



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

# NEW FOREST



## *Local Environment Agency Plan*

# ENVIRONMENT

- 1. The spread of non-native flora and fauna could detrimentally affect the aquatic ecology of the New Forest*
- 2. Low summer flow rates as a result of over abstraction due to Licenses of Right in certain New Forest streams affecting ecology and aesthetics*
- 3. Reduced stream water quality as a result of low summer flows*
- 4. The dewatering of the workings during mineral extraction at Manor Farm is believed to be threatening the ecology of the Keyhaven Nature Reserve \**
- 5. Damage to valley mire systems resulting in loss of biodiversity and natural river flows in conjunction with deteriorating water quality*
- 6. Reduced recreational water quality at Calshot due to primary treatment only of waste water at Ashlett Creek*
- 7. Pressure from illegal poaching of sea trout stocks*
- 8. Loss of nature conservation value of the Keyhaven Pond at the Lymington and Keyhaven Nature Reserve*
- 9. Loss of habitats associated with the squeezing of inter-tidal areas due to sea level rise*
- 10. Loss of biodiversity associated with deepening of water courses, undertaken for improved drainage*
- 11. Lack of clarity regarding the statutory responsibilities between the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission within the New Forest*
- 12. Loss of biodiversity associated with engineering works on natural river courses*
- 13. Status of sea trout population is unknown*
- 14. Legal implications of the Habitats Directive on the Agency*
- 15. Man-made structures in the watercourses which obstruct the free passage of sea trout*
- 16. Disruption of ecology and natural stream processes due to the removal of debris dams from New Forest watercourses*



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# AL ISSUES IN THE



- 17.** *Loss of biodiversity associated with the recreational use of watercourses*
- 18.** *Development of a better flood warning service (FDMS)*
- 19.** *Improved management of urban and agricultural surface water run-off to reduce flooding incidents and improve water quality*
- 20.** *High water levels preventing effective management has caused reduced nature conservation value of the Lymington Reed Beds SSSI*
- 21.** *Privately owned flood defence structures can limit effective overall management of river systems*
- 22.** *Fulfilling the Agency's biodiversity commitment to protect key species of national conservation concern*
- 23.** *Limited knowledge on the nature of the water resources due to lack of groundwater and surface water monitoring*



## SOUTHERN REGION ADDRESSES

### REGIONAL OFFICE

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Guildbourne House  
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Worthing  
West Sussex BN11 1LD  
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Fax: 01903 821 832

### HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
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Winchester  
Hampshire SO22 5DP  
Tel: 01962 713 267  
Fax: 01962 841 573

### ISLE OF WIGHT

Tel: 01983 822 986  
Fax: 01983 822 985

### KENT AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Orchard House  
Endeavour Park  
London Road  
Addington, West Malling  
Kent ME19 5SH  
Tel: 01732 875 587  
Fax: 01732 875 057

### SUSSEX AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency  
Ridgeworth House  
5 Liverpool Gardens  
Worthing, West Sussex  
BN11 1YH  
Tel: 01903 215 835  
Fax: 01903 215 884



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



ENVIRONN



# THE NEW FOREST

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24. Excessive surface water abstraction for trickle irrigation which is currently unlicensable under the Water Resources Law affecting river flows leading to degradation of aquatic habitats
  25. Ground water contamination of an aquifer at Ampress Works public water supply
  26. Inadequate understanding of the effect on public health of particular matter (PM10) arising from waste handling facilities
  27. Inadequate understanding of the effect of acid deposition and sulphur dioxide emissions on the ecology of the New Forest
  28. Public concern over odour control at industrial sites
  29. Lack of definition of the Agency's role in local air quality management
  30. Lack of knowledge of fish stocks in still waters
  31. Inadequate understanding of the combined impacts of 'industrial' process emissions
  32. Lack of free public fishing in the New Forest

\* Manor Farm was a new issue raised by the stakeholder group.

## Your Views...

The issues and actions have been reviewed and prioritised by a stakeholder group.



We would now like to hear your views to help us develop an Action Plan.

**HAVE ALL MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BEEN IDENTIFIED?  
DO YOU AGREE WITH THE RANKING OF THE ISSUES?**

Please send any comments in writing to:

Mat Carter, Area Customer Services Manager,  
The Environment Agency,

Southern Region - Hampshire and IOW Area,  
Sarum Court, Sarum Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5DP.

All comments must be received by 30 June 1998.

Further copies of this booklet or the full Consultation Report can also be obtained from the address above.

All comments will be treated as public information unless you explicitly state otherwise.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENCY

The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body charged with safeguarding and improving the environment, water, land and aspects of air quality. The Environment Agency combines and improves the functions of its predecessor bodies: the National Rivers Authority (NRA), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP), the Waste Regulation Authorities (WRAs) and some parts of the Department of the Environment (DOE). Bringing these bodies together enables the Agency to manage the environment in a more coherent and integrated manner.

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PLANS

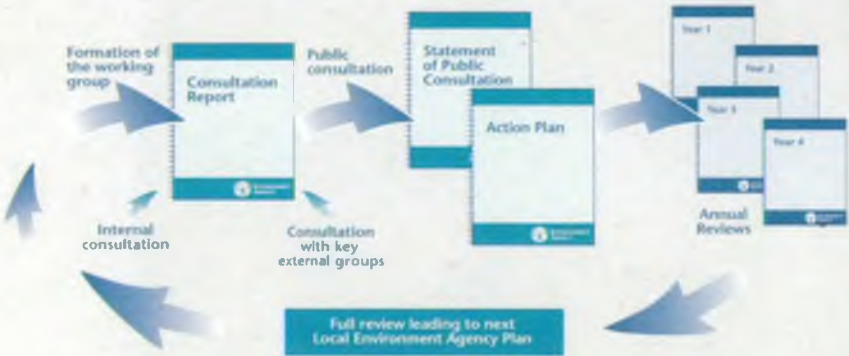
In order to manage the environment effectively and improve it for the future, the Agency has adopted the principle of local environmental planning which entails the preparation of Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs).

**CONSULTATION REPORT**, of which this summary forms a part, gives a broad review of the plan area. It identifies issues to be tackled and suggests actions for resolving them.

**ACTION PLAN**, firms up the issues and describes the actions that we believe should be undertaken in the next five years.

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

### The LEAP Process



## THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

We have identified key environmental issues affecting the New Forest area in consultation with various organisations and bodies, including a stakeholder group with interests in the area. The group prioritised the issues taking into account the likely costs and benefits of each proposal. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members in the group for their valuable time and effort.

## NEW FOREST AREA OVERVIEW

The New Forest Area covers 450 km<sup>2</sup> and has a total population of around 105,000. It is unique in character with both national and international conservation designations, but it is also host to a wide variety of uses including recreation, tourism, agriculture and industry with a major petrochemical complex and power station at Fawley. The catchment is predominantly rural with the principal urban areas confined to the southwest coastal zone - Barton, Milford and Lymington and Southampton waterside - Marchwood, Hythe, Holbury and Blackfield.