

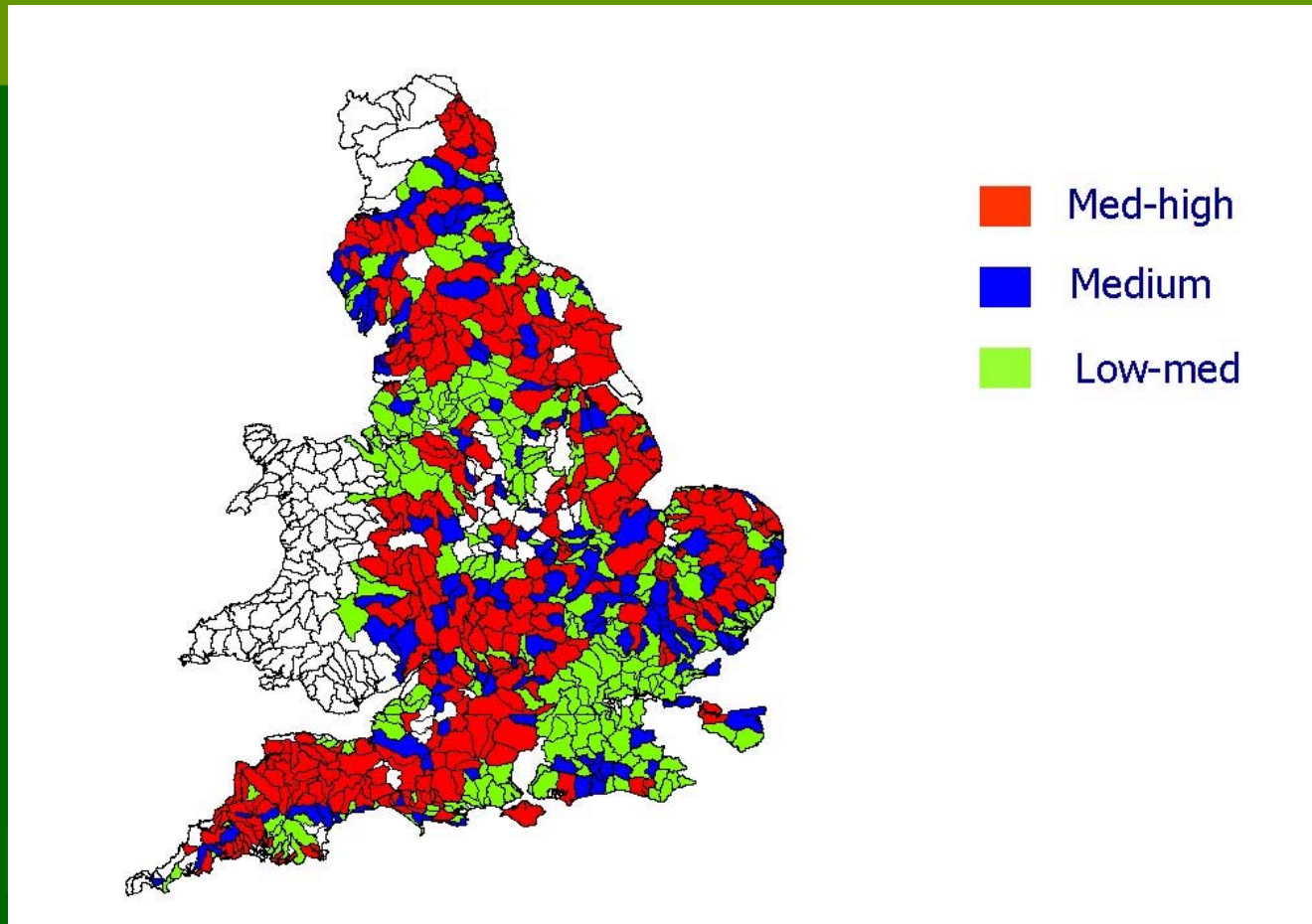
# Catchment sensitive farming - taking action on diffuse water pollution from agriculture

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NORTH WEST REGION

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# A pressing environmental problem



The first risk assessment of DWPA in England (silt, N & P)

# Issues of concern

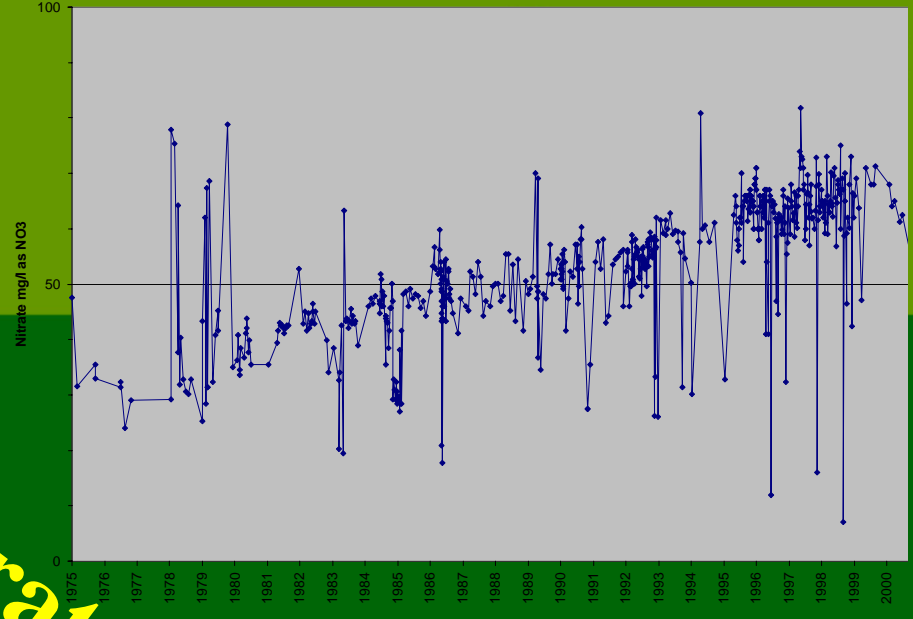
- Soil compaction / erosion leading to sedimentation
- Eutrophication
- Rising nitrate conc in surface & groundwaters
- Toxic pollution from pesticides
- Bacteriological contamination
- Damage to nature conservation
- Clean-up takes decades



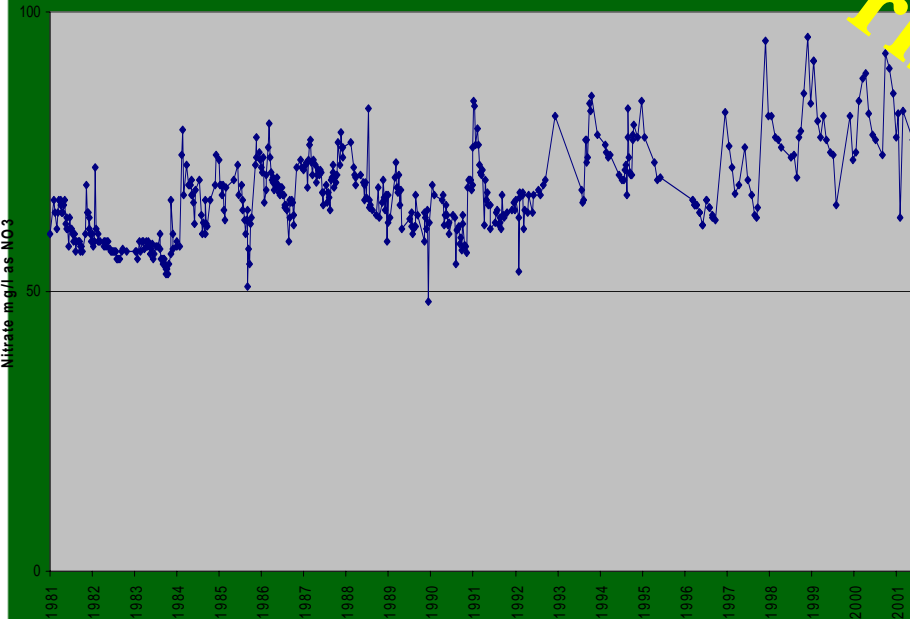
Bromsberrow



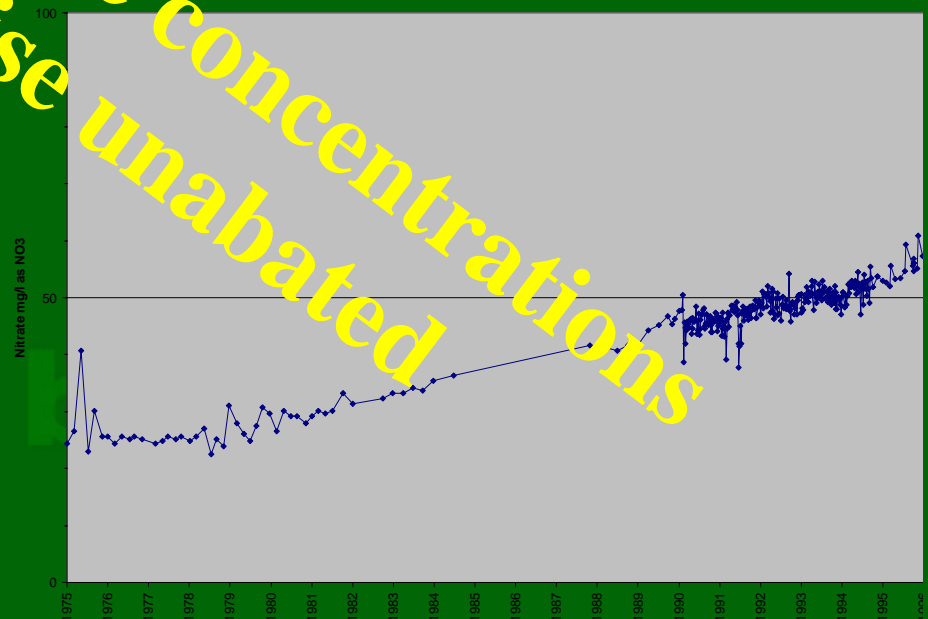
Duckallier



Barrow



Papplewick



**Groundwater nitrate concentrations continue to rise unabated**

# Economic costs

- EA report (2002) - benefits of tackling DWPA worth £250m / year
- PR04: Total costs of environmental damage from current water abstraction & pollution estimated at £1-1.7b / year
- Water companies spending £313m / year on removing diffuse pollutants, 75% from agricultural sources
- Ofwat budget £292m / year (2006-10) to reduce high nitrate levels caused by DWP
- EA report a serious underestimate!

## Legal / policy drivers

- Water Framework Directive: achieve good ecological & chemical status by 2015
- PSA target: 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010
- Directives on Bathing Waters, Freshwater Fish, Habitats plus UK BAP
- Government initiatives such as *Sustainable Food & Farming Strategy*, *Making Space for Water*, CAP reform, *Rural Strategy 2004*

# What have we got & what's missing?

## In place:

- CAP reform -> cross compliance -> soil management planning
- Environmental Stewardship schemes

## Future:

- No imminent prospect of further regulation
- Catchment Sensitive Farming – Multi Agency.

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## Summary

- Doing nothing is not an option
- Policy package of supportive policy tools and economic instruments would increase envl. effectiveness of both
- Defra's approach mirroring EA / EN - not a coincidence
- Local input critical to successful delivery of package

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**Any questions?**

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