



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

REGIONAL PLAN SUMMARY SOUTHERN 1997/98

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS

The first year of the Environment Agency has been a considerable success for the Region. We have met all our operational targets and matched or improved the operational standards set by our predecessors. All despite significant distractions from our plan. We have successfully dealt with severe storm damage, provided considerable expert input to an internationally important BSE public inquiry, and seen that consideration of a regional merger has concluded Southern Region is here to stay.

In the second year of the Agency we will strive to build upon our successes. We will continue to address major organisational priorities such as integration and co-location of our Area staff -97/98 will see the implementation of the new Area structures and the opening of three new Area offices.

New strategies will guide our work towards meeting the challenges of our principal aim -sustainable development, whilst several new duties including those for contaminated land, and producer responsibility for waste will result in a changing workload. Drought, waste capacity and big sea defence schemes remain major issues for the region.

97/98 will see Southern Region become highly customer orientated, the production of our first three Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) will drive our decision making and the regular advisory forum between our officers and customers will continue through our Regional and Area committees. The standard of service to these customers will be delivered to at least our customer charter standard, and we will seek to build upon our successes through continued partnerships.

97/98 will face us with significant challenges both organisationally and operationally but with the quality of staff we have in the Region I am confident that it will be another successful year for us.

KEVIN WHITEMAN
Regional General Manager

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUR FIRST YEAR

- Major contribution to MMC on Mid Kent merger.
- Flood warning service launched, extensive media coverage.
- All GIA and set up projects progressing according to plan.
- Major contribution to internationally important BSE public inquiry.
- Authorised MBM for RECHEM following trial burns.
- Successful re-introduction of otters into Hampshire rivers.
- Completed 9 IPC authorisations for paper mills (70% of England and Wales total).
- Breakfast seminars to industry initiated and ongoing on waste regulation issues.
- 32 Local Agenda 21 groups visited by Agency staff.
- 42 collaborative projects initiated with wildlife groups.
- Training seminar and case study exercise to committees well received.



Shingle replenishment on Sandwich Bay

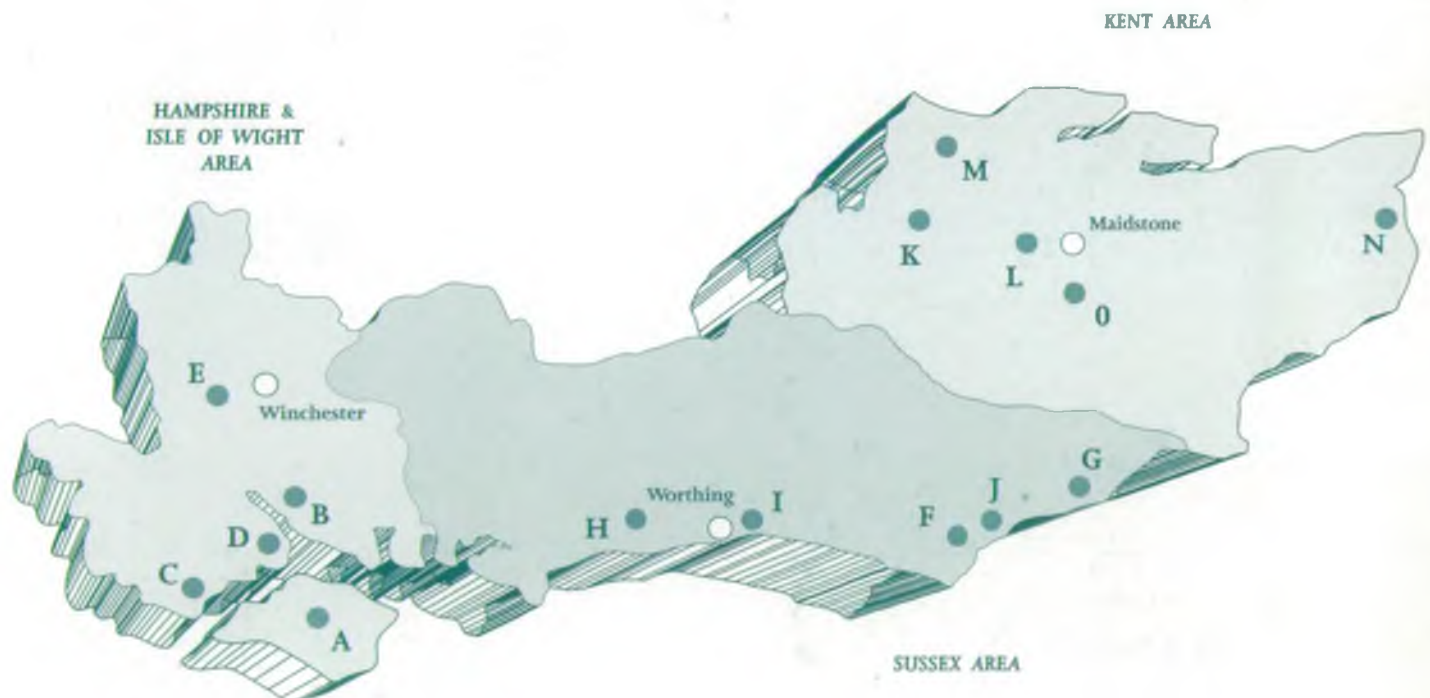
PLANNED ACTION ON THE GROUND

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT AREA

- A** Storm overflow improvements for areas affecting identified bathing waters on the Isle of Wight
- B** Develop initiatives to help large and small businesses in Hampshire get commercial benefits from waste minimisation.
- C** Flood alleviation scheme at Milford on Sea. 12000m³ of earth will form an embankment to protect 50 houses from what is currently a regular flooding problem. Work will commence in June and last about 3 months.
- D** Oversee the installation of abatement equipment at the ESSO Petroleum Company. New equipment will reduce H₂S emissions from their Bitumen Storage tanks.
- E** Restoration of the Salmon populations on the Test and Itchen through a number of initiatives including restocking, studies of population dynamics, anti poaching measures and habitat improvement works.

SUSSEX AREA

- F** MAFF acceptance of Pevensey Bay sea defence strategy and commencement of programme. The £35 million sea defence project involves placement of rock / timber and shingle renourishment along a 9km stretch of coastline.
- G** Continuation of bathing water quality improvements through the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Next key target completion are works to upgrade storm sewage overflow by Southern Water at Hastings, which currently has a history of bathing beach failure.
- H** Completion and acceptance of Swanbourne Lake ALF remediation strategy. Full consultation is to take place over next few months.
- I** Present a series of waste regulation seminars aimed at Local Authorities and businesses designed to educate and inform on the new producer responsibility legislation on waste packaging.
- J** Publication of second stage of the Pevensey Levels Water Level Management Plan. These plans required by MAFF under the Water Level Management Plan initiative are open to wide consultation and are aimed at bringing the land back to SSSI notification.



KENT AREA

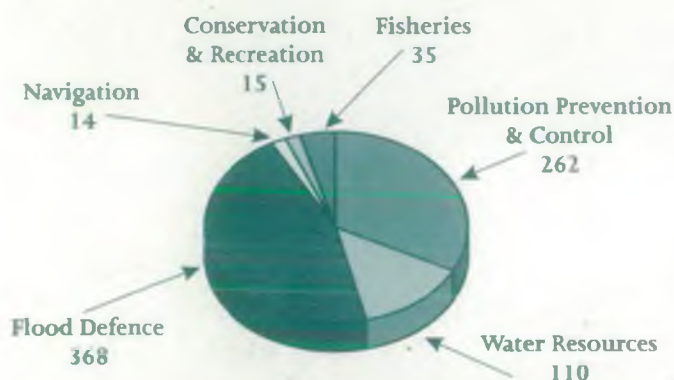
- K** Computer and air quality dispersion modelling software purchased to monitor / model air quality in the Medway basin, where several large combustion plants are being constructed.
- L** Offham Groundwater Protection scheme. Installation of boreholes around an old ragstone quarry which has been used for landfill. Leachate from old landfill materials will have a detrimental effect upon water quality.
- M** Darent Phase 1 - details the alleviation of low flows by installing augmentation boreholes - finishes 1998.
- N** Shingle replenishment on the Sandwich Bay sea defences (see photo on front cover). £1.45m scheme which together with a second phase of construction will restore the robustness of the sea defences.
- O** Replacement of radial gate with new weir including fish pass and canoe facilities on the Medway.

OTHER PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Prepare for producer responsibility regulation.
- Delivery of Regional capital programme of Flood Defence improvements.
- Determine River Quality Objectives (RQOs) for all freshwaters.
- Secure improvements to identified combined storm overflows.
- Ensure environmental effects of drought are kept to minimum.
- Promote new citizens charter and meet standards of service.
- Identify and ensure appropriate training of staff.
- Co-location of Area staff in three new area offices.
- Produce first LEAP in each Area.
- Promote Agency's internal environmental policy through its green circles.
- Ensure all major projects meet cost benefit specifications.
- All work to be driven by the principles of sustainable development.
- Build upon our reputation as an environmental education service.
- Improve quality of financial and other management information.
- Realise savings through new procurement initiatives.

TOTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYEES

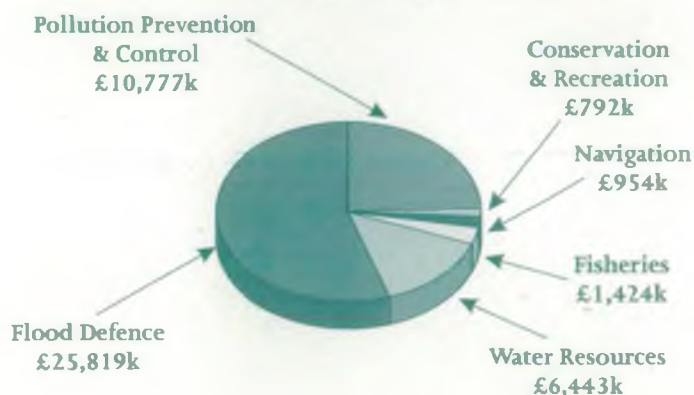
(804 full time equivalents)



(includes 134.5 for support staff)

TOTAL REGIONAL EXPENDITURE

(£46,209K)



KEY STATISTICS

Area (km ²)	10979
Population (millions)	4.6
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	378
National Parks (km ²)	0
Length of coastline (km)	1124
EC designated Bathing Waters	69
Annual Rainfall (average in mm)	780
Abstraction and impoundment licences	2707
Discharge consents	16697
IPC regulated sites and processes	128
Sites using/storing/disposing of radioactive material	438
Nuclear sites and processes	2
Licensed waste management facilities	627
Registered waste carriers	8031
Special waste movements	7600
Agency landholdings used for recreational purposes	581
Length of classified river, canal and estuary (km)	2583.7
Fluvial flood defences maintained (km)	2325
Tidal and sea defences maintained (km)	615
River monitored for fisheries (km)	2707
Length of navigable rivers (km)	31

(key statistics as at December 1996)

SOUTHERN REGION ADDRESSES

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INTERNET WORLD WIDE WEB

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

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.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60



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