

Acorn Advisory Note 01: March 2010

Clarification on Groundwater Data Available from the EA

Groundwater Level Measurements Subset - Chalk Outcrops - this is an EA dataset which is currently being finalised for external commercial release. No commercial licences have yet been granted. Once the dataset has been approved for access CS will provide information on the dataset and its cost.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) – is a polygon data layer that are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites. The purpose of SPZs is to provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality through constraining the proximity of an activity that may impact upon a drinking water abstraction. This dataset is referenced on WIYBY and is currently licensed to VARS.

Aquifer Designation Map (Superficial Deposits) and Aquifer Designation Map (Bedrock Geology) – the EA has defined Aquifer designations that have been attributed to BGS 1:50K DiGMapGB-50 data. The EA has not released these datasets for commercial resale as these are BGS intellectual property. The EA has been granted permission to post the information on WIYBY as Aquifers, where it is noted that the data is based upon BGS data.

Please also note the following information

"What about the previous groundwater vulnerability maps?

If you have been used to using our shapefile groundwater vulnerability maps, aquifers previously designated as major and minor now become principal and secondary respectively.

Our groundwater vulnerability maps have not been completely withdrawn because the new maps do not provide information on surface soils. You will still need to refer to the groundwater vulnerability maps if you are assessing activities on undisturbed natural soils (e.g. agricultural land) and need the soil classes. In this case you should disregard the old geological classes and combine the soils information with the new aquifer designations. The shapefile groundwater vulnerability maps are still available upon request from **Commercial Services** (fee payable)."

For further information, please contact Commercial Services at:

commercial.services@environment-agency.gov.uk