

NRA-South West 415

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

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*National Rivers Authority
South Western Region*

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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NRA

THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) is a major environmental protection agency with the task of safeguarding and improving the natural water environment.

The South Western Region of the NRA is responsible for the protection of magnificent rivers, coastline and estuaries covering an area of 20,802 square kilometres in Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and parts of Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Wiltshire.



THE CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Following major restructuring in the Region, a 180-strong Contracts Department has been set up to carry out vital river maintenance and flood defence work. It is headed by the Contracts Manager (Bill Grigg) and organised in four areas – Devon, Cornwall, North Wessex and South Wessex – each with its own area works manager.

The South Western Region is one of the first in the NRA to have set up such a department on a Regional basis.

The department's Regional Headquarters is based at the old Bradney Depot, near Bridgwater, and staff have moved into the newly refurbished offices. These adjoin workshops and a yard which accommodates the heavy plant needed for their work.



THE EQUIPMENT

The Contracts Department owns and operates a wide range of vehicles and mobile plant.

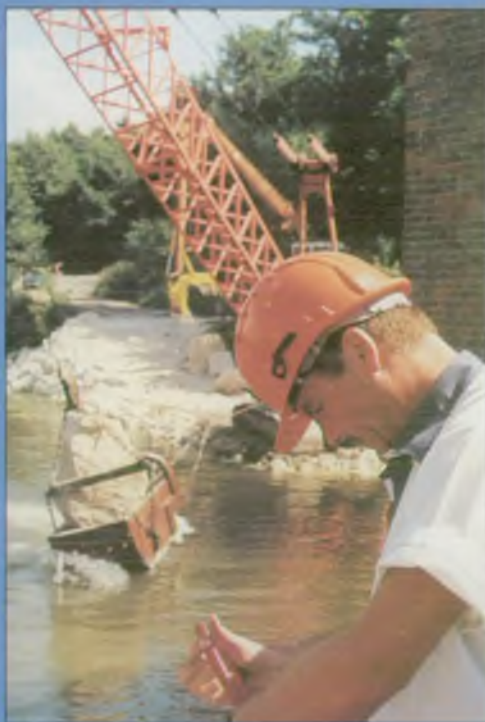
VEHICLES

In addition to the vans and four wheel drive vehicles used for everyday work the department has several large goods vehicles. These vehicles, which include a low-loading plant transporter and lorries equipped with cranes, help to ensure that the department can respond to emergencies at very short notice.

OPERATIONAL PLANT

Routine maintenance is undertaken using a fleet of specialist waterways machines. These have been tailored to meet the region's particular needs and include:

- Ride-on and tractor-mounted flail mowers
- Long-reach hydraulic excavators
- Low ground pressure hydraulic excavators
- Rope operated draglines and cranes
- Wheeled digger-loaders
- Weed control launches
- Tractor mounted winches



EMERGENCY PLANT

The specification of all the operational plant is such that the machines can be used in emergencies with the minimum of adjustment.

The department also has a number of pumps, compressors, dumpers, floodlights etc. These allow it to offer a speedy initial response to most problems irrespective of the location or time of day.

THE WORK

The department was established as a result of the market testing process and is now competing for both maintenance and construction contracts within the NRA for flood defence and other river related work. The 'clients' are not only area flood defence managers, but also fisheries, water resources and conservation staff. Whilst a major part of the river maintenance work will continue to be directly allocated to the department, an increasing proportion will be subject to competitive tender. The work itself includes such things as water level control, weed control, repairs to floodbanks and sluices, conservation enhancement as well as essential flood and pollution emergency work.

The workforce is facing this new challenge with confidence as they have considerable experience with tendering for, and winning, construction projects. They won their first major maintenance contract shortly after being established.

One important area for the department is its emergency response role to deal with floods and pollution incidents. This work is difficult and sometimes hazardous and requires extensive training. The workforce has a detailed knowledge of the river systems and works closely with conservation staff to ensure the wildlife habitats are protected and enhanced.

The workforce operates from a total of 17 depots where it is readily available to respond to general emergencies or undertake long term contract work for the area client.

The Contracts Department is also free to tender for work outside the NRA, such as Local Authorities and Drainage Boards.



BILL GRIGG

*Contracts Manager
(Regional)*



PAUL MACKIAN

*Contracts Support Manager
(Regional)*



BOB CROWE-SWORDS

*Works Manager
(Devon)*



DAVE ISSLEIB

*Works Manager
(Cornwall)*



PETER WINTER

*Works Manager
(South Wessex)*



LESTER DURSTON

*Works Manager
(North Wessex)*

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
SOUTH WEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

LIBRARY

HEADQUARTERS

Bradney Lane

BAWDRIP

Nr Bridgwater

Somerset TA7 8PZ

Tel. 0278 457333

Fax 0278 685485

CORNWALL

Area Contracts Office

Unit 19/26

Pennygillam Industrial Estate

LAUNCESTON

Cornwall PL15 7ED

Tel. 0566 775034

Fax 0566 774217

DEVON

Area Contracts Office

Clyst Honiton Depot

Westcott Road

CLYST HONITON

Exeter, Devon

EX15 2LL

Tel. 0392 362907

Fax 0392 360096

NORTH WESSEX

Area Contracts Office

Bradney Lane

BAWDRIP

Nr Bridgwater

Somerset TA7 8PZ

Tel. 0278 457333

Fax 0278 685453

SOUTH WESSEX

Area Contracts Office

Sunrise Business Park

Higher Shaftesbury Road

BLANDFORD FORUM

Dorset

DT11 8ST

Tel. 0258 456080

Fax 0258 455998

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 emergency telephone line

