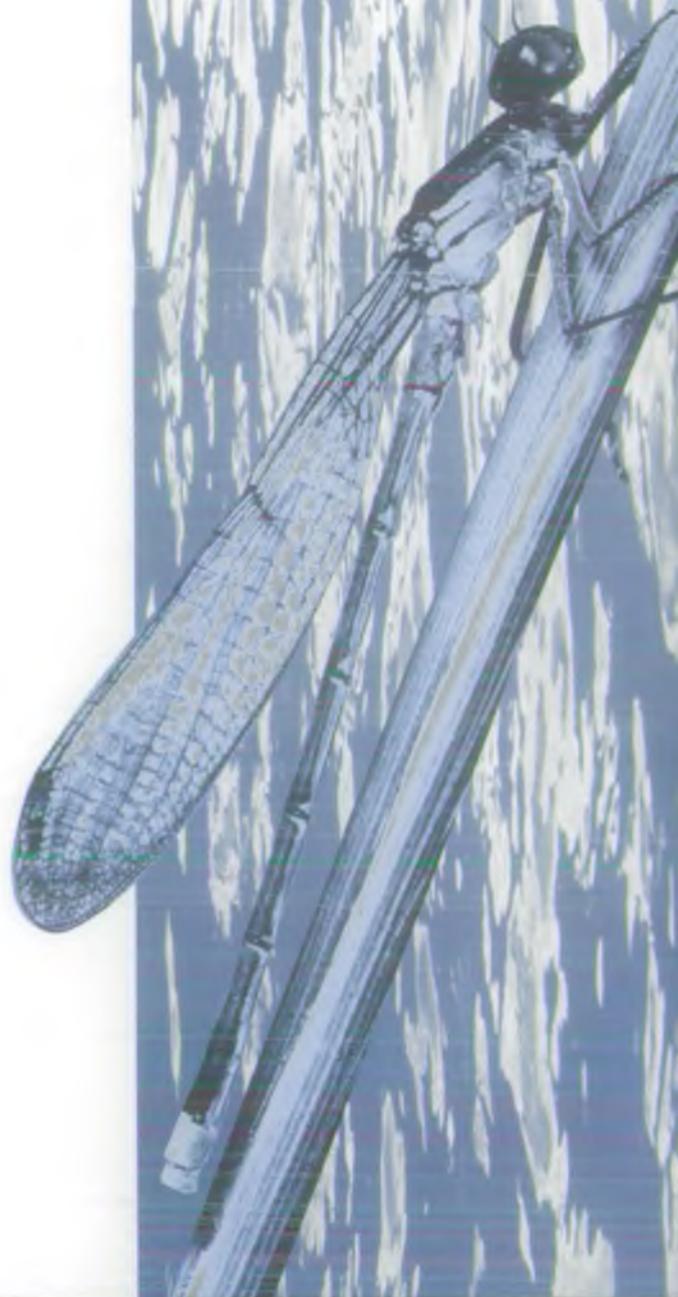


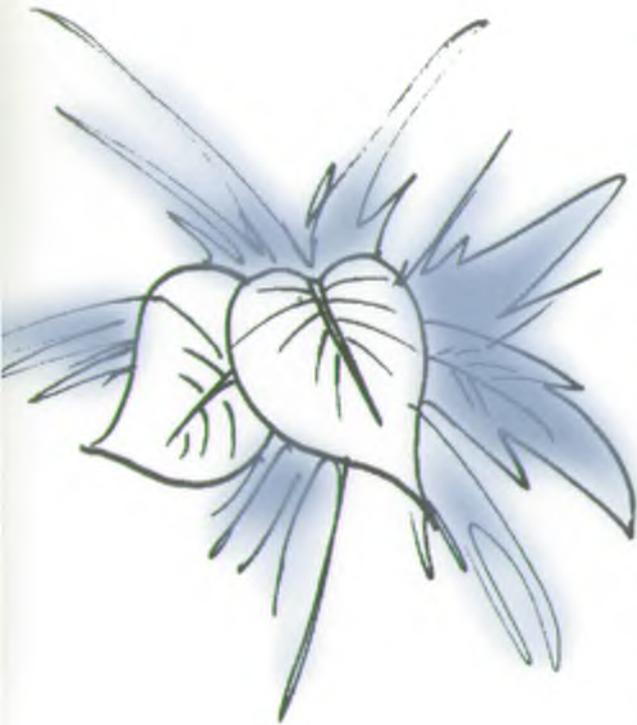
CONSERVATION IN THE SEVERN-TRENT REGION



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
Severn-Trent Region*





The Severn-Trent Region

The Severn-Trent Region of the NRA has a rich variety of wildlife, habitats, archaeological features and landscapes associated with its streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wetlands and estuaries. Many of these are protected by statutory designations. Four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and six Environmentally Sensitive Areas fall either partially or wholly within the Region, along with the greater part of the Peak District National Park. Many internationally important wetlands, from large estuaries such as the Humber and Severn to the peatlands of South Yorkshire and the Shropshire meres, occur within this region. Along with over 700 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and more than 1,500 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, there is a very large conservation heritage and resource to protect.

Under the legislation which established the National Rivers Authority, we have a duty to further the conservation of landscape, flora and fauna, as well as having regard to the preservation of our cultural heritage. As these important environmental features are vulnerable to the effects of river and water management operations, we employ a team of conservation experts and landscape architects to ensure that all the activities of the NRA are carried out in an environmentally sympathetic manner. Our conservation staff have close liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies for consultation purposes and on the implementation of conservation work throughout the Region.



Conservation and Flood Defence

Conservation is an important factor in the planning of flood defence capital programmes. Each proposed scheme undergoes an environmental assessment which involves examining the impact on the environment of the different options. This process is designed to identify local needs, sensitive environmental issues, and to collate the differing views of the public and environmental bodies. Through this, we are able to decide on a strategy that is not only effective, but sympathetically meets the needs of the environment, with mitigation and enhancement works planned in from the start. In all capital schemes, 5% of the budget is available for conservation enhancements.

As well as the major capital works, the regular maintenance of rivers has the potential to affect the environment. The flood defence maintenance programmes are scrutinised by our conservation staff, in liaison with outside bodies, to ensure that activities such as weed cutting, dredging and tree work are undertaken in an environmentally acceptable way. We are also developing Water Level Management Plans for several important sites, to balance the needs of drainage and conservation.





Conservation and Water Resources

The NRA is required to manage water resources, not only to meet the important needs of life in the aquatic environment but also the legitimate demands of abstractors of water. In many instances, these demands are in competition and the NRA has the job of striking the right balance between the two. All applications to abstract water, whether from surface waters or groundwater, are screened by conservation staff to ensure that they are unlikely to have an effect on important conservation sites. In particular, the presence of wetland sites, where the water regime may be critical for the survival of the plants and animals or archaeological features present, will influence decisions.

Conservation and Water Quality

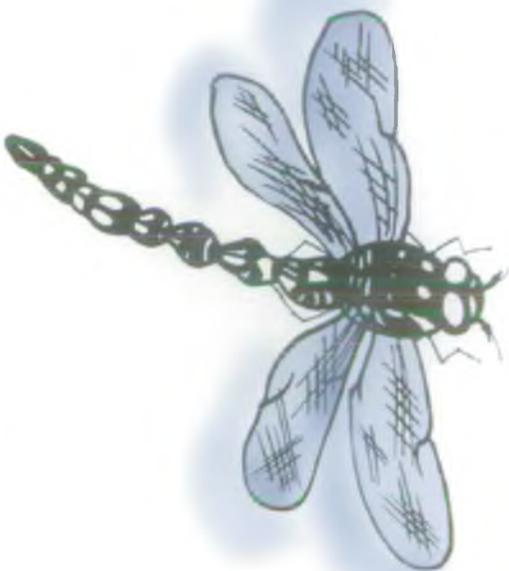
Just as much as the amount of water available, the quality of water will affect wildlife, with many of our rarest species (some dragonflies and water plants for example) being very vulnerable to pollution. Applications to the NRA to discharge to controlled waters are also assessed for their potential effects on the environment before they are consented.



Conservation and Planning

The NRA has a statutory duty to take into account the conservation and enhancement of the water environment when commenting on planning applications. Conservation staff carefully consider applications, aided by a comprehensive set of standardised responses. An input is also made to local authority development plans.

Within the NRA, it is recognised that river catchments are subject to increasing use by a variety of activities. Many of these interact and some conflicts arise. The competing requirements and interests of users and beneficiaries must be balanced. The Authority is undertaking a rolling programme of plan development for catchments in each Region. The process involves the NRA liaising with external bodies and using its statutory powers to produce long-term strategies for the protection of rivers, lakes, coastal and underground waters, known as Catchment Management Plans. Conservation sections in these plans identify vulnerable sites and species which require sensitive management in order that we can protect, and where possible, enhance them for the benefit of future generations.



National Rivers Authority

Area Office

Severn catchment below River Teme confluence including River Avon:

Lower Severn Area Office,
Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate,
Northway Lane, Tewkesbury GL20 7LJ
Telephone: 01684 850951

Severn catchment down to and including River Teme confluence:

Upper Severn Area Office
Hafren House, Welshpool Road,
Shelton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BB
Telephone: 01743 272828

Trent catchment down to and including River Dove confluence:

Upper Trent Area Office
Sentinel House, Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park,
Lichfield WS13 8RR
Telephone: 01543 444141

Trent catchment below River Dove confluence:

Lower Trent Area Office
Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5FA
Telephone: 0115 9455722

Regional Headquarters:

Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull,
West Midlands B91 1QT
Telephone: 0121 711 2324



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Severn-Trent Region*

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Conservation Information

In order to consider the effects of all work for which we are responsible, it is essential that we keep records of all sites of conservation value, both of natural and cultural interest. We therefore maintain and up-date databases of all notified sites of nature conservation and archaeological interest.

These databases are backed up by surveys undertaken specifically for the NRA by consultants. Nearly all of our main rivers are now covered by River Corridor Surveys, which identify the habitat features important for wildlife - reed beds, wet woodlands, gravel shoals for invertebrates and earth cliffs for nesting kingfishers. We have also commissioned ecological and archaeological surveys for our own properties, as a basis for management plans. We are currently developing a River Habitat Survey which will allow us to assess the conservation value of rivers.



Promotional Projects

The NRA has close links with many outside bodies concerned with conservation - the national conservation agencies, local authorities and voluntary bodies - and with these, as with other landowners, we are pleased to participate in collaborative projects which promote conservation aims.

Recent projects have included a demonstration wetland at the Royal Show ground at Stoneleigh, improving the water supply to a County Trust wetland reserve in Leicestershire, large areas of tree planting along the Upper Trent, and restoring a historic mill race along the Rea Brook in Shrewsbury. Collaborative projects with the local authorities in Derby, Nottingham, Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent have brought many conservation and recreation benefits to the river corridors in these urban areas.

The NRA also seeks to promote, inform and play a positive role in increasing public awareness of the need for conservation of the aquatic environment, through publications, media work, attendance at county shows and other high-profile events, and support for educational activities.



NATURE RESERVES ON RIVERS

The NRA has been involved with each of these sites in recent years. All are open to the public, though there may be an admission charge - please contact the organisation concerned for details.



- A. **Llyn Coed y Dinas** -
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust
*River Severn floodplain, lake in scrapel,
reed bed.*
- B. **Upton Warren** -
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
*River Salwarpe, subsidence ponds, fen,
inland saltmarsh.*
- C. **Brandon Marsh** -
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
River Avon, flooded gravel pits, reed beds.
- D. **Slimbridge Wildfowl Reserve** -
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
*Severn Estuary, saltmarsh, mudflats,
meadows.*
- E. **Sandwell Valley** -
RSPB
River Tame, balancing lake.
- F. **Doxey Marshes** -
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
River Sow, marshland, pools.
- G. **Attenborough Gravel Pits** -
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
*River Trent, River Erewash, flooded
gravel pits.*
- H. **Blacktoft Sands** - RSPB
*Humber Estuary, mudflats, saltmarsh,
reed beds.*