

EA - South Wes/00-4

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

SOUTH WEST REGION

Manley House, Kestrel Way,
Exeter EX2 7LQ

Protection Through
Partnership

North Wessex Area

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



Bringing together a number of environmental bodies, the Environment Agency took up its operational role as environmental guardian on 1 April, 1996.

The Agency's primary aim is to protect and improve the environment, and to contribute to sustainable development by the integrated management of air, land and water.

The South West Region of the Environment Agency, with a population of four million people, covers Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Bristol and parts of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

It has specific responsibilities for water resources, pollution prevention and control, waste management, flood defence, fisheries, conservation and recreation.



Customer Services Manager

- Sue Edwards



Responsible for:

- 'First Step Shop' for customers requiring information and advice;
- Access to the Agency's public register;
- Production of Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs);
- Liaison with local planning authorities which includes:
 - communication with developers;
 - responding to planning applications;
- Development of partnerships and communication with external groups;
- Registration of waste carriers and brokers;
- Promotion of Agency responsibilities and duties through education.

Business Services Manager

- Gwynneth O'Rourke



Responsible for:

- Providing cost-effective business support to the operational functions;
- Co-ordination of area business plans;
- Strategic business development;
- Co-ordination of all financial and procurement services;
- Co-ordination of health and safety;
- Environmental policy co-ordination and implementation;
- Co-ordination of area personnel, including work experience placements and temporary staff placements;
- Managing site services and co-ordination of administration.

Environment Protection Managers



North
- Ian Legge



South
- Andy Gardner

Responsible for:

- Response to water pollution incidents;
- Response to waste disposal incidents;
- Enforcement of authorisations;
- Site inspections;
- Implementation of pollution prevention and waste minimisation campaigns;
- Chemical monitoring;
- Environmental investigations.



Pulteney Weir, River Avon - Bath

To ensure close contact is kept with local communities the South West Region is split into four areas - each with its own Area Manager and staff. Teams work on the ground using local knowledge and contacts to maximum effect.

The four areas are Cornwall (based at Bodmin), Devon (Exminster), North Wessex (Bridgwater) and South Wessex (Blandford).

This leaflet outlines the work of the North Wessex Area.

NORTH WESSEX AREA
Environment Agency
Rivers House
East Quay
Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4Y5
Tel: 01278 457333
Fax: 01278 452985





NORTH WESSEX - KEY FACTS

Population (000's)	1,700
Area	6,069 km ²
Rivers (monitored for quality)	1,604 km
Length of coastline	141 km
EC designated bathing waters	11
Water abstraction licences	Approx. 2,200
Discharge consents	Approx. 4,600
Sewage treatment works	1043
Major industrial processes	56
Premises authorised to dispose of radioactive waste	25
Nuclear sites	4
Registered waste carriers	3,337
Waste management sites	275

Flood Defence and Water Resources Manager

- Richard Symonds



Responsible for:

- Measurement of rainfall, river flows and groundwater levels;
- Maintenance and operation of river and sea flood defences, including water level control;
- Emergency response to flood events;
- Consents for works affecting watercourses;
- Control of development in flood risk areas;
- Determination and enforcement of abstraction licences;
- Water resource planning;
- Local operational management of water resources.

Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Manager

- Roger Merry



Responsible for:

- Biological monitoring;
- Anti-poaching activities;
- Licence enforcement;
- Regulation of fish introduction;
- Monitoring and surveys of fish stocks;
- Fish rescues;
- Habitat improvements;
- Fisheries management advice;
- Promotion of recreation;
- Management of Agency-owned fisheries;
- Furthering conservation in all Agency functions;
- Having regard to conserving archaeological and historic sites;
- Promoting conservation of flora and fauna in inland and coastal waters and associated land.

Environment Planning Manager

- Steve Chandler



Responsible for:

- Consenting discharges to controlled waters;
- Issuing licences and registering exemptions for safe storage, treatment and disposal of wastes;
- Promotion of pollution prevention strategies and advice on waste minimisation;
- Provision of advice on contaminated land;
- Controlling the application of waste to agricultural land;
- Assessment and provision of information for waste management planning;
- Compliance assessment and advice on the packaging regulations;
- Authorisation, monitoring and enforcement of major industrial processes;
- Regulation of radioactive materials and their disposal;
- Monitoring of special waste movements;
- Liaison with local authorities on air quality;
- Centre for South West Region nuclear site regulation.



Area Manager - Tony Owen

Heads the North Wessex team responsible for the whole range of activities under Environment Agency control.

"The North Wessex area clearly demonstrates the wide range of contrasting environmental issues facing the Agency. The area covers the historic county of Somerset, parts of south Gloucestershire and north west Wiltshire, and includes the major cities of Bristol and Bath. Contrasting features include the internationally important conservation areas of the Severn Estuary and the Somerset Levels and Moors, together with centres of major industry such as the Avonmouth industrial complex.

'The role of the Agency is not only to safeguard and maintain the quality of the environment we live in, but through working with others ensure that there is a significant and sustained improvement in the environment for future generations.

'There are so many issues of interest in the area. For example, there are three nuclear power stations on the Severn Estuary, at Hinkley Point, Oldbury and Berkeley. Inland, agriculture and horticulture are crucial to the economy of the area. There are also many unique and important local industries.

'Our success in delivering significant environmental improvements is critically dependent upon working with the people who live and work in North Wessex including local communities, industry, agriculture, local authorities and environmental interests.

'This leaflet is intended to provide a brief idea of the work of the Agency and how we can achieve our objectives by considering environmental pressures across air, land and water. If you would like to know more please get in touch so that we can work together to improve the environment in this beautiful part of the country".

SOUTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

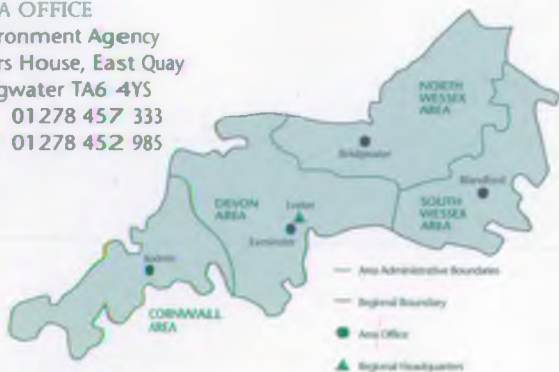
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South West Region
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Exeter EX2 7LQ
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Victoria Square
Bodmin PL31 1EB
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Fax: 01208 78321

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Environment Agency
Rivers House, East Quay
Bridgwater TA6 4YS
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Fax: 01278 452 985

**SOUTH WESSEX
AREA OFFICE**
Environment Agency
Rivers House
Sunrise Business Park
Higher Shaftesbury Road
Blandford DT11 8ST
Tel: 01258 456 080
Fax: 01258 455 998

DEVON AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Exminster House
Miller Way, Exminster
Devon EX6 8AS
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 316 016



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 807060



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