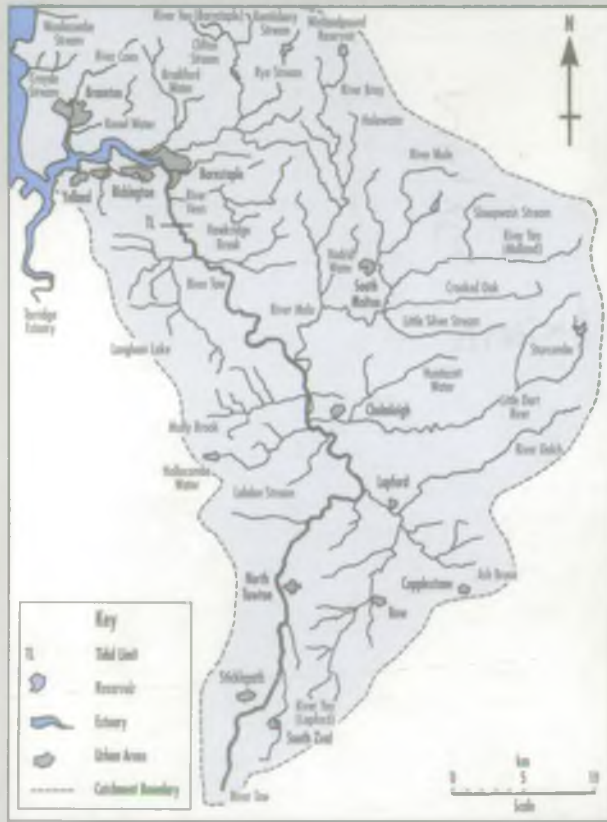


## THE RIVER TAW CATCHMENT



Colleton Weir on the River Taw

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The River Taw Catchment Management Plan Consultation Report is now available to the public.

The NRA is keen to receive your views by 31 January 1995 on the issues identified and proposals made. There may also be other matters you wish to raise. Quite simply if there is anything about the River Taw that you feel strongly about please let us know.

The report is being distributed to a wide range of bodies including local authorities, statutory organisations, voluntary groups, landowners, and other interested parties.

In addition copies will be held for study at NRA offices in Exeter, Bodmin, Alverdiscott Road in Bideford, Bridgwater and Blandford and at the public libraries in Barnstaple, Chulmleigh and South Molton.

To comment on the report or to obtain a copy please contact:

Malcolm Newton  
 Area Regulation Officer  
 National Rivers Authority  
 South Western Region,  
 Devon Area Office  
 Manley House, Kestrel Way  
 Exeter EX2 7LQ  
 Tel: Exeter (01392) 444000  
 Fax: Exeter (01392) 444238

Copies of the report are available free of charge to individuals/organisations involved in the consultation process. The NRA reserves the right to make a charge, to reflect the costs involved, to other interested parties.

Telephone the emergency hotline to report all environmental incidents, such as pollution, poaching and flooding, or any signs of damage or danger to our rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Your prompt action will help the NRA to protect water, wildlife, people and property.

**NRA emergency hotline**  
**0800 80 70 60**  
 24 hour free emergency telephone line



The NRA is committed to the principles of stewardship and sustainability. In addition to pursuing its statutory responsibilities as Guardians of the Water Environment, the NRA will aim to establish and demonstrate wise environmental practice throughout all its functions.

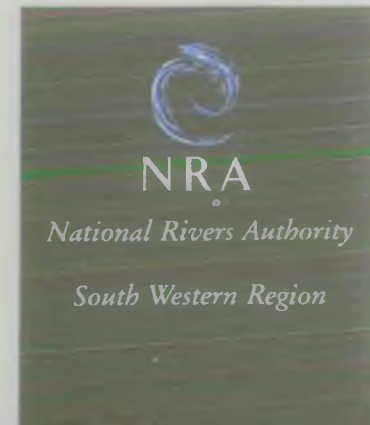
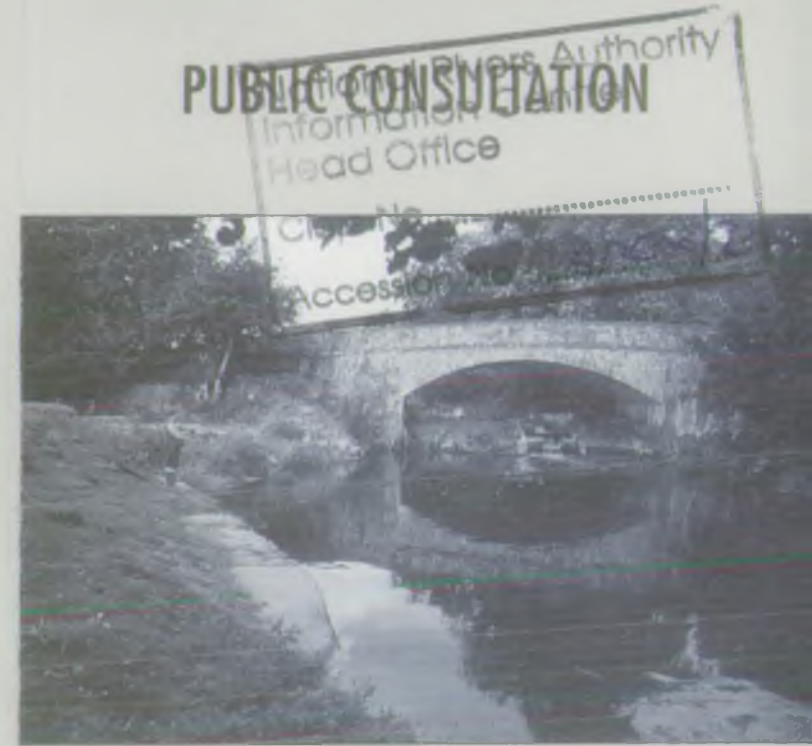
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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Front cover photo:  
 Mill Bridge, River Taw

## THE RIVER TAW CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN



## SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVING THE RIVER TAW CATCHMENT



*The NRA in action . . . An adult sea trout is returned to the River Mole*

The National Rivers Authority is seeking the support of local organisations and individuals in the important task of safeguarding and improving the River Taw Catchment in Devon. This leaflet explains the background and how you can help.

### THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

The NRA is responsible in England and Wales for the protection and improvement of the water environment. This environment includes rivers, streams, lakes, underground water, estuaries and coastal waters. As 'Guardians of the Water Environment' we are involved in a variety of activities. The main ones are:

**WATER RESOURCES** Plan and manage water resources to safeguard water supplies and other uses. Monitor and license abstractions.

**POLLUTION CONTROL** Maintain and improve water quality. Issue and monitor discharge consents.

**FLOOD DEFENCE** Protect people and property from flooding.

**FISHERIES** Maintain, improve and develop fisheries, including licensing and enforcement.

**CONSERVATION** Protect the water environment as a wildlife habitat and an amenity.

**RECREATION** Promote recreation in and around water.



*Conservation is one of the key aspects of the report*

## CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Catchment Management Planning is the vehicle used by the NRA to achieve improvements in each local area.

All the NRA's activities are brought together with the responsibilities, needs and requirements of others.

The plans provide a means for setting priorities, solving problems and developing ways for securing the environmental sustainability of the catchment.

The production of Catchment Management Plans within the NRA comes in two stages: a Consultation Report followed by a Final Plan.

The Consultation Report consists of a number of sections including the NRA's vision for the catchment, a catchment description, the various uses made of the water, land and resources and an assessment of the current state of the catchment.

Where problems or potential problems exist these are identified in the report. Areas which need further investigation are set out.

Finally a list of actions, or options for action, are suggested.

Many of the actions highlighted will rely on the co-operation and commitment of the local community. Local knowledge is invaluable. Hence the vital importance of the consultation stage.

Please let us have your views on the River Taw catchment. Do you agree with the information we have set out? Are there further issues or options you feel should be addressed?



*The River Taw at Sticklepath*



*Measuring flows on the River Mole*



*The River Bray, an important tributary of the Taw*

Once we have your views a Final Plan will be produced for implementation. This will of course, reflect the comments received.

## THE RIVER TAW CATCHMENT

The River Taw Catchment Management Plan is one of three Plans being produced by the NRA for the Taw/Torridge system. The Taw/Torridge Catchment covers an area more than 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has been divided into three for the purposes of the catchment management process. The River Torridge Catchment Consultation Report was published in May 1993 and the Final Report in September 1994 and covers the River Torridge above the tidal limit and freshwater rivers feeding the Torridge Estuary. The Taw/Torridge Estuary Catchment Consultation Report covers the estuary below the tidal limit and the adjoining coastline and was published in August 1993. The Final Plan is due during 1995. The River Taw Catchment Consultation Report covers the River Taw above the tidal limit and smaller rivers discharging into the Taw Estuary.

The area offers various attractions for differing interests from the headwaters in moorland Dartmoor and Exmoor, to the Estuary on the North Devon coast at Barnstaple.

The River Taw and its tributaries drain a large area of North East Devon, covering 1,242 km<sup>2</sup>. There are a number of important subcatchments including those of the rivers Mole, Little Dart and Yeo (Lapford).

The River Taw Catchment Consultation Report examines a number of key aspects including wildlife, conservation, landscape, recreation, fisheries, flood defence, effluent disposal, waste disposal, agriculture, forestry, water abstraction, the built environment, river flows and water quality.



*The Taw in flood at Newbridge*