Sources of information

- The statutory nature conservation bodies advise the UK Government and devolved administrations on nature conservation.


- UK Air Pollution Information System [www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk)

- ROTAP 2012. Review of Transboundary Air Pollution [www.rotap.ceh.ac.uk](http://www.rotap.ceh.ac.uk)

- Nitrogen Deposition and Natura 2000: Proceedings of a European Workshop [http://cost729.ceh.ac.uk/n2kworkshop](http://cost729.ceh.ac.uk/n2kworkshop)

Working towards solutions

- EU legislation and the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution provide a mechanism to reduce long-range air pollution.

- Action on major point sources is addressed through the regulation of industrial installations. A Habitats Regulations Assessment is undertaken for new plans and projects:
  
  - For example, ammonia concentrations at a SAC in Wales were reduced below the critical level via action by the regulator requiring additional technical measures to reduce emissions from a nearby intensive livestock installation.

- In addition, the statutory nature conservation bodies are establishing a programme of work aimed at reducing N deposition to sites and reducing impacts:
  
  - Identification of measures, and implementation options, to reduce emissions from agricultural sources.
  - Identification of the co-benefits of measures with other policy areas.
  - A review of the effectiveness of habitat management to reduce N impacts.

- The conservation bodies are keen to learn from the experience of other Member States.
Impacts and Implications

- Atmospheric nitrogen (N) deposition has caused widespread negative effects on UK terrestrial biodiversity (ROTAP, 2012).

- The impacts include reduced occurrence of a range of plant species and changes in ecosystem structure and function (Emmett et al, 2011).

- 71% of the area of sensitive semi-natural habitat in the UK is exposed to N deposition at levels above which there is likely to be damage, the so called “critical load”. ~70% of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) exceed or partly exceed these damage thresholds.

- This evidence will inform the UK’s assessments for Article 17 reporting.

- It is likely that N deposition will affect our ability to improve the Conservation Status of some habitats, since only a small decline in N deposition is predicted in the next decade.

- This leaflet summarises the evidence of nitrogen impacts in the UK; the key sources and the actions being taken to address the problem.

Sources

- Total N deposition in the UK is made up of oxidised forms (such as NOx; principally from industry and transport sources) and reduced forms (such as ammonia, principally from agricultural sources), in fairly even proportions. However, the relative inputs of oxidised and reduced forms of N vary geographically across the UK.

- Oxidised and reduced nitrogen are derived from different sources and have different transport patterns so they require different control/abatement measures. Measures to reduce N deposition at Natura 2000 sites need to be targeted at the relevant sources.

- N deposition at each SAC in the UK has been modelled and apportioned to sources (www.apis.ac.uk) in order to help target action.