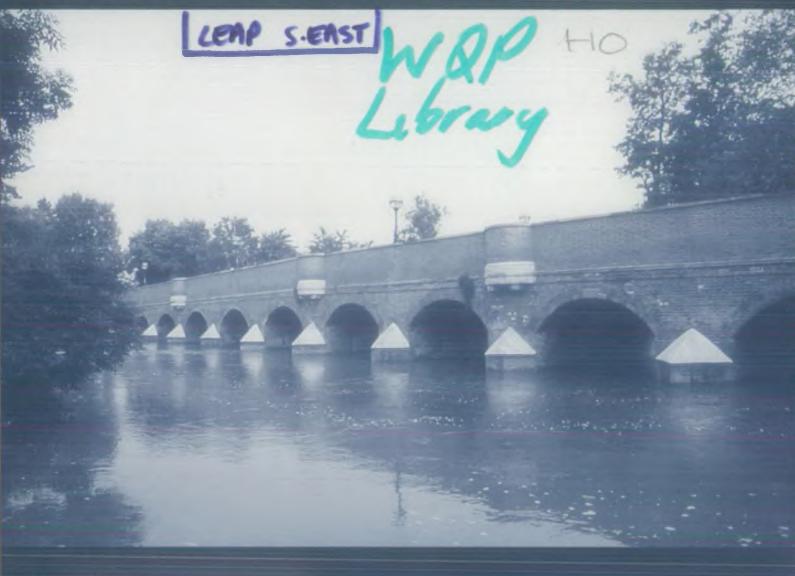
NRA Thames 268 catchment management plan





RIVER MOLE action plan

December 1996



KEY CATCHMENT STATISTICS

GENERAL

Catchment area 487 sq km

Urban area 120 sq km

Population 296,000 approximately

Length of River Mole 80 km

(source to River Thames)

Average bed slope 1 in 840

WATER RESOURCES

Average annual rainfall 768 mm

Average flow at Esher 460 MI/d

Total licensed water abstraction 81.7 Ml/d

WATER QUALITY

Lengths of main river classified under the GQA (General Quality Assessment) (1992-1994).

Class A 12.4 km

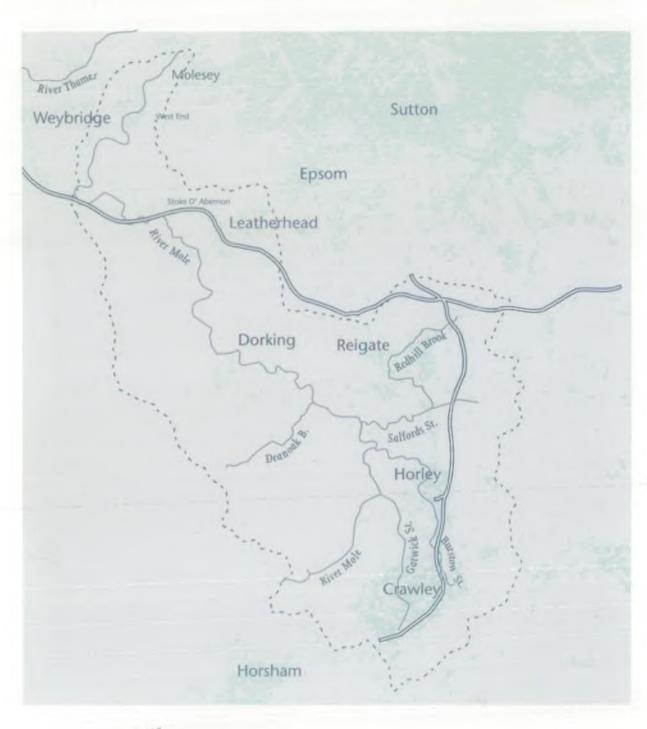
Class B 64.6 km

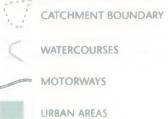
Class C 71.4 km

Class D 19.8 km

Class E 5.1 km

Extent of EC designated





FOREWORD

The integrated management of river catchments is fundamental to the Environment Agency's aim of protecting and enhancing the whole environment through the promotion of 'sustainable development'. Growing evidence of the extent to which global and local ecosystems are under threat has underlined the importance of achieving sustainable development. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 agreed on "Agenda 21" - a comprehensive programme of action needed throughout the world to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development for the next century. "Agenda 21" includes the following statement:-

"By the year 2000 all states should have national action programmes for water management, based on catchment basins or sub-basins, and efficient water-use programmes. These should integrate water resource planning with land use planning and other development and conservation activities, demand management through pricing regulation, re-use and recycling of water."

This Action Plan is the result of a working partnership between the Environment Agency and numerous organisations, groups and individuals who expressed their interest in the River Mole catchment. Whilst the activities set out in this five year plan will not in themselves realise the long-term vision for the catchment they do represent the first steps to achieving a healthier water environment for the River Mole catchment. Future reviews of the plan will build upon these activities and also integrate the future management of air, water and land.

The Agency seeks to encourage discussions with the community and organisations, not only during the preparation of the plan and its subsequent reviews, but as an ongoing process. Continuous dialogue and working in partnership are essential to achieving the long-term vision. This Action Plan is a working document for addressing the existing problems and bringing about beneficial changes.

South East Area Manager

Whin Nitte

Environment Agency - Thames Region

MRATHAMES 268

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A restored and working mill at Cobham, powered by the River Mole

CATCHMENT VISION

The Consultation Report for the Mole Catchment Management Plan (published in December 1995 by the then National Rivers Authority) set out the following vision for the catchment:

- Secure protection of the water environment in partnership with others and, increasingly through the process of land use planning, implement the proposals of sustainable development;
- Continue the improvements to the water environment and seek to enhance the river corridor to become a valued asset for the whole of the community;
- Facilitate activities by various water users in appropriate locations and balance such activities through strong links and involvement with local communities so as to promote co-operation.

The vision is endorsed by the Environment Agency since it will contribute towards achieving and maintaining an improved state of well-being for the Mole catchment through active community participation.

The series of key objectives identified through the public consultation process form the bridge between co-ordinated short term actions, as set out in the Activity Plan (see Section 7), and our long term vision for the catchment. These strategic objectives are to:

- maintain and improve surface and groundwater quality throughout the catchment;
- protect and safeguard groundwater resources;
- continue to provide adequate flood protection for the public across the catchment;
- protect the conservation value of the riverine and riparian habitat;
- seek opportunities to enhance stretches of visually and ecologically degraded river channels and corridors;
- maintain, improve and develop the fisheries status of rivers within the catchment;
- promote recreational opportunities upon the river where it is appropriate to do so;
- protect the archaeological heritage of the catchment;
- work in partnership with various Local Agenda 21 initiatives and community groups to develop new ideas
 and projects for environmental improvement in the future.

In order to achieve sustained improvements, we must ensure that the actions are co-ordinated between the large number of organisations that have a responsibility and willingness to tackle them. Improved communications and partnership working will be the key to successful action on the ground.

This Action Plan represents only the start of this process; comments on any new or additional issues facing the catchment would be greatly appreciated.

INTRODUCTION

The Environment Agency was formed in April 1996 by bringing together the National Rivers Authority (NRA), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP), the Waste Regulation Authorities (WRA) and some units of the Department of the Environment dealing with the technical aspects of waste and contaminated land. The Agency therefore has an important role to play in the environmental management of England and Wales. Its principal aim, as set out in the Environment Act 1995, is to:

"protect and enhance the environment, taken as a whole, in order to play its part in attaining the objective of sustainable development."

The River Mole Catchment Management Plan was started by the NRA before the Environment Agency was formed. The NRA, established in 1989, was the principal organisation responsible for safeguarding the water environment in England and Wales. As such it had statutory responsibilities for water quality, water resources, flood defence, fisheries, conservation, recreation and navigation (on certain stretches of water). As managers of the water environment the NRA sought to reconcile the conflicts between the various competing uses. The Environment Agency will continue to pursue the achievement of this aim.



Common Meadow, Leatherhead

The Environment Agency is developing the process of catchment planning (which was introduced by the NRA) to cover all its responsibilities, including waste regulation and air quality. The product of this new process will be Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAP's) rather than Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). However, the River Mole plan, having been started prior to the formation of the Environment Agency, will remain a CMP focusing on the water environment. When the plan is reviewed in 1998 it will be expanded to cover the full range of the Environment Agency's responsibilities and published as a LEAP

The Environment Agency places particular importance on planning for the future of the environment through an integrated approach to management. We recognise the need to work with local authorities, communities, landowners, industry and other agencies whose activities interact with and influence the environment.

REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

The water environment is subject to a wide variety of uses which invariably interact and sometimes conflict with each other. The process of catchment management planning sets out to help manage these interactions and conflicts for the overall benefit of the water environment and its users. The process of preparing the River Mole Catchment Management Plan involves the following stages:

Informal Liaison

(May 1995 - August 1995)

We contacted and met with key organisations, local authorities and interested groups to discuss issues relevant to the catchment and to identify possible actions.

• Production of Consultation Report

(August 1995 - December 1995)

This report contains information about the catchment, its uses, resources, activities and its present status. It describes issues arising within the catchment and possible actions to address them.

• Formal Public Consultation

(December 1995 - February 1996)

The Consultation Report was launched to an invited audience on 12th December 1995 at Epsom Race Course. In addition over 400 copies of the document were sent to organisations and individuals interested in the catchment. Copies were also made available in the local libraries throughout the catchment to provide the public with an opportunity to comment. A full report on public consultation is available from the Environment Agency.

Production of the Action Plan

(March 1996 - December 1996)

- During the consultation period a total of 75 organisations submitted written comments (see Appendix I). Written responses were also received from three individual members of the public. The key issues raised were:
- concern over the impact on water quality resulting from sewage and surface water run-off in urban areas.
- concern over the condition of riverine habitats and the potential adverse impact
 on the flora and fauna. Particular concern was expressed about the need to
 improve the environment along the Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme.

- the limited facilities for pedestrian, equestrian and cycle access to rivers and riverside areas for informal recreation. Similarly, the limited opportunity for navigation along the River Mole.
- the need to protect the fish populations and the gravel beds which are essential for spawning.
- concern about flooding, particularly in relation to the potential impact of further urban development.
- concern that the demand for further water resources may adversely effect the river flow and groundwater levels.
- concern about the impact on surface water and groundwater quality which may result from further waste disposal and mineral extraction.
- the need to consider additional matters, namely: safeguard the archaeological
 heritage; promote closer liaison with local planning authorities; the provision and
 dissemination of flood warnings; and the impact of highway surface water run-off.
 The first three matters have resulted in new issues being incorporated in the Activity
 Plan (Issues 14, 33 and 35), and the other matter in an additional actions (4/6
 and 4/7).

The responses to the consultation process have contributed toward the formulation and programming of the actions identified in this Action Plan. The benefit of the consultation process has resulted, not only in the identification of three new issues, but also in the formulation of 98 specific activities as opposed to the 62 set out in the Consultation Report.

• Full Review of the River Mole CMP

(Commencing June 1998)

During the preparation of this Action Plan (which relates specifically to the water environment) the NRA was absorbed into the newly formed Environment Agency. As a result the CMP will be reviewed in 1998 to take into account the Agency's additional environmental responsibilities and will be published as a LEAP.

In the meantime we wish to encourage the ongoing process of participation by the public and key organisations. Through this process of continuous dialogue we can not only monitor progress and identify further issues/actions but, more importantly, develop greater opportunities to work in partnership.

CATCHMENT OVERVIEW

The River Mole rises in the hills of North Sussex near Rusper and flows northwards to join the River Thames at Molesey. The major tributary streams are situated south of Dorking. Of these the Gatwick Stream rises in the Pease Pottage area and flows north through Crawley to join the River Mole near Horley. The Burstow Stream rises near Crawley Down and joins the River Mole at Meathgreen.

The catchment of the River Mole and its tributaries covers part of the two main geological structural units of south-east England; namely the Wealden anticline to the south, and the London Basin to the north. The impermeable nature of the strata, particularly in the upper catchment, causes much of the precipitation to flow direct into the river system. This results in a fairly 'flashy' river which is very responsive to rainfall events. Only where the chalk aquifer is unconfined (between Dorking and Leatherhead) does most of the effective rainfall percolate through the soil and recharge the aquifer.



Mole Gap from Box Hill

In the southern part of the 'Mole Gap' the river is connected to the underlying aquifer by swallow holes. In dry weather, water is lost from the river into the aquifer occasionally causing the river bed to become dry between Dorking and Thorncroft springs at Leatherhead. Substantial groundwater resources exist within the catchment, the Chalk of the North downs being the major aquifer. The Lower Greensand is also an important aquifer with several abstractions located along the foot of the Chalk escarpment.

In terms of land use, approximately 25% of the catchment is urban, 8% woodland and the remainder agricultural. The largest settlement is Crawley which has a population of 89,000. This is expected to grow to between 104,000 and 105,000 by the year 2006. Also situated within the catchment is Gatwick International Airport. The good road and rail links with London contribute to the significant pressure for development within the M23 Corridor. Such pressures have implications for the water environment and must be considered in the light of the need to achieve sustainable development.

RIVER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

River Quality Objectives (RQOs) are water quality targets set by the Environment Agency. These are being developed for all the recognised uses to which reaches of rivers may be put. There are five proposed uses: River Ecosystem; Special Ecosystem; Abstraction for Potable Water Supply; Agricultural Abstraction; and Water Sports.

RQOs may be made statutory by the Government. The objectives would then become known as Statutory Water Quality Objectives (SWQOs); a timetable for this is awaited from the Government.

To date, standards have only been developed for the River Ecosystem(RE), the other standards are under development. The RE classification has five classes:

REI	Water of very good quality suitable for all fish species.
RE2	Water of good quality suitable for all fish species.
RE3	Water of fair quality suitable for high class coarse fish populations.
RE4	Water of fair quality suitable for coarse fish populations.
RE5	Water of poor quality which is likely to limit coarse fish populations.

These RQOs consist of short-term and some long-term targets. The short-term targets indicate the quality that is achievable within a 10 year horizon of planned investment and or action by the Environment Agency. Long-term targets indicate a quality that is achievable at some point beyond the 10 year horizon if future improvements can be funded.

Catchment Management Planning provides an opportunity for the Environment Agency to obtain a public view on the long-term objectives for reaches of the river. This approach will continue to be an integral part of the process when the River Mole CMP is reviewed in 1998 for publication as a LEAP.



Crawley STW

RIVER	REACH	LENGTH km	SHORT-TERM RQO	COMPLIANCE WITH SHORT-TERM RQO 1993-1995	1993-1995
BALDHORNS BROOK	Source - Mole	1.9	<data< td=""><td></td><td></td></data<>		
BOOKHAM BROOK	Effingham Common - Downside Mill Stream	4.5	RE3	PASS	PASS
BURSTOW STREAM	Crawley Down - Burstow STW	11.7	RE2	PASS	MARGINAL
BURSTOW STREAM	Burstow STW - Mole	4.8	RF4 (1997)	PASS	MARGINAL
GATWICK STREAM	Pease Pottage - Crawley STW	14.2	RE2	FAIL	
GATWICK STREAM	Crawley STW - Gatwick Pond E	0.2	RE4 (1998)	FAIL	
GATWICK STREAM	Gatwick Pond E - Mole	2.8	RE4 (1998)	PASS	MARGINAL
HOLMWOOD STREAM	SourceLeigh Brook	5.0	RE4 (1998)	PASS	PASS
LEIGH BROOK	Source - Mole	11.6	RE3	PASS	PASS
MOLE	Source - Gatwick Pond B	11.3	RE2	FAIL	
MOLE	Gatwick Pond B - Gatwick Pond D	3.1	RE2	PASS	MARGINAL
MOLE	Gatwick Pond D - Gatwick Stream	0.2	RE3	PASS	PASS
MOLE	Gatwick Stream - Horley STW	2.1	RE3 (1998)	FAIL	
MOLE	Horley STW - Salfords Sream	5.5	RE3 (1999)	FAIL	
MOLE	Salfords Sream - Shag Brook	8.9	RE3 (2001)	FAIL	
MOLE	Shag Brook - Dorking STW	7.8	RE3	PASS	PASS
MOLE	Dorking STW - River Lane Leatherhead	11.1	RE3	PASS	PASS
MOLE	River Lane Leatherhead - Downside Mill Stream	8.1	RE3 (1999)	PASS	PASS
MOLE	Downside Mill Stream - Ember	21.8	RE3	PASS	PASS
MOLE	Ember - Thames	0.5	RE3	PASS	PASS
PIPP BROOK	Coldharbour - Mole	11.4	RE2	PASS	PASS
REDHILL BROOK	Whitehall - Salfords Stream	12.4	RE2	PASS	PASS
SALFORDS STREAM	Source - Mole	12.1	RE2	PASS	MARGINAL

LAND USE GUIDANCE

The fundamental aim of the catchment planning process is to promote the sustainable use of the water environment through effective land and resource management. Through this approach we can ensure that the needs of the present can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The role of the Environment Agency in supporting the principles of sustainable development is to ensure that all factors that may influence the environment are properly considered.

The way the land is used in the catchment can cause changes to the river environment, for example:

- housing and industrial development bring demand for water supply, sewerage, an increased risk of pollution and changes in the local river hydrology;
- development in the floodplain can damage conservation and heritage interests as well as resulting in an increased risk of flooding.

The control of land use and development is the responsibility of local planning authorities through the implementation of Town and Country Planning legislation. As a statutory consultee in the land use planning process the Environment Agency has an opportunity to comment on many development proposals. Local authorities are also responsible for producing statutory development plans which set out the framework for land use change.

The Environment Agency works closely with local authorities to ensure that policies to protect and enhance the environment are included in the development plans. Examples of policies included in development plans relating to the River Mole catchment are given in Appendix III.

Thames 21 - A planning Perspective and a Sustainable Strategy for the Thames Region.

A further dimension to the Agency's role in the land use planning system was added by the publication of 'Thames 21' in September, 1995. This document provides a regional context for the preparation of catchment-wide plans by identifying strategic development issues which land use plans need to address. 'Thames 21' sets out the way in which the Agency is embracing the principles of sustainable development. These principles include:

- appropriate levels and locations of future development can only satisfactorily be identified after the environmental characteristics of the Region have been assessed:
- the pollutor should pay for the cost of pollution;
- the precautionary principle should be applied in decision making (i.e. where impacts are unclear, development should not proceed until further safeguards or mitigation measures are agreed);
- thresholds of environmental capacities must be identified and respected;
- partnership working and community involvement are essential for practical implementation of these principles.

The Mole Catchment.

With regard to the River Mole Catchment, 'Thames 21' describes the development pressures associated with the M23 Corridor and identifies the following key catchment planning issues:

- The guidelines set out in 'Policy and Practice for the protection of Groundwater'
 must be followed to avoid the pollution of groundwater and surface water from
 development activity at Gatwick Airport.
- Future development should not exacerbate the 'flashy' floods which occur in the
 upper catchment of the River Mole. Therefore source control measures should be
 incorporated into new development where appropriate to attenuate any increase
 in surface water run-off.
- The impact of development on the amenity value of river corridors and other water bodies should be minimised, and where possible enhancement opportunities secured.



Common Mendow Leatherhead

ACTIVITY PLAN

This section sets out the actions that are necessary to address the issues identified in respect of the River Mole catchment. In order to progress towards realising the catchment vision (see page 1) these actions will need to be implemented. In due course further issues may be identified which require the need to take additional actions. In this respect the catchment planning process involves continuous monitoring and review of the situation.

In several cases the action set out is that of 'monitoring'. It is important to clarify that in all such cases this implies that, should the monitoring reveal the need for further action, then this will be taken into account.

Implementation of the plan is based on the 35 issues set out in the following tables. These have been modified in the light of consultation responses and their resolution is considered necessary in order that the plan can be successful in delivering real sustainable improvements within the river catchment. The issues are set out together with prioritised actions (1 represents high priority and 2 medium priority) each with a target timetable and identification of the parties responsible. Issues which are similar or interdependent have been grouped under the nine strategic objectives identified through the public consultation process (see page 1). The name of the contact for each specific action is given and their telephone number is listed in Appendix V.

These actions result from a combination of existing and planned activities and from the comments received through the consultation process. It is possible that circumstances, priorities, and funding may change during the plan period. The commitment to the actions will be monitored and reviewed against such changes.

The Environment Agency activities will be incorporated into the appropriate annual Business Plan through the Corporate Planning process. This clearly defined process endeavours to match the agreed needs and priorities for action, as set out in the CMP, with available resources and National Environment Agency Strategies. Some of the activities identified can be readily implemented in a particularly cost-effective manner by incorporating them into the organisations regular work (e.g. 7/4, 8/3, 35/1).

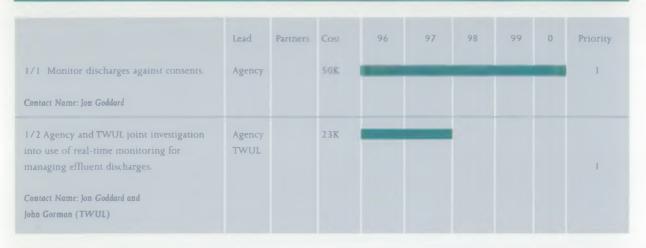
Key to Tables

- action forms part of organisations regular work.
- timescale and duration of action.
- (K) marginal Environment Agency cost.
- tbd cost to be determined.

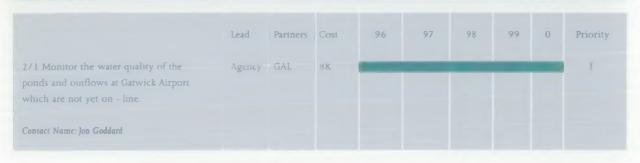
OBJECTIVE 1: TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY.

A principal aim of the Environment Agency's water quality strategy is to achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers through the control of pollution. The vulnerability of groundwater to pollution is dependent on the nature of overlying soils and drift deposits as well as the geology and depth to the water table. Potential sources of pollution are many and varied, therefore it is important that the co-operation of other organisations is secured to maximise the benefits for the water environment.

ISSUE 1: POOR WATER QUALITY OF THE GATWICK STREAM DOWNSTREAM OF CRAWLEY STW, AND THE RIVER MOLE DOWNSTREAM OF GATWICK STREAM.







ISSUE 3: SEWAGE DERIVED MATERIAL DISCHARGED FROM STWS DURING STORM CONDITIONS.



ISSUE 4: THE IMPACT OF URBAN STORM WATER RUN-OFF ON THE RIVER ECOSYSTEM.

4 (1 Powers shows the first transfer	Lead	Pareners	Cost	96	.97	98	99	0	Priority
4/1 Promote the results of investigations into alternative techniques to alleviate the storm water run-off from impervious areas, where appropriate. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency	LAs	tbd						t
4/2 Draw up "Guidelines" to increase awareness of the potential adverse impact of surface water run-off. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency		٠						į.
4/3 Ensure that flow balancing requirements for all new developments are designed to optimise water quality. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency	LAs TWUL	•					•	1
+/4 Investigate with MVDC the benefits of developing closer liaison between Agency and LA Building Inspectors/Planning Officers throughout the catchment. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency	MVDC	1K						2.
4/5 In appropriate cases the Environment Agency to support LPA's at Public Inquiries and Planning Appeals. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency	LPAs	tbd						,
4/6 Liaise with Local Authorities County Highway Authorities and Highway Agency to reduce the impact of highway surface water run-off on receiving water bodies. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency	LAs CHAs	•				Section 1		2
4/7 Encourage regular clearance of road silt and oil traps.	Agency	LAs CHAs	•						2.
Contact Name: Jon Goddard									

ISSUE 5: CONFLICT BETWEEN THE REQUEST FOR WATER CONTACT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
5/1 Environment Agency and Local Authorities to inform the public of associated risks. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency	LAs	5K					_	1
5/2 Environment Agency and Local Authorities to develop jointly advice leaflets on all health issues effecting water users. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency	LAs	5K						2

ISSUE 6: THE PRESENCE OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN STILL WATERS, ESPECIALLY PRIORY PARK LAKE.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
6/1 Environment Agency to continue to monitor on a reactive basis and inform Local Authority of bloom conditions. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency		5K					_	2
6/2 Promote the use of preventative measures. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency	LAs	4K						1
6/3 Local Authority to continue activity of using barley straw and clearing the silt traps at Priory Lake on a regular basis. Contact Name: Brian Betts (R&BBC)	R&BBC	Agency	tbd					_	1

ISSUE 7: FREQUENT POLLUTION INCIDENTS CAUSE EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY AND ECOLOGY.

7/1 Carry out publicity campaign throughout the catchment to promote awareness of the consequences of pollution. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Lead	Partners	Cost 7K	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
7/2 Undertake programme of inspections of local high risk sites and advise on pollution prevention. Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency		40K						1
7/3 Improve water quality by identifying and seeking removal of illegal sewer connections to the surface water system.	Agency	LAs TWUL	15K	_					2
Contact Name: Jon Goddard									
7/4 Provide guidance for developers via Environment Agency responses to planning application consultations. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency	LPAs						_	1-
7/5 Promote awareness of the Building Regulations requirements for sewer connections and the need to check new and existing developments for misconnections.	LAs	Agency		_					1
7/6 Improve liaison between enforcement agencies Contact Name: Jon Goddard	Agency		٠	-	_				2
7/7 Encourage TWUL to investigate the potential of a certificate system for correct drainage as a method of addressing the problem of misconnections.	Agency	TWUL	tbd						2
Contact Name: Jon Goddard									

ISSUE 8: VULNERABILITY OF GROUNDWATER TO POLLUTION.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
8/1 Promote the protection of groundwater in accordance with the "Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater" and the "Groundwater Vulnerability Maps (sheets 39 & 46). Contact Name: Mike Hoare	Agency	LAs	•						1
8/2 Ensure new development infrastructure incorporates suitable pollution mitigation measures. Contact Name: Mike Hoare	Agency	LAs	•						1
8/3 Give pollution prevention guidance on storage and handling to all users of oils/chemicals. Contact Name: Mike House	Agency		•						1
8/4 Continue to liaise with MAFF to encourage and promote good agricultural practices.	Agency MAFF	FWAG NFU	•					_	2
Contact Name: Mike Hoare									

ISSUE 9: POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN GROUNDWATER QUALITY IN THE MICKLEHAM/ LEATHERHEAD AREA DURING LOW FLOWS RESULTING FROM INFILTRATION OF POORER QUALITY WATER FROM THE RIVER MOLE.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
9/1 Investigate and determine the extent of the problem and possible solutions. Contact Name: Mike House	Agency		10K	_				_	1

ISSUE 10: THE NEED TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF NITRATE IN THE GROUNDWATER AT DORKING.



ISSUE 11: EFFECT ON QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES USED FOR PUBLIC SUPPLY RESULTING FROM EXTENSIVE QUARRYING AND LANDFILLING IN THE LOWER GREENSAND.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
11/1 Undertake investigation to determine the potential impact.	Agency	SCC	tbd			_			2
Contact Name: Mike Houre									

OBJECTIVE 2: TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD GROUNDWATER RESOURCES.

Substantial groundwater resources exist within the catchment and large abstractions take place in the Leatherhead area. In managing water resources the Environment Agency seeks to achieve a sustainable balance between the needs of the environment and the needs of abstractors for public and private water supply.

Growth in demand for water may be influenced by a number of factors, for example increasing water usage in the home, population increase and local development pressures. Managing leakage and also encouraging more efficient use of water at work and in the home can significantly effect growth in demand for water. Consequently, proposals for new development, such as those at Horley, need to be considered in relation to resource availability.

ISSUE 12: POTENTIAL IMPACT OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON AVAILABLE WATER RESOURCES.



OBJECTIVE 3: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FLOOD PROTECTION FOR THE PUBLIC.

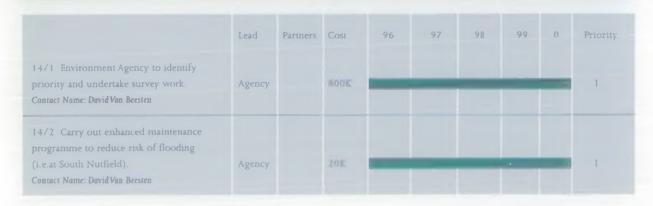
In deciding where to invest resources the Environment Agency has determined Standards of Service for flood defence based upon land usage within the floodplain. Improvements and maintenance works are directed towards those rivers which do not meet their target standards.

The Department of the Environment Circular 30/92 'Development and Flood Risk' requires local planning authorities and the Environment Agency to liaise closely on matters relating to flooding, including the need to control the rate of run-off from new development to reduce the risk of flooding and pollution. The purpose of this liaison is to ensure that the impact on flood risk is taken into account during the decision making process on planning applications. In this respect the Environment Agency has responsibility to prepare surveys (under Section 105 of the Water Resources Act 1991) to define the nature and extent of flood risks.

ISSUE 13: ABOVE THE UPPER LIMITS OF THE MOLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME ACTUAL STANDARDS OF SERVICE REMAIN TO BE CONSISTENTLY DEFINED AND COMPARED AGAINST TARGETS.



ISSUE 14: THE NEED TO CARRY OUT SECTION 105 (FLOOD RISK) SURVEYS FOR THE MOLE CATCHMENT.



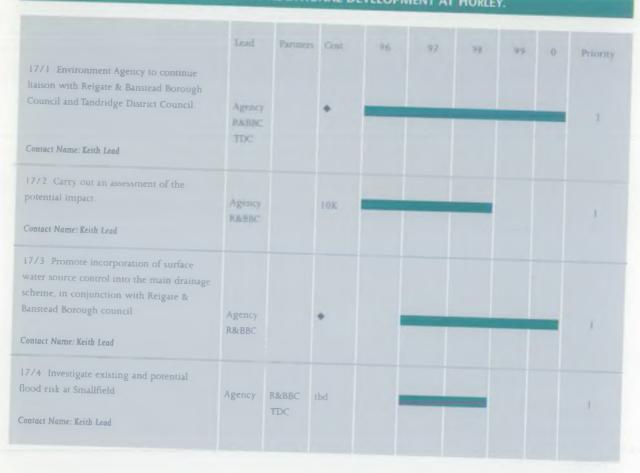
ISSUE 15: PROVISION AND DISSEMINATION OF FLOOD WARNINGS TO ALL THOSE IN AREAS LIABLE TO FLOOD.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
15/1 Improve monitoring station and provide and instal five further guages. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		75 K	-				-	1
15/2 Develop trends and trigger points. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		10K						1
15/3 Develop and refine dissemination process. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		10K						Ī
15/4 Record and target properties affected. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		5K						2
15/5 Link into Section 105 Surveys. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		15K						2

ISSUE 16: THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ON FLOODING.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
16/1 Environment Agency to investigate and advise Local Authorities in respect of all relevant proposals for new development. Contact Name: Keith Lead	Agency		•	_				_	ı
16/2 Promote awareness of Department of the Environment circular 30/92 "Development and Flood Risk". Contact Name: Martin Townsend	Agency	LAs	•	_					1

ISSUE 17: THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT HORLEY.



ISSUE 18: THE NEED TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY OF THE BURSTOW IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

	Lead	Pattoers	Cost	96	97	98	99	.0	Priority
18/ 1 Environment Agency to undertake an investigation.	Agency		25E						2

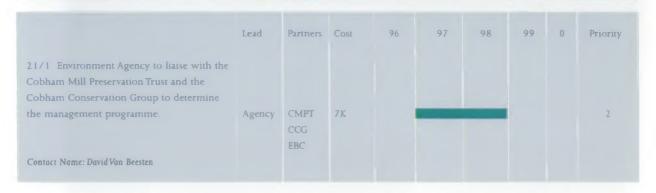
ISSUE 19: THE DIFFICULTY OF PROMOTING FLOOD ALLEVIATION FOR PROPERTIES CURRENTLY RECEIVING AN UNACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF SERVICE.



ISSUE 20: THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR MAINTENANCE AT LEATHERHEAD.



ISSUE 21: THE MANAGEMENT OF COBHAM MILL AND ADJACENT LAND.



OBJECTIVE 4: TO PROTECT THE CONSERVATION VALUE OF THE RIVERINE AND RIPARIAN HABITAT.

Within the catchment there are in-stream and river corridor habitats which are not only intrinsically important but essential for the continuing presence of certain important/rare species of flora and fauna. The species concerned include: native brown trout, native crayfish, capniid stoneflies, kingfishers, and the nationally rare plant the greater dodder. There is also a need to protect the sparse river bed gravels which are essential to gravel spawning fish. A partnership approach will enhance the opportunity to more fully address the issues e.g. the involvement of MAFF though Action 22/4 will contribute to other actions such as 23/1.

ISSUE 22: THE NEED TO PROTECT IMPORTANT IN-STREAM AND RIVER CORRIDOR HABITATS.



ISSUE 23: THE NEED TO SECURE APPROPRIATE CONSERVATION, ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION OF KEY RIVERINE LANDSCAPES AS IDENTIFIED IN THE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
23/1 Implement the recommendations set out in the "River Mole Catchment Landscape Assessment". Contact Name: Richard Copas	Agency	LAs SCC HCPT LMPT	tbd		-				ī
23/2 Print further copies of the "River Mole Catchment Landscape Assessment". Contact Name: Richard Copas	Agency		3K						1
23/3 Investigate opportunities for partnership including the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Contact Name: Nick Beard (ADAS)	MAFF	Agency	•						Ī



Channel narrowing to improve water quality and river habitat

OBJECTIVE 5: SEEK TO ENHANCE VISUALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY DEGRADED RIVER CHANNELS AND CORRIDORS.

The aims of this Objective compliment the aims of Objective 4, and consequently many of the actions are closely linked.

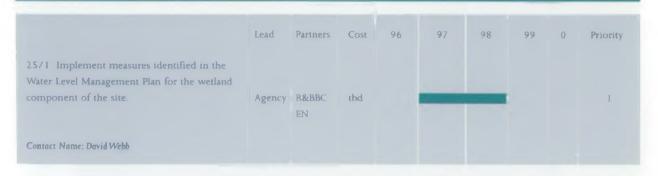
In addition to the need to safeguard the water environment, the Environment Agency also has a duty to seek enhancement where appropriate. The need to seek enhancements not only applies to the activities undertaken by others but also to the activities of the Agency itself; for example during the execution of flood defence maintenance works. Opportunities for a partnership approach are increased by the fact that other bodies also encourage restoration of degraded habitats i.e. Surrey County Council grant aid voluntary organisations to carry out appropriate schemes. Similarly, West Sussex County Council actively promote the approach set out in the West Sussex County Council Landscape Assessment and Guidelines.

The 'Lower Mole Enhancement Proposals' (published by the NRA in 1994) identified a five year programme of enhancement work which was commenced in September of that year. The proposals relate essentially to the river upstream of the flood defence works known as the Lower Mole Improvement Scheme.

In order to address the problems of visually and ecologically degraded habitats the following actions cover: Reigate Heath SSSI, the Lower Mole Improvement Scheme, flood defence maintenance, vandalism and litter. With regard to Action 24/5 (b), the identified cost of £50,000 includes Crawley Borough Council's input of £15,000.

ISSUE 24: THE DEGRADATION OF NATURAL HABITATS Partners Cost Priority 24/1 Identify needs and opportunities for Contact Name: Martin Townsend 24/3 Input into Surrey and West Sessex County Council Biodiversity Plan and identify appropriate actions within the Agency SCC Contact Name: David Webb Contact Name: David Webb 24/5 Implement programme of schemes to SCC 1000 Contact Name: Trevor Odell

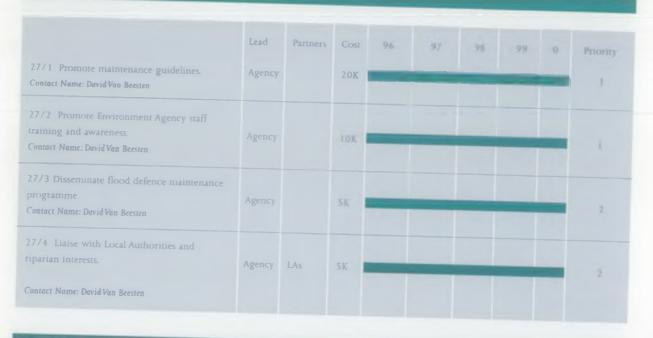
ISSUE 25: THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD REIGATE HEATH SSSI.



ISSUE 26: THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION CHANNEL OF THE LOWER MOLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME HAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED THE ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF THE RIVER CHANNEL AND RIVER CORRIDOR.



ISSUE 27: THE NEED TO UNDERTAKE FLOOD DEFENCE MAINTENANCE WORKS IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MANNER.



ISSUE 28: VANDALISM AND UNAUTHORISED OCCUPATION OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OWNED LAND.

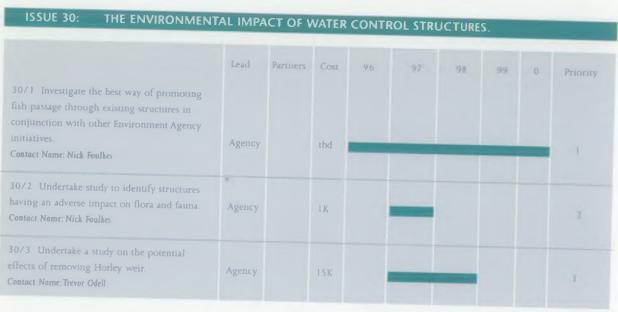
						THE DAME DAME						
	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0				
28/1 Prepare and implement an appropriate Management Plan for Environment Agency												
owned land. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		15K						2			

ISSUE 29: THE IMPACT OF RUBBISH AND LITTER ON THE WATER ENVIRONMENT.

	Lead	Partners	Cost	96	97	98	99	0	Priority
29/1 Promote co-ordinated anti-litter and tidy river campaigns.	Agency	LAS LMPT HCPT TBG	5K					_	2
Contact Name: Ian Larkins									
29/2 Promote local pride and the concept of public stewardship of the water environment. Contact Name: Tony Proud	Agency		•						2
29/3 Environment Agency to continue liaison with riparian interests. Contact Name: David Van Beesten	Agency		10K						2
29/4 Work in partnership with Local Authorities to achieve removal of rubbish and litter by implementing enforcement procedures where necessary. Contact Name: Ian Larkins	Agency	LAs	tbd		Name -				2
29/5 Identify rubbish, litter and flytipping "node points". Contact Name: Chris Mitchell	Agency	LAs	2K						2

OBJECTIVE 6: TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE FISHERIES STATUS.

Three reaches of the River Mole, extending from Leatherhead to the confluence with the River Thames, have been designated as cyprinid waters under the EC Directive 'The Quality of Fresh Water Needing Protection or Improvement to Support Fish Life". A significant number of weirs and other water control structures occur within the catchment. These structures frequently act as barriers to fish and disrupt the continuity of aquatic habitats along a rivers length. The absence of fish passes at significant water control structures continues to restrict the effective re-establishment of good coarse fisheries.



OBJECTIVE 7: TO PROMOTE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES UPON THE RIVER WHERE APPROPRIATE.

The catchment provides relatively few opportunities for water based recreation. Public access to the River Mole is limited and there are few continuous stretches of footpath adjacent to the watercourse. The improvement of recreational provisions are addressed in the actions below; particularly important is Action 32/2 which advocates establishing a 'River User Group' with a membership reflecting the varied, and sometimes competing, interests.

ISSUE 31: THE LIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND ALONG THE RIVERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE URBAN AREAS.



ISSUE 32: THE LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER BASED RECREATION ON THE RIVER MOLE.



OBJECTIVE 8: TO PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE.

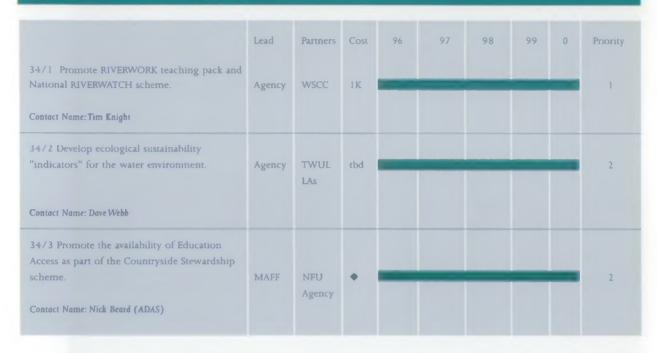
River valleys have throughout time acted as corridors for human settlement and as a result contain a wide variety of archaeological sites and historic landscapes. The conservation and enhancement of this heritage is vital to sustaining the stock of cultural resources. The actions below seek to facilitate closer liaison between organisations, influence activities and increase awareness.

ISSUE 33: THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE. Priority 33/1 Compile and maintain database of areas and sites of known historical and 10K cultural significance. Agency LAs HIN. Contact Name: Alistair Driver 33/2 Promote safeguarding of sensitive area/ sites against the impact of development. Agency LA Contact Name: Martin Townsend operational & regulatory activities respect archaeological heritage. Contact Name: Dave Webb 33/4 Continue to maintain "Conservation Site LNRs and RIGS. Agency LAs Contact Name: Alistair Driver

OBJECTIVE 9: PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP.

There is a need for information to be provided for the general public about the Environment Agency and the other bodies and organisations involved in managing the environment. The provision of such information will facilitate increased community involvement and partnership.

ISSUE 34: THE NEED TO PROMOTE WATER ENVIRONMENT ISSUES AT A LOCAL LEVEL WITHIN THE CATCHMENT, ESPECIALLY VIA FORMAL EDUCATION.



ISSUE 35: THE NEED TO PROMOTE A GREATER DEGREE OF CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN RESPECT OF LAND USE PLANNING.



FULL REVIEW

Catchment Management Plans are primarily concerned with the water environment and as such do not embrace the full range of the Environment Agency's responsibilities. To address this situation the Environment Agency is committed to preparing Local Environment Agency Plans for each catchment in England and Wales before the end of 1999.

The programme for the production of the LEAPs does not allow time for an annual review of the River Mole CMP. before its transformation into a LEAP. Consequently, as explained earlier in the text, a full review of the River Mole Catchment Management Plan will commence in June 1998. The review will assess the progress made on the actions and incorporate issues relating to waste and integrated pollution control.

Further details regarding this CMP or the catchment generally can be obtained from:

Tim Knight
Principal Environmental Planner
Environment Agency
Riverside Works
Fordbridge Road
Sunbury on Thames
Middlesex
TW16 6AP

Tel: 01932 789833

APPENDIX I: ORGANISATIONS RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION REPORT

Boxhill Neighbourhood Council

British Canoe Union

British Dragonfly Society

British Trust for Ornithology

Burstow Parish Council

Canoe Camping Club

Charlwood Parish Council

Civil Aviation Authority

Cobham Mill Preservation Trust

Council for British Archaeology

Country Landowners Association

Countryside Commission

Cyclists Touring Club

Elmbridge Borough Council

Elmbridge Friends of The Earth

Elmbridge Green Belt and Urban Open Space Association

English Heritage

English Nature

English Tourist Board

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Fetcham Residents Association

Forestry Commission

Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee

Gatwick Airport Limited

Horley Piscatorial Society

Horley Residents Association

Horsham District Council

Ifield Mill Project/Crawley Museum Society

Ifield Village Association

Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

London Borough of Sutton - Conservation Area Advisory

Consultative Group (East)

London Ecology Unit

Lower Mole Countryside Management Project

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

Meath Green Protection Society

Ministry of Defence - Defence Estate Organisation (Lands)

Mole Valley Conservation Volunteers/Nature Conservation

Sub-Group of the Mole Valley Local Agenda 21.

Mole Valley District Council

Mole Valley Geological Society

National Farmers Union

Painshill Park Trust

Purley Canoe Club

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers

Reigate College

Rural Development Commission

Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council

Sand & Gravel Association Limited

South East England Tourist Board

Spelthorne Borough Council

Sports Council

Surrey Bird Club

Surrey County Council

Surrey County Fire Brigade

Surrey Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sutton and East Surrey Water

Tandridge District Council

Thames Water Utilities Limited

The Betchworth and Buckland Society

The British Horse Society

The Garden History Society

The Highways Agency

The London Green Belt Council

The National Trust

The Ramblers Association

The Reigate Society

The River Mole Preservation Association

Three Bridges Ward Labour Party

Upper Deepdene Park Road Residents Association

West Sussex County Council

APPENDIX II: ROUTINE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency has a wide range of duties and responsibilities relevant to the protection and improvement of the water environment. These include:

Water Quality:

- · consenting to and charging for discharges to rivers;
- responding to pollution incidents;
- prosecuting pollutors;
- monitoring water quality;
- carrying out biological and bacteriological surveys;
- setting water quality targets;
- protecting groundwater quality.

Flood Defence:

- maintaining free passage of water by dredging, bank trimming and rubbish clearance;
- identifying and constructing flood defence works;
- forecasting and warning of flood situations.

Water Resources:

- measuring rainfall, river flows and groundwater resources;
- licensing water abstractions;
- promoting water efficiency and conservation measures.

Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation:

- surveying the health and numbers of fish populations;
- rescuing fish in emergency situations;
- regulating fisheries licences;
- protecting and enhancing natural riverine habitats, including banks and floodplains;
- promoting public access to rivers and the general enjoyment of the riverside.

Land Use Planning:

- responding to planning application consultations;
- promoting policies for inclusion in local authority statutory development plans;
- issuing of Land Drainage consents to ensure that all development in or near rivers protects the water environment;
- producing CMPs/LEAPs to integrate the Environment Agency's work with activities being undertaken by other organisations.

Integrated Pollution Control:

- regulating the potentially most polluting processes by operating Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) for certain industrial processes;
- authorising prescribed processes ensuring best available techniques not entailing excessive costs are
 used and that the best practicable environmental option is adopted;
- making appropriate checks to ensure IPC authorisations are being complied with, investigating complaints and attending to serious pollution events;
- regulating the holding, use and disposal of radioactive substances.

Waste Regulation:

- licensing of waste management activities through the imposition of appropriate conditions;
- supervision of licensed activities and the operation of enforcement procedures;
- regulating and monitoring the movement of Special Waste;
- the Registration of Waste Carriers, Waste Brokers and activities exempt from licensing;
- collection of information about waste arisings and the preparation of a waste disposal plan;
- promotion of Duty of Care.

General:

- promoting rivers as valuable natural assets;
- making information available through the Environment Agency's Public Register;
- monitoring and enforcement action to ensure that all the above are implemented and complied with.

APPENDIX III: EXAMPLES OF LAND USE GUIDANCE

The following are examples of land use guidance, specifically relating to the water environment, which Crawley Borough Council has incorporated into the Deposit Draft (1995) of their statutory Development Plan.

Policy GD24

The Borough Council will not normally permit new development, the intensification of existing development, or land raising in areas at risk from flooding. Whenever development in such areas is to be permitted, appropriate flood protection and mitigation measures, inluding the restoration of floodplains, will be required.

Supporting text:

In addition to the risk of flooding to the proposed development itself, development in such locations may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere by reducing the storage capacity of the floodplain, and/or by impeding the flow of flood water. Land raising in the floodplain (for example as a result of landfill) may have a similar effect.

Policy GD25

The Borough Council will not normally permit development, including changes of use, which would have a detrimental impact upon the supply of surface or groundwater and the drainage of surface water and sewerage unless ameliorating measures can be taken to the satisfaction of the Council and its advising authorities.

Supporting text:

Ensuring that sites are adequately drained is important. In the case of foul sewerage, it is in the interests of pollution control and public health. In the case of surface water, if not properly considered, it can result in some pollution and even flooding. Unpolluted surface and groundwater can however be an important local resource. The Borough Council recognises the importance of good water management and drainage practices and, therefore, will liaise with the bodies concerned such as the Environment Agency, Thames Water Utilities and local water suppliers. The Environment Agency's 'Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater' gives advice on the measures required to protect water supplies.

Policy BN20

Proposals for development will not normally be permitted if it will result in the loss of important natural landscape features, including woodlands, water courses and adjacent land, trees and hedgerows. If development is permitted, the replacement of landscape features lost may be required. The Borough Council will undertake and encourage improvements to the amenity and recreational value of these areas.

Supporting text:

Protecting the natural landscape is an important element in maintaining the high quality of Crawley's environment and new development should respect existing natural features, including woodlands, streams and ponds. These areas have an important amenity value.

APPENDIX IV: GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABREVIATIONS

Agency Environment Agency.

Aquifer A sub-surface zone or geological formation which contains exploitable resources of

groundwater.

Blue-green algae Organisms with some properties characteristic of both bacteria and algae - natural inhabitants

of many inland waters.

Buffer strip A strip of land adjacent to a river which is free from any development.

Catchment The total area of land which drains to a specific watercourse or waterbody.

Coarse fish A freshwater fish which is not of the salmon family.

Cypriniid Coarse fish of the carp family i.e. roach, dace, bream.

Ecosystem A system involving the interactions between a community and its non-living environment.

Groundwater Water which is contained within the pores and crevices of soils and rocks.

Riparian Of or on the bank of a river; or relating to the legal rights of the landowner of a river bank.

Sustainable development Management of the environment to meet the needs of the present without compromising the

ability of future generations to do the same.

ADAS Agricultural Development and Advisory Service.

AMP Asset Management Plan: 10 year investment programme for the water undertakers e.g. TWUL.

BCU British Canoe Union.

BHS British Horse Society.

CBA Council for British Archaeology

CBC Crawley Borough Council.

CCG Cobham Conservation Group.

CHA County Highway Authority

CMP Catchment Management Plan.

CMPT Cobham Mill Preservation Trust.

CTC Cyclists Touring Club.

EBC Elmbridge Borough Council.

EC European Commission.

EN English Nature.

FWAG Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

GAL Gatwick Airport Limited

HCPT Horley, Crawley Countryside Management Project Team.

HMIP Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution.

LA Local Authority (County Council, Borough or District Council).

LEAP Local Environment Agency Plan.

LMPT Lower Mole Countryside Management Project Team.

LNR Local Nature Reserve.

LPA Local Planning Authority.

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

MVDC Mole Valley District Council.

NAFAC National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultatives.

NFU National Farmers Union.

NRA National Rivers Authority.

NSWC North Surrey Water Company.

R&BBC Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

RE River Ecosystem.

RIGS Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site.

RMPA River Mole Preservation Association.

RQO River Quality Objective.

S&ESWC Sutton and East Surrey Water Company.

SCC Surrey County Council.

SNCI Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest.

STW Sewage Treatment Works.

SWQO Statutory Water Quality Objective.

SWT Surrey Wildlife Trust.

TBG Tidy Britain Group.

TDC Tandridge District Council.

TWUL Thames Water Utilities Limited.

WLMP Water Level Management Plan.

WRA Waste Regulation Authority.

WSCC West Sussex County Council.

APPENDIX V: CONTACTS FOR CATCHMENT ACTIVITIES

Andy Barron	Environment Agency	01483 577655
Nick Beard	Agricultural Development and Advisory Service	01483 404274
Brian Betts	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	01737 242477
Richard Copas	Environment Agency	01734 535565
Alistair Driver	Environment Agency	01734 535563
Nick Foulkes	Environment Agency	01483 577655
Pran Gajree	Thames Water Utilities Limited	01734 591159
Jon Goddard	Environment Agency	01483 577655
John Gorman	Thames Water Utilities Limited	01734 593728
Sue Hennings	Environment Agency	01734 535430
Mike Hoare	Environment Agency	01483 577655
Tim Knight	Environment Agency	01932 789833
Ian Larkins	Environment Agency	0181 310 5500
Keith Lead	Environment Agency	0171 735 9993
Chris Mitchell	Environment Agency	0181 786 7531
Robin Newlands	Environment Agency	01932 789833
Trevor Odell	Environment Agency	01932 789833
Tony Proud	Environment Agency	01932 789833
Les Ruse	Environment Agency	01734 311422
Martin Townsend	Environment Agency	01932 789833
David Van Beesten	Environment Agency	01932 789833
Don Vickers	Environment Agency	01734 535560
Dave Webb	Environment Agency	01483 577655



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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Fax: 0113 246 1889

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West Sussex BN11 1LD Tel: 01903 832 000 Fax: 01903 821 832

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Fax: 01392 444 238

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Kings Meadow Road
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Fax: 0118 950 0388

WELSH
Rivers House/Plas-yr-Afon
St Mellons Business Park
St Mellons
Cardiff CF3 OLT

Tel: 01222 770 088 Fax: 01222 798 555



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.

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE 0645 333 111

environment agency emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60

