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# The BROWSE model for predicting exposures of residents and bystanders to agricultural use of plant protection products: an overview

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## Abstract

New models have been developed, with the aim of improving the estimate of exposure of residents and bystanders to agricultural pesticides for regulatory purposes. These are part of a larger suite of models also covering operators and workers. The population that is modelled for residents and bystanders relates to people (both adults and children) who have no association with the application (i.e. not occupational exposure) but are adjacent to the treated area during and/or after the application process. The scenarios that the models aim to describe are based on consideration of both best practice and of real practice, as shown in surveys and from expert knowledge obtained in stakeholder consultations.

The work has focused on three causes of exposure identified as having potential for improvement: boom sprayers, orchard sprayers and vapour emissions.

An overview of the models is given, and a description of model input values and proposed defaults. The main causes of uncertainty in the models are also discussed. There are a number of benefits of the BROWSE model over current models of bystander and resident exposure, which includes the incorporation of mitigation measures for reducing exposure and the use of probabilistic modelling to avoid an over-conservative approach.

It is expected that the levels of exposure that the BROWSE model predicts will, in some cases, be higher than those predicted by the current UK regulatory model, this is largely because the modelled scenarios have been updated to account for current practice and current scientific knowledge.

**Keywords:** spray drift; vapour drift; boom sprayer; orchard sprayer

## Abbreviations

a.s. Active substance

48	BREAM	Bystander and Resident Exposure Assessment Model
49	BROWSE	Bystanders, Residents, Operators and WorkerS Exposure models for plant protection
50	products	
51	EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
52	OPS	Operational Atmospheric Transport Model for Priority Substances
53	PEARL	Pesticide Emission Assessment at Regional and Local scales
54	PPP	Plant protection product
55		

## 56 **Nomenclature**

57	G	Quantity of active substance on the ground (mg a.s. m <sup>-2</sup> ) deposited as spray drift
58	H	Duration of exposure (h)
59	Kom	Coefficient of sorption on organic matter (m <sup>3</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup> )
60	Q	Dermal exposure (mg a.s.) per person
61	TC	Transfer coefficient (m <sup>2</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )
62	TTR	Turf transferable residue, defined as the fraction of G which can be transferred to the body
63		
64		

### 65 **1. Introduction**

67 There has been, in recent years, a number of reviews of the models for assessing the exposure of  
68 bystanders and residents to pesticides used in agricultural applications. Prompted by public  
69 concern, the UK government asked the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution to undertake  
70 a study into the science used to assess risk to people from crop spraying, following which a report  
71 was produced (Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, September 2005) focusing on the UK  
72 situation. The report recommended a new model should be developed, which was subsequently  
73 addressed in the BREAM (Bystander and Resident Exposure Assessment Model) project (Anon,  
74 2011). This demonstrated the potential for underestimating exposure in some circumstances with  
75 the existing exposure models, as well as providing alternative models for some exposure routes.

77 In 2007, The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) commissioned a review of the exposure  
78 assessment component of the risk, but to include all European member states and broadened to  
79 cover operators and workers. The review (Hamey et al., 2009), fed into a scientific opinion on the  
80 preparation of a guidance document on Pesticide Exposure Assessment for Workers, Operators,  
81 Bystanders and Residents, which was then published, (EFSA Panel on Plant Protection Products and  
82 their Residues (PPR), 2010), subsequently revised and a guidance document has now been published  
83 (EFSA, 2014).

85 The BROWSE project (Bystanders, Residents, Operators and WorkerS Exposure models for plant  
86 protection products) was therefore set up to allow improvements in the science and the available  
87 data relevant to human exposure to pesticides to be incorporated into regulatory assessments.

89 At the start of the project, the state-of-the-art in exposure assessment for bystanders and residents  
90 was reviewed (Butler Ellis, O'Sullivan, Fragkoulis, Trevisan, van den Berg & Capri, 2010) and it was  
91 concluded that it would be possible to build on the BREAM project to produce an improved model  
92 applicable to all EU member states; based on data and expert knowledge on spray drift from orchard  
93 air-blast (i.e. air-assisted) sprayers that will allow a new semi-empirical model to be developed and  
94 that significant effort should be expended on developing a new model for vapour exposure after the  
95 application of plant protection products.

96

97 The work undertaken in the BROWSE project has therefore focused on three causes of exposure  
98 identified as having potential for improvement: emission during application due to drift using boom  
99 sprayers or orchard sprayers and emission of vapour from crop or soil after application.

100  
101 The aims of the BROWSE models of exposure for residents and bystanders were:

- 102
- 103 • To use the best of current knowledge and data to develop an improved exposure assessment for  
104 the selected scenarios;
- 105 • To provide a clear description of the population which the exposure assessment addresses;
- 106 • To include an assessment of the range of possible conditions to produce a probability  
107 distribution of exposures and to allow for a selection of representative scenarios.
- 108

109 The BROWSE software is publicly available at <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/browse/software/>.

110  
111 This paper describes the structure of the model, the underlying science, and the rationale for the  
112 default values and the available range for input parameters. Example model outputs are given, but a  
113 fuller description of the exposures predicted by this model, how these compare with existing  
114 regulatory models, a sensitivity analysis for some of the input variables and the extent to which the  
115 BROWSE model can be validated is given in the companion paper Butler Ellis et al (2016)

## 116 117 **2. Model structure**

118  
119 The current BROWSE model for residents and bystanders includes exposure to spray drift from boom  
120 and orchard (air-blast) sprayers during a spray application, as well as exposure to vapour and  
121 deposited spray drift following an application, assuming residents and bystanders are immediately  
122 downwind of the application.

123  
124 The three models (boom sprayer, orchard sprayer and vapour drift) have the same structure, each  
125 with three main components:

- 126
- 127 • A source (i.e. the quantity and characteristics of the active substance emitted into the air)
- 128 • Dispersion downwind
- 129 • Interaction with a bystander or resident to determine exposure.
- 130

131 The three models for emission of pesticides are different for orchard sprayers, boom sprayers and  
132 vapour drift, since the mechanisms for releasing the pesticide into the air in each case are different.  
133 The dispersion downwind could, in principle, be modelled in the same way, but in practice this was  
134 not the case, because of the different source modelling approaches. Interaction with a bystander or  
135 resident is, however, the same for all three models.

136  
137 A generic conceptual model is shown in Fig. 1. Ground deposit, airborne concentrations, and  
138 potential dermal exposures are intermediate model outputs. Ingested, inhaled and dermal  
139 exposures are the final model outputs.

### 140 141 142 **2.1. Boom sprayer model**

143  
144 The source and dispersion of spray from a boom sprayer application was described by a mechanistic  
145 spray drift model, sometimes referred to as the Silsoe model (Butler Ellis and Miller, 2010). This was  
146 used to determine airborne concentrations at the required heights and distances downwind, as well  
147 as ground deposits. Due to the computational time required to run the model, it was not

148 appropriate to include it directly into software that was intended to run probabilistically, i.e. with a  
149 large number of repeat runs, sampling inputs from distributions. The spray drift model was  
150 therefore used to create an *emulator* which mimics the operation of the model but can be run very  
151 fast. This allows multiple simulations over a range of input values to determine a distribution of  
152 outputs. This approach is described in Kennedy et al. (2012) and Kennedy and Butler Ellis (2016).

153

154 The *emulator* operates with fewer variables than the original model, and the ranges are restricted.  
155 However, for maximum flexibility, the emulator used in the BROWSE model retains the most  
156 important variables influencing spray drift (e.g. Miller, 1993, Nuyttens, 2006a, 2006b, Arvidsson,  
157 2011), namely: sprayer boom height; spray quality; boom width and number of upwind passes;  
158 distance downwind; wind speed and angle; crop height; and forward speed. Spray drift reduction is  
159 taken into account simply as a percentage reduction in spray drift. There is an empirical estimate of  
160 the effect of humidity in three categories of low, medium and high, based on results from Parkin et  
161 al. (2003)

162

## 163 2.2. *Orchard sprayer*

164

165 There is currently no model available that can be used to predict airborne spray drift and ground  
166 deposition downwind of an orchard air-blast sprayer in a regulatory context. There is, however, a  
167 significant quantity of experimental data from the Netherlands and UK (Cross et al. 2001a, 2001b,  
168 2003, and van de Zande et al. (2014)) which can be used and therefore an empirical approach has  
169 been taken. The data are insufficient to separate out the effect of some important variables (e.g.  
170 wind speed, crop size and structure) which can therefore only be captured as variability in the data.  
171 The variables that are retained as separate user inputs in the spray component of the model are  
172 sprayer type (cross-flow or axial-fan), growth stage (dormant, transition, full leaf), distance  
173 downwind and spray drift reduction.

174

175 The combined field measurements of spray drift from the Netherlands and the UK were used to  
176 determine a potential distribution of airborne spray (at a single distance) and ground deposits (at a  
177 range of distances) due to spray drift for a given sprayer type and growth stage. Empirical data  
178 (Michielsen et al., 2007) were used to translate airborne spray to different distances, and both  
179 airborne and ground deposits to different levels of spray drift reduction. Further details relating to  
180 the methodology for this are given in van de Zande et al. (2014).

181

182 There are clearly very significant differences in both the structure of the crops sprayed with air-blast  
183 sprayers, and the climatic conditions, across different EU member states. These will influence the  
184 levels of drift, and therefore the model would benefit very much from the inclusion of a much wider  
185 range of data. However, this model sets out a possible framework for an improved exposure model  
186 and is a first step towards making the necessary improvements to the existing regulatory models,  
187 which are based on very much narrower data. If it is shown that the current formulation of the  
188 BROWSE *orchard sprayer* model is inadequate for some situations, it will be possible in the future to  
189 include further data should any become available.

190

## 191 2.3. *Vapour Drift*

192

193 The emission of vapour from a treated field crop (the source) is described by the PEARL (Pesticide  
194 Emission Assessment at Regional and Local scales) model ((Van den Berg & Leistra, 2004). This  
195 model has been used since 2001 in the EU registration process for the leaching of pesticides to  
196 groundwater. The version of PEARL used for BROWSE is described in more detail by van den Berg et  
197 al (2016). The PEARL model has been tested in volatilisation studies against experimental data  
198 (Leistra et al., 2005, Leistra and Van den Berg, 2007, Leistra et al., 2008), so it is considered a suitable

199 model for volatilisation exposure assessments under field conditions. The PEARL model has been  
200 coupled to the atmospheric dispersion model OPS (Operational Atmospheric Transport Model for  
201 Priority Substances) that predicts atmospheric concentration and dry deposition of pollutants. OPS  
202 simulates the atmospheric process sequence of dispersion, transport, chemical conversion and  
203 finally deposition (Van Jaarsveld, 2004). The high-resolution version of OPS used for the BROWSE  
204 scenarios, designated OPS-St, allows hour-to-hour variations in emissions to be included (Van Pul et  
205 al., 2008) The combination of PEARL and OPS is used to predict time-dependent air concentration at  
206 locations around and within the source field using real meteorological data from locations identified  
207 as worst case (90<sup>th</sup> percentile of average air temperature across the growing season) within each EU  
208 regulatory zone. The methodology for identifying these locations is described in more detail in van  
209 den Berg et al. (2016.).

210

### 211 **3. Interaction with bystander and resident**

212

213 In order to model the behaviour of bystanders and residents in the context of pesticide exposure, it  
214 is necessary to define what population we are aiming to address. EFSA (European Food Safety  
215 Authority) (2014) proposed that the definitions of residents and bystanders should be related to the  
216 duration of exposure, i.e. bystanders have acute exposure, and residents, longer-term exposure.  
217 However, this definition caused difficulties amongst BROWSE project stakeholders (Brennan et al.,  
218 2013) and therefore for the purposes of the BROWSE model, residents and bystanders are  
219 considered as a single population of ‘persons who could be located within or directly adjacent to the  
220 area where plant protection product (PPP) application or treatment is in process or has recently  
221 been completed; whose presence is quite incidental and unrelated to work involving PPPs, but  
222 whose position might lead them to be exposed’, irrespective of whether they live there or are  
223 visiting on a temporary basis.

224

225 Any differences between the BROWSE resident and bystander definitions and those of EFSA are only  
226 in the wording and are not substantive. However, there are, potentially, differences in the way the  
227 definitions are translated into a modelling scenario. For modelling purposes, ‘adjacent’ requires  
228 definition (since distance is a variable and this can have a significant impact on exposure). The range  
229 of distances chosen was 2 - 20 m. Acute exposure over a period of up to 24 h is considered for  
230 people who are between 2 and 20 m and downwind of the treated area. Longer term exposure is  
231 considered for people who are in locations surrounded by fields on all sides at a distance of between  
232 2 and 20 m, and remain there for 365 days a year.

233

234 Both exposure types, short term, and longer term, therefore include residents and bystanders, who  
235 can be exposed through a number of routes:

236

- 237 i. Being present, adjacent to, and downwind of, an area (field or orchard) being treated with  
238 PPP. A plume of drifting spray will pass the person, who will become exposed through:
  - 239 a. Spray coming into contact with their skin (direct dermal exposure);
  - 240 b. Spray being inhaled (inhalation exposure).
- 241
- 242 ii. Being present, adjacent to, and downwind of, an area that has recently been treated with PPP.  
243 The person will become exposed through:
  - 244 a. Breathing in vapour which is emitted from the crop after application (inhalation  
245 exposure);
  - 246 b. Drifting spray settling on the ground followed by skin contact with the contaminated  
247 ground (indirect dermal exposure).

248

249 iii. Dermal exposure on the hands may result in ingestion exposure through hand-to-mouth  
250 contact, particularly for children, following exposure through either route 1 or route 2.  
251 Short-term and longer-term exposure are calculated simultaneously in the BROWSE model.

252

253 The relationship between predicted airborne spray and the quantity of spray deposited on a  
254 human body is entirely empirical and based on previously obtained data, (Kennedy et al.,  
255 2012). This relates only to boom sprayers, and so is used in the BROWSE boom sprayer  
256 exposure model. There is limited similar data relating to orchard sprayers (Butler Ellis et al.,  
257 2014), which is insufficient to define the relationship for the orchard model, so the combined  
258 orchard and boom data is used.

259

#### 260 **4. Model Inputs**

261

262 The minimum inputs required to run the model are listed in Table 1, with defaults available for the  
263 large number of additional inputs required. Thus the model can be run very simply, or with a greater  
264 degree of complexity depending on the knowledge of the user and the information provided relating  
265 to the product. In addition, the BROWSE interface allows the user to calculate exposures for drift  
266 only or vapour only, in which case the redundant parameters are not required.

267

268

##### 269 *4.1. Default input parameters*

270

271 The intention is that users can select model inputs that are appropriate to the particular active  
272 ingredient, crop, application equipment and location under consideration, and therefore a single set  
273 of default parameters would not necessarily be appropriate. However, for convenience, default  
274 values are provided in the software. For the parameters in Table 1 where there are no defaults,  
275 initial values are still provided but it is expected that the user will change these for the specific active  
276 substance being evaluated.

277

278 The rationale for the choice of defaults is to achieve a reasonable worst case exposure assessment.  
279 Therefore, the defaults are not themselves worst cases but, whenever possible, will reflect either the  
280 real distribution of values or a single value from that distribution between the mean and the  
281 maximum. The variable ranges are aimed at providing as wide a choice of options as possible, whilst  
282 being consistent with good and typical practice, and within the envelope that we expect the model  
283 to be reasonably accurate.

284

285 These defaults were established through a combination of expert judgement and survey data, and  
286 other available information. A number of surveys have been conducted that have informed this  
287 process: in the UK (Garthwaite, 2004); across European member states (Glass et al., 2012); and as  
288 part of the BROWSE project (Remoundou et al., 2015). The BROWSE survey was the only one to  
289 consider residents and bystanders, whereas the others have focussed solely on operator behaviour.

290

291 Tables 2 - 5 show the model input parameters, their defaults and permitted range, and notes on the  
292 rationales for these suggestions, including the sources of information used. For boom height above  
293 the crop and wind speed, these values represent the expected average values. The BROWSE model  
294 simulates the random variation around these mean values, as explained in Kennedy et al. (2012) and  
295 Kennedy and Butler Ellis (2016).

296

297

#### 298 **5. Example model outputs**

299

300 Examples of model outputs, based on current default values and BROWSE version 5.2, are given in  
301 Figs. 2-4. The actual values of the outputs will depend on the number of iterations for obtaining the  
302 distribution. The current default is 17,500 iterations, but this still gives some variability in output  
303 values. This could be reduced by increasing the number of iterations, but this will also increase the  
304 run time of the model.

305

306 It is expected that the levels of exposure that the BROWSE model predicts will be, in many cases,  
307 higher than those predicted by the current UK regulatory model. This is because of a number of  
308 reasons:

309

- 310 • Current practice in boom spraying has changed, and the BROWSE model defaults reflect this;
- 311 • The main variables influencing vapour exposure have been taken into account;
- 312 • The variability of exposures is predicted, allowing higher percentiles to be chosen to represent  
313 the worst case;
- 314 • There are some aspects of the model where there is insufficient data available for model inputs,  
315 and this is reflected in a higher level of conservatism.

316

317 A comparison between BROWSE exposures and those of other regulatory models is given in Butler  
318 Ellis et al (2016)

319

## 320 **6. Major uncertainties in models and model inputs**

321

322 Components of the models have been tested against available data wherever possible, and a  
323 description of this testing is contained in a separate paper (Butler Ellis et al., 2016). However, there  
324 are elements of the model where there are significant uncertainties either in the modelling  
325 approach, or in the input data. Those considered to be the most important are discussed below.

326

### 327 *6.1. Vapour pressure*

328

329 The vapour pressure is an important driver of vapour exposure, so the reliability of values to be used  
330 should be checked. Sometimes strongly divergent values are reported for a certain plant protection  
331 product in literature (Leistra, 2005). Data available relating to vapour pressure of the active  
332 ingredient that is available in published literature generally relates to measurements made under  
333 laboratory conditions (e.g. Guth et al., 2004). There is evidence that the product co-formulants and  
334 other components of the sprayed tank mix will influence volatility, as well as the surface onto which  
335 it is applied. Butler Ellis, Lane et al. (2010) showed that volatilisation can occur at levels very  
336 different from the published vapour pressure of the active ingredients would suggest.

337

338 This means that although vapour pressure for a given PPP is appropriate as a model input, it does  
339 not have a well-defined value, and there is significant uncertainty surrounding it. There is clearly a  
340 correlation between laboratory measures of vapour pressure and volatilisation when measured  
341 under controlled conditions, but these are generally measured for single products, rather than the  
342 more complex tank mixes that occur in practice.

343

344 Further work is therefore needed to better understand the range of vapour pressures that can occur  
345 in practice, and to determine how to treat this in an exposure assessment model.

346

### 347 *6.2. Airborne spray drift from orchard applications*

348

349 The data used to develop the airborne spray component of the orchard model, while they are the  
350 best that are currently available, do not give sufficient confidence in (a) our prediction of spray drift



351 in different meteorological conditions from the limited range covered by the available data, or (b)  
352 our predictions of the effect of distance on exposure. Further experimental data are needed to  
353 expand the data on which the model is based, to support the extrapolation from a single distance to  
354 a wider range of distances that was used in the model, to better describe the relationship between  
355 airborne spray and bystander exposure, and to provide data for model validation.

356

### 357 6.3. *Indirect exposure model: Transfer coefficients & Turf Transferable Residues*

358

359 The model of exposure to turf contaminated with spray drift is essentially unchanged from previous  
360 regulatory models, and is given in Eq. (1):

361

$$362 Q = G \times TTR \times TC \times H \quad (1)$$

363

364 where:

365 Q is the dermal exposure (mg active substance, a.s.) per person;

366 G is the quantity of active substance on the ground (mg a.s. m<sup>-2</sup>) deposited as spray drift, determined  
367 from the spray drift model emulator;

368 TTR is the turf transferable residue, defined as the fraction of G which can be transferred to the  
369 body;

370 H is the duration of exposure (h);

371 TC is the transfer coefficient [m<sup>2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>], and is defined by Eq. (1), i.e. experimental measurements are  
372 made of Q and TTR, where G and H are known, and these are used to determine TC.

373 This is a very simplistic model, based on very limited data. Values for TTR, TC and H, used as input to  
374 this model have been reviewed. New data for TC and TTR are part of the revised resident exposure  
375 assessment in the USA (U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2012) but the experimental  
376 procedures used to obtain these data have not been published. It is therefore open to debate  
377 whether these data should be used in the BROWSE model, which aims to be transparent. The data  
378 were included, despite the drawbacks relating to transparency, because we believe it is the most  
379 comprehensive and reliable dataset available, particularly when compared with the previously used  
380 data.

381

382 The purpose behind the US data was the assessment of exposure to turf treated directly with a  
383 pesticide application (i.e. at full dose) rather than to turf contaminated by the lower values found in  
384 spray drift. Applications to turf are often at much higher water volumes than those used in  
385 agricultural applications, and it is likely that these experiments were undertaken at high volumes,  
386 which could result in a significant fraction of the applied pesticide being absorbed into the ground  
387 and unavailable for transfer. By contrast, a drifting spray plume will be of low volume and fine  
388 droplets, and would settle only on the top of the sward, thereby being much more available for  
389 transfer. The TTR, expressed as a fraction of the quantity of pesticide per unit area, could therefore  
390 be significantly higher than the 0.05 mean value indicated by the US data.

391

392 The TTR has to be considered alongside a transfer coefficient, measured in the same experiment,  
393 since TC is defined by Eq. (1). Therefore, it is difficult to justify increasing the TTR to account for the  
394 uncertainty outlined above without consideration of TC, and some data to support it. There is the  
395 possibility of using alternative TTR and TC data in the BROWSE model should any become available.

396

397 EFSA (2010 and 2014) proposed alternative values of transfer coefficients but did not indicate the  
398 source. Values of  $0.73 \text{ m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $0.26 \text{ m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$  were suggested for adults and children respectively in  
399 2010, and higher values, 1.45 and  $0.52 \text{ m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$  in 2014. US mean values are higher still (18.0 and 4.9  
400  $\text{m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ). The value in the current exposure model used by the UK Chemicals Regulation Directorate is  
401  $0.52 \text{ m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$  for children, again without citing the source. A previous US exposure assessment  
402 (Residential Exposure Assessment Work Group, 1997) suggested 4.3 and  $0.87 \text{ m}^2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ , and indicated  
403 that their value for a child was derived by scaling the adult value according to the relative body  
404 surface areas. There is therefore a wide range of values that could be used in a regulatory model.

405

406 Indirect dermal exposure, as defined in Eq. (1) is linearly proportional to the values of TTR and TC  
407 and if distributions given by the US data are used as model inputs, this can dominate total exposure,  
408 particularly for boom sprayers, as shown in Fig. 2. It is important that further work is done, and  
409 relevant data obtained, to support this part of the resident and bystander exposure model.

410

411 The assertion that the transfer coefficient is proportional to the body surface area (Residential  
412 Exposure Assessment Work Group, 1997) is not supported by any data, and in more recent US  
413 models (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2012), the method for translating TC from  
414 adult to child is not clear. The transfer coefficient is defined in Eq. (1) as the area of ground  
415 contacted by the body per unit time, not the body surface area contacted by the ground per unit  
416 time. It is likely that there is a correlation between the two, but they are not identical. For example,  
417 a child and adult walking barefoot will have different body surface areas in contact with the ground,  
418 defined by the ratio of their footprint areas, but the child is likely to take more steps than the adult,  
419 and therefore the ground surface area contacted will not have the same ratio between adult and  
420 child as the footprint area.

421

422 In the BROWSE model, the same distribution of values of TC from the US data is used for both adult  
423 and child, on the grounds that it is likely that the data derives from a range of sizes of volunteers  
424 (although probably not children). The distribution is likely to represent a worst case for children.

425

426 Similarly, Eq. (1) suggests that exposure increases with duration. There is no data to support this,  
427 and while it is a useful conservative first approximation, it is probable that saturation occurs, either  
428 because the pesticide on the ground becomes depleted or because there is a maximum dermal  
429 loading.

430

431 The estimation of this component of the total exposure is possibly the weakest, and would benefit  
432 considerably from obtaining relevant experimental data to refine the model and the input  
433 parameters.

434

## 435 **7. Benefits of the BROWSE model for bystander and resident exposure**

436

437 There are a number of benefits of the BROWSE model over current models of bystander and  
438 resident exposure:

439

- 440 • The model is sufficiently flexible to allow the wide range of application practices and crops  
441 around the EU to be addressed, including all outdoor field crops sprayed with a conventional  
442 boom, and fruit crops sprayed with an air-blast sprayer;
- 443 • The model includes realistic scenarios – where data is available about current practice and  
444 behaviour, this is used and unrealistic cases are avoided;
- 445 • The use of probabilistic modelling avoids an over-conservative approach;
- 446 • The model is appropriate for a wide range of agricultural crops,

- 447 • It is possible to use the current BROWSE models of bystander and resident exposure to follow a  
448 tiered approach. In the current version, the data required for a first tier relates to the application  
449 characteristics (dosage, concentration in product) and substance properties (such as vapour  
450 pressure). All other inputs can be default values. At higher tiers, the user can enter alternative  
451 input data that may be more appropriate to the specific proposed use;  
452 • Mitigation measures to reduce exposure (such as spray drift reduction technology) can be taken  
453 into account if required.

454

## 455 **8. Conclusions**

456

457 A new model has been developed, with the aim of improving our estimate of exposure of residents  
458 and bystanders to pesticides used in a wide range of agricultural applications. The population that is  
459 modelled relates to people (both adults and children) who have no association with the application  
460 (i.e. not occupational exposure) but are adjacent to the treated area during and after the application  
461 process.

462

463 The probabilistic approach taken has allowed a distribution of exposures to be determined, and also  
464 ensures that the worst case exposures, obtained by consideration of the higher percentiles, are not  
465 unrealistic.

466

467 The scenario that the model aims to describe is based on consideration of both best practice, and of  
468 real practice as shown in surveys and from expert knowledge obtained in stakeholder consultations.  
469 It is recognised that many improvements are possible in the model which can be made as more data  
470 becomes available.

471

472 It is expected that the levels of exposure that the BROWSE model predicts will be, in many cases,  
473 higher than those predicted by the current UK regulatory model.

474

475 Possible increases in exposure predictions within the framework of pesticide approvals are likely to  
476 lead to greater pressure for drift reduction. While mitigation measures for reducing resident and  
477 bystander exposure are not currently accepted as part of a product approval, the use of engineering  
478 and other controls for spray drift reduction could become increasingly important in enabling plant  
479 protection products to remain available to European growers.

480

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482

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490

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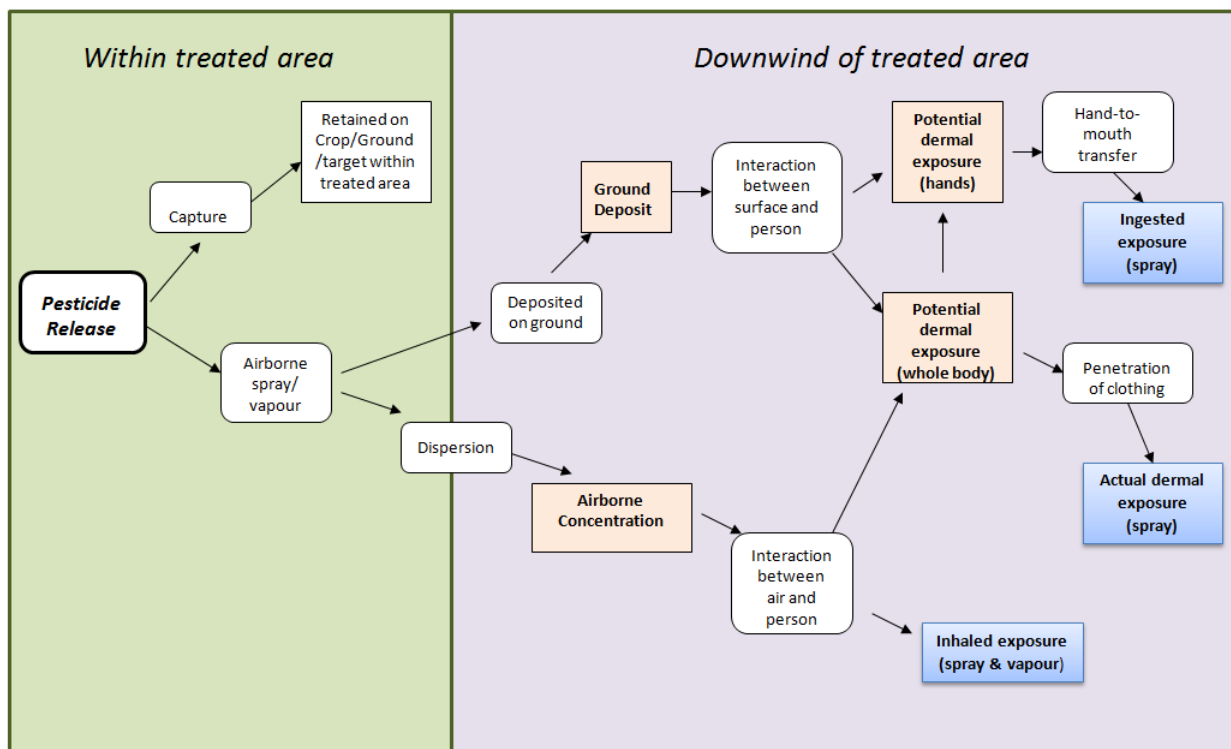


Fig. 1

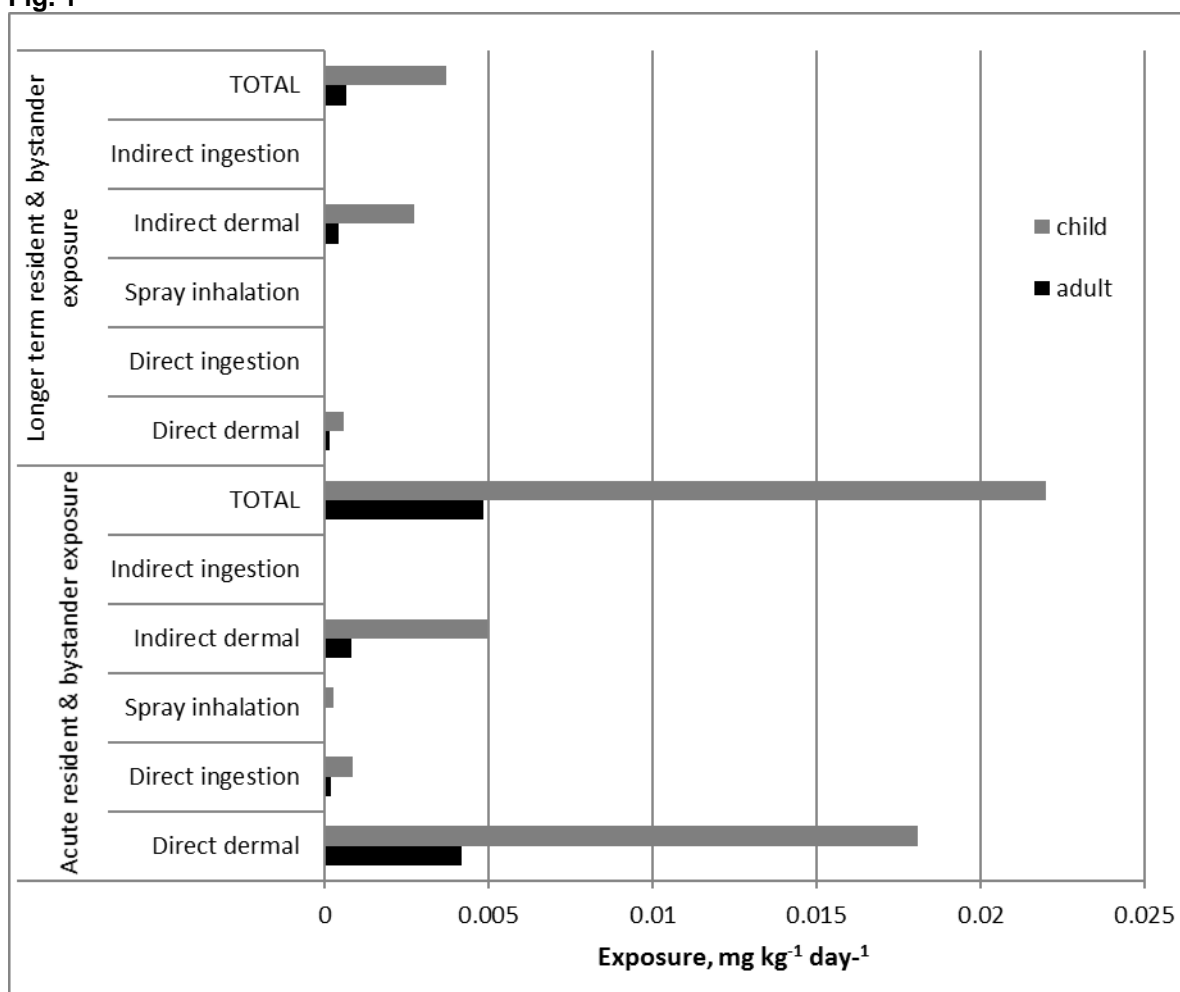
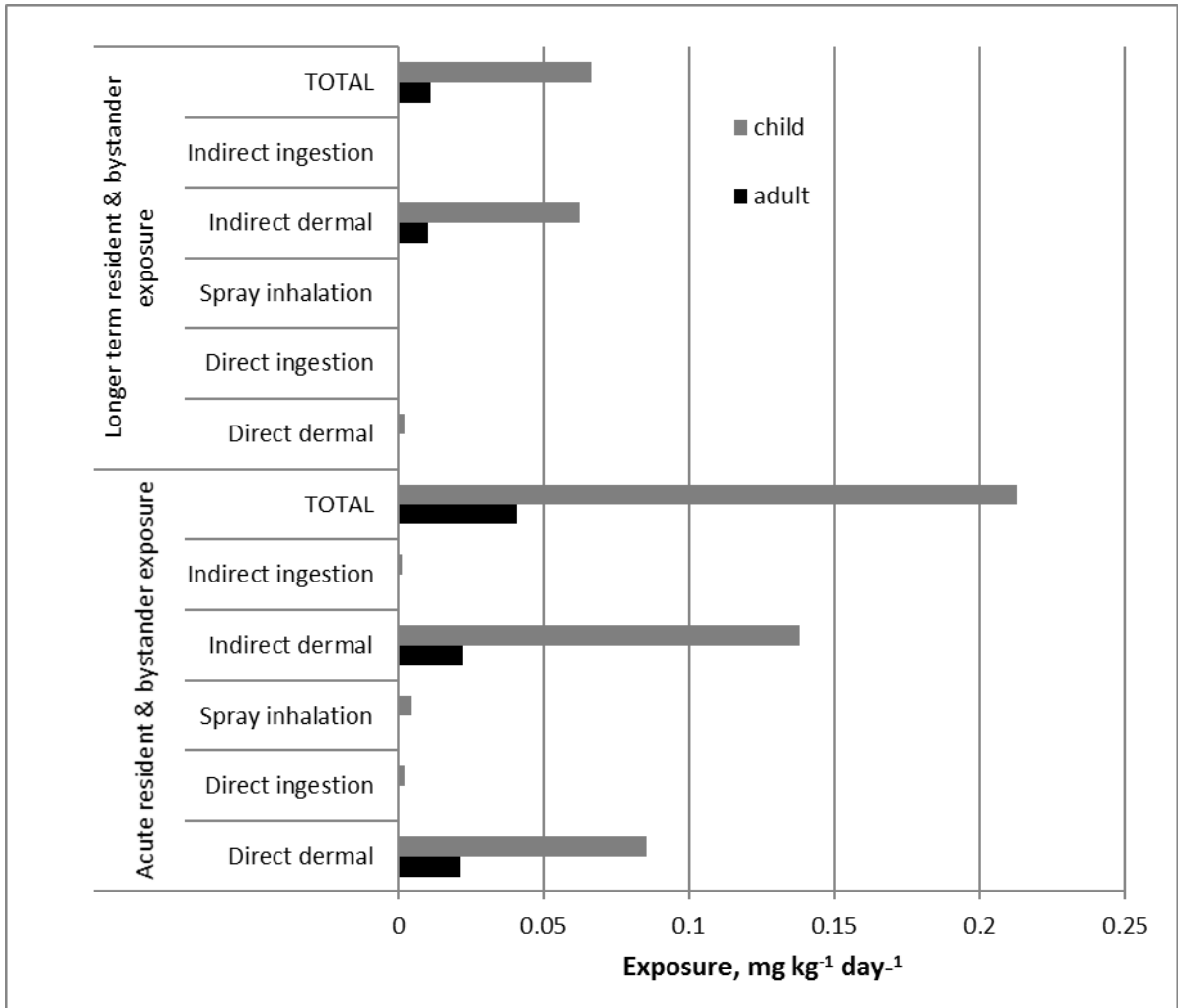
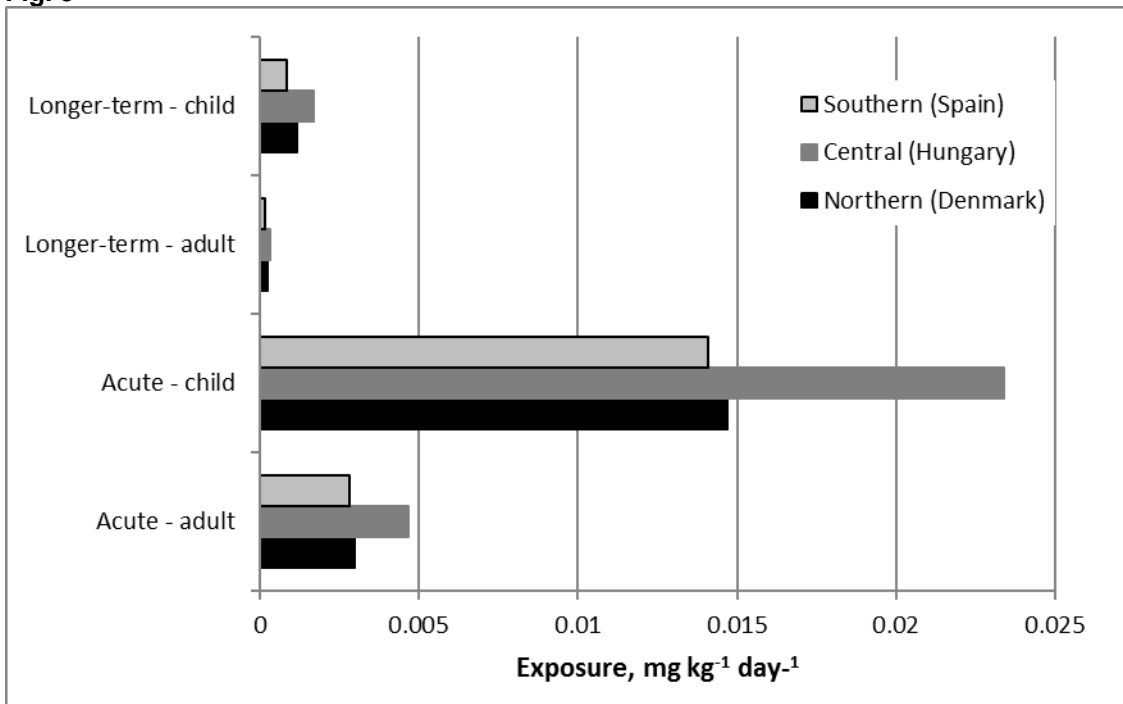


Fig. 2





**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 4**

**Fig. 1 - Conceptual model for the determination of exposure of residents and bystanders to agricultural use of pesticides.**

**Fig. 2 - Acute and longer term exposures to spray drift predicted by the BROWSE boom model. Acute exposure based on 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, and longer term exposure based on 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of model outputs. Direct exposure derives from the airborne spray plume; indirect exposure from contact with a lawn contaminated with spray drift. Model input values for this simulation were BROWSE default values, with an applied active substance dose of 500 g/ha and a dermal absorption of 10%.**

**Fig. 3 - Acute and longer term exposures to spray drift predicted by the BROWSE orchard model. Acute exposure based on 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, and longer term exposure based on 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of model outputs. Direct exposure derives from the airborne spray plume; indirect exposure from contact with a lawn contaminated with spray drift. Model input values for this simulation were BROWSE default values, with an applied active substance dose of 500 g ha<sup>-1</sup> and a dermal absorption of 10%.**

**Fig. 4 - Acute and longer term exposures to vapour predicted by the BROWSE boom and orchard models. Acute exposure based on 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, and longer term exposure based on 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of model outputs. Model input values for this simulation were BROWSE default values, with an applied active substance dose of 500 g ha<sup>-1</sup> and a vapour pressure of 0.005 Pa at 20°C.**