



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE

Río House, Waterside Drive,  
Aztec West, Almondsbury,  
Bristol BS32 4UD



# Wyre Local Environment Agency Plan Annual Review Summary 2000/2001



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



078256

# Making sure...

... rivers are clean and safe  
for people and wildlife



**The Wyre area is popular with tourists, as well as local people as it takes in the picturesque villages of the Forest of Bowland and the coastal towns of Blackpool, Cleveleys and Fleetwood. We encourage people to enjoy their local rivers. In the Wyre LEAP area one of our main successes is the Lane Ends Amenity Site at Pilling, which offers excellent views over the Lune Estuary.**

To make sure everyone has the opportunity to visit rivers we are constantly striving to improve access to rivers and where possible create access

for the disabled. In partnership with Wyre Borough and Scorton's Millennium Committee we are creating a disabled access on to the Scorton Millennium Way. This footpath links Scorton to Garstang. We have also planted more trees along the riverbank and protected them with a wire fence. Trees help hold the riverbank together and attract a wide variety of wildlife. Fish also benefit from trees as they attract insects that they feed on and provide much needed shade.

The vast majority of the rivers in the Wyre area are capable of supporting healthy populations of Salmon and Sea Trout. Where suitable we stock fish into rivers but equally important is to improve the rivers and riverbanks so that they can survive and go on to breed successfully.

The Wyre area also contains a lot of weirs these can often present a problem to migrating fish.



## Key successes

- Stocked 8,500 fish.
- Fenced 1km of riverbank at Scorton.
- Recorded an extra 3,000 trout due to improvements at Cam Beck.
- Created a reed bed at Lanes End.

## Key future actions

- Encourage landowners to protect rivers from erosion.
- Plant trees along riverbanks with fences to protect them.
- Develop fish passes on weirs to allow fish to migrate upstream.
- Continue to survey for presence of water voles and otters.

To help local people to improve their environment we take part in the Green Partnership Awards. This offers people practical advice on how to carry out environmental actions and funding to help pay for equipment and materials.

# Reducing the risks...

## ...from floods and droughts



Flood basin and gates at Garstang.

As floods and droughts are natural forces we can't stop them, but we can help to lower the risks.

We now operate a four-code flood warning system for public benefits.

The system is:

-  This is a general early alert to all properties at risk of flooding.
-  Designated flood warning areas receive a direct warning by an automated telephone system.
-  Should the situation deteriorate a severe flood warning is issued.
-  An 'All Clear' is issued when the threat of flooding has passed.

The new system involves the emergency services and local councils to make sure we all work effectively together to offer an excellent service.

There are parts of the Wyre that suffer from too little water at certain times of

the year. The River Calder and Grizedale both have occasions when the river level drops so low that it harms wildlife. We are working with the British Waterways (who take water from rivers for the Lancaster Canal) and North West Water to find ways of reducing the amount of water they take from these rivers.

## Key successes

- Introduction of new four-code flood warning system.
- Designated flood warning areas for, 52 properties at Scorton, 103 properties at Garstang and 357 properties at St. Michaels.

## Key future actions

- Continue to promote flood warning system.
- To reduce the effects of low flows on the Rivers Wyre and Calder we will review the licences of companies that allow water to be taken out of rivers.
- Promote the use of drainage systems to developers, local authorities and industry that lessen the risk of floods.





# Improving bathing water quality

Improvements have been made to the sewerage network along the Fylde coast, and bathing water quality has improved. This year five out of the six bathing water beaches between Blackpool and Fleetwood passed European standards. However, there is still no guarantee that the six bathing waters will pass the European standards in the future. A wide range of studies continues to be undertaken to investigate why they may sometimes fail.

## Key successes

- Five out of six beaches passed European standards in the year 2000.
- Installation of ultra violet disinfection at Preesall Wastewater Treatment Works, and further afield at Preston, and Southport Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW).
- Construction of huge storm sewage storage tanks in Blackpool and at Fleetwood WwTW, and further afield in Lytham and at Preston WwTW.
- Closure of Hambleton WwTW on the Wyre Estuary.

## Key future actions

- Improve Pilling Wastewater Treatment Works by adding ultraviolet treatment.
- Bacterial 'fingerprinting' research to determine origin of bacteria.
- 18 boreholes at Blackpool seafront will continue to be monitored for contamination of groundwater.
- A North West Bathing Water Forum was set up in September 1999 to share information and knowledge in the quest to guarantee compliance with the European standards.

# Preventing... ...pollution from houses



Some pollution problems are caused by drainage from houses. A common problem is the wrong connection of drains from washing machines, dishwashers and sometimes even toilets to the clean roof water drain instead of the foul sewer. This problem is particularly bad in housing areas with separate sewers such as the Thornton area, affecting Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook.

Other problems from houses are caused in areas without mains drainage. The poor maintenance and operation of private sewage treatment works and septic tanks can lead to significant deterioration in water quality. Examples include Singleton village and Halfpenny Lane, Longridge.

## Key successes

- North West Water have identified and rectified many wrong connections from houses in Thornton affecting Hillylaid Pool.
- Home owners in Singleton village have requested NWW Ltd to provide appropriate sewerage facilities under the duty introduced in Section 101A of the Water Industry Act, 1991. The status of the existing drainage system is complex, and no decision has yet been made.

## Key future actions

- Work with North West Water and local authorities to resolve other wrong connection problems.
- Resolution of the problem due to lack of sewerage at Singleton village.

# Cutting down on waste



One of the major environmental issues we all contribute to is the growing amount of waste we generate. This waste has to go somewhere and in the Wyre area much of this ends up at Jameson Road landfill site. We regulate the site and continually inspect it to make sure it does not affect the outside environment. We are also investigating ways to collect gas from the site to generate electricity. This would help to make the best use of waste.

## Key successes

- Improved environmental controls at Jameson Road landfill site.
- Influenced planning proposals for the landfill site at Jameson Road to benefit the environment.

## Key actions

- Promote the wise use of resources, water and energy to businesses.
- Regulate and support improvements to Jameson Road landfill site.

## The Environment Agency

If you would like to see a full Annual Review for the Wyre area please contact:  
Stephen Hemingway  
LEAPs Team Leader

or John Young, LEAPs Officer at  
PO Box 519, South Preston PR5 8GD  
Tel: 01772 339882

**Free 24 hour emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60**  
**Floodline 0845 988 1188**

**We feel that these improvements within the Wyre area will benefit people and wildlife today and for future generations.**

We would like to thank the Central Area Environment Group for their support in the production of this document.

NW-01/01-3K-Dii-BFVI



# Improving river water quality

Many factors can affect river water quality, such as discharges of sewage effluent from Wastewater Treatment Works and storm sewer overflows. In addition to these, in the Wyre area farming is a major business and poor farming practices can lead to pollution problems. In particular the Barton Brook system fails to meet strict European standards for rivers that support Salmon and Sea Trout.

## Key successes

- Proactive farm visits carried out on Westfield Brook. Advice given and, where appropriate, enforcement action taken.

- The Bowland Initiative is an experimental scheme to help farmers with a free business and environmental advice service.
- Working with North West Water Ltd to improve the sewer network at Barton, Calder Vale, Forton, Garstang, Pilling and Weeton.

## Key future actions

- Investigations into high ammonia levels in the Barton Brook catchment, which causes failure of the European Freshwater Fisheries Directive.

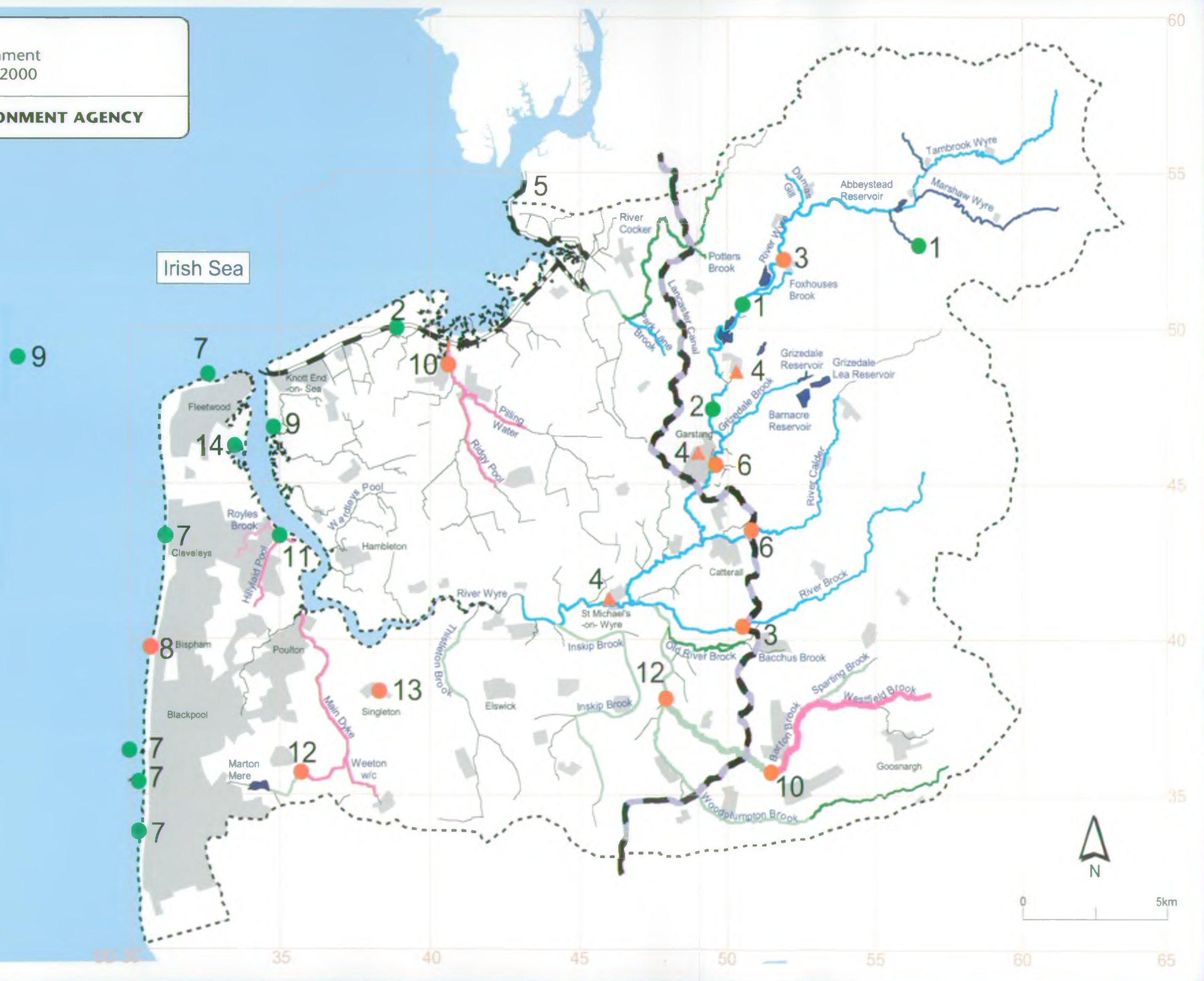


# Environmental problems and improvements

Wyre  
Local Environment  
Agency Plan 2000



**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**



- Summary of Environmental Problems and Improvements**
- 1 Riverbank improvements
  - 2 Improvements to recreation sites
  - 3 Barriers to fish migration
  - ▲ 4 Formal flood warning area
  - 5 Coastal flood defences
  - 6 Rivers with low flow problems below this point
  - 7 Beaches meeting EU Standards in 2000
  - 8 Beaches failing EU Standards in 2000
  - 9 Improved discharges from WwTW
  - 10 WwTW to be improved
  - 11 Successful campaign to prevent pollution
  - 12 Water quality problems
  - 13 Problems of untreated sewage
  - 14 Jameson road landfill site

- Water Quality Overview – GQA Chemistry (1997/99)**
- KEY**
- Wyre Leap Boundary
  - Lancaster Canal
  - Built up areas
- Rivers**
- A } Good
  - B }
  - C } Fair
  - D }
  - E Poor
  - F Bad
  - Unclassified

Map produced by EA North West Region  
Strategic Planning Department  
December 2000