

# 1 **Measurement report: Sources, sinks and lifetime of NO<sub>x</sub> in a sub-** 2 **urban temperate forest at night**

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## 28 **1 Abstract**

29 The budget of reactive nitrogen species, which play a central role in atmospheric chemistry (e.g.  
30 in photochemical O<sub>3</sub> production), is poorly understood in forested regions. In this study, through  
31 observations of NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> in the Rambouillet forest near Paris, France, we have  
32 examined nighttime processes controlling NO<sub>x</sub> in an anthropogenically impacted forest  
33 environment. O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios displayed a strong diel profile at the site, which was driven by a  
34 variable but generally rapid deposition to soil and foliar surfaces. The O<sub>3</sub> diel profile was strongly  
35 influenced by relative humidity and temperature inversion. Only when the O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratio was  
36 sufficiently low (and thus the NO lifetime sufficiently long), were sustained NO peaks observed  
37 above the instrumental detection limit, enabling derivation of average NO emission rates from the  
38 soil of ~1.4 ppbv h<sup>-1</sup>. Observations of the lack of increase in NO<sub>2</sub> at night, despite a significant  
39 production rate from the reaction of NO with O<sub>3</sub>, enabled an effective lifetime of NO<sub>2</sub> of ~0.5-3 h  
40 to be derived. As the loss of NO<sub>2</sub> was not compensated by the formation of gas- or particle-phase  
41 reactive nitrogen species it was presumably driven by deposition to soil and foliar surfaces, or any  
42 products formed were themselves short-lived with respect to deposition. By comparison, the  
43 daytime lifetime of NO<sub>2</sub> with respect to loss by reaction with OH is about 1 day. Our results  
44 indicate that the nighttime deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> is a major sink of boundary layer NO<sub>x</sub> in this  
45 temperate forest environment.

46

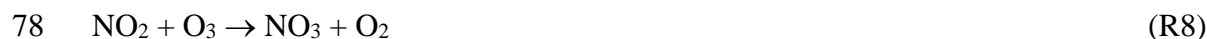
## 47 **2 Introduction**

48 Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub> = NO + NO<sub>2</sub>) are pollutant trace gases, which play a key role in the  
49 atmosphere by producing or destroying tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), which can cause respiratory  
50 illness (Ciencewicki and Jaspers, 2007) and damage to plants (Emberson et al., 2018). Photolysis  
51 of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) (R1) is the primary source of tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and the nitric  
52 oxide (NO) product is oxidized back to NO<sub>2</sub> either by O<sub>3</sub> (R2) or by organic peroxy radicals (RO<sub>2</sub>,  
53 under formation of alkoxy radicals (RO)) or hydroperoxyl radicals (HO<sub>2</sub>) (R3, R4) (Lightfoot et  
54 al., 1992). The latter results in formation of the hydroxyl radical (OH) radical, and R3 and R4 thus  
55 represent routes to recycle the most important atmospheric radical initiator of oxidation (Hens et  
56 al., 2014). It is, therefore, essential to understand the sources and sinks of NO<sub>x</sub> in the atmosphere.



61 The dominant global sources of NO<sub>x</sub> are anthropogenic in the form of combustion of fossil fuels  
62 and to a lesser degree biomass burning and agricultural soils. The natural sources, which include

63 lightning (Schumann and Huntrieser, 2007), wildfires (Val Martin et al., 2008), and unperturbed  
64 soil emissions from microbial activities (Davidson and Kingerlee, 1997), are important in regions  
65 remote from anthropogenic sources. NO<sub>2</sub> and NO both react with peroxy radicals in the atmosphere  
66 to produce organic nitrates (R5-R6), including peroxy nitrates (RO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) and alkyl nitrates  
67 (RONO<sub>2</sub>), which are important precursors for the formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOA)  
68 (Hallquist et al., 2009; Kanakidou et al., 2005; Kiendler-Scharr et al., 2016). NO<sub>2</sub> also reacts with  
69 OH radicals, O<sub>3</sub> and nitrate radicals (NO<sub>3</sub>) to form nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>) (R7), NO<sub>3</sub> radicals (R8), and  
70 dinitrogen pentoxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) (R9), respectively. N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is in thermal equilibrium with NO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub>  
71 and can interact with aqueous aerosol or moist surfaces to form HNO<sub>3</sub> (R10) (Kane et al., 2001)  
72 or nitryl chloride (ClNO<sub>2</sub>) (Phillips et al., 2013; Phillips et al., 2012). Organic nitrates, SOA, and  
73 HNO<sub>3</sub> are all removed from the boundary layer through dry and wet deposition which thereby  
74 removes NO<sub>x</sub> from the atmosphere.



81 In the planetary boundary layer, NO<sub>2</sub> is also lost through dry deposition to surfaces such as soil  
82 and leaves. Deposition takes places both at nighttime and daytime, but is expected to be more  
83 efficient during daytime due to increased mixing through turbulence. When NO<sub>2</sub> deposits onto  
84 humid surfaces, it can lead to the production of nitrous acid (HONO), which can be released to the  
85 atmosphere (Meusel et al., 2016; Elshorbany et al., 2012). NO<sub>2</sub> uptake on leaves takes place  
86 through stomatal and non-stomatal processes, which have been reported to depend on multiple  
87 factors such as stomata aperture and relative humidity. Stomatal uptake primarily occurs at  
88 daytime when the stomata are open, leading to increased NO<sub>2</sub> loss compared to nighttime, when  
89 the stomata are not fully open (Delaria et al., 2020; Delaria et al., 2018; Chaparro-Suarez et al.,  
90 2011). Non-stomatal uptake occurs through the cuticles, though the importance of cuticular uptake  
91 has been reported to be small compared to the stomatal uptake (Delaria and Cohen, 2020; Delaria  
92 et al., 2020). NO<sub>2</sub> uptake to leaves is reported to be enhanced in the presence of water films, which  
93 may exist when the relative humidity is >70% (Thoene et al., 1996; Weber and Rennenberg, 1996;  
94 Burkhardt and Eiden, 1994). There is, however, no consensus on this process, as other studies have  
95 not observed this effect (Gessler et al., 2000). Most recent work shows that the interactions with  
96 foliar surfaces is uni-directional, i.e. emissions are negligible (Delaria et al., 2020).

97 At nighttime, NO<sub>2</sub> photolysis ceases and as a consequence, in the absence of combustion sources,  
98 the main sources of NO are emissions from soils (Jaeglé et al., 2005). Since NO is oxidised  
99 efficiently by O<sub>3</sub> at night, its concentration will be highest at the surface and will decrease with  
100 altitude. The vertical profile of O<sub>3</sub> is the opposite owing to its physical loss due to deposition near

101 the surface and through chemical reaction with NO and/or alkenes combined with entrainment  
102 from the nocturnal residual layer. As NO<sub>2</sub> is produced from the reaction between NO and O<sub>3</sub>, its  
103 vertical gradient is expected to be weaker than those of NO and O<sub>3</sub> (Geyer and Stutz, 2004; Stutz  
104 et al., 2004).

105 In this study we use measurements from the ACROSS (Atmospheric ChemistRy Of the Suburban  
106 foreSt) campaign to investigate the nighttime sources and sinks of NO<sub>x</sub> in a temperate forest. O<sub>3</sub>  
107 measurements are used to explain the observed NO features and measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> and total  
108 gas-phase nitrogen species (NO<sub>y</sub>) and particulate nitrate are used to investigate the lifetime and  
109 fate of NO<sub>x</sub> in the forest environment.

110

### 111 **3 The ACROSS Campaign**

112 The ACROSS campaign (13<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 to 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2022) was conducted in multiple  
113 locations in and around Paris, France (Cantrell and Michoud, 2022). Here we present  
114 measurements from the Rambouillet forest supersite located approximately 50 km southwest of  
115 Paris (48.687, 1.704). The forest consists of approximately 70% oak, 20% pine, and small  
116 contributions from beech and chestnut. The top of the forest canopy around the supersite was  
117 around 20-25 m. Several instrumented containers were placed in a clearing (~697 m<sup>2</sup>) together  
118 with a 41 m measurement tower. Most of the instruments used in this study were located in two  
119 different containers (MPIC and Orléans). The sampling inlets of the two containers were  
120 approximately 17 m apart and the tower was approximately 9 m from the MPIC container and 16  
121 m from the Orléans container. The soil measurements were carried out at the bottom of the tower,  
122 approximately 13 m from the MPIC container and approximately 17 m from the Orleans container.  
123 All the instruments used in this study are described briefly below.

124

### 125 **3.1 Measurements**

#### 126 **3.1.1 Ground**

127 NO<sub>2</sub> was measured using two different cavity ringdown spectroscopy (CRDS) instruments with  
128 co-located inlets sampling from a high-volume-flow stainless steel tube (10 m<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>; 15 cm  
129 diameter, 0.2 s residence time) taking air from a height of 5.4 m above ground. One of the  
130 instruments (5CH-CRDS) consists of 3 cavities operated at 408 nm to measure NO<sub>2</sub> and, via their  
131 thermal dissociation to NO<sub>2</sub>, total peroxy nitrates (ΣPNs, 448 K) and total alkyl nitrates (ΣANs,  
132 648 K). Two additional cavities, operated at 662 nm, measured NO<sub>3</sub> and (via thermal dissociation  
133 to NO<sub>3</sub>, 373 K) N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (Sobanski et al., 2016). During this campaign, the NO<sub>2</sub> cavity had a limit of  
134 detection (LOD) of 9.7 pptv for 1 min averaging (3σ). The second instrument (k-NO3) primarily  
135 measures the NO<sub>3</sub> reactivity, but also has a cavity operated at 405 nm for the measurement of NO<sub>2</sub>  
136 (Liebmann et al., 2018).

137 Another CRDS instrument was used to measure  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{NO}_y$ , and particulate nitrate ( $\text{pNO}_3$ ) from  
138 co-located inlets near the high-volume-flow stainless steel tube.  $\text{NO}_x$  was measured by adding  $\text{O}_3$   
139 to the ambient sample, thereby oxidizing  $\text{NO}$  to  $\text{NO}_2$ , which was measured with CRDS at 405 nm  
140 (Friedrich et al., 2020). A judicious choice of  $\text{O}_3$  and reaction time ensured that minimal ( $>1\%$ ) of  
141  $\text{NO}_2$  was oxidized to  $\text{NO}_3$ . At times with low (or zero)  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$  concentrations were in close  
142 agreement with both  $\text{NO}_2$  measurements.  $\text{NO}_y$  was measured by passing ambient air through a  
143 quartz inlet at  $\sim 900$  K which quantitatively converts reactive nitrogen trace-gases to  $\text{NO}$  or  $\text{NO}_2$ .  
144 Exceptions are  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{HCN}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$ , which are not detected. In this location,  $\text{NO}_y$  is expected to  
145 consist mainly of  $\text{NO}_x + \text{NO}_3 + \text{N}_2\text{O}_5 + \text{HNO}_3 + \text{PNs} + \text{ANs} + \text{HONO} + \text{ClNO}_2 +$  particulate  
146 nitrates ( $\text{pNO}_3$ ).

147 Particulate nitrates (both organic and inorganic) were separately measured (as  $\text{NO}_y$ ) after denuding  
148 gas-phase reactive nitrogen species (Friedrich et al., 2020). To achieve this, problems involving  
149 the ineffective trapping of gas-phase  $\text{NO}_x$  by the denuder was eliminated, as will be described in  
150 a forthcoming technical paper.

151  $\text{O}_3$  was measured from the high-volume-flow stainless-steel tube with a commercial instrument  
152 (2B Technologies model 205) using UV absorption at 254 nm. The LOD is 2 ppbv for 10 s  
153 averaging time.

154 A spectral radiometer (metcon GmbH) was installed near the co-located inlets on top of the MPIC  
155 container to measure actinic fluxes, which were used to calculate photolysis frequencies as  
156 described elsewhere (Meusel et al., 2016).

157  $\text{NO}$  was measured from the Orléans container using a commercial chemiluminescence instrument  
158 (Ecophysics CLD 780 TR, henceforth CLD) with an LOD of 10 pptv for 1 min averaging time.  
159 The sampling height for  $\text{NO}$  measurements was about 0.6 and 3.2 m above the container top and  
160 the ground surface, respectively. The  $\text{NO}$  measurements required correction due to a change in the  
161 CLD sensitivity during the campaign caused by an interruption in the instrument's oxygen supply.  
162 The corrections and the corrective procedure are described in the SI.

163  $\text{HONO}$  was measured by a commercial long-path absorption photometer (LOPAP-03, QUMA  
164 GmbH, Germany) with a sampling height of 2.0 m above the ground level. Details about the  
165 LOPAP instrument can be found elsewhere (Heland et al., 2001; Kleffmann et al., 2006). During  
166 the campaign, the LOPAP was calibrated by diluted nitrite when changing any supporting  
167 solutions. Zero calibration by measuring synthetic air was conducted 2-3 times per day. The  
168 detection limit is  $< 5$  pptv.

169 The sum of peroxy radicals,  $\text{XO}_2 = \text{HO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$ , was measured by their conversion to  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in  
170 presence of  $\text{NO}$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  and detection of the generated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  using  $\text{NO}_3^-$  CIMS (Kukui et al.,  
171 2008). The calibration coefficient is determined using  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  actinometry and  $\text{OH}/\text{RO}_2$  generation  
172 in a turbulent flow reactor by photolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 184.9 nm. The calibration of  $\text{HO}_2$ ,  
173  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2$  and other  $\text{RO}_2$  is performed by adding into the calibration reactor  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  (or other  $\text{RO}_2$

174 precursors) converting OH to RO<sub>2</sub>. The overall estimated calibration accuracy (2σ) for XO<sub>2</sub> is  
175 about 30%, although the uncertainty of the XO<sub>2</sub> measurements is typically higher due to  
176 uncertainty in ambient air XO<sub>2</sub> composition. The lower limit of detection for XO<sub>2</sub> radicals at S/N=3  
177 and a 4 minute integration time is 2×10<sup>6</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>.

178 Time series of the most relevant measurements can be found in Figure S1-2. Due to missing total  
179 NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> measurements prior to June 25<sup>th</sup> and NO after July 18<sup>th</sup>, the data analysis is focused  
180 on the time period in between these dates.

181

### 182 **3.1.2 Tower**

183 Measurements at 41 m were conducted with instruments located on the tower as well as through a  
184 manifold with an inlet at the top of the tower. The manifold was built from glass tubing (4.9 cm  
185 inner diameter, Borodrain) with a residence time in the manifold of 2.1 s. NO<sub>2</sub> was measured using  
186 a cavity attenuated phase shift (CAPS) instrument on the tower with an LOD of 40 pptv, which  
187 was zeroed every 1-2 hours. NO and O<sub>3</sub> were both measured from the manifold using a  
188 chemiluminescence instrument with a LOD of 30 pptv and a HORIBA (APOA370) with an LOD  
189 of 2.5 ppbv, respectively. The NO measurements were corrected for losses due to the reaction of  
190 NO with O<sub>3</sub> in the manifold and the sampling line (total 5.5 s), with corrections ranging from 1-  
191 28%. Time series of all three measurements are plotted in Figure S3.

192

### 193 **3.1.3 Meteorology and Soil**

194 Ambient temperature was measured at four different heights on the tower; 5 m, 13 m, 21 m, and  
195 41 m using temperature sensors from Atexis (PT1000) and Thermoest (PT100). Relative humidity  
196 was measured at 5 m using a Vaisala humidity sensor (HMP45A). Soil temperature and moisture  
197 were measured at 5 cm, 10 cm, and 30 cm below the surface using probes from Thermoest (PT100)  
198 and Delta T (Thetaprobe ML2X), respectively. Wind speed and direction were measured at 41 m  
199 using a wind monitor from Young Company. Time series of all the meteorological and soil  
200 measurements are shown in Figure S4-5.

201

## 202 **3.2 HYSPLIT**

203 To identify different air masses, 48-hour back trajectories were simulated every hour at a  
204 terminating height of 40 m using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory  
205 model (HYSPLIT, version 4, 2019) (Draxler and Rolph, 2011). The back-trajectories were  
206 modelled using meteorological data from the Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS) at a  
207 resolution of 1 degree. This led to the separation of the data into two periods, 25<sup>th</sup> of June to 2<sup>nd</sup> of  
208 July and 3<sup>rd</sup> of July to 18<sup>th</sup> of July, which are plotted in Figure 1. The first phase is dominated by  
209 clean air from over the Atlantic Ocean (henceforth called “Atlantic”). Back trajectories indicated  
210 that the vast majority of air masses were transported within the boundary layer prior to reaching  
211 the site and thus may have reasonably fresh “marine influence”. The second phase is dominated

212 by air that has passed over urban locations including Paris, Brussels and the Ruhr area within the  
213 last 48 hours (henceforth called “Continental”).

214

#### 215 **4 Results and Discussion**

216 Two 24-hour periods of temperature (at 4 different heights), NO, O<sub>3</sub>, relative humidity (RH), NO<sub>2</sub>,  
217 and NO<sub>2</sub> photolysis rate constant (JNO<sub>2</sub>) are plotted in Figure 2. The left panels show 24 hours  
218 with Atlantic air and the right panels 24 hours with continental air. Immediately apparent in these  
219 datasets (and in Fig S1) is the large diel cycle in O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios, with net daytime production  
220 resulting in mid-afternoon mixing ratios between ~30 and 90 ppbv. In contrast, very low O<sub>3</sub> mixing  
221 ratios (often approaching zero) were observed at nighttime.

222 In the lowermost panels (JNO<sub>2</sub> measurements), the nighttime is shown in dark grey and the two  
223 light grey areas show the time before sunset (about 5 hours) and after sunrise (about 4.5 hours)  
224 when very little direct sunlight reaches the ground of the site due to shading by the trees. This  
225 leaves about 6.5 hours centred around midday when direct sunlight reaches the ground. The  
226 shading results in radiative cooling of the ground in the late afternoon and associated temperature  
227 inversions begin to form prior to sunset as can be observed in the right panels of Figure 2 and in  
228 more detail in Figure S6. The temperature inversions begin approximately at the same time as the  
229 ground temperature at 5 cm below the surface starts to decrease (see Figure S6). These conditions  
230 of insolation were relatively consistent throughout the campaign.

231 Clear temperature inversions were observed for both nights shown in Figure 2, the beginning and  
232 end of which are indicated by dashed lines. Vertical mixing can be reduced significantly during a  
233 temperature inversion, which is apparent from the O<sub>3</sub> and RH measurements in the right-hand  
234 panel. In both examples, O<sub>3</sub> decreases at the ground level (5.4 m) at the beginning of the  
235 temperature inversion and increases as the inversion breaks down in the morning. This behaviour  
236 is understood in terms of O<sub>3</sub> loss to soil surfaces and through stomatal and non-stomatal uptake on  
237 leaves (Zhou et al., 2017; Rannik et al., 2012; Altimir et al., 2006; Ganzeveld and Lelieveld, 1995)  
238 as well as through chemical reactions with e.g. NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and unsaturated (biogenic) organics  
239 (Kurpius and Goldstein, 2003). Reduced vertical mixing means that during the inversion, O<sub>3</sub> is  
240 only slowly replenished by downward mixing of air masses above the canopy where higher O<sub>3</sub>  
241 levels are observed. In contrast, the RH behaves in the opposite sense as the air above the inversion  
242 is drier than close to the ground, where evapotranspiration contributes to enhanced water vapour  
243 concentrations.

244 If the only source of NO was the photolysis of NO<sub>2</sub>, NO mixing ratios would be expected to follow  
245 the NO<sub>2</sub> photolysis rate during the day and tend to zero at night as NO is oxidized on a time scale  
246 of minutes (for O<sub>3</sub> > 10 ppb) to NO<sub>2</sub> by O<sub>3</sub>. This was not always the case during ACROSS. A  
247 pronounced NO peak (up to ~2 ppbv) was observed at ground level between 00:00 and 06:00 UTC  
248 (02:00 and 08:00 local time) during the phase dominated by Atlantic air, shown in Figure 2, which  
249 is absent in the phase dominated by continental air. The peak occurs prior to sunrise and is only  
250 observed by the ground-level measurements suggesting a non-photolytic source of NO close to the  
251 ground, which is discussed further below. Very low (0-5 ppbv) O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios coincide with the

252 sustained nighttime NO peak observed, which is never reached in the example from the continental  
253 phase, although in both cases clear temperature inversions were seen. Additional examples of  
254 sustained NO peaks (i.e. lasting several hours at level between 1 and 2 ppbv) at night during the  
255 first phase are shown in Figure S7. Examples of additional nights with temperature inversions  
256 during phase 2, where NO mixing ratios remained close to zero, are shown in Figure S8.

257

#### 258 **4.1 Nighttime Ozone Loss**

259 For each night between June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup> the net O<sub>3</sub> loss rate constant,  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  was derived  
260 by fitting exponential expressions to the data for periods of 4.5 to 8 hours.  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  was highly  
261 variable, with values between  $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , depending on the strength of the  
262 temperature inversion and the relative humidity (see discussion below). These values of  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$   
263 correspond to lifetimes of 1-15 hours for O<sub>3</sub> at nighttime. Chemical losses of O<sub>3</sub> occur through  
264 reactions with NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and unsaturated BVOCs (Zhou et al., 2017). Rate coefficients of reactions  
265 of O<sub>3</sub> with NO ( $1.9 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K), NO<sub>2</sub> ( $3.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298  
266 K), limonene (a reactive terpene,  $2.2 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K),  $\beta$ -caryophyllene  
267 (sesquiterpene,  $1.2 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K) are low such that mixing ratios in excess  
268 of 1 ppbv for NO and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene would be required to explain the O<sub>3</sub> loss rate constant  
269 (IUPAC, 2024). Required mixing ratios of terpenes or NO<sub>2</sub> would be even larger (60-300 ppbv).  
270 As such high mixing ratios of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> were not observed continuously and such levels of  
271 BVOC are unlikely, we assume that chemical losses of O<sub>3</sub> are insignificant compared to deposition  
272 as previously observed (Zhou et al., 2017). Ignoring entrainment from other heights, we can then  
273 equate  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  to  $(2V_d/h)$ , where  $V_d$  is the deposition velocity and  $h$  is the boundary layer height;  
274 the factor 2 is used to account for a positive vertical gradient (Shepson et al., 1992). Using a  
275 boundary layer height of 20 m (arbitrarily set equal to the top of the canopy) gives net deposition  
276 velocities varying between 0.018 and 0.3 cm s<sup>-1</sup>. These values for  $V_d$  are in broad agreement with  
277 other studies in temperate forests, where deposition velocities for O<sub>3</sub> at nighttime have been  
278 reported to be around 0.07-0.3 cm s<sup>-1</sup> (Padro, 1996, 1993; Finkelstein et al., 2000; Wu et al., 2016).

279 In Figure 3 the O<sub>3</sub> production rate ( $J\text{NO}_2 \times [\text{NO}_2]$ ), RH, temperature at 4 different heights and O<sub>3</sub>  
280 mixing ratio have been plotted for two nights with high average RH to illustrate the impact of  
281 temperature inversions on the net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constants. The production rate of O<sub>3</sub> is used to  
282 identify periods in which production is negligible. In the left panel a night without a temperature  
283 inversion is plotted, where the average RH for the period used to fit the exponential decay is  $93 \pm$   
284  $3 \%$ . These conditions resulted in a net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constant of  $6.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . In contrast, the night  
285 depicted in the right panel has the same average RH ( $92 \pm 3 \%$ ) and a very clear temperature  
286 inversion, which gives a net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constant of  $3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This gives a factor of 5 between  
287 these two net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constants depending on whether a temperature inversion is observed or  
288 not. This can be understood in terms of the O<sub>3</sub> being replenished from above when there is no (or  
289 a weak) inversion, which is not the case when there is an inversion. Bearing this in mind, the use  
290 of  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  (a *net* O<sub>3</sub> loss constant) must result in a lower limit to  $V_d$  unless strong temperature  
291 inversions (preventing O<sub>3</sub> entrainment from above) are present. The O<sub>3</sub> loss rate will also be  
292 enhanced under conditions of strong inversion if trace-gases that are reactive towards O<sub>3</sub> are



293 released into a very shallow boundary layer. However, as indicated above, chemical losses are not  
294 expected to compete with physical losses.

295 To investigate the impact of RH on the net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constants, two nights with temperature  
296 inversions are plotted in Figure S9; one with high RH (92 ± 3 %) and one with a lower RH (63 ±  
297 6 %). Here we see a large decrease in  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  from  $3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  to  $4.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , when going from  
298 high to lower RH. The individually determined O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constants are plotted as a function of  
299 RH in Figure 4 and coloured depending on whether a temperature inversion is observed or not  
300 during the time period which was used for the exponential decay fit. A clear increase in O<sub>3</sub> loss-  
301 rate constants can be observed when RH increases above 70-80% when a temperature inversion  
302 was observed. A small increase at RH higher than 70-80% was also observed when temperature  
303 inversions were absent. The observed dependence of  $k_L(\text{O}_3)$  on relative humidity is consistent with  
304 previous studies in forested regions, which have reported an increase in O<sub>3</sub> loss above 60-70% RH  
305 (Altimir et al., 2006; Rannik et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2017). Altimir et al. (2006) suggested an  
306 enhancement factor which is humidity dependent above 70% RH; 1 at 70% RH, 2 at 85% RH and  
307 a sharp increase to over 5 when moving towards 100% RH. In a boreal forest these observations  
308 have been explained by the formation of a “wet skin” on leaves which enhances surface O<sub>3</sub> losses  
309 by modifying (reducing) the surface-resistance to uptake (Zhou et al., 2017). This is in broad  
310 agreement with our observations during nights with a temperature inversion (see Figure 4), and  
311 the discrepancies between the studies could be explained e.g. by different tree types, the height of  
312 the boundary layer, strength of the inversion and temperature.

313 The faster net rate of O<sub>3</sub> loss on nights with high relative humidity and well-defined temperature  
314 inversions explain the differences observed in the O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios at night during the Atlantic and  
315 continental phases. The average nighttime (20:00-04:00 UTC) RH for the Atlantic phase was 87.4  
316 ± 7.6 (1σ) % compared to 68.4 ± 12.7 (1σ) % for the continental phase, indicating that on nights  
317 with temperature inversions higher loss-rate constants would be expected for the Atlantic phase.  
318 The high RH combined with the significantly lower average peak O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratio in the Atlantic  
319 phase (34.5 ± 6.0 (1σ) ppbv between 14:00-15:00 UTC) compared to the continental phase (52.7  
320 ± 13.6 (1σ) ppbv between 14:00-15:00 UTC) explains why on nights with temperature inversions  
321 during the Atlantic phase the O<sub>3</sub> was essentially completely depleted as shown in Figure 2 and S7.

322

## 323 4.2 Nitrogen Oxide Soil Emissions

324 Figure 2 (left panel) and S7 show nighttime periods in which NO was observed when O<sub>3</sub> was  
325 depleted during the Atlantic phase. The several hours duration of the period when NO was above  
326 the LOD excludes very local combustion as the source, leaving soil emissions resulting from  
327 microbial activity (Davidson and Kinglerlee, 1997) as the most likely source of NO. At 293 K and  
328 2 ppbv of O<sub>3</sub>, the lifetime of NO towards reaction with O<sub>3</sub> is around 20 minutes. It is therefore  
329 reasonable to assume that NO is close to steady-state when there is 2 ppbv or more of O<sub>3</sub> available.  
330 The NO emission rate ( $E_{\text{NO}}$ ) can therefore be equated to the loss rate of NO as described in equation  
331 (1) assuming all peroxy radicals (XO<sub>2</sub>) react with the same rate coefficient as HO<sub>2</sub>:

$$332 E_{\text{NO}} = k_{\text{NO}+\text{O}_3}[\text{NO}][\text{O}_3] + k_{\text{NO}+\text{HO}_2}[\text{XO}_2][\text{NO}] \quad (1)$$

333 where  $k_{\text{NO}+\text{O}_3}$  and  $k_{\text{NO}+\text{HO}_2}$  are the temperature-dependent rate constants for the reaction between  
334 NO and O<sub>3</sub> and HO<sub>2</sub>, respectively, (IUPAC, 2024) and [NO], [O<sub>3</sub>] and [XO<sub>2</sub>] are the measured  
335 concentrations of NO, O<sub>3</sub> and XO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. In Figure 5, NO and E<sub>NO</sub> (when O<sub>3</sub> > 2 ppbv) at  
336 nighttime ( $J_{\text{NO}_2} < 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) are separated by air masses and plotted against O<sub>3</sub>, where the outliers  
337 are defined as being outside  $1.5 \times$  interquartile range (IQR). While the nighttime NO mixing ratio  
338 increased rapidly when O<sub>3</sub> tended towards 0 ppbv during the Atlantic phase, O<sub>3</sub> was never depleted  
339 to less than 5 ppbv during the Continental phase and therefore no sustained periods of enhanced  
340 NO were observed at nighttime. In contrast, no significant trend is found when plotting E<sub>NO</sub> against  
341 O<sub>3</sub> for either of the phases, which shows that the calculated soil emission of NO is not dependent  
342 on O<sub>3</sub>. This indicates that while the soil is an important but variable source of NO, sustained  
343 nighttime NO peaks are only observed above the instrument LOD when O<sub>3</sub> is almost totally  
344 depleted so that the lifetime of NO is long enough to allow its concentration to build-up  
345 sufficiently.

346 Water content and temperature have previously been shown to impact the emission rate of NO  
347 from soil (Pilegaard, 2013; Rosenkranz et al., 2006). Rosenkranz et al. (2006) found a positive  
348 correlation between soil moisture and NO emission up to 40% water-filled pore space (WFPS) and  
349 an optimum between 12.5 and 15 °C soil temperature in a sessile oak forest in Hungary. In Figure  
350 6, NO and E<sub>NO</sub> are plotted against the soil temperature and moisture at 5 cm below the surface.  
351 The measured NO mixing ratios peak towards the highest soil moisture and lowest soil temperature  
352 measured during this campaign, however, as with O<sub>3</sub>, there is no significant trend in the NO  
353 emission rates with soil moisture. At the low (11.5-12.5 °C) and high (19.5-20.5 °C) nighttime soil  
354 temperatures very few measurements were made (around 2 hours combined) compared to the rest  
355 of the temperature intervals. Across the remaining temperature intervals, no significant trend was  
356 observed in the estimated NO emission.

357 The average NO emission rate derived for the two phases is identical with values of  
358  $1.45 \pm 1.61 \text{ ppbv h}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ , median =  $1.27 \text{ ppbv h}^{-1}$ ) and  $1.42 \pm 5.68 \text{ ppbv h}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ , median =  $0.71$   
359  $\text{ppbv h}^{-1}$ ) for the Atlantic and Continental phases, respectively, when using data where O<sub>3</sub> > 2  
360 ppbv. The Continental phase show much higher variability resulting from more spikes in the data  
361 during that period. When O<sub>3</sub> is completely depleted during the Atlantic phase, the increase in NO  
362 per hour results in NO emission rates of 0.3-1.8 ppbv h<sup>-1</sup>, which is in reasonable agreement with  
363 the averages across each of the two phases when there is still O<sub>3</sub> present. By assuming a mixed  
364 nocturnal boundary layer (NBL) with a height of 20 m (top of the canopy), the average emission  
365 rates can be converted to NO emission fluxes of  $16.6 \pm 18.5$  ( $1\sigma$ ) and  $16.2 \pm 65.0$  ( $1\sigma$ )  $\mu\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$   
366 <sup>1</sup>, respectively. These values are within the range of previous measurements in different European  
367 forests with similar tree types to those found in the Rambouillet forest (see Table 1). The  
368 measurements by Pilegaard et al. (2006) and Rosenkranz et al. (2006) were all performed using  
369 the chamber technique, whereas Schindlbacher et al. (2004) measured the emission from soil  
370 samples collected in the field and exposed to different temperatures and humidity in the laboratory.  
371 The chamber-derived emission rates are all either lower or, within combined uncertainties, equal  
372 to the values determined in this study, while emission rates from the soil samples were higher than  
373 (or, within combined uncertainties, equal to) the values derived in the present study. Davidson and  
374 Kinglerlee (1997) modelled the global NO emission inventory from soil depending on the biome

375 (e.g. temperate forest, agriculture, and savanna), and split the temperate forest category into  
376 regions affected by nitrogen deposition or not. For temperate forests not affected by nitrogen  
377 deposition, those authors estimated a flux of 0.0-0.2 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (0.0-2.3 μg N m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>), which is  
378 in good agreement with the lower measurements by Pilegaard et al. (2006). In contrast, the  
379 temperate forests impacted by nitrogen deposition had estimated fluxes of 1.1-5.0 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  
380 (12.6-57.1 μg N m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>), which is in good agreement with our measurements at Rambouillet where  
381 nitrogen deposition is enhanced by pollution arriving from Paris and other surrounding urbanized  
382 / industrialized areas. While noting that our fluxes are broadly consistent with previous  
383 measurements, we recognise that the calculations are based on the assumptions of a well-mixed  
384 boundary layer of fixed height arbitrarily set at 20 m and should not be over-interpreted.

385

### 386 **4.3 Nitrogen Dioxide Losses**

387 At nighttime, in the absence of its photolysis, NO<sub>2</sub> may be expected to increase in concentration  
388 (via R2) when a constant NO source exists (e.g. from soil, as observed here) and when O<sub>3</sub> is  
389 present. For both the Atlantic and the Continental phases an average diel profile between 20.00  
390 and 04.00 UTC of NO<sub>2</sub> (black) is plotted in Figure 7. No obvious increase in NO<sub>2</sub> can be observed  
391 in the Atlantic phase and an average increase of around 1 ppbv can be observed in the Continental  
392 phase. The expected NO<sub>2</sub> resulting from the NO + O<sub>3</sub> reaction if there were no loss mechanisms  
393 of NO<sub>2</sub> is plotted in red. This is determined using the NO<sub>2</sub> measured at 20.00 UTC and  
394 incrementing this value by the NO<sub>2</sub> that would have been produced through NO oxidation by O<sub>3</sub>  
395 and peroxy radicals in each time step. In both phases, the simple assumption of nighttime NO<sub>2</sub>  
396 production through NO + O<sub>3</sub> and NO + XO<sub>2</sub> and no NO<sub>2</sub> loss results in significant generation of  
397 NO<sub>2</sub> with an overestimation of 10-12 ppbv of NO<sub>2</sub> at the end of the night compared to the measured  
398 NO<sub>2</sub>. A loss mechanism of around 1.4 ppbv h<sup>-1</sup> of NO<sub>2</sub> is therefore necessary to explain the  
399 observed (lack of increase in) NO<sub>2</sub>.

400

#### 401 **4.3.1 Chemical Losses**

402 While during the daytime NO<sub>2</sub> is removed in a largely irreversible process through reaction with  
403 OH radicals to form HNO<sub>3</sub>, this is unlikely to represent a significant sink at nighttime. In the  
404 absence of photochemical formation pathways, OH is generated at night in the ozonolysis of  
405 olefins and in the reaction of HO<sub>2</sub> with NO<sub>3</sub> and NO.



409 In the forested environment in summer, the emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds  
410 (BVOC) (e.g. olefinic terpenoids) will favour R11 and simultaneously disfavour R12 as NO<sub>3</sub> will  
411 be reduced in concentration through its reactions with BVOCs. During the ACROSS campaign  
412 ground NO<sub>3</sub> levels were generally below instrument detection limits of 2 pptv and we can  
413 reasonably ignore R12. Measurements of OH in forested environments are sparse, though they

414 indicate that nocturnal OH levels are low, with concentrations generally lower than  $1 \times 10^5$   
415 molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ . Combining the rate coefficient for reaction of OH with  $\text{NO}_2$  of  $\sim 1 \times 10^{-11}$   $\text{cm}^3$   
416 molecule $^{-1}$   $\text{s}^{-1}$  (IUPAC, 2024) at ambient pressure and  $\approx 300$  K with an upper limit (confirmed by  
417 measurements) to the OH concentration of  $1 \times 10^6$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  results in a  $\text{NO}_2$  loss constant of  
418  $1 \times 10^{-5}$   $\text{s}^{-1}$ , or (at the average nighttime  $\text{NO}_2 = 1650$  pptv) a loss rate of  $\sim 60$  ppt  $\text{h}^{-1}$ , clearly  
419 insufficient to explain the observations.

420  $\text{NO}_2$  is also lost via its reaction with  $\text{O}_3$  to form the  $\text{NO}_3$  radical (R8). In an upcoming paper, we  
421 will show that the majority of  $\text{NO}_3$  formed in the forest will react with BVOCs rather than with  
422 NO (to re-form  $\text{NO}_2$ ) and, to a good approximation, R8 represents an irreversible loss of  $\text{NO}_2$  as  
423 the alkyl nitrates will not release nitrogen in the form of  $\text{NO}_2$  at nighttime. However, the rate  
424 coefficient for this process ( $3.5 \times 10^{-17}$   $\text{cm}^3$  molecule $^{-1}$   $\text{s}^{-1}$  at 298 K, (IUPAC, 2024)) is very small  
425 and with average nighttime  $\text{O}_3$  levels reduced by deposition (see above) to 23 ppbv, the lifetime  
426 of  $\text{NO}_2$  with respect to this reaction is 14 hours and the loss-rate (at the average nighttime  $\text{NO}_2 =$   
427 1650 pptv) is  $\sim 120$  pptv  $\text{h}^{-1}$ , again too slow to contribute significantly to the apparent loss rate of  
428  $\text{NO}_2$ .

429 The chemical loss of  $\text{NO}_2$  via reaction with OH or via formation of  $\text{NO}_3$  and its further reactions  
430 with BVOC to form alkyl nitrates is expected to result in the conversion of  $\text{NO}_x$  to  $\text{NO}_y$ . As  
431 described in section 3.1.1, during the ACROSS campaign we operated a  $\text{NO}_y$  instrument to  
432 measure  $\text{NO}_y$  both in the gas- and particle-phases. Figure 8 displays the average diel profiles of  
433  $\text{NO}_z$  ( $\text{NO}_y - \text{NO}_x$ ) and  $\text{pNO}_3$  during the Atlantic and Continental phases. For both  $\text{NO}_z$  and  $\text{pNO}_3$   
434 the diel profiles show either a decrease or stable mixing ratio across the period in which losses of  
435 10-12 ppbv of  $\text{NO}_2$  are required to explain the observations. Clearly, the loss of  $\text{NO}_2$  at nighttime  
436 is not balanced by the formation of other forms of reactive nitrogen that were long lived enough  
437 to be detected. Trace gases such as  $\text{HNO}_3$  or alkyl nitrates may be lost via deposition to surfaces,  
438 especially at high relative humidity and lifetimes for biogenic alkyl nitrates of a few hours have  
439 been reported (Liebmann et al., 2019; Farmer and Cohen, 2008; Browne et al., 2013; Romer  
440 Present et al., 2019). However, as shown above, the limiting step in the formation of organic  
441 nitrates is the slow reaction of  $\text{NO}_2$  with  $\text{O}_3$ , which will not convert sufficient  $\text{NO}_2$  to  $\text{NO}_z$  to  
442 explain our observations. Formation of organic nitrates that do not require the intermediacy of  $\text{NO}_3$   
443 (i.e. peroxy nitrates formed from  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_2$ ) would also have been detected by the  $\text{NO}_y$  instrument  
444 and can thus also be ruled out as major reservoirs of  $\text{NO}_x$ .

445  $\text{NO}_2$  deposited to humid surfaces can be converted to HONO and released to the atmosphere  
446 (Elshorbany et al., 2012; Meusel et al., 2016). A time series of HONO can be found in Figure S2  
447 which reveals increases in HONO at nighttime. However, the HONO mixing ratios can account  
448 for only a small fraction of the  $\text{NO}_2$  loss described above. This may reflect the fact that, if formed  
449 at a moist surface, (soluble) HONO is unlikely to desorb quantitatively into the gas-phase. The  
450 low HONO mixing ratios measured during the Atlantic phase compared to the Continental phase,  
451 could potentially be explained by the difference in soil humidity, however, the factors influencing  
452 the formation and release of HONO are complex. The HONO observations will be analysed in  
453 detail in a separate publication from the ACROSS campaign.

454 In the absence of other known gas-phase mechanisms for the removal of NO<sub>2</sub> at night and the fact  
455 that very little other reactive nitrogen trace-gases or nitrate particles are formed during the night,  
456 we conclude that physical removal of NO<sub>2</sub> (i.e. deposition) is responsible for its lack of build-up  
457 at night during ACROSS and that any transformation of NO<sub>2</sub> at the surface does not lead to  
458 quantitative release into the gas-phase

459

### 460 4.3.2 Physical Losses

461 NO<sub>2</sub> is known to be lost through dry deposition to surfaces such as soil and leaves, the latter  
462 depending on whether the stomata are open (daytime) or not fully open (nighttime) (Delaria et al.,  
463 2020; Delaria et al., 2018; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011). As for O<sub>3</sub>, dry deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> to  
464 surfaces can be described by an exponential decay with a first-order decay rate constant,  $k_L(\text{NO}_2)$   
465  $= (V_d/h)$ , where  $V_d$  is the deposition velocity and  $h$  is the boundary layer height. This expression  
466 applies when gradients within the boundary layer are weak, as expected for NO<sub>2</sub> (see above) even  
467 though vertical mixing is very slow at night. The net production (or loss) of NO<sub>2</sub> is given by Eq.  
468 (2) where the first term on the right-hand side is the NO<sub>2</sub> production rate from the reaction of NO  
469 with O<sub>3</sub> or XO<sub>2</sub> (which is identical to the NO soil emission rate) and the second term is the loss  
470 rate assuming only depositional losses (see above) and ignoring entrainment of NO<sub>2</sub> from other  
471 heights. This will give an upper limit of the NO<sub>2</sub> deposition rate as a small fraction (<10%) of NO<sub>2</sub>  
472 is lost through chemical reactions with O<sub>3</sub> and OH (see above).

$$473 \frac{d[\text{NO}_2]}{dt} = E_{\text{NO}} - k_L(\text{NO}_2)[\text{NO}_2]_0 \quad (2)$$

474 [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0</sub> is the NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio at 20.00 UTC. The NO<sub>2</sub> concentration at any subsequent time can  
475 then be calculated as described in Eq. (3) with variation of  $k_L(\text{NO}_2)$  in order to match the observed  
476 NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio.

$$477 [\text{NO}_2]_t = \int_0^t \frac{d[\text{NO}_2]}{dt} + [\text{NO}_2]_0 \quad (3)$$

478 In Figure 7 the grey lines symbolize the calculated NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios at nighttime using values of  
479  $k_L(\text{NO}_2)$  between  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $4.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . As expected, no single value of  $k_L(\text{NO}_2)$  can explain  
480 all the measurements as the height of the BL will not be invariant during the whole night. However,  
481 for the Continental and Atlantic phases the observed NO<sub>2</sub> can be explained with  $k_L(\text{NO}_2) = (2.0 \pm$   
482  $1.0) \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $k_L(\text{NO}_2) = (2.75 \pm 1.25) \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , respectively, which results in lifetimes of ~  
483 1-3 h and ~ 40-110 min for NO<sub>2</sub> at nighttime. As deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> in this environment represents  
484 a permanent loss of NO<sub>x</sub> from the gas phase, this lifetime can be compared to e.g. the lifetime of  
485 NO<sub>x</sub> with respect to its conversion to HNO<sub>3</sub> via reaction of NO<sub>2</sub> with OH which is ~ 1 day  
486 (assuming average [OH] =  $1 \times 10^6 \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$ ). The low aerosol surface area during ACROSS  
487 combined with the low uptake coefficient for NO<sub>2</sub> renders losses due to heterogeneous processes  
488 insignificant (IUPAC, 2024). Clearly, only depositional losses of NO<sub>2</sub> in a forested environment  
489 contribute substantially to its lifetime at night and to the NO<sub>x</sub> budget.

490 If we continue to assume the nocturnal boundary layer at the forest site is at the top of the canopy  
491 (20 m), then the NO<sub>2</sub> loss-rate constants we determined can be converted to a deposition velocity  
492 of  $0.4 \pm 0.2 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  and  $0.55 \pm 0.25 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  for the Continental and Atlantic phase, respectively.  
493 These are comparable to previous measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> deposition velocities of  $0.15 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$   
494 (Dewald et al., 2022),  $0.1\text{-}0.57 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  (Rondón et al., 1993),  $0.098 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  (Breuninger et al., 2013),  
495  $0.2\text{-}0.5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  (Horii et al., 2004),  $0.02\text{-}0.64 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  (Puxbaum and Gregori, 1998), for a mountain  
496 observatory surrounded by coniferous trees, boreal coniferous forests, a temperate coniferous  
497 forest, a temperate mixed deciduous forest, and a temperate oak forest, respectively, where a  
498 combination of soil and foliage deposition is measured. Horii et al. (2004) saw an increase in  
499 deposition velocity with increasing NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio; from  $0.2 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  at 1 ppbv to  $0.5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  at 30  
500 ppbv. Puxbaum and Gregori (1998) reported monthly averages of  $0.02\text{-}0.64 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ , however, their  
501 nighttime deposition velocities averaged below  $0.05 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ . The deposition velocities determined  
502 here are a factor of 5-40 higher than what has been measured for nighttime foliage deposition  
503 velocities to the leaves of different trees native to California (Delaria et al., 2020; Delaria et al.,  
504 2018), but in good agreement with measurements for daytime. It is, however, important to note  
505 that the deposition velocities estimated here are upper limits as the estimation of the NO emission  
506 rate is an upper limit and chemical loss of NO<sub>2</sub> is not taken into account. Using an average  
507 nighttime NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio of 1650 and 1450 pptv for the Continental and Atlantic phase,  
508 respectively, results in NO<sub>2</sub> deposition rates of  $13.6 \pm 6.8 \mu\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $18.7 \pm 8.5 \mu\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ,  
509 which are in reasonable agreement with that measured for soil NO<sub>2</sub> deposition in a sessile oak  
510 forest of  $9.67 \pm 1.92 \mu\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  during the summer (Rosenkranz et al., 2006). The estimated NO  
511 soil emission rate and NO<sub>2</sub> deposition rate are, within the uncertainties, identical, which means the  
512 Rambouillet forest is not a significant direct source or sink of NO<sub>x</sub>.

513

## 514 **5 Conclusions:**

515 Measurements of NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> during the ACROSS campaign (June-July 2022) in the  
516 Rambouillet forest southwest of Paris, France, have been used to gain insight into nighttime  
517 processes controlling NO<sub>x</sub> in an anthropogenically impacted forest environment. Based on  
518 HYSPLIT back trajectories, two phases of the campaign were identified; one dominated by air  
519 originating over the Atlantic Ocean (“Atlantic”), which on average had high relative humidity and  
520 low O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios, and one dominated by continental air masses from different  
521 urban/industrialized regions (“Continental”), which on average had a lower relative humidity than  
522 the Atlantic phase and higher O<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios. Strong diel profiles were observed in the O<sub>3</sub>  
523 measurements across the campaign with daytime peak mixing ratios varying from ~30 to 90 ppbv  
524 and nighttime tending towards 0-10 ppbv. The daily variation was driven by a variable but  
525 generally rapid O<sub>3</sub> deposition to soil and foliar surfaces, with a strong influence of relative  
526 humidity (influencing the surface resistance to uptake) and inversion (influencing the rate of  
527 entrainment of O<sub>3</sub> from above the canopy).

528 During the Atlantic phase, periods of sustained NO above the instrumental detection limit was  
529 observed at nighttime when O<sub>3</sub> was sufficiently low (i.e. the NO lifetime sufficiently long). This

530 enabled the derivation of an average NO emission rate from the soil ( $E_{NO}$ ) of  $\sim 1.4$  ppbv  $h^{-1}$ , which  
531 was confirmed by the approximately linear increase in NO observed in the absence of  $O_3$  in the  
532 Atlantic phase. The estimated  $E_{NO}$  is in broad agreement with previous measurements in other  
533 European temperate forests with tree types as found in the Rambouillet forest. The uncertainty in  
534 the estimated NO emission rate is determined from the uncertainties in NO and  $O_3$  at 3-5 m above  
535 ground, which leads to higher relative uncertainties at low NO and  $O_3$  mixing ratios. Measurements  
536 of either NO fluxes or highly resolved height profiles of NO and  $O_3$  will improve the NO emission  
537 rate estimate during future field campaigns.

538 An increase in  $NO_2$  at night would be expected when having a constant NO emission rate of  
539  $\sim 1.4$  ppbv  $h^{-1}$  in the presence of  $O_3$  as observed in this study, however, this was not the case. The  
540 lack of increase in  $NO_2$  was used to estimate first-order decay constants of  $(2.0 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-4} s^{-1}$   
541 and  $(2.75 \pm 1.25) \times 10^{-4} s^{-1}$  resulting in an effective lifetime of  $NO_2$  of  $\sim 0.5$ -3 h. The loss of  $NO_2$   
542 at nighttime is presumably driven by deposition to soil and foliar surfaces since the lifetime of  
543  $NO_2$  towards its reactions with OH and  $O_3$  at night is  $>28$  and 14 h, respectively. By comparison,  
544 the daytime lifetime of  $NO_2$  with respect to loss by reaction with OH is about 1 day. We conclude  
545 that the nighttime deposition of  $NO_2$  is a major sink of boundary layer  $NO_x$  in this forested  
546 environment.

547

## 548 **6 Data Availability:**

549 All data can be found on <https://across.aeris-data.fr/catalogue/>.

550

## 551 **7 Author contribution:**

552 All authors contributed with measurements. Data analysis was conducted by STA with  
553 contributions from JNC and PD. CC and VM organized the field campaign with contributions from  
554 the individual group leads. STA and JNC developed the manuscript with contributions from all  
555 authors.

556

## 557 **8 Competing Interests:**

558 At least one of the (co-)authors is a member of the editorial board of Atmospheric Chemistry and  
559 Physics

560

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575

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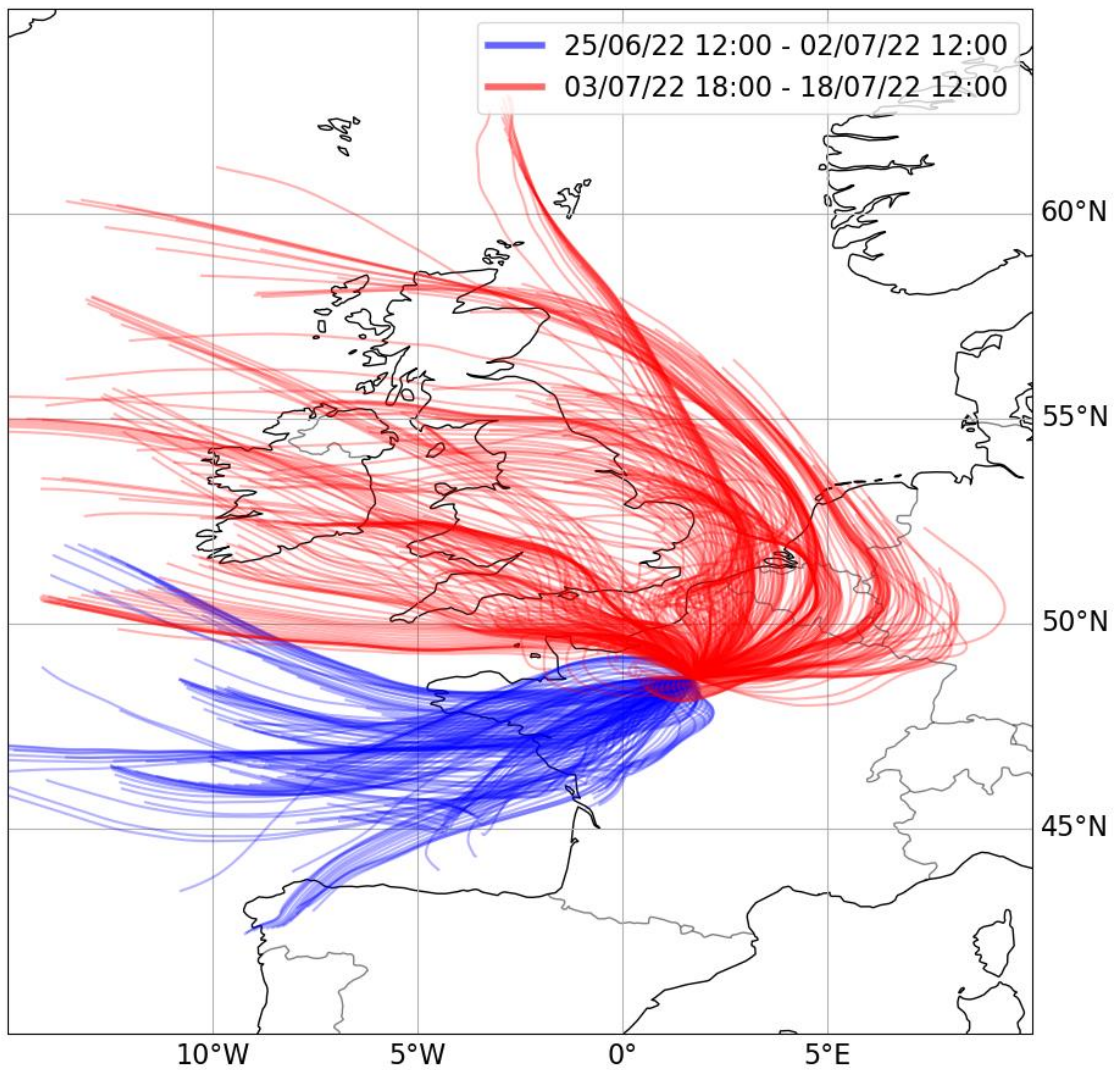
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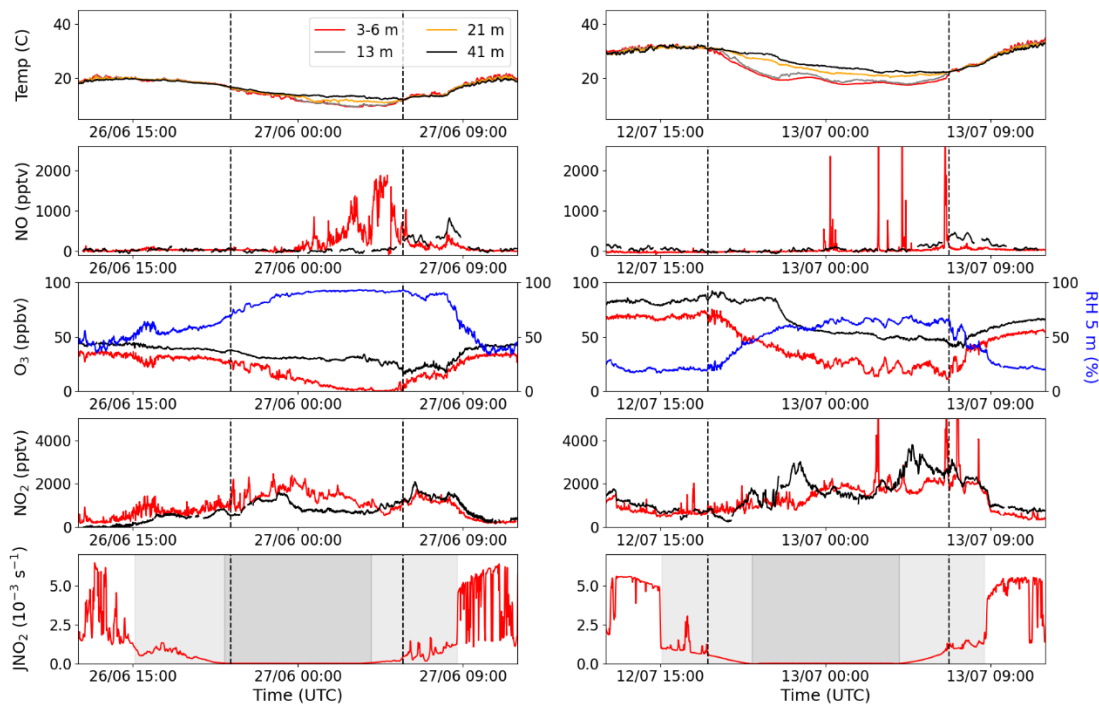
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739 **11 Figures:**



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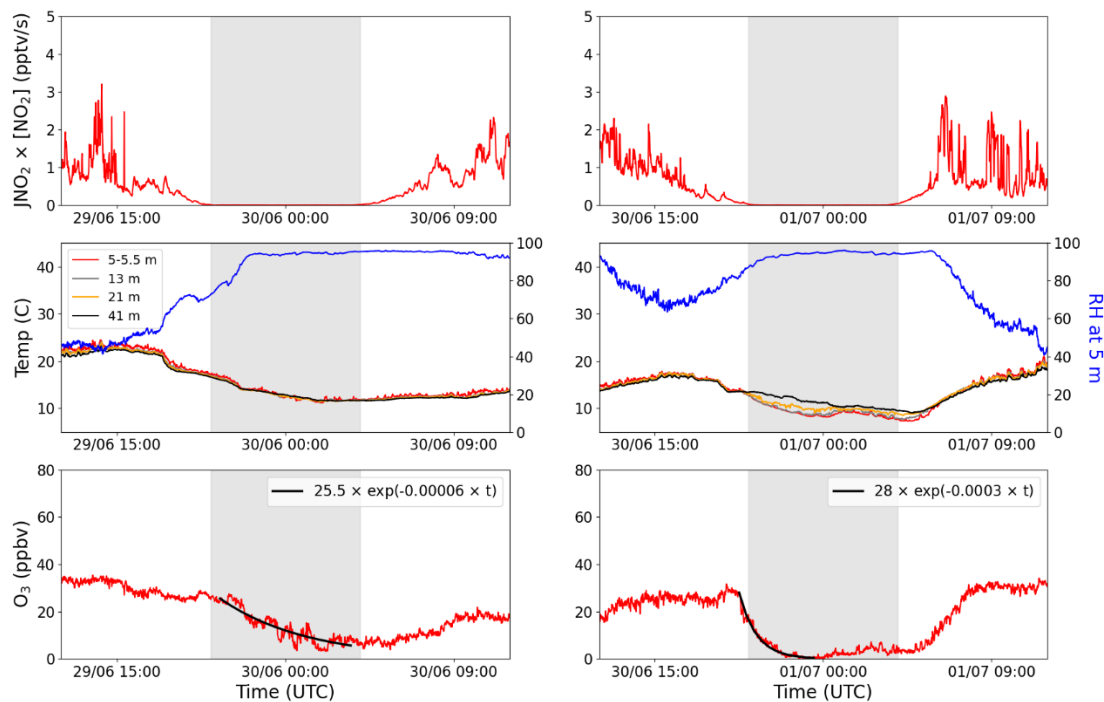
741 Figure 1: 48-hour back trajectories from the Rambouillet forest supersite using the Hybrid Single-  
742 Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model (HYSPLIT, version 4, 2019).



743

744 Figure 2: Measurements of temperature, NO, O<sub>3</sub>, RH, NO<sub>2</sub>, and JNO<sub>2</sub> for two different nights  
 745 during the campaign; one during the Atlantic phase (left panels) and one during the continental  
 746 phase (right panels). The different colours symbolize four different heights; red = 3–6 m, grey =  
 747 13 m, orange = 21 m, and black = 41 m, and the blue shows the RH at 5 m. The grey shaded areas  
 748 in the JNO<sub>2</sub> plots shows the time the MPIC container was in shade during the afternoon and  
 749 morning (light grey) and nighttime (dark grey). The vertical black dashed lines indicate the  
 750 beginning and end of the observed temperature inversions in the top panels.

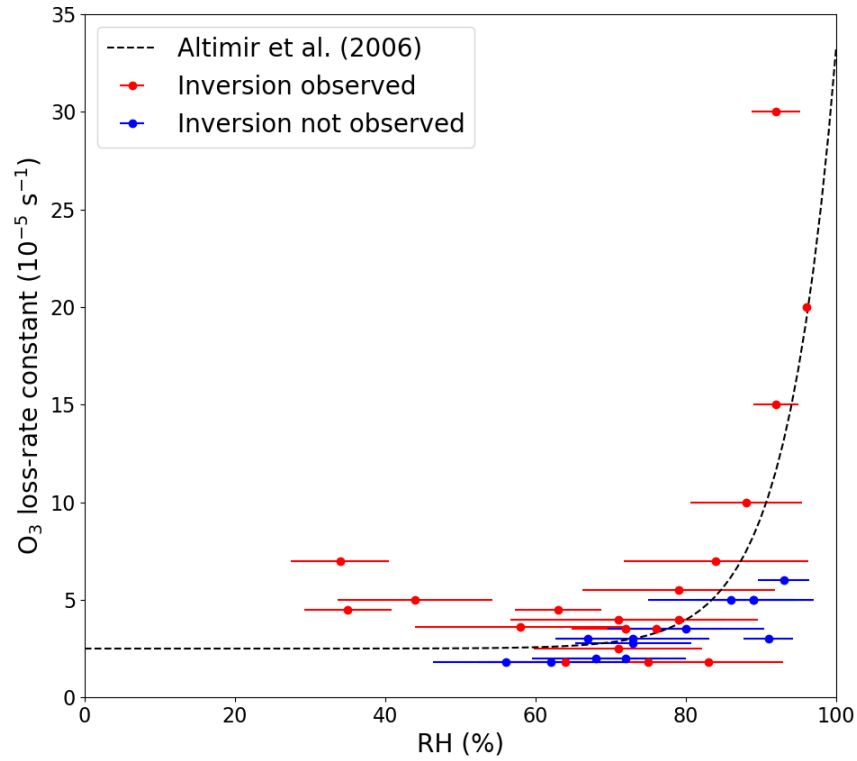
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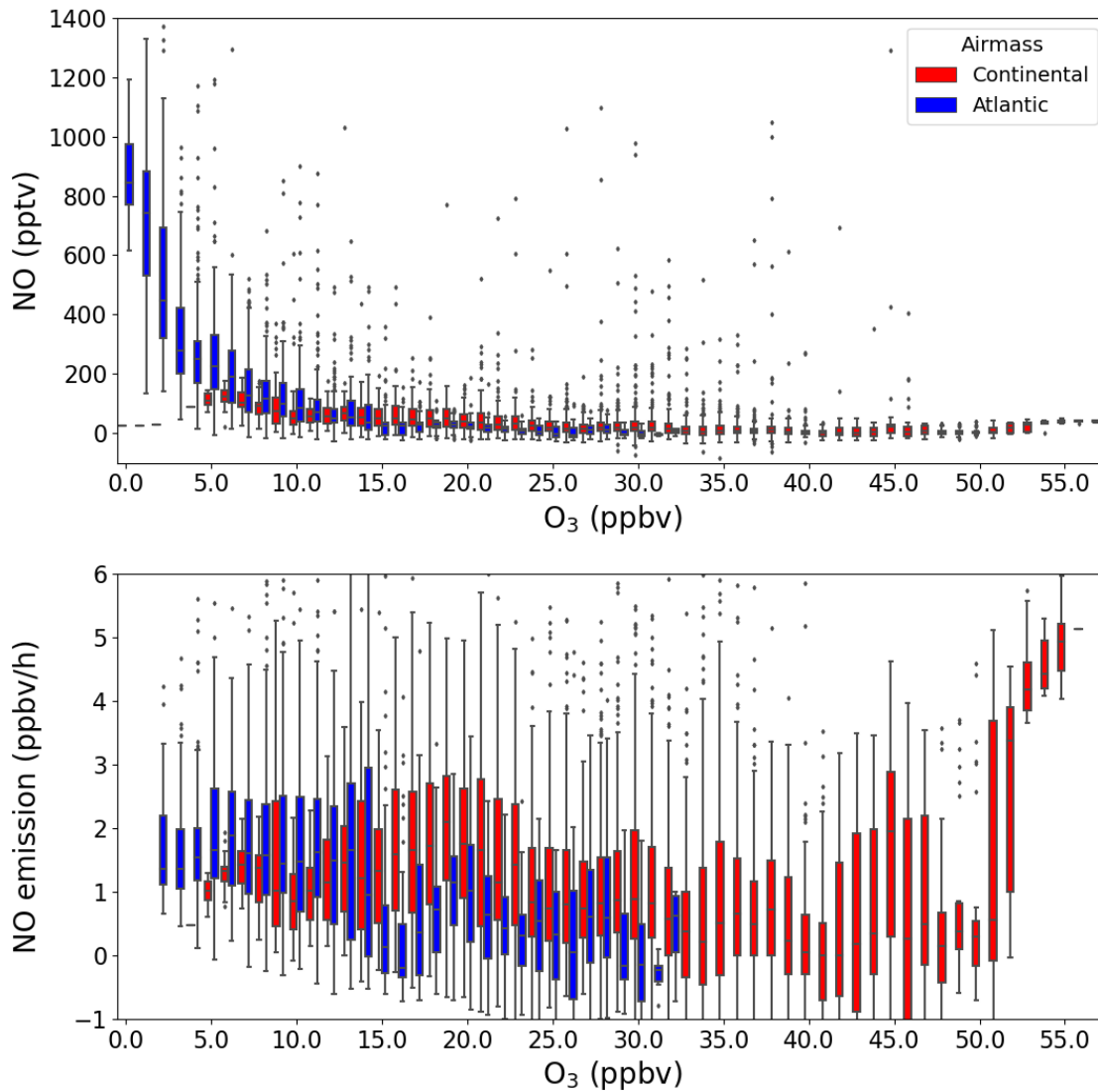
753 Figure 3: The production of  $O_3$  ( $JNO_2 \times [NO_2]$ ), temperature, RH, and  $O_3$  plotted for two nights  
 754 with high average RH; one without a temperature inversion (left panels) and one with a  
 755 temperature inversion (right panels). The different colours symbolize four different heights; red =  
 756 5-5.4 m, grey = 13 m, orange = 21 m, and black = 41 m, and the blue shows the RH at 5 m. The  
 757 net nighttime  $O_3$  loss is fitted with an exponential decay curve (solid black line) in the bottom  
 758 plots. The grey shaded areas represent the nighttime.

759



760

761 Figure 4: Net O<sub>3</sub> loss-rate constants at 5.4 m plotted against the average relative humidity measured  
 762 during the time used to fit the exponential decay of O<sub>3</sub>. The error bars represent  $\pm 1\sigma$  on the average  
 763 RH. The dashed line symbolizes the observations made by Altimir et al. (2006).

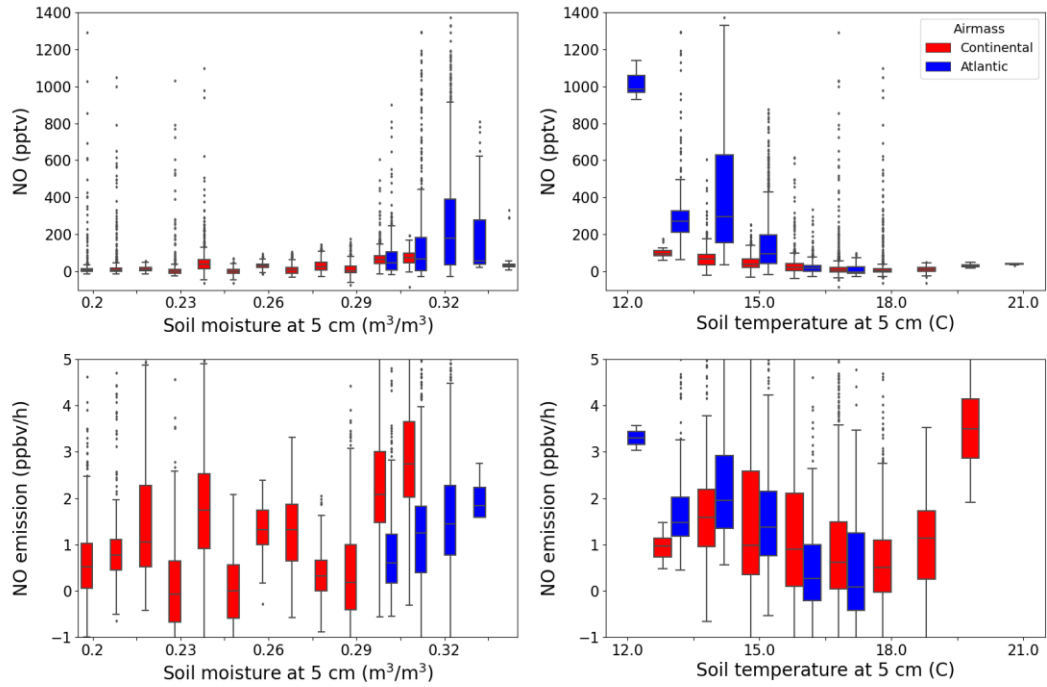


764

765 Figure 5: NO (top) and NO emission (bottom) plotted against O<sub>3</sub> in a box-and-whiskers plot, where  
 766 the outliers are defined as being outside  $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$ . The colours represent the two different air  
 767 masses.

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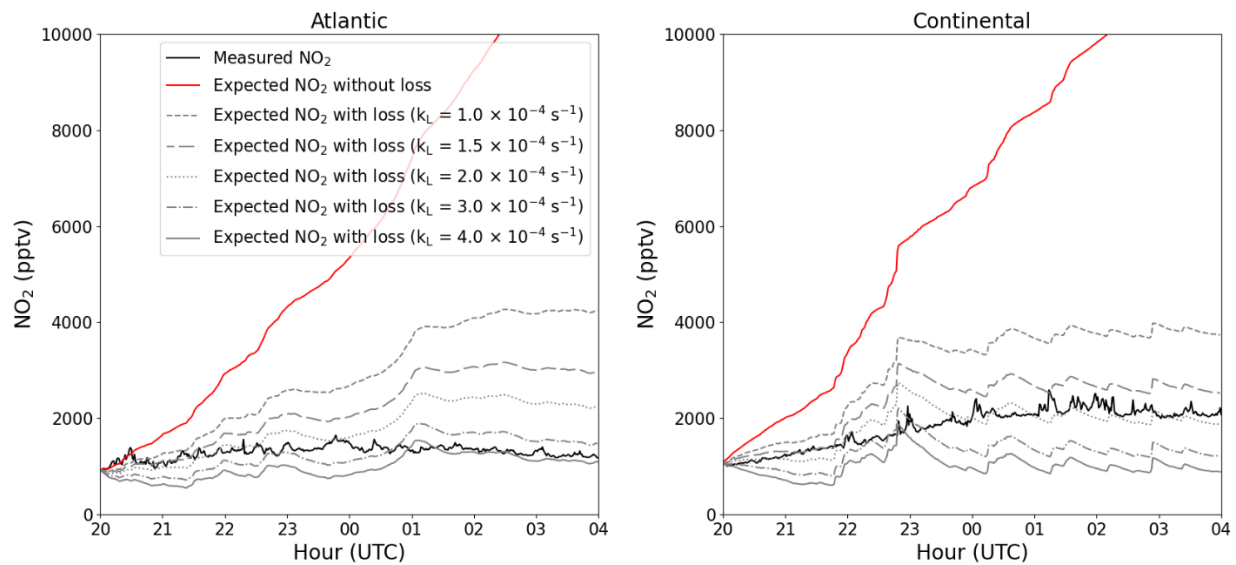




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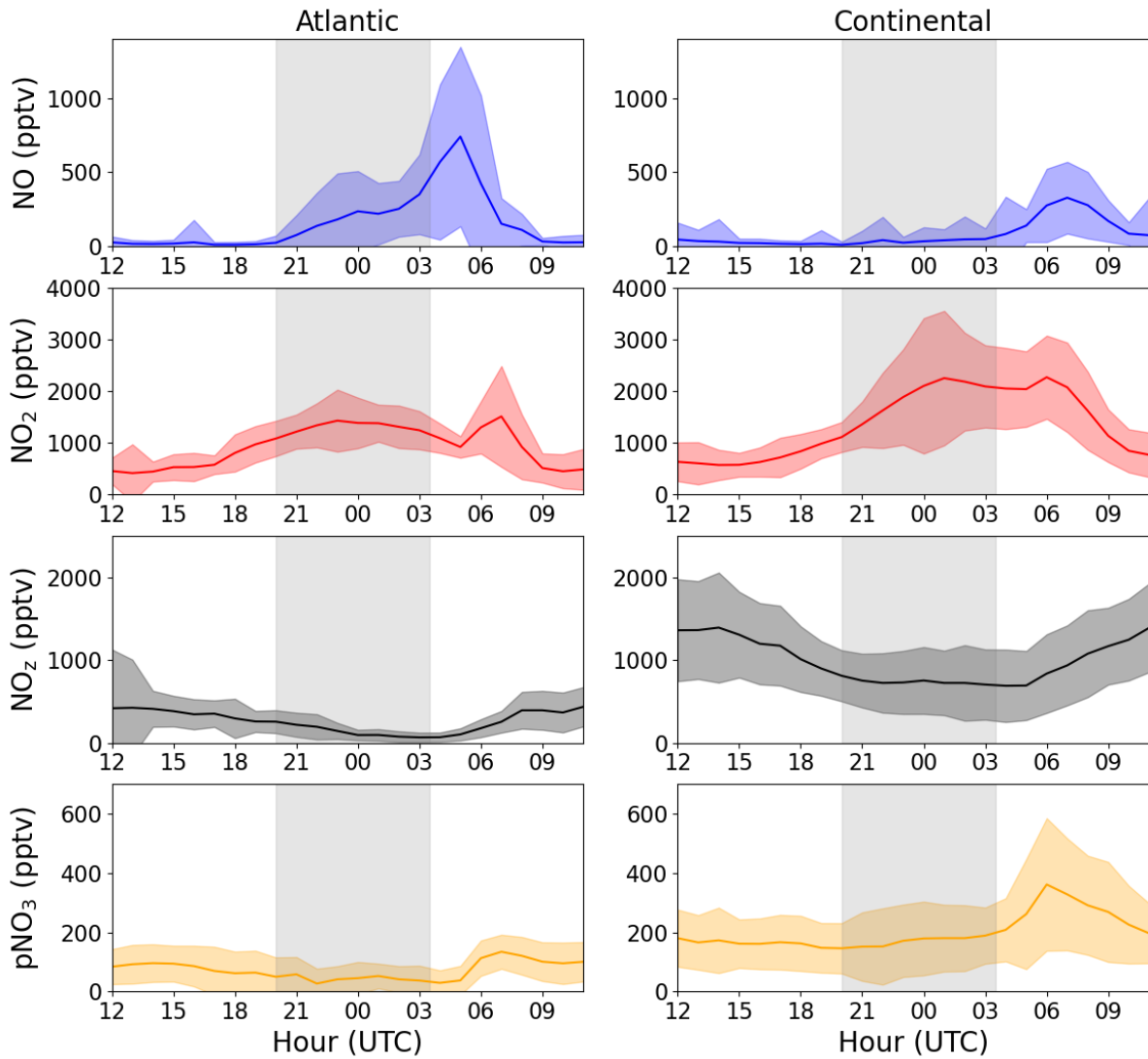
770 Figure 6: NO (top panels) and NO emission (bottom panels) plotted against soil moisture (left  
 771 panels) and temperature (right panels) at 5 cm below the surface in a box-and-whiskers plot, where  
 772 the outliers are defined as being outside  $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$ . The colours represent the two different air  
 773 masses.

774



775

776 Figure 7: Average nighttime profiles of NO<sub>2</sub> at 5.4 m for each of the two phases (black) plotted  
 777 together with the expected NO<sub>2</sub> with (grey) and without (red) NO<sub>2</sub> loss.



778

779 Figure 8: Average diel profiles of NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, total gas-phase NO<sub>z</sub>, and particulate nitrate (pNO<sub>3</sub>) at  
 780 3-6 m above ground for the Atlantic (left panels) and Continental (right panels) phases. The grey  
 781 shaded areas symbolize nighttime.

782 **12 Tables:**

783

784 Table 1: Measured NO soil emission in European forests with the same tree types as in the  
785 Rambouillet forest.

Dominant tree type	Location	NO emission ( $\mu\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$ )	Reference
Oak	Matra Mountains, Hungary	2.1	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)
		$6.0 \pm 3.3$ (summer)	(Rosenkranz et al., 2006)
		$8.4 \pm 2.4$ (autumn)	(Rosenkranz et al., 2006)
Pine	San Rossore, Italy	5.4	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)
Beech	Schottenwald, Austria	$25.5 \pm 7.5$	(Schindlbacher et al., 2004)
		4.2	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)
Beech	Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, Austria	$10.2 \pm 3.4$	(Schindlbacher et al., 2004)
		0.7	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)
Spruce-Fir-Beech	Achenkirch, Austria	$2.8 \pm 1.4$	(Schindlbacher et al., 2004)
		0.9	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)
Mixed deciduous	Ticino Park, Italy	$18.5 \pm 5.8$	(Schindlbacher et al., 2004)
		Below LOD	(Pilegaard et al., 2006)

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787