

EA - South West LEIPS /111

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A Green Consultation Plan for Dorset



*A summary of the
Frome & Piddle and
Poole Harbour &
Purbeck Local
Environment Agency
Plan*



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**



Introduction to the Environment Agency

The role of the Environment Agency is to protect and improve the environment through the integrated management of water, land and aspects of air quality. We were established in 1996 and are officially a 'non-departmental' public body, which means that we work for the public and have specific duties and powers of our own.

As 'guardians of the environment' we have legal duties to protect and improve the environment throughout England and Wales and to contribute towards 'sustainable development' – meeting the needs of today without harming future generations.

The Agency's south west region is divided into four areas covering Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and most of Wiltshire. Locally the South Wessex office is based at Blandford Forum.

Local Environment Agency Plans

We are committed to delivering environmental improvement at the local level and one of the ways we do this is through Local Environment Agency plans - or LEAPs for short. These plans reflect our close contact with industry, the public and local government and how we intend to contribute towards achieving sustainable development.

The LEAP process consists of a Consultation Draft, a Plan and Annual Reviews. The consultation draft, of which this summary forms a part, gives a broad review of the plan area and identifies issues to be tackled and suggests actions for resolving them. The Consultation Draft is available for a formal period of consultation enabling local people and interest groups to work with us in planning the future of the local environment.

The LEAP Plan will take into account the results of the consultation and will list the agreed actions that we would like to undertake in the next five years. We will then monitor the implementation of the LEAP and report on progress in a published Annual Review. The Annual Review will also identify any new issues or additional actions needed to maintain progress in the light of any changes in the LEAP area.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Key environmental issues raised in the LEAP along with proposed measures to tackle them include:

- Fulfilling the Agency's role in protecting important habitats and species under the international initiative for conserving biodiversity throughout the area;
- Reversing the decline in salmon fisheries in the rivers Frome and Piddle;
- Investigating the decline of the eel fishery in the area;
- Promoting river habitat improvement for the benefit of fisheries and conservation;
- Implementation of a series of measures to address low flows on the River Piddle;
- Tackling fly-tipping in partnership with district, town and parish councils in an attempt to reduce incidents within the area;
- Enforcing the boat speed limit along the lower River Frome to protect valuable habitats and flood defence banks;
- Maintenance of flood defences including work on the Poole Town Quay tidal defence scheme;
- Working with others to promote appropriate recreational access and amenity use of the area;
- Improving river and bathing water quality in the area;
- Looking at ways of addressing the impact of land use on water quality in both urban and rural areas;
- Working closely with local authorities to ensure that suitable policies to protect and enhance the environment are incorporated into development plans.



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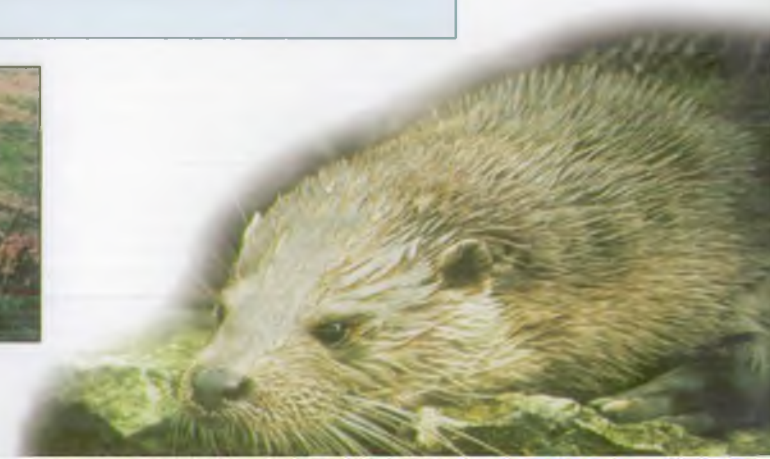
Frome & Piddle and Poole Harbour & Purbeck Area Overview

The LEAP covers three distinct areas of Dorset, from Puddletown and Dorchester to Evershot and Maiden Newton in West Dorset, principally the upper freshwater catchment of the rivers Frome and Piddle, the Isle of Purbeck and the Poole and Poole Harbour area. Agriculture is the economic mainstay in the west of the plan area with the majority of urban and industrial development concentrated within the town and port area of Poole.

Tourism is also a major source of revenue in Dorset and the plan area boasts 12

European designated bathing beaches and a host of recreational activities in Poole Harbour. The Dorset coast path, part of the South West Peninsular Coastal Path, hugs the Isle of Purbeck, while inland the area is criss-crossed by footpaths.

The area contains one of the highest concentrations of designated areas for nature conservation in England covering a very wide range of habitats and an exceptional diversity of species making a significant contribution to the quality of life for the people that live in and visit the area.



Your views



Your views...

Are you interested in finding out more and contributing to the future management of your local area?

We have placed copies of the Frome & Piddle and Poole Harbour & Purbeck LEAP consultation draft in local libraries throughout the area.

For further information or to get your own copy of the Consultation Draft please contact:

Customer Services Centre (LEAPs),
Environment Agency,
Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park,
Higher Shaftesbury Road,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset DT11 8ST.

Tel: 01258 456080
Fax: 01258 455998

Email to richard.thornton@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please send any comments to us by 29 February 2000

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU



SOUTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

REGIONAL OFFICE
Environment Agency
South West Region
Manley House, Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 444 238

SOUTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Rivers House
Sunrise Business Park
Higher Shaftesbury Road
Blandford DT11 8ST
Tel: 01258 456 080
Fax: 01258 455 998

DEVON AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Exminster House
Miller Way
Exminster
Devon EX6 8AS
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 316 016

CORNWALL AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Sir John Moore House
Victoria Square
Bodmin PL31 1EB
Tel: 01208 78301
Fax: 01208 78321

NORTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Rivers House, East Quay
Bridgwater TA6 4YS
Tel: 01278 457 333
Fax: 01278 452 985



Internet World Wide Web
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

0845 9333 111

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE**

0800 80 70 60

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SOUTH WEST REGION

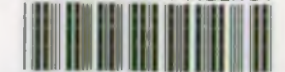
Manley House, Kestrel Way,
Exeter EX2 7LQ

Floodline
0845 983 1188



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