

NRA Thames -278

EA-THAMES LEAP

63 E

Forwarded by C. Woolhouse (For Info)
under Memo dated 13-4-95

REPORT ON FORMAL CONSULTATION

RESPONSES TO:

WANDLE/BEVERLEY/HOGSMILL CMP
CONSULTATION REPORT
NOVEMBER 1994

12/03/95

T.J.Knight.
CPO (SE),
NRA TR,
Riverside Works
Fordbridge Road
Sunbury on Thames
TW16 6AP

Tel: 01932 789833



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

ANGLIAN REGION

Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way,
Orton Goldhay,
Peterborough PE2 5ZR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wandle, Beverley, Hogsmill CMP Consultation Report was launched on the 14th November 1994 and the formal consultation period ended on the 31st January 1995. 107 (60% of the consultees) responded, 62% of these within the consultation period.

The consultation process confirmed:

- the 3 most contentious issues related to improved river water quality downstream of the TWUL STWs on all three rivers; the half-tide wier (and micro-turbine) at the mouth of the River Wandle and the perceived impact of groundwater abstraction on spring-fed ponds on the upper reaches of the River Wandle;
- a natural grouping of the 30 issues identified in the consultation report into 8 principal aims;
- 4 new issues for the NRA CMP working party to consider;
- 11 additional options for consideration under issues already identified in the Consultation Report
- support for the content/style of the text and maps in the Consultation Report;
- 5 key recommendations for improved consultation in future.

Meetings are scheduled in March/early April 1995 with relevant parties to agree the way forward on the three most contentious issues and with internal staff to ensure that NRA TR actions appearing in Activity Plan (integral part of the Action Plan) are SMART.

The Draft Action Plan is to be considered by the CMP Committee Members and NRA Working Parties for ratification before submission to AMT and the RMB Meeting on the 30th May 1995 for final approval.



CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
COMMENTS ON ISSUES & OPTIONS	4
COMMENTS ON CONTENT/STYLE OF TEXT & MAPS	9
NEXT STEPS	10
APPENDICES	
FORMAL LAUNCH - QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION	
PUBLICATION DISTRIBUTION	
COPY OF ADVERTISING POSTER	
CONSULTEE RESPONSE LISTING	
DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES & OPTIONS	

INTRODUCTION

A fundamental objective of Catchment Management Planning is to involve the local community and all interested parties in working with the NRA for the sustainable development of the water environment on a river catchment basis. To meet this objective a Consultation Report on the Wandle, Beverley Brook, Hogsmill Catchment Management Plan (CMP) was formally launched on the 14th November 1994 at Coulsdon Manor Hotel nr. Croydon to an invited audience of consultees (80 attendees excluding NRA staff) An accompanying press release read as follows:

The rivers Wandle, Beverley Brook and Hogsmill are the focus of a new study by the National Rivers Authority (NRA), Thames Region. The NRA is working on a catchment management plan for these rivers, recognising their importance within the local urban environment. The plan will incorporate the views of all interested parties among the local community, relevant local councils, environmental organisations and NRA specialist staff in fisheries, environmental quality, water resources, flood defence and conservation.

The NRA hopes to produce agreed action plans to enhance these rivers wherever possible and to ensure an integrated management approach. Mark Hodgins, Catchment Manager, South East comments, "We believe that by working in partnership with all interested parties, we can make the most of these rivers both now and in the future".

The NRA has produced a Consultation Report, reviewing the current state of the catchment and identifying key issues such as the desire to improve river water quality, the protection of groundwaters from pollution and the conservation of fisheries and other wildlife. Mark Hodgins continues, "We have already had informal talks with a number of groups who see great potential for recreation and environmental education, we would like to develop these ideas".

The Consultation Report has been sent to local councils, interest groups and local businesses. The NRA hopes to receive views over the next three months and will work on producing a final plan including a list of agreed actions in April 1995.

Details of the question/answer session which took place at the formal launch are given in Appendix 1.

Of the 500 Consultation Reports published, 392 were distributed to consultees, 51 to internal NRA staff and 57 to colleges and central/branch/mobile libraries throughout the catchment (Appendix 2). 5000 Summary Booklets were similarly distributed with 60 colour posters advertising the plan (Appendix 3).

The formal consultation period extended to the 31st January 1995 and written comments were requested to be submitted by that date. Written responses were received from 60% of those consulted (Appendix 4). This response rate in comparison to published results in other CMPs (average approx. 40%) is particularly high. Extensive informal consultation (22 meetings held) and a well targetted consultation list (composed in part by consultees themselves), are seen as determining factors in evoking a sense of ownership/interest in the CMP and hence a willingness to participate actively in the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION 1 : Informal consultation with Local Authorities, Water Companies and key national/local environmental organisations should be an integral part of the CMP process.

Consultation Reports were also distributed to 23 local and Euro MPs for information. Following attendance at the formal launch, Dr. Charles Goodson-Wickes MP, raised the following questions in the House of Commons (30th November 1994) for which the NRA TR were asked to supply background information to the Government Office for London:

Dr. Goodson-Wickes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the value and usefulness of the River Thames and its tributaries in London; and if he will bring forward proposals to make better use of it ?

The Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr. John Gummer): We are preparing comprehensive strategic planning guidance to maximise the undoubted assets of the River Thames.

Dr. Goodson-Wickes: As my right hon. Friend knows, the River Wandle, one of the main tributaries of the River Thames, runs through my constituency. Does he agree that the River Thames is much too often taken for granted and that it is under-used and under-recognised ? Will he assure me that he will do his utmost to ensure that its aesthetic, historical and transport facilities are promoted to the full, perhaps in the context of the millenium fund ?

Mr. Gummer: It is vital that we use all the Thames's assets and ensure that it remains a working river. We want it to carry even more waste out of London, which would otherwise be moved by lorry, and to ensure that it is used to the full. I am sure that my hon. Friend's point about the millenium fund can easily be passed on to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

62% of the written responses were received within the formal consultation period with a large proportion of the remainder received before mid February. However, a number of key national and local recreation and conservation groups could not respond until late February/early March. This was due to their involvement with the Public Inquiry for the Thames Water Utilities Ltd. development proposals in the Beddington Mitcham Area of Opportunity and competing demands for responses to other consultation reports, including the NTR TR Recreation Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION 2 : Formal consultation periods must take account of competing demands placed on consultees.

Following the press release and the distribution of 5000 summary leaflets and 60 posters to 55 libraries throughout the catchment only 8 written responses were received from members of the public. Subsequent press coverage was limited to three sentences in the Croydon Advertiser.

RECOMMENDATION 3 : Media coverage and associated publicity material must be reviewed to maximise the benefit/cost ratio regarding public consultation.

In general all sectors responded well to the consultation with the notable exception of local industry and their representatives (i.e. Chambers of Commerce, Confederation of British Industry) of whom only 8% responded. This may be the result of a perception on behalf of the business fraternity that no 'gain' will come from involvement in the CMP process.

RECOMMENDATION 4 : More effective involvement of the local business community in the CMP process should be encouraged by the promotion of a new 'mutual gain' philosophy.

Subsequent informal meetings during February/March 1995 with school inspectors/teachers from all Local Authorities within the catchment have confirmed the willingness/enthusiasm of educationalists and school children across all key stages to be more actively involved with both the CMP decision-making process and in monitoring the future well-being of the local water environment.

RECOMMENDATION 5 : Primary/secondary schools in the catchment should receive copies of the CMP Consultation Report, through the Local Authority Education Department, and consideration given to publishing a short 'Schools Update' as an integral part of the annual review of the CMP.

A covering letter circulated with the Consultation Report asked consultees to consider their views not only with regard to the draft issues and options raised but also to the style/content of the text and maps. All responses received were logged on a database and considered in detail. Acknowledgement slips were returned to all those who submitted comments within 3 days of receipt of correspondence. The letters were then read in detail and cross referenced againsts the issues/options raised in the Consultation Report and additional comments noted. All responses received will provide an invaluable contribution to the formulation of the Action Plan for the Wandle, Beverley Brook, Hogsmill Catchment.

RESPONSES TO THE ISSUES/OPTIONS :

In total, 528 individual comments were received on the issues/options raised in the Consultation Report plus 32 comments relating to 16 suggested additional issues. 11 of the 16 have been considered by the Catchment Planning Team as being most suitable for inclusion as additional options for action under existing issues:

1. *NRA to consider a review of water related land use policies to amplify emerging body of good practice.*
2. *Need to identify areas of contaminated land in the absence of a contaminated land register.*
3. *Need to establish 'biodiversity targets' for rivers covered by the CMP.*
4. *Lack of attention given to seasonal streams in the Caterham/Coulsdon area.*
5. *Need for clear guidance for riparian owners on management of invasive plant species.*
6. *NRA guidance to Planning Authorities and developers regarding water use on golf courses.*
7. *Consideration of development of playing fields at the confluence of the Beverley Brook with the R.Thames as a marina.*
8. *Investigation of nuisance odours from decaying algae on the Tolworth Brook and reaches of the Hogsmill River under low flow conditions.*
9. *Consideration of suitable pollution mitigation measures for contaminated surface water run-off from new and existing roads.*
10. *Need to consider suitable bacteriological standards for surface waters within the catchment.*
11. *NRA to consider supporting a request for the removal of the micro-turbine near the mouth of the River Wandle.*

One of the suggested new issues relates to the *Rythe Stream*, outside the boundary of this CMP, and will be picked up under the Lower Thames CMP which is due to commence in November 1995.

The 4 remaining new issues are listed below and will be considered by the NRA CMP Working Party for inclusion in the Action Plan;

1. *Alternative names are being used by different organisations for tributary 1 of the Hogsmill River e.g. Tolworth Brook/Stream, Surbiton Stream, Raeburn Stream.*
2. *Archaeological value of the rivers and riverbanks in the catchment requires specific protection measures.*
3. *Poor fisheries status is viewed as an important issue in its own right and options should be clearly identified for maximising fishery potential.*
4. *Consideration should be given to managing river water levels to be more sympathetic with notable industrial heritage particularly on the River Wandle.*

Comments received from consultees focussed attention on the inherent cross connections between various issues/options. Natural groupings of issues, whilst still not mutually exclusive, clearly emerged. Issues/options as published in the Consultation Report are given in Appendix 5 and a breakdown of consultee responses to individual issues is shown overleaf.

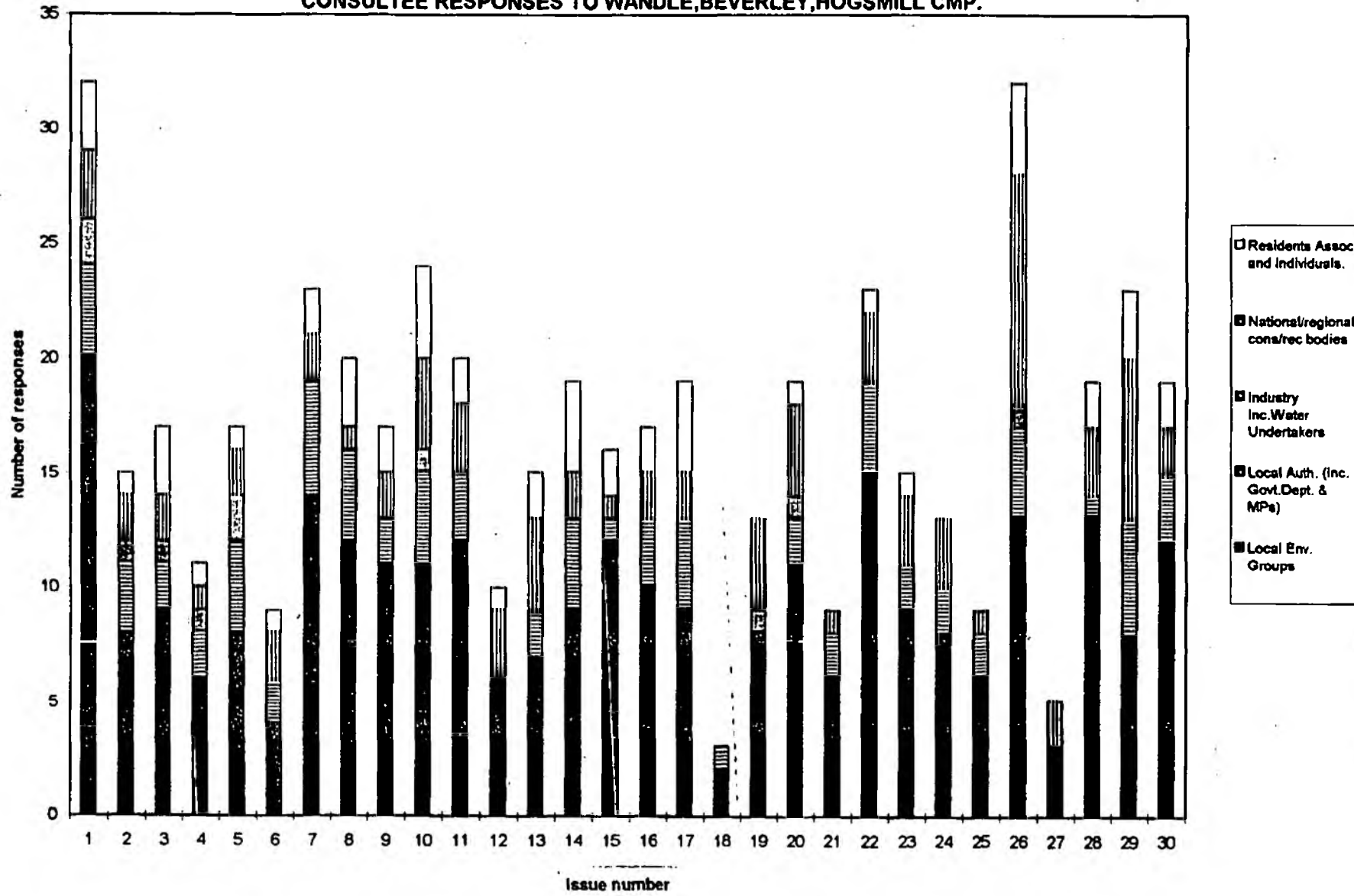
GROUP 1 - AIMS TO IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY (Issues 1 - 8; 146 comments received).

Whilst strong support was received for improving water quality, particularly downstream of the 3 municipal sewage treatment works (STW), confusion was expressed regarding the setting of future use-related water quality objectives given that current uses were largely dictated by existing water quality.

This paradox must be clearly explained in the context of NRA/Water Company/OFWAT negotiations on prioritising future investment in water quality improvements, as part of the Action Plan. Water quality downstream of the STWs is a contentious issue and concern has been expressed by Thames Water Utilities Plc on the role that currently over-achieving STWs play in existing downstream river water quality. This will be discussed at a joint meeting with the NRA, at which consultee comments will be tabled on a number of water quality issues, before publication of the Action Plan.

The need was identified for the NRA TR, in association with local Environmental Health Officers, to inform the public of the safety risks associated with the bacteriological status of these urban watercourses.

CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO WANDLE, BEVERLEY, HOGSMILL CMP.



Support received for the extension of blue-green algae monitoring to other waterbodies e.g. Carshalton ponds, and concerns were expressed over the need to control, if possible, diffuse sources of pollution such as pesticides.

Improved NRA prosecution rates for polluters was viewed as the most effective method of reducing incidents. Strong support for protection of groundwater, with calls for an option for dealing specifically with contamination from road-runoff, were not confined to groups in the south of the catchment. Lack of parochialism is a marked feature of this particular CMP and possibly reflects the relatively compact nature of the catchment compared with others in NRA TR.

**GROUP 2 - AIMS TO ALLEVIATE LOW FLOWS IN SURFACE & GROUNDWATERS.
(Issues 9,10,13; 51 comments received)**

Conservation and recreation groups strongly support the establishment of minimum acceptable flows in the lower reaches of the Beverley Brook downstream of the flood relief channels, an issue which has a long history but no action to date.

There is also a perception on behalf of the same groups, with added support from Local Authorities and angling clubs, that groundwater abstraction licenses should be reviewed to ensure minimum acceptable flows in spring fed ponds in the Carshalton area. This is a contentious issue as this view is not shared by the NRA's own water resources department and Sutton District Water Plc. who state that ponds such as St.Philomena's, Grotto Canal, Festival Walk, St.Margaret's etc. are by nature ephemeral.

Whilst groundwater pumping from the local aquifer may well have reduced spring flows into these ponds, review of abstraction licenses is deemed unrealistic by NRA TR and viable alternative sources to augment artificially these ponds are limited (The CMP is equivocal on the benefits or otherwise of rising groundwater levels under London, with some support expressed for this resource to be utilised for potable supply thus reducing the pressure on groundwater abstraction in the Carshalton area).

A joint meeting between the NRA and the Water Company to discuss these issues is to take place before production of the Action Plan.

**GROUP 3 - AIM TO INTEGRATE THE MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS WITH CONTROL OF SURFACE WATER RUNOFF
(Issues 11,12,14,18,22,27; 75 comments received)**

Strong emphasis placed on this requirement by a equal cross section of all consultee groups for both new and existing flood defences providing flood defence standards of service are not compromised.

Benefits of 'softening' existing defences should not be underestimated in any cost/benefit analysis or environmental economic techniques.

30% of comments received highlighted the need for clear guidance from NTA TR on the management of invasive plant species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam. This is viewed as an important issue on all three urban rivers. Enhancement opportunities should also be identified throughout the catchment and priority given to wetland restoration.

Issues 11 (lack of flooding data against which to assess flood defence SoS and) and 18 (lack of data on river levels in upper reaches of Beverley/Norbury Brook) were viewed both as an integral part of this requirement and as issues to be resolved by the NRA only.

Consultees thought that Issue 27 (risk to small craft on the R.Thames from Hogsmill inflow) could be resolved by signage in advance of future opportunities to redesign the shape of the bell mouth as redevelopment opportunities arose. The outflow from the bell mouth is noted however as a angling hotspot and overall only 5 comments were received on this issue.

**GROUP 4 - AIM TO PROTECT & ENHANCE PERMANENT WATER BODIES
THROUGHOUT THE CATCHMENT.
(combining issues 15,16,29)**

Very strong support from many consultees, including national/regional conservation and recreation organisations, for a co-ordinated strategy for a catchment which has seen the loss of substantial still water habitats to urban development in the past. No individual consultee volunteered to lead such a strategy but Surrey County Council offer grants and many Local Authorities are undertaking an inventory of still waters as part of Local Agenda 21 initiatives.

NRA TR will need to clearly state its position regarding the protection/enhancement of still waters in the Action Plan. Some see NRA TR as playing a key role not least in identifying opportunities for restoration and enhancement.

The creation of a single large lake to support active water sports within the catchment also received support due to an identified existing deficiency and as a option for reducing similar pressures on existing lakes and rivers. The NRA TR response to the TWUL proposals at Beddington is seen by a large number of consultees as a lost opportunity in many areas, particularly in the context of maximising water quality and recreation opportunities. A clear position statement is required in the Action Plan.

GROUP 5 - AIM TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR IN-STREAM & BANKSIDE RIVER HABITATS
(Issues 17,19,20,21; 61 comments received).

Support for specific management techniques to be identified by river reach maps to cover main and non-main rivers. NRA TR should consult with external wildlife and conservation groups who hold data. Management recommendations can only be based on an integrated assessment of ecological status and multifunctional monitoring on behalf on NRA TR is seen as essential.

NRA landscape surveys should not be substituted for river corridor habitat surveys. CMP should make reference to the variety of land management grants available to riparian owners. Concern expressed over the lack of reference in the CMP to riparian owners responsibilities in terms of bankside erosion - a statement is required in the action plan.

GROUP 6 - AIM TO SEEK TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES (Issues 24,25; 22 comments).

All necessary structures should not prohibit free passage of fish and NRA TR should identify any unnecessary structures and seek removal. There is firm support for all new structures to be subjected to environmental impact assessment.

The existing half-tide weir has been confirmed through consultation as a contentious issue with a wide divergence of opinion on the future of this structure. A meeting between the NRA and the owners, London Borough of Wandsworth, is to be held before production of the Action Plan to agree a way forward in light of the consultation responses received. The performance /environmental impact of the micro-turbine just upstream of the half tide weir will also be discussed.

GROUP 7 - AIM TO BALANCE THE NEEDS BETWEEN THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION USES OF RIVERS AND STILL WATERS.
(Issues 23,26; 47 comments received).

Strong support for increasing public access via the promotion of riverside walks per se and for the creation of a walkway over the Beverley Brook to connect Wimbledon Common with Richmond Park. Many consultees believe that increased access should be limited to one riverbank at a time over a given reach but opinions vary as to the suitability of sharing access routes between walkers and cyclists.

The enhancement and restoration of still waters with a variety of sizes and uses is suggested as positive move not least in protecting the nature conservation value of riverine habitats. Wimbledon Park Lake seen as the only water body in the catchment of sufficient size to support competing uses at the current time, though this is not without problems.

The clear definition of a minimum buffer zone draws strong support particularly from Local Authorities as a way of fairly promoting a landuse policy to developers based on the multifunctional use of riverside land for both access and conservation purposes.

GROUP 8 - AIM TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRIDE IN THE WATER ENVIRONMENT.
(Issues 28,30; 38 comments received).

Litter clearance by voluntary groups is seen as a welcome reaction to current situation and views were expressed that NRA should play a more significant role. Strong support for a more proactive approach to promote the above aim through education; particularly by raising awareness of schools in the catchment to local water issues and the role they can play in the CMP process and Local Agenda 21 initiatives. 20% of consultees who responded on this issue suggested the employment of an NRA education officer.

COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING CONTENT/STYLE OF TEXT AND MAPS.

Consultees welcomed the clear, easy to read and well presented format of the Consultation Report. The dissemination of necessary technical information in terms understandable to the lay person was commended. The quality of the mapping was viewed as a key factor in this regard with one consultee declaring the document as a model of it's sort, particularly in terms of the mapping.

The method of clearly raising issues as an integral part of the text was very well received.

Local Authorities in particular welcomed the vision statement and the NRA TR committment to a partnership approach in working with the local community towards sustainability for the water environment.

A number of concerns were raised regarding slight map registration problems and small missing data sets, particularly regarding public open space and sites of archaeological interest. Whilst these did not materially effect the findings of the Consultation Report all efforts will be made to prevent such errors from reoccurring.

Consultees also welcomed the concept of consultation and hoped that efforts to date will result in tangible local improvements and not just another plan for the shelf.

NEXT STEPS.

Meetings with regard to the three principal contentious issues identified in the preceding text have already been scheduled during March 1995. Outcomes will be identified in the Activity Plan, contained within the Action Plan, and will be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebounded (SMART).

The Catchment Management Team will meet with internal NRA staff to agree actions on relevant issues in the light of consultee responses during March and early April.

Where actions are supported by consultation but cannot be lead by NRA TR, these will be identified in the Action Plan and will as requiring external interested parties to volunteer to co-ordinate, implement action(s) identified on a partnership basis.

No public meetings have been arranged to discuss the consultation responses. Experience from similar events in other areas of NRA TR has shown such an approach to have little benefit.

A draft Action Plan will be circulated to members of the Committee Members Working Party and the internal NRA CMP Working Party in advance of meetings in April to ratify content before submission to the AMT and RMB for approval before publication in June 1995.

WANDLE BEVERLEY HOGSMILL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN LAUNCH

"QUESTION / ANSWER SESSION"

Joan Wykes opened the forum with an explanation of what the plan involved from start to finish with committee members involvement and Water Quality Management.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council - Mr Jenkinson

Gave congratulations to us all. "The catchment is over a large area and Epsom & Ewell only form a small part of it"

- Larger scale maps requested. Area can be identified more clearly.

(DNM explained about maps)

Richmond Wildlife - Mr Peter Shaw

- Will information be in a digitised format?

(Kim Farthing replied digitised information could be available on request depending on system compatibility and licenses for duplication of third party data. NRA data is not a problem).

Mr G. Wickes (MP)

- When talking about water analysis could we speak of instances of evidence of trout in the R. Wandle?

(A.B. explained about the introduction of fish passes to the river so making life easier for the fish! ----- Dave de Coster explained we have introduced trout to the upper reaches of the Wandle)!

Surrey Archaeological Society - Mr E. Montague

- Raised the point of fish stock problems and more importantly the DEBRIS that is left behind on the river banks when the Anglers have finished their days sport. LPA's are left to clean up the Debris - What are we doing about it?

(A.B. explained these problems are everywhere. No worse than others. Management of these areas are a concern. NRA are not always the landowners but we do liaise with L.P.A.'s. We do police the actual fishing.)

Wandle Industrial Museum

- Upper reaches of Carshalton is there a plan to regenerate water to festival walk etc?

(R.M.H. replied No, but this is a valid point. DNM mentioned that this is raised as an issue).

Kingston Green Forum - Quen Marks

- What control do we have over Sewage Treatments etc entering our rivers?

(A.B. We have power over water coming to a water course. We do have to be careful. Dave de Coster mentioned different types of sewers separate and combined also lagoons and Beddington. Andre Szabados expressed that there is 10 million pound investment on Worcester Park - Improvements are being made!.

Council for British Archaeological Society - Mr Turner.

- On page 34 the Landscape map, the catchment exceeds outer London and is missing lots of dots, i.e. sites of historic interest.
- last sentence R&D project p34. Whether the out put will come in time to influence the next document. What Archaeological bodies are included.

(RMH will reply in writing).

London Ecology Unit - Mr Dawson.

- Does the NRA agree that the quality of all three rivers downstream of the STWs was driven by final effluent quality and was this not the greatest constraint on future improvements.

(A.B. agreed and continued to say that with current legislation the Government has been reluctant to sort this out and change river quality objectives. A.B. Explained the process. Cost benefits and accounting to the Government.

Someone from the floor was following A.B.s Reply to above by stating that:

- in assessing the potential cost/benefit of any given enhancement reference to quality of river and riverbanks pre urbanisation should be taken into account.

London Wildlife Trust.

- What is the procedure for future of the CMP i.e. what meetings etc.

(J.Wykes explained the process and learning curve. A.B. added at the end of this there will be a final plan then a 5 year review of the actions etc. We will monitor and we need to be forever changing.

Epsom & Ewell B.C. - Mr Jenkinson.

- Do we have any plans to do something about Riparian ownership which has become lost. These may be small but are troublesome!

(A.B. replied Yes! - Our powers mean we can do something as we have to maintain the rivers. If the owners are not there we will do the work anyway. Sometimes we end up using public money on private areas.

APPENDIX 2

PUBLICATION DISTRIBUTION

LIBRARIES	CONSULTATION REPORTS	SUMMARY BOOKLETS	POSTERS
Surrey	11	600	11
Richmond	1	50	1
Kingston	10	600	10
Wandsworth	12	600	12
Lambeth	1	50	1
Merton	9	600	9
Sutton	7	400	7
Croydon	4	200	4
S.Thames College	1	50	
Kingston College	1	200	2
Snuff Mill Env. Centre	1	50	1
Sutton Eco. Centre	1	50	2
Planning Auth. offices	inc. in external cons	600	
Coulsdon Manor launch	80	90	
External Consultees	310	310	
Internal NRA Consultees	51	51	
TOTAL	500	4501*	60

* 499 copies of summary booklets retained for distribution during consultation period on demand.

POSTER USED TO ADVERTISE
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN.



**DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR
LOCAL WATER ENVIRONMENT**

**PLEASE PICK UP A SUMMARY BOOKLET
BELOW AND LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS.**

NRA

*National Rivers Authority
Thames Region*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
YOUR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

01932 789833

LIST OF CONSULTEES

(WRITTEN RESPONSES RECEIVED):

PRIMARY (* denotes written response but no further comment)

1. COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION
2. ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL*
3. ENGLISH NATURE
4. EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL
5. LB CROYDON
6. LB LAMBETH
7. LB MERTON
8. LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES
9. LB SUTTON
10. LB WANDSWORTH
11. LONDON ECOLOGY UNIT
12. LOWER MOLE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
13. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD
14. MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL*
15. REIGATE & BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL
16. RB KINGSTON UPON THAMES
17. SPORTS COUNCIL
18. SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
19. SUTTON DISTRICT WATER PLC
20. TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
21. THAMES WATER UTILITIES LIMITED
22. WANDLE GROUP

SECONDARY

23. B & Q PLC*
24. BANSTEAD ANGLING ASSOCIATION
25. BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
26. BEDDINGTON SOCIETY
27. BOURNE SOCIETY
28. BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
29. BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY
30. BRITISH CANOE UNION
31. BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY
32. BT PLC
33. CATERHAM & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
34. CARSHALTON SOCIETY
35. CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON & PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS
36. CHALDON ASSOCIATION
37. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (RICHMOND)
38. CORPORATION OF LONDON
39. COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY
40. COUNTRY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
41. CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
42. CYCLING TOURING CLUB
43. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
44. ENGLISH HERITAGE
45. FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP (SURREY)
46. FORESTRY AUTHORITY (HAMPSHIRE & W. DOWNS CONSERVANCY)
47. FORESTRY AUTHORITY (THAMES & CHILTERN CONSERVANCY)
48. FRIENDS OF SHEEN COMMON
49. FRIENDS OF BARNES COMMON
50. FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

51. GREEN FORUM
52. HAM & PETERSHAM ASSOCIATION
53. JEREMY DODD & ASSOCIATES
54. KELSEY ASSOCIATES
55. KING GEORGE'S PARK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
56. KINGSTON MUSEUM & HERITAGE SERVICE
57. KINGSTON UPON THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
58. KINGSTON UPON THAMES SOCIETY
59. LINKING ENVIRONMENT & FARMING
60. LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
61. LONDON WALKING FORUM
62. LONDON WASTE REGULATION AUTHORITY
63. LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST (MERTON GROUP)
64. LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST (RICHMOND/TWICKENHAM/KINGSTON GROUP)
65. LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST (SUTTON GROUP)
66. LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST (WANDSWORTH GROUP)
67. LONDON TOURIST BOARD
68. MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
69. METROPOLITAN GARDENS ASSOCIATION
70. MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS
71. MITCHAM COMMON PRESERVATION SOCIETY
72. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ANGLERS
73. NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION
74. NATIONAL TRUST
75. NONSUCH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
76. PLATFORM
77. PUTNEY SOCIETY
78. RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION
79. RICHMOND SOCIETY
80. RICHMOND PARK WILDLIFE GROUP

81. RIPPLES
82. RIVER THAMES SOCIETY
83. ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS (KEW)
84. ROYAL PARKS AGENCY
85. SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION
86. SOUTH EAST THAMES FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
87. SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST
88. SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST (KINGSTON GROUP)
89. SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
90. SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL
91. SUTTON CONSERVATION GROUP
92. SUTTON ECOLOGY CENTRE
93. THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
94. UK IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION
95. WANDLE HERITAGE
96. WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM
97. WANDSWORTH ACTION VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
98. WANDSWORTH SOCIETY
99. WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
100. WARLINGTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
101. WARLINGTON & DISTRICT ANGLING SOCIETY
102. WHYTELEAFE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
103. WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
104. WIMBLEDON & PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS
105. WIMBLEDON PARK ANGLING SOCIETY
106. WIMBLEDON PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
107. WIMBLEDON SOCIETY

CATCHMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

ISSUE 1 : POOR WATER QUALITY D/S OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

- Revise discharge consents and implement changes to plant to meet River Ecosystem Class 4 objective.
- Investigate cost/benefit of a long term water quality objective of River Ecosystem Class 3.

ISSUE 2 : LINDANE CONCENTRATIONS EXCEED STANDARDS.

- NRA TR, Thames Water Utilities, HMIP to produce a co-ordinated strategy of action to reduce loadings of Lindane on the aquatic environment as stipulated by North Sea Conference.

ISSUE 3 : IMPACT OF URBAN STORM WATER RUN-OFF ON RIVER WATER QUALITY.

- Ensure that flow balancing requirements for all new developments are designed to optimise water quality.
- Investigate potential for substituting porous surfaces for impervious ones where appropriate.

ISSUE 4 : NUISANCE MIDGE SWARMS BELOW SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

- Introduce more stringent suspended solids limits during revision of consents.
- Continue to jet wash silts.
- Change river channel morphology to discourage sedimentation.

ISSUE 5 : CONFLICT BETWEEN INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATERFRONT AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

- NRA TR and Local Authorities to inform public of associated health risks.
- Improve bacteriological quality of rivers by seeking removal of illegal sewer connections to the surface water system and promotion of flood storage ponds.
- Investigate the cost/benefit of improving bacteriological quality of treated sewage effluent.

ISSUE 6 : PRESENCE OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN RICHMOND PARK PONDS.

- NRA TR to continue to monitor on a reactive basis and inform Local Authority and Royal Parks Agency of bloom conditions.

ISSUE 7 : FREQUENT POLLUTION INCIDENTS.

- Carry out publicity campaign to promote awareness/consequences of pollution.
- Undertake programme of inspections of local high risk sites and advise on pollution prevention
- Develop and improve methods for alleviation/containment of oil/chemical spillages.

ISSUE 8 : VULNERABILITY OF LOCAL GROUNDWATER TO POLLUTION.

- Promote NRA "Policy and Practice for Protection of Groundwater".
- Give pollution prevention guidance to all users of oils/fuels/chemicals on storage and handling
- Ensure new development/infrastructure incorporates suitable pollution mitigation measures.
- Improve and review groundwater monitoring programme.
- Develop an integrated surface water management strategy for the catchment.

ISSUE 9 : DRYING-UP OF SPRING FED PONDS AT THE SOURCE OF RIVER WANDLE

- Investigate extent of the problem and action report recommendations.

ISSUE 10 : POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ON LOCAL GROUNDWATER RESOURCES WHICH MAY LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.

- Set minimum acceptable groundwater levels for water related conservation sites.
- Identify development pressure points and ensure development plans promote suitable policies for sustainable water resource usage.
- Promote efficient use of water throughout the catchment.

ISSUE 11 : LACK OF HISTORIC AND MODELLED FLOODING DATA AGAINST WHICH TO ASSESS FLOOD DEFENCE STANDARDS OF SERVICE.

- Construct full hydraulic mathematical model for the catchment.
- Construct a full physical model for the catchment.

ISSUE 12 : REDRESS THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED FOR FLOOD PROTECTION ON THE HOGSMILL RIVER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS.

- Rebuild completely the existing river channel following cost/benefit analysis.
- Modify the existing river channel as one scheme following cost/benefit analysis.
- Modify the existing channel on a piecemeal basis as bankside redevelopment opportunities arise.

ISSUE 13 : LOW BASE FLOWS IN THE BEVERLEY BROOK DOWNSTREAM OF THE FLOOD RELIEF CHANNELS.

- Investigate the consequences of increasing the height of the weirs at Priest's Bridge.

ISSUE 14 : NRA TR HAS NO EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL IN SETTING RUN-OFF/STORAGE CRITERIA FOR SURFACE WATER FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN "RED" ZONES.

- Complete the surface water zoning exercise for the River Wandle and Hogsmill River.
- Seek inclusion of appropriate policies in statutory development plans.
- Seek changes to existing legislation.

ISSUE 15 : DEFICIENCY OF PERMANENT WATERBODIES WITHIN FLOOD STORAGE AREAS.

- Permanent waterbodies should be considered at the design stage of new flood storage areas.
- Investigate potential of retrofitting and maintaining permanent waterbodies within existing flood storage provision in the catchment.

ISSUE 16 : NEED TO MAXIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL / RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL ASSOCIATED WITH STRATEGIC PROVISION OF FLOOD STORAGE WITHIN THE BMAO.

- Work with Thames Water, Local Authority and other interested parties to realise the potential of the BMAO following gravel extraction.

ISSUE 17 : NEED FOR APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR SPECIFIC REACHES OF RIVER BANK AND CHANNELS THROUGHOUT THE CATCHMENT.

- Compile "river reach maps" and guidance notes for internal and external use.

ISSUE 18 : INSUFFICIENT DATA ON RIVER LEVELS ON THE UPPER REACHES OF THE BEVERLEY BROOK AND THE NORBURY BROOK.

- Install appropriate river level gauges.

ISSUE 19 : ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF THE RIVERS CANNOT BE ASSESSED BY ANY ONE METHOD IN ISOLATION.

- Continue to conduct intensive surveys on an integrated basis to provide comprehensive chemical and biological data.

ISSUE 20 : NEED TO PROTECT EXISTING IMPORTANT IN-STREAM AND BANKSIDE HABITATS.

- Complete river landscape surveys on the River Wandle and Beverley Brook
- Promote suitable policies to Local Authorities for inclusion in statutory development plans.

ISSUE 21 : REQUIREMENT TO PROTECT BIOLOGICAL STATUS OF HEADWATERS.

- Instigate pollution prevention programme on headwaters.
- Complete species level surveys on headwaters of River Wandle and Beverley Brook.
- Seek adoption of appropriate policies in statutory development plans.

ISSUE 22 : EXTENT OF ARTIFICIAL RIVER CHANNEL AND CORRIDOR.

- As opportunity arises, promote more environmentally friendly defences using techniques outlined in the Rivers and Wildlife Handbook.

ISSUE 23 : LACK OF A CLEAR DEFINITION OF EFFECTIVE BUFFER ZONE WIDTH.

- Identify effective widths for specific river reaches and make information available externally.

ISSUE 24 : ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SUBSTANTIAL WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES.

- Coarse fish passes should be built into existing structures when renovated.
- Any proposed new structures should be subject to full environmental impact assessment.

ISSUE 25 : ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE HALF-TIDE WEIR AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER WANDLE.

- Relevant organisations to work together to seek removal of the weir and enhancement of the tidal creek.

ISSUE 26 : POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN RECREATION AND CONSERVATION USES OF RIVERS AND LAKES.

- All interested parties to agree appropriate management strategies to resolve existing/future conflict between competing uses.

ISSUE 27 : SAFETY RISK TO SMALL CRAFT ON THE RIVER THAMES FROM TRIBUTARY INFLOWS ESPECIALLY DOWNSTREAM OF THE HOGSMILL RIVER.

- Investigate extent of the problem with all interested parties and implement report recommendations.

ISSUE 28 : IMPACT OF RUBBISH AND LITTER ON THE WATER ENVIRONMENT.

- Promote and co-ordinate anti-litter and tidy river bank campaigns such as the annual River Wandle clean-up day.
- Promote local pride and concept of public ownership of the water environment through the CMP process.

ISSUE 29 : THE NEED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE STILL WATERS THROUGHOUT THE CATCHMENT.

- Develop an integrated strategy with all interested parties to balance the needs between competing uses and to protect and enhance the existing still water resource within the catchment.

ISSUE 30 : THE NEED TO PROMOTE WATER ENVIRONMENT ISSUES AT A LOCAL LEVEL WITHIN THE CATCHMENT ESPECIALLY VIA FORMAL EDUCATION.

- Promote NRA RIVERWORK teaching pack and National RiverWATCH scheme.
- Revise and update NRA River Fact File for the Wandle/Beverley/Hogsmill.
- Develop ecological "indicators" for the water environment with interested parties and adapt for use within local schools.