



# Making sure...

...rivers are clean and safe  
for people and wildlife



The Lune area is popular with visitors. In the east are the fells with picturesque villages of Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale and Ingleton. Whilst the coast has the holiday resort of Morecambe. The area

has superb rivers of good quality clean water. The River Lune rises in the Cumbrian fells and flows out into the Irish Sea just down river of Lancaster.

The Lune area was once one of the most important fisheries in England for salmon and trout. However, over the last ten years the populations of these fish have fallen.

This is due to a number of reasons including lack of suitable places in the river for fish to spawn (lay their eggs) and due to fluctuations in river flows.

As fishing is an important recreational and commercial activity in the Lune area we are concentrating our efforts on improving the size and health of fish





trees and fenced 10km of riverbank.

This protects the riverbank from being washed away and spoiling spawning grounds whilst the trees encourage a variety of wildlife to flourish.

These improvements to rivers and riverbanks have also led to otters returning to the Lune area, as the result of our recent survey proved.

We also like to feel that people benefit from our work. Public footpaths allow people to explore the beauty of the Lune area and we are keen to encourage people to try fishing as a relaxing hobby or sport. To give everyone the opportunity to fish for salmon we now offer affordable day tickets at our own fisheries at Skerton, Lower Holton and Upper Holton. To preserve fish populations salmon and trout caught at our fisheries are returned to the river, indeed we recently introduced a bylaw that limits fishermen to taking four salmon a season. Whilst our work has brought benefits for people and wildlife there is still much more we would like to achieve.

### Key successes

- 10km of fencing and over 4,000 trees planted with the Lune Habitat Group at nine sites along the River Lune at Tebay, River Wenning and River Rawthey.
- Major work with the Lune Habitat Group to protect the River Lune from erosion at Bowderdale.
- Creation of a safe haven pond for fish at Newbiggin-on-Lune.
- Net limitation order and new bylaws to protect fish stocks on the Lune.
- Supported Middleton Hatchery Group who collected over 65,000 fish eggs and later released fry into the Lune.

### Key future actions

- Fit Elver Pass at Skerton Weir for young eels.
- Improve fish access to the River Conder and River Keer.
- Enforce Bylaws.
- Continue riverbank improvement projects.

populations. To do this we are working with landowners, farmers and voluntary groups such as the Lune Habitat Group and Angling Clubs.

This approach has led to real environmental improvements in the Lune area. For example, along the River Rawthey we have planted over 3,500



# Improving bathing water quality

Until recently crude sewage from Morecambe was discharged into Morecambe Bay, so unsurprisingly the bathing water beaches at Morecambe North, Morecambe South and Heysham Half Moon Bay failed to meet European Standards.

In recent years there have been major improvements to the sewerage network in the Morecambe area.

## Key successes

- Morecambe North Beach has complied with European standards for the last four years.
- A new Wastewater Treatment Works is in operation at Middleton to treat sewage from Morecambe area.
- Morecambe Bay Bacteriological Study published.
- North West Bathing Water Forum Partnership set up in September 1999 to share information and knowledge in the quest to guarantee compliance with the European standards.
- 11 Storm overflows improved and a programme in place to deal with the remaining 21.
- Secondary biological treatment has been added to Lancaster Wastewater Treatment Works.

## Key future actions

- Continue to investigate reasons for poor bacteriological water quality.
- Monitor improvements to Wastewater Treatment Works at Galgate, Glasson, Heysham, Morecambe, Lancaster and Carnforth over the next five years.

# Environmental problems



Lune  
Local Environment  
Agency Plan 2



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Map produced by EA  
Strategic Planning De

January 2001

## Summary of Environmental Problems and Improvements

- 1 Improvements to ponds
- 2 Improvements to riverbanks
- 3 Riverbank protection
- 4 Pollution from homes
- ▲ 5 Flood warning zone
- 6 River suffering low flows below this point
- 7 Water quality problems due to wrong connections to the sewers
- 8 Water quality problems due to septic tanks
- 9 Water quality problems due to farming activities
- 10 Water quality problems due to industry
- 11 Improved Wastewater Treatment Works
- 12 Wastewater Treatment Works with improvements planned
- 13 Beaches passing EU Standards
- 14 Beaches failing EU Standards

## Water Quality Overview – GQA Chemistry (1997/99)

### KEY

- Lune Leap Boundary
- Lancaster Canal
- Built up areas

### Rivers

- A } Good
- B } Good
- C } Fair
- D } Fair
- E Poor
- F Bad
- Unclassified



# Reducing the risks...

## ...from floods and droughts

**Floods and droughts are natural forces so we cannot stop them, but we can lower the risks.**

There are many places in the Lune area that can suffer from floods. We work closely with local authorities to maintain or improve flood defences, where practicable. We also operate a four-code flood warning system for public benefits.

The system is:



This is a general early alert to all properties at risk of flooding.



Designated flood warning areas receive a direct warning by an automated telephone system.



Should the situation deteriorate a severe flood warning is issued.



An 'All Clear' is issued when the threat of flooding has passed.

This new system involves the emergency services and local councils to make sure we all work effectively together to provide an excellent service.

There are parts of the Lune area that suffer from too little water at certain times of the year. In particular the River Conder can suffer low water levels. This is partly due to British Waterways taking water out of the river for use in the Glasson Branch of the Lancaster Canal. This situation is being considered as part of British Waterways plans to build the Ribble Link at Savick Brook.

### Key successes

- Introduction of new four-code flood warning system.
- Introduction of three designated flood warning areas at, Hornby warning 39 properties, Skerton Pool, Lancaster warning 111 properties and Lancaster, warning 850 properties.

- New flood warning station built at St George's Quay, Lancaster.
- Developed links with British Waterways to plan water allocation for the Lancaster Canal on Ribble Link.

### Key future actions

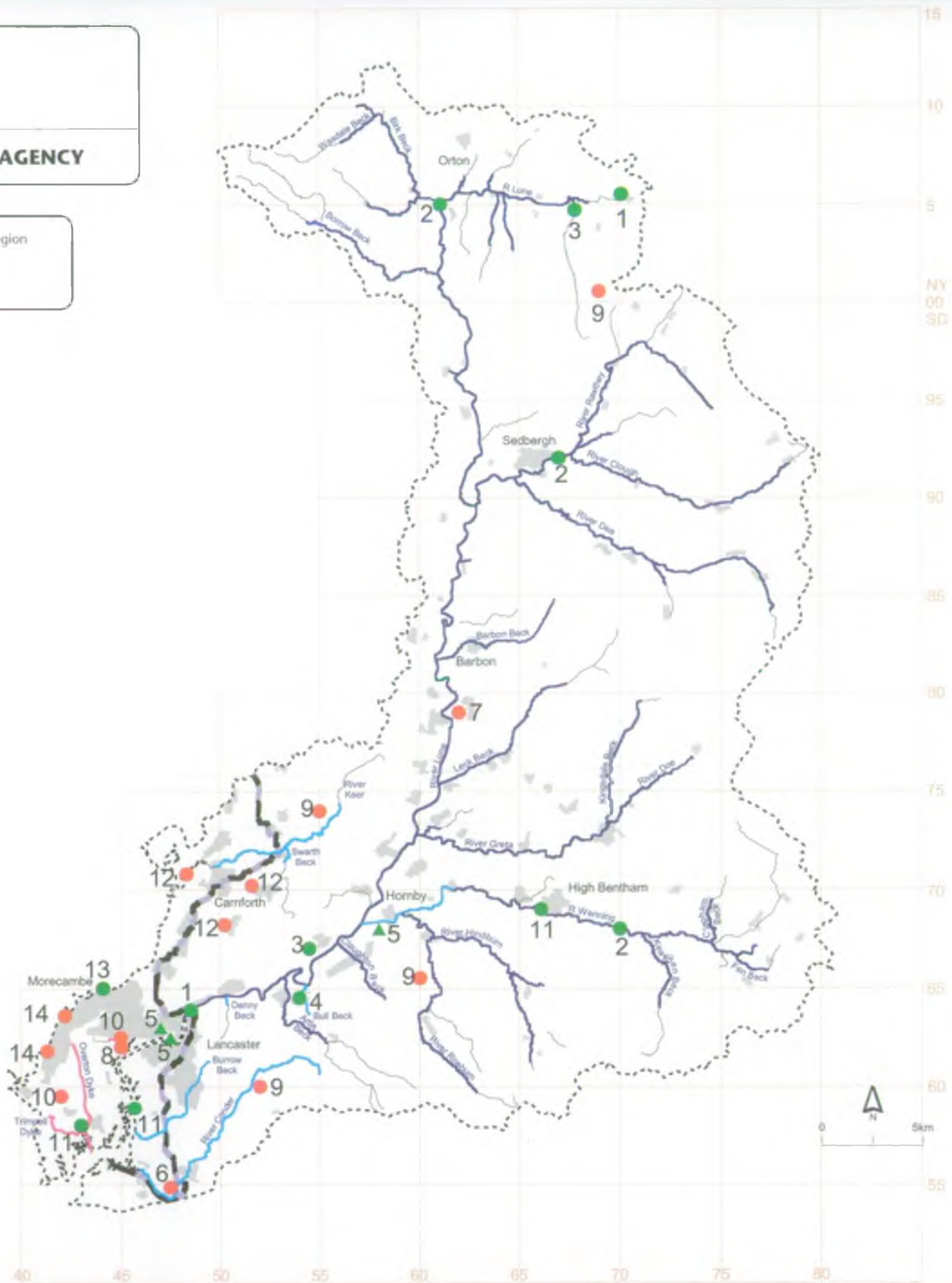
- Continue to promote four-code flood warning system.
- Review water abstraction licences to reduce the effects of low flows in rivers.
- Produce a Catchment Abstraction Management plan (CAMs).
- Work with local authorities and developers to make sure new buildings or roads do not increase the risk of flooding.



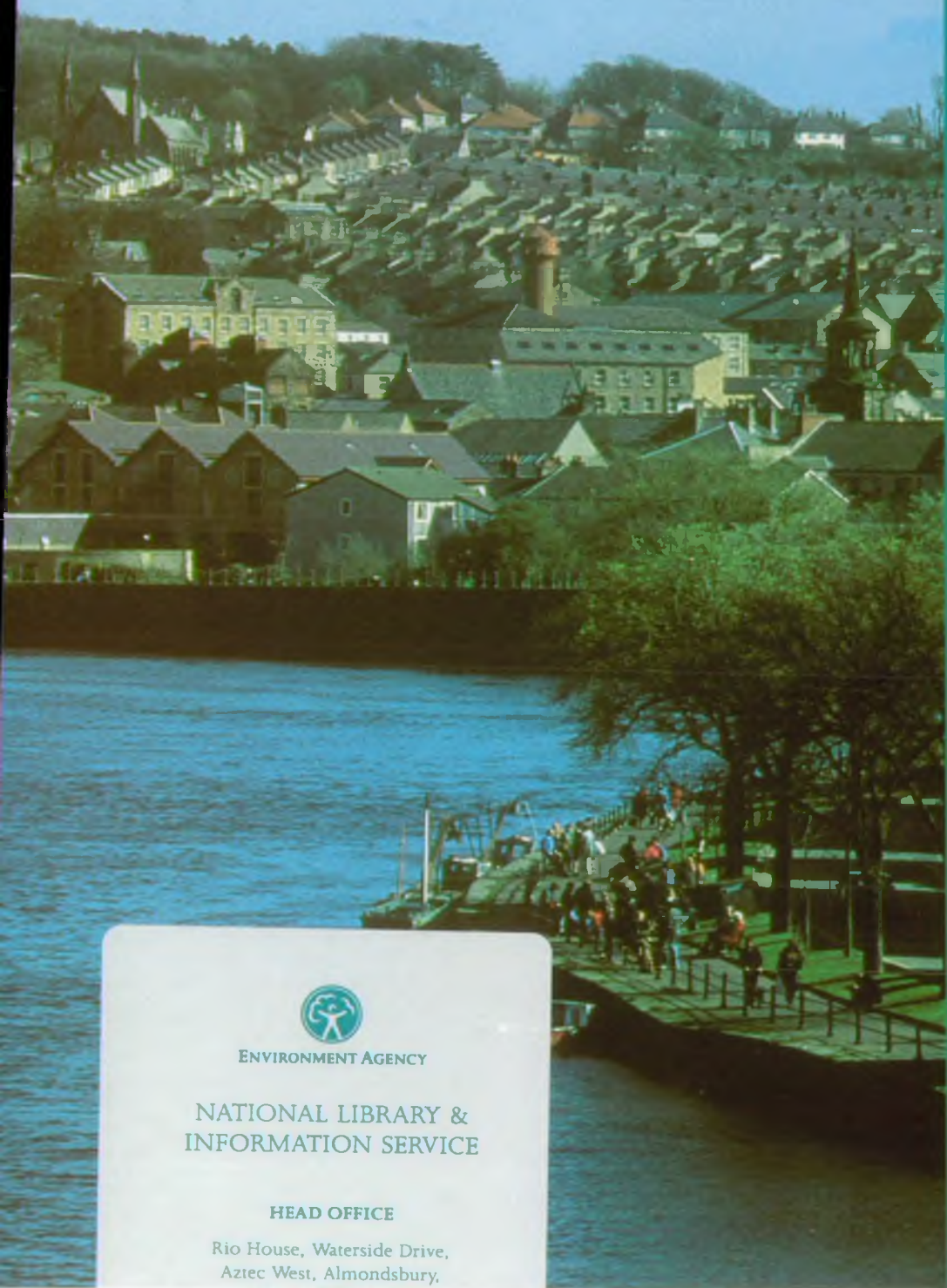
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# Improving river water quality



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Many factors can affect river water quality, such as discharges of sewage effluent from Wastewater Treatment Works, storm sewage overflows and wrong connections to sewers.

The majority of the Lune area is rural with farming being one of the main businesses. In the uplands sheep and beef cattle are farmed with dairy herds becoming more common on the lower grounds and around Galgate there is some land used for growing crops. Poor farming practices, particularly relating to the use of sheep-dip and slurry have led to some pollution problems. These problems are evident on the upper parts of the River Lune, the upper part of the River Keer and along the River Wenning.

In urban areas homes that have incorrectly plumbed appliances into the surface water drain are causing some water quality problems around Burrow Beck in Lancaster. Whilst drainage from the Vickers and White Lund Industrial Estates are causing water quality problems in Oxcliffe Dyke on the outskirts of Lancaster.

## Key successes

- Water quality has been improved in Artle Beck as wrong connections in Caton have been rectified.
- Mini campaign at White Lund Industrial Estate has led to improved housekeeping such as the bunding of the oil storage area.

## Key future actions

- Continue to resolve wrong connections to the sewerage network.

## The Environment Agency

If you would like to see a full Annual Review for the Lune area please contact:  
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**Free 24 hour emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60**  
**Floodline 0845 988 1188**

**We feel that these improvements within the Lune area will benefit people and wildlife today and for future generations.**

*We would like to thank the Central Area Environment Group for their support in the production of this document.*

NW-01/01-3K-Dii-BFVJ