

Box 4

environment agency plan

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT AREA ANNUAL REVIEW MAY 2000



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

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SOUTHERN SECTION

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



048095

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This New Forest Local Environment Agency Plan Annual Review reports on the progress of actions in the first year of this plan (1999-2000).

During the last two years The New Forest Committee has worked with local people to identify the issues of particular importance to the New Forest. In September 1999 the Government announced that the first steps were to be taken in designating the New Forest as a National Park. This status will ensure that the New Forest has national recognition, government funding for the conservation of the New Forest and a fixed boundary set in legislation.

In August 1999, The Agency was invited to become a partner in submitting a bid for the second phase of the New Forest LIFE Programme (LIFE III) to take place between 2001 and 2005. Over the last eight months the Agency has been working closely with the ten partners of the project to obtain funding for undertaking key work. Hampshire County Council is leading the preparation of the bid and in addition to The Agency, the main partners include: English Nature, The Forestry Commission, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Southampton University, The New Forest District Council (NFDC), The Verderers of The New Forest, The National Trust and The Royal Society For The Protection Of Birds. (LIFE stands for the 'Financial Instrument for the Environment' and the Fund provides 50% grant for nature conservation projects that contribute to maintaining or restoring natural habitats and species populations).- - - - -

The Agency is well represented on the New Forest Committee and continues to ensure a close relationship between a strategy for the New Forest, and the development of other programmes and policies. The LEAP actions have been included in the work plans produced by NFDC from the New Forest Strategy. This is reviewed annually in April.

This annual review presents a forward look for agreed actions and also lists any new actions that have developed over the course of year.

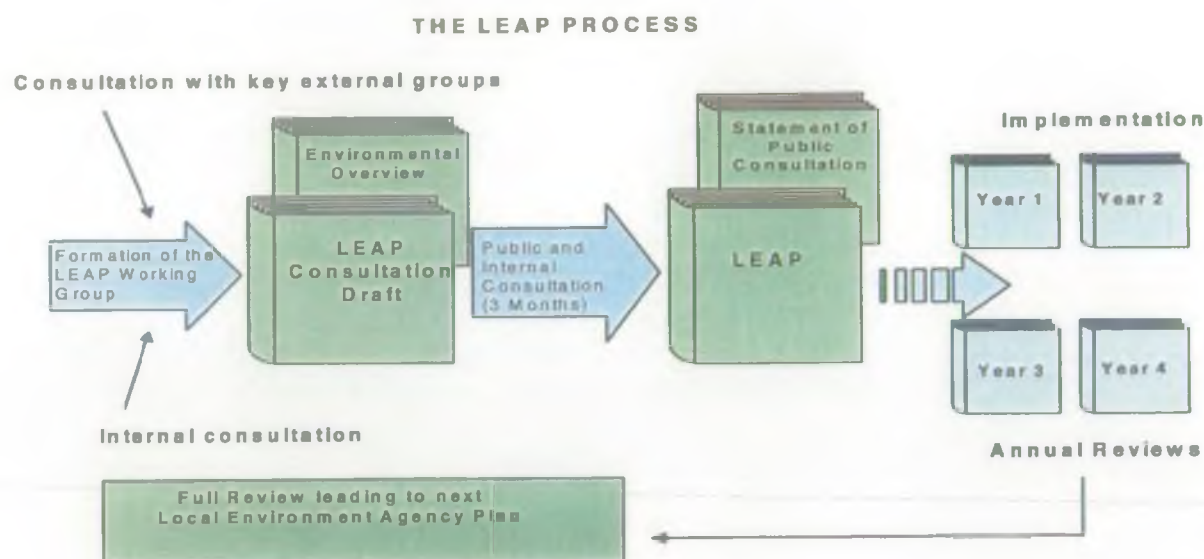
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Annual Review Process

This is the first Annual Review of the Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) published in the Agency's Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. These integrated environmental management plans have been produced to help us identify, assess, prioritise and solve local environmental issues related to our functions, taking account the views of our local customers. The LEAP process involves several stages, as illustrated below. These plans set out proposed action for the Agency and partners to deliver over a five year period.



The Agency now has complete coverage for all 13 Consultation Drafts for Southern Region. In the area 2 Consultation Drafts have so far been converted into Action Plans although the Isle of Wight Action Plan has only just been published (appendix 1 shows publication timetable). The majority of the actions highlighted in these plans not surprisingly require funds for their implementation. The Agency has to determine this resource requirement alongside other national and regional priorities which is carried out through the yearly business planning process. In order to link the two plans more effectively a decision has been made to review all LEAPs in the region at the same time to coincide with the business planning cycle. Some of the LEAPs have only just been published so there will be little progress to report this year however, there will be a full progress report on the full suite of area LEAPs in the following year.

In summary, the Annual Review process enables the Agency to assess progress on a regular basis and incorporate changing local and national priorities as necessary. This document is a review of the New Forest Action Plan which was published in March 1999. The document provides a forward look for 2000/2001, including any revisions and additional actions.

1.2 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development, in simple terms, is development which balances three issues: people, profit and the planet. It is based on the idea that people's lives, and the state of our communities, is affected by a combination of economic, social and environmental factors. By understanding the links between them we can develop lasting solutions.

At a strategic level a regional Sustainable Development Framework is currently being drafted for the South East, which is due to be published by the end of this year. It will be consistent with the UK strategy for sustainable development and is intended to be a simple, accessible and inclusive framework which sets out the context for achievement of sustainable development in the South East of England. At a local level, LEAPs will aid the achievement of sustainable development by helping to develop solutions, based on harmony between the economy, society and the environment.

1.3 Main Impacts of New Responsibilities

The Agency continues to face pressures on its resources from new responsibilities including, Habitats Directive, Pollution inventory, AMP3 consents review, Water Framework Directive. The Agency remains committed to recycling efficiencies to offset the costs of carrying out new work to improve the environment. However, the pace and size of change will far outstrip our capacity to do this. Although there will be additional resources to cover some of these additional responsibilities, there will still be some impact on other areas of work highlighting the increasing importance of adopting the partnership approach in performing our environmental improvement work.

The Agency realises that a more proactive and co-ordinated approach to securing external funds is necessary in helping deliver outcomes. Thus, an area external funding officer has been appointed to help identify high priority activities which present the best opportunities for generating external funds and present value for money.

2.0 NEW PRESSURES

Major developments have been proposed and are being carried out on the Western Shoreline of Southampton Water. The main ones the Agency are involved in are summarised below.

2.1 Dibden Bay

Associated British Ports (ABP), the Port Authority for Southampton, plans to develop a new commercial terminal on port owned land, on the western bank of Southampton Water at Dibden Bay. An investment programme of over £150 million over the past seven years has enabled the existing port to modernise and adjust to changing world shipping patterns. With the expanding market there is little room to provide further container berths on the existing port site. The main Port scheme will be submitted in the form of a full Harbour Revision Order (HRO). This entails an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and approximately 60 supporting documents. To date the Environment Agency has commented on the draft HRO, the requirements for an EIA, an Appropriate Assessment (a requirement of the Habitats Regulations) and on the scoping opinion for the Harbour Works and improvements to the rail

network EIA. Members of the team are also representatives on two of the local Dibden Bay Working Groups.

2.2 Cracknore Hard

Cracknore Hard is a phased development for industrial and commercial use. To date the Agency has commented on an application for the development of land which has been developed on the former Husbands Shipyard site. The Agency has been heavily engaged in environmental enhancements associated with this development.

2.3 Marchwood Incinerator

Concern has been expressed by the residents in Marchwood and surrounding area over the proposed development of an Incinerator. An application for an Authorisation for Prescribed Processes was submitted by Onyx in December 1999 to the Agency and a public meeting gave the opportunity for local residents to voice their concerns. The Agency will also be a statutory consultee on the planning application for this site.

3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS

3.1 Achievements

The Gurney-Dixon Community Lakes located in the grounds of Priestlands School, Lymington have been restored in collaboration with the New Forest District Council, Lymington and Pennington Town Council and Hampshire Wildlife Trust to provide local people with improved amenity areas and fishing for the local schools. The lakes were in an unmanaged state with poor light penetration, low oxygen content and no aquatic life. Tree and scrub clearance has allowed light to reach the water surface, pond-dipping and fishing platforms have been constructed and a pathway built to allow access to the Lakes.

In April 1999 the Agency was accepted as an associate partner for the £5.2million New Forest LIFE II project. This gave the Agency formal recognition on the Partnership alongside bodies such as The New Forest Committee, English Nature, Forestry Commission, HCC, New Forest Verderers to carry out urgent conservation and restoration work in the New Forest SAC. Significant contributions have been made from area staff to this project which is currently the largest LIFE Funded project in the UK.

National Power, Fawley, hosted an event in June 1999 on 'Responsible Care in the Chemical Industry', which was co-sponsored by the Agency. This event was attended by 100 delegates and topics such as the Producer Responsibility Regulations and the IPPC Directive were well received.

Six observation boreholes have been drilled to monitor the Barton Sands aquifer in the New Forest. This is the first time that groundwater monitoring will be undertaken in the Forest area.

In November 1999 a successful booming exercise was undertaken at Eling to test the viability of protecting the estuaries as part of an on going assesement into the risk associated with offshore oil damage.

All Shellfish Waters in the New Forest area are now protected having been designated in September 1999 under the EC Directive (79/923/EEC).

In October 1999 the Agency launched a major National Flood Awareness Campaign as part of a three year programme to raise awareness of floods and flood warning. The programme was developed as part of the Agency's response to severe flooding in 1998 and the Bye Report into the 1998 Easter floods.

Due to exceptionally high tides and torrential rain over the 1999 Christmas period Lymington Town suffered minor flooding. In Lymington flooding occurred as a result of the river being held back by the new tide gates which were closed to protect the Town from the exceptionally high tide. Without these new flood defence structures and the recent upgrading of the areas sea defences (in the 1990's) flooding would have been far worse. The Agency's flood alleviation scheme for the Danestream also prevented flooding of Milford.

From its Regional Headquarters in Worthing the Agency made over 72,000 direct telephone calls to home and property owners in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to give them flood warnings over the Holiday period. This was the biggest mass direct public warning since the Blitz!

3.2 Disappointments

In the Summer of 1999 the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Fisheries announced that the Agencys Grant in Aid for Fisheries work was to be cut by 33% for the financial year 2000/01. Work undertaken on migratory sea trout will be severely restricted next year.

4.0 UPDATE OF ACTION PLAN

4.1 Action Table

The Agency is continually working towards resolving the issues within LEAPs. The following action table provides information on the forward look and progress that has been made in the last year on the issues identified in the New Forest Action Plan. For a fuller account of the issues please refer to the Action Plan.

4.2 Key to table

The following tables provide detail of the actions for each issue. An explanation of the columns in the tables is given below:

MP	Manpower - no additional cost to the annual budgetary provision
U	Unknown
K	£1,000.00
-	No action by the Area

Note: The shaded activities in the table represent completed actions.

We recognise that environmental problems are interrelated and need to be dealt with in a holistic manner. Our document "Environmental Strategy for the Millennium and Beyond" (September 1997) adopted an integrated approach to understanding, managing, regulating and improving the quality of air, land and water by introducing nine themes as shown below. Each action has been cross-referenced to these environmental themes by using the appropriate symbols within the table.



Addressing climate change



Improving air quality



Managing our water resources



Enhancing biodiversity



Managing freshwater fisheries



Delivering integrated river-basin management



Conserving the land



Managing waste



Regulating major industries

Environment Agency Departments

CS	Customer Services
EPL	Environment Planning
EPR	Environment Protection
FD	Flood Defence
FER	Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation
WR	Water Resources

Responsibility

AM	Area Manager
TL	Team Leader
O	Officer

Partners


SWS	Southern Water Services
HCC	Hampshire County Council
HWT	Hampshire Wildlife Trust
NFDC	New Forest District Council
FC	Forestry Commission
EN	English Nature

4.3 List of issues

- M1 Excessive unlicensed surface water abstraction for trickle irrigation
- M2 Clarification is required over the inter-relationship of powers and responsibilities between the Agency and the Forestry Commission within the New Forest.
- M3 Loss of biodiversity and the water resource associated with damage to valley mire systems.
- M4 Loss of biodiversity associated with engineering works on natural river courses.
- M5 Loss of biodiversity associated with recreational use of watercourses.
- M6 Limited knowledge on the nature of the water resource due to the lack of groundwater and surface water monitoring.
- M7 Low summer flow rates in certain New Forest streams.
- M8 Reduced stream water quality during summer low flows.
- M9 Disruption of stream ecology and processes due to the removal of debris dams from New Forest watercourses.
- M10 Reduced recreational water quality at Calshot.
- M11 Derogation of the Keyhaven Pond at the Lymington and Keyhaven Nature Reserve.
- M12 Continuing prohibition of shellfish production in the vicinity of the current Pennington WWTW outfall.
- M13 Improved management of urban and agricultural surface water run-off.
- M14 Development of the Flood Defence Management System (FDMS).
- M15 The impact of sea level rise on intertidal areas (coastal squeeze).
- M16 Inadequate understanding of the effect of acid deposition on the ecology of the New Forest.
- M17 Inadequate understanding of the impact of sulphur dioxide emissions.
- M18 Inadequate understanding of the combined impacts of process emissions.
- M19 Public concern over odour control at industrial sites.
- M20 Status of sea trout population is unknown.
- M21 Obstructions to free passage of sea trout.
- M22 Poaching pressure on sea trout stocks.
- S1 Implications of the Habitats Directive on the Agency.
- S2 Fulfilling the Agency's biodiversity commitment.
- S3 Loss of biodiversity associated with deeping of ephemeral water bodies.
- S4 The threat to aquatic ecology of New Forest watercourses caused by the spread of alien flora and fauna.
- S5 Reduced nature conservation value of Lymington Reed Beds SSSI.
- S6 Groundwater contamination at Ampress Works public water supply.
- S7 The control and maintenance of privately owned flood defence structures.
- S8 Defining the role of the Agency in local air quality management.
- S9 Inadequate understanding of the effect on public health of PM₁₀ arisings from waste handling facilities.
- S10 Lack of knowledge of fish stocks in still waters.
- S11 Low availability of free public fishing in the New Forest.
- X Manor Farm.



ISSUE: M1, Excessive unlicensed surface water abstraction for trickle irrigation.

Trickle irrigation is not a licensable activity and the Agency has no powers to control or limit water abstraction for this purpose. Although the Agency is supportive of the principle of trickle irrigation, the reduction of already low summer flows has a damaging effect on the ecology of the watercourse.

No.	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/ 00	00/ 01	01/ 02	02/ 03	03/ 04	
1 	License control following DETR license review.	Lead: WR (AM)	MP	-	-	MP	MP	MP	The Parliamentary timetable suggests that the legislation will not be billed before 2001. There will be a period of three years for applications to be determined. Transitional arrangements will be implemented to provide existing exempt abstractors with time and protection to adapt to the new system.





ISSUE: M2, Clarification is required over the inter-relationship of powers and responsible ties between the Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Some of the Agency duties set out in The Environment Act 1995 and Land Drainage Act 1991 overlap with the responsibilities of the Forestry Commission. The current review of the management plan for the crown lands presents an opportunity for Agency dialogue with the Forestry Commission to ensure that the plan sets out strategies that are mutually beneficial to both organisations.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Contribute to New Forest Committee	Lead: CS (AM) Partners: NFDC, Committee members	55k	11k	11k	11k	11k	11k	Agency representatives attend New Forest committee meetings. Issues such as the authorisation for Marchwood Incinerator have been presented to the committee.
2 	Enter negotiations with the Forestry Commission.	Lead: FER (AM) Partners: FC	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	This is being achieved through LIFE II. The Open Forest Group and specific meetings which have addressed the Forestry Commission's responsibility on land drainage.




ISSUES: M3, Loss of biodiversity and the Water Resource associated with damage to valley mire systems.

Damage to the mire systems has detrimentally affected mire plant communities, threatening the current levels of biodiversity in the Forest.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1	 Initiate search for appropriate projects.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: EN, FC	MP	MP	-	-	-	-	This has been achieved through the Life II project and will be further developed in Life III.
2	 Participate in partnership projects-dependant of funding.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: EN, FC, Land owners.	-	-	-	-	-	-	As above.
3	 Partnership approach to water management in/below valley mires.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC, EN, Land owners.	40k MP	-	10k	10k	10k	10k	Action not progressed in 1999/2000
4	 Evaluate the success of the above actions.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC, EN, Land owners.	5k	-	-	-	-	5k	Action not to be progressed until 2003/2004


ISSUE: M4, Loss of biodiversity associated with engineering works on natural river courses.

The majority of the New Forest streams have been engineered to increase their drainage capacity with resultant effect that there is a detrimental effect on habitat diversity of the streams.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Investigate opportunities for funding.	Lead: FD(AM) Partners: FC, EN.	MP	MP	-	-	-	-	This has been identified within Life II and has been put forward within the Life III Project bid.
2 	Contribution to river restoration projects.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC, EN.	40k	-	10k	10k	10k	10k	Action not progressed in 1999/2000.
3 	Evaluate the success of the projects.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC, EN.	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	Advice and guidance has been given in Life II.


ISSUE: M5, Loss of biodiversity associated with recreational use of watercourses.

The Agency has a duty to promote water-based recreation and will do so in collaboration with the Forestry Commission, New Forest District Council, landowners and others where appropriate, to limit environmental damage.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Liaise with Local Authority to contribute to sustainable management of recreation and environment.	Lead: FER (AM) Partner: NFDC, FC.	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	The Agency has been a consultee during the production of the NFDC policy on recreation.




ISSUE: M6, Limited knowledge on the nature of the water resource due to a lack of groundwater and surface water monitoring.

There has been little resource-monitoring network developed in the LEAP area. Groundwater monitoring will give us a greater understanding as to the main factors that influence river flows and water levels in the valley.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Drill three observation bore holes to allow groundwater monitoring.	Lead: WR (AM)	35k	15k					Six boreholes in total have been drilled in the Barton Sands Aquifer since 1998. A total of 35k has been spent to date with 15k having been spent last year. The Barton Sands are the aquifer source for the New Forest LEAP area. The boreholes are dipped monthly and it is proposed that continuous monitoring be used in the future.


ISSUE: M7, Low summer flow rates in certain New Forest streams.

There is a perception that low flows are increasingly becoming an issue in the New Forest. The only control the Agency can exert to prevent flows getting lower is to reduce demand for spray irrigation from the New Forest.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Implement regional water resources strategy.	Lead: WR (AM) Partner: Abstractors.	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	Regional water resources strategy will be published at the end of 2000. 'Water for growth' will be launched in May with the consultation period ending in September.
2 	Reduce or revoke existing licenses.	Lead: WR. (AM)	DETR	-	-	MP	MP	MP	In the near future CAMs and the Habitats Directive will identify licences which may need to be revoked or have reduced volumes.
3 	Installation of monitoring bore holes.	Lead: WR (AM) Partners:	35k	15k	-	-	-	-	Six boreholes have been installed to date at a cost of 35k.



ISSUE: M8, Reduced stream water quality during the summer low flows.

At times of low flows any effluent discharges to streams will have a strong influence on the river water quality.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Ensure that, where appropriate, investigations are carried out on the effects of effluent discharge through AMP3 process.	Lead: EPL (AM) Partners: EN, SWS.	MP	-	-	MP	MP	MP	AMP3 delivery due 2001/02 for Beaulieu Village Wastewater Treatment Works storm discharge and 2003/04 at East Boldre. Improvements under AMP3 at Sway Wastewater Treatment Works and storm discharge due 2005-2006.



ISSUE: M9, Disruption of stream ecology and processes due to the removal of debris dams.

Debris dams are frequently removed due to the localised flooding and the impediment to water flow. This causes the loss of habitat diversity and during times of peak run off, lower reaches of arterial rivers are exposed to unnecessary extra flood risk.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Retain debris dams unless constituting a risk.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC, EN, and Commoners, Land owners.	None	-	-	-	-	-	The Environment Agency has a commitment to removing Debris Dams if there is a risk of flooding to the property.
2 	Enter into talks with all relevant parties to negotiate agreed policies.	Lead: FD, FER, (AM) Partners: FC, Land owners, Commoners, EN.	MP	MP	-	-	-	-	This issue has been discussed through the forums of the Forestry Commission and the Open Forest Group.


ISSUE: M10, Reduced recreational water quality at Calshot.

Elevated levels of faecal and total coliforms have been recorded at the nearby recreational beach. Ashlett Creek Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) is located just north of Calshot.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Provide secondary water quality treatment at Ashlett Creek – within AMP2 period.	Lead: EPL (AM) Partners: SWS.	SWS	-	-	-	-	-	Secondary treatment has been installed at Ashlett Creek to meet the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Discharge consent has been issued under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991.
2 	Review for further treatment requirements – within AMP3 period.	Lead: EPL (AM) Partners: SWS.	SWS	-	-	-	-	-	Outfall extension required to meet aesthetic requirement from AMP2. A formal consent will be submitted by Southern Water to the Agency by 31/12/00.


ISSUE: M11, Derogation of the Keyhaven Pond at the Lymington and Keyhaven Nature reserve.

Keyhaven marshes are an important coastal Nature Reserve with a mix of freshwater, brackish and saline habitats. Parts of the area are candidate special areas of conservation (SACs), special protection areas (SPAs) and a proposed wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Complete appropriate assessments and agree remediation works.	Lead: EPR (AM) Partners: HCC, EN.	20k	10k MP	10k MP	MP	MP	MP	<p>The Agency completed their contribution to the assessment and agreed remediations in January 2000.</p> <p>An Agency review of the mineral dewatering works was completed and found the discharge to be favourable with respect to the SPA.</p> <p>HCC have produced a final assessment of the waste extraction process at Manor Farm, Efford.</p>


ISSUE: M12, Continuing prohibition of shellfish production in the vicinity of the current Pennigton WWTW outfall.

The waters into which the WWTW discharge are an important area for shellfish production. Following commissioning of secondary treatment at the works in 1997, shellfish production recommenced. Improvements to the dilution of the discharge should result in further improvements in shellfish quality.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Extend point of discharge further into the Solent to increase the dilution at the point of discharge.	Lead: EP (AM) Partners: None	-	-	-	-	-	-	Improvements due under AMP2 have not yet been delivered by SWS. Delivery under AMP3 now expected.





ISSUE: M13, Improved management of urban and agricultural surface water run-off.

Poor quality of river waters has been identified in Langdown stream, Ashley stream, Walkford Brock and Becton Bunny. Urban and agricultural run off will reduce the quality of the river waters through biochemical oxygen demand, metals, oils and silt.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Promote appropriate agri-environmental solutions.	Lead: EPR (AM) Partners: NFU, Landowners.	4k	2k	MP	-	-	-	No money was assigned to this action during 2000/2001. However, the Agency will be supporting the forest friendly farming initiative by giving advice through the NFDC Committee.



ISSUE: M14, Development of the Flood Defence Management System. (FDMS)

The Agency is statutorily required, in response to Section 105, The Water Resources Act 1991, to exercise a general supervision over all flood defence matters, with powers and duties mainly relating to "main rivers" and sea defence works. In response to this legislation The Agency has embarked upon an exercise of updating its knowledge with the introduction of integrated flood defence management system (FDMS).

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Establish FDMS	Lead: FD. (AM) Partners: None.	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	The FDMS system has been established by staff from the Region and area. During 1999/2000 only a small amount of information was on the system. It is anticipated that the system will be fully operational during 2000/01.
2 	Maintain FDMS	Lead: FD. (AM) Partners: None	MP	-	-	MP	MP	MP	Maintaining the system will be an area responsibility which will commence during the next reporting period.
3 	Survey and review flood plain data.	Lead: FD. (AM) Partners: None.	200k	100k	100k	-	-	-	100k spent across the region on data collection, indicative flood plain maps and on the flood warning system.
4 	Expand Flood Warning Dissemination service.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: None	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	In October 1999 there was a national PR campaign on Flood Warning and associated events in the Areas to raise awareness.


ISSUE: M15, The impact of sea level rise on inter-tidal areas. (Coastal squeeze)

The New Forest LEAP coastal zone between the Dorset border and Calshot are below high tide level. The threatened inter-tidal habitat is protected under both the 1979 Birds Directive and the 1992 UK Habitats Directive. The Agency has an obligation to retain a favourable conservation status for the habitat and maintain effective coastal flood defence structures.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Conduct a strategic study based upon Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs).	Lead: FD. (AM) Partners: Local Authorities.	15k	-	15k	-	-	-	Agency input into the Christchurch and Poole Harbour SMP which is led by NFDC.
2 	Influence planning authorities through strategic plans.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: Local Authorities.	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	This is achieved through development control function where FD promote and update Flood Plain Policy, data and the promotion of Planning Policy Principles in Hampshire by planning liaison.


ISSUE: M16, Inadequate understanding of the effect of acid deposition on ecology of the New Forest.

Acid deposition is in excess of the critical loads in the New Forest area and it may therefore be having an effect on the ecology. There is no specific information on the potential effects of acid deposition on the area, so it is not possible to monitor the improvement that might be expected as sulphur dioxide emissions are reduced.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Do nothing.	Lead: None. Partners: None.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Modelling studies are currently being undertaken by the Agency (Region) and ESSO which will allow concentrations of sulphur dioxide reaching the New Forest from local Part A emissions to be predicted.


ISSUE: M17, Inadequate understanding of the importance of sulphur dioxide emissions.

In the New Forest LEAP area, several of the Part A processes authorised by The Agency are important due to their sulphur dioxide emissions. To protect human health, exposure to sulphur dioxide should not exceed the newly defined air quality standard of 100 ppb over a 15 minute period.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Do nothing.	Lead: None. Partners: None.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Modelling studies are currently being undertaken by the Agency (Region) and ESSO. These will allow concentrations of sulphur dioxide from the emissions to be predicted. Completion of studies due by end of 2000.



ISSUE: M18, Inadequate understanding of the combined impacts of process emissions.

There are a number of Part A processes in close proximity to each other that emit the same pollutants. To date, these emissions have been assessed in isolation. The Agency proposes to determine the significance of the combined impact of their emissions on the surrounding area.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Provide the local authority with appropriate data required to meet National Air Quality Targets.	Lead: EPL (AM) Partners: Local Industries.	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	Progressed through routine work. Partnership with local authorities achieved by input on Local Authority Air Quality Forum. Modelling studies currently being undertaken by EA and Esso to establish the dispersion of these emissions. Completion of studies due by end of 2000.


ISSUE: M19, Public concern over odour control at industrial sites.

Industrial operations in the LEAP area give rise to complaints about odour. The number of complaints are not excessive but are predominantly related to one facility.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Respond reactively to complaints.	Lead: EPR (AM) Partners: None.	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	Ongoing response to incidents.
2 	Promote public awareness.	Lead: EPR (AM) Partners: NFDC.	None	-	-	-	-	-	Not carried forward due to lack of resources in this current reporting period.


ISSUE: M20, The status of the sea trout population is unknown.

Knowledge of the sea trout population is scarce and therefore a longer-term assessment of the status of sea trout stocks needs to be addressed and action plan produced.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Undertake investigation of sea trout population to produce an action plan.	Lead: FER. (AM) Partners: Southampton University.	60k	20k	20k	20k	-	-	A weeks survey work has been undertaken on the River Lymington costing approximately 1k. The Fish counter at Brockenhurst was faulty therefore data will not be available until the year 2000. Electronic tagging was carried out on River Lymington. Sea trout action plans are proposed for two years time.


ISSUE: M21, Obstructions to free passage of sea trout.

Agency assessments of potential obstructions to sea trout migrations in streams within the LEAP area have revealed that certain conditions of river flow and/or tidal height produce significant obstructions to migration.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Carry out area survey and produce proposals to overcome obstructions.	Lead: FER. (AM) Partners: FC, Fishing clubs.	20k	-	10k	10k	-	-	There have been meetings with Lymington fishing club and Forestry Commission to discuss these issues. A national R&D project assessing new tagging technology will assist in understanding how much obstruction the River Lymington tidal flaps cause to the passage of fish.


ISSUE: M22, Poaching pressure on sea trout stocks.

Illegal exploitation of sea trout on the Lymington River, Bealieu River and Avon water is a major concern to The Agency since it has a potentially significant impact on the adult sea trout population spawning in the New Forest.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Target vulnerable poaching locations with covert and overt operations.	Lead: FER (AM) Partners: Fishing clubs and police.	20k MP	10k	10k	-	-	-	10k has been spent on poaching prevention operations. Work continues with police and fishing clubs. No prosecutions have yet been brought.


ISSUE: S1, Implications of the Habitats Directive on the Agency.

The Habitats Directive, through the Habitats regulations and the PPG9 invests a number of responsibilities on the Agency as a "Competent Authority". As a result the 1992 EU Habitats Directive, the New Forest SSSI has been submitted to the EU as a candidate Special Area of Conservation.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Issue guidance, Liaise with English Nature and contribute to the management plan.	Lead: FER Partners: EN	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	The Agency has successfully run training courses for staff and contributed to Life II. This financial year sees the review of consents under the Habitats Directive.


ISSUE: S2, Fulfilling the Agencies biodiversity commitment.

The Agency is the contact point for four key species: the water vole, otter, crayfish and southern damselfly.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1	 Deliver action plans for Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) key species	Lead: FER (AM) Partners: FC, EN, HWT.	30k	15k	15k	-	-	-	<p>The Agency has supported the habitats Biodiversity Action Plan. Ground-breaking research into the population size, dispersal and population dynamics was commissioned and funded by the UK Southern Damselfly BAP Steering Group of which the Agency is a member. The Agency also led a consortium including the FC, EN, HWT and HCC to carry out a comprehensive survey of the species in Hampshire during 1999. Several new sites in the New Forest were identified as well as affirming the status and welfare of existing sites.</p> <p>A survey of Otters on the New Forest coastline has been completed and road signage erected at Lymington for an otter crossing.</p>


ISSUE: S3, Loss of biodiversity associated with deepening of ephemeral water bodies.

A number of ephemeral water bodies away from the forest water courses have been damaged by deepening, often undertaken to create a more permanent water feature. This can result in habitat loss for the very specialised faunal communities.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Investigative study.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: FC	5k	-	5k	-	-	-	This issue will be looked at as part of the Life III bid process.


ISSUE: S4, The threat to aquatic ecology of the New Forest water courses caused by the spread of alien flora and fauna.

The eventual dominance of an alien species within an ecosystem results in a significant decline in biodiversity. The marine and inter-tidal ecology of the coastal zone is threatened by the spread of exotic alien plant species and the spread of American mink is thought to be impacting on native species such as the water vole and native crayfish.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Provide advice on the best proactive control of alien flora and fauna.	Lead: FER (AM) Partners: FC, EN.	2k	1k	1k	-	-	-	The Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trust have jointly funded a project to survey the extent of Crassula sp.(Crassula helmsii also known as Australian Swamp Stonecrop) in the New Forest. The report has not been finalised.


ISSUE: S5, Reduced nature conservation value of the Lymington reed beds SSSI.

The nature conservation value of the Lymington reed beds SSSI suffered decline through on-site accumulation of reed biomass, with the increase in wet biomass possibly suppressing invertebrate levels, which in turn subsequently impact upon important bird species dependant upon the reed bed habitat.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Contribute to restoration project.	Lead: HWT (AM) Partners: HWT, EN.	5k	-	-	5k	-	-	The Lymington water level management plan has been completed but not yet implemented. This plan will be used to aid HWT to resolve this issue.





ISSUE: S6, Groundwater contamination at Ampress works public water supply.

There are two aquifers from which groundwater has been extracted for public water supply at Ampress works just north of Lymington. Metals and solvents arising from old industrial works adjacent to the site have contaminated the shallow aquifer near the surface. Public water supplies are now only extracted from the deeper aquifer.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Do nothing.	Lead: None Partners: None	-	-	-	-	-	-	The Agency has not taken any action on this as the planning application for this site is subject to a public enquiry.


ISSUE: S7, The control and maintenance of privately owned flood defence structures.

Privately owned structures are common on water courses for a variety of traditional water uses, such as the operation of mills, creation of navigational channels, fish farming and amenity. By law, these must be maintained and operated properly by their owners if they affect river levels and flows.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Inspection of all structures and follow up actions.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: NFDC	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	An inventory of all main river structures now exists. Inspection of the structure will be incorporated into routine work programmes.
2 	Produce Keyhaven Water Level Management Plan (WLMP).	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: EN, NFDC, Landowners.	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	The existing WLMP will be updated following the review of a recently submitted Water Management Scheme and the results of monitoring for a gravel extraction site located in the Pennington Marshes.
3 	Produce Lymington River WLMP.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: EN, NFDC, Land owners.	6k	6k					The Lymington river WLMP has been combined with the reed bed WLMP. This Plan has now been completed. Ongoing liaison with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and EN will influence future changes to the Plan.
4 	Produce Lymington, reed bed WLMP.	Lead: FD (AM) Partners: ND, NFDC, Landowners.	MP	MP					As above.


ISSUE: S8, Defining the role of the Agency in local air quality management.

The Environment Act of 1995 has given the local authorities new responsibilities for managing air quality in their area. The Agency has agreed to work closely with the local authorities, helping them to carry out their reviews and prepare an action plan as necessary.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Promote understanding through work with local authorities.	Lead: EPI (AM) Partners: NFDC	MP	MP	MP	-	-	-	The Agency sit on the Hampshire Air Quality forum. Information from modelling studies currently being undertaken will aid local authorities in the preparation of their action plans.


ISSUE: S9, Inadequate understanding of the effect on public health of PM10 arising from waste handling facilities.

There are a number of waste transfer stations in the LEAP area, and one landfill site, that may have been contributing to local PM16 concentrations. The health effects of exposure to fine airborne particles have led the government to set a stringent new standard for PM10 (particulate matter).

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1 	Do nothing.	Lead: None Partners: None	-	-	-	-	-	-	The Agency has not taken any action on this issue.


ISSUE: S10, Lack of knowledge of fish stocks in still water.

Our knowledge of the population of fish in most of the still waters within the LEAP area is poor.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/ 00	00/ 01	01/ 02	02/ 03	03/ 04	
1 	Carry out an area survey.	Lead : FER (AM) Partners: Fishing clubs, FC.	20k	-	10k	-	-	-	No progress has been made but the Agency has links with Southampton University who have recently undertaken work in the New Forest at Cadnam's pool.

ISSUE: S11, Low availability of free public fishing in the New Forest.

The Bartley Water holds fair population of trout and coarse fish, but it is currently little fished by anglers.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/ 00	00/ 01	01/ 02	02/ 03	03/ 04	
1 	Assess potential and produce a plan.	Lead: FER (AM) Partners: NFDC	5k	-	-	-	3k	2k	No actions undertaken during 1999/2000. This issue will be revisited as and when resources become available.

ISSUE: X, Impact of the mineral extraction and land filling activities at Manor Farm.

This was a new issue raised by the stakeholder group.

No	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£K)	Financial years (1 st April - 31 st March)					Progress/comments
				99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	
1	Complete appropriate assessments and agree remediation work.	Lead: EPR (AM) Partners: HCC	20k	20k	-	-	-	-	<p>The Agency completed their contribution to the Assessment and agreed remediation in January 2000.</p> <p>HCC have produced a final assessment of the waste and mineral extraction process at Manor Farm.</p> <p>An Agency review of the mineral dewatering works was Completed and found the discharge to be favourable With respect to the SPA.</p> <p>The significance of the impact of the waste and mineral extraction process on the area is to be reviewed. The waste licence may be changed as a consequence of this Review.</p>

4.4 Future Review and Monitoring

Regular monitoring and updating of the issues and actions are an integral part of the LEAPs process. The Agency will continue to monitor progress and report back annually to all interested parties. A full review will normally be undertaken after five years.

If you require further information about LEAPs in this area or wish to discuss partnership opportunities please contact:

Environment Agency
Customer Services
Colvedene Court
Colden Common
SO21 1WP

Tel: 01962 713267

APPENDIX I**LEAP PUBLICATION TIMETABLE**

Test & Itchen Environmental Overview - July 1999

Test & Itchen Consultation Draft - July 1999

Test & Itchen Local Environment Agency Plan – due June 2000

Isle of Wight Environmental Overview - March 1999

Isle of Wight Consultation Draft - March 1999

Isle of Wight Local Environment Agency Plan - January 2000

New Forest Consultation Report - April 1998

New Forest Local Environment Agency Plan - March 1999

East Hampshire Environmental Overview - July 1999

East Hampshire Consultation Draft - July 1999

East Hampshire Local Environment Agency Plan – due June 2000

SOUTHERN REGION LEAPS

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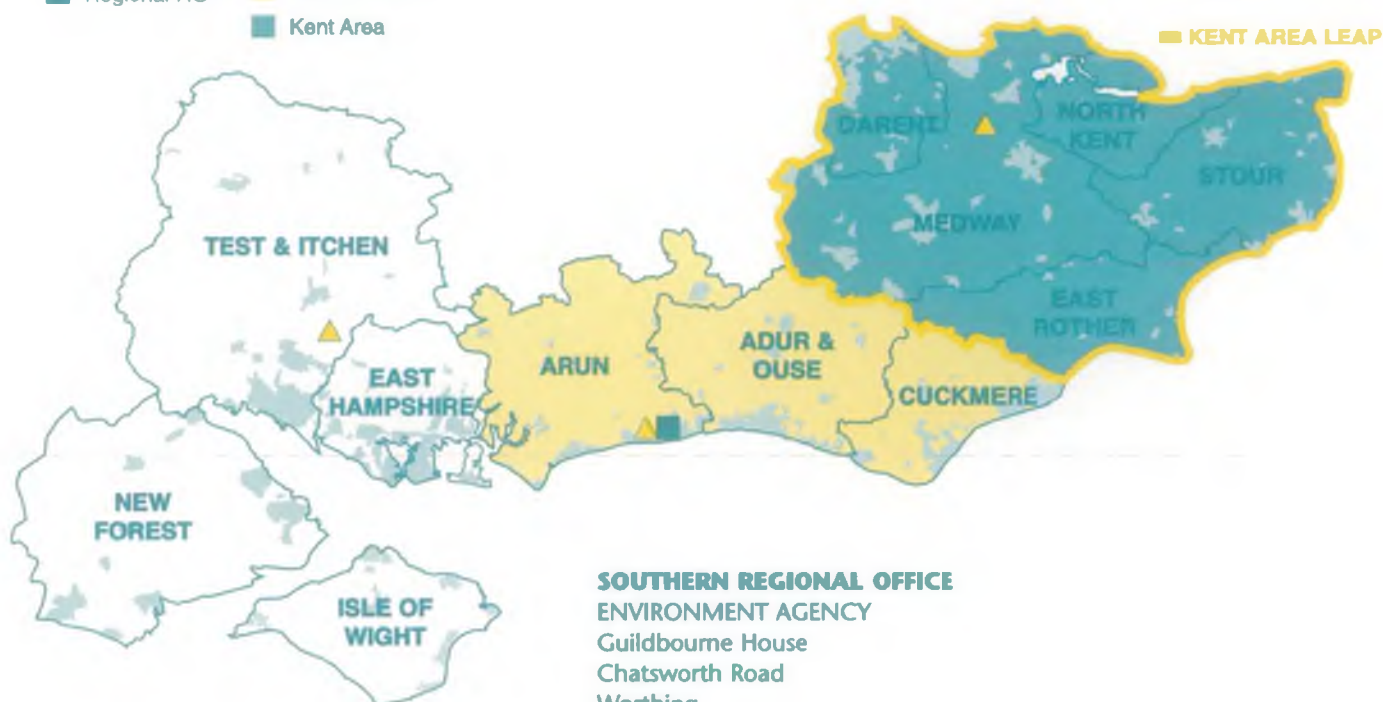
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