

Box 4

FOCUS

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN LEEK, ASHBOURNE, ENDON, CHEADLE AND UTTOXETER

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Salmon return to the River Dove after 70 years

After 70 years absence, salmon have returned to the River Dove, having been spotted jumping two weirs on the river as they travelled upstream to spawning grounds. They were abundant in the Trent catchment until increasing pollution destroyed the population in the early part of the twentieth century.

This is the culmination of a three-year Agency programme to re-introduce the fish to one of its traditional breeding habitats.

For centuries, the Dove was recognised for its value as a spawning ground for salmon and since 1998, the Environment Agency has worked to create conditions to encourage the species to return, including improving water quality.

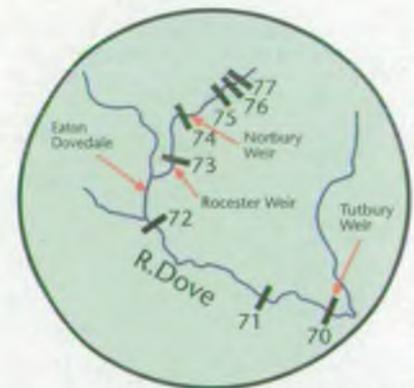
As well as restoring the habitat, the Agency has spent £75,000 over the last three years on a programme of re-stocking the river, with 150,000 young salmon being stocked annually in the expectation that they will survive and return to the river to breed. The young salmon, supplied from the

Agency fish farm at Kielder, have been stocked at Eaton Dovedale, just below Rocester Weir (see on the map below No. 73)

Salmon spend the first three years of their life in fresh water before migrating long distances to the sea, where they spend up to three years before returning to their original river in late autumn to spawn.

The returning fish, which were observed at Tutbury and Norbury weirs, (see map, weirs 70 and 74 respectively), were in two size classes: a 6lb 'Grilse' (a fish which has spent only one year in the sea) and a fish of approximately 10 -12lb, meaning that it would have spent two years in the sea.

With the help of the Agency, a Trent Salmon Trust has recently been established to take on the work of reintroducing salmon to the River Trent.



River obstructions

EA-Midlands LEAPs

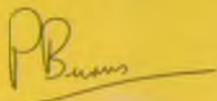


Foreword

Working with local people, the Environment Agency is responsible for protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting sustainable development. One way of doing this is through our Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs), which provide a framework for our progress. We hope that you enjoy the new newsletter approach to the review of our work.

Some good progress has been made over the last year, due to the commitment made by both the Agency and by our partners. Partnerships will become increasingly important as demands on limited resources continue to increase. New staff have been recruited and there will be more emphasis on environmental improvement in areas of urban regeneration.

I look forward to building on the progress made so far with our partners in the Dove area in the coming year.



Upper Trent Area Manager
Environment Agency

Introduction- what is a leap?

A LEAP is a Local Environment Agency Plan. It is the Agency's integrated local management plan process which is used to identify, assess, prioritise and hopefully solve, local environmental issues or problems. These issues are related to the

Agency's functions, but aim to take account of our local customers and may be tackled in partnership with them. These actions will aim to bring about environmental improvements to optimise benefits for the local environment.

The Environment Agency - who are we?

We are the Environment Agency and were formed in 1996, bringing together the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, Waste Regulation Authorities and a number of smaller units from the Department of the Environment. The formation of the Agency provided for a more holistic comprehensive approach to the protection and management of the environment.

We have statutory powers and duties to control and monitor the environment and activities that may be harmful to it and we also have the task of working towards achieving sustainable development across the country.

As well as regulating industry and informing the public, the Agency recognises that regulation alone cannot change people's attitudes or behaviour. While we continue with our immediate work - enforcing regulations to protect the environment and health, water management and flood protection and combating environmental crime, we also need to be a trusted partner in achieving sustainable development. We are committed to working with business, public bodies and community organisations to encourage people to change.

Anti-pollution campaign targets sheep dips

Sheep dip is a factor involved in pollution incidents every year. Although, there are only a small number of incidents reported, it can be a cause of serious damage to fish and invertebrate life, and also can contaminate groundwater.

The Agency has been involved in a series of campaigns to raise awareness among members of the farming community to ensure sheep dip and its disposal are carried out safely and with due care. These include paying visits to farms and

displaying information at agricultural shows and markets. The Groundwater Regulations (GW Regs), introduced in 1997, require that any disposal of sheep dip onto, or into, land must be authorised by the Agency. These regulations ensure that farmers and the Agency work together to protect rivers and groundwater.

For further advice and information, please contact Environment Protection, Environment Agency, Fradley office.



The Dove area

Covering 1000km² of both Derbyshire and Staffordshire, the Dove LEAP area contains a number of market towns and villages, including Leek, Cheddle, Ashbourne, Uttoxeter, Hatton, Tullbury, Astonefield and Cheddleton. Between 1991 and 2001, the area's population has increased from approximately 110,000 to an estimated 115,000.

Rising on the eastern side of a high gritstone moor called Axe Edge, the Dove flows southwards, forming the boundary between Derbyshire and Staffordshire for the whole of its length.

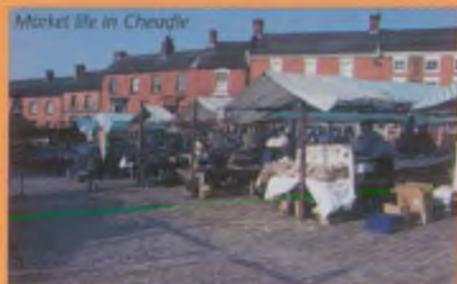
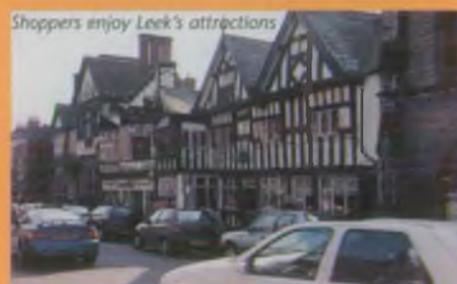
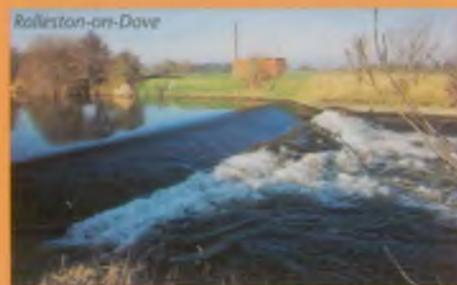
This LEAP area covers both the River Dove and its many tributaries, including the rivers Manifold, Tean, Hamps and Churnet. The Hilton, Henmore, Marchington and Rolleston Brooks and the Caldon Canal are also included.

The area contains some of the most highly regarded and valued landscape in England, indicated by both the statutory and non statutory designations given to it, and the high number of visitors it attracts each year.

Many factors have played a part in creating this distinctive landscape, including topography, geology, natural history and human influence through settlement patterns and agriculture.

The Environment Agency has identified certain issues, which need to be addressed in the Dove area. These include enhancing the local bio-diversity and improving water quality in rivers. Agricultural is a big factor in the area, with dairy farming forming the major part of agricultural practice within the area. It also influences industrial development as it provides employment in the area in milk and meat production, animal by-products and other food manufacture. Traditional trades such as textile finishing and dyeing still contribute greatly to the local economy. Newer industries such as chemical manufacture and engineering are also well established.

National issues, which have a bearing on the area, include biodiversity, water quality objectives, standards and directives and extending the flood warning service within the area.



New flood warning system

The introduction of the Agency's new flood warning system in England and Wales in September 2000 has seen an increase in public understanding of the flood warning system and how to be prepared for flooding.

The new warning system, used whenever there is a risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, was introduced at the same time as the widening of the warning service. This included the issuing of a general early alert, which has proved to be very beneficial.

The system consists of four flood warnings; Floodwatch, Flood Warning, Severe Flood Warning and All Clear.

'The new system has been successful in helping people at risk of flooding, to understand the flood warnings and what they need to do to minimise the impact of flooding when a warning is issued,' says Sam Probert, Flood Warning Team Leader.

These warnings are communicated to home owners directly by telephone or fax where possible, through the broadcast media and directly to local councils and emergency response services.

For information before, during and after a flood, call Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

For further information, please contact: Sam Probert in the Environment Agency Fradley office.



New flood warnings

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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Flooding issues in Rolleston

Autumn 2000 proved to be devastating for many people in England and Wales who witnessed the wettest season for over 270 years, resulting in the highest flood levels on record. The devastation that followed resulted in 10,000 properties flooded at over 700 locations nation wide and widespread disruption to public transport, adding up to a cost of £1B.

Since the 2000 floods, the Environment Agency has worked alongside other partners to address local flooding issues. One such area is Rolleston, which has seen the Agency join up with East Staffordshire Borough Council, Severn Trent Water and others to put together an Action Plan. This plan attempted to address the needs of the local people and to help find a way to reduce damage caused by severe flooding in the future.

The Agency has carried out extensive work in the vicinity of Rolleston, including the dredging of the length of Rolleston Brook from the Spread Eagle pub to its meeting with the River Dove. This work has helped to increase the size of the channel and to reduce the build-up of silt. Fradley's Strategic Planning and Improvements Team Leader, Barry Russell, is delighted with progress so far.

'The works at Hatton are reaching an important stage with the upstream

defence complete and the downstream works commencing on site at the beginning of May 2002;' says Barry. 'The upstream works were completed first so that a new flood wall could be built to replace the replacement wall which collapsed in the November 2000 floods. The downstream works are expected to commence shortly.'

Severn Trent Water undertook extensive research into possible flood-related problems in the area. These include CCTV inspection of assets throughout the village, flow efficiency improvement at Rolleston Pumping Station and an illegal connection identified and sealed at School

Lane/Station Road Junction Area.

East Staffordshire Borough Council has investigated the possibility of making a pump available to help overpump the flow from the Alderbrook Close area, as this causes localised flooding in the Brook House and Station Road area. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the Agency's flood warning service. They also worked with Severn Trent Water to clear out ditches in the South Hill/Station Road Junction Area.

For further information, please contact: Barry Russell, Strategic Planning and Improvements Team Leader, Environment Agency Fradley office.



Dredging Rolleston Brook

We would be delighted to receive your feedback. For further details on any of the articles in this newsletter or to give us your views on the new newsletter style of the annual reporting, please contact:

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