

THE TORRIDGE CATCHMENT



The Torrington catchment



Part of the catchment from the air - showing the importance of agriculture

EA South West 76

HOW YOU CAN HELP



The Torrington Catchment Consultation Report is now available to the public.

The NRA is keen to receive your views by 31 August 1993 on the issues identified and proposals made. There may also be other matters you wish to raise.

The report is being distributed to a wide range of bodies including local authorities, statutory organisations, voluntary groups, landowners and other interested parties.

In addition copies will be lodged for study in NRA offices in Exeter, Bodmin and Alverdiscott Road, Bideford and in libraries at Bideford, Okehampton and Great Torrington.

To comment on the Report or to obtain a copy please contact:

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Photos - Above: *The West Okement, a major tributary of the Torridge*
 Front Cover: *Rothern Bridge, Great Torrington on the Torridge*

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RIVER TORRIDGE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

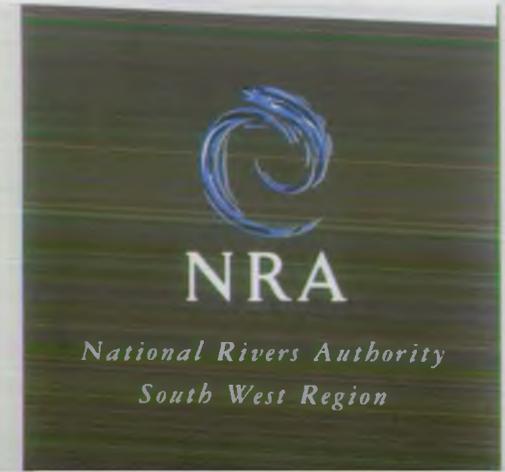
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SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVING THE TORRIDGE



The NRA in action . . . restocking the Torridge with young salmon

The National Rivers Authority is seeking the support of organisations and individuals in the important task of safeguarding and improving the Torridge Catchment in Devon. This leaflet explains the background and sets out how you can help.

THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

The NRA is the environmental agency responsible in England and Wales for the protection and improvement of the water environment. This includes rivers, streams, lakes, underground water, estuaries and coastal waters. To exercise its responsibilities, the NRA as 'Guardian of the Water Environment' is involved in a variety of activities. These include:

WATER RESOURCES planning and management to safeguard water supplies including monitoring and licensing of abstractions.

POLLUTION CONTROL to maintain and improve environmental quality; issuing and monitoring of discharge consents.

FLOOD DEFENCE to protect people and property from flooding.

FISHERIES maintenance, improvement and development, including licensing and enforcement.

CONSERVATION of the water environment, protecting its value as a wildlife habitat and an amenity.

RECREATION - promoting recreational activities in and around water.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

To achieve an overall improvement in a river catchment (i.e. the river and the area which drains into it), all of the NRA activities need to be brought together and integrated with the responsibilities, needs and requirements of others. Catchment Management Plans provide a means for setting priorities, solving problems and enhancing the water environment in a co-ordinated way.

The production of Catchment Management Plans within the NRA comes in two stages: a Consultation Report followed by a Final Plan.

The Consultation Report consists of a number of sections including an assessment of the current state of the catchment, the uses that are made of it, and discussion of the objectives and options for its improvement.

Many of the initiatives highlighted will rely on the co-operation and commitment of many people. Local knowledge is invaluable. Hence the importance of the first consultation stage.

The Final Plan will be produced following the consultation and will, of course, have regard to the comments received.



Photo: Mike Weaver

Trout fishing at Sheepwash



Healthy otter populations are found in the catchment

THE TORRIDGE CATCHMENT

The Torridge catchment was immortalized in Henry Williamson's 'Tarka the Otter'. In recent years concern has been expressed about an apparent decline in its environmental quality.

The NRA has been busy working on improvement programmes and the catchment management plan offers the opportunity for longer term strategic work.

The River Torridge drains a large part of north-west Devon. The total area of the freshwater catchment is 857 km². There are a

number of important sub-catchments including those of the rivers

Okement, Lew and Waldon.

The Consultation Report looks at a number of key aspects including agriculture and forestry, ecology, conservation, fisheries, amenity and recreation, infrastructure and communications, water abstraction and supply, mineral extraction and solid waste disposal, effluent and industrial developments, flood defence, water resources and water quality.



Two major aspects - quarry and water supply reservoir at Meldon



Recreation: Old Railway Viaduct, Great Torrington - now part of the Tarka Trail