



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

**Croal/Irwell
Local Environment Agency Plan
Statement of Consultation**

February 1999



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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Consultation

The Environment Agency undertook consultation with interested bodies and the general public. This document reviews the consultation process and briefly summarises the comments that were received.

The Consultation Draft was published in October 1998, marking the start of a three month consultation period. More than 300 documents were posted to interested parties, along with an invitation to attend a workshop, to be held during the consultation period.

Documents were also sent to libraries and other public premises, to publicise the report.

An Environmental Overview was also produced which is a factual description and analysis of the local environment and its associated pressures. The Environmental Overview is not subject to public consultation but is available on request.

Responses

A total of 35 responses were received which took two forms, either as letters of consultation on the full consultation document, or as returned questionnaires.

The Agency received 25 written responses and the respondents are listed in **Appendix 1**, together with an outline of the comments they made in **Appendix 2**. All responses have been acknowledged and follow up questions answered where appropriate.

Comments were generally supportive of the concept of Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) and the Croal/Irwell LEAP in particular. Useful comments on the issues and options raised were received and these will be considered in the production of the Action Plan. Errors and omissions were also highlighted. Although the Agency welcome these corrections, it should be pointed out that the supporting text in the Consultation Report and the Environmental Overview will not be reproduced.

10 questionnaires were returned from the documents. The five issues people chose as the most important of the 25 we raised are:-

- Issue 4 - The Need for Continued Habitat Improvement and Protection of Existing Wildlife Habitats to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity
- Issue 5 - The Adverse Environmental Impacts of Non-Native Pest Species
- Issue 6 - Lack of Natural River Form and Wildlife Habitats due to Historic Channelisation and Modification of Watercourses
- Issue 23 - Need to Increase the Awareness of Sustainable Waste Management
- Issue 25 - Adverse Impact of Industrial Discharges on Water Quality



General comments made on the questionnaires have been summarised in **Appendix 3**.

The LEAP was commended for its comprehensive range of issues and in particular the commitment to habitat protection and the positive approach to biodiversity issues.

Workshop

A workshop was held during the consultation process in Bolton (9 December 1998). Over 40 people attended the workshop, representing a wide cross section of groups with an interest in the local environment. Presentations were given on the work of the Agency and the issues that have been raised for this LEAP area. Facilitated workshop sessions took place where we opened the floor for those attending to provide comments on the LEAP and the work we are doing. These sessions provided a valuable forum for all parties, and gave us some useful comments to take away. An attendance list for the workshop is given in **Appendix 4**. A summary of the notes made during the workshop sessions were posted to all attendees and these are given in **Appendix 5**.

Future Action

The Action Plan for the Croal/Irwell LEAP will be published in May 1999. All comments made during the consultation period will be taken into consideration during the creation of the Action Plan. This document will include all the actions that are being taken forward to address the issues raised in the consultation report. These options will have dates, costs and responsible parties allocated to them.

APPENDIX 1

Responded to Consultation

Name	Representing
Cheetham Ian L	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Comyn Francis	Rochdale MBC
Edwards Neil	Inland Waterways Association (Head Office)
Findley Chris	City of Salford
Fletcher John C	Inland Waterways Association (North West)
Grantham Vaughan	Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Hanson M Mr	
Hill Selina L	English Nature - North West
Hinchliff Vicky	Lancashire County Council
Hothersall Tony	Red Rose Forest
Johnson A A Mr	
Jones B K Mr	Forestry Commission (NW England Conservancy)
Kinsella Mike	Groundwork Business Environment Assn
Lamb John	Lancashire Wildlife Trust (East Lancs)
McLeod C	
Payne Michael	Regional Committee Member (RFERAC)
Pearce Adrian	Manchester City Council
Quaife Carel	British Canoe Union (Nottingham)
Serjeant Tony	Upper Irwell Partnership
Smith Judith A Mrs	County Bird Recorder
Storey Geoff	Bardon Aggregates
Walker Martyn	Lancashire Wildlife Trust (Greater M'cr)
Warburton Clare	Countryside Commission (North West)
Warlow R J	MAFF, London
Wisniewski Patrick J	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Consultee	Comments	Response
Ian Cheetham Bury Metropolitan Borough		Comments received late but will be noted.
Francis Comyn Rochdale MBC	No detailed comments but much to commend within document. LEAP process and general objectives strongly supported.	Support welcomed.
Neil Edwards The Inland Waterways Assn (Head Office)	Welcome attention paid to canals and their recreational and historical importance within this LEAP area. Comments on issues 5,8,13,14,16,17,18,20 and 22.	Points noted for the production of the action plan.
Chris Findley City of Salford	Supported the issues being arranged within the framework of the Agency's national strategy. Suggested indicating in future documents who is lead agency under the 'responsibilities' for each option. Also to clarify where partners have a statutory responsibility. Comments on all of the issues.	All points on the issues are gratefully received Structure of the document follows a national format, however will consider suggestions put forward.
John C Fletcher The Inland Waterways Assn (North West), Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society and Steam Coal & Canal	Compliments the mapping correctly identifying all canal waters within the area. The issues addressed in the Issues as a whole do not have a similar weighting as is apparent in "Draft Vision". Comments on issues 7,8,9,11,13,14,17,18,19,20 and 24.	Comments appreciated.
Vaughan Grantham Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	Commends the LEAP for its comprehensive range of issues. Highlights concern about use of paper waste as an agricultural fertiliser. Comments on issues 4,5,6,12 and 13.	Noted concern and comments. Consideration will be given to points raised.
Mr M Hanson	Specific comment on issue 5 with regard to sitings of mink.	Passed on additional contacts for wildlife information.
Selina L Hill English Nature – North West	Comments made in July 1998 not included in Consultation Draft. Re-iterated comments on issues 4,5,18 and 21.	Apologised for earlier remarks not being incorporated into document. Will consider all the comments made.

Vicky Hinchliff Lancashire County Council	Welcomes opportunity for inclusion in LEAP process. Comments received from Ecology, Landscape, Development Planning, LA21 and Archaeological Section.	Points gratefully received.
Tony Hothersall Red Rose Forest	Concerned that Red Rose Forest and the Community Forest Plan is not covered in this LEAP. The Forest could have a role in addressing the issues 4,6,13,14,15,16,18,20,21 and 23.	Meeting held with Red Rose Forest to discuss opportunities for partnership and comments on this document.
Mr A A Johnson	On issue 3 raised the inclusion of Runworth Lodge. Highlighted problem with Red Moss SSSI. General comments made.	Comment on issue 3 noted for the action plan. Contact provided on Red Moss SSSI.
B K Jones Forestry Commission	Concern over very little mention of the lack of woodland cover. Include reference to increasing woodland cover see issues 4,6 and 21.	Comments received and noted for the action plan.
Mike Kinsella Groundwork Business Environment Association	Opportunity to include as partners in issues 2,12 and 25. General comments made.	Noted and considered for the action plan
John Lamb Lancashire Wildlife Trust (East Lancs)	Comment on issues 2,5 and 6.	Comments appreciated.
Mr C McLeod	Comments on issues 21,22 and 23. Suggests Section 4 should have contacts.	Noted and considered for the action plan.
Michael Payne Regional Committee Member (RFERAC)	Much in the report to be commended. Comments on most of the issues. Also comments on the environmental overview (separate document). Funding issues not addressed.	All points on the issues are gratefully received. The environmental overview will not be reproduced, but comments are noted.
Adrian Pearce Manchester City Council	Highlighted other links the Council has with the Agency and the affect regeneration initiatives may have on the LEAP.	Noted and considered for the future.
Carel Quaife British Canoe Union (Head Office)	Welcomes opportunity to comment and outlined the broad aim of the BCU. Pleased to see within the document the restriction to canoeing due to poor access on significant parts of both the Croal and Irwell.	Thankful for the information supplied.
Tony Serjeant Upper Irwell Partnership	Specific comments on many of the issues and welcomes the opportunity to work more closely with Agency.	Comments on the issues are noted. Grateful for copy of the Upper Irwell Partnership Draft Strategy.

Mrs Judith A Smith County Bird Recorder	Importance of Irwell as a winter refuge for wildfowl is not fully recognised.	Comments welcome received.
Geoff Storey Bardon Aggregates	Confirmed support of Aggregate Industries UK Ltd in relation to objectives of LEAP.	Support welcomed.
Martyn Walker Lancashire Wildlife Trust (Greater Manchester)	Welcomes the commitment to habitat protection, especially to its positive approach to biodiversity issues and to integrating LEAPs with other organisations' plans. Detailed comments on issues 4,6,8,10,11 and 13.	Grateful for comments which have been noted.
Clare Warburton Countryside Commission (North West)	Concern expressed that Countryside Character initiative not mentioned in document and also no mention of Red Rose Forest Partnership. Detailed comments supplied.	Countryside Character initiative covered in Environmental Overview and copy supplied. Addressed Red Rose Forest concern. More general comments noted.
R J Warlow MAFF, London	Consolidated note supplied on MAFF's current responsibilities.	Advised relevant staff.
Patrick J Wisniewski The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	Reinstatement of woodland cover not fully addressed. Specific comment on issue 5.	Comments to be addressed.

APPENDIX 3

Comments on Questionnaires

- Need to increase total environmental awareness across business sector
- Open up recreational sites with due attention paid to avoidance of disturbance to sensitive wildlife/ecological sites
- Promotion of urban walkways
- Concern about protection of important wildlife areas such as Red Moss
- Support initiatives linking recreation, the environment and industrial heritage
- Reduce the impact of alien species
- Recreate lost habitats eg flood meadows
- Reinstatement of woodland cover
- Support the Agency's intention to reduce mileage and increase use of public transport
- Maintain access to environmental recreation ie footpaths, bridle paths
- Establish Village Greens
- Carry out feasibility study on the re-introduction of the otter to the Croal/Irwell area

Appendix 4

Workshop List

ALLEN	W	MR	
ASHWORTH	JOHN	MR	KEARNS OF WATERFOOT LTD
ASPINALL	PHILIP	MR	
BOOTH	SUSAN		BRITISH WATERWAYS
BYRNE	JOHN	CLLR	
CORDINER	JIM	MR	MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL CO
CROSSLEY	RON	MR	
DUTTON	DAVID	MR	BURY MBC
DUXBURY	ALAN	MR	ROSSENDALE BC
EVANS	R	CLLR	
FAWCETT	JANE		SALFORD CITY COUNCIL
FIRTH	JOANNA		BURRS COUNTRY PARK
FLETCHER	JOHN	MR	MANCHESTER BOLTON & BURY CS
FLETCHER	MARGARET	MRS	MANCHESTER BOLTON & BURY CS
GIBSON	JOHN	MR	BUSINESS ENVIORNMENT ASSN
HALTON	WES	MR	
HEAP	JOHN		
HORTH	CHRIS	MR	BURY MBC
HULME	MIKE	MR	BURRS COUNTRY PARK
IRELAND	H		
JOHNSON	AMANDA	MR	
LAMB	JOHN	MR	LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
LEESE	T	MR	
MARKET AMEY	J		BURY MBC
McKEE	T	MR	BOLTON & DISTRICT AA
MURRAY	S	CLLR	
NEWMAN	CAROL		ENGLISH HERITAGE
NEWSHAM	KEVIN	MR	NEWSHAM & ASSOCIATES
PARK	ROZ		TRAFFORD BC
PAYNE	MICHAEL	MR	IWA (NW) & RFERAC
ROTHWELL		MR	NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
SERJEANT	TONY	MR	UPPER IRWELL PARTNERSHIP
SMITH	JUDITH		BTO COUNTY RECORDER
SMITH	JANET		
STOCKLEY	AMANDA		BURY MBC
STOREY	GEOFF	MR	AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES UK LTD
TAMPLIN	IVOR	MR	KEARNS OF WATERFOOT LTD
WARING	PAT		
WILKINSON	CHRIS	MR	BURY MBC
WILLIAMS	JOHN	MR	
WILSON	TOM	MR	BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BC
WINSTANLEY	MIKE	MR	COUNTRYSIDE WARDEN SERVICE
WYATT	NICK	MR	BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BC

Appendix 5

CROAL/IRWELL WORKSHOP - 9 DECEMBER 1998

RECREATION, HERITAGE, LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY

Industrial heritage appears as low profile

Include archaeological and geological sites.

Survey culverts/weirs.

The only locks in the Area are on canals and not in rivers as mentioned in the document.

Ilex Mill on the River Irwell has grant aid and the Agency should approach English Heritage.

Signage important issue to raise awareness (erect signs on roads over Rivers).

Funding issues discussed and Partnerships.

Issue 3 Belmont Reservoir - impact of downstream users. Right to extract in perpetuity and loss of recreational use.

Irwell Valley Way and Sculpture Trail - need to integrate walkways. Leaflets for Irwell Valley Way to be discussed with the Agency's Regional Recreation Officer (William Crookshank).

Moorlands - drainage and retention ability. Heather cover.

Environment Overview Document - Map 3 has no key for Canals.

Link to other Strategies - avoid duplication of effort. Must work in partnership. Need to be specific regarding achievement desired when looking for partnerships.

Targets - Will be in Action Plan with cost and timescale etc.

Consult County Archaeologist/District Archaeologist (English Heritage).

River Valley Initiatives (RVI's) - The Agency is a major contributor. Useful for delivering issues. An Agency member of staff sits on every steering group.

Regulatory Work - need to confirm that work is already being done as matter of normal core work.

Interest shown in CD Rom/Internet being used for LEAPs.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ECOLOGY AND FISHERIES

Title of LEAP document - people do not see this as their area ie Croal/Irwell they associate with Bolton, Bury etc. The Agency should try to accommodate towns within title.

Wildfowl - reported that more at Broughton above Salford Quays than River Lune.

Importance of weirs for aeration.

Air Quality - not covered in any depth in document. Specific sites mentioned 'MEL' plant and Chloride Industrial Batteries at Swinton where problems with plumes from the stacks.

Increase in sulphur dioxide levels in Bury Town Centre.

Agricultural run-off.

Compensation water - Rumworth Lodge.

Awareness in business.

Enforcement.

Responsibilities - who should public contact.

Improve publicity for local tips.

Civic amenity sites.

Agricultural land - erosion of banks and flooding: Summerseat and Burrs.

Biodiversity Action Plan - Lancashire County Council.

Balance - tree planting / flood defence aspects.

Reebok Development - impact on Brook.

Red Moss Tip - pollution Red Moss SSSI.

Carbon dioxide reduction for Part A sites.

Priority for installation of interceptors on main roads.

Need for easily understood performance targets.

Boundaries - catchments or Local Authority boundaries.

Importance of education and awareness.

NORTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

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Fax: 01925 852 260



— Area Administrative Boundaries

— Regional Boundary

● Area Office

▲ Regional Headquarters

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
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