



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY

# HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

Area Directory

Southern Region

EA-Southern

# ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – Southern Region



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Environment Agency was established on 1 April 1996, becoming one of the world's most powerful regulators by combining the former National Rivers Authority, Waste Regulation Authority and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, and bringing together environmental controls over processes which impact on land, water and air. It is divided into eight regions in England and Wales with the Southern Region comprising of three areas namely: Kent, Sussex, Hampshire & Isle of Wight. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Area incorporates the river catchments of the Test and Itchen – internationally renowned for their trout fishing – the Hamble and the Medina, together with the commercial ports of Southampton and Portsmouth.

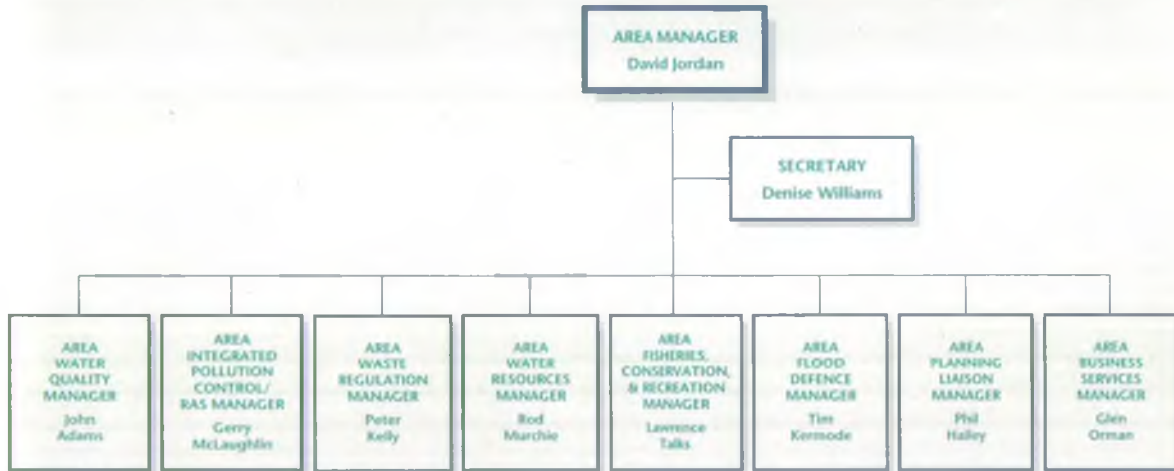
## **AREA OFFICE**

The main office for the area is located at Sarum Court, Sarum Road, Winchester and incorporates water quality, water resources, fisheries, conservation, recreation, planning, business services and integrated pollution control. Flood defence is currently located at Canal Walk, Romsey and waste regulation staff are temporarily outstationed at The Castle, Ashburton, Winchester.

## **DISTRICT OFFICE**

There is a district office at Newport, Isle of Wight which has functions relating to water resources, water quality, flood defence and waste regulation.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT AREA MANAGEMENT TEAM



## **POLLUTION PREVENTION & CONTROL**

### **Water Quality**

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight area has a total population of 1.5 million and covers an area of 3131 sq. km. The major centres of population are located on the coastal strip with industry mainly concentrated in the Fawley and Southampton areas. The refinery at Fawley is the second largest in Europe and poses its own special pollution prevention problems.

The Environment Agency is committed to the improvement of water quality and gives a high priority to the monitoring of sewage effluents and their effect on river quality. The risk of pollution from agricultural activity is a significant factor in all parts of the area. Farm pollution and agricultural run off has affected the small local streams. Arrangements for slurry and silage disposal need constant monitoring.

Quality objectives for over 800 km of the main rivers in the Area are reviewed annually. The General Quality Assessment System (GQA) is now used to report river water quality. The general system reports in six lettered bands A and B (good), C and D (fair), E (poor) and F (bad). In 1994, 66.4% of rivers were good and 30.5% fair. The GQA also includes a Biological Quality assessment and a team of Biologists based in the Area carry out this assessment as well as pollution investigations and other biological surveys.

The importance of the chalk aquifers as a resource in Hampshire makes their protection essential. Areas of activity which pose any threat to groundwater quality must be carefully vetted and closely monitored. These include industrial and agricultural activities as well as waste disposal by landfill and disturbance of contaminated land.

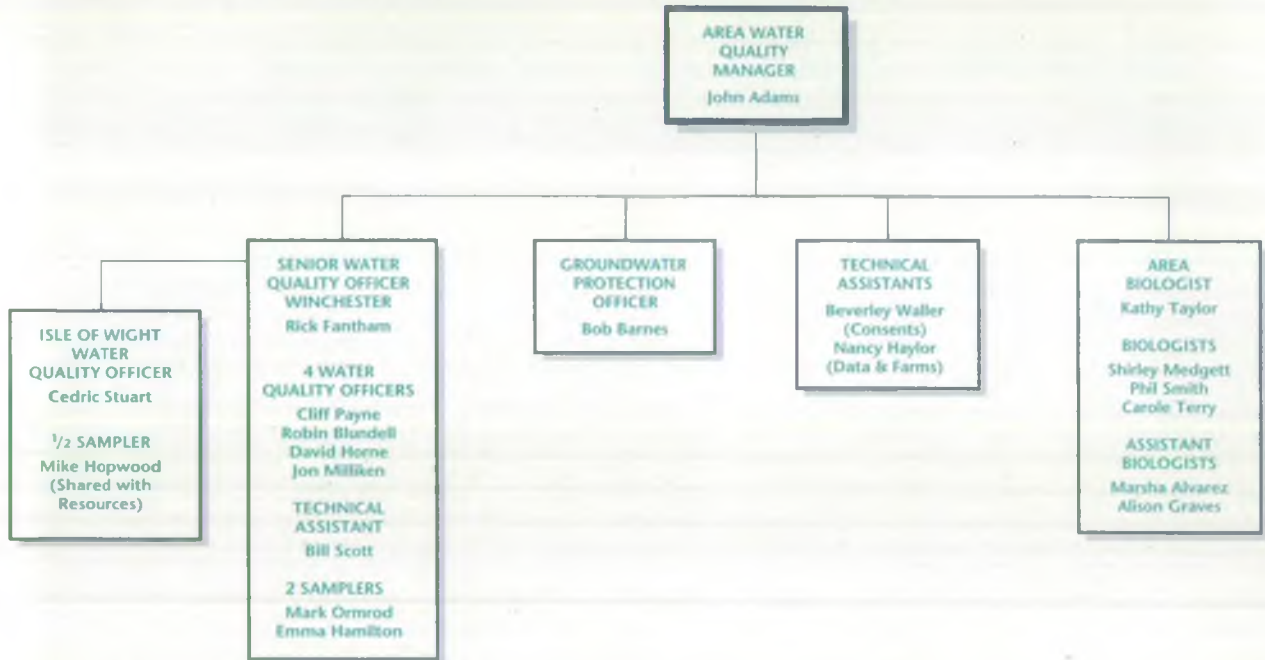
Responsibilities for water quality protection also extend to controlled tidal waters such as those of the Solent, Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours and to the open sea up to 3 miles from the coast.

Bacteriological samples are taken from 25 bathing beaches during the summer as part of a DoE programme to monitor compliance with EC standards.

The River Test has been selected as one of eight pilot river catchments in England and Wales for Statutory Water Quality Objectives (SWQO). The purpose of SWQOs is to establish targets on a statutory basis which provide an agreed planning framework for regulatory bodies, dischargers, abstracters and river users. The SWQO scheme is use-related based upon a range of water quality standards which protect the uses to which the waters may be put.

At the Area Office, water quality functions are the responsibility of the Area Water Quality Manager who co-ordinates water quality consenting and groundwater protection as well as pollution incident response and water quality monitoring.

# HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WATER QUALITY



## INTEGRATED POLLUTION CONTROL

The Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) function, currently based at the Winchester office, is responsible for regulating the area's largest and most complex industrial processes which have the potential to generate significant discharges to the environment. These include incineration, chemical, petroleum, paper and pharmaceutical industries.

Pollution Inspectors are responsible for enforcing a range of environmental legislation which requires process operators to prevent, minimise or render harmless the release of polluting substances into the environment. This responsibility extends to premises where radioactive substances are used, stored or disposed of with a requirement for safe and responsible handling. Such premises include universities and hospitals in addition to general industrial use of radioactive substances.

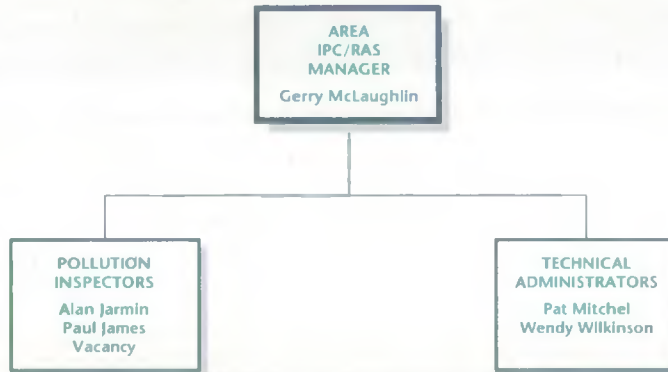
Currently some 64 processes in Hampshire have IPC authorisations which limit the emission or discharge of pollutants as stipulated by UK or EC legislation. The issue of certificates of registration or authorisation to industry is supported by a programme of inspections each year to ensure that conditions are being complied with.

The IPC team is also responsible (on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment) for the determination of trade discharge consents for Special Category Effluents, eg heavy metals, pesticides etc. released to sewer.

Non-industrial and less complex forms of pollution which are not regulated by the Environment Agency, but are generally the responsibility of local councils, include:

- vehicle exhaust fumes
- excessive odours from agriculture, domestic premises and sewage works
- discharges from shipping and aircraft
- non-prescribed industrial processes

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT INTEGRATED POLLUTION CONTROL





## WASTE REGULATION

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is an area of contrasts bounded by a fascinating and varied coastline and internationally important areas of conservation. The area is also home to a wide and diverse range of industry, a thriving commercial sector, two ports of international significance and the highest concentration of Ministry of Defence bases in the UK. Waste handling and disposal is almost always therefore controversial given the need to balance all interests, the continuing major role played by landfill and the proposals for long term incineration of household waste. Nearly 4 millions tonnes of wastes were disposed of in the area during 1994/95 and additionally the area is home to one of only three UK based High Temperature Hazardous waste incinerators which is used to dispose of the more hazardous organic wastes. In 1994/95 this plant handled 24000 tonnes of waste which included 7000 tonnes of waste imported mainly from EU countries but with small amounts coming from as far afield as the Far East.

The Waste Regulation Group is charged with responsibility for ensuring that the disposal, treatment and movement of waste does not result in pollution of the environment or harm to human health. In addition the Group investigates unlicensed operations, visits waste producers, provides information on waste statistics and plans and promotes good waste management practice via documents such as the National Waste Strategy.

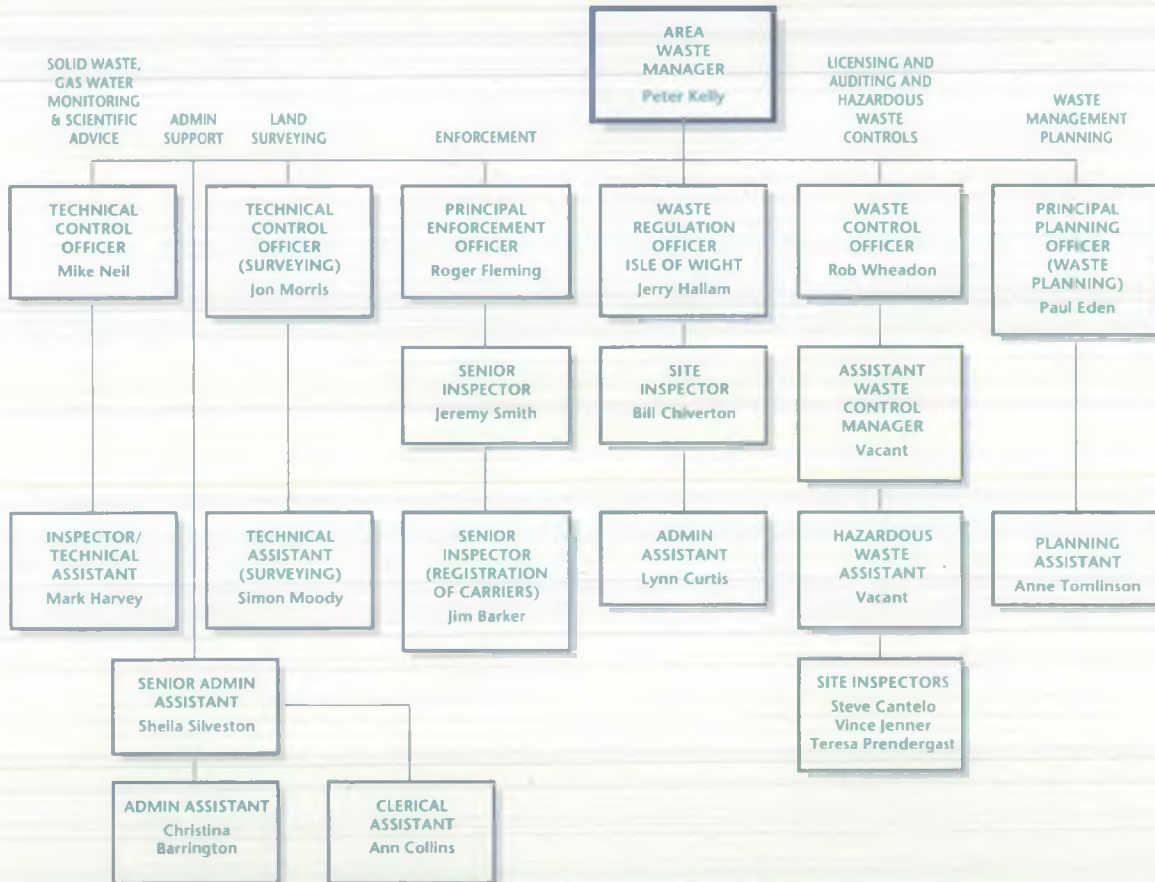
Environmental control of waste management facilities ranging from landfills, waste transfer stations, scrap metal facilities and clinical waste incinerators is exerted through the issue of waste management licences which have a range of conditions to control all aspects of the site from opening hours to complex engineering and gas/leachate control systems. Sites are regularly visited and operations are evaluated against the licence conditions and the contents of the operator's Working Plan. Enforcement action is taken when appropriate and legal proceedings are initiated when other options have failed.

The movement and disposal of transfrontier and special waste is controlled by checking, tracking documentation and undertaking inspections and audits, with regular unannounced visits proving to be the most satisfactory mechanism for controlling activities. Some 25,000 documents were received and monitored for special waste during 1994/95. Carriers of waste should be registered and all waste accompanied by Duty of Care documentation to ensure that the Waste Regulation Group can track it from "cradle to grave".

Waste policy is an increasing responsibility for the Group and demands a close working relationship with industry to promote waste reduction, re-use and recovery.

Within the Environment Agency it is expected that the Group will play an important role in monitoring the Producer's Responsibility for Packaging Waste to ensure that the UK meets its obligations under the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The Group will be undertaking a survey to establish accurate information on waste types generated, disposed, reduced and reused in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area. The results of this study will feed through nationally to the Secretary of State to be included in the National Waste Strategy as required by the Environment Act 1995. In addition the Group will continue to monitor the progress of the landfill tax and the possible increase in fly tipping, as well as the use of new techniques such as life cycle assessment for waste management.

# HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WASTE REGULATION



## FISHERIES, RECREATION, CONSERVATION AND NAVIGATION

At the Area Office the Area FRC Manager co-ordinates the activities of the function through the Area Fisheries Officer and Area Conservation and Recreation Officer.

### Fisheries

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area includes the rivers Test and Itchen, chalkstreams renowned worldwide for their trout fishing. The Test and Itchen also support a nationally important salmon run. The River Meon which is also a chalkstream, supports brown trout, sea trout, coarse fish and the occasional salmon. The streams of the New Forest all have runs of sea trout and harbour populations of wild brown trout. The rivers Hamble and Wallington also have runs of sea trout and support coarse fisheries. The streams on the IOW provide popular coarse fishing for islander and tourists alike. Throughout the Area the many coarse and trout stillwaters provide a wealth of sport, club and leisure fishing opportunities.

The fisheries function's aim and duty is to maintain, improve and develop the fisheries of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Work includes enforcement of the Fisheries Acts and byelaws through anti-poaching patrols, both inland and offshore, to routine licence checking; the provision of fish passes to ensure that migratory species are not obstructed; the collection of fish survey data which provides a sensitive indicator of river water quality; the screening of planning applications and consents, and the giving of advice to angling clubs and riparian owners on the scientific management of their fisheries.

The fisheries function is at the forefront of fisheries science and new technology with fish counters on both the rivers Test and Itchen capable of taking video stills of the salmon that pass through them. Salmon radio tracking studies have monitored the progress of salmon from tidal water to the spawning grounds. Previous salmon microtagging by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and the Agency is being used to assess the impact of the Irish drift net fishery on our stocks. For anti-poaching, match box sized CCTV video cameras are deployed to keep watch over vulnerable poaching locations. Working closely with angling clubs and fisheries is central to the way the Environment Agency aims to improve the Area's fisheries. The Hampshire Salmon Enhancement Programme is founded on the collaborative effort of the Environment Agency and the Fisheries owners and through this partnership hundreds of thousands of salmon have been stocked to the rivers Test and Itchen; many salmon spawning and fry habitat improvement works have been carried out and several major fish passes have been constructed. For the benefit of many of Hampshire's coarse fisheries, aeration equipment is on permanent standby while new dissolved oxygen metres have been purchased. Equipment to deploy barley straw to control algae is now available for use, together with comprehensive advice.

## Conservation

In terms of its natural history, Hampshire can lay claim to be the richest county in England, with over 1,400 species of vascular plants occurring here, more than any other English county. The Area is also home to a diversity of nationally rare species such as the Otter, native Crayfish and numerous butterflies and dragonflies. There are also, of course, a number of uniquely rich river valleys, those such as the Test and Itchen commanding world fame for their fisheries and other intrinsic wildlife interests. The chalk streams, with their extensive unimproved flood plain meadows and fens are unrivaled in Europe.

The wealth of conservation interest within the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Area is reflected in the number and area of statutory designations. There are over 115 Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering about 15% of the Area, 5 Ramsar sites, including Chichester Harbour which are wetlands of international importance, Special Protection Areas (SPA) such as the New Forest and nominated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

The Environment Agency plays a significant and influential role in protecting and managing the conservation interests of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Conservation Function has a direct input to planning and development control in the Area, ensuring that the Agency meets all of its stringent conservation duties that make it one of the world's foremost environmental regulators.

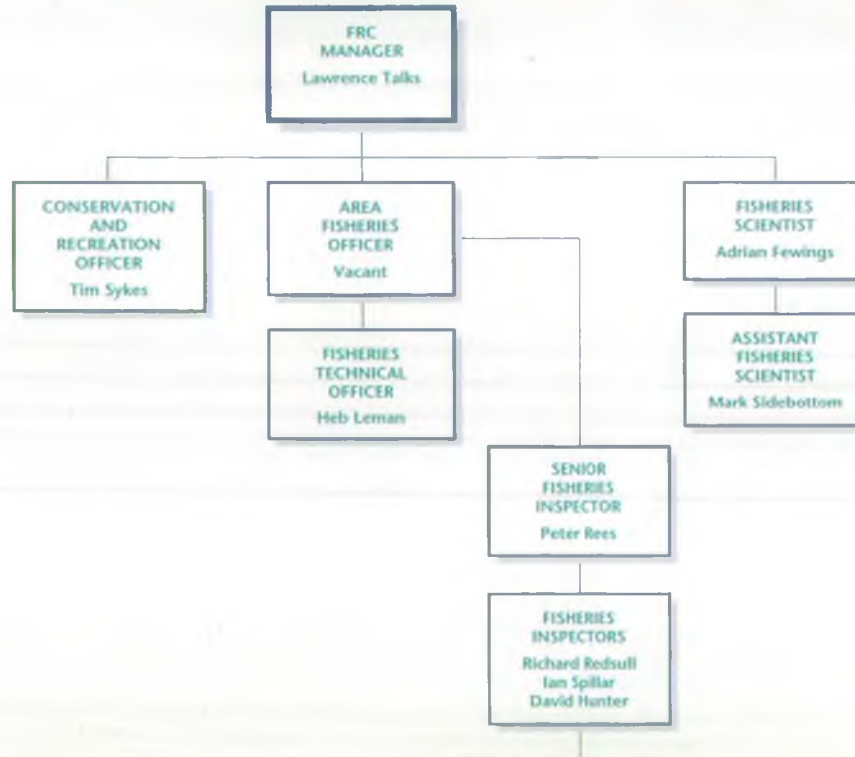
Within the Agency, the Conservation Function provides an essential service and guidance to all other functions to enable their daily work to have due regard for the environment. The Agency, through the FRC Manager also initiates a number of Conservation capital schemes and, for example, in 1996 began the process of restoring the Hermitage Stream as it flows through Havant to enhance the wildlife interest of the watercourse and to improve the landscape for the public's enjoyment.

The Area Conservation & Recreation Officer maintains close liaison with external bodies such as English Nature to help achieve the most effective conservation measures across the Area. The South East Otters and Rivers Project is an exciting collaborative project between the Agency and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, where the Environment Agency provides expert and technical support in addition to core funding. The Otter Project is now entering its 5th year and has achieved great success in seeing Otters return to Hampshire's rivers through close liaison and essential co-operation with private landowners to enhance riparian habitats and mitigate against possible road deaths. Volunteers and the general public are always encouraged to join in organised events, for example, constructing artificial Otter holts, and by participating in guided walks and slide presentations.

## Recreation

The Area Conservation and Recreation Officer examines opportunities in all Environment Agency schemes to promote water based recreation wherever possible, undertaking improvements to riverside footpaths is one example. A regionally based Recreation Officer supports the Area's recreation efforts.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FISHERIES, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION



3 part-time Fisheries Bailiffs

## WATER RESOURCES

The Area's major rivers, the Test and the Itchen, rise in the Hampshire chalk downland collecting spring-fed tributaries on their way to the sea at Southampton. The chalk aquifer provides consistent flows of high quality water and these rivers are, or are about to be, designated Special Sites of Scientific Interest along their whole lengths. They are also heavily used for public water supply, game fishing, fish farming and as a public amenity, and balancing these needs with those of the river habitat requires constant monitoring and consistent management of water resources.

The chalk aquifer is also exploited by wells and boreholes for public water supply, for agriculture and industry and for private use. Another particularly local application is watercress farming which needs large volumes of alkaline water at constant temperature. The protection of the quality and the quantity of this water will be a continuing responsibility of the Environment Agency.

Catchment Management Plans implemented across most of the Area provide a framework for water management objectives, and with an annual rainfall of between 800 and 900 mm, careful stewardship will satisfy requirements for the future and may allow some development of water resources within the scope of the Regional Water Resources Strategy. However, solutions remain to be found in four low flow catchments of varying severity depending on local geological conditions and on abstractions authorised by Licences of Right.

A small team based at Newport is responsible for hydrometric networks on the Isle of Wight and for supporting other aspects of resources management. Peak demand by summer visitors, intensive agriculture and limited aquifer outcrops mean that the Island is not self-sufficient in water resources which are augmented from the River Test by a sub-Solent main.

Similar pressure on the River Itchen arising from abstraction and sewage effluent dilution led to the development of two groundwater augmentation schemes in the Candover and Alre valleys. Supporting the river environment through the length of the Itchen, they are managed by Resources staff. Considerable investment has been made recently to optimise yields and minimise maintenance at the seven borehole sites.

Steady investment is also made to maintain and improve river and groundwater monitoring stations, and all rivers and most major tributaries are now continuously gauged. Wide use is made of non-intrusive flow measuring systems such as electromagnetics and ultrasonics to suit our low gradient rivers with valuable habitat and fishing interests. Large amounts of data are provided to customers from the Area office, together with professional advice on licensing and the whole scope of water resource management.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WATER RESOURCES





## FLOOD DEFENCE

### Responsibilities

Flood defence responsibilities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight relate to designated Main River, Tidal banks and Sea walls. There is a total of nearly 900km of Main River and despite the extensive coastline only 40km of Coastal and Tidal banks which are maintained by the Environment Agency.

The principal rivers, the Test and the Itchen, have few flooding problems, apart from Romsey which has a small risk of flooding. However, groundwater flooding has recently occurred extensively on the upper tributaries of these rivers and capital works are planned to relieve some of the villages.

The large urban areas in East Hampshire around Havant, Fareham and parts of Southampton are drained by a large number of relatively small urban watercourses, (the Hermitage Stream, the Wallington and the Monks Brook among others) which respond quickly to rainfall and can cause flooding particularly if grilles become blocked.

The New Forest rivers (the Lymington River, Beaulieu River, Bartley Water, Avon Water and the Danes Stream) regularly flood parts of the Forest and can cause problems in the surrounding villages. They are important for nature conservation and maintenance work is kept to a minimum.

On the Isle of Wight there is an extensive network of rivers, some very small and fast flowing, and include the Eastern Yar which is maintained both for intensive agriculture in the middle reaches and nature conservation in the lower reaches. Ryde and parts of Newport contain urbanised streams that are liable to flooding following intensive rainfall. There is a pumping station at Monkton Mead in Ryde to assist drainage when the outfall is tide-locked.

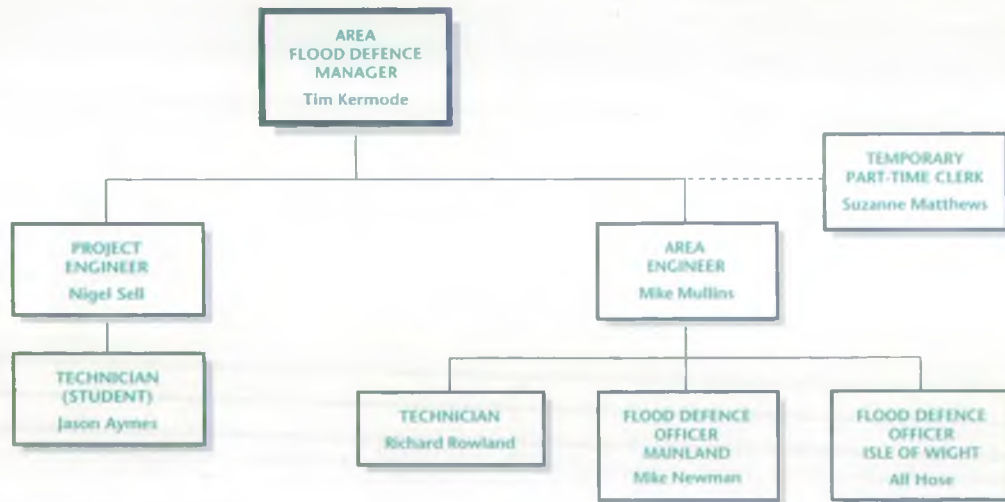
There are large areas of low-lying land below sea level protected by sea walls at Lymington, Farlington, Hayling Island and at Sandown on the Isle of Wight. There are also a number of areas very close to sea level not currently protected by formal sea walls – these include parts of Portsmouth.

The Environment Agency operates a flood warning service that, using a combination of a network of telemetry rain gauges and computer forecasts produces warnings of possible river and tidal flooding.

### Flood Defence Organisation

The Area Flood Defence Manager and most of his team are currently based at Romsey. They are responsible for all flood defence maintenance in the Area and identification of any new works. New works are progressed by the Regional New Works Section as capital works and are generally designed and constructed under contract.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FLOOD DEFENCE ORGANISATION



Maintenance activities are generally carried out, on the mainland, by the Direct Workforce under a contract with the Area Team who supervise this work. A Flood Defence Officer is based on the Island who identifies and supervises the work there and is also responsible for covering the Planning Liaison interests. All the maintenance work on the Island is carried out by contractors following competition.

## **PLANNING LIAISON**

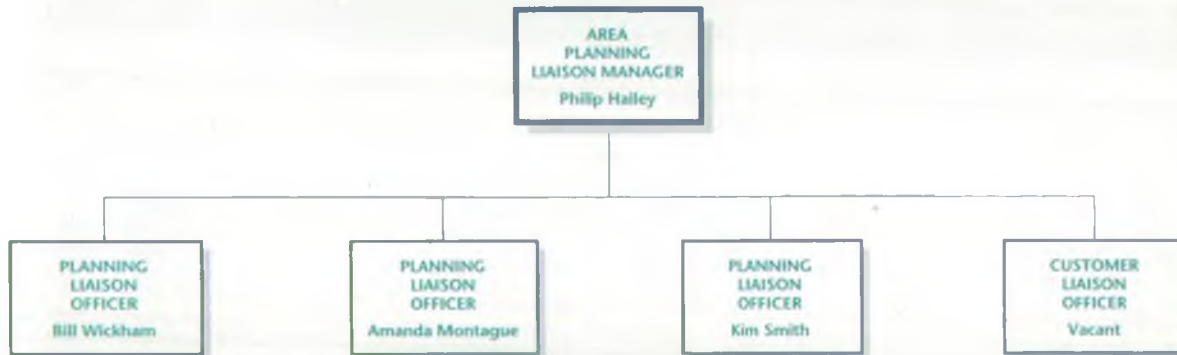
The Planning Liaison team is the link between the Environment Agency and the County, District and Unitary Councils and other organisations, influencing decisions made on Structure, Unitary and Local Development Plans, individual planning applications, railways, roads, other public services proposed, and dealing with general development enquiries.

The section also directly influences developments which impact on the Agency's land drainage and sea defence interests (with due regard given to conservation matters), via the statutory controls of the Water Resources Act, Land Drainage Act and Byelaws. The work involves advising and negotiating with developers, engineers and the public prior to the submission of their applications.

Planning Liaison will play an important co-ordination role in the compilation and promotion of the Environment Agency Local Management Plans which are an expansion of the NRA's River Catchment Management Plans incorporating the interests of Waste Regulation and Integrated Pollution Control.

Others tasks include technical responses to legal enquiries, advising on flood enquiries, input into MAFF-FEPA licensing and active involvement in Local Authority initiatives, Shoreline Management Plans and Area Environmental Groups.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT PLANNING LIAISON



## **BUSINESS SERVICES**

The Area support services to all staff in the Functions is provided by Business Services. The main services delivered at area level are:

**1. Premises Management and Office Services**

The provision of building services and maintenance together with the purchase of furniture and office equipment.

**2. Procurement**

All orders are processed through the Area Office using a computer based procurement system. Advice on official contracts and suppliers is provided.

**3. Word Processing**

Word processing letters, reports, official documents to corporate standards.

**4. Reception/Telephonist**

Managing visitors and directing callers to best function and person.

**5. Health and Safety**

The Agency's Health and Safety policy is co-ordinated by the section to ensure full awareness by managers and staff.

**6. Personnel**

Maintenance of all personnel records, assisting in recruitment of Area staff, arranging temporary agency staff and distribution of personnel related information to staff.

**7. Training**

Control of local training budgets. Arranging training and course administration.

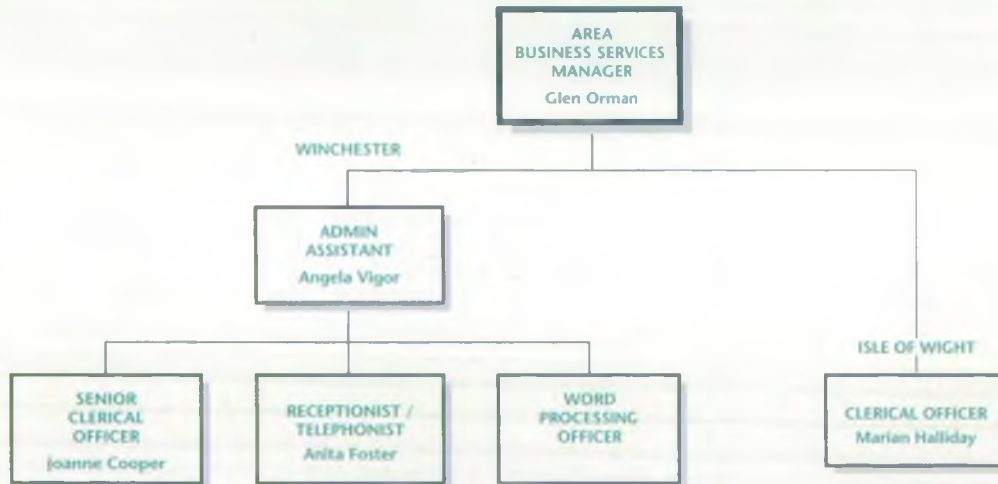
**8. Information Systems and Communication**

The co-ordination of the Agency's IS and telephony strategy to ensure compatibility.

**9. Complaints**

Receives and progresses official complaints from the public.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUSINESS SERVICES



## **CONTACTING THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES** (Monday - Friday 0900 - 1700)  
0645 333111

**ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES**  
0800 80 70 60

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