WPZ’s
Tackling Diffuse Pollution with Water Protection Zones
The Environment Agency is responsible for water quality as part the Water Framework Directive.
What is a WPZ?

• **Water Protection Zone**
  
• An area which contains water bodies that are polluted by human activities

• The designated area will have regulations put in place to protect water quality from diffuse pollution
How will we use WPZ’s

- Within each WPZ all polluting activities will be addressed, not just focussing on agriculture

- We will target WPZ’s where there are the most pressing pollution problems eg: failing protected areas.
Why do we need WPZ’s?

• Sometimes best practice alone will not protect our most precious water resources.

• WPZ represent regulation, but they will be used in tandem with other tools. We will apply them in a targeted, risk-based, proportionate way – they will not be used as a blunt instrument.
How will we identify?

Evidence of Failure
Monitoring WFD Risk Maps
3rd Party Evidence

Evidence of Source
Monitoring Modelling Investigations

Evidence of Alternative approaches failing
Campaigns Advice

Candidate sites
DIALOGUE!
Around 8 in 09/10

Formal Consultation
If necessary
Establishing New WPZ: Process Overview

WPZ Project Timeline

Phase A
- Understanding the concept
- Developing Guidance on Establishment & Engagement
- Defra developing legislation & Guidance
- Establishing Plausible Candidate Sites
- Gaining internal Buy-in

Phase B
- Exploring National Stakeholder Views
- Exploring Local Stakeholder Views & Options For Measures and Targeting
- Consult on each WPZ & finalise SI

Timelines will vary from site to site:
Dependent on confidence of data and complexity of measures

- Today, Feb 09
- June 09
- Dec 09 (earliest)
- Oct 10 (earliest)

Handle Transition, Implement, Monitor, Enforce and Review