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LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOCUS

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN AND AROUND DERBY, MATLOCK, BUXTON, BAKEWELL, BELPER AND THE DERBYSHIRE DALES | ISSUE 3

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Agency presents Derbyshire Greenwatch Awards

This year, Environment Agency Lower Trent Area Manager, Mark Sitton, attended the Derbyshire Greenwatch Awards ceremony in Matlock. The aim of these awards is to promote sustainability of resources and raise awareness in homes throughout Derbyshire. Mark was there to present those of the Awards that had been sponsored by the Agency.

The Derbyshire Greenwatch Awards were set up by Derbyshire County Council in 1990 to recognise and reward the efforts of people and organisations that have helped to improve Derbyshire's environment. Now, in their 14th year, the awards have proved extremely popular with over 500 schemes awarded to date.

Over the last four years, the Environment Agency has offered an award to schools and colleges for projects which promote environmental awareness. The Environment Agency Shields 2003 were awarded to the Carsington and Hopton Primary School for gaining the ECO-Schools Green Flag award and Bennerley Secondary School, Ilkeston for creating a vegetable garden.

The Agency has also been involved in judging projects across all sectors of the awards to ensure the most environmentally sustainable projects are recognised by the Greenwatch

Award scheme. This year, the Agency's overall Sustainability Prize went to Stuart Bagnall for the excellent farm management and landscape conservation work carried out at Greensides Farm, Longnor near Buxton.

The Agency supports the Greenwatch Awards 2003 because the scheme helps to promote environmental issues and sustainable development to over 20,000 people across the county. They also help to increase awareness of the impact the way we live has on our environment and highlight opportunities for positive change through rewarding practical demonstrations.

For more information, please contact: Keith Tivey, Customer Contact Team Leader, Environment Agency Nottingham office.



Lower Trent Area Manager, Mark Sitton, with award winners from Bennerley Secondary School

Foreword

Welcome to the third Focus Newsletter for the Derbyshire Derwent catchment. This newsletter style will, we hope, introduce more people to the Agency and allow a greater sense of partnership in local environmental issues.

Partnerships will play an ever more important role in the years to come if we are to achieve sustained environmental improvement locally. I hope you will find this newsletter of interest. If you have any comments, or views, or you wish to become involved in addressing local environmental issues, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mark Sitton
Lower Trent Area Manager
Environment Agency



Anglers get checked out

This year, the Agency has carried out two rod licence blitzes on the waters of the Lower Trent. The latest enforcement operation, carried out in late June, netted 41 anglers fishing without a licence out of a total of 984 checked. In the Derbyshire Derwent area, out of 139 anglers checked, six failed to produce a licence.

Although the numbers failing to produce were about average on this occasion, more and more anglers are now holding valid rod licences. Those that fail to produce a licence are issued with an Offence Report Form, which requires them to produce a valid licence within 7 days. Failure to do so results in prosecution proceedings, which can mean fines of up to £2,500.

Dr Dave Clarke, the Agency's Head of Fisheries, said: 'Our message is clear – more cheats on our waters will be met by more enforcement operations and more prosecutions. All money raised through licence sales is ploughed back into fisheries. We'll continue to blitz waters because it's clear some people refuse to accept their

responsibility to the sport or their fellow anglers – so we'll give them a chance to think about it in court.'

Agency Fishery Enforcement Officers have been equipped with new technology, which allows them to have remote access to the Agency's databases. This allows anglers' details to be verified without leaving the riverbank. Dr Clarke explains 'The excuse 'I left my licence at home' only works now if the angler really has left it at home.'

The blitz results coincide with the launch of the Agency's annual rod licence campaign. During the summer, adverts will run in newspapers and on radio and TV urging people to buy a licence or to take up the sport. Efforts have been made to make purchasing a licence as easy as possible. They are available from:

- post offices
- via a telephone hotline (0870 1662662)
- the Agency's website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish)
- or often from the fisheries themselves

Dr Clarke said: 'It's not worth the embarrassment of being caught, the anger of other anglers, and the inconvenience of a court visit for the sake of a £22 rod licence.'

Anyone aged 12 years or over, who fishes for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, or eels in England or Wales must have an Environment Agency rod fishing licence. All money collected from rod licences by the Environment Agency is invested directly into fisheries activities (enforcement, fish rearing and stocking, fish habitat improvement, monitoring fish abundance, disease detection, research and development, and fish rescues, among other activities).

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'The excuse 'I left my licence at home' only works now if the angler really has left it at home . . .'



Agency staff can now check if anglers have rod licences without leaving the riverbank

Lafarge Cement gains re-permit

Earlier this year, the Environment Agency issued a re-permit for the Lafarge Cement Plant (formerly Blue Circle) at Hope in north Derbyshire, to continue operating. Using tighter regulations under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000 (IPPC) legislation, this has involved the company in reassessing all of the environmental effects of its operation.

The IPPC Directive places the environment at the heart of industry's thinking. It is designed to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution at source through the efficient use of natural resources. It is intended to help industrial operators move towards greater environmental sustainability. Like the earlier Integrated Pollution and Control (IPC) regulations, it covers emissions to air, land and water, but IPPC goes further and covers noise and vibration, energy efficiency, waste minimisation, environmental accidents, site protection and remediation. IPPC also covers many more types of activities and the whole installation not just the individual processes or activities.

In common with other IPPC permits, the Lafarge Cement submission required the company to compare their current plant and mode of operating with the Best Available Techniques available worldwide. These documents are available on public registers for everyone to see.

The current plant, which has been operating since the 1920's, has two rotary cement kilns, one shale quarry and one limestone quarry.

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'The most noteworthy upgrading has been the building of two bag filters, which filter the exhaust gases, which are discharged from the main 132 metre high chimney..'

The plant is capable of producing some 1,300,000 tonnes of cement of differing grades. During the last ten years, the plant has been continually upgraded to meet demanding environmental requirements. The most noteworthy has been the building of two bag filters, which filter all of the exhaust gases, which are discharged from the main 132 metre high chimney.

The Hope works has, over the last two years, conducted trials using tyre chips for the supply of up to 23% of the fuel used in the kilns. They have just completed a short test to prove that the second kiln is equivalent environmentally to the first kiln, which was used in the trial. These successful trials have resulted in the Hope works now being able to burn up to 4 tonnes per hour of used tyre chips, to replace a portion of the usual fuels being burnt of coal and petcoke.

Local people were consulted at each stage of the trials, through public meetings and public surgeries, which were held in the local village.

The documents relating to these exercises are all placed in the public domain. The cement works is situated within the Peak District National Park and its management has demonstrated that it is sensitive to its location and also the environmental legislation that it is required to meet.

The company is currently part way through the first twelve months of using tyre chips. In order to ensure that the long term results of using tyre chips as a fuel are consistent with the relatively short trial period of three months, the company has to submit a report in early 2004 reporting the emissions of the year's run. This will then be evaluated against the initial trial and any necessary changes to the permitted conditions can be taken into account. During the current period, the Agency will continue to monitor progress and liaise with the company on issues that need progressing.

The plant is almost continually being upgraded to meet current and future legislation. The company is currently considering what action to take to meet the forthcoming emission reductions that will be required for oxides of nitrogen and sulphur. The results of these deliberations will necessarily need to be discussed with the Environment Agency and the current permit modified, should the Agency agree with the company's proposals.

For more information, please contact: Andrew Plant, Regulatory Officer, Environment Agency Nottingham office.



The Lafarge Cement Plant lies within the Peak District National Park

New flood warnings in place



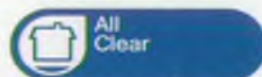
Flood Watch – flooding is possible.
Be aware, be prepared, watch out!



Flood Warning – flooding is expected.
It will affect homes, businesses and main roads. Act now!



Severe Flood Warning – serious flooding is expected. There is imminent danger to life and property. Act now!



An 'all clear' will be issued when flood water levels start receding.

The Environment Agency has introduced two new flood warning areas on the River Derwent. Last year, what was originally a single warning area covering DE5 (Ambergate to Spondon) was split into two new areas, which are:

- DE4 – The River Derwent between Ambergate and Little Eaton including Little Eaton (Quick Dial number: 0521531)
- DE5 – The River Derwent between Little Eaton and Spondon including Derby (Quick Dial number: 0521532)

The new warning areas have been created in response to points raised after the flooding of Autumn 2000 by the emergency services and other agencies, who felt that the DE5 stretch needed to be adapted to make it more manageable.

Flood Warning Team Leader, Philip Moulton, says: 'The Agency is constantly working to enhance its flood warning service. The principle behind this change is to give the emergency services and other agencies an improved picture of where flooding is

happening so they can concentrate on particular areas rather than stretch their resources dealing with the old, longer area.'

The flood warning system, operational in England and Wales, is used whenever there is a risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. This includes the issuing of a general early alert, which has proved to be very beneficial. The system comprises four levels of flood warning: Floodwatch, Flood Warning, Severe Flood Warning and All Clear.

Flood warnings are communicated to homeowners directly by telephone or fax where possible, through the broadcast media and directly to local councils and emergency response services. It has been successful in helping those at risk of flooding to understand the situation, and what they need to do to minimise the impact of flooding when a warning is issued.

For more information, please contact: Philip Moulton, Flood Warning Team Leader, Environment Agency Nottingham office.

The Environment Agency is the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.

It's our job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society, so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

Our work includes tackling flooding and pollution incidents, reducing industry's impacts on the environment, cleaning up rivers, coastal waters and contaminated land, and improving wildlife habitats.

We would be delighted to receive your feedback. For further details on any of the articles in this newsletter, to give us your views on this new style of Annual Review reporting or to get involved, please contact:

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0800 80 70 60

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Derwent Valley Heritage Way update

Following on from our report in the last Focus Newsletter, the Derwent Valley Trust has now opened the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. This is a 55-mile walk along the Derwent Valley from the Ladybower Reservoir to the mouth of the Derwent at Shardlow. The Environment Agency is keen to promote greater recreational use of waterways and is pleased to support this project and the work of the Derwent Valley Trust.

The Derwent Valley Trust is a charitable trust established to promote the Derwent Valley in a sustainable way. As well as establishing the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, the Trust has secured the "National Heritage Corridor" trademark to further its aims. More information on the Trust, its objectives and work, can be found on their website at www.nationalheritagecorridor.org.uk.

The Heritage Way can be enjoyed as a long distance walk or as a series of shorter walks.



The Derwent Valley has excellent bus and train links so the car can be left at home. The Upper Derwent area is also excellent for cycling and

there are several cycle hire centres in the area. Generally, the terrain makes for comfortable walking and some, though not all, areas of the way are accessible by wheelchair.

Visitors might like to visit the historic mill complexes along the Derwent Valley between Matlock Bath and Derby, which in 2001 were granted World Heritage Site status. This confirmed the importance of the area as the birthplace of a factory system where water power was harnessed for textile manufacture.

Information on walks, transport, accommodation and places of interest on the Way is available from the Derwent Valley Trusts' website. Alternatively copies of a leaflet giving this information are available from Derbyshire Tourist Information Centres or from the Environment Agency Customer Contact Team at our Nottingham office.

Flood exercise prepares agencies

Flooding was the focal point last September at a tabletop exercise of a mock major flood incident organised by the Environment Agency. The exercise tested the combined emergency response of the Agency, local authorities, emergency services and utilities during a countywide flood event similar to November 2000.

The purpose of the exercise was to test procedures outlined in the joint Derbyshire and Derby City Flood Contingency Plan; to highlight the Agency's flood forecasting and warning capability; and provide training to encourage a united approach to a severe flooding situation.

The exercise, which involved approximately 80 representatives, was based on an extreme but realistic flood event affecting Derby and surrounding areas. It examined the role of each organisation, at three stages of a flood event: the initial response, the peak of the flood and the recovery phase. The exercise proved to be highly effective, with all organisations working together, producing some very positive feedback.

Mark Swain, Flood Warning Team Leader, who attended the exercise said: 'The exercise successfully re-inforced the roles and responsibilities of all organisations during a major flood incident. We are looking to further improve existing links between all organisations and the exercise will ensure that any potential for uncertainty during a

major flood is highlighted and clarified before the event.'

Held at Pride Park stadium, it brought together senior representatives from Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, Derbyshire Emergency Planning Division, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Severn Trent Water and the local authorities.

This is part of the Agency's preparation for flooding. The Agency's Flood Awareness Campaign, due to be launched later on this year, urges members of the public living, working or driving in flood risk areas to make their own preparations in good time.

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'The exercise was based on an extreme but realistic flood event'

Advice can be obtained by ringing **Floodline** on **0845 988 1188**.

For more information, please contact: Philip Moulton, Flood Warning Team Leader, Environment Agency Nottingham office.



The Derbyshire Emergency Exercise held last year

A tale of two Darley's

At the end of 2002, the Environment Agency and Derby City Council unveiled their joint project at Folly Road, Darley Abbey, to enhance the landscape and maintain flood protection to the local area. The Agency has completed the works to ensure the longevity of existing structures which alleviate flooding to the residents and businesses in the Darley Abbey area of Derby. This work has been done in partnership with Derby City Council, who have installed an attractive new footbridge at Folly Road, to replace the one damaged in the floods in November 2000.

The Mayor of the City of Derby, Councillor Robin Turner, joined by representatives of the Environment Agency, Derby City Council and local residents who will benefit from this work, presided over a ceremony to unveil an interpretation board, which gives a history of Darley Abbey. This area ties in with the National Cycle Way and represents the local community's interaction with this popular recreation area.

The Agency's works have included improved exit of flows from Dam Brook and erosion protection to the major defence, to maintain flood protection to a 1 in 100* year standard for approximately 40 residential properties and 26 businesses. The area has a history of flooding, with the most recent being November 2000. During these floods, the footbridge over Dam Brook at Folly Road was damaged, leaving it unsafe for public use.

Derby City Council removed the bridge to clear the area for the new one to be installed and the flood maintenance works to be carried out. The new bridge has been made by Randall's of Sheffield and contributes greatly to the aesthetics of this well-liked area. To ensure the bridge can withstand the harsh conditions of bad weather and high river flows, the foundations and rip rap** are backed by puddle clay to ensure water does not get behind, which would cause instability in the future.

Agency Operations & Enforcement Engineer, Neil Clayton says, 'The Folly Road works have enhanced the amenity value of the area, whilst maintaining protection to residents against potential flooding.'

The Agency has also completed work at Darley Bridge on the River Derwent, a few miles north of Matlock. This work was vital to protect existing flood defences from being undermined by the river. These defences protect about 20 houses, a maintenance

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'The Folly Road works have advanced the amenity value of the area, whilst providing protection to residents against potential flooding'



Work in progress

depot and a strategically important road from flooding. They were built seven years ago to a 1 in 100 year* standard.

The work became necessary because the banks below the flood defence had been eroded by the river (a natural destructive process). In addition, silt deposits around the two outer flood arches of the bridge were restricting the capacity of the bridge in times of flood, increasing the flood risk to people living nearby. The finished work now protects the riverbank downstream of the bridge from future erosion, increases the flow of water through the bridge at times of flood and has enhanced the beauty of the area.

For more information, please contact: Neil Clayton, Operations and Enforcement Engineer, Environment Agency Nottingham office.

*1% chance of happening in any one year

**Rip rap is an engineering technique where large stones (approx. 1m across) are inserted into the bank to give it stability and minimise erosion

Giant Hogweed battle nearly won

The project to control Giant Hogweed at Lumford Mill Pond, Bakewell is now entering its final stages. After six years of work, the area covered by this alien invasive species, has reduced from 40,000m² to around about 150m².

As reported in our first issue of the Derbyshire Derwent Focus newsletter, this project began in 1997 after a large patch of Giant Hogweed was discovered growing in the pond. Working closely with the landowner, Peak District National Park Authority, Haddon Hall and Bakewell Town Council, a programme of twice yearly spraying with a glyphosate herbicide was developed.

Giant Hogweed is a perennial plant that can grow up to 5m tall with leaves up to 1m across. It presents a potential danger to public health due to the poisonous sap, which coats the small hairs on the stems and leaves. Even the slightest touch can cause painful blistering and severe irritation, which can occur up to 48hrs after contact.

It can be tackled through the use of herbicide. However, as its seeds can lie dormant for up to 15 years, eradicating the plant can take many years. There are now around 100 individual plants remaining, but continued action is needed to deal with any new growths. The site must remain free from



Giant Hogweed

new growths for a couple of years before the project is declared a success and the Giant Hogweed eradicated.

For more information on Giant Hogweed and other invasive plants, the Agency's publication 'Guidance for the control of invasive plants near watercourses', is available from: Customer Contact, Environment Agency Nottingham office.

For more information, please contact: Jo Mosley, Biodiversity Officer, Environment Agency Nottingham office.

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'Even the slightest touch can cause painful blistering and severe irritation, which can occur up to 48 hours after contact'