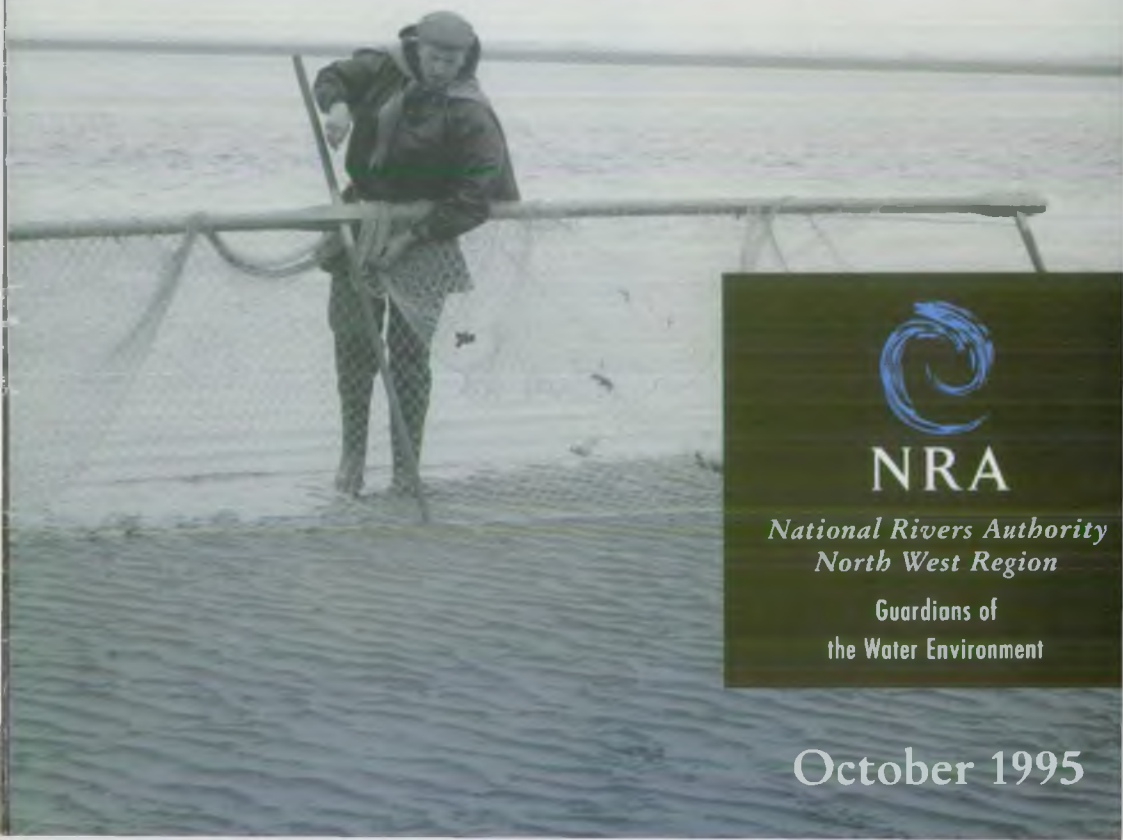


GA-NORTH WEST LEAP BOX II

River Eden  
and Solway Coast  
Catchment  
Management  
Consultation  
Report  
Summary

FOR REFERENCE ONLY  
~~PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE~~



**NRA**

*National Rivers Authority  
North West Region*

Guardians of  
the Water Environment

October 1995



## INTRODUCTION

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) is involved in the management of all aspects of the water environment in rivers and underground waters, and also has wide responsibilities in estuaries and coastal waters.

**In particular the NRA has responsibilities in the following areas:**

- improving water quality and controlling pollution
- land drainage, flood defence and flood warning
- conservation of water resources and controlling abstraction
- maintaining and improving fisheries
- protecting nature conservation in water related habitats
- promotion of water based and water side recreation

The natural geographical unit within which these responsibilities are discharged is the river catchment.

The NRA recognises that it can best carry out its work by adopting the concept of integrated catchment management. This means that a river catchment is considered as a whole and that the various NRA activities are carried out within an overall integrated plan.

To achieve this, the NRA has decided to present its catchment management proposals to the public via Catchment Management Plans. The Plans are intended to provide a link between the NRA and the 'users' of the water environment in the catchment, so that the Authority can better reflect their interests whilst carrying out its duties. For this reason, each Plan includes a consultation phase during which the local community and interested organisations are invited to comment on the NRA's proposals for the future management of the catchment.

## YOUR VIEWS

The Eden Catchment Management Consultation Report attempts to highlight the most significant issues on the catchment and suggests options for their resolution. These are listed in the final section of this summary.

### We would like to hear your views

- Have we identified the major issues?
- Have we identified all the options for resolving the issues?
- Have you any other comments on the issues?

Comments on the Eden and Estuary Catchment Management Consultation Report should be received by 31st January 1996.

If you would like to comment or obtain a copy of the full consultation report, please write to:

**Mike Harrison**  
Area Catchment Management Planning Officer  
National Rivers Authority  
Chertsey Hill  
London Road  
Carlisle CA1 2QX

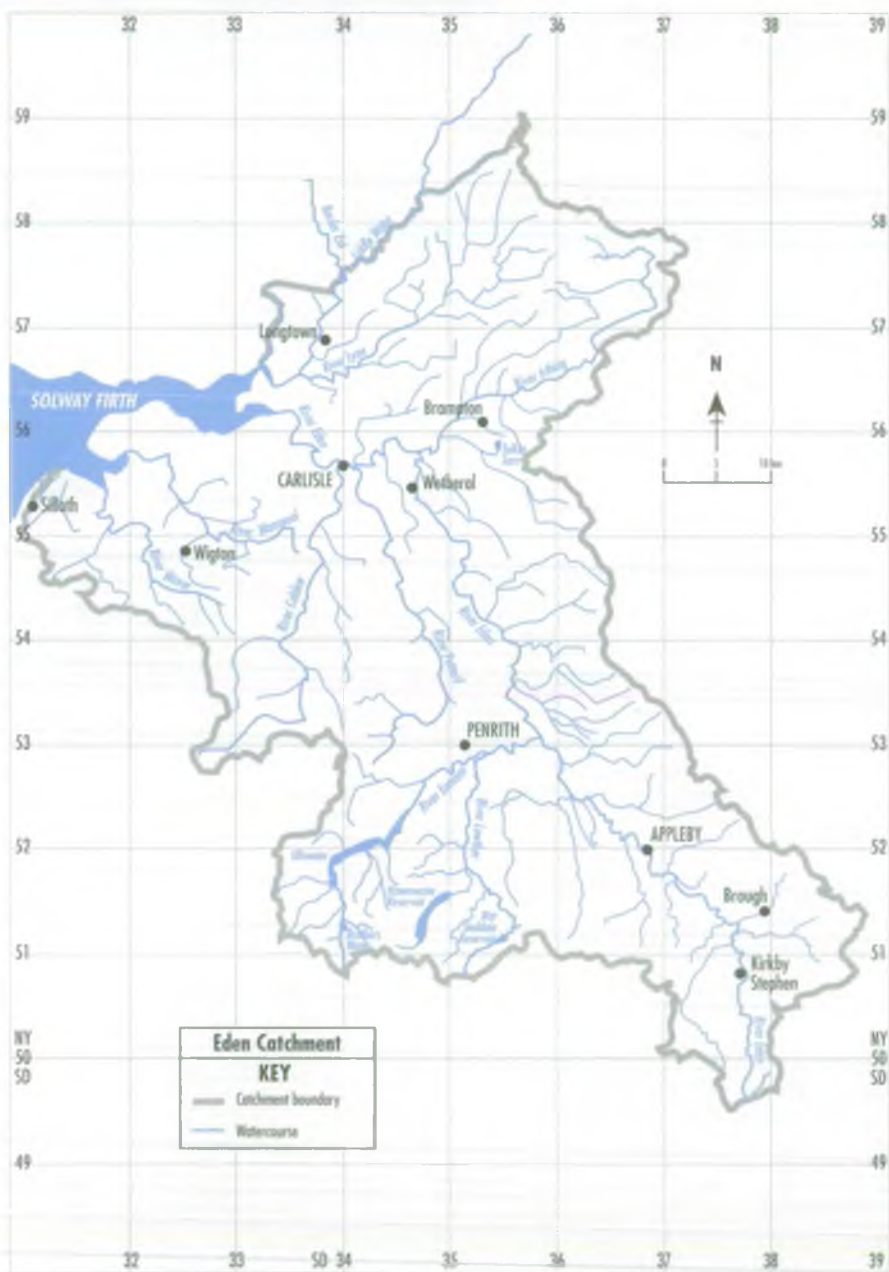
## THE EDEN AND SOLWAY COAST CATCHMENT

The catchment covers an area of approximately 2700 kms<sup>2</sup> and has a population of around 167,000 people with significant urbanisation being limited to the City of Carlisle.

The River Eden rises high on limestone fells above Mallerstang Common 708 metres above sea level. It then flows north in a wide and fertile valley sandwiched between the Lake District Fells and the North Pennines before joining the Irish Sea at the Solway Firth some 100 km from its source. Along the way the Eden is joined by a number of tributaries including the Rivers Eamont, Lowther, Irthing, Petteril and Caldew.

The catchment also includes the Rivers Lyne, Waver, Wampool and the River Esk where it is in England.

# RIVER EDEN CATCHMENT AREA MAP





## LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture is the most significant land use in this predominantly rural catchment. The upland areas support sheep farming and some beef cattle. Dairy farming becomes increasingly prevalent lower down the valleys, and is very intensive in the lowland areas of the Eden Valley and Solway Plain.

The most significant tract of forest in the catchment is Spadeadam Forest in the upper reaches of the River Irthing. Elsewhere there are isolated conifer plantations.

The majority of the catchment lies within the boundaries of the Cumbrian District Councils of Eden and Carlisle with significant sections of Allerdale and the Lake District National Park. There are also very small areas of the Northumbrian District of Tynedale, Northumbria National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park. These Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) produce land use development plans and handle planning applications. The NRA is taking a more pro-active role in the land use planning system and working closely with planners to provide advice on matters concerning the water environment and its protection.



*Commercial Forestry - Eden Valley*

## WATER QUALITY

The NRA aims to maintain and, where possible, improve the quality of waters for all who use them.

Within the catchment 78% of the classified river stretches are of good quality with 94% being of good or fair quality. The catchment supports significant abstractions for public water supply and a healthy salmon and trout fishery. Overall the picture reflects a healthy water environment.

Where problems do occur they are localised and often intermittent. Examples include polluting discharges from sewage systems or farm premises. The NRA will use its powers to prevent pollution, and stop pollution where it is already occurring.

Some of the problems currently being addressed by the NRA are highlighted as issues in the final section of this summary.

## FISHERIES

The NRA aims to maintain, improve and develop fisheries in the catchment .

In all its other functions the NRA's work ceases at the Scottish Border. However the NRA has fisheries responsibilities for the River Esk system in Scotland as well as on the English side.



*Fly-fishing, Great Salkeld*

The catchment supports first class salmon and sea trout fisheries in both the Eden and the Border Esk, with the latter being renowned for the quality of its sea trout fishing. The Liddle and Lyne also support significant fisheries for salmon and sea trout. Brown trout are found throughout both systems, with the Eden and its tributaries having some of the finest brown trout fishing in the country.

Dace, chub and grayling are found throughout the catchment. A decline in stocks has occurred over recent years, and the NRA is carrying out extensive investigations with the aim of improving stocks overall. Several tarns, small lakes and ponds in the catchment have good coarse fisheries. There are also 5 commercial put and take trout fisheries in the catchment.

There is a traditional haaf net fishery in the estuaries of both the Eden and the Border Esk. The NRA issues 165 licences for haaf netting every year with the number being the subject of review in 1996.



*Haaf net fisherman, Solway Firth*

Three fish passes constructed on the River Caldw in 1987 re-opened this river to migratory fish. The greater part of this river was previously inaccessible owing to a number of weirs that were constructed for water abstraction purposes. Fish movement into the Caldw has been monitored and the results are very encouraging with over 1500 salmon and sea trout entering the river during 1994.

The Rivers Waver and Wampool are not significant fisheries, although coarse fish and trout are present in good numbers in certain stretches and both rivers have a small run of sea trout.

## WATER RESOURCES

The NRA aims to conserve and ensure the proper use of natural water resources. The NRA controls the use of water within the catchment by licensing abstractions from and discharges to the river system.

There are 99 licensed abstractions from surface sources within the catchment. North West Water is by far the largest abstractor, with 90% of this water being used for public water supply.

The biggest abstraction is from Haweswater reservoir and surrounding rivers. The water is almost totally exported from the catchment to supply the Manchester area. Water for Carlisle's drinking water needs is taken largely from the River Eden, and also from the River Gelt.

There are 191 licensed abstractions from groundwater sources within the catchment. North West Water is the largest abstractor, with 73% of this water being used for public water supply. This is used for local supply purposes within the Eden Valley.

Surface sources rather than groundwater have the greatest demands placed upon them, and supply by far the largest volumes of abstracted water.



## FLOOD DEFENCE

The NRA aims to protect people and property from flooding. To help achieve this parts of the river systems are designated as “Main River”.

Although the responsibility for watercourse maintenance rests with the riparian (river bank) owner, the NRA has discretionary operational powers to carry out maintenance and improvement works on “Main River” in relation to flood defence and land drainage. Similar discretionary powers on “ordinary watercourses” are vested in Local Authorities with the NRA having limited supervisory and default powers.

Major floods occurred in March 1968 when the River Eden system suffered an event of 1 in 70 years severity. Appleby, Langwathby, Warwick Bridge and Carlisle suffered extensively. The Carlisle flood bank system was constructed in response to this event. In January 1995 floods of a 1 in 35 year severity caused flooding in the Eden Valley but the Carlisle flood banks prevented significant flooding of properties in the city.

Work has recently been completed on the construction of new flood defences at Appleby which will give a 1 in 100 year standard of flood protection.

The scheme was the subject of extensive consultation with local residents who were concerned to maintain the character of the town.

As a result of the consultation process the original proposals were extensively modified and the scheme now only protects Chapel Street and the town centre. The original scheme would also have protected the Sands area.



*New flood defences, Appleby*

The flood plain of the River Eden through Carlisle is up to 1500m wide. This undeveloped land acts as a storage area for floodwaters and it is vital to preserve this flood plain to prevent increasing flood risk to the city. There is continual pressure from developers to allow building within the flood plain. The NRA will work with Local Planning Authorities in resisting such development unless it can be demonstrated that flood risk is not increased.

## CONSERVATION

The NRA aims to conserve and enhance the conservation interest of the water environment.

The catchment is very important in conservation terms. This is reflected by the large number of international, national and local designations aimed at protecting landscapes, ecological, archaeological and architectural features.



*Camfield Marsh nature reserve*

The River Eden is currently being closely assessed by English Nature and will be designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the near future. Short lengths of the Rivers Gelt and Lyne are also SSSI for their adjacent woodland. There are significant wetlands in the catchment including the series of raised bogs found along the Solway Plain. Collectively these form the largest area of lowland raised bog in Britain.

The entire coastal plain lies within an area of international importance for its wetlands and bird populations, particularly over wintering wildfowl and waders.

The Eden is of national importance for otter conservation with the best population being in the north of the catchment.

The Eden is also home to native Atlantic stream crayfish, which is a protected species. There are also 2 rare fish in the catchment: the arctic char which is found in Haweswater, and the schelly which is found in Ullswater, Haweswater, Red Tarn and Brotherswater.

The most degraded river habitats are on the Rivers Waver and Wampool. These rivers have been subject to regular flood defence maintenance and improvement leading to uniform channel with little conservation interest.

Over half the catchment is designated for landscape value. This includes a significant portion of the Lake District National Park and the North Pennines and Solway Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Important areas outside National Parks and AONBs are recognised by ~~Local Authorities and designated as County Landscapes or Areas of Local Landscape Significance~~. This includes the corridors of the Rivers Eden, Petteril and Caldew in Carlisle illustrating the importance of these river landscapes even within an urban setting.

Hadrian's Wall, running along the Irthing Valley is a World Heritage Site, and the catchment contains many other important archaeological remains including a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## RECREATION AND AMENITY

The water environment of the catchment is an extremely important recreational resource for both locals and the sizeable number of people who visit the area. The NRA does not own any recreational assets in the catchment but will take recreational needs into account when undertaking its core functions. Ullswater and Talkin Tarn are the principal sites for water based recreation including provision for canoeing, windsurfing, sailing and boating. Rowing takes place on Talkin Tarn, and sub-aqua activity occurs on Ullswater and Haweswater.

There are canoe access agreements on some stretches of river and these have generally been brought into being by agreement between the British Canoe Union and the landowners in question.

Because there are no navigation rights on the catchment's rivers, such access agreements will remain a private matter between landowners and canoeists. The NRA recognises that its main role in this area is likely to be in bringing together landowning, canoeing and fishing interests where all parties are keen to further the multiple use of waters and minimise conflict.

The quality of the landscape in the catchment attracts a significant number of walkers and casual visitors. Many people are attracted to the water features in the landscape which provide a focus for recreational activities as well as corridors for rights of way and other access arrangements.

## ISSUES AND OPTIONS

The following tables indicate the issues which the NRA has identified within the catchment and put forward various options aimed at resolving them.

### We would like to hear your views:-

- Have we identified the major issues?
- Have we identified all the options for resolving the issues?
- Have you other comments on the issues and options suggested?

### SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Issue	Water -Abstraction on the River Lowther and River Gelt			
	Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Do nothing		NWW/NRA	No cost	No improvement to derogated river lengths.
Consider channel improvements and better intake arrangements at the abstraction points.		NWW	Relief of derogated lengths of channel	Costs Are the water resources suitable to utilise these improvements.
Improve management of the resources i.e. seasonal controls and releases.		NWW/NRA	Targets ecological improvements to the catchment.	Loss of resource to NWW. More costly to operate.
Consider new Abstraction Licence conditions		NWW/NRA	Complete new base for considering the Abstraction Licence conditions.	Legal costs associated with re-negotiation

NWW - North West Water

Issue	Gravel extraction on the River Eden and Esk Catchments		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><u>Gravel Removal promoted by NRA Functions</u></p> <p>Removal by NRA after consultation with landowners, conservation, angling, and other river users</p>	NRA	Controlled, fully consented works carried out at agreed times and to the correct specification at minimum risk.	Costly, detailed consultation programme. Limited windows of opportunity to carry out works.
Do Nothing	NRA	No cost	Increased Flood Risk. Reduced Fisheries Habitats. Ineffective River gauging stations.
<p><u>Gravel Removal promoted and carried out by other parties</u></p> <p>Removal of gravel by other parties with full consultation including Land Drainage Consent approval.</p>	Third parties/ NRA	Detailed planned operation with safeguards for the Water Environment.	<p>Ensuring compliance with all regulations and consultation with the necessary bodies.</p> <p>Enforcement by the NRA.</p> <p>Costly to the promoter.</p>



Issue	River Eden at Appleby, Old Gas Works and flood risk to "The Sands" area.		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
<u>Old gas works issue</u>  Do nothing	British Gas	No Cost	Risk of pollution of the River Eden from the old gasworks site.
Demolish gas works and decontaminate the site.	British Gas	Removes redundant structures and reduces pollution risk. Site can be developed.	Cost to British Gas
Retain site for Industrial Archaeological purposes but decontaminate the site surrounding the structure.	British Gas/ Industrial Archaeological Trust	Heritage value of site retained. Risk of pollution minimised in decontaminated areas.	Cost to British Gas. Site value for redevelopment lost by British Gas. Some contamination may remain in situ.
<u>Remaining flood risk to Sands Area</u>  Do nothing		No Cost	Remaining Flood risk to vulnerable area.
Implement better Flood Warning system and individual property flood protection measures.	NRA/private property owners	Reduced risk of flood damage	Cost to NRA and individual property owners. Uncertain standards of protection achieved.
Full flood Alleviation Scheme to 1 in 100 year protection level.	NRA	Consistent Flood Defence standards in the town of Appleby. Reduced damages.	Cost. Public opposition to the concept of a scheme.

Issue	Rivers Waver and Wampool Management Plan		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Produce and implement 10 year plan for management of the rivers and corridors.	NRA	Integrated strategy for the benefit of flood defence fisheries and conservation interests.	Costs of consultation and doing the work.

Issue	River Caldeu/Little Caldeu Management Plan		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Do nothing		No cost	Flood defence, water resources, conservation matters not considered.  Costs
Draw up management plan and implement an action plan.	NRA	All water environment features considered with a satisfactory plan as an objective. Flood defence revenue savings. Ensured water resources for abstraction licences. Fisheries and conservation interests promoted.	Opposition from land owners.

Issue	Flood Alleviation Issues Highlighted by January 1995 floods		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Do nothing	NRA		Continuing flood risk
Investigate the issues and consider options for providing a recommended solution within 2 years.	NRA	Existing flood defence will be brought up to acceptable levels of protection if they prove to be economically and environmentally acceptable.	Opposition from some 'Stakeholders'.

Issue	Thacka Beck Culvert in Penrith		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Use NRA assessment report to move forward with improvements.	NRA	A viable engineering report is available for hydraulic and structural design purposes.	
Encourage riparian owners to repair/replace dilapidated lengths of culvert.	CCC/EDC Riparian owners	Acceptance of responsibility by various owners.	Organising a co-ordinated response with financial backing
NRA take over responsibility for all the culvert structures	NRA	Fully consented and structurally sound culvert.	Costs, Capital and revenue.
Do nothing			Risk of collapses in culvert leading to flooding in Penrith Town Centre.

CCC - Cumbria County Council  
EDC - Eden District Council

Issue	Main River Policy in Urban Areas		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Do nothing	District Councils		Flood risk in the identified urban areas remains
Identify watercourses that are currently 'non-main' rivers in urban areas and 'main'. those that justify action.	NRA	Reduced risks of flooding to identified urban areas. Greater customer awareness of flood defence works.	Costs, Revenue and Capital.

Issue	Failure to meet EC Freshwater Fisheries Directive Standards in the River Petteril at Flusco		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Tanker leachate away more frequently	CCC (WDA)	Short-term reduction of leachate level thereby reducing hydraulic head and driving force of migration.	Intermittent management, Costly, ineffective.
Connect to foul sewer	CCC (WDA)	Constant leachate level management and reduction in leachate head. May be cheaper than tankering in the long term	Question of wayleaves to build the sewer. High cost of construction.
Dose Millrigg Beck with hydrogen peroxide	WDA/NRA	Effective - worked in the past, cleared fungal growths, low maintenance	Question of wayleave. Not tackling source of problem
Seal various areas to stop leachate escaping and redirect to sump	WDA	Prevents overland flow to lower quarry. Reduces hydraulic loading on areas which are segregated from main leachate collection areas.	Transfers problem from one area to another.
Await results of recently commissioned hydrological/hydrogeological assessment for lower Flusco.	Cumbria Waste Management	Better understanding of groundwater system and different options	Allowing discharge to continue (seasonal variance)

CCC (WDA) - Cumbria County Council (Waste Disposal Authority)

Issue	Pollution of Ditch by Sewage at Sandford near Appleby		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
1) Continue to press NWW to provide treatment.	NRA/NWW	Achieve Water Quality improvement. Remove nuisance (NRA and Env. Health).	
2) Pump sewage to Warcop S.T.W.	NWW	1) Achieve water quality improvement. 2) Remove one discharge entirely.	High cost could be prohibitive.
3) Do nothing	NRA/NWW	Money available for other schemes	Existing problem remains.  Remains the only known NWW sewerage systems, discharging to inland waters with no treatment.

NWW - North West Water



Issue	Impact of Discharges from combined sewerage systems			
	Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Ensure agreed investment plans at Carlisle STW, Catholic Lonning, Strand Road and Warwick road are implemented.	NRA/ NWW	Reduced aesthetic problems in rivers		
Continually review the list of unsatisfactory CSO's and promote further problems into the NWW investment programme should additional money become available.	NRA	Solution ready if further funding becomes available		
Apply development control restrictions in critical areas.	NRA/Local Planning Authority	Prevent deterioration's		

Issue	Pollution from farm effluent			
	Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Liaise with farmers ADAS/MAFF, NFU and others	NRA Farmers MAFF/ADAS NFU Others	Maintain high profile and focuses effort on critical areas.	Message becomes too familiar and risks being ignored.	
Continue current pollution control initiatives.	NRA ADAS Farmers  Others	Maintain and improve water quality. Increase awareness of farming community.	Message becomes too familiar and risks being ignored.	
Implement control of pollution regulations and take enforcement action where necessary.	NRA  Farmers	Maintain and improve water quality increase in security of farm infrastructure.	Prosecutions may alienate farmers from NRA.	

MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food  
 ADAS - Agricultural Development and Advisory Service  
 NFU - National Farmers Union

Issue	Lack of rural sewerage leading to localised pollution		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Pursue all opportunities to promote adoption of first time rural sewerage by NWW, Local Authorities or other bodies.	NRA NWW Local Authorities Others	Reductions in pollution	Unlikely to be significant progress in the short term.
Establish a system for minimising the impact of small sewage treatment systems	NRA	Reductions in pollution	
Influence local development through liaison with Local Planning Authorities (LPA's)	NRA LPA's	Prevent deterioration	Long standing problems will remain.

Issue	Impact in UCB Films effluent discharge on the River Waver Estuary		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Implement a staged strategy:- 1) Seek further improvements to effluent quality to ensure consent compliance at discharge estuary.	NRA/ HMIP	Achieve immediate water quality improvements.	Changes in effluent quality may still take place within the sewer.
2) Revoke NRA Consent and control the discharge via HMIP authorisation at the factory.	NRA/ HMIP	UCB Films not responsible for discharge to estuary. Negotiation can then be with NWW. Responsibility is rationalised.	Problems in estuary remain until NWW can be convinced to take responsibility.
3) Take legal action against UCB Films and/or NWW	NRA	Bring the situation to a head.	May not succeed and the problem remains in the interim.
4) Establish long term objectives for waver and implement revised strategies	NRA UCB Films NWW	Achieve long term needs of the estuary.	

HMIP - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution

Issue	Fisheries Management Plan		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Produce a fisheries management plan to create a structured overall approach to fisheries management in the area. Relate plan to both local issues and National R & D investigations. Consult and publicise widely	NRA	Establish a comprehensive and cohesive strategy for fisheries management in the area involving the Eden and District Fisheries Association and other interested parties.	

Issue	River Eden Coarse Fish Investigation		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Complete investigations into coarse fish stocks of lower River Eden including stocking of tagged Dace, report findings and propose action to conserve stocks.	NRA	Provides information on coarse fish stocks with aim of improving and developing stocks.	
Assess and report on operation of coarse fish pass on River Petteril in Melbourne Park	NRA	Improves access for all fish in Petteril system. Provides information on fish stocks in River Petteril	

Issue	Rod and Line Catch Returns		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Complete National R & D project into use of catch statistics to determine fish stock size.	NRA	Evaluates catch statistics in relation to management of fish stocks and determines how they can be used to estimate stock size.	
Continue operation of anglers log book scheme	NRA/ Anglers and Associations	Provides management information on catch related to fishing effort, methods and flows.	

Issue	Fish Stocking Activity		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Review and report on current stocking practice	NRA	Provide management information on most appropriate life history stage of fish to be utilised for restocking.	
Complete National R & D Project to examine effectiveness of salmonid stocking strategy.	NRA	Aims to identify most effective strategies for stocking migratory salmonids in order to maximise returns of adult fish to fisheries.	

Issue	Fisheries Survey Data		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Undertake strategic survey of juvenile fish stocks.	NRA	Provides detailed data on status of juvenile stocks. Provides a picture of areas that are performing well and those that are not.	
Follow up investigations on areas of concern (Low fish populations) identified in strategic surveys of juvenile fish.	NRA	Provides information that assists in identification of potential causes for poor fish stocks.	

Issue	Lack of Information on Fish Habitat Quality		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Undertake survey of fish habitat in the area and report.	NRA Riparian Owner	Information will enable improvement work to be targeted effectively.	
Carry out pilot improvement projects.	NRA Riparian Owners	Specific improvements are able to be evaluated and costed.	

Issue	Net Limitation Order on Solway		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Review Solway Net Limitation Order	NRA	New appropriate order in place when current order expires	
Do nothing			Unregulated fishing. No limitation order in place on expiry of current order

Issue	Timing of Salmon and Sea Trout Fishing Seasons		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Consider salmon season as part of next NRA fisheries byelaw review.	NRA/ MAFF	Review of situation in relation to salmon spawning and protection measures deemed necessary. Enables views of anglers and interested parties to be taken into consideration.	

#### MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

Issue	Illegal exploitation of Salmonids in Inland and Coastal Waters		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Maximise effectiveness of anti-poaching enforcement through best deployment of staff, use of part time assistance and liaison with private fisheries interests and the Police. Ensure prosecutions are taken as necessary.	NRA/Owners,  Anglers, Police,  Scottish District Fishery Boards  Procurator Fiscal	Efficient and effective protection of fish stocks.  Deterrent effect.	
Monitor effectiveness of new Sea Fisheries Byelaws in protecting migratory fish, and liaise with Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee in relation to enforcement.	NRA Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee Scottish Agencies	Protection of fish stocks in coastal waters	



Issue	River Eden Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Negotiate a dual consenting procedures for the SSSI	NRA English Nature	Streamline consultation and workload on operations and authorisations affecting the SSSI	
Ongoing liaison with English Nature	NRA	Dove tailing of policies to the benefit of the river.	

Issue	Protection of Native Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
NRA supports MAFF proposal for no go area for introduction of signal crayfish.	MAFF	Crayfish plague not introduced to Northern Britain and our protected native species is safeguarded.	
Opportunity for project to establish distribution of native Cray fish in catchment.	NRA English Nature	Obtain detailed information in population distribution and status to allow rational management decisions.	
Produce Management action plans with the objective of safeguarding important natural populations of crayfish	English Nature NRA	Activities in the catchment will be able to be continued without damaging the resource.	

MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

Issue	Fish Eating Birds		
	Options	Responsibilities	Advantages Disadvantages
NRA supports granting of licences to cull fish eating birds on fishery protection grounds.	MAFF/ NRA	Protection of fish numbers	Duty to conserve protected species may be compromised.
NRA rejects granting of licences to cull fish eating birds on bird conservation grounds.	MAFF/ NRA	Protection of protected species of bird.	NRA fisheries duties may be compromised.
Present stance of not supporting bird shooting until serious damage to fish stocks is proven after establishing the full facts of the situation.	MAFF/ NRA	Working compromise to protect both fish stocks and protected bird species in the light of adequate management information	
Support research initiatives which will improve knowledge of the impact of fish eating birds on fish populations	MAFF English Nature NRA	High quality objective decisions about the justification for controlling bird numbers will be possible.	

**MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food**

Issue	Status of the otter ( <i>Lutra Lutra</i> ) in the catchment		
	Options	Responsibilities	Advantages Disadvantages
Monitor for otter signs during other routine activities.	NRA	Continuation of monitoring began by otters and rivers project.	
Undertake collaborative project to enhance otter habitat on Rivers Waver and Wampool	NRA  Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Evidence of recent active colonisation into rivers with denuded otter habitat. Securing population here will provide bridgehead into West Cumbria	Capital Cost

Issue	Promotion of access to water for recreation		
Options	Responsibilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Make a determined attempt to increase access to water for recreational purposes.</p>	<p>NRA Local Authorities Site Owners Sports Council Water Sports user groups.</p>	<p>More water and waterside areas used for recreation. Increased awareness of aquatic issues.</p>	<p>Areas of quiet refuge decrease. More conflict between sports. More conflict between conservation and sports. Legal access problems will be highlighted.</p>
<p>Take opportunities to bring interested parties together to further recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>NRA Local Authorities Sports Council</p>	<p>Solutions to problem may be facilitated. More shared use of resources.</p>	



**NRA**

*National Rivers Authority  
North West Region*