



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

REGIONAL PLAN SUMMARY THAMES REGION 1996/7

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS

The Environment Agency will provide a more comprehensive approach to the protection and management of the environment by combining the regulation of land, air and water. Its creation is a major and positive step, merging the expertise of the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, the Waste Regulation Authorities and several smaller units from the Department of the Environment.

The Agency is tasked with making a real difference to the environment that will last through the next generations. We will do this by building on the successful partnerships established by our predecessors and focusing resources in our three Areas. A new approach will be the setting up of Area Environment Groups, which will be fora for progressing and developing Local Environment Agency Plans and our involvement with Local

Agenda 21 environmental initiatives.

Organisational structures will be reviewed. In particular, Waste Regulation teams will be re-aligned to match Region/Area boundaries and to provide a consistent service across the Region, initially by reorganising the Bucks CC inheritance with Anglian Region.

My aim is to provide an efficient and responsive local service through the Area Offices. Our customers will be looking for an integrated approach: I am sure we will meet the challenge.

Dr. Chris Harpley
Regional General Manager.

PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS THAMES REGION FOR 1996/7

- Realisation of improvements in air quality, provision for disposal of waste products and consequent quality of effluent discharged to the River Thames from Didcot Power Station, through working in partnership with National Power.
- Contribution to an environmental strategy and enhancements which will underpin economic and social regeneration in the Lower Lee catchment area.
- Restoration of the River Thame at Aylesbury, through the planning process and then, in partnership with developers, enhancement of the environment, including re-alignment of water courses.
- Introduction of Environment Agency led procedures for disseminating flood warnings from September 1996.
- Initiation of a Waste Minimisation programme, encompassing all forms of resource waste.

Supporting projects include:

- Education initiatives, explaining the role and work of the Environment Agency.
 - for schools through education packs (for primary age children) and pollution prevention videos (for all ages)
 - development of display material
- Implementation of an Internal Charter (a mirror image of our Customer Charter) to enhance relations within the Agency, to improve our service to customers.



Didcot Power Station

TOP 5 TARGETS FOR EACH AREA 1996/7

NORTH EAST

- A: To reduce the risk of flooding through achievement of the Area Flood Defence capital programme: a major project being the Lower Colne improvement scheme.
- B: To safeguard against any possible environmental impact arising from the proposed Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 development.
- C: To complete asbestos decontamination and subsequent landscaping at Waltham Abbey on the River Lee.
- D: To focus on IPC sites, especially in Barking and Dagenham, and develop methodologies for securing improvements aimed at minimisation of raw material usage and waste products and reduction in the risk of pollution incidents.
- E: To carry out a programme of environmental enhancement schemes eg. restoration of Frays Farm flood meadow SSSI.

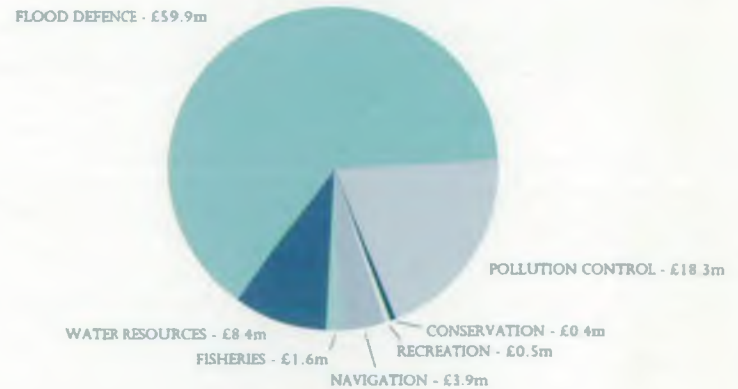
SOUTH EAST

- F: To provide greater protection to Tideway water quality by developing installation sites for the injection of hydrogen peroxide to improve dissolved oxygen levels in the Tidal River Thames.
- G: To complete the outline design and receive planning permission for the River Quaggy Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- H: To safeguard the Tidal Thames foreshore from development by promoting the policy against 'encroachment' and by raising awareness of the issue with developers and the public.
- I: To play a full part in ensuring the success of the proposed Millennium Festival project at the Port Greenwich site through regulation and use of the opportunity to maximise environmental enhancement and educate others.
- J: To enhance the environment by improving degraded river habitats at 12 specific sites, through the collaboration of Fisheries, Conservation and Flood Defence functions.

MAIDENHEAD

- K: To ensure that construction of the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme achieves the £12 million level of expenditure scheduled for 1996/7 as part of the Region's long-term Flood Defence financial plan.

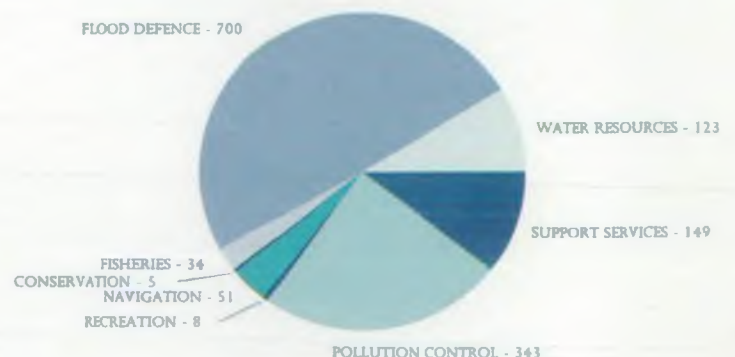
TOTAL REGIONAL EXPENDITURE 1996/7 (£93.0million)



WEST

- L: To enhance the environment by designing and constructing schemes at 10 specific sites, through the collaboration of Fisheries, Conservation and Flood Defence functions.
- M: To contribute to a satisfactory outcome of the Axford abstraction licence Local Public Inquiry.
- N: To carry out a programme of licence compliance monitoring of waste management sites, to bring about improved management and/or regulation, with targeted action for 6 sites.
- P: To reduce the number of pollution incidents through prevention activity, especially focused on 6 towns.
- Q: To reduce the risk of flooding on 1450km of main river through the implementation of programmes of watercourse and structure maintenance including refurbishment of River Thames buck weirs at Eynsham, Hurley and Hambleden.

TOTAL EMPLOYEES 1996/7 (1413 full time equivalents)



KEY STATISTICS

Area	13,000sq.km
Population	12.0 million
Length of fluvial main river	5,295km
Length of tidal estuary and sea defences	193km
Length of monitored fisheries	3,195km
Length of River Thames navigation	217km
Number of EC designated bathing waters	3
Average annual rainfall	688mm
Average daily authorised water abstraction	8,853 Ml/day
Number of discharge consents	11,998
Number of abstraction licence inspections (1995/96)	1,447
Number of category 1&2 pollution incidents (1995/96)	165
Number of planning applications processed (1995/96)	4,313
Number of regulated sites and processes (March 1996)	1,646
Number of Waste licences in force (March 1996)	815
Number of registered carriers (March 1996)	17,380
Number of licenced water abstractions (March 1996)	3,078

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about this leaflet contact: Business Planning, Environment Agency – Thames Region, Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading RG1 8DQ. Telephone 01734 535000.

Further details about the Environment Agency as a whole will be contained in the National Corporate Plan. This will be published by: Corporate Planning, Environment Agency – Head Office, Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4UD. Telephone 01454 624400.

EMERGENCY SERVICE

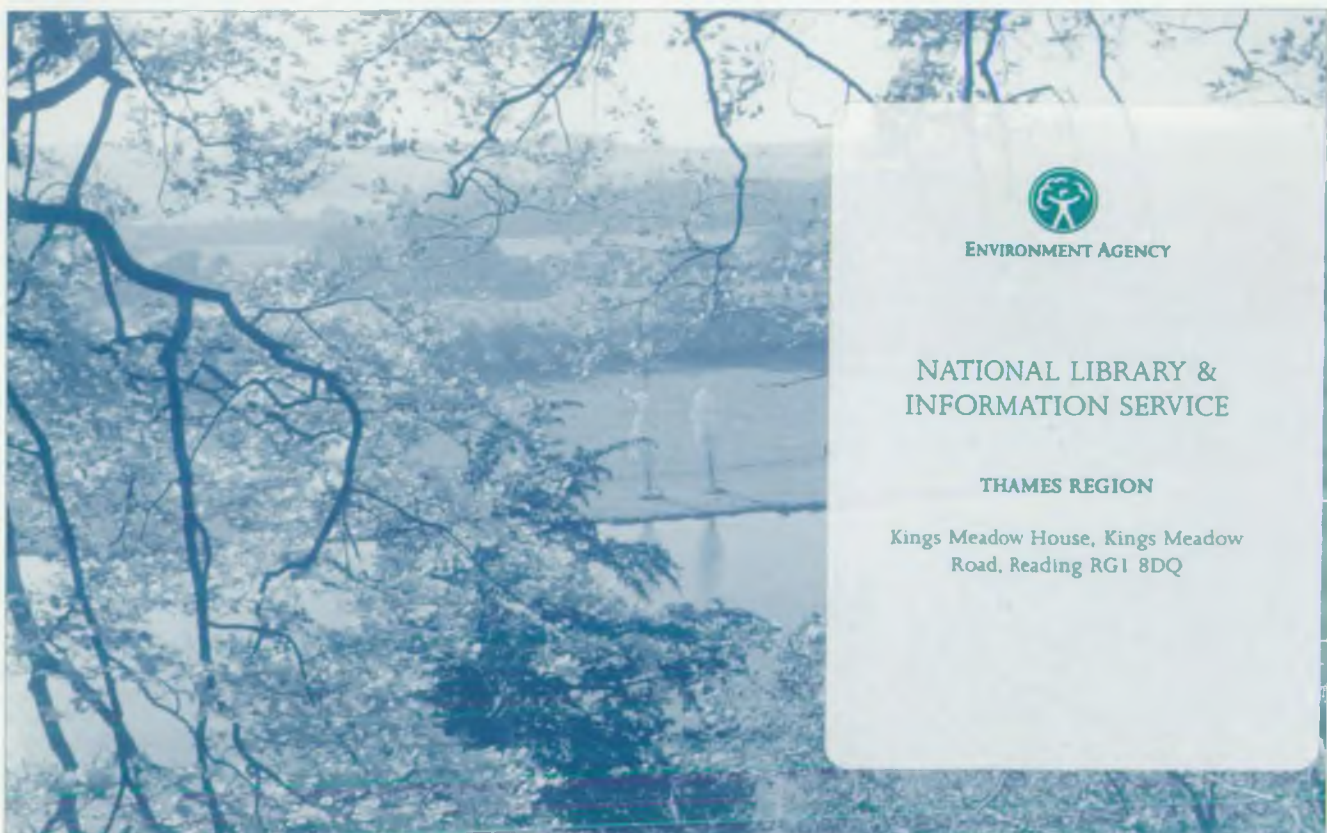
IF YOU spot an environmental problem call the Environment Agency's free 24-hour emergency hotline on

0800 80 70 60

This could be :

- damage or danger to the natural environment
- pollution
- poaching
- risks to wildlife
- fish in distress
- illegal dumping
- illegal dumping of hazardous waste
- flooding

DON'T IGNORE IT.....REPORT IT!



River Thames near Marlow



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

THAMES REGION

Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow
Road, Reading RG1 8DQ



OTHER REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 1996/7

- To agree appropriate databases for site-related aspects of Waste Regulation work.
- To implement the Special Waste Regulations 1996, operative from 1st September.
- To complete the transfer of responsibility and day to day waste regulatory arrangements for District Council areas within the regional boundary but currently resourced by other regions.
- To complete the review of the current arrangements for core Waste Regulation work in Berkshire, currently undertaken by an external contract with the Babbie Group.
- To reduce the visible environmental damage caused by litter, by investigating how the Environment Agency can contribute to existing statutory programmes run by other bodies.
- To complete the transition from the inherited HMIP structure for IPC work to a customer facing one underpinned by National and Regional Support.
- To continue to develop the Thames Salmon rehabilitation programme, including the building of 4 fish passes on the River Kennet.
- To implement the National Boat Safety Scheme, including the introduction of certificate requirements.
- To bring together staff in main Area offices: all West Area staff to be based at Wallingford by December 1996 and a site to be found for occupation by North East Area staff from April 1997.
- To ensure that all income, due to the Agency, for collection in the Region is gathered punctually.
- To assist in the successful roll out to other regions of the Personnel and Payroll system currently under pilot in the Thames Region.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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