

THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

It is our job to protect and improve the water environment in England and Wales. We:

- manage water resources and control abstraction
- maintain and improve water quality and control pollution
- provide flood defences and flood warning systems
- protect and improve fisheries
- protect and promote water based recreation
- safeguard the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of rivers and wetlands.



Downstream of Bristol the river is tidal



Left: City centre swans

The River Avon is highly regarded as a coarse fishery



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We would be pleased if you or your organisation could read the Consultation Report and tell us if there are any issues you feel we have not identified. Even if you are not in a position to read the report we would be interested in any ideas you have for protecting or improving the Lower Bristol Avon.

By telling us how you value the River Avon you will help the NRA and other organisations safeguard the catchment for the future.

Please send your comments by 1 July 1995. When we have considered the views of consultees we will publish an Action Plan.

You can study the Consultation Report in your local library or request a copy from:

Alan Turner
Catchment Planner
NRA South Western Region
North Wessex Area
Rivers House
East Quay
Bridgwater TA6 4YS
Tel: (01278) 457333
Fax: (01278) 452985

Telephone the emergency hotline to report all environmental incidents, such as pollution, poaching and flooding, or any signs of damage or danger to our rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Your prompt action will help the NRA to protect water, wildlife, people and property.

NRA emergency hotline
0800 80 70 60
24 hour free emergency telephone line

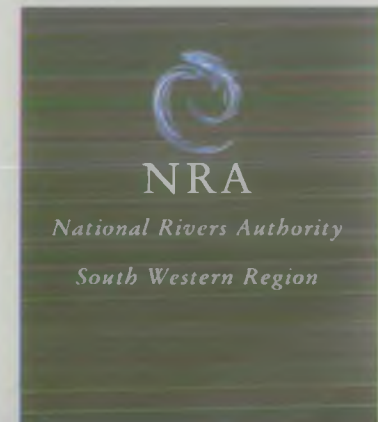


Front cover photo: Pulteney Weir, Bath



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SAFEGUARDING THE LOWER BRISTOL AVON PUBLIC CONSULTATION



THE LOWER BRISTOL AVON CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

We want to involve you in planning a future for the lower reaches of the River Avon.

We have just published our Consultation Report for public comment. The report details our ideas for improving the Lower Bristol Avon. This leaflet explains why we have published this Report; why your views are important and where you can find a copy of the Report.

The Consultation Report describes the area and explains what environmental qualities we are trying to protect or improve. For example it identifies pollution problems; threats to water resources from quarrying in the Mendip Hills and how development puts pressure on the catchment. We also discuss how farming practices affect the water environment.



We sample streams to check for pollution



Deep limestone quarries in the Mendips can affect groundwater

WHY DO WE NEED PLANS FOR OUR RIVERS?



Rivers can offer peaceful open spaces in our cities

People use and appreciate rivers in different ways, for example:

- we might use a river to dispose of our treated waste
- the Water Supply Companies might take water from rivers or from underground for our household supply or
- an angler might enjoy some peaceful fishing on the riverbank.

It is our job to try and balance these, and many other needs and at the same time try to



*Boats in Bathurst Basin
Above: Litter spoils many urban streams*

improve the water environment now and for the future. We use a process known as Catchment Management Planning to help us achieve this. The Consultation Report is the first step in this process.

THE CATCHMENT

The Lower Bristol Avon Catchment includes the River Avon and all its tributaries downstream of Bradford-on-Avon. Most of the catchment lies within the county of Avon with small areas in Wiltshire and Somerset. The area includes the cities of Bath and Bristol whose prosperity has been closely linked with the river. Today water is an important feature in these cities and a valuable natural asset for Planners to protect and restore as they shape the future development of the catchment.

