

ABOUT THE NORTH WEST REGION



fact file



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
North West Region*

The area covered by the National Rivers Authority's North West Region is bounded in the north by the Scottish border, in the east by the Pennines, by mid Cheshire in the south and by the Irish Sea to the West.

The major centres of population and industry are in the Merseyside and Greater Manchester conurbations.

These areas, industrialised since the 19th century, have inherited a legacy of pollution.

Further north, the counties of Lancashire and Cumbria include areas of outstanding natural beauty, such as the Lake District National Park and Bowland Fells.

The region has some of the most fertile land in the country in the coastal plains around Formby, Southport and Blackpool and in the Central Cheshire plain.

The land in these areas often lies below high tide level, so that pumped drainage systems and sea defences are necessary.

Key statistics

Area covered by the NRA in the North West: 14,445sqkm

Population: 6.8m

Length of river controlled by NRA: 5,947km

Length of estuary: 193km

Length of coastline: 432km

Flood defences maintained by NRA: 4,450km

Average annual rainfall: 1,068mm

Number of abstraction licences: 3,563

Volume of authorised water abstraction: 14,734MI/d

Number of consented discharges: 9,330

Number of EC bathing waters: 33

Area of flood plain: 940sqkm

Consented sewage treatment works: 653

Length of salmonid classified fishery: 2,813km

*Based on figures available in July 1992

For further information about the NRA's work in the North West region, contact the Public Relations Department on 0925 53999 ext. 2201.



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