



NRA

# RIVER STOUR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

*SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW*  
JANUARY 1995 TO DECEMBER 1995



*National Rivers Authority*

*SEVERN-TRENT REGION  
UPPER SEVERN AREA*

Copies of the 1994 Annual Review (February 1995), the River Stour Final Plan (December 1993) and Summary leaflet for the River Stour Catchment Management Plan (December 1992) are available.

If you or your organisation need further information or copies of any of the above documents, please contact Mrs D Murray (Catchment Management Planning Officer) at the address below.

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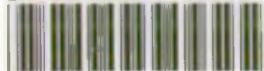
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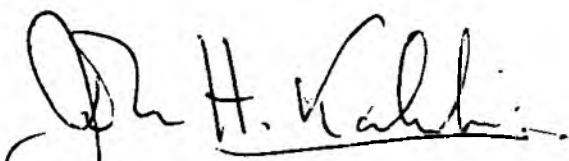


## FOREWORD

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) was created in 1989 to conserve and enhance the natural water environment and to reduce the risks to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding. As "Guardians of the Water Environment", the NRA is committed to preparing a sound plan for the future management of the Region's river catchments.

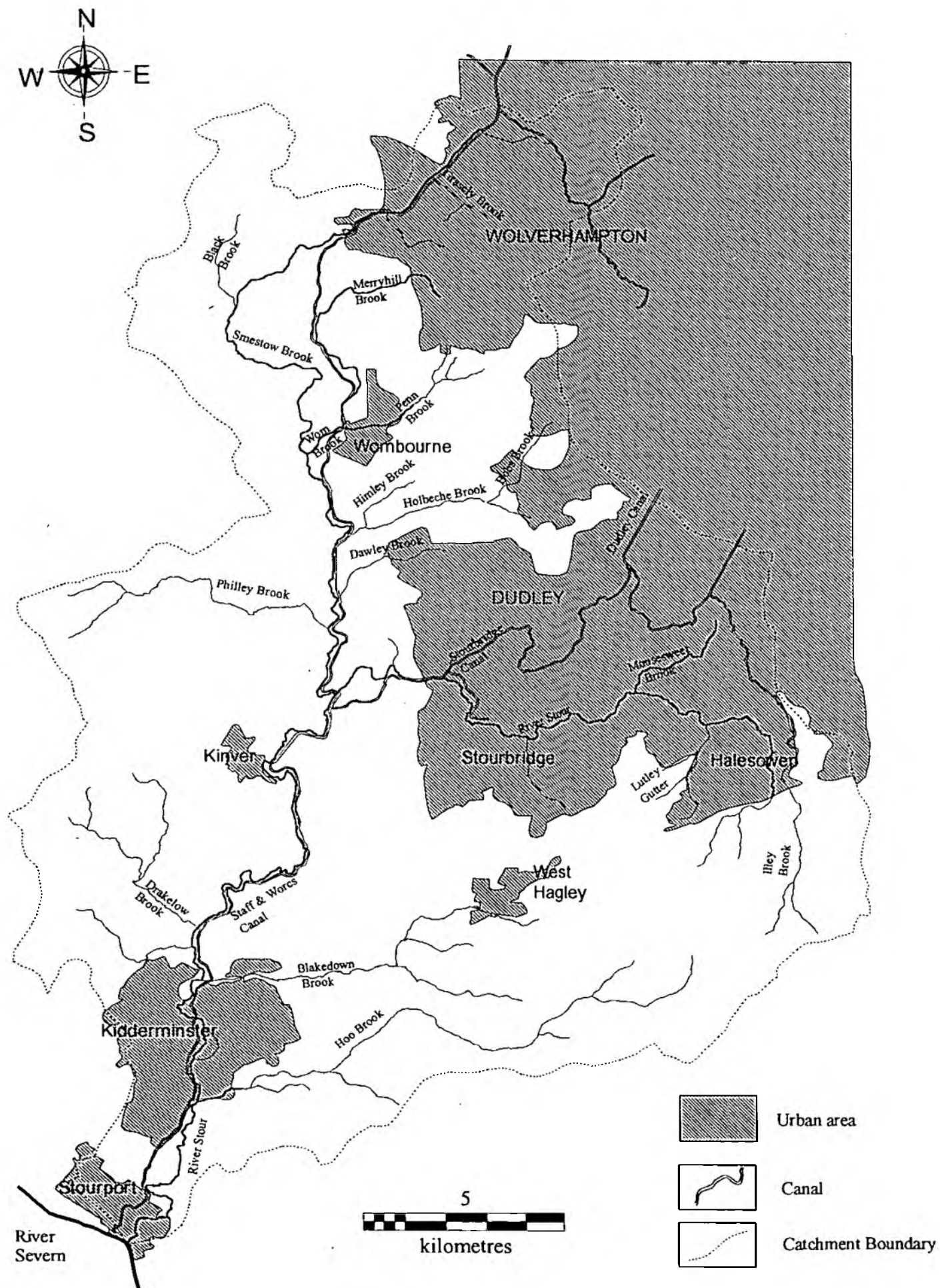
This is the second Annual Review of the River Stour Catchment Management Plan and its purpose is to highlight the progress that has been made by the NRA and others in tackling the issues and problems identified in the Consultation Report and the Final Plan.

The next annual review will be carried out by the Environment Agency. In April 1996, the NRA together with its partners Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) and waste regulation personnel from local authorities will come together to form the new Agency.



**John Kalicki**  
Area Manager - Upper Severn Area

# The River Stour Catchment





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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Review summarises the progress made in achieving targets to improve the water environment in the Stour Catchment in the year since publication of the 1994 Annual Review, and covers the period January 1995 to December 1995. Generally good progress has been made by responsible parties on carrying out the actions planned for this year including a number of collaborative actions.

Of the 74 actions planned for the second year (including ongoing actions) progress has been made on 69, with 2 completed and 9 in partial completion (ie. specific interim target dates have been achieved). As a result of the 1995 progress review, 5 new actions or sub-issues have been added to the CMP.

Of particular note has been the good progress made on improving the conservation and recreational value of several riverside sites, and the drilling of a borehole to support alleviation of low flows in a tributary of the Blakedown Brook. Discussions have taken place and progress has been made on proposals to redevelop Kidderminster town centre, including land adjacent to the River Stour and potential contaminated land sites.

The Stour catchment has been selected as one of eight pilot catchments in England and Wales to test the operation of Statutory Water Quality Objectives. Draft proposals for the Stour Catchment were drawn up during 1995.

The tables in Section 4.0 form an integral part of this review, and should be referred to for a summary of progress on each action.

## 1.0 VISION FOR THE CATCHMENT

The NRA's vision for the Stour Catchment is to restore streams and rivers to a sustainable condition closer to a natural state by:

- addressing poor water quality and the problems caused by overabstraction and flooding.
- extending green river-corridors through urban areas.
- increasing easily accessible water based amenities and recreation.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

The process of Catchment Management Planning is used by the NRA to provide an integrated framework for the management and planning of river catchments. CMPs allow the NRA to balance all the competing requirements and interests of users of the water environment. Through the involvement of local interests the process realises the environmental potential of a catchment by identifying the activities and priorities of a wide variety of partners involved in the water environment.

The first stage is production of a Consultation Report. This outlines the Issues within a catchment and options for their solution. Following a period of consultation, a final Action Plan is produced. This includes a programme of actions for improvements to the water environment. It outlines areas of work and investment proposed by the NRA and others. For the Stour CMP, the Consultation Report was published in December 1992 and the Final (Action) Plan in December 1993.

An important part of the CMP process is to monitor the Action Plan to ensure that targets and actions are achieved and that the plan continues to address relevant and significant issues in the catchment in an appropriate manner. This second Annual Review summarises the progress made since the publication of first Annual Review, and covers the period January 1995 to December 1995.

The action tables in Section 4.0 have been carried forward from the first Annual Review. Notes on progress are included in the final column of each table. Actions completed prior to the date of publication of the first Annual Review (February 1995) do not appear. Where any major changes have been made to the actions, these have been highlighted in bold text in the tables.

Since publication of the Final Plan the NRA has introduced new schemes for reporting and planning water quality. Details of these schemes are available in other NRA documents, but a brief description is given in Appendix 2. The 1995 Annual Review incorporates the River Quality Objectives (RQOs) which have now been developed for the Stour catchment under the new River Ecosystem classification scheme. Appendix 3 lists the RQOs for each stretch of classified watercourse in the catchment, and gives a short explanation on short term and long term objectives.

## **The Environment Agency**

In April 1996 the NRA will merge with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) and the Waste Regulation Authorities to form the Environment Agency. This new body will be responsible for the environmental protection of water, air and waste and will continue to seek to prevent and control pollution.

The partnerships which the NRA has made with others in this catchment will continue, as will this catchment management plan.

### **2.1 The Catchment**

The River Stour drains a surface area of 373 square kilometres and lies mostly within the counties of Hereford and Worcester, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The Stour flows west from its source in the Clent Hills, towards Stourton and its confluence with the Smestow Brook, before flowing south to join the River Severn at Stourport. The River Stour and its main tributaries total 214 kilometres in length.

A section of the Staffs & Worcester Canal runs south through the catchment, parallel to the Smestow Brook and then the River Stour, linking the Shropshire Union and Birmingham Canal networks with the River Severn.

Most of the catchment is underlain by a Sherwood sandstone aquifer, which has a significant influence on river flows and land use within the catchment. The aquifer is an important water resource, abstracted for public water supply and both agricultural and industrial uses.

Around two-thirds of the catchment is rural, supporting a mixed agriculture. However, a significant proportion of the catchment is highly urbanised.

To the north and east, the catchment overlaps the West Midlands conurbation, and includes a large proportion of the Black Country. Historically, the area has been a significant industrial and residential centre, and still has important light engineering and manufacturing industries. In recent years, technology business parks and out of town shopping centres have been established. Kidderminster, in the lower reaches of the River Stour, has a number of large carpet factories, a sugarbeet processing plant and other light industrial works.

Intensive arable agriculture dominates the rest of the catchment with localised areas of pasture, particularly on the urban fringes. Satellite photography shows 35% of the catchment area is arable land, over 29% is urban, and 18.5% grassland.

### **2.2 Key Objectives of the River Stour CMP**

Key objectives are to:-

- Minimise the adverse effect of urban development on the water environment.

- Improve water quality in the 35% of the catchment's rivers which fail to comply with their quality objective.
- Progressively improve and maintain water quality and the water environment throughout the catchment.
- Ensure that development of waste disposal sites or redevelopment of contaminated land does not compromise groundwater quality.
- Encourage more efficient use of existing groundwater sources and ameliorate low flow patterns.
- Increase biological diversity of the water environment and improve site management of wetland SSSIs and Prime Sites.
- Improve damaged landscape areas related to the water environment and improve records on relevant archaeological sites.
- Improve fish stocks throughout the catchment.
- Increase scope for recreational uses within the catchment.
- Implement improvement scheme to alleviate flooding in Kidderminster, depending on redevelopment of riparian land.
- Implement schemes to alleviate periodic flooding at a number of sites in the catchment.

### **2.3 Assessment of the Catchment and Major Changes during 1995**

Since December 1994 there have been no major changes in the catchment to warrant new issues being raised at this time.

There have been changes in the status of Local Authority Development Plans in the catchment during 1995. Progress has been made on Unitary Development Plans, district wide Plans, and reviews of County Structure Plans. The current status of Development Plans within the catchment area is summarised in the table in Appendix 1.

The NRA encourages the inclusion of policies in Development Plans which reflect its concerns and responsibilities, and has pursued this at the Public Local Inquiry stage where necessary during 1995. At the Public Inquiry for the Bromsgrove District Council Local Plan the NRA is seeking minor modifications to emphasise the need for adequate sewerage and water supply provision prior to development. The NRA is also seeking the identification of watercourse corridors on allocated site descriptions.

The Regional Planning Guidance (RPG 11) for the West Midlands was published in September 1995, and will supersede the previous Strategic Guidance (PPG 10 1988)



for the West Midlands Metropolitan area. The RPG includes the Shire Counties of Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands Metropolitan County, and covers the period to 2011. Its primary purpose is to set the framework for Development Plans in the Region and it will have long term implications for land use within the catchment. The NRA, as a consultee, has had an input to the RPG, in particular Sections 12.17 to 12.24 regarding protection of water resources, provision of adequate sewerage, environmental enhancement of river and canal corridors, and flood plain protection.

The RPG will lead to Development Plans being amended to reflect changed housing requirements up to 2011. There is likely to be more emphasis on the re-development of existing urban sites in the catchment, and development pressure may occur in some areas as a result of policies for availability of public transport. The urbanised eastern part of the catchment is eligible for Objective 2 grant funding under European Union legislation.

The review "Managing the Trunk Road Programme", published in November 1995, reduced the Birmingham Western Orbital Route to longer term status. The Kidderminster/Blakedown/Hagley Bypass is also now included in the longer term category.

### **3.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS**

Of 74 actions planned for this year, progress has been made on all but 5 (Actions B11c, D2e, E1a, H1g, Ib (part)), and 2 were completed (Actions F1d, F4a). Of the 69 actions currently on target, 9 are in partial completion (ie. specific interim targets have been achieved). Many of the actions have involved organisations working in collaboration with others.

For details of progress for each action, please refer to the 'progress' column in the tables in Section 4.0.

### **3.1 Notable Achievements and Disappointments**

Notable achievements:-

- Good progress has been made this year with the drilling of a borehole in October 1995 to support alleviation of low flows in a tributary of the Blakedown Brook. Test pumping took place in November 1995, and assuming that the groundwater abstraction licence is granted (subject to analysis of the test pump data), the borehole should be operational for use in summer 1996 should the need arise (Action E1b).
- A flow measurement station has been completed at Prestwood for low flow water resources purposes and also for flood forecasting for Kidderminster at a total cost of £140,000 (Action Ib).

- Boreholes have been drilled at Cradley Heath to monitor groundwater quality for investigation of pollution in the Mousesweet Brook (Action B5a).
- There has been an overall reduction in the number of pollution incidents during 1995. The total number reported was 162 in the calendar year 1995, compared with 279 and 297 for the years April to March 1992/3 and 1993/4 respectively. The objective of ongoing and increasing pollution prevention work in the catchment to reduce pollution incidents is meeting with some success (Action B15).
- Further reduction in the discharge of moth-proofing pesticides to the River Stour has been achieved by the carpet industry in Kidderminster (Action B4b).
- Work has progressed in ensuring that re-development of contaminated land in the catchment has been to appropriate standards and to present less risk to the water environment. Examples include Kidderminster central area and re-development of numerous former factory sites (Action C1).
- The Inspector backed NRA precautions with regard to contaminated land considerations at the Pendleford Premium Employment site in the South Staffordshire Local Plan Public Inquiry (Action A1a).
- Promising progress has been made with pre-planning application enquiries on the redevelopment of Kidderminster town centre including land adjacent to the River Stour. This site offers the opportunity of watercourse enhancement, whilst respecting flood flow needs and having regard to potential contaminated land (Actions A1b and Ia).
- Conservation improvement works have been carried out in conjunction with Flood Defence tree maintenance work at the Cradley Brook, Mousesweet Brook and Hoo Brook Local Nature Reserve (Action F1c).
- Tree planting work at the Wom Brook has helped to improve a damaged landscape area (Action F2b).
- A feasibility study on the Graisely Brook is being undertaken to assess the possibility of creating a reedbed area to improve water quality and to create new wetland habitat within the Valley Park SINC (Action F2b).
- Spennels Park Local Nature Reserve, on the Hoo Brook near Kidderminster, is being jointly managed by Wyre Forest DC and the NRA. During 1995, coppicing of a large area of alder, which is destroying an important marsh area, has taken place together with public access improvements to the site (Action F4b).
- Wom Brook Walkway has been the focus of a large planting scheme implemented by the NRA and South Staffordshire District Council, assisted by local residents. The scheme improves the visual landscape, conservation and

recreation value of the site (Actions F2b and H1e).

- At Bumblehole, the NRA, together with Sandwell and Dudley Councils, are installing fishing platforms to improve access for disabled and able bodied anglers. The work will also provide better control of bankside usage thereby protecting the varied marginal vegetation for which this Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is noted (Actions F4b, F7c and H1d).
- Instream habitat improvements on the River Stour near Amblecote, carried out during Flood Defence maintenance operations, should benefit future fish stocks (Action G1c).

There have been some disappointments:-

- Extensive fish losses occurred in the Staffs and Worcester Canal during July 1995 as a result of storm overflows of sewage from the Barnhurst Sewage Works near Wolverhampton. Restocking work is being undertaken by the NRA and British Waterways (Action G2).
- There has been a lack of support from Bromsgrove District Council regarding the impact on the water environment of development proposals in Hagley adjacent to the sewage works and in the Local Plan phasing policy (Actions A1a and B11c).

### **3.2 Summary of the NRA's routine activities in the Stour Catchment**

The strategic nature of the CMP as a long-term planning tool, directing manpower and financial resources to resolving environmental problems, means that the plan is not designed to reflect fully on routine activity within the catchment. Our everyday work, of which examples are given below, commits substantial resources to managing the water environment.

Enforcement and routine monitoring work are important in achieving the NRA's objective to progressively improve water quality throughout the catchment, and protect against risk of pollution (Action 15). These operations and regulatory responsibilities form the basis of our work.

During 1995 there were 2 successful prosecutions brought against polluters in the Stour catchment, with 6 cases still pending. One formal caution (with two pending) was also given. Formal cautions are given where it is deemed inappropriate to prosecute but it is clear that an offence has been committed. (Action B15c).

Routine monitoring work includes site inspections throughout the catchment. During 1995, 323 site inspections were carried out at sewage works (private and water company), 104 inspections of sewerage overflows, 332 inspections of industrial sites, 66 inspections of contaminated land and waste disposal sites, 47 inspections at farms, and 60 inspections categorised as 'other' (Action B15b).

## Pollution Incident Reports - Stour Catchment January 1995 - December 1995

Type	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total
Chemical	0	1	16	0	17
Oil	1	4	45	0	50
Sewage	1	1	17	0	19
Organic Waste	0	4	10	0	14
Other	0	1	40	0	41
No Pollution	0	0	0	21	21
	2	11	128	21	162

Class 1 - Major incident

Class 2 - Significant incident

Class 3 - Minor incident

Class 4 - Unsubstantiated

The responsibilities for water resources include licence determination, charging, policing and enforcement. Through these responsibilities an integrated approach is taken that aims to strike a balance between the needs of abstractors and the environment. During 1995 there were no prosecutions brought against illegal abstractors in the catchment, although 3 prosecutions are pending and 2 warning letters were issued. A total of 73 enforcement visits and 10 investigations into source deficits were carried out, and 3 new abstraction licences were issued.

Flood defence activities cover regulation (including issuing of land drainage consents), enforcement, maintenance and emergency response. Fisheries duties include enforcement of fisheries law, fish rearing, stocking, rescues and monitoring of fish stock. The NRA manages a number of conservation sites and collaborates with many external bodies.

The NRA works closely with local planning authorities through its planning liaison function. During 1995 the NRA commented on approximately 300 planning application consultations in the Stour Catchment, and on proposals associated with Bromsgrove District Local Plan, Wyre Forest District Local Plan, Hereford & Worcester County Minerals Local Plan and Staffordshire Aggregates Local Plan. Input has also been made during the pre-review work associated with the Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Structure Plans and Waste Local Plans.

## 4.0 MONITORING REPORT

The following Action Plan tables have been taken from the Final Plan document, and updated to show progress and any changes that have occurred since the Final Plan was published. Progress for each action is summarised in the column on the right hand side. Any changes from the Final Plan are highlighted in bold text.

### Notes on Abbreviations

AMP2	Asset Management Plan 1995-2000
BW	British Waterways
CoCo	Countryside Commission
CS	Commercially Sensitive
DOE	Department of the Environment
DOT	Department of Transport
EN	English Nature
GWU	Groundwater Unit
LA	Local Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MBC	Metropolitan Borough Council
NSA	Nitrate Sensitive Area
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
PPPG	Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater (NRA 1992)
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
STW Ltd	Severn Trent Water Ltd
UWWTD	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
WRA	Waste Regulation Authority

### Key

P	Project costs yet to be identified
R	Recurring costs
U	Unknown or unavailable costs
*	Under AMP2, approximately £40 million has been allocated to 4 STPs in the Stour Valley (Freehold, Caledonia, Roundhill and Kidderminster).
<	Less than
>	Greater than
●	Final Plan timescale
○	Revised timescale

### Notes on Additions and Alterations to the Plan Table

As indicated previously, this is an ongoing Plan and it has been necessary to make some adjustments to it as a result of the past year's activities.

Five actions have been added - to Issues B4, B5, B6, B9 and E1. These are indicated in bold in the Action Plan tables. Some routine actions have been deleted from the tables during the 1995 Review as CMPs are not designed to reflect fully on routine activity within the catchment (refer Section 3.2). However, this work is continuing and routine actions have been retained in the tables where it is considered they are particularly relevant to resolving the issue and/or where progress can be reported.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
A1	Seek to minimise the adverse effects of urban development on the water environment.	a) Persuade Local Planning Authorities to include policies designed to protect the water environment and NRA interests in development plans.	NRA Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)	R U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Representations made at Public Inquiry for Bromsgrove DC Local Plan. Inspector backed NRA precautions over contaminated land site in S. Staffs Local Plan.
		b) Encourage environmental enhancement as part of development/redevelopment and as part of the NRA's duty to enhance the environment under the Water Resources Act 1991.	Local Planning Authorities Developers NRA	U U R	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ongoing discussions regarding enhancement of Stour watercourse corridor during redevelopment in Kidderminster Town Centre and old industrial sites upstream. Lack of support from Bromsgrove DC regarding impact on water environment of development proposals in Hagley.
B1	Improve 4km of River Stour from Cradley to Freehold (RE4).	a) Investigate and identify causes of pollution.	NRA	6	○	○					No single point source identified. Investigation continuing. 2km stretch now achieving objective.
		b) Secure improvements where appropriate.	Dischargers	U							Dependent on above.
B2	Improve 7.5km of River Stour from Freehold STP to confluence with Smestow Brook (RE4 (2000)).	a) Improve Freehold Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Caledonia STP.	Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW Ltd)	*	○	○	○	○	○		Expenditure for major improvements to 4 STPs in Stour Valley approved by DOE (Freehold, Caledonia, Roundhill & Kidderminster). Outline consent agreement reached with Water Company (STW Ltd).
		b) Investigate performance of sewage overflows and negotiate improvements to sewerage system.	NRA STW Ltd	5 CS	○						Priority list being refined. Further information from Water Company required.
B3	Improve 16.3 km of River Stour from Smestow Brook confluence to Kidderminster (RE4 (2000)).	Improve Roundhill STP.	STW Ltd	*	○	○	○	○	○		See B2a above.



No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
B4	Improve 5km of River Stour from Kidderminster to River Severn (RE4 (2000)).	a) Secure upstream improvements in STPs.	STW Ltd	*	○	○	○	○	○		See B2a.
		b) Ensure compliance with agreed action plan for progressively reducing discharge of pesticides from carpet industry.	NRA STW Ltd Carpet Industry	2 U U	○						Good compliance with action plan. Significant improvement made in quality of discharge.
		c) Produce action plan for progressive reduction in discharge of sheep dip residues.	DoE MAFF	U	○	○					
B5	Improve 2.2km of Mousesweet Brook to ensure compliance with EC Dangerous Substances Directive (for Chromium), and long term RQO. (RE5), (RE4 Long Term).	a) Investigate and identify source of contamination and reason for failure to comply with long term RQO.	NRA	20	○						5 exploratory boreholes sunk in 1995. 3 year monitoring programme.
		b) negotiate improvement scheme with landowner/discharger subject to adequate legal provision.	Landowner Discharger	U							Dependent on above.
B6.1	Improve 2km of Smestow Brook from Aldersley Stadium to Compton (RE5), (RE4 Long Term).	Investigate and identify reason for failure to comply with long term RQO.	NRA	2	○	○					Refer to Appendix 3 note.
B6.2	Improve 3.5km of Smestow Brook from Compton to Trescott (RE4 (2000)). Improve 11.3 km from Trescott to confluence Holbeche Brook (RE5/4), (RE4 Long Term).	a) Improve Barnhurst STP.	STW Ltd	CS	○	○	○	○	○		Outline agreement reached with STW Ltd.
		b) Improve Trescott STP.	STW Ltd	U						●	No plans within next 5 years for Trescott due to lack of financial approval by DOE.
B7	Improve 2km of Wom/Penn Brook from Gospel End to The Wodehouse (RE5), (RE4 Long Term).	a) Improve Gospel End STP.	STW Ltd	U						●	As for Trescott above, no plans within next 5 years.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
B8	Improve 0.5km of Wom/Penn Brook from Wombourne to confluence with River Stour (RE5 (2000)), (RE4 Long Term).	a) Improve Wombourne STP.	STW Ltd	CS	○	○	○	○	○	●	Some money allocated beyond AMP 2 compliance. Some environmental benefit may result.
B9.1	Improve 0.5km of Bobs Brook from Lower Gornal to Holbeche Brook confluence ( RE5).	Improve Lower Gornal STP.	STW Ltd	U						●	As for Trescott above (B6b), no plans within next 5 years. Expect to maintain present performance.
B9.2	Improve 3.3 km of Holbeche Brook from Bobs Brook confluence to Smestow Brook (RE5), (RE4 Long Term).	Investigate and identify reason for failure to comply with long term RQO.	NRA	2	○	○					Refer to Appendix 3 note.
B10	Improve 3.2km of Gallows Brook from Hagley STP to confluence with Blakedown Brook .	Improve Hagley STP.	STW Ltd	U	○	○	○	○	○	●	As for Wombourne above (B8a), some money allocated but may not be sufficient to upgrade Blakedown Brook. Whilst not classified under RQO scheme, needs improvement from RE5 to RE4 to maintain quality of Blakedown Brook.
B11	Improve 5km of Blakedown Brook from Gallows Brook confluence to River Stour confluence (RE4/3), (RE2 Long Term).	a) Secure improvement to Hagley STP (see above).	STW Ltd	U	○	○	○	○	○	●	Some money allocated, as B10 above.
		b) Improve Blakedown STP and/or	STW Ltd	U						●	No money allocated in next 5 years.
		c) Protect existing stream baseflow.	NRA Abstractors	U U	○	○	○	○	○	●	Representations made to Bromsgrove DC Local Plan Inquiry to retain Hagley STP and resist premature housing development -to sustain baseflow and maintain quality.
B12	Establish reason for apparent deterioration in quality of Hoo Brook. (RE3), (RE2 Long Term).	a) Investigate and identify cause.	NRA	2	○						Investigations continuing. Some improvement in water quality in upper stretches.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
B12 (Cont)		b) Secure improvements where appropriate.	Dischargers	U							Dependent on above.
B13	Improve 11.2km of Staffs & Wors Canal from Tettenhall to Swindon (RE4). Improve 26.2 km of canal from Swindon to confluence with R Severn (RE3).	a) Improve Barnhurst STP.	STW Ltd	CS	○	○	○	○	○		Money allocated by DOE to ensure compliance with EC Fisheries Directive. Outline agreement reached with STW Ltd.
		c) Undertake removal of contaminated sediments from canal bed.	British Waterways (BW)	U	○					○	BW carrying out their own survey at present.
		d) Carry out additional monitoring to assess implications of delay in (c)	NRA	1	○						NRA monitoring proceeding.
B14	Investigate use of settling lakes to treat urban run-off.	Commission desk study	NRA	3	○						More detailed investigations now being carried out.
B15	Progressively improve water quality throughout catchment and protect against risk of pollution incidents.	b) Continue to inspect high risk sites eg: pesticide stores and give advice to developers.	NRA Developers	R	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing. See Section 3.2
		c) Monitoring and enforcement.	NRA	R	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing. See Section 3.2
C1	Ensure that development of waste disposal sites or redevelopment of contaminated land sites does not compromise groundwater quality.	a) Provide guidance to Developers/Landowners as part of NRA statutory duties, and to Local Waste Disposal and Local Planning Authorities as a statutory consultee.	NRA Developers Landowners WRAs LPAs	R U U U U	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing. All proposals assessed to ensure no risk to groundwater, and there has been regular liaison with Waste Regulation Authorities. Re-development of contaminated land sites in Kidderminster town centre. 11 sites dealt with in catchment during 1995.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
C2	Ensure that any activity does not compromise groundwater quality.	b) Continue phasing out of sewage sludge spreading (sewage sludge incinerator being developed).	STW Ltd NRA	14,000							Completed - no sludge now spread. The plant has been through the stage of commissioning and is now in regular use.
		c) Encourage farmers to adopt alternative farming practices to reduce nitrate pollution.	NRA Farmers Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food	R U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	NVZs defined by NRA for MAFF. New NSAs adopted officially and 'policed' by MAFF.
D1	Encourage more efficient use of existing sources.	a) Develop winter storage for agricultural use.	NRA Landowners	R U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ongoing. No winter storage put in in 1995 (no licences issued) although charging policy encourages this.
		b) Improve leakage control for public water supply.	NRA STW Ltd South Staffordshire Waterworks Co (SSWC)	R U U	•	•	•			•	Co-operation with STW Ltd and SSWC on assessment of leakage being further developed, resulting in better leakage information becoming available.
		c) Investigate further joint use of groundwater and surface water sources.	NRA STW Ltd SSWC	R	•	•	•	•		•	Modelling investigation specified.
D2	Reduce licensed abstractions, initially to arrest further decline in the water table and later to promote a return of baseflow to currently affected streams.	a) Promote use of alternative sources.	NRA STW Ltd SSWC	R U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Some use of Trimpley water from River Severn serving areas in the south of the catchment in 1995. Conjunctive use to be discussed with the Water Companies as part of AMP3.
		b) Refuse further licensing of resource in over licensed groundwater units.	NRA	R	•	•	•	•	•	•	No further Public Water Supply licences issued.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
D2 (Cont)		d) Develop Groundwater Model to assess resources.	NRA	100	•	•	○				Timetable for model programme set up.
		e) Seek legislative change to gain greater control over licences.	NRA Department of the Environment (DOE)	R U	•	•	•	•	•	•	No further progress was possible in 1995 (AMP2/AMP3). Environment Act 1995 Sections 100 and 101 clarifies interface between drainage and spray irrigation rights.
E1	Ameliorate low flow problems.	a) As Issue D2.	NRA Abstractors	R U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Formulation of proposals reliant on AMP3 discussions with Water Companies (see also D2).
		b) Undertake localised short-term compensation measures to augment flows by means of 2 boreholes in Blakedown Valley.	NRA	90	○						Pumping for operational flow support from borehole No 1 in 1995 maintained good environmental conditions in Harborough tributary. Borehole No 2 drilled and test pumped.
		c) Undertake an investigation to establish water level control at Hurcott Pools (SSSI).	NRA Highways Agency/Dept. of Transport (DOT) English Nature (EN)	10 U  U	○	○					Adjacent site for sale by DOT, but continuing uncertainty over road plans is hampering investigative work. Management plan awaited by EN and NRA. Monitoring of winter wetland conditions continuing. If winter drought affects wetland, more tubewells needed in 1996. Report prepared.
		d) Undertake remedial works to restore more natural flow regime in Blakedown Valley Pools.	NRA	<20	•	○	○				Remedial actions programmed for 1996. Management rules to be in place for summer 1996.
		e) Assess water resources implications of discharge of Barnhurst STP effluent on Smestow Brook.	NRA BW	R	○	○					Interim report January 1996. Data awaited from BW to confirm if significant impact on Smestow Brook low flows downstream of Compton.
F1	Increase biological diversity of water environment.	a) Improve underlying water quality (see also Issues B & C).	NRA STW Ltd LA	R U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	As Issues B & C.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
F1 (Cont)		b) Improve water resources/low flows (see also Issues D & E).	NRA STW Ltd	R U	•	•	•	•	•	•	As Issues D & E. Blakedown boreholes (E1b & E1d).
		c) Improve physical habitat in association with flood defence works.	NRA	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	Continuation of tree work at Cradley and Mousesweet Brooks. Tree maintenance work at Hoo Brook Local Nature Reserve.
		d) Determine policy and methodology for control of exotic invasive weeds.	NRA	<5							Now superseded by regional policy document produced October 1995.
F2	Improve damaged landscape areas related to water environment.	a) Identify damaged sites.	NRA	5	•						Interim report completed March 1995. Final Report March 1996.
		b) Implement improvements.	NRA	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wom Brook treeplanting. Graisle Brook reedbed study.
F3	Improve educational conservation facilities.	Develop local nature reserve by River Stour in Kidderminster.	NRA Wildlife Trusts English Nature (EN)	10 U 2	○						Tree work and pool creation to be completed March 1996.
F4	Improve site management on wetland SSSIs and Prime Sites.	a) Develop site management plans.	EN LA Wildlife Trusts	U U U							Final plans completed March 1995.
		b) Implement site management plans.	NRA EN LA Wildlife Trusts	28 U U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ongoing, on collaborative basis. Bumblehole SSSI site management. Reestablishment of marshlands habitat at Hoo Brook Local Nature Reserve.
		c) Safeguard existing wetland wildlife sites.	NRA	5	•	•	•	•	•	•	Protection of Smestow Brook Prime Site from planned culverting. Protection of Illey Brook SSSI from excess access. Removal of fish from Saltwells Nature Reserve pools to protect amphibians and dragonflies.



No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
F5	Improve knowledge on typical landscape styles to enable protection and enhancement to be done.	a) Upgrade NRA information.	NRA	<5	●						Interim Report completed March 1995. Final Report March 1996.
		b) Develop landscape strategy and guidelines for all NRA activities.	NRA	<5	●						Interim Report completed March 1995. Final Report March 1996.
F7	Improve protection, interpretation of and access to sites of industrial heritage significance.	c) Undertake projects to protect and interpret important sites.	NRA English Heritage LA	5 U U	●	●	●	●	●	●	Management of industrial heritage at Bumblehole.
G1	Increase fish stocks throughout catchment.	a) Improve underlying water quality (see also Issues B & C).	NRA STW Ltd LA	R U U	●	●	●	●	●	●	As Issues B & C.
		b) Improve water resources/low flows (see also Issues D & E).	NRA STW Ltd	R U	●	●	●	●	●	●	As Issues D & E. (Blakedown boreholes).
		c) Improve physical habitat in association with flood defence works.	NRA	10	●	●	●	●	●	●	Instream habitat improvements planned for River Stour, Amblecote winter 1995/96.
		d) restock suitable species in improved reaches.	NRA	<5	●	●	●	●		●	1000 dace/roach stocked in upper reaches December 1995.
G2	Provide adequate information on canal fish stocks (to monitor compliance with EC Directives and Statutory Water Quality objectives).	Carry out surveys on Staffs and Worcs Canal.	NRA	9	○		●			●	Major pollution incident in canal near Wightwick July 1995. Post pollution surveys indicated large fish losses - restocking now in progress.
H1	Increase scope for recreational uses within catchment.	a) Improve underlying water quality (see also Issues B & C).	NRA STW Ltd LA	R U U	●	●	●	●	●	●	As Issues B & C.
		b) Improve water resources/low flows (see also Issues D & E).	NRA STW Ltd	R U	●	●	●	●	●	●	As Issues D & E. (Blakedown boreholes).

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
H1 (Cont)	Increase scope for recreational uses within catchment.	c) Improve physical habitat in association with flood defence works.	NRA	5	•	•	•	•	•	•	Continuation of tree work on Cradley Brook. Tree work/amenity improvements at Hoo Brook Local Nature Reserve.
		d) Improve access for able and disabled anglers.	NRA Sports Council Landowners LAs	10 U U U	○					•	Disabled anglers platforms to be constructed at Warrens Hall/Bumblehole site in March 1996.
		e) Improve access for other recreational use by collaborative projects eg Stour Valley Walkway.	NRA Sports Council Landowners LAs	10 U U U	○		•	•		•	Footpath along River Stour at Quarry Bank; Iley Brook footpath maintenance; Wom Brook Walkway.
		f) Promote angling opportunities.	NRA Sports Council Landowners	5 U U						•	Dependent on water quality improvements and improvements in fish stocks.
		g) Promote other recreational opportunities.	NRA Sports Council Landowners CoCo	5 U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	No appropriate opportunities in 1995. Written support from Sports Council and CoCo for consideration of possible future projects.
		i) Encourage outside bodies/groups to undertake bank clean up campaigns where appropriate.	NRA LAs Volunteer Groups	5 U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	No specific projects undertaken in 1995.
		j) Determine legal status of navigation of Lower Stour.	NRA	<5						○	Future. Unlikely to provide cost effective benefits.
I	Protect people, property and land from flooding to standards which are practical, economic and appropriate.	a) Implement improvement scheme, pending redevelopment of riparian land.	NRA Landowner Developer	) )1,700 )							Dependent on redevelopment, in turn dependent on economy. Progress in late 1995.
	Potential flooding in Kidderminster.	b) Provide flood forecasting and warning.	NRA LA Police Flood Wardens	R U U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	County emergency planning attempting to negotiate greater involvement, with NRA support: no progress. Flow measurement station completed on River Stour at Prestwood.

No	Issue/Objective	Action	Responsibility	Total Cost (£k)	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	Future	Progress
J	Periodic flooding of Wolverhampton Racecourse and properties in Aldersley area.	Increase channel capacity of the Smestow Brook by either construction of a by-pass culvert or instream channel improvement.	Wolverhampton MBC STW Ltd NRA	) ) 2,800 )	•	○					Construction currently underway. Programmed for completion in July 1996.
K	Periodic flooding at 16 specific locations.	a) Restore flow to natural regime through source control and surface water balancing where appropriate.	NRA LAS Landowners Developer	R U U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ongoing as development opportunities arise. Some opportunities being fulfilled as a result of Issue J.
		b) Improve watercourses to increase capacity.	NRA LAS Landowners Developer	R U U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Review of Main River locations ongoing. Blakedown Brook 'Mained'.
		c) Improve access through redevelopment opportunities.	NRA LAS Landowners Developer	R U U U	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ongoing as development opportunities arise.
		e) Undertake surveys of flooding problems as required under the Water Resources Act 1991.	NRA	R		○				○	Section 105 survey to be carried out in 1996-97 and then reviewed on 5 year basis.
		f) Prevent encroachment of development into flood plain by seeking inclusion of appropriate policies in development plans.	NRA	R	•	•	•	•	•	•	Satisfactory flood plain policies have been retained in South Staffs, Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove DC Local Plans through the Public Inquiry stage.

## 5.0 FUTURE REVIEWS

We will review progress again next year and aim to publish our 3rd Annual Review of the River Stour CMP in February 1997. A major revision of the Consultation Report is currently not expected until 1998/9.

## APPENDIX 1

### Current Status of Development Plans in the Stour Catchment

Local Authority	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Development Plan
Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough	29.8	Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan - adopted September 1993.
Dudley Metropolitan Borough	89.4	Dudley Unitary Development Plan - adopted 30 November 1993.
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough	10.3	Sandwell Unitary Development Plan - proposed adopted plan subject to legal challenge July 1995.
West Midland Metropolitan Boroughs	129.5 (35%)	RPG 11 - Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands, September 1995 superseded PPG 10: 1988, now covering the counties of Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire in addition to the West Midland Metropolitan Boroughs.
Wyre Forest District Council	81.8	Draft district wide Local Plan - proposed modifications to the Deposit Plan following Inspector's Report, December 1995.
Bromsgrove District Council	40.3	Draft district wide Local Plan - Public Local Inquiry April 1995 - December 1995.
Hereford & Worcester County Council	122.1 (33%)	County Structure Plan 1986-2001, Second Alteration operative March 1993, review commenced. County Minerals Local Plan, Public Inquiry into modifications to deposit version following Inspector's Report commenced November 1995. County Waste Local Plan project report May 1995.
South Staffordshire District Council	114.7	Draft district wide Local Plan - Inspector's Report following Public Local Inquiry, August 1995.
Staffordshire County Council	114.7 (31%)	Replacement Staffordshire Structure Plan 1986-2001 operative April 1991, review commenced. Staffordshire Aggregates Local Plan, proposed Adoption Draft October 1995. Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan, consultation process commenced.
Bridgnorth District Council	3.7	Bridgnorth District Local Plan adopted 2 September 1994.
Shropshire County Council	3.7 (<1%)	Shropshire County Structure Plan 1989-2006 operative from 1 January 1993. Review commenced. Shropshire Minerals Local Plan (1994-2006) consultation draft April 1994. Shropshire Waste Local Plan consultation draft in preparation.

## **APPENDIX 2 - Note on implementation of New River Water Quality Schemes**

Two new schemes for the reporting and management of river water quality were introduced in 1994. The new schemes will replace the National Water Council (NWC) Scheme, which was first introduced in the late 1970s. In May 1994, the River Ecosystem (RE) Use of the Statutory Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) was introduced by *The Surface Waters (River Ecosystem) (Classification) Regulations 1994*. At the same time the NRA introduced the General Quality Assessment (GQA) Scheme.

WQOs will be used for long term planning and target setting for the use of the river. The GQA classification will be used to make periodic assessment of overall water quality in order to monitor geographical trends and trends over time.

Until WQOs are formally established by legal notice served by the Secretary of State (and therefore exist on a statutory basis), they will be applied on a non-statutory basis through translation of River Quality Objectives (RQOs) from NWC classes to appropriate RE classes with target dates. These new non-statutory RQOs will form the basis from which to develop Statutory WQOs (SWQOs).

Five uses have been proposed for rivers under the WQO scheme, of which the River Ecosystem (RE) use is the first to have been introduced. The five uses include; River Ecosystem (general river health); Special Ecosystem (for example SSSI); Abstraction for Potable Supply; Agricultural/Industrial Abstraction; and Watersports.

Five Classes have been established for the RE use:

Class RE1:	Water of very good quality (suitable for all fish species).
Class RE2:	Water of good quality (suitable for all fish species).
Class RE3:	Water of fair quality (suitable for high class coarse fish populations).
Class RE4:	Water of fair quality (suitable for coarse fish populations).
Class RE5:	Water of poor quality (which is likely to limit coarse fish populations).
Unclassified:	Water of bad quality (in which fish are unlikely to be present), or insufficient data available by which to classify water quality.

The introduction of SWQOs will require full public consultation, and the timetable will be set by the Government. CMPs will provide the framework within which the NRA and its successor the Environment Agency can implement the new system, and we will use the Annual Review as well as other approaches to inform you of progress on this matter.

The Stour CMP utilised the NWC scheme for the setting of RQOs during the consultation process and compilation of the Final Plan during 1992 and 1993. The 1995 Annual Review incorporates the new RE Classes and target dates in the Action Plan tables.

The Stour catchment has been selected as one of eight pilot catchments in England and Wales to test the operation of SWQOs, and draft proposals were drawn up during 1995. The Department of the Environment has recently indicated that it intends to proceed in developing the scheme. Details on implementation will be announced in due course.

**APPENDIX 3 - River Ecosystem (RE) River Quality Objectives for the River Stour and its Tributaries.**

NAME OF WATERCOURSE	START OF STRETCH	END OF STRETCH	LENGTH of STRETCH (km)	CURRENT QUALITY	SHORT TERM (CMP) OBJECTIVE	LONG TERM OBJECTIVE
River Stour	Tack Farm Bridge	Confluence with Illey Brook	1.5	RE2	RE3	RE3
River Stour	Confluence with Illey Brook	Footbridge at Lodge Forge	4.0	RE3	RE3	RE3
River Stour	Footbridge at Lodge Forge	Confluence with Salt Brook	2.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
River Stour	Confluence with Salt Brook	Freehold STP	2.0	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Freehold STP	Caledonia STP	1.0	RE5	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Caledonia STP	Confluence with Audnam Brook	3.5	RE5	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Confluence with Audnam Brook	Confluence with Smestow Brook	3.0	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Confluence with Smestow Brook	Roundhill STP	4.5	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Roundhill STP	Cookley Road Bridge	3.3	RE5	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Cookley Road Bridge	Blakedown Brook	4.5	RE5	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Blakedown Brook	Kidderminster STP	4.0	RE5/4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
River Stour	Kidderminster STP	Confluence with River Severn	5.0	RE5	RE4 (2000)	RE4
Illey Brook	Footbridge at Twiland Wood	Confluence with River Severn	3.5	RE3	RE3	RE3
Lutley Gutter	Road Bridge, Lutley Lane	Confluence with River Stour	2.4	RE2	RE2	RE2
Mousesweet Brook *	Withymoor Road	Confluence with Black Brook	2.2	RE5	RE5	RE4
Mousesweet Brook	Confluence with Black Brook	Confluence with River Stour	0.8	RE3	RE3	RE3
Smestow Brook*	Aldersley Stadium	Compton Overflow	2.0	RE5	RE5	RE4
Smestow Brook	Compton Overflow	Trescott STP	3.5	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
Smestow Brook	Trescott STP	Confluence with Unnamed Tributary	2.5	RE4	RE5	RE4



NAME OF WATERCOURSE	START OF STRETCH	END OF STRETCH	LENGTH of STRETCH (km)	CURRENT QUALITY	SHORT TERM (CMP) OBJECTIVE	LONG TERM OBJECTIVE
Smestow Brook	Confluence with Unnamed Tributary	Confluence with Wom Brook	6.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
Smestow Brook	Confluence with Wom Brook	Confluence with Holbeche Brook	2.8	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
Smestow Brook	Confluence with Holbeche Brook	Confluence with Dawley Brook	2.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
Smestow Brook	Confluence with Dawley Brook	Confluence with River Stour	3.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
Wom/Penn Brook	Gospel End STP	A643 Road Bridge	2.0	RE5	RE5	RE4
Wom/Penn Brook	A643 Road Bridge	Gravel Hill Road Bridge	1.1	RE3	RE4	RE4
Wom/Penn Brook	Gravel Hill Road Bridge	Wombourne STP	2.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
Wom/Penn Brook	Outfall Wombourne STP	Smestow Brook	0.5	RE5	RE5 (2000)	RE4
Merryhill Brook	Road Bridge Newhouse Farm	Confluence with Wom Brook	5.8	RE3	RE3	RE3
Bobs Brook	Spout House	Lower Gornal STP	2.0	RE4	RE4	RE4
Bobs Brook	Lower Gornal STP	Holbeche Confluence	0.5	RE5	RE5	RE5
Holbeche Brook	Confluence with Bobs Brook	Confluence with Smestow Brook	3.3	RE5	RE5	RE4
Drakelow Brook	Lydiates Farm	Confluence with River Stour	5.0	RE2	RE2	RE2
Blakedown Brook	Gallows Brook	Blakedown STP	0.9	RE3	RE3	RE2
Blakedown Brook	Blakedown STP	Road Bridge Hurcot	1.9	RE4	RE4	RE2
Blakedown Brook	Road Bridge Hurcot	Confluence with River Stour	2.0	RE3	RE4	RE2
Hoo Brook	Belbroughton	Hillpool Road Bridge	2.5	RE3	RE3	RE2
Hoo Brook	Hillpool Road Bridge	Spennells Road Bridge	7.0	RE3	RE3	RE2
Hoo Brook	Spennells Road Bridge	Confluence with River Stour	1.1	RE3	RE3	RE2

NAME OF WATERCOURSE	START OF STRETCH	END OF STRETCH	LENGTH of STRETCH (km)	CURRENT QUALITY	SHORT TERM (CMP) OBJECTIVE	LONG TERM OBJECTIVE
Staffs & Worcs Canal	Oxley Railway Bridge	A41 New Bridge	2.0	RE4	RE5	RE5
Staffs & Worcs Canal	A41 New Bridge	Compton Locks	1.2	RE3	RE4 (2000)	RE4
Staffs & Worcs Canal	Compton Locks	Road Bridge Swindon	10.0	RE4	RE4 (2000)	RE4
Staffs & Worcs Canal	Swindon	Worcester Road, Kidderminster	20.0	RE4	RE3 (2000)	RE3
Staffs & Worcs Canal	Worcester Road, Kidderminster	River Severn	6.2	RE3	RE3 (2000)	RE3
Stourbridge Canal	Dudley Canal	Staffs & Worcs Canal	5.5	RE3	RE3	RE3
Dudley Canal	Junction with Stourbridge Canal	Blackbrook Bridge	5.0	RE3	RE3	RE3
Dudley Canal	Blackbrook Brook	Doulton Road, Rowley Regis	3.5	RE3	RE4	RE4
Dudley Canal	Doulton Road, Rowley Regis	Halesowen	4.0	RE4	RE4	RE4

River and Canal stretches not meeting their Objectives are shown as shaded



\* Indicates new CMP actions from 1996.

Note: The column headed Current Quality describes actual quality of the river over the last three years (1992-1994) in terms of an RE Class.

The next column, Short Term Objectives, shows the RE class assuming that all the consented discharges within each stretch of river discharge up to their consent limit in terms of quality and quantity. The objective should be met within the plan period and will take account of any improvements planned by Severn Trent Water Limited under the water industry's agreed capital investment programme (AMP2).

The final column, entitled Long Term Objective, is the objective beyond the plan period and is a translation of the river quality objective from the former NWC classification scheme.

Although some stretches meet their objectives, they appear in the Action Tables as the objectives cannot be guaranteed without investment.

Following the translation exercise from the former NWC classification scheme, three stretches have come to light as not complying with their objectives. These are stretches of the Mousesweet Brook, Smestow Brook and Holbeche Brook, and have been included as new Actions under B5, B6.1 and B9.2 in the Action Tables.