

EA-Anglian BOX 7

Direct Services...



STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE



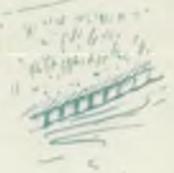
CARCASS REMOVAL



OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL



BANK STABILISATION



DREDGING



WEED CONTROL



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

INTRODUCTION

The Direct Services Group of the Environment Agency carries out a range of operations in connection with the flood defence programme of river and sea defence maintenance. In addition to the maintenance works the Group also carries out works on Civil Engineering projects, such works including driving sheet piling and reinforced concrete works.

HISTORY

The Direct Services Group in Anglian Region has seen a lot of changes over the years as the organisation has developed. In its time it has been a combined multi-functional operation, reporting to the then District Engineers, and becoming a Contracts Group for the National Rivers Authority.

DIRECT SERVICE CUSTOMERS

Within the Agency, flood defence remains the major customer of the Direct Services Group in the Northern Area. Routine maintenance work of control structures, dredging, weedcutting on embankments and banks, clearing obstructions from watercourses and emergency works are among the activities carried out. During many harsh winters, the Direct Services Group has played a key role in repairing breaches and maintaining flood defences, often in the most difficult of conditions.



Woodboat lifting cut weed onto the bank.



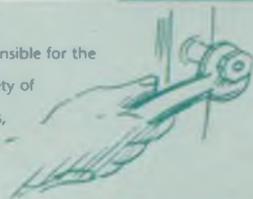
Stone revetment being replaced using a 22RB dragline to protect batters from erosion on tidal channels.



Casting reinforced concrete capping beams to steel sheet pile wall.

Structure maintenance

The Environment Agency is responsible for the maintenance and repair of a variety of structures including: weirs, sluices, bridges, locks, floodgates etc.



EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS FOR THE DIRECT SERVICES GROUP

Not only does the Group work for the Agency, but it also successfully bids for work from related outside organisations such as local councils and the MoD. Job size can vary between clearing out a village pond to six figure sea defence works for the PSA, in partnership with external contractors. External work maintains the high skill levels of the workforce, helps keep them fully occupied and also provides a positive return for the Agency. All the operatives are fully trained and pay due regard to the Agencies duty to protect and enhance the natural environment. The Group has to maintain a balance between being available at all times for its main client, the Agency, and carrying out work for other bodies.

HIGHLY ADAPTABLE GROUP

To be able to meet the needs of its customers the Direct Services Group is highly adaptable, turning its hand to a variety of jobs involving different skills and equipment. Under a contract won in open competition much of the fleet equipment is maintained by the group, and can be hired out to other regions or partners on a limited basis to ensure value for money. When other equipment is required, the Group knows where to go to obtain it, and is confident that it can respond to any emergency with the right plant.



Grass cutting on embankments using side mounted flail cutter on tractor.

Bank stabilisation

Bank stabilisation is important in Fenland areas where the river may flow in an embanked channel several metres above the surrounding ground level.



Weedboat carrying out weed control and cutting. The cut weed is removed by a separate boat.

Weed Control

Weed growth restricts the clear flow of water which can increase the risk of flooding and adversely affect both navigation and fisheries.



GOOD DEEDS..

The workforce also does its share of good deeds

for the local community, rescuing dogs from sluices or removing shopping trolleys from rivers. Often the only contact the public may have with the Agency is through a member of the workforce, whom they come across whilst weedcutting banks or clearing obstructions.

KEY AIM

The key aim of the Direct Services Group is to provide value for money for the client, namely the Agency. By retaining a core group of skilled, adaptable workmen an excellent service can be provided to all functions of the Agency.

Carcass removal

The drowning of many animals in the Regions rivers necessitates the removal and safe disposal of the carcasses. This unpleasant and potentially dangerous task is carried out by the Direct Services Group.



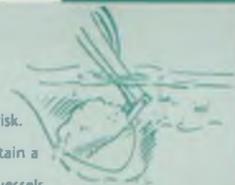
Obstruction removal

Obstruction removal is a never ending task. This is particularly important in urban areas where rubbish can accumulate on trash screens and completely block culverts which increases flood risks.



Dredging

Dredging is carried out to remove accumulated silt deposits which reduce channel capacities thus increasing flood risk. In navigable rivers it is necessary to maintain a sufficient depth to allow safe passage of vessels.

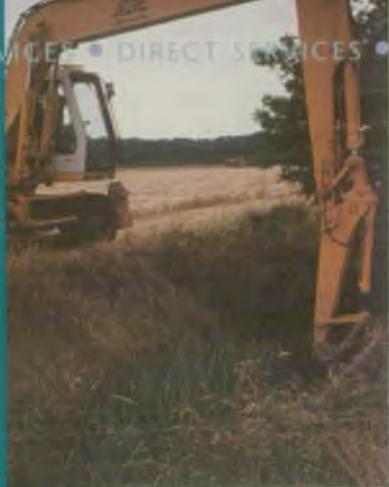


Driving steel sheet piling to form cofferdams, cut off walls etc.

Dredging accumulated silt from watercourse using hydraulic excavator floating on pontoons (foreground), and using 1200 dragline (background).



Hydraulic Excavator carrying out in channel weed control and cutting using herder cutter.



Grass cutting using flail mower attached to Aebi all terrain tractor.



Weed harvester carrying out weed control and cutting. The cut weed is collected and stored on board until being off loaded onto the river bank at convenient locations.



Planting 'thorn kids' on beach to protect sand dunes from erosion and to aid accretion of wind blown sand, to aid natural dune building.

HOW TO CONTACT THE GROUP

The Direct Service Group are also available to carry out the above work types on a re-charge basis to external customers.

**Direct Services Group
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**Direct Services Group
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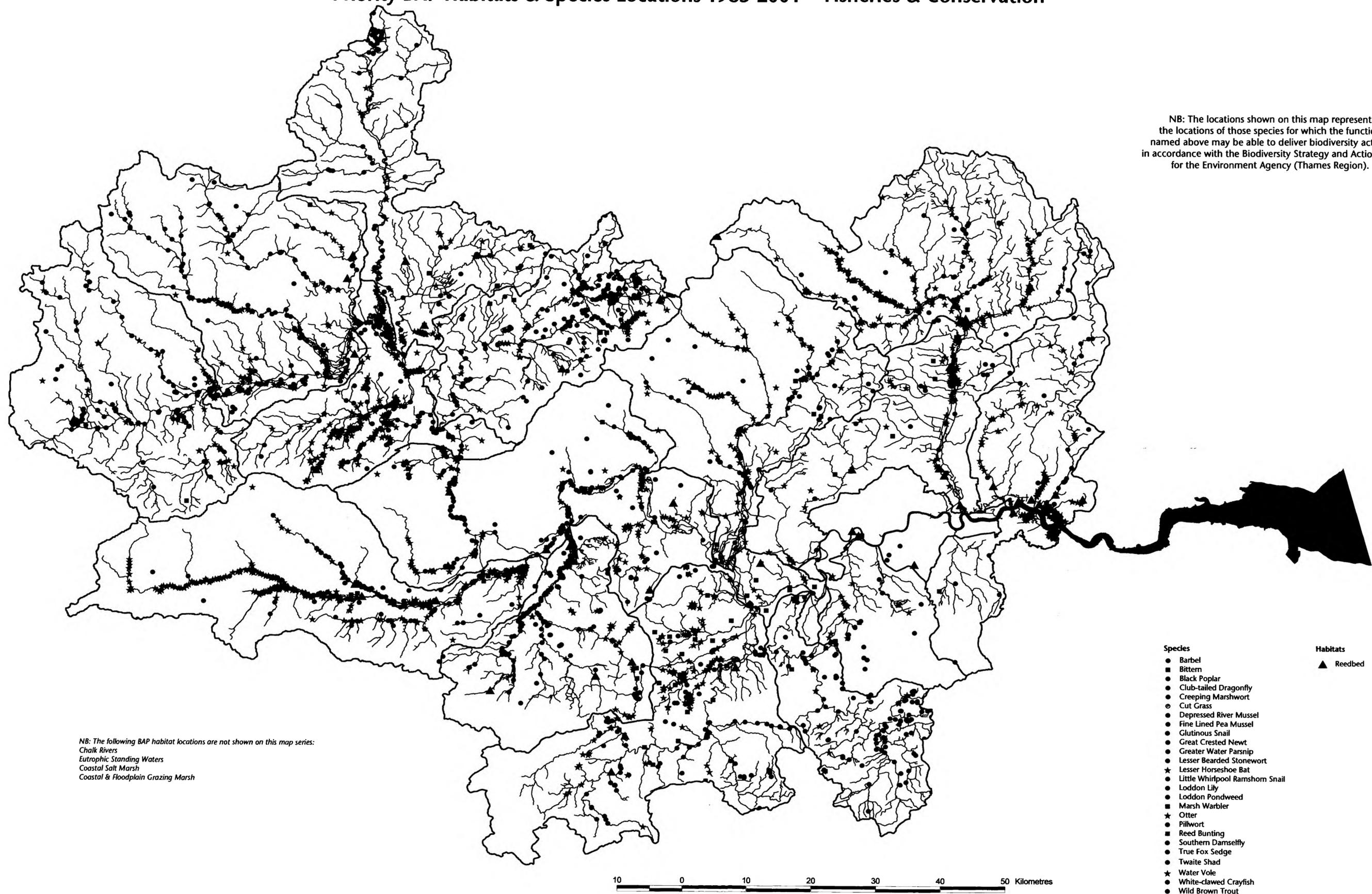
**Telephone 01522 513100
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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (THAMES REGION) BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Priority BAP Habitats & Species Locations 1985-2001 - Fisheries & Conservation



NB: The locations shown on this map represent the locations of those species for which the function named above may be able to deliver biodiversity action in accordance with the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Environment Agency (Thames Region).

NB: The following BAP habitat locations are not shown on this map series:
 Chalk Rivers
 Eutrophic Standing Waters
 Coastal Salt Marsh
 Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh

- | Species | Habitats |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| ● Barbel | ▲ Reedbed |
| ■ Bittern | |
| ● Black Poplar | |
| ● Club-tailed Dragonfly | |
| ● Creeping Marshwort | |
| ○ Cut Grass | |
| ● Depressed River Mussel | |
| ● Fine Lined Pea Mussel | |
| ● Glutinous Snail | |
| ● Great Crested Newt | |
| ● Greater Water Parsnip | |
| ● Lesser Bearded Stonewort | |
| ★ Lesser Horseshoe Bat | |
| ● Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail | |
| ● Loddon Lily | |
| ● Loddon Pondweed | |
| ■ Marsh Warbler | |
| ★ Otter | |
| ● Pillwort | |
| ■ Reed Bunting | |
| ● Southern Damselfly | |
| ● True Fox Sedge | |
| ● Twaité Shad | |
| ★ Water Vole | |
| ● White-clawed Crayfish | |
| ● Wild Brown Trout | |

△ Main River
 □ LEAP Boundary

MANAGEMENT AND CONTACTS:

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money.

Head Office is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE
0645 333 111**

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE
0800 80 70 60**



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