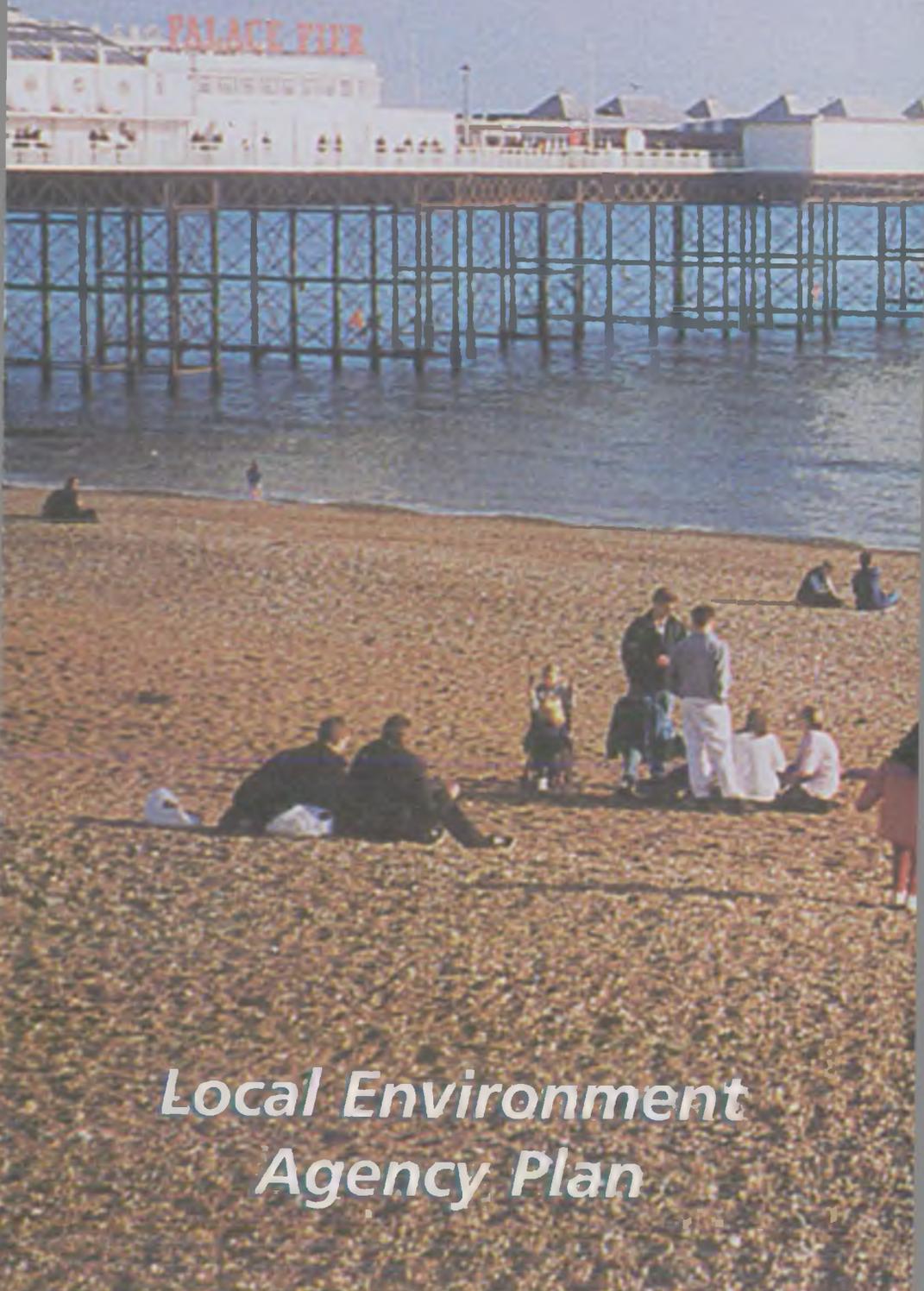


Box 3



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

# ADUR AND OUSE



## *Local Environment Agency Plan*

CONSULTATION DRAFT SUMMARY - APRIL 1999

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENCY

**T**he Environment Agency is one of the most powerful environmental regulators in the world. By combining the regulation and management of land, air and water, we have a unique opportunity to protect and enhance the environment as a whole and contribute to the environmental goal of sustainable development.

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PLANS

The Environment Agency is committed to the production of Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) to ensure our broad remit to promote and facilitate sustainable development is addressed. Each LEAP will focus on a local catchment area based primarily on river catchments and will identify environmental pressures and how these may be addressed through integrated environmental management. Through the identification and promotion of partnership with others, each LEAP will also help the Agency to deploy its resources to best effect and optimise benefit for the local environment. Through the wide consultation process the LEAP ensures openness and accountability and helps forward environmental initiatives through education and influence.

The LEAP consists of the following documents:

**THE CONSULTATION DRAFT**, of which this summary forms a part, gives a broad review of the plan area. It highlights issues to be tackled and identifies actions for resolving them with possible partners where appropriate.

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW** contains a factual description and assessment of the local environment and identifies the impact of pressures.

**THE PLAN** firms up issues and describes and prioritises the actions the Agency believes should be undertaken in the next five years.

**ANNUAL REVIEWS** report on the progress of the actions.

### *Your Views...*

The initial list of issues has been identified following an assessment of the state of the local environment and the pressures placed upon it.

Many of the issues are inter-related and have been grouped under the principal concerns set out in the Agency's document "An Environmental Strategy for the Millennium and Beyond"

We would now like to seek your views on the environmental issues which face the Sussex Area to help us develop a five year plan of environmental improvement.

### **HAVE ALL MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BEEN IDENTIFIED?**

Please send any comments in writing to the Customer Services Manager at the Sussex Area Office address on the back of this leaflet.

All comments must be received by 11th August 1999.

All comments will be treated as public information and will be released on request unless you explicitly state otherwise.

*Further copies of this booklet or the full Consultation Draft can also be obtained from the Sussex Area Office.*

# ENVIRONMENTAL

## THE ADUR AND OUSE LEAP AREA

This area is characterised by a concentration of urban development along much of the coast, including the larger towns of Hove and Brighton, and the port areas of Shoreham and Newhaven. Inland, the area is principally rural with a number of small and medium sized towns and villages. Main inland towns include Lewes, Uckfield, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill. A large proportion of the rural area is included in the nationally designated High Weald and Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Much of the remaining rural area is covered by local statutory and non-statutory landscape designations. The area also possesses a wealth of local, nationally and internationally designated areas of ecological importance, principally related to coastal and chalk grassland features.

The challenge of managing the environment is to balance the many social, economic and environmental demands. The following list summarises the issues which have been identified following an assessment of the state of the local environment and the pressures upon it.

### **1.0 Addressing CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 1.1 *The standard of protection provided by sea defences will be reduced as a result of sea level rise due to climate change.*

### **2.0 Improving AIR QUALITY**

- 2.1 *There is a need to raise awareness of and improve air quality.*

### **3.0 Managing our WATER RESOURCES**

- 3.1 *Sustainable water resources management must be forwarded to meet public water supply demands.*
- 3.2 *There are many pressures on the use of water in the River Ouse catchment and balancing these requires careful management .*

### **4.0 Enhancing BIODIVERSITY**

- 4.1 *Action is required to further the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.*

### **5.0 Managing Our FRESHWATER FISHERIES**

- 5.1 *Sustainable Fisheries management must be forwarded to balance the ecological and commercial pressures.*
- 5.2 *The free passage of sea trout and coarse fish is restricted by obstructions in the rivers.*





## 6.0 Delivering INTEGRATED RIVER-BASIN MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 *There is concern regarding the deterioration of land drainage structures and equipment in the low-lying Adur and Ouse valleys, which serve little or no flood defence purpose. Funds are not available to repair or replace these and deterioration would impact on conservation, fisheries and navigation.*
- 6.2 *There is concern at loss and degradation of wetland and riverine habitats.*
- 6.3 *While the majority of watercourses in the area comply with EU directives for water quality, some problem areas do exist which need to be addressed.*
- 6.4 *Leakage and accidental spillage of oils and other polluting liquids, particularly from industrial estates, cause intermittent pollution of watercourses.*
- 6.5 *Poorly maintained private sewage treatment facilities, septic tanks and cesspits lead to water quality problems.*
- 6.6 *Increased access to the water environment is promoted, but must be compatible with the requirements for conservation protection and enhancement and flood defence operations.*



# SUSSEX AREA

6.7 *There is concern that bank erosion may be accelerated by wash from speeding boats in the rivers.*

## **7.0 Conserving THE LAND**

7.1 *Opportunities to conserve heritage in river areas should be identified and promoted.*

7.2 *Opportunities to improve the standards of protection provided by sea defences will be forwarded.*

7.3 *There is a need to review standards of protection provided by tidal defences and future maintenance/improvement works to be undertaken.*

7.4 *Sustainable surface water management must be promoted and implemented to ensure new development does not exacerbate flooding and opportunities for conservation enhancement are incorporated in new development.*

7.5 *River floodplains must be protected from development and land raising to ensure there is no increased risk of flooding.*

7.6 *The environmental risk associated with contaminated land needs to be reviewed to comply with the new Contaminated Land Regulations.*

## **8.0 Managing WASTE**

8.1 *The sustainable management of waste must be forwarded to reduce impacts on the environment.*

8.2 *The capacity of existing landfill sites runs out within six years.*

8.3 *Illegal waste disposal (fly-tipping) must be controlled in liaison with local authorities.*

8.4 *Increase in the land application of wastes poses a potential threat to public health and the environment.*

8.5 *Licensed waste management sites are not meeting environmental targets.*

8.6 *There is a potential risk of water pollution from closed landfills.*

8.7 *Opportunities to establish port waste management plans should be forwarded.*



**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

# SOUTHERN REGION ADDRESSES

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Fax: 01962 841 573

## ISLE OF WIGHT

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Endeavour Park  
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## SUSSEX AREA OFFICE

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Worthing  
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Fax: 01903 215 884



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

For more information 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.

NATIONAL LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICE AGENCY CENTRAL ENQUIRY LINE

SOUTHERN REGION 0645 333 111

Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1LD

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

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60

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