



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



YOUR GUIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Thames Region - North East Area

INTRODUCTION

The new Environment Agency for England and Wales is one of the most powerful environmental regulators in the world.

It provides a more comprehensive approach to the protection and management of the environment by combining the regulation of land, air and water. Its creation is a major and positive step, merging the expertise of the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, the Waste Regulation Authorities and several smaller units from the Department of the Environment.

The Agency's overall aim is to protect and enhance the environment as a whole. Its wide ranging responsibilities include:-

- The regulation of industrial and chemical processes, for example at chemical plants, incinerators and power stations;
- Preserving and improving water quality in rivers, canals and other watercourses;
- Ensuring proper use of water resources - monitoring river flows and rainfall;
- Waste regulation - issuing licences and monitoring waste sites such as landfill sites, car breakers and scrap yards;
- Undertaking flood defence works and warning people who are at risk from flooding;
- Issuing fishing licences and monitoring stocks of fish in local rivers;
- Conserving the water environment and promoting its use for recreation;
- Liaison with local planning authorities to ensure developments take account of the environment.

The Environment Agency will **NOT** be dealing with:

- Waste collection - responsibility remains with local authorities;
- Noise pollution - responsibility remains with local authorities environmental health departments;
- Drinking water quality - responsibility remains with private water companies;
- Public health;
- Those aspects of the control of air pollution which remain with local authorities.

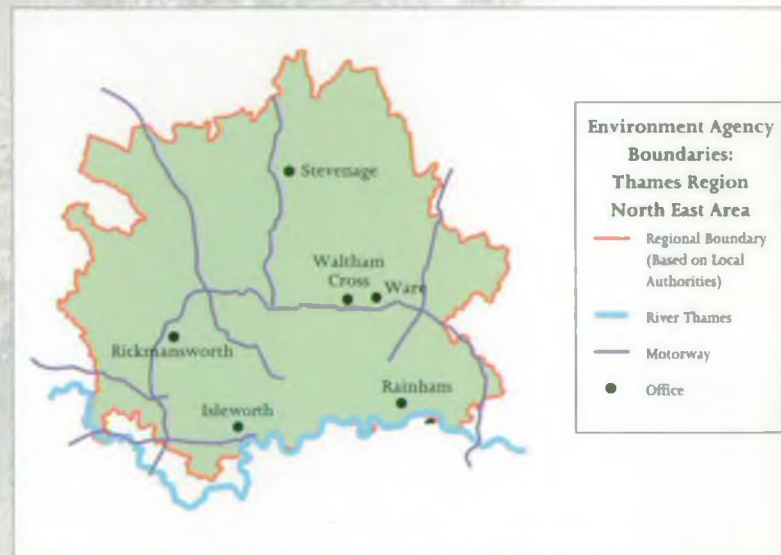
NORTH EAST AREA

North London, Hertfordshire and parts of Essex, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire all fall into Thames Region's North East Area.

The main Area office is at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Currently staff are also based at Waltham Cross, Stevenage, Ware and a number of other small offices. Eventually we aim to improve the efficiency of our working by bringing the majority of staff together in a central office.

Some of the issues and opportunities currently facing the North East Area are:

- Developing a sustainable environmental strategy for the regeneration of the Lower Lee Valley;
- Influencing major development projects such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 to help developers make the best use of resources for protecting and improving the environment;
- Protecting the public and the environment from the risks associated with the development of contaminated land in urban areas.



The Area Manager, responsible for the day to day running of Thames Region's North East Area is **Viscount Mills**.

He said:

“Our main aim is to gain greater benefits to the environment by integrating the management and regulation of air, land and water. We want to make a positive and lasting difference to the environment which everyone will recognise in their local surroundings. In order to do this we will need to operate openly, consult widely and work with a wide range of customers and interest groups.”



Water Quality & Water Resources Manager - Bob Walker

Responsible for protecting and improving water quality and water resources. Ensures environmental protection by monitoring water quality and resources, undertaking enforcement action, responding to pollution incidents and seeking to balance the needs of abstractors with those of the environment.

Waste Regulation Manager - Malcolm Allen

Responsible for regulating the collection, treatment and disposal of controlled waste in order to prevent pollution of the environment and harm to human health. Undertakes the licensing and monitoring of waste management facilities and enforcement action where necessary.

Integrated Pollution Control Manager - Dennis Francis

Responsible for regulating industrial processes with the greatest pollution potential so as to control the emission of pollutants to the environment. This involves authorising and regulating the usage, storage and disposal of radioactive materials and regulating the disposal of specialist waste effluent to sewers.

Flood Defence Manager - Bill Harris

Responsible for providing an efficient and effective flood defence service in the Area through watercourse and structures maintenance programmes, the implementation of flood alleviation schemes and other major Environment Agency projects.

Fisheries, Conservation & Recreation Manager - Mark Pilcher

Responsible for fisheries, conservation and recreation interests in the Area. Ensures that fisheries are improved and developed and promotes and implements conservation and recreation activity.

Planning & Liaison Manager - Andy Stewart

Responsible for the implementation of Local Management Plans and liaison with local planning authorities on development plans and planning applications in order to safeguard and enhance the environment by influencing the activities of others.

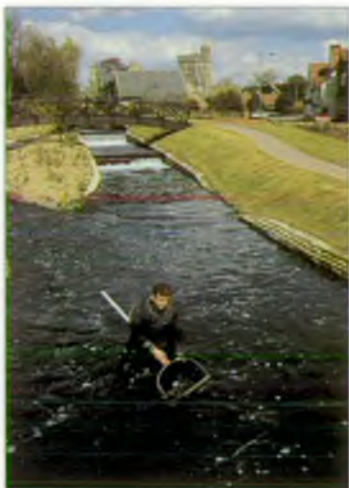
Business Services Manager - Peter Burt

Responsible for providing cost effective business support to the operational functions. This includes customer services, strategic business development, business planning, personnel, management accounting, site services and co-ordination of administration.

Contractor Manager - Mike Lawton

Responsible for the co-ordination of teams carrying out river engineering and structures maintenance work. Also provides a key role in responding to environmental emergencies such as flooding and pollution.





OUR OBJECTIVES

The Agency works towards Sustainable Development through seven objectives, set by Ministers:

- An integrated approach to environmental protection and enhancement, taking into consideration the impact of all activities and natural resources;
- Delivery of environmental goals without imposing disproportionate costs on industry or society as a whole;
- Clear and effective procedures for serving its customers, including the development of single points of contact with the Agency;
- High professional standards, using the best possible information and analytical methods;
- Organisation of its own activities to reflect good environmental and management practice, and provision of value for money for those who pay its charges, as well as for taxpayers as a whole;
- Provision of clear and readily available advice and information on its work;
- Development of a close and responsive relationship with the public, including Local Authorities, other representatives of local communities and regulated organisations.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Environment Agency
Information Centre
Head Office

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OFFICE
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TELEPHONE: 01992 635566. FAX: 01992 645451

Telephone the emergency hotline **0800 80 70 60** to report all environmental incidents