



# Translating Policy into Action for Air Quality

## A Natural England Perspective

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# Regulatory Context

Regulatory decisions are made in the context of:

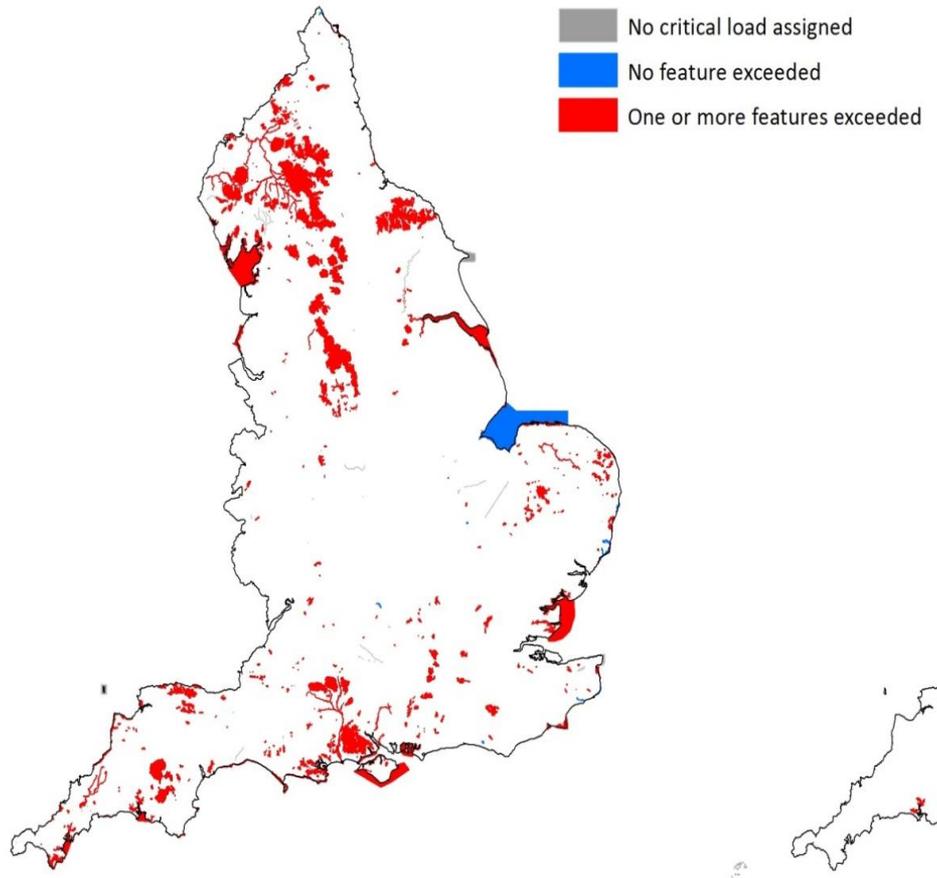
- high background levels of nitrogen deposition
- wide range of impacts/ sources with varying regulation
- air quality impacts not reflected in assessment of site condition
- uncertainties in risk assessment



# Air Pollution Risk in England



## SACs



- Majority of protected sites in England exceed critical loads
- Biodiversity 2020 - air pollution as threat to biodiversity
- UK Biodiversity Indicators – Indicator 10: Ecological impacts of air pollution
- Habitats Directive reporting – air pollution category - threat & pressure

# Dealing with a Range of Impacts



Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) – Planning for the Future (IPENS050)

## Case Studies for Delivering Ammonia Measures

Culm Grass  
Cerne and  
Minsmere  
Conservation  
Protection  
Norfolk Va

### Atmospheric nitrogen theme plan

Developing a strategic approach for England's Natura 2000 sites

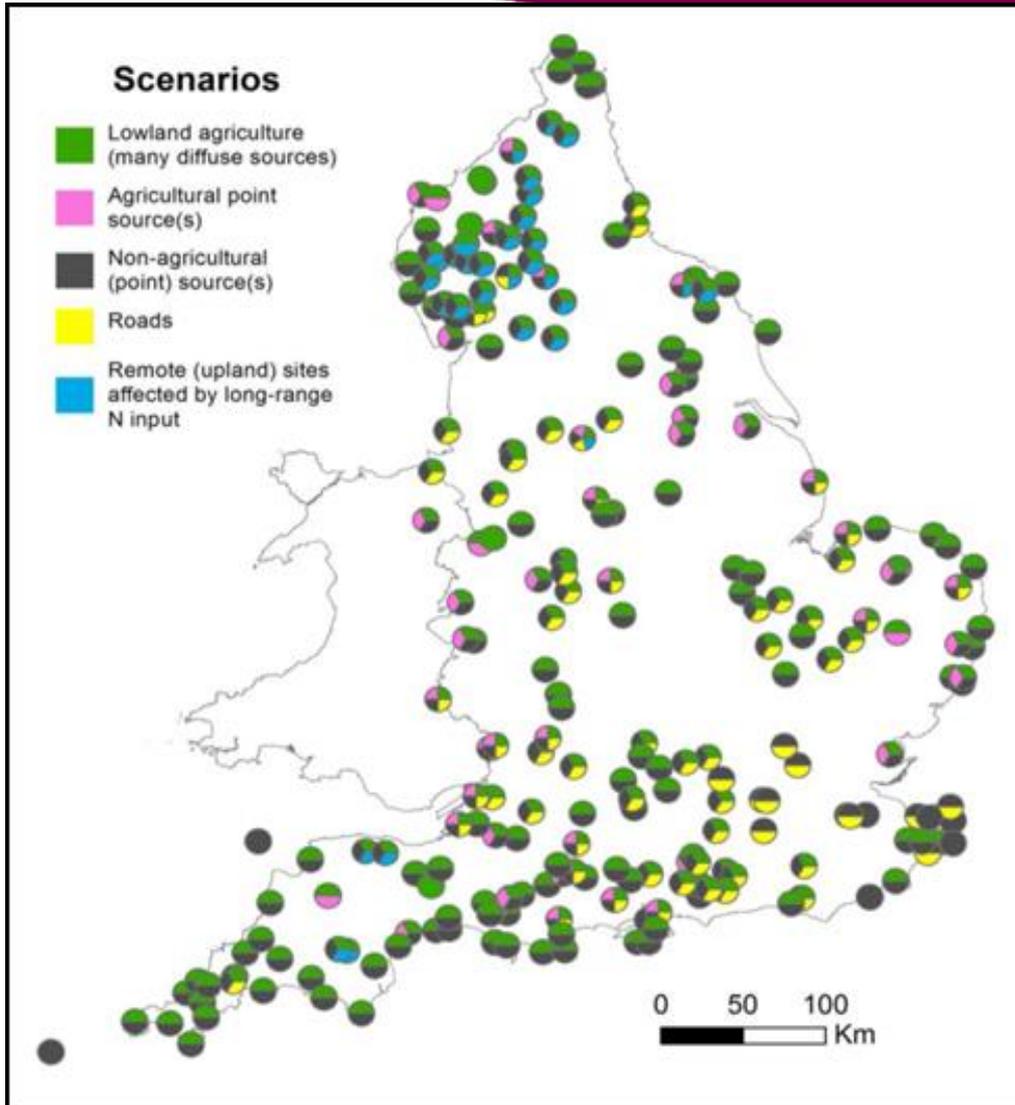
*'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites – Planning for the Future'*



Improvement Programme for England's N2K Sites (IPENS) outlined three interrelated approaches are needed:

1. National and international measures which reduce the background deposition
2. Locally targeted measures that reduce or intercept nitrogen emissions close to protected sites
3. Habitat restoration measures that mitigate the impact

# Site Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs)



- Implement actions outlined in the [Atmospheric Nitrogen Theme Plan](#)
- Understand site specific pressures
- Identify data gaps
- Agree remedies with timelines
  - Data gathering
  - Actions

# Tackling Unregulated Sources



Through the Rural Development Programme for England:

- Countryside Stewardship Scheme –incentives for land managers to protect the environment. Including capital grants for woodland (buffer) creation, slurry store covers, incentives for reduced fertiliser input
- Countryside Productivity Scheme –grants towards eg innovative equipment for slurry management, managing ammonia emissions
- Nitrogen-use-efficiency Integrated Project – advice and incentive for investment in equipment and innovative technology to reduce N losses



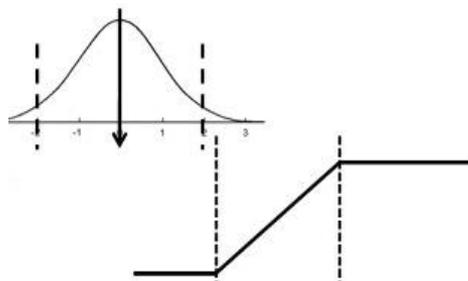
- Nitrogen Decision Framework (NDF)
- Joint work with JNCC, NRW, SNH & NIEA
- Attributes the contribution of nitrogen deposition to unfavourable condition on protected sites
- Information incorporated into NDF:
  - N deposition at the site and a measure of its certainty
  - how the deposition relates to the critical load range for that habitat and a measure of certainty around that critical load range
  - site-based evidence of N impact.

# Nitrogen Decision Framework: How it works (now)



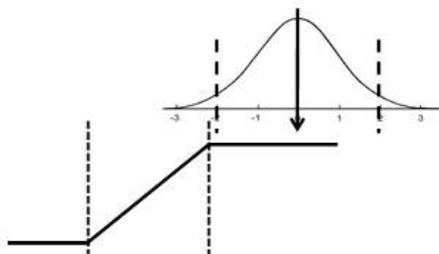
## Very Low Exceedance Score

( $N_{mid} < MinCL$ ;  $N_{max} \leq MinCL$ )



## Very High Exceedance Score

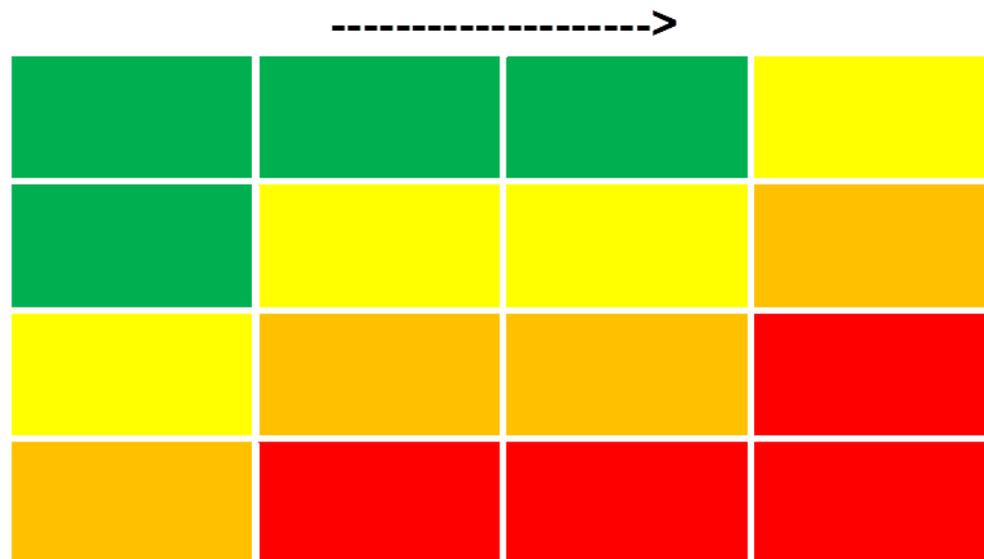
( $N_{lower} > MaxCL$ )



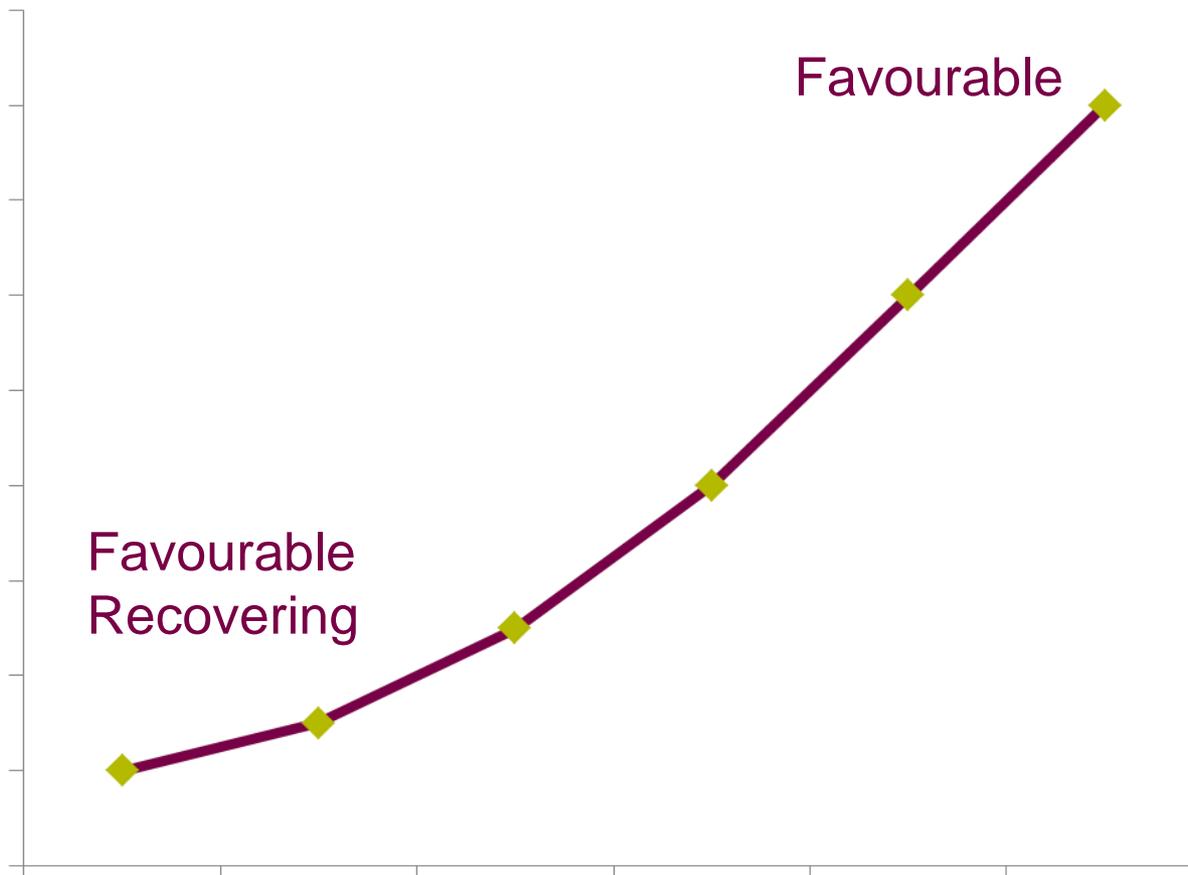
- Common Standards Monitoring
- Notified feature sensitivity or survey data

Site-based Evidence (Factor 2 Score)  
Increasing evidence of N impact

National Evidence  
(Factor 1 Score)  
Increasing Exceedance  
Score

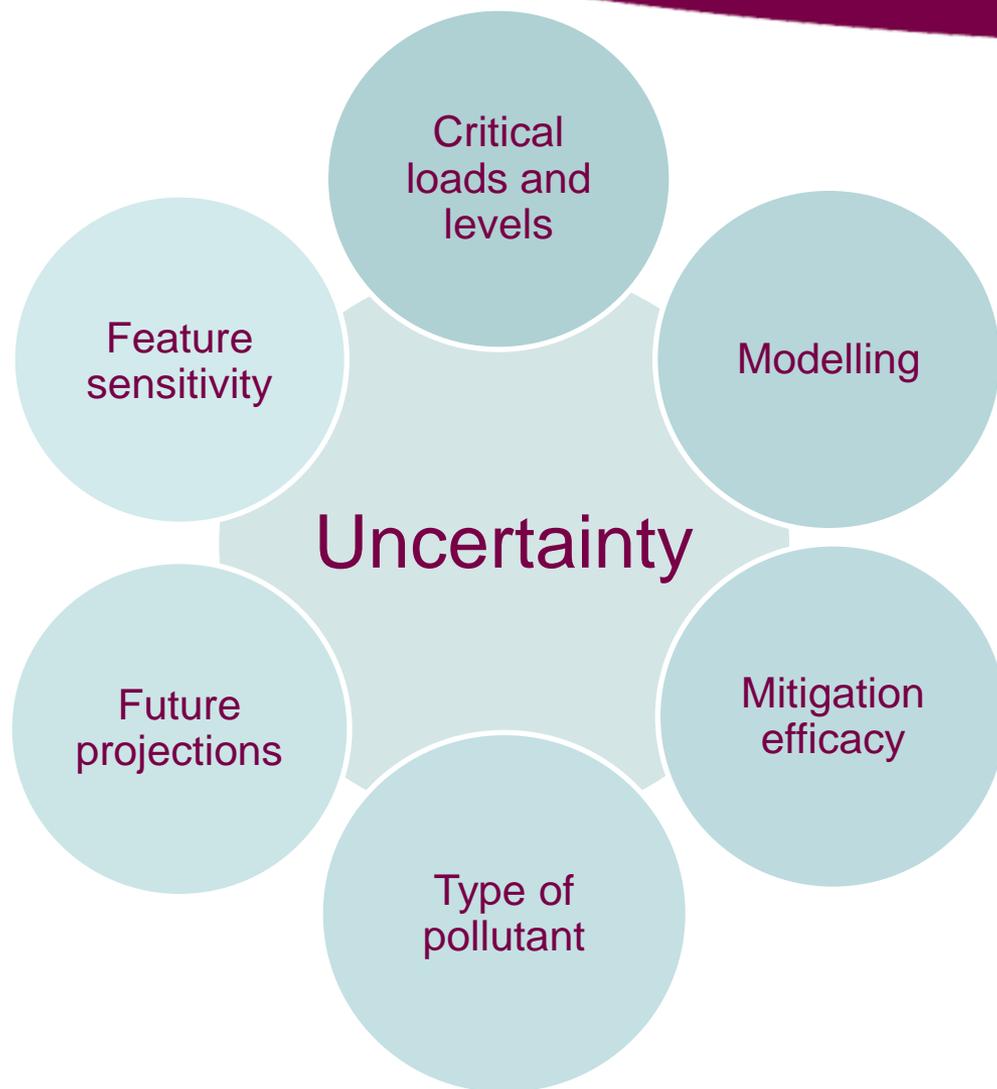


# Site Condition: Outcomes and Trajectories



- What can be measured?
- How?
- What timeframes?
- What is a reasonable outcome?

# Uncertainties





Questions?

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

