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Bristol

local environment agency plan

NORTH DEVON STREAMS

SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW

OCTOBER 1999



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**



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Key to tables:

n/a	Costs not attributed to the Agency	<1k	Costs to Agency are under £1000
u/k	Costs to Agency are unknown	pa	Per Annum

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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CATCHMENT VISION

The integrated management of the environment is a fundamental philosophy for the Environment Agency with Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) taking a key role in this approach.

Our vision of the North Devon Streams Catchment is of a healthy and diverse environment, managed in an environmentally sustainable way, balancing the needs of all those who live, work and visit the area. In an area of such outstanding natural beauty and ecological value, our Plans will help to ensure that:

- discharges to the air, land and water do not harm the environment
- the abundance and diversity of wildlife and habitats in the catchment is maintained and where appropriate restored or enhanced
- there is maintenance of the natural hydrological cycle, including natural river and wetland functions and processes
- water is a valued resource and is used accordingly
- there is minimal risk to people and property from flooding
- waste generation is minimised and the quantity of waste requiring disposal is reduced through the principles of reuse and recovery
- features of archaeological and historic interest are conserved
- people's enjoyment and appreciation of the environment continues to grow.

The achievement of this will require close co-operation between many organisations and individuals. We recognise the importance of establishing links with local communities and representatives, and in particular in working with the local authorities.

INTRODUCTION

This is the Second Annual Review of the North Devon Streams LEAP. The North Devon Streams LEAP Action Plan contains more background detail, and this Annual Review should be read in conjunction with this.

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has a wide range of duties and powers relating to different aspects of environmental management. These duties together with those areas where we have an interest, but have no powers to take action, are described in more detail in at the back of this review. We are required and guided by Government to use these duties and powers in order to help achieve the objective of sustainable development. The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

At the heart of sustainable development is the integration of human needs and the environment within which we live. Indeed the creation of the Agency itself was in part a recognition of the need to take a more integrated and longer-term view of environmental management at a national level. We therefore have to reflect this in the way we work and in the decisions we make.

Taking a long-term perspective will require us to anticipate risks and encourage precaution, particularly where impacts on the environment may have long-term effects, or when the effects are not reversible. We must also develop our role to educate and inform society as a whole, as well as carrying out our prevention and enforcement activities, in order to ensure continuing protection and enhancement of the environment.

One of the key outcomes of the United Nations "Earth Summit" held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 was agreement by governments that, in order to solve global environmental problems, local action is crucial: we must all therefore think globally but act locally.

Our Vision is:

- a better environment in England and Wales for present and future generations

Our aims are:

- to achieve major and continuous improvements in the quality of air, land and water
- to encourage the conservation of natural resources, animals and plants
- to make the most of pollution control and river-basin management
- to provide effective defence and warning systems to protect people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea
- to reduce the amount of waste by encouraging people to re-use and recycle their waste
- to improve standards of waste disposal
- to manage water resources to achieve the proper balance between the country's needs and the environment
- to work with other organisations to reclaim contaminated land
- to improve and develop salmon and freshwater fisheries
- to tell people about environmental issues by educating and informing
- to set priorities and work out solutions that society can afford

We will do this by:

- being open and consulting others about our work
- basing our decisions around sound science and research
- valuing and developing our employees
- being efficient and businesslike in all we do

Local Environment Agency Plans – We are committed to a programme of Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) which help us to identify and assess, prioritise and solve local environmental issues related to our functions, taking into account the views of our local customers.

The LEAP process involves several stages as outlined below.

The Consultation Report - The publication of the North Devon Streams Consultation Report marked the start of a three-month period of formal consultation, which enabled external organisations and the general public to work with us in planning the future of the local environment. At the end of the consultation period we produced a Statement of Consultation Responses which gave the results of the process.

The Action Plan – The North Devon Streams Action Plan was produced in January 1998 taking account of the results of the Public Consultation. It contained numerous actions taking into account the potential costs and benefits, identifying timescales and partner organisations. Agreed actions are also incorporated into our annual business plans.

Some issues can be resolved through our statutory and routine work programme, others require action over and above our day-to-day business. Funding for non-statutory work may be uncertain and matched funding from other partners is often required. Because of the short term nature of our funding we can only firmly commit ourselves to action in the current and next financial years. Our priorities, policies and budget may change so changing our action programme. These changes will be reflected at each Annual Review.

Some issues require solutions beyond the scope of our existing budgets or technology – they are nevertheless valid issues and earn their place in this plan, in the hope that a solution may be found in the future.

In most cases we show the anticipated cost against an action, but often we cannot give a definite cost because the action is part of an Area, Regional, National or Partnership Project. Therefore, the costs shown are indicative to give the reader an idea of the relative size and resource implications for each section.

The Annual Review - We monitor implementation of the Action Plan and report on the years progress in a published Annual Review. The Annual Review also identifies any additional issues and actions needed to maintain progress in light of any changes in the LEAP area, and also whether any actions need removing or amending where they are no longer appropriate. It is also an opportunity to add new issues and actions as they arise. **We invite people to contact us at any time to raise new issues or suggest new actions – this ensures the LEAP process is an active one, which constantly evolved to meet the changing needs of the local environment.** After five years, or sooner if required, we will carry out a major review of the progress we have made. At this stage we will produce a new LEAP Consultation Report to reflect these changes to further improve the local environment.

Review of Progress - The following pages outline updates on the various issues, together with the relevant actions as set out in the North Devon Streams Action Plan. A summary of progress is given for each action, together with target dates for future work if applicable. Some of the actions have now been completed and where appropriate new actions have been added.

Future Reviews - We will review progress again in Autumn 2000 and details will be published in the Third Annual Review of the LEAP.

Working With Others

The Agency can only deliver long-term environmental improvement by working with others through co-operation and collaboration. This is done by building partnerships with those who share common objectives, and developing links to the community.

The LEAP Steering Group - The LEAP Steering Group represents a range of commercial, local authority, recreational and environmental interests who commented upon the Consultation Report and Action Plan prior to public release. They monitor the implementation of the Action Plan and provide us with specific advice on the importance of issues within the catchment. They act as a communication link between ourselves, our committees (including the Devon Area Environment Group) and the local community, and will help to promote and develop initiatives of benefit to the environment within the catchment. The steering group members are:

Name	Representing
Mr D Edgcombe	Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service
Mrs M Ford	Riparian Owners
Mr D Lloyd	Exmoor National Park
Mr A Millie	North Devon District Council / Shellfishing
Mr G Manning	Regional Flood Defence Committee
Mr S Mulberry	The National Trust
Mr J Pedder	Lynton & Lynmouth Town Council / Fishing Associations
Mr J Roberts	Recreation / Leisure
Mr F Ulf-Hansen	English Nature
Mr M Williams	South West Water Ltd
Mr M Zeale	National Farmers Union

Local Agenda 21 - This is the global action plan endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Development and the Environment in 1992. It has been designed to achieve sustainable development within all levels of our society.

North Devon District Council have Area Committees within the Council which are designed to bring local decision making closer to the community and to encourage partnership working. In addition, there are many existing community partnerships within the District which are furthering local action.

Exmoor National Park endorse the Statement on National Parks, Sustainability and Work on Local Agenda 21. This statement provides a commitment to the pursuit of sustainability and Local Agenda 21 and forms the basis for future action.

Development plans - These are produced by Local Authorities to guide the way that land is developed. We have limited control over the development of land, but we can provide advice and guidance to Local Authorities and work with them to develop policies which minimise the impact of development of the environment.

Non-statutory plans - We work with a number of other organisations to develop partnerships and collaborative projects. The LEAP is one of a number of separate, but related environmental initiatives which aim to protect and management the environment. Other non-statutory plans include:

- The Nature of Devon: A Biodiversity Action Plan

Overview of the Catchment

Key Statistics for the North Devon Streams Catchment:

Catchment Area	225 km ² approximately
Length of Monitored River	72 km
Average Annual Rainfall	Lynmouth 1118 mm Exmoor 1950 mm
Population (1991 census)	22,000
Principle settlements	Ilfracombe, Woolacombe, Combe Martin, Lynton, Lynmouth, Croyde and Berynabour
Administrative areas	North Devon District Council, West Somerset District Council, Exmoor National Park

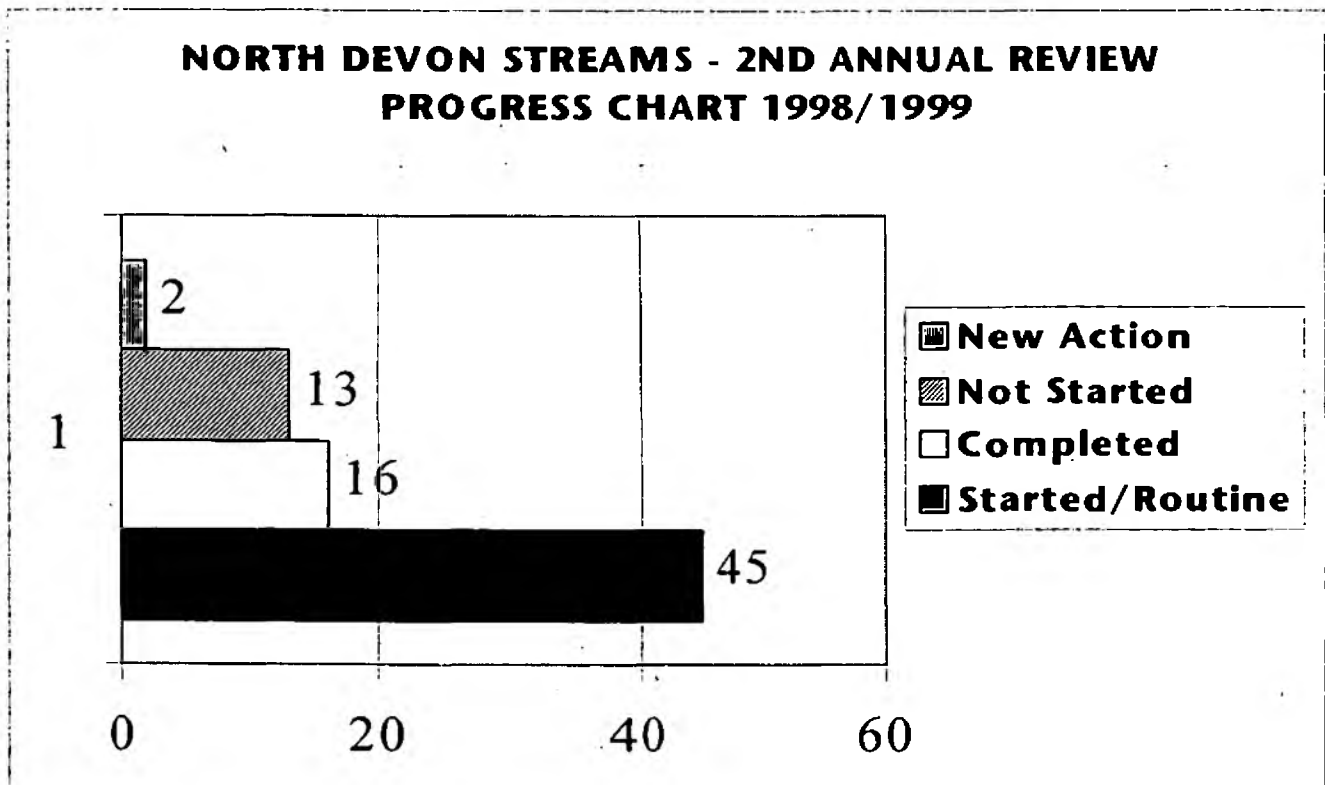
1998 Compliance with River Quality Objectives (RQOs)

The 1998 RE compliance assessment, based on three years of data collected between 1996 and 1998, is shown on Map 2 at the end of the Annual Review and the issues relating to RQO non-compliance are addressed in Issue 4.

A comparison with the 1996 RE compliance assessment, used in the North Devon Streams Action Plan, shows that water quality has improved on the Croyde Stream from Crowborough to Forda. This section of the stream is now compliant with its RQO of RE2.

Water quality in the other failing stretches: the Woolacombe Stream, the River Heddon, the West Wilder Brook and the Croyde Stream from Forda to the normal tidal limit, is still non-compliant.

The River Umber from its source to the normal tidal limit marginally failed to comply with its RQO of RE1 in 1998 as a result of elevated BOD. As detailed in the First Annual Review (published in October 1998) a number of problems were identified in the lower section of the River Umber which included a South West Water Ltd leaking sewer. This has been rectified as has a problem with a sewage pumping station effluent overflow. In the upper reaches of the River Umber cattle access to the river was a problem. This was rectified in 1998 with the provision of bankside fencing. It is hoped that these improvements will lead to the river passing its RQO again in future years. During 2000 we will review the 1999 water quality monitoring data to see if this is the case.



PROGRESS TABLES

The following pages give updates for the actions from the North Devon Streams LEAP for the year 1998/1999. The current status of each action is indicated in the left hand column as follows:

- × New Action
- Completed Action
- ▼ Started/Routine Work
- Delayed

ISSUE 1: WASTE MANAGEMENT

In the past the disposal of waste to landfill was an attractive option because it was inexpensive and suitable for many types of waste. However, landfill sites have the potential to cause pollution, particularly older sites which had fewer control measures built into their design. Pollution from landfill sites can come from the release of chemicals to surface and underground water and to the soil, and through the generation of methane gas. Stricter controls on landfill operations and the introduction of the Landfill Tax have begun to shift the balance in favour of alternative methods of waste management. There are three disused landfill sites in the North Devon Streams catchment, and these now require remediation measures to ensure the risk of pollution is minimised.

Uncontrolled or illegal tipping of waste, known as fly-tipping, can pose hazards to wildlife, may be detrimental to public health and can cause pollution as well as impacting on the appearance of an area. Cuts to Council budgets have meant the reduction in opening hours of civic amenity sites and in some areas this has led to an increase in flytipping, often outside the gates to the civic amenity sites highlighting the need to improve waste management facilities for the area.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
1a. Pollution potential of disused landfill sites at Killacleave, Lyn Down and Leigh Quarry									
1a i	Establish responsibility for monitoring of Killacleave; ensure remedial measures continue to be effective.	Agency, DCC	✓					<1k	The Contaminated Land Regulations are now likely to come into force in April 2000. The County Council are still the owners and occupiers of the land and, therefore, retain responsibility, and until the Regulations come into force we do not have the power to specify what remediation works should take place. There have been no pollution incidents from this site, so no further action has been taken since the publication of the 1st Annual Review.
▼									
1a ii	Negotiate with licence holders to produce effective plans for remediation at Lyn Down and Leigh Quarry	Agency, DCC	✓	✓				1k	Devon County Council have agreed to carry out risk assessments for all their sites. Remediation will be carried out on a case by case basis, depending on need/risks, as and when funding becomes available.
▼									
1a iii	Install monitoring boreholes at Killacleave, Lyn Down and Leigh Quarry and quality assure DCC's results.	Agency, DCC		✓	✓	✓	✓	5k	Installation of monitoring boreholes will only take place following prioritisation of risk and production of satisfactory remediation statements, and availability of funds. No boreholes have been installed to date.
▼									
1b. Uncontrolled and illegal tipping of waste									
1b i	Improve waste management	DCC,	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5k	Some civic amenity sites in the

▼	facilities in the area.	NDDC, Agency								catchment, such as Ilfracombe, have extended their opening hours.
1b ii ▼	Publicise the problem to discourage illegal tipping and to encourage the public to report illegal waste tipping.	Agency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5k pa		There have been several press releases in the last year on this subject and this action is ongoing.
1b iii ▼	Increase effort by Agency Waste Inspectors to locate fly tipping sites and to catch offenders.	Agency, ENP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	u/k		There is currently no funding available for additional aerial surveys; however it may be possible to use aerial photographs taken by Exmoor National Park to investigate fly-tipping in their area. Following the progress reported in the 1st Annual Review remediation was carried out at a number of sites, but no prosecutions were undertaken.

ISSUE 2: CONTAMINATED LAND

The exact nature and extent of potentially contaminated land in the North Devon Streams Catchment is not fully known. New statutory guidance will be put into place with the implementation of the Contaminated Land Regulations which are currently expected to come into force in April 2000. This will require Local Authorities to identify any contaminated land which lies within their area. Once sites have been identified, consideration will need to be given to any remedial work which may be necessary. Any issues and actions resulting from the identification of contaminated sites in the catchment will be added to the LEAP in future reviews.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
2a. Lack of information on status of contaminated land in catchment									
2a i ▼	Identify any contaminated land sites in the catchment.	NDDC, WSDC, Agency		✓	✓			u/k	Contaminated Land Regulations are now due to come into force in December 1999. (See Action 1a i). Once regulations are in place, identification of sites can begin.
2a ii ■	Produce database on contaminated land sites in the catchment.	LAs	✓					u/k	Until the Contaminated Land Regulations are enacted there will be no work by Local Authorities on this issue. It is expected that they will now come into force in April 2000.
2a iii ▼	Ensure there is effective consultation with Local Authorities	Agency, LAs	✓					u/k	We have contacted all local authorities in the South West with a view to identifying a single point of contact for future communication. We have just appointed an officer with specific responsibilities for Contaminated Land in Devon.

ISSUE 3: FARMING

Great improvements have been made over recent years to farm waste storage and disposal practices. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of point source pollution incidents attributed to farming and has contributed to an overall improvement in water quality in the catchment. Whilst point source pollution has been reduced, work still needs to be done to reduce the problem of diffuse pollution such as runoff from waste spread to land.

The use of pesticides and fertilisers also has the potential to cause pollution, and concern has also been raised over the methods available to farmers for the disposal of farm waste plastics. The Farm Films Recovery Service ceased operating in 1997 and since then farmers have been seeking alternative arrangements for the recycling of farm plastics. The reintroduction of a recycling scheme would reduce the potential for plastic bags and wrappings to pollute the environment.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
3a. Risk of pollution from land spreading									
3a i	Ensure that landspreaders follow guidance available so that pollution risks are minimised	Agency, NFU, Waste Disposal Co's							This is an ongoing action which forms part of our routine activities, and will not be reported on further.
3a ii	Develop guidance for landspreading of industrial waste.	Agency, DETR, MAFF, ADAS, WRC	✓	✓				4k	An R&D report was completed in May 1998. Guidance has now been drafted based on the report and this will be released for consultation with interested parties towards the end of 1999.
3b. Risk of pollution from farm waste									
3b i	Raise awareness of the problem (and availability of advice) amongst the farming community.	Agency, NFU	✓	✓				<1k pa	Visits were carried out by ADAS during last autumn and winter to advise farmers on Farm Waste Management Plans. This action is now complete.
3b ii	Facilitate recycling of farm plastics and provide advice to farmers on waste management plans, waste minimisation, etc.	Agency, NFU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	u/k	The government is aware of the need to re-establish a scheme to replace the Farm Film Producers Group, and is currently in the process of determining how to stimulate the creation of a replacement.
3c. Risk of pollution from dead livestock in or near watercourses									
3c i	Identify particular problem sites through surveys	Agency, Riparian Interests, Anglers							As reported in 1st Annual Review, action no longer considered relevant.
3c ii	Raise awareness of the problem and encourage reporting of incidents.	Agency	✓	✓				<1k	A general press release on the matter to cover Devon Area was released on 20 October 1999. (It is not considered that this is any more problematic in the North Devon Streams catchment than anywhere else in Devon - hence the wider press release).

ISSUE 4: WATER QUALITY

We manage water quality by setting targets called River Quality Objectives (RQOs) and applying the standards set in the EC Directives. RQOs are intended to protect current water quality and future use, and we use them as a basis for setting consents for new discharges and planning future water quality improvements. In the Consultation Report we proposed RQOs for the whole catchment and these were confirmed with the production of the North Devon Streams LEAP (See Map 2). Details of the 1998 RQO compliance are in the front of this Annual Review.

Improvements by the Water Companies to sewage treatment works are carried out under a programme of works known as Asset Management Plans or AMP. The improvement plan for the period 1995-2000 is known as AMP2. AMP2 was developed in 1994 along guidelines agreed between the National Rivers Authority (now Environment Agency), the Department of the Environment (now the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions), the water services companies and the Office of Water Services (OFWAT). OFWAT is undertaking a review of water prices which will result in a review of the improvements required for the period 2000-2005; the outcome of this will be AMP3. We have been reviewing, for agreement with DETR, those water company sewage discharges where improvement is required. DETR have now considered our proposals and have translated these into detailed environmental obligations, where we expect the improvements to take place by 2005. Many of these schemes will be delivered before 2005. SWWL are currently preparing their Strategic Business Plan which will confirm the delivery dates of these schemes.

We expect improvements to the following STWs to be carried out as part of AMP3:

Brendon	Secondary treatment required under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive ²
Croyde	Secondary treatment required under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and UV disinfection
Combe Martin	UV disinfection required to achieve the guideline standards of the Bathing Waters Directive
Lynmouth	Secondary treatment and UV disinfection required to achieve the guideline standards of the Bathing Waters Directive

The EC Bathing Waters Directive³ concerning the quality of bathing water seeks to protect public health and the amenity of popular bathing waters by reducing pollution. The Directive contains standards for nineteen microbiological, physical and chemical parameters to assess bathing water quality. Compliance is assessed mainly by testing against standards for faecal indicator bacteria.

The North Devon Streams Action Plan, published in August 1997, reported on bathing water failures over the period 1986 to 1995. The results for all eight designated bathing waters in the catchment from 1996 to 1998 are given below.

	1996	1997	1998
Croyde	I	G	I
Woolacombe (Putsborough)	G	G	G
Woolacombe (Village)	G	G	G
Ilfracombe (Tunnels)	I	I	G
Ilfracombe (Capstone)	F	F	I
Ilfracombe (Hele)	F	I	I
Combe Martin	F	F	I
Lynmouth	F	F	I

I - Compliant with Imperative Standards (Total and Faecal Coliforms) of the Directive.

G - Compliant with Guideline Standards (Total and Faecal Coliforms and Faecal Streptococci) of the Directive.

F - Failed to comply with the Imperative Standards (Total and Faecal Coliforms) of the Directive.

All bathing waters in the catchment passed the Bathing Water Directive standards in 1998, a substantial improvement on previous years.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
4a. Poor water quality leading to failure of environmental standards									
4a i	Carry out investigation of the Wilder Brook and Hele Stream and enforce pollution control legislation where necessary.	Agency, NDDC	✓					2k	As a result of actions reported in the 1st Annual Review, and completion by SWWL of UV treatment at Ilfracombe STW, all of the Ilfracombe beaches passed the mandatory Bathing Water Directive ³ standards in 1998.

▼									As reported in the 1st Annual Review the Wilder Brook is often dammed in summer months with boulders. This leads the brook to overflow onto the beach. In the near future boulders will be removed from the bed of the brook to reduce spill frequency. It may also be possible to improve the channel wall of the brook to prevent the stream discharging across the beach should funds become available.
4a i(a)	Investigate the operation of the Cheyne Attenuation tank overflow and its potential impact on bathing water failures at Ilfracombe (Capstone) Beach. Seek improvements if necessary.	Agency, SWWL		✓				u/k	New proposals for the operation of the Cheyne Attenuation tanks have been submitted to us by SWWL and we are currently in the process of evaluating the proposals.
▼									
4a i(b)	Investigate the cause of RQO failure on the West Wilder Brook and take remedial action as appropriate.	Agency		✓				u/k	Work carried out on the West Wilder Brook appears to have had the effect of improving water quality in the Brook. Because compliance assessment is based on 3 years data, poor results from 1996 & 1997 still cause the river to be reported as a failure, however, there have been no high results since July 1997. Data for this stretch since the improvements were carried out show that it is now compliant with its RQO.
▼									
4a ii	Carry out investigation of the River Heddon.	Agency							Problems were identified in 1996 and improvements carried out. Samples taken since October 1996 show that the river is now meeting its RQO of RE1 – see 1st Annual Review.
●									
4a iii	Target pollution control work along the River Umber, Croyde, Furzpath and Woolacombe Streams.	Agency, NT	✓	✓	✓			1.5k	Other than routine work, no new initiatives have been instigated subsequent to those reported in the 1st Annual Review which included Farm Waste Management advice and cattle fencing schemes in vulnerable areas. There is the possibility of additional cattle fencing schemes at locations on the Croyde Stream if funding becomes available.
▼									
4a iii (a)	Investigate cause of RQO failure on the Croyde Stream and take remedial action as appropriate.	Agency		✓				u/k	The water quality in the stretch from Crowborough to Forda which was reported as failing in the Action Plan, was compliant with its RE target of RE2 in 1998. However, the stretch from Forda to the tidal limit marginally failed its RQO. Further investigation will be carried out to determine the

▼									cause of this failure.
4a iv	Install UV treatment at Ilfracombe STW.	SWWSL	✓					n/a	Commissioning of UV treatment at Ilfracombe STW was completed in April 1999. This action is now complete.
4b. Water quality in the Lee Stream									
4b i	Assess data from monitoring of this watercourse; conduct investigation if necessary.	Agency	✓	✓				<1k pa	Operational monitoring ended in 1998, however, it was apparent that water quality was good and no further action was necessary. This action is now complete.
NEW ACTION									
4c. Improvements to be carried out under AMP3									
4c i	Ensure improvements are carried out at Brendon STW and Croyde STW under the UWWTD	SWWL			By 2005			n/a	Dates for improvements to be confirmed. Will be updated at 3rd Annual Review.
4c ii	Ensure improvements are carried out at Combe Martin STW and Lynmouth STW to achieve guideline standards of the Bathing Waters Directive	SWWL			By 2005			n/a	Dates for improvements to be confirmed. Will be updated at 3rd Annual Review.

ISSUE 5: FLOOD DEFENCE

Following the severe Easter flooding which occurred in parts of the country in 1998, a report was commissioned to investigate the handling of the situation by the Environment Agency. The Bye Report as it became known requires us to undertake a thorough review of our flood forecasting, warning and response to achieve a seamless and integrated service by April 2000. In general, the South West Region is well advanced in dealing with the issues raised. There are currently no additional actions required in the North Devon Streams catchment following this report.

We maintain rivers and flood defence structures to minimise the risk of flooding. To continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this work, we try to target areas of greatest need using a method called 'Standards of Service'. This method involves setting target standards for flood protection for land depending upon its use.

Close collaboration is required between us and the planning authorities and effective floodplain protection must recognise the conflicts which exist between development and natural uses and seek to reconcile them in a way which is both balanced and sustainable. This requires comprehensive floodplain land use planning which takes a holistic view. To assist in this we have produced up-to-date and consistent maps of floodplains as part of our survey duties under Section 105 of the Water Resources Act 1991, and copies have been provided to all Local Planning Authorities.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
5a. Need to identify flood risk for planning authorities, taking account of the timetable for preparing district wide Local Plans									
5a i	Specify details of any pilot work, if applicable, otherwise the programme is due for completion by 1999, subject to national approval.	Agency			✓			3k	Under Section 105 of the Water Resources Act 1991 we are in the process of providing up-to-date floodplain maps to Local Authorities. The first stage 'Level A' has been completed and shows the indicative floodplain areas for all main rivers in the LEAP catchment and S105 maps have been provided to North Devon District Council. This action has now been completed.
5b. Flood problems have been identified at Ilfracombe and Combe Martin									
5b i	Review flood problems at	Agency	✓	✓				6k	Following the installation of the

▼	Ilfracombe and Combe Martin.									flood gate at Water Terrace, Combe Martin, as reported in 1st Annual Review, we are continuing to monitor the situation in the area. Ilfracombe (Hele Stream) is on the long term plan with work to be carried out 2004/2005 at the earliest.
5c. Need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our flood defence work										
Sc i	Implement the flood defence management system by: i) Carrying out asset survey; ii) Compare actual against target Standards of Service and address the differences.	Agency			✓	✓	✓		13k	Asset surveys are now complete and undergoing checking procedures. Assets will be checked at 6 monthly intervals and repairs carried out as required.
Sc ii										
▼										
5d. Coastal defence works need to consider coastal processes										
Sd i	Undertake shoreline management plans	SDC, Agency, Maritime & Other LA's, Others	✓						49k	The Bridgwater Bay to Bideford Bay Shoreline Management Plan has been adopted by operating authorities. The Shoreline Management Plan will be reviewed every 5 years. This action is now completed.

ISSUE 6: AIR POLLUTION

Ambient concentrations of air pollutants are generally lower in the South West of England than in many other parts of the country, although data on local air quality is somewhat limited. The UK National Air Quality Strategy was published in 1997 and set standards for air quality based on human health. Local Authorities have been reviewing air quality with their areas and if certain standards and guidelines are exceeded an Air Quality Management Plan will be developed. It is not anticipated that any location within the catchment will be designated an Air Quality Management Area.

There are also concerns that air pollution may be having an effect on sensitive habitats and species in the catchment. There are three main concerns; acidification, eutrophication from the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen and the direct effect of air pollutants on sensitive lower plants (e.g. mosses and lichens).

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
6. Air Pollution									
6a	Review air quality in the area.	NDDC, WSDC	✓	✓				n/a	Stage 1 reports have been produced by both North Devon District Council and West Somerset District Council. No major issues were identified in the catchment.
▼									
6b	Promote survey work to check distribution of important declining species and share data.	EN, ENP, Agency, NT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	u/k	The Exmoor BAP is due to be published this year and will provide guidance for actions for important species in the catchment
▼									
6c	Encourage and co-operate in development of clear air quality standards to protect key species	Agency, EN, JNCC, ENP	✓	✓	✓			u/k	There has been no progress on this action to date.
■									
6d	Work with other regulatory bodies to agree sources of pollution	Agency, LA's	✓	✓	✓			u/k	This forms part of our routine activities and will not be reported on further. Action completed.
●									
6e	Ensure all proposals for forestry development >10ha within the areas of critical load	Agency, FC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	u/k	There have been no proposals of this size to date.

exceedence receive an environmental impact assessment.

ISSUE 7: CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - KEY CATCHMENT HABITATS AND SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

Many semi-natural habitats and associated species are declining in extent or number, under threat from a range of activities. The conservation of both habitats and species is co-ordinated through the production of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). This process, which began at the Rio Summit in 1992, enables us and other conservation bodies to prioritise and concentrate our efforts where they are most needed. Biodiversity is also protected through the designation of sites. Within Europe the EC Habitats Directive⁴ was devised to protect nature conservation interest through the establishment of a series of sites referred to as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and within the EC Wild Birds Directive⁵ as sites referred to as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These directives require all Competent Authorities to use their powers to ensure sites are maintained at favourable conservation status.

Protection to the natural environment is also provided through schemes aimed at land management. These include the Environmentally Sensitive Area designation which applies to areas of the catchment which fall within Exmoor National Park and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
7a. Encourage appropriate management of habitats									
7a i ▼	Make clear recommendations to reviews of ESA to ensure appropriate payment levels set	Agency	✓	✓				<1k	We continue to contribute to the development of the Exmoor ESA scheme through reviews and group meetings.
7a ii ■	Identify wetland or other important wildlife sites that would benefit from revised management	Agency, ENP, NT, DWT, NDDC, NDCCS		✓	✓	✓		3k	There has been no progress on this action this year.
7a iii ▼	Work with landowners and partner bodies to encourage entry into schemes such as Countryside Stewardship.	FRCA, Agency, DWT, ENP, NDCCS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2k	We continue to look for opportunities for agri-environment schemes.
7b. Loss and/or deterioration of wetland habitats									
7b i ▼	Raise public awareness of value of wetland habitats in relation to water resource issues	Agency, DWT, ENP		✓	✓			2k	The Exmoor BAP will be published this year.
7b ii ▼	Promote good practice for swaling, publicise risks of uncontrolled burning	ENP, EN, MAFF, FRCA, Exeter University	✓	✓	✓			<1k	We are currently working on the Moorland Improvement and Restoration on Exmoor Project (MIRE) with Exmoor National Park, Exeter University and English Nature. As part of this project we are investigating water management techniques in upland areas to restore blanket bog and associated habitats, and influence stream and river hydrology.
7b iii ●	Update information on pond creation to reduce number of inappropriate sites	Agency, FWAG, DWT, ENP		✓	✓			2k	We routinely advise on pond creation and discourage this in areas where it is inappropriate. As this forms part of our routine activity, we will not report on it for future Annual Reviews. Action completed.

7b iv ▼	Promote and implement BAP for blanket bog, valley mire and marshy grassland.	Agency, EN, NT, DWT, ENP		✓	✓	✓		6k	Once the Exmoor and North Devon BAPs have been published, we will be able to implement actions.
7c. Conservation of species associated with wetland habitats									
7c i ■	Encourage recording of dragonfly species by Agency field staff	Agency, BDS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2k	There has been no progress on this action to date.
7c ii ■	Collaborate with British Dragonfly Society and others to improve recording in North Devon	Agency, BDS, ENP, NT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2k	There has been no progress on this action to date.
7c iii ■	Promote and implement actions from curlew BAP	DWT, Agency, EN, DBWPS		✓	✓	✓	✓	7k	Few opportunities for curlew have been identified in this catchment. We await possible further guidance from the Exmoor BAP.
7c iv ●	Encourage retention of riparian strip of tall emergent vegetation along ditches and streams	Agency, ENP, DBWPS, NT		✓	✓	✓		3k	We actively promote bankside fencing and good riparian management as part of our routine activities and it will, therefore, not be reported on further. Action completed.
7d. Loss and/or deterioration of heathland habitats									
7d i ▼	Promote and implement actions from regional and county heathland strategies	RSPB, EN, DWT, DCC, NT, ENP, Agency		✓	✓	✓		6k	Actions for the heathland strategy are promoted and implemented where appropriate.
7d ii ▼	Eradicate invading rhododendron and bracken from heath where possible	ENP, NT, EN	✓	✓	✓	✓		2k	The National Trust routinely control rhododendron on their land as do Exmoor National Park where it is of ecological benefit to do so.
7d iii ▼	Provide formalised drinking areas for stock	Land-owners, Agency, ENP		✓	✓			2k	We can provide advice for design of cattle drinks where appropriate. Drinking troughs and piped water have been supplied to two farms on a tributary of the Hele Stream.

ISSUE 8: CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - KEY CATCHMENT HABITATS AND SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENT

The rivers and streams of the North Devon Streams catchment support a range of species typical to clean, fast-flowing rivers. Otters populations are increasing in Devon and Cornwall and the population in this catchment, although still relatively low, is immensely important. Bankside cover from trees is particularly important to otters and other species associated with the river corridor, and these trees also helpful in stabilising riverbanks. These trees have been lost from some locations allowing the incursion of non-native species, reducing the wildlife value.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
8a. Recovery of otter populations									
8a i ▼	Promote and implement actions for otters from Rivers & Wetlands BAP	DWT, Agency, NDDC, ENP, NT, Volunteers, Riparian Owners, Wildlife Trusts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2k pa	Devon County BAP launched in July 1999, this incorporates the Rivers and Wetlands BAP.
8a ii ■	Incorporate actions to benefit otters in countryside management schemes	FRCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<1k	There has been no progress on this to date.
8a iii ▼	Reinstate bankside trees and scrub, with blocks of suitable cover	Agency, ENP, NDDC		✓	✓	✓	✓	3k	This is done where opportunities arise.
8a iv ▼	Extend network of volunteer otter surveys	DWT, SWT, ENP	✓					<1k	Operation Otter has now been running since 1997 with over 200 volunteers surveying sites across the county.
8b. Loss of bankside trees									
8b i ▼	Promote retention and suitable management of bankside trees	Agency, FC, FRCA, EN, ENP, NDCCS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3k	Advice is given on bankside tree maintenance where appropriate.
8b ii ●	Encourage removal of sycamore at appropriate locations	Agency, FC, EN, ENP, NDCCS							Action no longer felt appropriate as removal could lead to bank destabilisation - see 1st annual review.
8b iii ●	Encourage regeneration or planting of native species	Agency, FC, EN, ENP, NDCCS							This action is no longer considered appropriate for this catchment and will not be reported on further.

ISSUE 9: CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - KEY CATCHMENT HABITATS AND SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The rocky shores and sub-tidal areas along the coast of the catchment are particularly important habitats; as recognised by the designation of part as a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area and part as a Sensitive Marine Area.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
9a. Need for protection of marine habitats									
9a i ▼	Support activities of North Devon Heritage Coast Service relating to the Voluntary Marine Conservation Area	Agency, NDCCS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1k pa	We provide support wherever possible.
9a ii ▼	Contribute to data collection and survey through work of coastal patrols.	Agency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<1k pa	We have been made aware of the need to provide records to Sea Quest and Sea Watch and this is now ongoing.

ISSUE 10: SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Several plant species which are not native to this country are causing concern in the catchment. Some, like Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed, are often found alongside watercourses. They often spread at the expense of native species, creating dense single-species stands which are of lower wildlife value. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for any person to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild plants such as Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed. We have produced a leaflet 'Guidance for the Control of Invasive Plants near Watercourses' which is available from our Exeter office.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
10a. Spread of invasive plants									
10a i	Control invasive species on Agency owned or managed land	Agency, NT, Riparian Owners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3k pa	We have completed our investigations into the presence of Japanese knotweed on Agency owned land or managed sites and have effected control where necessary. We are also working with other landowners/managers to try and eliminate this plant.
10a ii	Develop strategy for control of invasive plants in other areas of the catchment	Agency, NDCCS, EHCS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2k	We are currently working with Devon County Council to devise a strategy for the control of Japanese knotweed and have also started to request/collate information from the public about distribution of this species.
10a iii	Implement strategy.	NT, ENP, EN, Agency, NDCCS, EHCS		✓	✓	✓	✓	10k pa	This is dependant on the outcome of Action 10a ii.

ISSUE 11: LACK OF CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

There are certain natural features in the catchment about which there is insufficient knowledge to gauge whether action is required to protect them. Surveys by both Devon Wildlife Trust and Somerset Wildlife Trust have identified a number of wildlife sites which are recognised as being important at a local level. Surveys are also being carried out to identify Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in the catchment.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
11a. Lack of current information on the natural and historic environment									
11a i	Support updating and maintenance of databases	Agency, RIGS, DWT, EN, DBWPS, DCC, NDDC, NT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	u/k	The Devon records centre is now up and running. We input records where appropriate.
11a ii	Encourage identification of RIGS	County RIGS, LAs, Agency, EN		✓	✓	✓	✓	3k	One RIG site has now been identified within the catchment.
11a iii	Promote interest in important earth science features, especially river geomorphology	County RIGS, LAs, Agency, EN			✓	✓	✓	2k	There has been no further progress on this action since 1st Annual Review.
11a iv	Prevent damage to undesignated	County RIGS, LAs,							This forms part of our routine work, and will not be reported on

●	geomorphological sites	Agency, EN									in future Annual Reviews.
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ISSUE 12: RECREATION

The area covered by the North Devon Streams Catchment is very popular with visitors and in certain areas the increasing number of visitors may lead to disturbance to wildlife. The River Lyn is also popular with canoeists, though on a strictly controlled basis. Concerns have been raised in the past over access agreements and we will facilitate in discussions between relevant parties to seek improvements to the arrangements. We have also set up an information line which give details of river levels and conditions for river users.

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
12a. Need to review arrangements for canoeing on the River Lyn									
12a i ●	Encourage discussions between interested parties to investigate access and control agreements	Agency, BCU, NT, ENP							This forms part of our routine work, and will not be reported on in future Annual Reviews.
12a ii ▼	Review success of existing phone line as part of national project.	Agency, BCU	✓	✓				u/k	A new service provider has been appointed for Rivercall and actions have been taken in response to recommendations on ways of improving the service. These include raising awareness and improved feedback mechanisms. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the service at a National level.

ISSUE 13: FISHERIES

The River Lyn and its tributaries support a population of predominantly salmonid species. Brown trout proliferate throughout the subcatchment and salmon and sea trout are found where access permits. The quality of the fishery is limited to an extent by the amount of suitable spawning habitat available. Gravel rehabilitation work may be necessary in some parts of the catchment, and an inspection is due to take place later this year to ascertain where work is needed.

There are a number of obstacles in the catchment which reduce or prevent the passage of fish. Some of these are caused by natural barriers such as rock formations and steep gradients, other barriers are man-made such as weirs or 'tripper' dams built across moorland streams,

No.	Action	Lead / Other	97	98	99	00	01	Cost	Progress
13a. Limited potential for migratory fish production in the catchment									
13a i ■	Carry out gravel rehabilitation, taking into account river ecology	Agency, Riparian Owners		✓		✓		<1k	Gravels are to be inspected during the late summer/early autumn.
13a ii ■	Consider the installation of artificial beds or bed check weirs to increase available spawning area.	Agency, Riparian Owners	✓		✓			1k	There has been no progress on this action this year.
13b. Lack of fisheries data for parts of the catchment									
13b i ▼	Conduct surveys of the most significant watercourses to determine the extent and nature of their fisheries	Agency	✓			✓		11k	No usurvey due until 2000.
13c. Barriers to fish movement in the catchment									
13c i	Continue to remove temporary obstructions on moorland	Agency, ENP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<1k pa	No significant problems have been encountered with tripper

▼	streams, and work with ENP to discourage their construction									dams this year.
13c ii ●	Encourage Exmoor National Park to assist and prevent construction	Agency, ENP								This now forms part of Action 13c i.
13c iii ■	Consider means of improving conditions for fish migration at Long Pool on the East Lyn	Agency		✓				u/k		No progress to date
13d. Need for comprehensive plan for salmon management in the catchment										
13d i ■	Develop salmon action plan	Agency					✓	5k		This action is now to be progressed during 2001.
13e. Need to ensure appropriate management of Environment Agency fishery during period of lease										
13e i ●	Manage fishery to recover costs with due consideration to the wider impact of angling on the river.	Agency, Anglers, NT								This is routine work and will not be reported on further.
13f. Perceived decline in run of salmon and sea trout										
13f i ▼	Consider partial buy back of fixed engine licence if stocks appear threatened.	Agency, Licence Owner		✓	✓	✓		<1k		Fixed engine not operated during 1999.
13f ii ●	Consider introduction of voluntary sea trout bag limit	Agency, Riparian/ Fishery Owners		✓	✓	✓		<1k		Voluntary agreements on bag limits are in place across the catchment. This action is now complete.

Duties, powers and interests of the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has a wide range of interests in the areas of water management, waste management and pollution prevention and control. Whilst many of these interests are supported by statutory duties and powers, much of the Agency's work is advisory, with the relevant powers resting with other bodies such as local planning authorities. The following table therefore summaries the Agency's duties, powers and interests and their relationship to land-use planning.

Agency Duty	The Agency has powers to:	The Agency has an interest (but no powers) in :	Partnership
<p>Water Resources The Agency has a duty to conserve, redistribute, augment and secure the proper use of water resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant or vary water abstraction and impoundment licences on application. • Revoke or vary existing licences to reinstate flows or levels to surface waters or groundwater which have become depleted as a result of abstraction, and are subject to a liability for compensation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more efficient use of water by water companies, developers, industry, agriculture and the public and the introduction of water efficiency measures and suitable design and layout of the infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency is committed to water-demand management and will work closely with water companies and developers, local authorities and relevant organisations to promote the efficient use of water. The Agency acknowledges that new resources may be needed in the future and supports a twin-track approach of planning for water resource development alongside the promotion of demand-management measures. The Agency seeks to influence planning decisions for new development by encouraging the inclusion of water conservation measures in new properties, particularly in areas where water resources are under stress, and by ensuring that planning authorities allow for the lead time for resource development.
<p>Flood Defence The Agency has a duty to exercise general supervision over all matters relating to flood defence throughout each catchment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control, through Land Drainage consents, of development within 8 m of main river (Water Resources Act 1991, Section 109) or construction of a structure that would affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse (Land Drainage Act, 1991 Section 23). • Produce flood risk maps for all main rivers under S105 of Water Resources Act 1991. • Undertake works to main rivers using permissive powers. • Issue flood warnings relating to main river to the public, local authorities and the police. • Consent mineral working within 16 m of main rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting of planning permission throughout a catchment but especially floodplains where development can significantly increase flood risk. This permission is granted by local planning authorities. • Installation of surface water source control measures e.g. flood attenuation structures. • Supervising the maintenance of ordinary watercourses which is a local authority remit, but may impact on main rivers. • Installation of buffer zones which reduce flood risk and have significant environmental benefits. • Urban and rural land use and measures that can reduce flood risk or the need for watercourse maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a statutory consultee on planning applications within main river floodplains the Agency offers advice based on knowledge of flood risk. It also advises on the environmental impacts or proposed floodplain development. • The Agency will encourage best practice, including source control measures and common standards, among local authorities and riparian owners to protect and enhance the environment. The Agency works with the civil authorities to prepare flood warning dissemination plans and supports their endeavours to protect communities at risk.

Agency Duty	The Agency has powers to:	The Agency has an interest (but no powers) in :	Partnership
<p>Water Quality The Agency has a duty to monitor, protect, manage and, where possible, enhance the quality of all controlled waters including rivers, groundwaters, lakes, canals, estuaries and coastal waters through the prevention and control of pollution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue discharge consents to control pollution loads in controlled waters. • Regulate discharges to controlled waters in respect of water quality through the issue and enforcement of discharge consents. • Issue 'works notices' where action is required to reduce the risk of pollution. • Prosecute polluters and recover the costs of clean-up operations. • Serve prohibition notices (with or without conditions) on highway authorities to require treatment and pollution measures for highway runoff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greater use of source control measures to reduce pollution by surface water runoff. • Prevention and education campaigns to reduce pollution incidents. • The provision of highway runoff control measures which is a highway authority remit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will liaise with local authorities, developers, the Highways Agency, industry and agriculture to promote pollution prevention and the adoption of source control measures. As a statutory consultee on planning applications, the Agency will advise local planning authorities on the water quality impact of proposed developments.
<p>Air Quality The Agency has a duty to implement Part 1 of the Environment Protection Act 1990.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate the largest technically complex and potentially most polluting prescribed industrial processes such as refineries, chemical works and power stations including enforcement of, and guidance on, BATNEEC and BPEO. • Have regard to the government's National Air Quality Strategy when setting standards for the releases to air from industrial processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast number of smaller industrial processes which are controlled by local authorities. • Control over vehicular emissions and transport planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency provides data on IPC processes and advice on planning applications to local authorities. The Agency is willing to offer its technical experience to local authorities on the control of air pollution. The Agency wishes to liaise with local authorities in the production of their Air Quality Management Plans. The Agency will advise and contribute to the government's National Air Quality Strategy.
<p>Radioactive Substances The Agency has a duty under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 to regulate the use of radioactive materials and the disposal of radioactive waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To issue certificates to users of radioactive materials and disposers of radioactive waste, with an overall objective of protecting members of the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health effects of radiation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will work with users of the radioactive materials to ensure that radioactive wastes are not unnecessarily created, and that they are safely and appropriately disposed of. The Agency will work with MAFF to ensure that the disposal of radioactive waste creates no unacceptable effects on the food chain. • The Agency will work with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to ensure adequate protection of workers and the public at nuclear sites. The Agency will work with the HSE on worker protection issues at non-nuclear sites.
<p>Waste Management The Agency has a duty to regulate the management of waste, including the treatment, storage, transport and disposal of controlled waste, to prevent pollution of the environment, harm to public health or detriment to local amenities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vary waste management licence conditions. • Suspend and revoke licences. • Investigate and prosecute illegal waste management operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The siting and granting of planning permission for waste management facilities. This is conducted by the waste industry and local planning authorities. The Agency, as a statutory consultee on planning applications, can advise on such matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will work with waste producers, the waste management industry and local authorities to reduce the amount of waste produced, increase reuse and recycling and improve standards of disposal.

Agency Duty	The Agency has powers to:	The Agency has an interest (but no powers) in :	Partnership
<p>Contaminated Land The Agency has a duty to develop an integrated approach to the prevention and control of land contamination, ensuring that remediation is proportionate to risks and cost-effective in terms of the economy and environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate the remediation of contaminated land designated as special sites. • Prevent future land contamination by means of its IPC, Water Quality and other statutory powers. • Report on the state of contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing with others, including local authorities, landowners and developers, the safe remediation of contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency supports land remediation and will promote this with developers and local authorities and other stakeholders.
<p>Conservation The Agency will further conservation, wherever possible, when carrying out water management functions; have regard to conservation when carrying out pollution control functions; and promote the conservation of flora and fauna which are dependent on an aquatic environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency has no direct conservation powers but uses its powers with regard to water management and pollution control to exploit opportunities for furthering and promoting conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation impacts of new development. These are controlled by local planning authorities. • Protection of specific sites or species, which is a function of English Nature. The Agency does, however, provide advice to local authorities and developers to protect the integrity of such sites or species. • Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Plan for which it is the contact point for twelve species and one habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency supports action to sustain or improve natural and man-made assets so that they are made available for the benefit of present and future generations. Many development schemes have significant implications for conservation. The Agency will work with developers, local authorities, conservation bodies and landowners to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
<p>Landscape The Agency will further landscape conservation and enhancement when carrying out water management functions; have regard to the landscape when carrying out pollution control functions; and promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of rivers and associated land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency must further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty when exercising its water management powers and have regard to the landscape in exercising its pollution control powers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landscape impact of new development, particularly within river corridors. This is controlled by local planning authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency produces River Landscape Assessments and Design Guidelines which it uses when working with local authorities and developers to conserve and enhance diverse river landscapes.
<p>Archaeology The Agency has a duty to consider the impact of all of its regulatory, operational and advising activities upon archaeology and heritage, and implement mitigation and enhancement measures where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency must promote its archaeological objectives through the exercise of its water management and pollution control powers and duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct protection or management of sites of archaeological or heritage interest. This is carried out by local planning authorities, County Archaeologists and English Heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will liaise with those organisations which have direct control over archaeological and heritage issues to assist in the conservation and enhancement of these interests.
<p>Fisheries The Agency has a duty to maintain, improve and develop salmon, trout, freshwater and eel fisheries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate fisheries by a system of licensing. • Make and enforce fisheries byelaws to prevent illegal fishing. • Promote the free passage of fish and consent fish passes. • Monitor fisheries and enforce measures to prevent fish entrainment in abstractions. • Promote its fisheries duty by means of land drainage consents, water abstraction applications and discharge applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The determination of planning applications which could affect fisheries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many development schemes have significant implications for fisheries. The Agency will work with anglers, riparian owners, developers and local authorities to protect fisheries.

Agency Duty	The Agency has powers to:	The Agency has an interest (but no powers) in :	Partnership
<p>Recreation The Agency has a duty to promote rivers and water space for recreational use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency contributes towards its recreation duty through the exercise of its statutory powers and duties in water management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of water sports. This is carried out by the Sports Council and other sports bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will work with the Countryside Commission, the Sports Council, British Waterways and other recreational and amenity organisations to optimise recreational use of the water environment.

APPENDIX

Abbreviations

ADAS	Agricultural Development and Advisory Service
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BCU	British Canoe Union
BDS	British Dragonfly Society
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
DBWPS	Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society
DCC	Devon County Council
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DWT	Devon Wildlife Trust
EHCS	Exmoor Heritage Coast Service
EN	English Nature
ENP	Exmoor National Park
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FC	Forestry Commission
FRCA	Farming and Rural Conservation Agency
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Council
LA's	Local Authorities
LEAP	Local Environment Agency Plan
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
NDDC	North Devon District Council
NDCCS	Northern Devon Coast & Countryside Service (formerly North Devon Heritage Coast Service)
NFU	National Farmers Union
NT	National Trust
RE	River Ecosystem
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
RQO	River Quality Objective
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
UV	Ultraviolet
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
SWT	Somerset Wildlife Trust
SWWL	South West Water Ltd
WSDC	West Somerset District Council

References

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- ¹ Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, The Brundtland Commission, 1987.
 - ² European Council of 21 May 1991 concerning Urban Waste Water Treatment (91/271/EEC). Official Journal of the European Communities No. L136.
 - ³ European Council Directive of 8 December 1975 Concerning the Quality of Bathing Water (76/160/EEC). Official Journal of the European Communities No. L31/1.
 - ⁴ European Council Directive on Species and Habitats (92/409/EEC). Official Journal of the European Communities No. L206.
 - ⁵ European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wildbirds (EEC/79/409).

Map 2 - 1998 Compliance with River Quality Objectives (River Ecosystem Classification)



MANAGEMENT AND CONTACTS:

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money.

Head Office is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

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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

0645 333 111

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

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