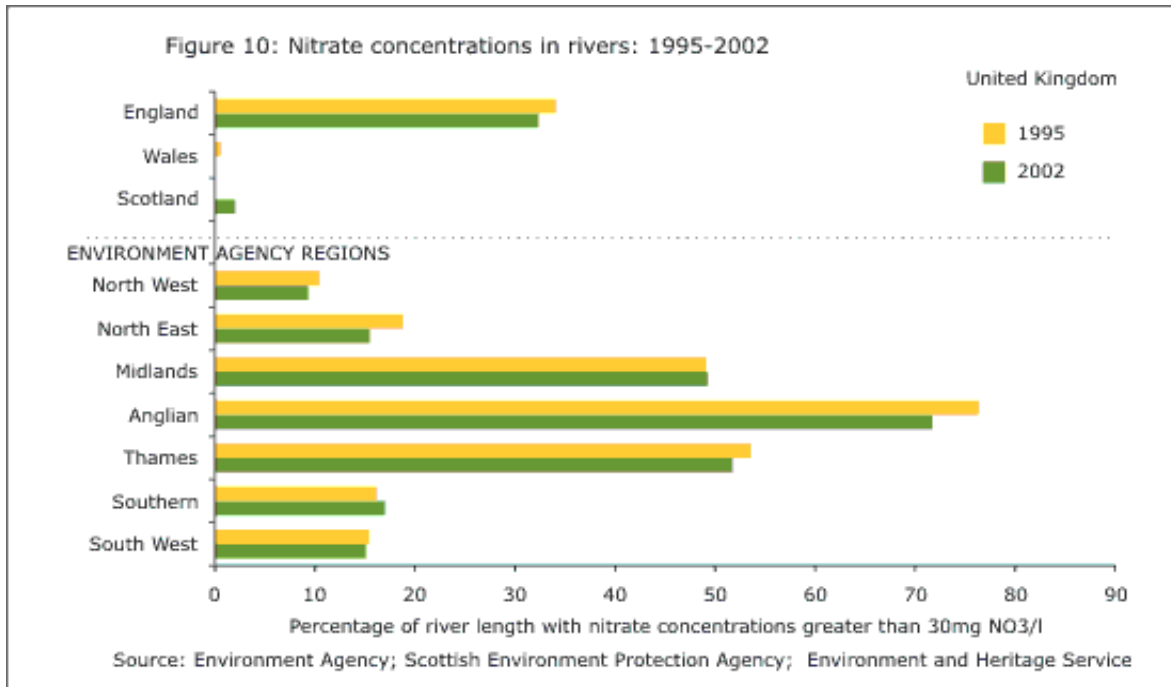


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## Key Facts about: Inland Water Quality and Use

### Nitrate concentrations in rivers: 1995 and 2003

#### United Kingdom



Percentage of river lengths with nitrate concentrations greater than 30mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l

	1995	2003
<b>England</b>	34	31
<b>Wales</b>	1	0
<b>Scotland</b>	0	2
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	0	0

High levels of nitrate can lead to eutrophication in the sea and are of concern in relation to drinking water abstractions.

Higher levels of nitrate concentrations tend to be in central and eastern England, reflecting inputs from agriculture, geology and sewage effluent. In 2003, just under two thirds of the river lengths in Anglian region, and about half in Midlands and in Thames regions had an average concentration greater than 30 mgNO<sub>3</sub>/l. Between 1995 and 2003 the percentage of river length with concentrations above this level in the Anglian region decreased by from 76 to 64. In all other regions there was relatively little change.

**In Detail:**

## [Nutrients](#)

[River Water Quality Database](#) providing data on chemical and biological river water quality and nutrient concentrations for each Government Office Region and Local Authority in England and Wales.

### Further Information:

#### Source:

Environment Agency, SEPA, Environment and Heritage Service

#### Press Release:

[River Water Quality Headline Indicator for Sustainable Development: 2003](#), 5 October 2004 (386/04)

#### Key Facts:

[Chemical river water quality](#)

[Biological river water quality](#)

[Phosphate concentrations in rivers](#)

[Water pollution incidents](#)

#### Data Tables:

[Download Chart Data: Microsoft Excel](#)

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