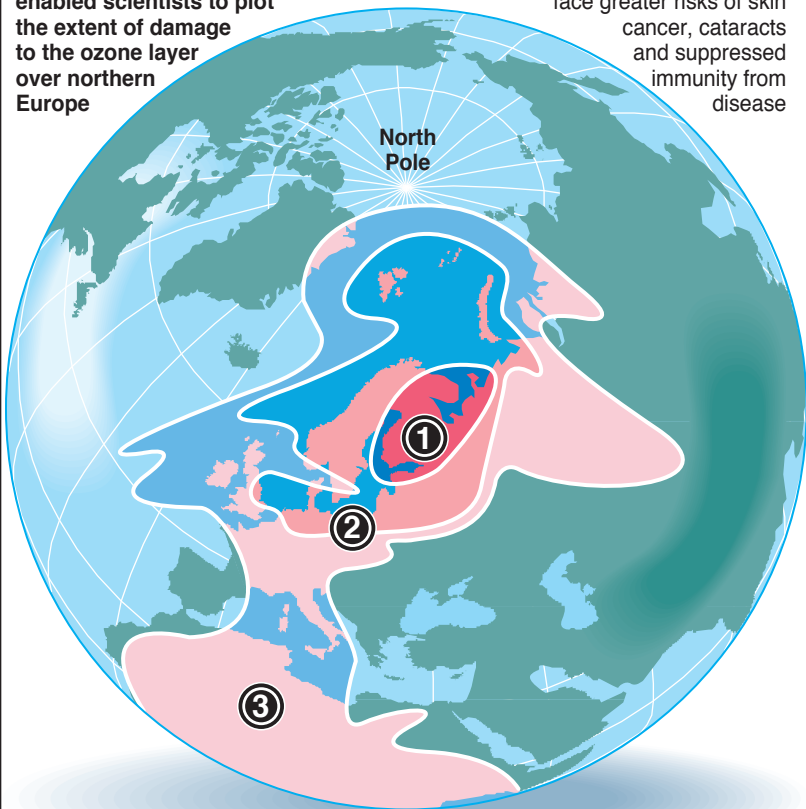


Ozone depletion worse than expected

Data collected by the Soviet Meteor-3 weather satellite has confirmed earlier findings by NASA. This has enabled scientists to plot the extent of damage to the ozone layer over northern Europe

The ozone layer provides a shield from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Without an ozone block, people face greater risks of skin cancer, cataracts and suppressed immunity from disease



1. Severe damage

30–40 per cent ozone depletion over Finland, parts of Norway and northern Russia

2. Serious damage

From eastern England to Holland, Denmark, northern Germany, Scandinavia and Russia

3. Ozone thinning

Area covers Britain, eastern France, Germany, Italy and extends from the Urals to northern Africa