.77			1
49	Frodsam	sj525795	3.17	3.4			2
50	Swettenham Mds.	sj804674	3.52	5.4			1
51	Wybunbury Moss	sj698502	3.06	5.59			1
52a	Fenn's Moss 1	sj490365	2.48	4.03			1
52b	Fenn's Moss 2	sj478368	1.85	4.03			1
52c	Fenn's Moss 3	sj498378	1.60	4.03			1
53	Little Budworth	sj584658	2.71	2.82			6
54	Bickerton Hill	sj498527	2.67	4.26			1
55	Ruabon	sj225489	0.58	1.44			5
56	Wardlow Hay Cop	sk177737	1.22	2.42			1
57	Stanford	tl858948	1.81	3.47			2
58	Redgrave+Lophm.	tm050797	2.76	5.71			6
59	Dunwich Heath	tm470680	1.23	1.32			6
60	Edinburgh	nt253734	1.49	3.97	0.87	1.11	5

APPENDIX (Continued)
Summary of Data from the U.K. National Ammonia
Monitoring Network (Netw) and Comparison with the FRAME Model

Site No	Site Name	National Grid Ref.	Netw. NH ₃	FRAME NH ₃	Netw. NH ₄ ⁺	FRAME NH ₄ ⁺	DS
61	Much Hoole	sd473231	3.87	9.31			2
62	Midge Hall	sd508231	2.72	5.98			6
63	Cardigan	sn185453	0.62	3.32	0.48	1.17	1
64	Pwllpeiran	sn798771	0.51	0.66			3
65	Allt a Mharcaidh	nh895024	0.09	0.06			0
66	Dennington	tm276669	4.05	7.05			2
67	Fressingfield	tm261759	6.63	7.87			2
68	Bedlingfield	tm173684	10.66	11.99			2
70	Cwmystwyth	sn771742	1.48	0.74	0.84	0.96	3
71	Myerscough	sd498399	3.73	8.27			1
72	Cardoun Burn	nx546658	0.19	0.28			0
73	Jenny Hurn	sk816986	1.80	1.31	2.23	2.34	6
74	Carlisle	ny468554	3.34	5.11	0.90	1.32	1
75	Westhay Moor	st455440	1.15	4.81			1
76	Pointon	tf128313	4.77	1.64	1.13	2.14	4
77	Carradale	nr798378	0.89	0.40108	0.48	0.50	1
78	Auchincruive	ns379234	6.03	3.79	0.69	0.93	1
78b	Auchincruive 2	ns384229	2.87	3.79			1
79	Coleraine	iC884211	2.49	5.42	0.78	0.87	1
80	Lylulphs Tower	ny403202	0.80	1.69	0.57	1.28	1
81	Pitmedden	nj883278	2.32	8.59	0.56	0.82	2
82	Brompton	se389988	3.92	7.06			6
83	Barcombe Mills	tq438149	1.05	2.02	1.34	2.11	1
84	Thursley Common	su910404	0.39	1.86			6
85	Savarnake	su055888	2.90	1.81			1
86	Lakes	sd337941	0.39	0.8			1
87	Thetford	tl944841	1.98	4.38			6
88	Sherwood	sk163905	0.45	0.49			0
89	Rannoch	nn603533	0.04	0.06			0
90	Coalburn	ny693782	0.21	0.34			5
91	Tummel	nn744611	0.06	0.1			5
92	Loch Awe	nm966115	0.08	0.18			1
93	Llynn Brianne	sn816484	0.27	0.48			6
94	Alice Holt (2)	su805427	0.48	1.7			5

Note: At some sites, more than one independent measurement system is applied (not shown here). Values in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. DS = dominant source sector: 0, background; 1, cattle; 2, pig + poultry; 3, sheep; 4, crops + grass; 5, nonagricultural; 6, mixed.