



Nitrate vulnerable zone designation 2012 (Groundwater)

Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r ddogfen hon ar gael

A Welsh version of this document is also available

Version 1.1, revised 27 June 2012

Evidence of Groundwater Water Nitrate Pollution 2012

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide a summary of the evidence used in assessing the need for nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) designation under the Nitrates Directive reference(91/676/EEC of 12th Decmeber 1991). A full description of the methods used is given in the detailed methodologies for Surface Water, Groundwater and Eutrophic Water reports which are available from the Defra and Welsh Government websites. These methods were developed under the guidance of a Review Group convened by the Defra and the Welsh Government which included representatives from the farming and water industries as well as independent academic experts.

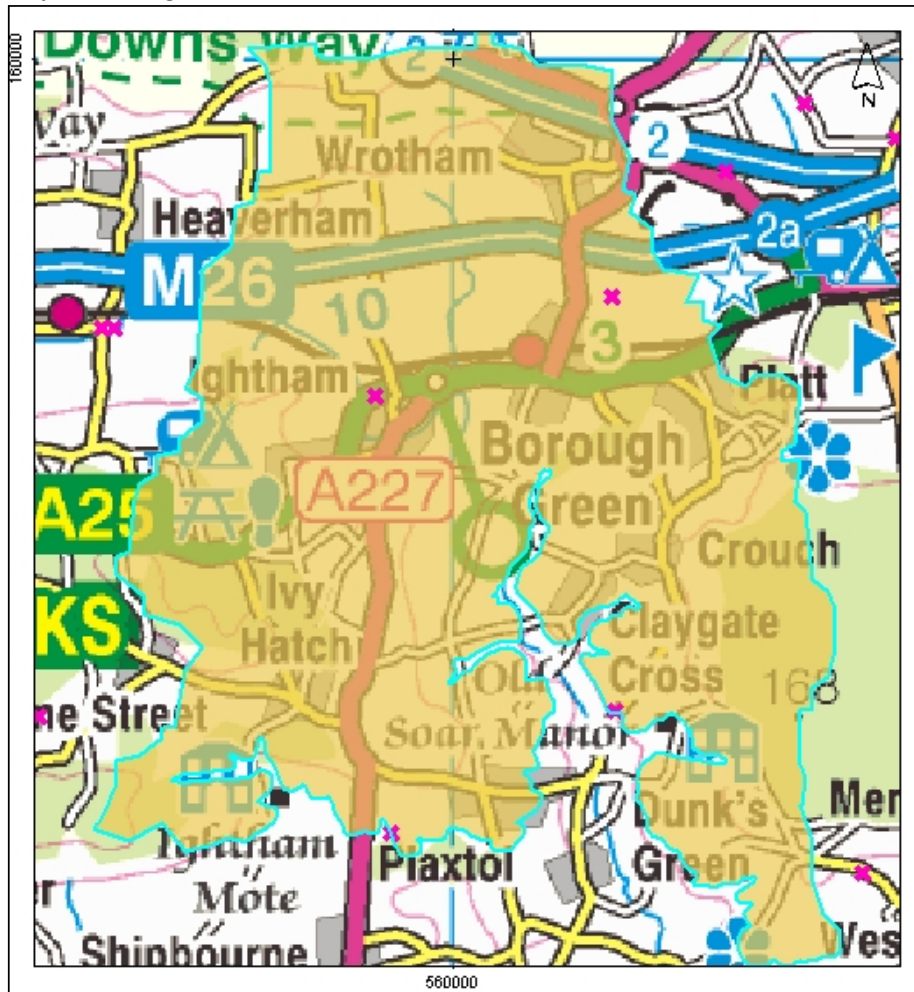
NVZ areas are designated based on a combination of both monitored water quality data and modelled nitrogen loadings that are based on the agricultural census and other data.

The concentration data is presented as milligrams of Nitrogen per litre. Please note 50 mg per litre of Nitrate is equivalent to 11.3 mg per litre as Nitrogen (N). Monitoring sites which exceed the concentration of 11.3 mg N/l set by the Nitrates Directive may lead to designation of all land draining to this point.

Note that for land already designated as a groundwater NVZ prior to this assessment, the land will remain designated even if the 95%ile concentration is now below 11.3 mg N/l. At least two cycles of low Nitrate concentrations are needed to show a sustained decrease that would then be considered for removal from NVZ designation.

For each NVZ area, monitoring data in combination with information on land-use indicate that concentrations of nitrates in one or more groundwaters are likely to exceed the level set out in the EU Nitrates Directive. Agricultural sources are likely to make a significant contribution to the observed or expected concentration of nitrate. Hence the land area draining to these groundwaters has been identified for designation as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Map of the designated area.



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Legend

-  Groundwater NVZ newly designated in 2012
-  Groundwater NVZ designated before 2012 and continuing as designated in 2012
-  Groundwater Monitoring sites

Description of the boundary

Surface Water Zone designations are applied at a waterbody scale, for groundwater zones, other factors such as geology need to be taken into account. Physical boundaries influencing groundwater NVZs delineation have been defined based on expert discussion at local level. The following represents a selection of the types of boundaries that have been used to delineate the NVZs and determine the land draining to a polluted groundwater.

- Geological boundaries such as faults and geological contacts.
- Surface water catchment boundaries.
- Groundwater level contours.
- High permeability drift outcrops.
- Low permeability drift outcrops.
- Rivers, acting as groundwater catchment divides.
- Coastlines.
- Solution features.

For NVZ area 63 the boundary is based on;

Plaxtol NVZ (ID 63) The northern, eastern and western boundaries are defined by the surface water catchment that contains the high risk monitoring points. The surface water catchment divide approximates to the scarp slope between the Chalk and Greensand aquifers and possibly acts as a groundwater divide locally. The southern boundary of the NVZ is defined by the contact between the Hythe Beds and Atherfield Clay formations, i.e. the edge of the aquifer.

ID of monitoring site(s):

561400-157900, 5GWQ0459, 5GWQ0463, 5GWQ0470, 5GWQ0626

Previously designated area, new area or new area adjacent to previously designated area: *Previously designated area*

Total new area designated (Km2): *32.78*

Monitored Nitrate data for sites in zone ID: 63

For the 2012 designations monitoring data was analysed where available for the years 1980 - 2009. Where sufficient data was available results were projected to give a predicted concentration in 2027. For the earlier 2008 designation, monitoring data was analysed to 2006 and trend predicted to 2021. The results of the analysis were then compared to the standard of a 95%ile value of 11.3 mg N /l. See section 3 of the Groundwater Methodology report for more details.

The following tables summarise the nitrate concentrations for monitoring sites that either exceed the threshold or show increasing trend for nitrate. Data for these and other nearby sites are presented in Appendix A

This area was designated in 2008.

Results for 2008 monitoring data.

Monitoring Site ID	561400-157900-A4207
Easting	561400
Northing	157900
Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)	7.96
Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)	14.42
Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):	Upward

Monitoring Site ID	5GWQ0463
Easting	561427
Northing	154242
Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)	22.13
Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)	NA
Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):	NA

Monitoring Site ID	5GWQ0470
Easting	559460
Northing	153160
Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)	25.61
Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)	NA
Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):	NA

Results for 2012 monitoring data.

Monitoring Site ID	5GWQ0463
Easting	561427
Northing	154242
Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)	21.12
Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)	21.12
Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):	Stagnation

Monitoring Site ID	5GWQ0470
Easting	559460
Northing	153160
Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)	22.39
Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)	
Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):	

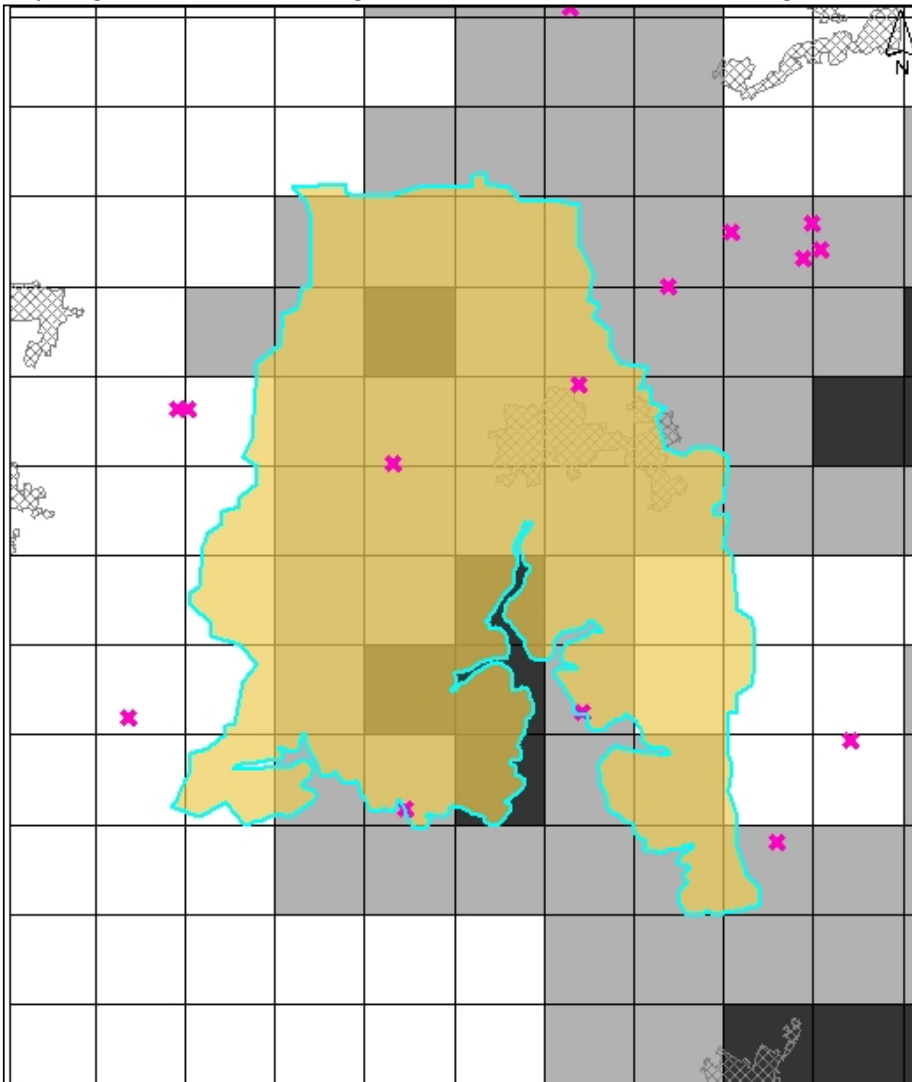
<i>Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)</i>	22.35
<i>Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):</i>	Downward

Land Use Model results

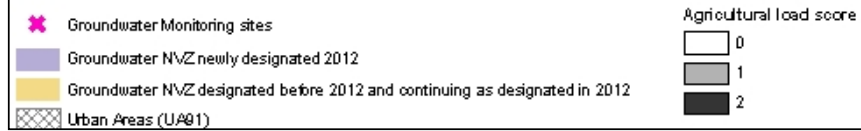
Urban and agricultural load were included in the assessment to identify if agriculture provides a main contribution of nitrate to the groundwater.

The following maps and associated figures indicate the annual average concentration of nitrate from agriculture contained in soil water. The figures are derived from farm scale research undertaken for Defra and are extrapolated based on farming land-use data for the land area covered by this report obtained in 2010 and long-term average rainfall based, using a model called NEAP-N developed by ADAS. The maps indicate those areas within the catchment with higher or lower levels of potential agricultural nitrate leaching to the groundwater.

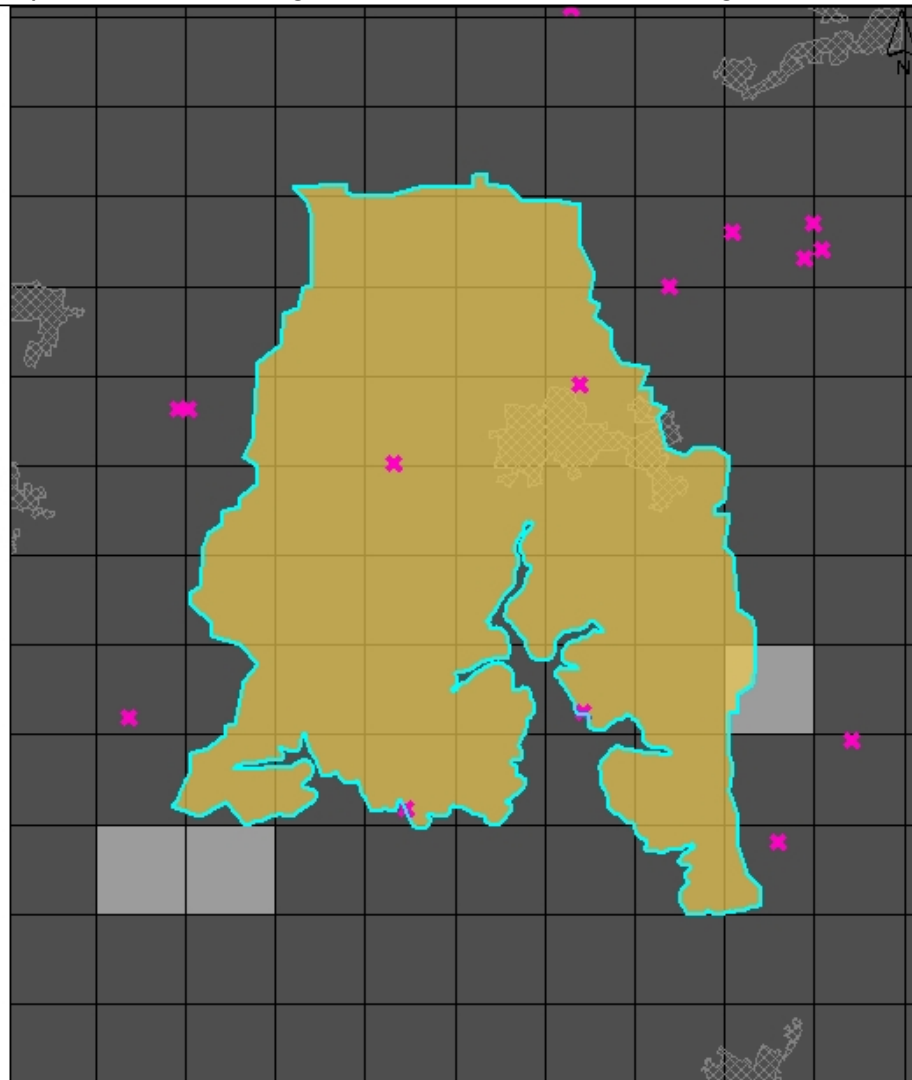
Map of agricultural load in the designated area. Load score is shown on 1km² grid.



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Map of urban load in the designated area. Load score is shown on 1km2 grid.



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Additional Lines of evidence

Advice was sought from local Environment Agency staff to identify any additional data that could be used in the risk model to improve the robustness of the decision making process. Examples include the location of point sources (e.g. industrial or septic discharges), monitoring data from different groundwater bodies and monitoring data from related surface waters. See section 6 of the Groundwater Methodology report for more details.

For this area, no lines of evidence have been modified from local Environment Agency staff.

Appendix A: Environment Agency monitoring data

This appendix presents historical concentration data at every monitoring site. For the 2012 designation, samples collected before 1980 were excluded because they may not be indicative of present day groundwater quality.

Monitoring point ID	Easting	Northing	Date	Nitrate (mg N / l)
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	04/10/2004	5.1
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	09/12/2004	4.9
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	25/01/2006	5.1
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	29/03/2006	4.9
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	26/07/2006	5.2
5GWQ0459	559332	157017	30/10/2006	4.9
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	23/07/2004	20.4
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	04/10/2004	20
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	04/10/2004	19.7
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	09/12/2004	19.9
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	23/01/2006	20.6
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	26/07/2006	19.2
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	18/10/2006	19.7
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	16/01/2007	20.1
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	12/04/2007	19.6
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	11/07/2007	18.8
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	16/10/2007	19.2
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	08/01/2008	18.5
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	09/04/2008	17.9
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	01/07/2008	18.9
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	30/10/2008	18.9
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	22/01/2009	16.5
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	07/07/2009	17.7
5GWQ0463	561427	154242	12/10/2009	17.1
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	22/07/2004	22.7
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	01/10/2004	22.4
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	09/12/2004	23.1
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	16/03/2005	24.4
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	14/07/2005	24.3
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	26/07/2006	22
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	16/01/2007	22.3
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	12/04/2007	19.1
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	11/07/2007	18.9
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	16/10/2007	19.1
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	08/01/2008	19
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	09/04/2008	19.2
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	01/07/2008	19.5
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	30/10/2008	18.7
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	22/01/2009	18.9
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	06/04/2009	17.5
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	07/07/2009	18.5
5GWQ0470	559460	153160	12/10/2009	17.9

References

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/land-manage/nitrates-watercourses/nitrates/>

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