



**THE DOVE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CONSULTATION REPORT SUMMARY  
JANUARY 1995**

National Rivers Authority  
Information Centre  
Head Office

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**NRA**

*National Rivers Authority  
Severn - Trent Region*



## INTRODUCTION

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) was created in 1989 as an independent environment agency. Its prime purpose is to protect and improve the water environment in England and Wales and to regulate the use of water by industry, agriculture and the private water and sewage undertakers.



*Dove Bridge at Doveridge*

The NRA's responsibilities cover rivers, lakes, canals and underground waters. It has statutory responsibilities for water quality, water resources, flood defence, salmon and freshwater fisheries, conservation, navigation and recreation. It has a duty to protect people and property from flooding caused by rivers and the sea.

## CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The NRA's vision for the future is of a healthy and diverse water environment managed in an environmentally sustainable way, balancing the needs of all users of water. To achieve this vision, the NRA is taking an integrated approach (ie bringing together its own activities and those of other groups and organisations) to the management of river catchments.

A river catchment is an area of land which is drained by a river system. In the case of the Dove Catchment Management Plan (CMP), it is all the area that drains to the River Dove before it joins the River Trent.

The focus of catchment management is the production and implementation of catchment management plans. CMP's are being developed to cover all river catchments in England and Wales by 1998. They are a means of meeting the objectives of sustainability and improvement within a river catchment while balancing the competing requirements of water users and other interested parties.



*Ashbourne Sewage Treatment Works*

## THE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The production of a CMP is a two stage process. The first stage is The Consultation Report of which this summary forms a part. The second stage is the production of the Final Plan/Action Plan following a formal consultation period. The Final Plan/Action Plan includes a programme of actions to be undertaken by the NRA and other groups in the catchment over the next 5 years. The implementation of the Final Plan/Action Plan will be monitored, and annual monitoring reports produced. A full review of the catchment will be made at the end of the plan period.



The Consultation Report is an analysis by the NRA of the river catchment and an identification of issues and problems affecting the water environment that the NRA considers are important. Options are put forward as a means of tackling the issues raised, many of which can only be addressed with the co-operation and assistance of others, so the preparation of CMPs must involve local communities and other interested groups.

The Report will be available for public consultation for a 2 month period between 31 January 1995 and 31 March 1995.

This Summary gives an overview of the Consultation Report and highlights the major issues in the catchment. For a detailed analysis of the catchment and the issues, please refer to the main report.



*Carsington Reservoir*

## YOUR VIEWS

The Dove CMP is the NRA's assessment of the catchment and identifies the key issues that we believe should be resolved.

We need your views to help us with the Action Plan. A detachable post paid comment page is located on the inside of the back cover. If this summary is being read in conjunction with the NRA display, please deposit your comments in the box provided. The address for written comments is given on the back of this leaflet.

## THE DOVE CATCHMENT

The CMP considers the rivers Dove and Churnet including their tributaries and reservoirs from the source of the Dove on Axe Edge and the source of the Churnet at Royal Cottage Public House, to the lowest point on the Dove where it joins the Trent north of Burton upon Trent. The catchment has an area of just over 1,000 sq km and covers parts of Staffordshire and Derbyshire. It includes the towns of Leek, Cheadle, Ashbourne and Uttoxeter and is home for approximately 110,000 people.

The Rivers Dove and Churnet both rise in the Peak District National Park and the quality of the landscape across the north of the catchment is particularly fine. The lower reaches of the River Dove are characterised by a meandering river flowing across a wide floodplain. There are 3 reservoirs, Tittesworth, Carsington and Rudyard. Tittesworth provides drinking water to Leek and the Potteries. Carsington is a pump storage reservoir (storing water from the river Derwent, to the east of the catchment to provide additional water in summer) and Rudyard provides water for the canal system. At Egginton, close to where the River Dove meets the River Trent, there is a major abstraction of water for drinking water purposes by Severn Trent Water Ltd. Water is pumped to Foremark and Staunton Harold Reservoirs and is used to supply parts of Leicestershire and the East Midlands.



*Dovedale*

## GEOLOGY, WATER QUALITY AND WATER RESOURCES

River quality is generally good with high class fisheries and a wide range of wildlife habitats. The catchment contains important ground and surface water resources. Groundwater (water from underground sources) is used in conjunction with water from Tittesworth reservoir. The protection and management of water resources are important issues in the catchment. Most of the abstracted water comes from surface water supplies (80%), the rest from groundwater. In total 611 megalitres per day (Ml/d) are licensed for abstraction.

The geology of the catchment can be subdivided into 3 distinctive areas. The northern half is dominated by limestones and gritstones. To the south are mudstones and marls.

Between the two is a narrow belt of sandstones which runs from Cheadle towards Ashbourne. It is the sandstone that provides the catchment's principle supply of underground water. The gritstones and the marls provide only minor water



*Tittesworth Reservoir*

supplies while the limestone provides high quality hard water to the River Dove, Hamps and Manifold. Water passes quickly through fractures in the limestone, making the water resource very vulnerable to pollution.

The quality of the nearby rivers and streams can be affected by potential polluting activities, such as tip sites, industrial development and untreated sewage discharges.

Water in the River Churnet is soft in character and this attracted the textile and dyeing industry from the 18th century. Industrial development led to the river being heavily polluted for nearly 200 years. Recent improvements at Leek Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and in the treatment of trade effluents has led to an overall improvement in the quality of the river. Water quality in the River Tean below Checkley Sewage Treatment Works remains poor and this is one of the issues in the plan.

## FLOOD DEFENCE

The lower reaches of the River Dove are particularly prone to flooding and many of the villages within the area are protected by flood defences. There are also flood defences on some of the tributaries including the Endon, Henmore, Picknall, Foston and Hilton Brooks.

There was a major flood incident along the lower reaches of the Dove in 1991, which highlighted the need for some additional flood defence works and modelling of the rivers' flood patterns. Isolated properties and farmland in some places are not protected by flood defences. In these areas a flood warning scheme is in operation which is organised by the NRA.

## FISHERIES



*Fly fishing*

The Dove catchment provides many high class salmonid (salmon and trout) fisheries. Salmon are not present in the catchment but their reintroduction is currently being considered. In the upland areas, brown trout and grayling are the dominant species. Much of the main River Dove is stocked annually by angling organisations using rainbow and brown trout. Fish populations in the middle reaches of the Churnet are only now beginning to recover while on the River Tean below Checkley they remain poor. The lower Dove provides very good mixed and coarse fishing.



## CONSERVATION, ECOLOGY, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

In ecological and nature conservation terms the catchment is exceptional. There are 28 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering an area of 4074ha, of these 16 are at least partly water dependant. There are 645 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and numerous local nature reserves and areas of local interest. The landscape of the Peak National Park is renowned and attracts visitors from all over Britain.

There are relatively few Scheduled Ancient Monuments situated close to watercourses but some of these eg Dove Bridge, are of considerable importance. In addition a considerable number of listed structures (mainly bridges) and sites on the Sites and Monuments Record are close to rivers or water dependant in some way.



*Isaac Walton's Fishing Lodge*

## RECREATION AND NAVIGATION

The presence of the National Park draws many millions of visitors for walking, rambling, birdwatching and cycling as well as more formal organised sports. Popular beauty spots are under pressure from tourist numbers and this is an issue in the Consultation Report. The Churnet Valley and Carsington reservoir are also popular locations for formal and informal recreation and are in easy reach of a large resident population.

The Caldon Canal is the only navigable watercourse in the catchment. It splits at Denford into two branches one of which runs as part of the River Churnet for some of its length and adds to the attractiveness of the Churnet Valley as a tourist destination.

## THE NRA'S VISION FOR THE CATCHMENT

The NRA's vision for the Dove Catchment during the 5 year lifetime of this plan is to work towards sustainability by safeguarding existing high quality water resources, landscape and nature conservation interests and fishery habitats. Also to ensure that future demands on the water environment are planned and managed in the long term, to benefit all users of the water environment, and to work in an integrated manner to tackle the issues and problems identified.

The key objectives are to:-

- Promote the efficient management of water resources in the catchment.
- Optimise the monitoring of water resources and water quality within the catchment.
- Initiate and promote proposals for first time sewerage of rural housing, industrial and tourist developments.
- Initiate and complete flood modelling of the Dove between Ashbourne and the River Trent and to address as far as possible flood problems in the lower Dove valley.
- Maintain and improve water quality within the catchment to meet Water Quality Objectives (WQO) and the aims and objectives of the NRA's "Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater" (GPP) by addressing the issues of sewage effluent disposal, pesticides, agricultural and industrial discharges, contaminated land and development control.
- Promote the re-introduction of salmon into the Dove and remove, as far as possible, obstructions to fish movement.
- Maintain the landscape and nature conservation value of the river corridors and seek to improve the lower reaches of the River Dove.
- Seek to maximise the use of European Union funding to benefit the catchment.

## A SUMMARY OF CATCHMENT ISSUES

Set out below is a brief summary of the 21 Issues the NRA thinks are important in the catchment. Full details, together with options to tackle the issues can be found in the Consultation Report. We would like to hear from you if you have any views on these issues and a comments form can be found at the end of the Summary.

### 1. FLOW MONITORING ON THE RIVER CHURNET

A new river gauging station is required to measure low flows to assist in water resource management.

### 2. THE OPERATION OF EGGINTON INTAKE ON THE RIVER DOVE

Angling and conservation interests are affected by low flows below the water supply intake. The installation of water quality monitoring equipment also needs to be considered.

### 3. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE UPPER CHURNET VALLEY

The joint use of surface and groundwater public water supplies will be necessary to meet future demand and to protect flows and quality in the River Churnet.

### 4. DOVE CATCHMENT ABSTRACTION LICENSING POLICY

A sustainable abstraction policy will be required if additional abstractions of water are to be allowed without adversely affecting the water environment or the Severn-Trent Water Ltd licence at Egginton.

### 5. LOW FLOWS IN THE CROXDEN BROOK

The issue of low flows needs to be addressed.

### 6. CONTAMINATED LAND AT LEEK

The contamination problem needs to be resolved and the effects on groundwater minimised.

## **7. RURAL SEWAGE PROBLEMS**

Problems exist in the disposal of sewage in rural areas where no sewerage has been provided.

## **8. INADEQUATE FOUL AND SURFACE WATER DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS ON A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

Inadequate effluent disposal and chemical storage facilities have given rise to water quality concerns, with the periodic pollution of nearby streams and watercourses.

## **9. EUTROPHICATION OF FOREMARK AND STAUNTON HAROLD WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS**

Nutrient rich water from the River Dove pumped into Foremark and Staunton Harold water supply reservoirs generates occasional problems with algal growth.

## **10. WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS IN THE RIVER TEAN**

Poor quality water in the River Tean below Checkley STW adversely affects fishery and nature conservation interests.

## **11. FLOODING ALONG THE LOWER DOVE VALLEY**

Existing flood defence works need to be reassessed and possibly new works constructed to provide improved flood protection in the lower Dove valley.



*Huntley Quarry*



- 12. RISK OF FLOODING FROM THE RIVER TEAN AND THE MARCHINGTON BROOK**  
Improvements in flood warning by extension into areas not currently covered and the alleviation of flooding in Upper Tean are being considered.
- 13. FLOODING AT OAKAMoor FROM THE RIVER CHURNET**  
The cause of flooding problems needs to be identified and if possible addressed.
- 14. PRESSURE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN FLOOD BALANCING AREAS ADJACENT TO UTTOXETER**  
Land close to the town is under pressure for development but is important for flood balancing purposes.
- 15. THE CONDITION OF DOVECLIFF WEIR**  
The weir has partly collapsed and its future is under consideration.
- 16. REINTRODUCTION OF SALMON INTO THE RIVER DOVE**  
The feasibility, costs and benefits of re-establishing salmon in the River Dove are to be investigated.
- 17. THE GENETIC DIVERSITY OF BROWN TROUT**  
The River Dove could provide an opportunity to study the effects and implications of restocking farmed trout on native brown trout populations.



*Brown Trout*

**18. LACK OF DIVERSITY IN THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE AND HABITAT OF THE LOWER DOVE AND THE LOSS OF AQUATIC HABITAT**

Previous engineering works have had an adverse impact on conservation values but future enhancements may be possible.

**19. THE RETURN OF OTTERS TO THE CATCHMENT**

The increase in range of the otter should be encouraged by the creation of suitable otter habitats.

**20. IMPACT OF TOURIST NUMBERS ON THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER OF DOVEDALE**

The popularity of this beauty spot is creating serious bankside erosion which may, in part, be solved by the construction of a new footbridge.

**21. CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE CATCHMENT**

The need to control the spread of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam is being considered.



*Otter*

For further information contact  
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Tel: 01543 444141

## YOUR VIEWS

The Dove Catchment Management Consultation Report is our review of the catchment and the issues facing it. Please send us your comments. The address is given on the back page, with a prepaid slip if required.

This page is detachable and can be posted or placed in the comments box provided with the display boards.

- Have we identified all the issues?

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- Have you any ideas about the issues raised?

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- Are there any errors or omissions in this Summary or in the Consultation Report.

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- Any other comments (including your ideas for the future of the catchment)?

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- If you wish to receive a reply, please put your name and address in the space provided below.

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2



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