

RIVER COBER

CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
South West Region*

✓

C O N T E N T S

MAP OF NRA SW REGION SHOWING TARGET CATCHMENT

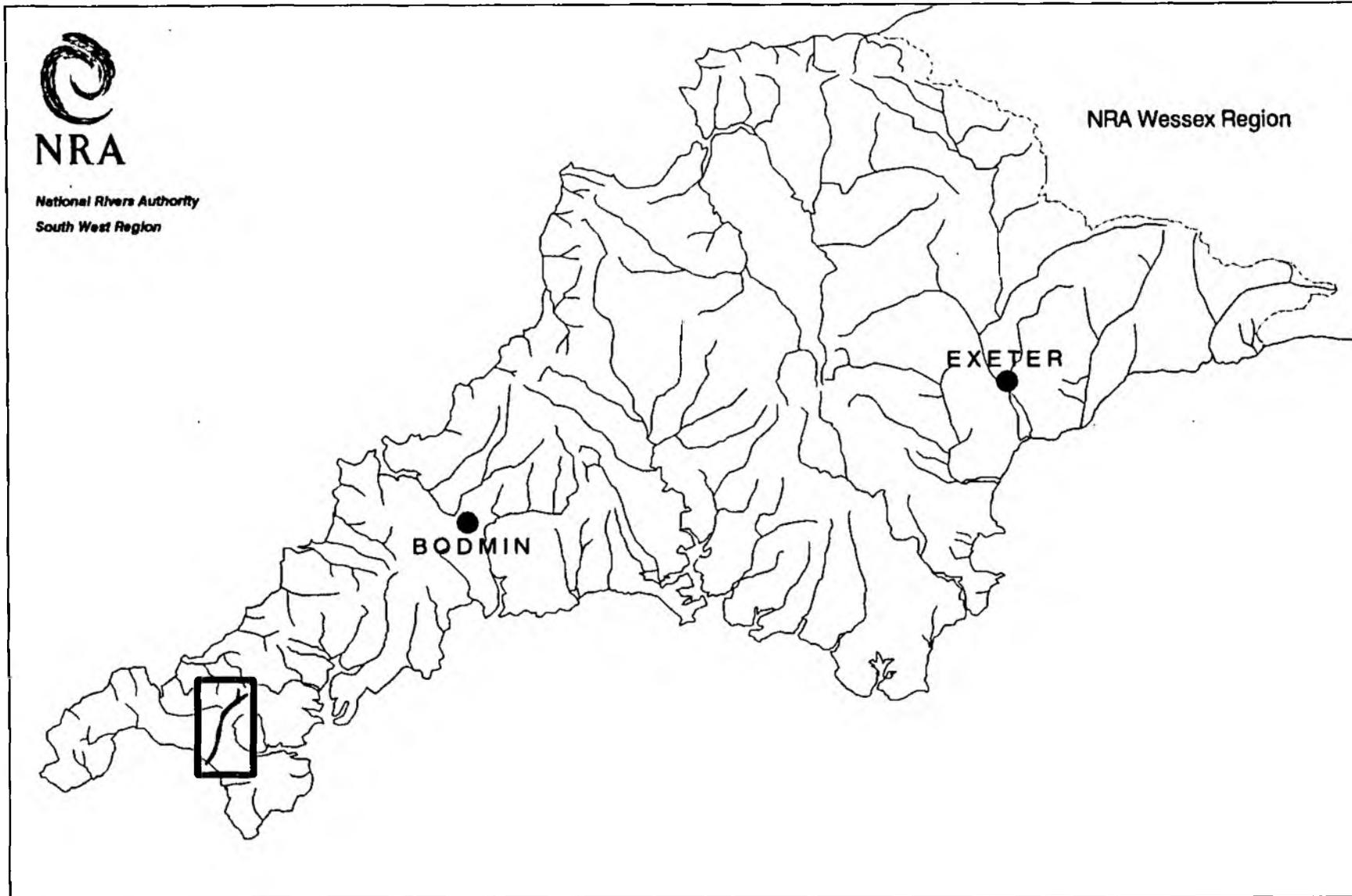
- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | PAGE 1 |
| 2. | ROUTINE SERVICES | PAGE 1 - 2 |
| 3. | CHALLENGES & PROPOSED ACTIONS | PAGE 3 |

APPENDIX 1 - CATCHMENT MAPS

APPENDIX 2 - NRA DUTIES, POWERS AND TARGETS



National Rivers Authority South West Region River Cober Catchment



1. INTRODUCTION

CATCHMENT ACTION PLANS are designed to be a simple, practical means of directing resources to achieve environmental improvements on a priority basis, between and within catchments. They set out the essential routine tasks, and a five year programme of specific actions for each catchment to meet regional and national targets. Changes may occur where unplanned work such as an extreme drought requires priority.

The NRA has inherited a legacy of environmental challenges arising from the use and abuse of our natural resources. Although significant progress has already been made it will be many years before all the work needed can be assessed, funded and carried out.

To achieve the environmental objectives will require not just the clear, vigorous direction of the NRA towards priority work but the help and support of the whole community.

The NRA has consulted with the Regional Advisory Board and Advisory Committees and the local interests about the draft action plans and the format is the outcome of those discussions.

Progress to achieve the Action Plan objectives will normally be reviewed on an annual basis but more frequently where severe problems have been identified.

2. ROUTINE SERVICES

Despite the fact that the NRA is largely a reactive, regulatory body it is possible to plan for much of the environmental protection work even the fact that unpredictable events will occur!

Much of the routine workload such as monitoring, enforcement of statutes and dealing with pollution and flooding incidents needs to have clear priority to ensure that it is dealt with to satisfactory standards throughout the region.

This essential work is carried out according to need in all catchments.

The NRA SW handles over 3000 pollution incidents a year, the majority of which are reported by members of the public. Many are attended within minutes and most within a few hours. In some cases major operations are undertaken to control the pollution and minimise impact on the environment.

Several thousand routine inspections of industrial premises, farms, weirs, fish passes and treatment works are also undertaken. In many cases improvements are required to minimise the risk of pollution or to ensure protection of fish and conservation of the water environment.

As part of the overall environmental protection exercise many flood defence schemes and thousands of planning applications are screened; hundreds of farm pollution grant proposals and effluent discharge applications are processed each year. Many new or varied abstraction licences and drilling consents are also processed to protect surface and underground waters.

Each year about 67,000 samples of rivers, lakes, ground and tidal waters and effluents are taken. Around 1.25 million chemical tests are made on these samples to ensure water quality standards are met and to identify where enforcement action is needed.

In addition detailed studies of samples of invertebrates, fish, algae and plants are undertaken to provide information on the status of the aquatic communities and to test the accuracy of the conclusions of chemical monitoring.

The key abstractions, discharges and monitoring sites for this catchment are marked on map(s) in Appendix 1.

Routine regulatory action is taken to ensure the conditions of thousands of discharges, abstractions and other legal requirements are enforced and illegal fishing is curtailed.

The NRA SW also handles many hundreds of letters and enquiries for information from the Water Act Register and provides press releases, reports and other information to a wide range of interests in the community.

RIVER COBER CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN

3 CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

The River Cober catchment drains an area in West Cornwall through Helston and via Loe Pool to the sea.

In recent years the river, which is used for public water supply from an intake at Wendron, has been affected by farm and sewage pollution. The Loe Pool is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and algal blooms have caused concern and indicated eutrophic conditions in the catchment.

The aims of the plan are to protect the water supply intake from pollution; minimise the risk of pollution from farms and sewage treatment works; identify other water quality problems and inhibit the development of blue green algae.

Functional officers have identified the main challenges to the achievement of environmental objectives. Where solutions are clear they have been programmed. In other cases further investigations are needed to determine the way forward.

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

POLLUTION CONTROL

Carry out review of water quality in the catchment.

Investigate causes of non-compliance with quality objectives and task force programme of remedial action.

_____ - - - - -

Consider development of water protection zones for water supply intake.

Develop blue-green algae action plan and monitoring programme.

Biological monitoring of discharges at three locations.

Assess impact of 1990 drought at one chemical and three biological sites and consider mitigation.

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

POLLUTION CONTROL Cont.

Develop water quality management plan for the catchment.

Assess impact of run-off from Culdrose Airport on receiving water quality and take appropriate remedial action.

Liaise with Polytechnic South West on research at Loe Pool.

Develop catchment quality model using QUASAR.

Prepare catchment description.

Pre and post scheme appraisal of SWWS capital investment programme.

Assess pollution potential of mine drainage and mine waste deposits and take appropriate action to minimise impact.

Baseline survey of groundwater quality to assess:

- (a) suitability for potable use.
- (b) compliance with appropriate E.C. directive standards.

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

WATER RESOURCES

Review low flow problem sites and promote alleviation schemes for priority sites.

Identify gauging station on the River Cober and plan design and construction.

CONSERVATION

Rehabilitate an area of willow carr at the inlet to Loe Pool.

APPENDIX 1

CATCHMENT MAPS

KEY

- Tidal Water Monitoring Point
- Routine River Monitoring Point
- Discharges plc (sampled site)
- Discharges - Fish Farms (sampled site)
- ▲ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order non plc (sampled site)
- ▼ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order plc (sampled site)
- + Discharges non plc (sampled site)
- X Waste Disposal Sites
- TL Tidal Limit
- No receiving water control sites

COBER CATCHMENT 20A

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES NON PLC				
1*	P20A/P/5	SW66002440	RNAS Culdrose	Sewage treatment works

DISCHARGES PLC				
1	WSTW0086FE	SW65402690	Helston	Sewage treatment works

DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER NON PLC				
1	P21A/P/401	SW622772574	Quay Side Fish Centre,	Porthleven
2	P21A/P/402	SW62832567	Breagside Quay,	Porthleven

DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC				
1	OUT0568	SW62712539	Porthleven	Outfall

FISH FARMS				
1	P20A/P/16	SW67403140	Lower Boscadjack	
2	P20A/P/21	SW70603370	Dacum Fish Farm	
3	P23A/P/04	SW67403430	Bowlenhoe Croft,	Troon, Cambourne

TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS				
1	ECB0700	SW636247	Porthleven East	EC identified bathing waters
2	ECB0701	SW632253	Porthleven West	EC identified bathing waters

ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING				
1	R20A001	SW68103138	Trehear Bridge	Chemical/biological site Drought monitoring site
2	R20A008	SW66863013	Coverack Bridge	Chemical/biological site
3	R20A003	SW65802913	Lower Town Bridge	Chemical/biological site Drought monitoring site Freshwater Fish Directive
4	R20A009	SW65482723	Helston Pk Gauging Station	Chemical/biological site Dangerous substances control site
5	R20A004	SW65262681	Below Helston STW	Chemical/biological site Dangerous Substances Site
6	R20A005	SW64252428	Loe Pool at Bar	Chemical/biological site Red list site
7	R20A002	SW67003185	Bodilly Mill	Chemical/biological site Drought monitoring site
8	R20A006	SW69353263	Chy Bridge	Chemical/biological site
9	R21A013	SW62832825	Penbro	Chemical/biological site Dangerous Substances Directive
10	R21A010	SW62722600	U/S of Harbour	Chemical/biological site
11		SW68763470	Tolcarne Stream	Biological site
12		SW66253270	Releath Stream	Biological site

NRA DUTIES AND POWERS

The Authority has statutory duties and powers in relation to water resources, pollution control, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation along with various other functions given under the 1989 Water Act.

Whilst most of the Authority's duties and powers are exercised in respect of inland waters in England and Wales, it also has substantial responsibilities for the marine environment around the coast of England and Wales. For pollution control and fisheries purposes it has duties and powers out to distances of three nautical miles and six nautical miles respectively, the six miles being for salmonid protection. For flood defence it is responsible for a large number of sea defences (but not coastal protection which falls within the remit of local authorities).

As well as new duties, the NRA has also inherited other duties and powers under earlier legislation such as the 1963 Water Resources Act, 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, and 1976 Land Drainage Act.

The Authority also has responsibility for implementing a number of Statutory Instruments, Orders, Notices and Directives relating to the 1989 Water Act. Various European Community Directives on the protection of the aquatic environment eg. Bathing Water Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Freshwater Fishlife also strongly influence its work.

NRA MISSION STATEMENT

The National Rivers Authority will protect and improve the water environment. This will be achieved through effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. The Authority aims to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging its duties it will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, ground waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees.

NRA AIMS

To achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, through the control of water pollution.

To assess, manage, plan and conserve water resources and to maintain and improve the quality of water for all those who use it.

To provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea.

To provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

To maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

To develop the amenity and recreation potential of waters and lands under NRA control.

To conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with waters under NRA control.

To ensure that dischargers pay the costs of the consequences of their discharges, and as far as possible, to recover the costs of water environment improvements from those who benefit.

To improve public understanding of the water environment and the NRA's work.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The overall priority is to continue the improvements which were started in the last year in the following key areas.

WATER RESOURCES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Improve response to licence applications.
- Establish Water Resources planning forum.
- Progress schemes to ameliorate low flows.
- Implement groundwater protection policy.

POLLUTION CONTROL

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Introduce charging for discharges scheme.
- Implement new consenting policy; begin review of deemed consents.
- Complete 1990/91 survey and consult on water quality objectives.
- Carry out EC Directive requirements.
- Introduce new monitoring programmes for effluents and controlled waters.
- Establish a regional laboratory service.

FISHERIES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Review licence and other charging schemes.
- Harmonise stock assessment techniques.
- Extend programme of restoration and rehabilitation of fish stocks.
- Increase action to control illegal fishing.
- Submit new fishery byelaws to MAFF for confirmation.

RECREATION

- Continue implementations of Water Act Code of Practice.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Improve cost recovery from the recreation service.

CONSERVATION

- Establish database for regulatory purposes.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Promote conservation schemes.