



## 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.

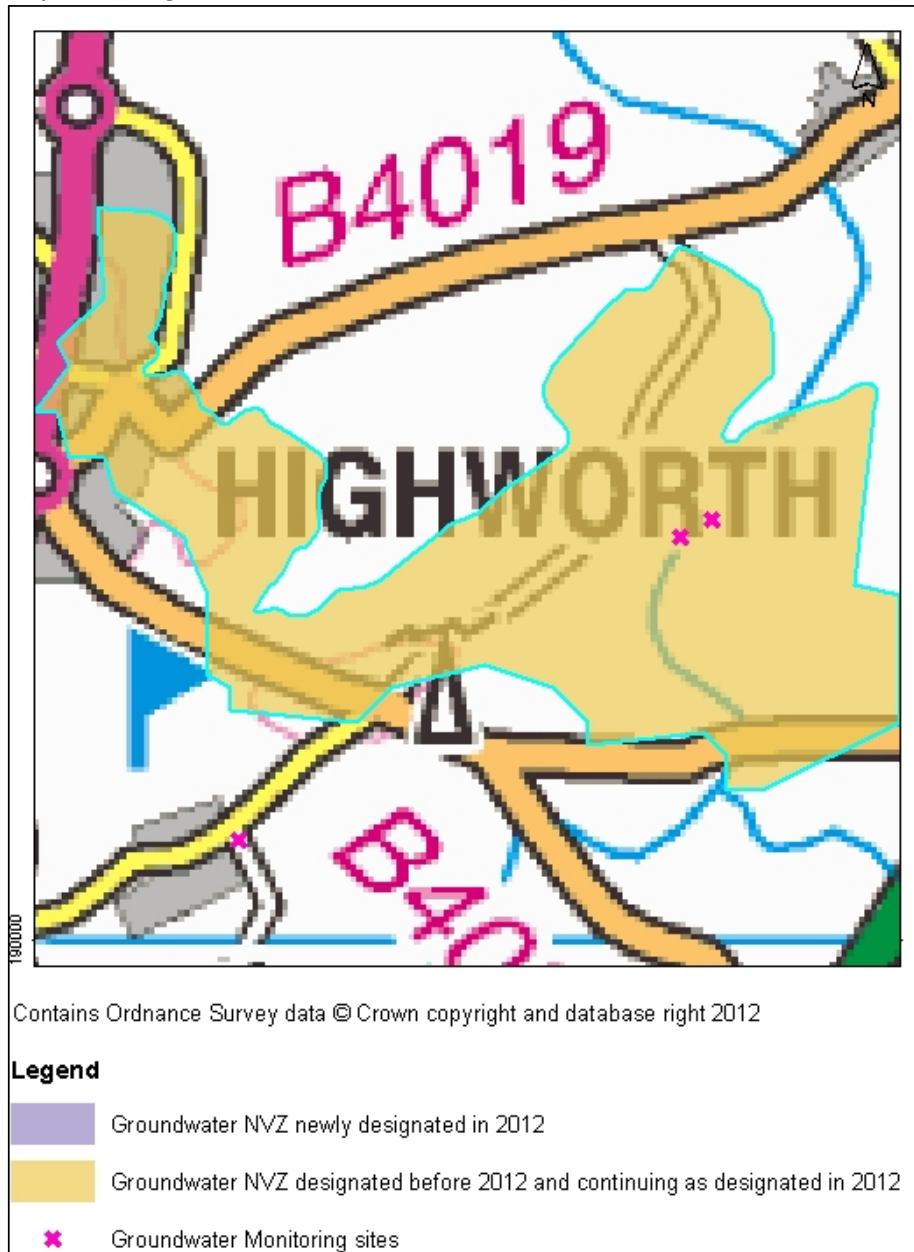
The concentration data is presented as milligrams of Nitrogen per litre. Please note 50 mg per litre of Nitrate is equivalent to 11.3 mg per litre as Nitrogen (N). Monitoring sites which exceed the concentration of 11.3 mg N/l set by the Nitrates Directive may lead to designation of all land draining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

ID of designated NVZ:85

Map of the designated area.



## 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 85 the boundary is based on;

*Highworth Corallian NVZ (ID 85) The NVZ was drawn using the contact between the Oxford clay and Corallian Sandstone in the North, where it intersects the boundary of the local surface water catchment. The surface water catchment acts as a boundary from which surface water runoff flows northwards into the NVZ and not onto the Corallian Limestone aquifer to the South of the NVZ. The surface water catchments both to the East and West of the NVZ have been designated due to failing surface water.*

ID of monitoring site(s):

*PGWU0673, PGWU1593*

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

Total new area designated (Km2): *4.37*

## Monitored Nitrate data for sites in zone ID: 85

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.

<i>Monitoring Site ID</i>	PGWU1593
<i>Easting</i>	422990
<i>Northing</i>	191830
<i>Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)</i>	12.43
<i>Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)</i>	19.1
<i>Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):</i>	Upward

#### Results for 2012 monitoring data.

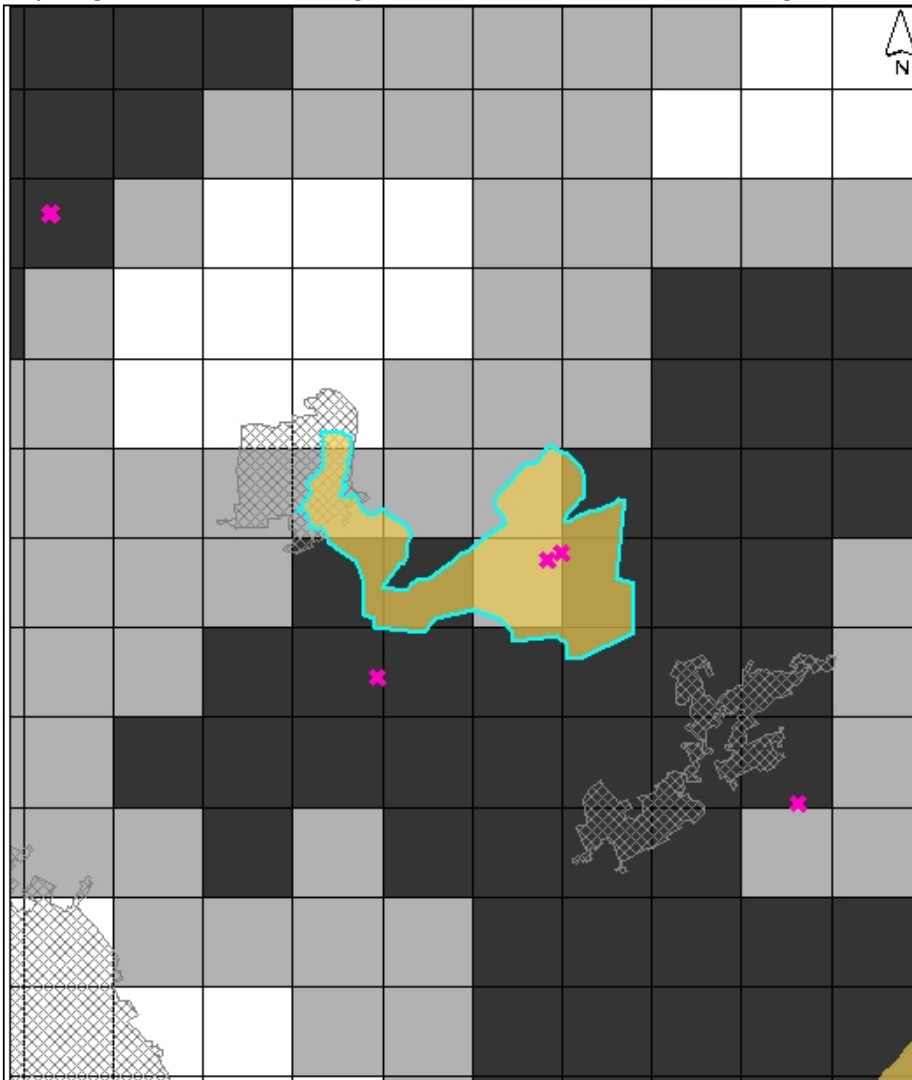
<i>Monitoring Site ID</i>	PGWU1593
<i>Easting</i>	422990
<i>Northing</i>	191830
<i>Total Inorganic Nitrogen concentration 95%ile (mg/l)</i>	9
<i>Future predicted 95%ile Total Inorganic Nitrogen estimate (mg/l)</i>	0.01
<i>Trend (upward, downward, stagnation):</i>	Downward

## Land Use Model results

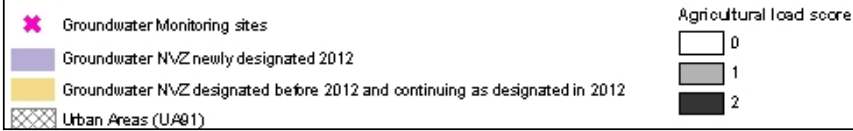
Urban and agricultural load were included in the assessment to identify if agriculture provides a main contribution of nitrate to the groundwater.

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.

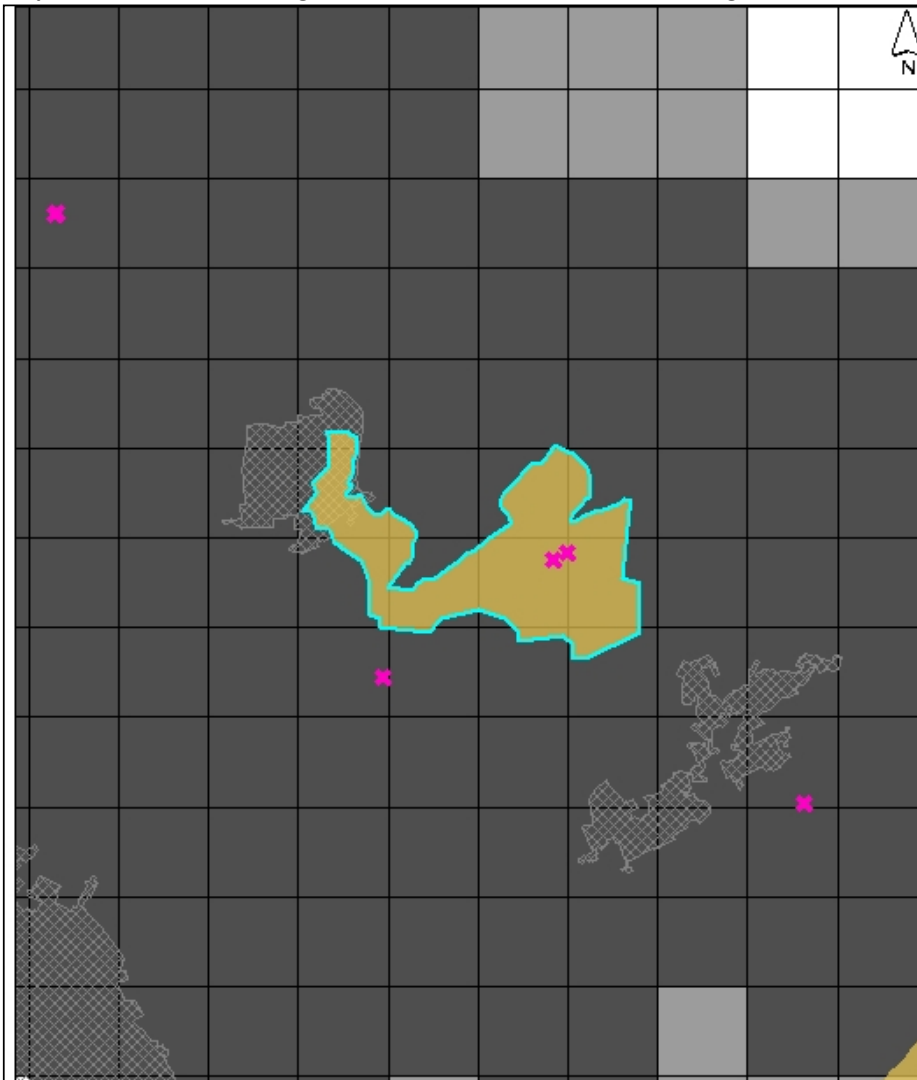
Map of agricultural load in the designated area. Load score is shown on 1km2 grid.



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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)
PGWU0673	422850	191750	25/11/1993	16.2
PGWU0673	422850	191750	16/03/1994	16.7
PGWU0673	422850	191750	10/06/1994	0.2
PGWU0673	422850	191750	06/10/1994	17.2
PGWU0673	422850	191750	14/03/1995	15.1
PGWU0673	422850	191750	02/05/1995	16.2
PGWU0673	422850	191750	04/08/1995	18.7
PGWU0673	422850	191750	10/11/1995	16.1
PGWU0673	422850	191750	23/02/1996	17
PGWU0673	422850	191750	30/04/1996	16
PGWU0673	422850	191750	13/03/1997	15.4
PGWU0673	422850	191750	29/07/1997	15.2
PGWU0673	422850	191750	25/02/1998	15
PGWU1593	422990	191830	16/04/1997	15.7
PGWU1593	422990	191830	28/04/1998	15.5
PGWU1593	422990	191830	15/01/1999	15.9
PGWU1593	422990	191830	21/05/1999	16.5
PGWU1593	422990	191830	06/01/2000	14.6
PGWU1593	422990	191830	06/01/2000	14.7
PGWU1593	422990	191830	09/05/2000	16.5
PGWU1593	422990	191830	23/05/2002	14.6
PGWU1593	422990	191830	26/11/2002	10.9
PGWU1593	422990	191830	11/11/2003	13.3
PGWU1593	422990	191830	02/06/2004	11.7
PGWU1593	422990	191830	19/04/2005	10.7
PGWU1593	422990	191830	07/06/2005	11
PGWU1593	422990	191830	15/08/2005	12
PGWU1593	422990	191830	06/04/2006	8.9
PGWU1593	422990	191830	07/06/2006	10.5
PGWU1593	422990	191830	24/08/2006	11.7
PGWU1593	422990	191830	18/10/2006	10.1
PGWU1593	422990	191830	07/03/2007	6.1
PGWU1593	422990	191830	21/05/2007	7.9
PGWU1593	422990	191830	20/07/2007	9.4
PGWU1593	422990	191830	09/10/2007	8.1
PGWU1593	422990	191830	18/03/2008	5.2
PGWU1593	422990	191830	19/06/2008	6.6
PGWU1593	422990	191830	12/09/2008	8.3
PGWU1593	422990	191830	27/02/2009	7.4
PGWU1593	422990	191830	26/06/2009	7.8
PGWU1593	422990	191830	27/08/2009	9.7

## **References**

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

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