

NRA SOUTH WEST 470

RIVER OTTER

CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
South West Region*

C O N T E N T S

MAP OF NRA SW REGION SHOWING TARGET CATCHMENT

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



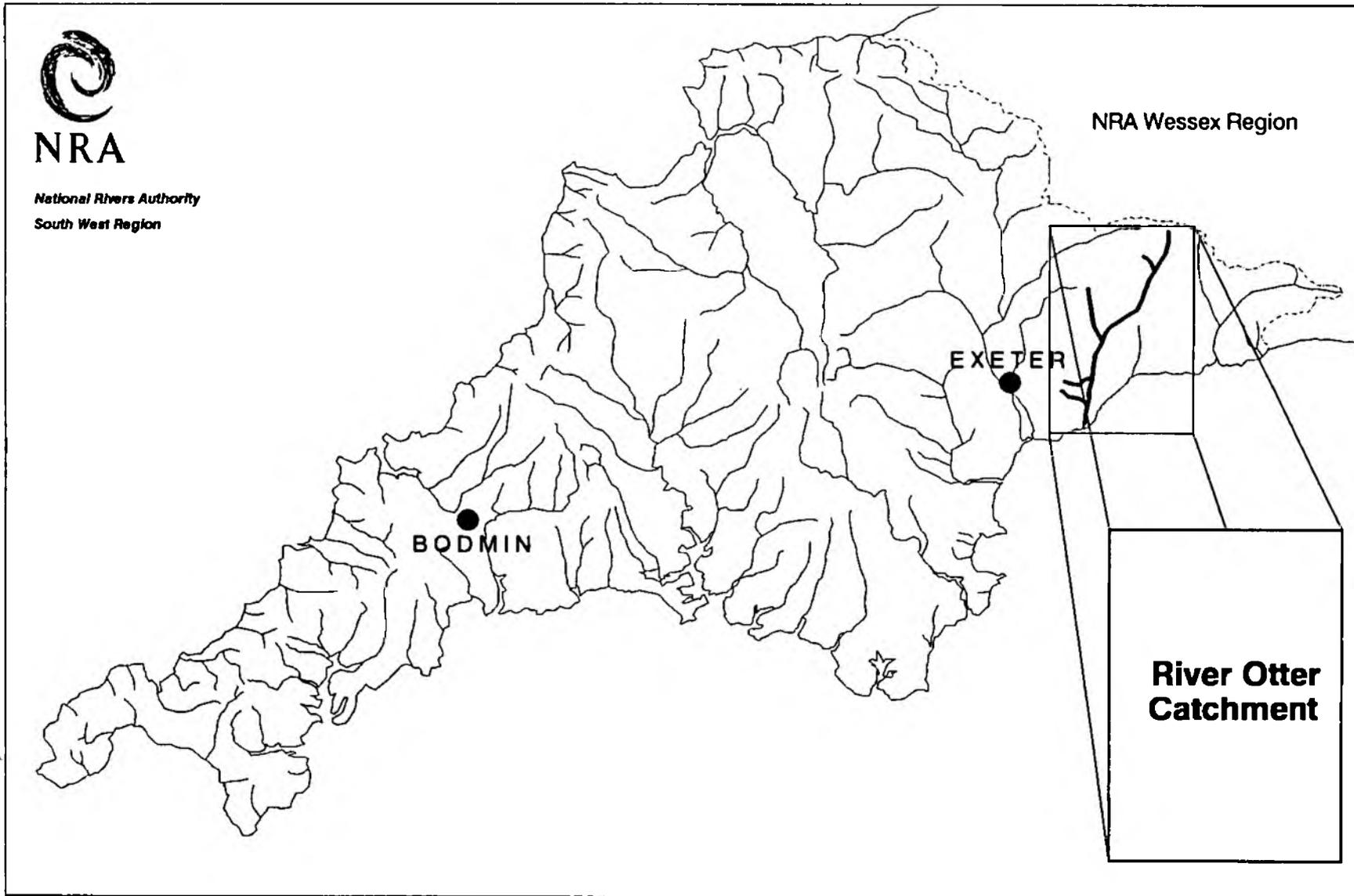
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**National Rivers Authority
South West Region**



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River Otter Catchment

**River Otter
Catchment**

1. INTRODUCTION

CATCHMENT ACTION PLANS are designed to be a simple, practical means of directing resources to achieve environmental improvements on a priority basis, between and within catchments. They set out the essential routine tasks, and a five year programme of specific actions for each catchment to meet regional and national targets. Changes may occur where unplanned work such as an extreme drought requires priority.

The NRA has inherited a legacy of environmental challenges arising from the use and abuse of our natural resources. Although significant progress has already been made it will be many years before all the work needed can be assessed, funded and carried out.

To achieve the environmental objectives will require not just the clear, vigorous direction of the NRA towards priority work but the help and support of the whole community.

The NRA has consulted with the Regional Advisory Board and Advisory Committees and the local interests about the draft action plans and the format is the outcome of those discussions.

Progress to achieve the Action Plan objectives will normally be reviewed on an annual basis but more frequently where severe problems have been identified.

2. ROUTINE SERVICES

Despite the fact that the NRA is largely a reactive, regulatory body it is possible to plan for much of the environmental protection work even the fact that unpredictable events will occur!

Much of the routine workload such as monitoring, enforcement of statutes and dealing with pollution and flooding incidents needs to have clear priority to ensure that it is dealt with to satisfactory standards throughout the region.

This essential work is carried out according to need in all catchments.

The NRA SW handles over 3000 pollution incidents a year, the majority of which are reported by members of the public. Many are attended within minutes and most within a few hours. In some cases major operations are undertaken to control the pollution and minimise impact on the environment.

Several thousand routine inspections of industrial premises, farms, weirs, fish passes and treatment works are also undertaken. In many cases improvements are required to minimise the risk of pollution or to ensure protection of fish and conservation of the water environment.

As part of the overall environmental protection exercise many flood defence schemes and thousands of planning applications are screened; hundreds of farm pollution grant proposals and effluent discharge applications are processed each year. Many new or varied abstraction licences and drilling consents are also processed to protect surface and underground waters.

Each year about 67,000 samples of rivers, lakes, ground and tidal waters and effluents are taken. Around 1.25 million chemical tests are made on these samples to ensure water quality standards are met and to identify where enforcement action is needed.

In addition detailed studies of samples of invertebrates, fish, algae and plants are undertaken to provide information on the status of the aquatic communities and to test the accuracy of the conclusions of chemical monitoring.

The key abstractions, discharges and monitoring sites for this catchment are marked on map(s) in Appendix 1.

Routine regulatory action is taken to ensure the conditions of thousands of discharges, abstractions and other legal requirements are enforced and illegal fishing is curtailed.

The NRA SW also handles many hundreds of letters and enquiries for information from the Water Act Register and provides press releases, reports and other information to a wide range of interests in the community.

3. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

The River Otter has supported good brown trout population. Few migratory trout and salmon are able to enter the river due to a weir obstruction at the tidal limit.

A decline in water quality associated with numerous pollution incidents was recognised during the early 1980's and systematic inspections of most farms and other premises in the catchment have taken place.

Functional officers have identified the main challenges to the achievement of environmental objectives. Where solutions are clear they have been programmed. In other cases further investigations are needed to determine the way forward.

ACTION	TIMETABLE				
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<u>FISHERIES</u>					
Survey all weirs and fish passes. Plan and implement fish pass installation/improvement.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Remedial works to be undertaken at Langford Weir (Otter) and Combehayes (Gissage)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Examine Honiton FAS weir (Gissage) to assess need for a fish pass.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Survey for trash dams/plan clearance.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Assess problems for trout spawning; plan and implement gravel rehabilitation as necessary.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Review impact of Otterhead lakes on fisheries.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Monitor construction of A30 scheme

Carry out regular juvenile surveys.

Programme to be determined

Investigate benefit of trout stock enhancement by artificial rearing using native stock.

CONSERVATION

Establish river corridor buffer zones beside river (sites to be agreed) as part of a project to encourage wildlife.

WATER QUALITY

Carry out review of causes of water quality deterioration in mid-Otter.

Followed by a Farm Campaign and Task Force Inspection Programme of remedial action.

Assess benefit of improvements to Talaton STW

Prepare catchment description

Study of sewage discharges to coastal waters at Budleigh Salterton

Baseline water quality survey of groundwater to establish:

- (a) Suitability for potable use.
- (b) Extent of contamination by substances controlled by EC Directives

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Determine deemed discharge consents

WATER RESOURCES

Review water resource strategy in the catchment - surface and groundwater.

Take steps to reduce impact of abstractions.

Audit major borehole abstractions.

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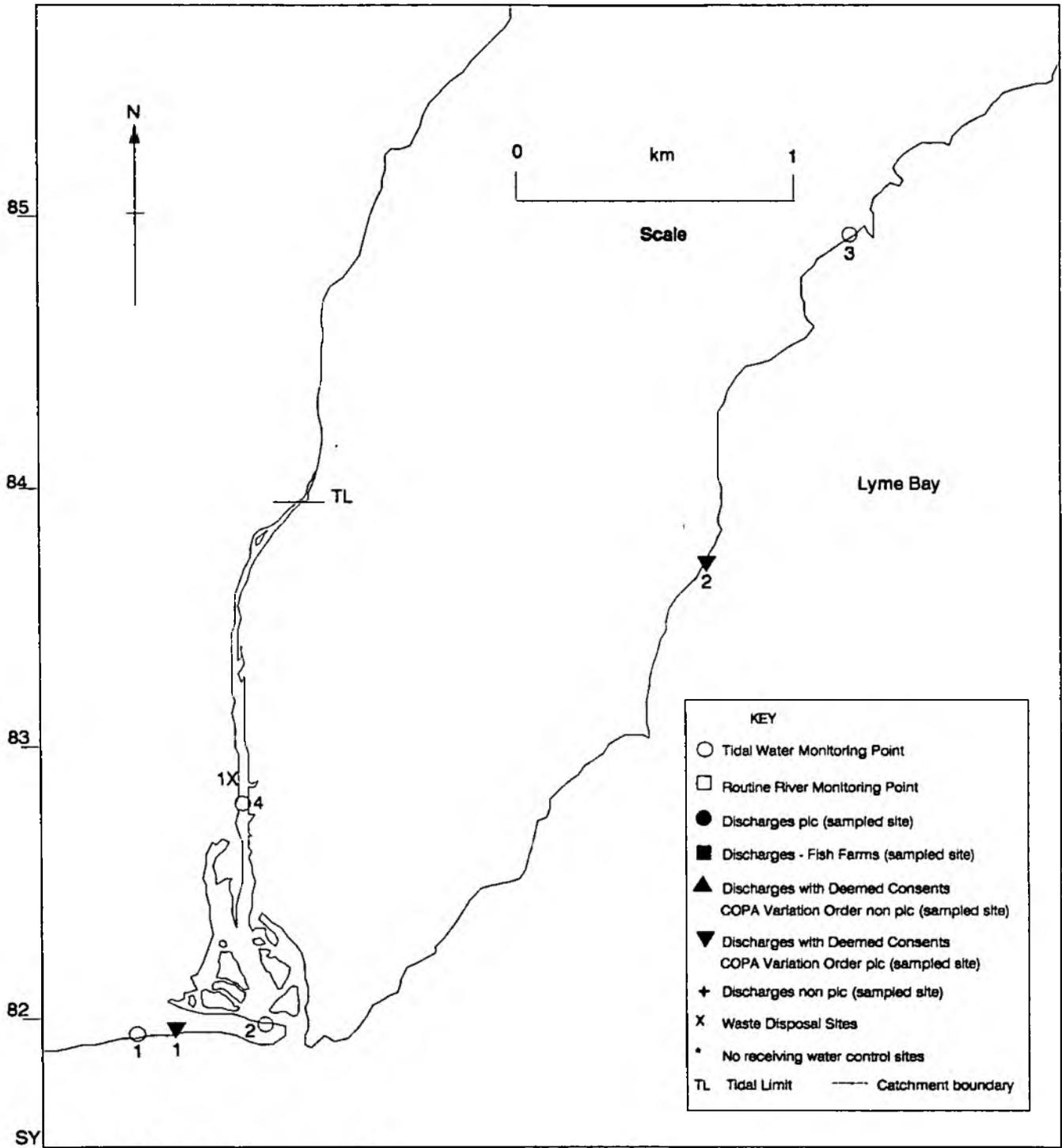
APPENDIX 1

CATCHMENT MAPS

KEY

- Tidal Water Monitoring Point
- Routine River Monitoring Point
- Discharges plc (sampled site)
- Discharges - Fish Farms (sampled site)
- ▲ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order non plc (sampled site)
- ▼ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order plc (sampled site)
- + Discharges non plc (sampled site)
- x Waste Disposal Sites
- TL Tidal Limit
- No receiving water control sites

Otter Estuary 4A



Version 4 / August 1991

08

09

OTTER ESTUARY 4A

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC				
1	OUT8030	SY07408910	Otter Head, Budleigh Salterton	Outfall Site for current dangerous substances
2	WSTW7702FE	SY09238409	Otterton	Sewage treatment works

WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

1	1121	SY074829	South Farm Road, Budleigh Salterton
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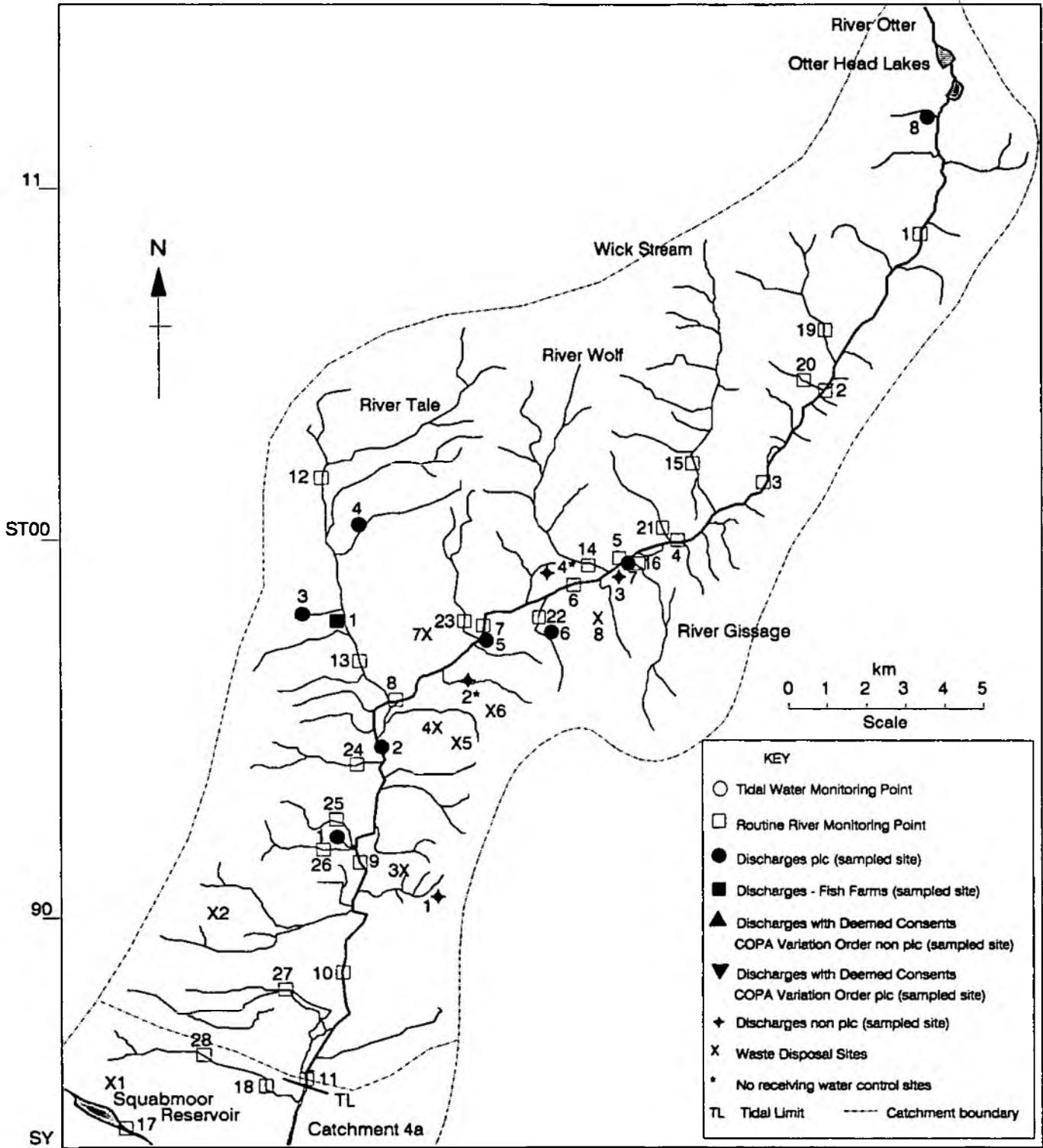
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS

1	ECB0060	SY06958190	Budleigh Salterton	EC identified bathing water
2	ECBR0060	SY07708193	Otter estuary-mouth	Watercourse to beach
3	ECB0050	SY09728515	Ladram Bay Beach	EC identified bathing water

TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - ESTUARY QUALITY

4	E04A1	SY25359075	Mid Estuary	Routine monitoring site
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Otter Catchment 4B



OTTER CATCHMENT 4B

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES NON PLC				
1	PO4B/P/3	SY105902	Bowd Inn	Public House STW
2*	PO4B/P/2	SY10809680	Redhills Cottages	STW domestic
3	PO4B/P/21	ST15000060	Express Dairy	Dairy factory
4*	PO4B/P/20	ST13000030	Deer Park Hotel	Hotel STW
DISCHARGES PLC				
1	WSTW7706FE	SY08809260	Fluxton, Ottery	Sewage treatment works
2	WSTW7704FE	SY09409490	Ottery St Mary	Sewage treatment works
3	WSTW7778FE	SY075988	Talaton	Sewage treatment works
4	WSTW7714FE	ST08720124	Payhembury	Sewage treatment works
5	WSTW7610FE	SY11609890	Feniton	Sewage treatment works
6	WSTW7622FE	SY13429887	Gittisham	Sewage treatment works
7	WSTW7646FE	ST15200094	Honiton	Sewage treatment works
8	WSTW7548FE	ST219125	Churchingford	Sewage treatment works
FISH FARMS				
1	PO4B/P/1	SY082981	Escot Aquaculture, Ottery St Mary	
WASTE DISPOSAL SITES				
1	11EM	SY033841	Withycombe Raleigh Common, Exmouth	
2	11BA	SY055900	Aylesbeare Common, Aylesbeare	
3	11FV	SY104908	Woods Farm, Sidmouth	
4	11AX	SY116958	Old Brickworks, Chineway	
5	11EB	SY120958	Chineway Hill, Ottery St Mary	
6	11BD	SY117964	Holcombe Lane, Ottery St Mary	
7	11CG	SY101980	Ash Farm, Feniton	
8	11GP	SY145996	Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton	
ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING				
1	R04B001	ST22101035	Hoemore Farm	Chemical/biological site
2	R04B042	ST19830625	Rawridge	Chemical/biological site
3	R04B035	ST18360306	Monkton	Chemical/biological site
4	R04B002	ST16330120	Clapperlane Bridge	Chemical/biological site Dangerous substances control site
5	R04B014	ST14800075	Cottarson Farm	Chemical site Freshwater Fish Directive Dangerous substances site
6	R04B003	ST14300009	Weston	Chemical/biological site
7	R04B019	SY11489858	Fenny Bridges	Chemical/biological site
8	R04B004	SY09359606	Ottery St Mary	Chemical/biological site
9	R04B005	SY09019180	Tipton St John	Chemical/biological site
10	R04B006	SY08738853	Dotton Mill	Chemical/biological site Freshwater Fish Directive Dangerous substances site Harmonised monitoring site Red list site
11	R04B007	SY07918529	Otterton	Chemical/biological site
12	R04B008	ST07620329	Danes Mill	Chemical/biological site
13	R04B009	SY08999688	Taleford	Chemical/biological site
14	R04B011	ST14330057	Winneford Farm	Chemical/biological site
15	R04B010	ST16890288	Mill House Nursery	Chemical/biological site
16	R04B023	ST15330115	River Gissage	Chemical/biological site

OTTER CATCHMENT 4B (cont)

ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING

17	R04B041	SY04008385	Squabmoor Reservoir	Chemical site Freshwater Fish Directive Algological site
	R04B045	SY04008385	Squabmoor Reservoir	EC surface water abstraction directive monitoring site
18	R04A001	SY07328418	Budleigh Brook	EC surface water abstraction directive monitoring site
19	R04B020	ST19940778	Fairoak Stream	Biological site
20	R04B021	ST19460630	Odle Brook	Biological site
21	R04B022	ST16330173	Coombe Raleigh Str	Biological site
22	R04B024	SY13439900	River Git	Biological site
23	R04B025	SY11089914	Vine Water	Biological site
24	R04B026	SY08859456	West Hill Stream	Biological site
25	R04B027	SY08689283	Fluxton Stream	Biological site
26	R04B028	SY08189190	Metcombe Brook	Biological site
27	R04B032	SY07238768	Colaton Raleigh Str	Biological site
28	R04B034	SY05388569	Budleigh Brook	Biological site

NRA DUTIES AND POWERS

The Authority has statutory duties and powers in relation to water resources, pollution control, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation along with various other functions given under the 1989 Water Act.

Whilst most of the Authority's duties and powers are exercised in respect of inland waters in England and Wales, it also has substantial responsibilities for the marine environment around the coast of England and Wales. For pollution control and fisheries purposes it has duties and powers out to distances of three nautical miles and six nautical miles respectively, the six miles being for salmonid protection. For flood defence it is responsible for a large number of sea defences (but not coastal protection which falls within the remit of local authorities).

As well as new duties, the NRA has also inherited other duties and powers under earlier legislation such as the 1963 Water Resources Act, 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, and 1976 Land Drainage Act.

The Authority also has responsibility for implementing a number of Statutory Instruments, Orders, Notices and Directives relating to the 1989 Water Act. Various European Community Directives on the protection of the aquatic environment eg. Bathing Water Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Freshwater Fishlife also strongly influence its work.

NRA MISSION STATEMENT

The National Rivers Authority will protect and improve the water environment. This will be achieved through effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. The Authority aims to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging its duties it will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, ground waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees.

NRA AIMS -

To achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, through the control of water pollution.

To assess, manage, plan and conserve water resources and to maintain and improve the quality of water for all those who use it.

To provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea.

To provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

To maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

To develop the amenity and recreation potential of waters and lands under NRA control.

To conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with waters under NRA control.

To ensure that dischargers pay the costs of the consequences of their discharges, and as far as possible, to recover the costs of water environment improvements from those who benefit.

To improve public understanding of the water environment and the NRA's work.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The overall priority is to continue the improvements which were started in the last year in the following key areas.

WATER RESOURCES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Improve response to licence applications.
- Establish Water Resources planning forum.
- Progress schemes to ameliorate low flows.
- Implement groundwater protection policy.

POLLUTION CONTROL

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Introduce charging for discharges scheme.
- Implement new consenting policy; begin review of deemed consents.
- Complete 1990/91 survey and consult on water quality objectives.
- Carry out EC Directive requirements.
- Introduce new monitoring programmes for effluents and controlled waters.
- Establish a regional laboratory service.

FISHERIES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Review licence and other charging schemes.
- Harmonise stock assessment techniques.
- Extend programme of restoration and rehabilitation of fish stocks.
- Increase action to control illegal fishing.
- Submit new fishery byelaws to MAFF for confirmation.

RECREATION

- Continue implementations of Water Act Code of Practice.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Improve cost recovery from the recreation service.

CONSERVATION

- Establish database for regulatory purposes.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Promote conservation schemes.