



TREND IN THE PEAK DISTRICT:

Variable. Water quality is increasing; river flows and groundwater levels are declining; aquatic habitats, river corridor wetlands and riparian habitats have suffered a dramatic decline historically but currently the decline in extent and quality is more limited.

ESTIMATED EXTENT IN THE PEAK DISTRICT:

Unquantified.

NATIONAL BAP HABITATS:

Fens (priority habitat), Rivers and Streams (broad habitat type), Neutral Grassland (broad habitat type).

ASSOCIATED NATIONAL BAP PRIORITY SPECIES:

Otter, water vole, white-clawed crayfish, derbyshire feather-moss (*Thamnobryum angustifolium*).

ASSOCIATED PEAK DISTRICT AUDITS:

Rivers and Streams, Wetlands.

INTRODUCTION

The River Corridors Action Plan covers all rivers and streams throughout the Peak District and also all river corridor wetlands within the whole of the White Peak and within the lower and middle reaches of river valleys in the Dark and South West Peak. Wet woodlands are considered within the Wet Woodland Action Plan and wetlands on the moorland fringes within the Rush Pasture Action Plan.

Rivers and streams within the Peak District are a very varied resource. Small upland streams draining the blanket bog of the South West and Dark Peak moorlands, or starting as springs at the interface between the grits and shales, fall quickly through wooded cloughs to the shale valleys. The lower reaches of the rivers flow more slowly through broad valleys and are commonly tree-lined. Aquatic higher plants are infrequent but lower plants, invertebrates, fish including bullhead and brook lamprey, and birds including goosander and common sandpiper are of importance. Genetically distinct races of wild brown trout exist in the upper reaches of some of the river valleys.

White Peak rivers by contrast commonly support a rich plant life with carpets of watercress and water crowfoot amongst others. Seasonal in their upper reaches, they form an integral part of the White Peak dales. Animal life is similarly diverse and, in the River Dove, includes the native white-clawed crayfish. Fish populations include bullhead, brook lamprey and also distinctive populations of both brown trout and grayling. Amongst the birdlife, dippers and little grebes are characteristic.

All three Natural Areas are considered to be of high importance for their water vole populations which are dependent not only on the aquatic environment but also on a rich and diverse riparian habitat. At its best this includes a mosaic of tall and short vegetation with scattered trees and shrubs.

In the upper reaches of streams and scattered within the lower valleys, wetlands extend either side of the watercourse over the floodplain. These are very variable in character including flood meadows, sedge and rush dominated marshes, and wet grasslands. Wetlands are also present as spring-heads, flushes and as areas of poorly draining ground on valley-sides. Very locally they also exist high on the White Peak plateau.

In the floodplain of rivers and streams where the water table is near the surface and drainage has not occurred, rush pasture rich in a colourful display of wetland flowers such as ragged robin and marsh marigold can be found. This may be accompanied or replaced locally in the White Peak by small areas of fen dominated by pond sedges. The wettest areas support quaking mats of sweet-grass or, particularly in small relic oxbow marshes along parts of the Dove and Manifold, poor-fen with bottle sedge and marsh cinquefoil. These mosaics of flood-plain wetlands support a rich invertebrate fauna and can be of importance locally for breeding birds such as lapwing, snipe, curlew and reed bunting. Tall fen vegetation is very scarce in the Peak District, but where it does occur meadowsweet, common valerian, great willowherb and reed canary-grass tend to dominate. Harvest mice are known from this habitat.

Within the dales, base-rich flushes occur in a handful of locations. Such areas are very small, but are characterised by a number of uncommon species such as butterwort and flat sedge and a rich invertebrate fauna. Monks Dale and the Wye Valley both have good examples of these communities.

Wetlands have declined in extent both nationally and locally as a result of drainage and associated agricultural improvement. Similarly the riparian habitat has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification. The rivers themselves have undergone more limited losses but water quality and habitat variability has been affected by industrial discharges, agricultural run-off and by deepening and straightening the water channel. The latter has happened in only a limited manner within the lower reaches of the rivers, particularly where they pass through towns and villages. Smaller streams have, however, been modified as an aid to drainage of the surrounding agricultural land. Historically water courses have been altered in the vicinity of water powered mills and for fisheries management. Groundwater abstraction and loss of water to soughs and mineshafts continue to be problems.

Water quality generally in the Peak District is good although locally it is affected by agricultural run-off, sheep dip and high silt levels. There is also some deterioration in built-up areas particularly where sewage works discharge. The trend, however, is for improvements in these areas. Water quality is also affected by erosion of the moorland areas with peat contributing to problems of water acidity and siltation.

River corridors are of importance in providing habitats for a range of different plants and animals to live, and to move through. They are also crucial in the landscape with a sensitively managed system supporting an intimate mosaic of habitats linked to the watercourse, including marshes, flood meadows, wet grasslands, field boundaries and wet woodland. They are also of importance in providing attractive and diverse landscapes for recreation.

ADVERSE IMPACTS	Historic	Current
Water Abstraction and Loss		
Construction of dams and reservoirs.	✓	
Groundwater and surface water abstraction and water transfer schemes eg. Rivers Noe and Ashop.	✓	✓
Drainage of water to soughs and loss to mineshafts.	✓	✓
Physical Modification of the River Corridor Habitats		
The modification of river channels for flood defence, drainage, fisheries management and, historically, for water power.	✓✓	✓
Drainage of wetlands and associated agricultural improvement.	✓✓	✓
Inappropriate grazing of wetlands with regard to both stocking levels and stock type.	✓	✓✓
Erosion of stream and river banks by stock.	✓	✓✓
Pollution		
Agricultural run-off including silage effluent and slurry.	✓	✓✓
Sewage effluent particularly at times of storm water flow.	✓	✓
Industrial effluent.	✓✓	✓
Atmospheric pollution and climate change.	✓	✓
Run-off from sheep-dip disposal and other pesticides.		✓✓
Run-off from bracken herbicides.	✓	✓
Contamination of water courses from the use of paper pulp in agricultural operations.		✓✓
Excessive inputs of peat and peaty water from eroding moorlands.	✓	✓✓
Iron-rich water from old coal mines.	✓✓	✓
Invasive Species		
The introduction and continued spread of invasive plants and animals including giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, New Zealand pigmyweed, mink, signal crayfish, rainbow trout and exotic fish.	✓	✓
Recreation		
Recreational pressure along riverbanks including potential disturbance to water voles and breeding birds, modification to river and stream banks to accommodate paths, and trampling and compaction of waterside vegetation and soils.	✓	✓✓

An impact ✓ *Significant impact* ✓✓

CURRENT ACTION

Designated Sites

- The rivers within Abney & Bretton Clough, Cressbrook Dale, Lathkill Dale, Dove Dale and Monks Dale and the base-rich flushes found within several of the limestone dales are included within the relevant SSSI notification. In addition, the floodplain mire at Moss Carr, in the headwaters of the River Manifold, is an SSSI.
- Streams and rivers are also included within many other SSSIs although they do not form part of the notification.
- Alkaline fens (which include base-rich flushes), bullhead, brook lamprey and white-clawed crayfish are part of the reasons for notification of the Peak District Dales cSAC.
- A number of wetlands and rich riparian habitats have been identified as 'Wildlife Sites'.

New Initiatives

Water Quality

- Both the EA and the WCs are working towards solving water quality problems with targets for individual sites set internally within the organisations.
- Under Groundwater Regulations, the EA licence the disposal of pesticides including sheep dip and, within the Lower and Upper Trent Regions, consult the PDNPA on applications that fall within the National Park. The agency has dedicated officers who will visit most landholdings and advise farmers regarding sheep dip disposal.

Water Resources

- The EA is reviewing consents relating to abstractions on watercourses within cSACs and SPAs. New 'Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies' are being developed and new legislation, currently in draft form as a new Water Bill, will give greater control over water resources.

Land and River Management

- The EA carry out an annual programme of maintenance work on main rivers with the nature conservation interest of such sites taken into consideration.
- In 1999, streams were added to the list of habitats which the PDNPA could recognise within a Farm Conservation Scheme (FCS) Agreement.
- The WTs, as part of the 'Rivers and Otters Project' are giving advice to landowners with regard to management of streams and associated wetlands for water voles.
- In 1998, a Bakewell Biodiversity Project was set up, involving a partnership of several organizations, to enhance the river corridor through Bakewell. To date, a pond, small wetland area, a meadow and river-side copses have been created, and several otter holts have been constructed.

Fishery Management

- The EA consents the introduction of fish to rivers under S30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, to ensure no diseased fish enter the catchment. The opportunity is taken at the time of consent to give advice on the conservation of wild fish stocks.
- The EA is currently developing a Fisheries Action Plan for the Dove catchment, looking at stocking and management and the impact on biodiversity. Similar plans may be developed for other catchments in the future.
- The NT, EA and fishing clubs are currently working under a management accord in the Dove Valley.

Other Policy Documents

- All regions of the EA have produced Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) in which the conservation of biodiversity has been addressed. Many issues are common to both the relevant LEAP and this BAP.

Sites in Conservation Ownership

- Rivers, streams and small areas of river corridor wetland are present within the ownership of the PDNPA, EN, the NT and WTs.

Sites in Conservation Agreements

- Rivers and streams commonly occur as boundary features in Countryside Stewardship (CS), Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and the PDNPA's FCS agreements but are generally incidental to the main reason for inclusion and the management negotiated.
- The option of including wildlife headlands and buffer strips is available within CS and the PDNPA's FCS and can be used for conservation and enhancement of rivers and streams and the headlands adjacent to them. Records are not available for the number of streams and riversides protected in this way but it is thought to be few.
- 20 wetland sites within river corridors are protected within the PDNPA's FCS, and additional but un-quantified wetland sites are also protected within ESA and CS schemes.

Survey and Research

- The PDNPA's Pastures Project concentrated on the Bentley Brook catchment area in 1999, identifying sixty wetland areas and assessing the quality of the stream from the source of the brook to the

boundary of the National Park south of Fenny Bentley. Conservation action to date has concentrated on securing high quality sites into agreement.

- The PDNPA Pastures Project also targeted 30 wetlands of particular importance throughout the National Park in 2000. The survey showed that only one of these sites had been lost since the initial survey in the 1980s. Discussions on favourable management and the inclusion of these sites within conservation agreements are continuing.
- The Derbyshire and Staffordshire WTs have carried out surveys for otters and water voles as part of the 'Otters and Rivers Project' (with sponsorship from STW and the EA), and as part of their ongoing conservation work (with sponsorship from various sources including EN).
- The NT have recently carried out river habitat and river corridor surveys (according to EA guidelines) and an aquatic plant survey of the Dove SSSI.
- In the lower reaches of the River Dove the EA, NT and fishing clubs are working in collaboration to ensure collation of information on aquatic and riparian species of interest.
- River corridor surveys of main rivers, including extensive lengths of the Bentley Brook, Wye and Derwent, were completed in the early 1990s for the NRA (now the EA).

ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National Targets

Rivers (with the exception of chalk rivers) are not a national priority habitat and there is no national action plan. Some river corridor wetlands are included within the national Fens Action Plan. However within the plan, objectives and targets concentrate on the conservation action relevant to larger areas of wetland than are present within the Peak District and so have little relevance to this River Corridor Action Plan.

A Vision for the Peak District

River corridors traverse the Peak District ranging from limestone dales, broad shale valleys and small moorland edge streams, to gritstone cloughs. Many wetland habitats are of limited extent owing to years of drainage and agricultural improvement. Many river and stream-sides are also ecologically impoverished owing to adjacent non-sympathetic land-uses. The responsibility lies with conservationists, farmers, landowners and relevant agencies alike, to safeguard existing habitats of interest and, where possible, to encourage restoration or re-creation of a rich mosaic of river corridor habitats to provide corridors and sanctuaries for wetland wildlife. In this way we can hope to both safeguard and re-vitalise our river corridors, with a diverse assemblage of wetlands, flood meadows, wet woodlands and rich water's edge communities supporting both rare and more common species and those increasingly under threat in our ever more pressured countryside.

The Peak District objectives and targets for river corridors reflect their importance for:

- i) key national and Peak District biodiversity species including Derbyshire feather-moss, white-clawed crayfish, bullhead, brook lamprey, water vole and, potentially, otter;
- ii) a range of species and habitats which are uncommon locally including aquatic invertebrates and river corridor wetlands and their constituent species;
- iii) their very important contribution to the landscape and to the whole picture of biodiversity within the Peak District.

For a landscape as complex as a river corridor, setting objectives and targets needs to be in the context of the habitats considered to be of the greatest significance. This can only be assessed on a site by site basis and will need to be the first action in any programme of river corridor assessment and conservation management. Priority assessment needs to consider habitats of local or regional importance that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the Peak District, including marshes, wet woodlands and flood meadows. It also needs to consider the localities and conservation needs of both nationally important and locally significant river corridor species including water voles, crayfish and rare or uncommon plants or plant communities. The locations of both important habitats and species also needs to be taken into consideration in the initial assessment of what constitutes a 'key' river corridor. The priority needs to rest with conservation of the habitats of existing importance coupled with restoration and re-creation of habitats in 'key' river corridors.

OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

Objective 1

Maintain the existing condition of all rivers and streams including the characteristic plants and animals.

Targets

Ensure no deterioration in chemical or biological water quality from that found in 2000.

Develop a picture of biological indicator species on an individual catchment scale for all important rivers by 2005.

Objective 2

Improve the water quality, water resources and habitat diversity of key rivers and streams.

Target

Bring key rivers and streams into favourable condition by 2010, with acceptable flow rates, water quality and habitat diversity.

Objective 3

Maintain the existing extent and condition of ecologically important wetland and riparian habitats within all river corridors.

Target

Initiate management by 2005 to achieve favourable condition on 30 % of all important wetlands and riparian habitats. Review and set a new target for 2005 - 2010.

Objective 4

Restore favourable condition to ecologically poor wetland and riparian habitats along key river and stream corridors, in order to reduce habitat fragmentation and restore continuity along the river corridor.

Target

Assess opportunities for the restoration of wetland and riparian habitats along key river corridors, and initiate restoration for 30 % of identified sites by 2005 and 50 % by 2010.

Objective 5

Enhance the continuity of wetland and riparian habitats along key river and stream corridors by the re-creation of marsh, flood meadows, wet grasslands and species rich riparian strips.

Target

Look at the opportunities for re-creation of ecologically and hydrologically functional flood plains including marshes, traditionally managed flood meadows, wet grasslands and other appropriate habitats, along at least 50 km of river corridor by 2010.

Main Factors Likely to Affect Achievement of Targets

Land and River Management

Implementation of the Rural Development Regulation and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The lack of the option of buffer strips and wildlife headlands within the ESA schemes.

Effectiveness of agri-environment and conservation scheme prescriptions.

The inclusion of riparian strips and small river corridor wetlands as priority habitats in the whole holding approach to negotiation of agri-environment and conservation scheme agreements.

Effectiveness of agri-environment and conservation scheme cross compliance.

Resources and Financial Incentives

Availability of funding for survey, negotiations and agreements.

Limited rewards from agri-environment schemes particularly with reference to the conservation and enhancement of small areas within fields, wildlife headlands and buffer strips.

Planning and Regulations

Planning and licensing policies.

Invasive Species

Illegal introductions of 'pest' species.

Spread of invasive/non-native species.

Conflicts with Other Priorities

The conflict between the competing demands of river corridor species and habitats.

Potential conflicts with archaeological and landscape priorities

Practical Difficulties and Gaps in Knowledge

The practical difficulties of preventing water loss to soughs and mineshafts.

The loss of the hydrological link between the stream or river and its floodplain making re-creation of floodplain wetlands particularly difficult.

Complicated ownership of streams, rivers and the associated corridor.

Pollution and Climate Change

Continued pollution in particular from un-monitored and diffuse sources e.g. agricultural pesticides and run-off.

Climate change.

Others

The national need for groundwater.

Tree diseases, in particular those affecting river-side and floodplain alders and willows.

The critically small size of populations of key species dependent on aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats.

The fragmentation and small size of wetlands and ecologically rich riparian habitats.

Landowner perceptions and preferences.

Sporting interests.

The impacts of wetland creation on neighbouring landowners and on river systems.

Recreational pressure on riparian corridors including the impact of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

ACTIONS

Key to the achievement of the proposed targets is a whole landscape approach taking into account the woodland as well as the grassland, wetland, riparian and aquatic elements in a river corridor. Key actions within the plan include those relating to:

- survey and collation of information (Actions RC1 - 4, RC7 and RC8);
- defining objectives on an individual river corridor basis, with an emphasis on strengthening the network of wetland habitats (RC9);
- negotiations to secure appropriate management of existing sites of importance and to extend river corridor habitats (RC37 - 40);
- awareness-raising and training measures (RC26 - 32);
- a consideration of a review of agri-environment, woodland and conservation schemes to ensure they provide adequate financial incentive and appropriate management prescriptions (RC36);
- research into the requirements of key riverine species (RC13), and
- measures to maintain and improve water quality and river flows (RC14, RC44, RC45 - 55, RC59 - 61).

ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	LEAD AGENCY & Partners	
DATA COLLATION AND SURVEY			
Data Collation			
RC1	Collate existing information on river corridor habitats (in collaboration with the Wet Woodland Action Plan). (Objectives 1 and 3)	2001	EA/EN/PDNPA/WTs LAs/LRCs/Voluntary Sector
RC2	Extend the collaborative collection of information on aquatic and riparian species in the Dove river corridor to other key river corridors. (Objectives 1 and 3)	2001 - 2010	EA/NT/BACA/NAAC ABAPG
RC3	Take all opportunities to collect additional information on the population and distribution of nationally and locally important river and stream species. (Objective 1)	2001 - 2010	EA/NT/BACA/NAAC ABAPG
RC4	Collate existing information on nationally and locally important river and stream species. (Objective 1)	2001	EN/EA/PDNPA/WTs/LAs LRCs/Voluntary Sector
RC5	Compile a register of key river corridors and key wetland sites, including constituent habitats, important species, 'Wildlife Site' status, Natural Area and conservation status. Initiate a programme for regular updating. (Objectives 1 and 3)	2001	EN/PDNPA (joint leads)
Survey			
RC6	Identify key river corridors for habitat survey with specific reference to the presence of priority national and local biodiversity habitats and species. (Objective 3)	2001	ABAPG
RC7	Carry out basic surveys of wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitats in key river corridors, using standard river corridor survey methodology for the latter two habitats. (Objectives 4 and 5)	2002/2003	ABAPG
RC8	Carry out detailed surveys of important wetland and riparian habitats throughout the Peak District where existing information is inadequate. (Objective 3)	2002/2003	ABAPG

EVALUATING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONDITION OF SITES

Evaluating Importance and Identifying Key Sites

RC9	Agree methodology for the evaluation of river corridors and river corridor habitats and the identification of 'Wildlife Sites'. Include methodology for evaluating sites for conservation, restoration and re-creation, with reference to: *Key habitats *Key sites for important species *The importance of creating linkages and corridors between habitats (Objectives 3, 4 and 5)	2001	ABAPG
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Defining Favourable Condition

RC10	Agree definitions of favourable condition, including acceptable flow rates and water quality for rivers, for the complete range of river corridor habitats in the Peak District. (Objectives 1 and 3)	2001	ABAPG
RC11	Develop guidelines for the range of appropriate management needed to achieve conservation, restoration		

and re-creation of river corridor habitats including guidelines on:

*Technical and economic feasibility

*The requirements of important species

(All Objectives)

2001

ABAPG

RESOURCES

RC12	Seek resources for surveys of important sites throughout the Peak District if necessary and for habitats in key river corridors. (Objective 3)	2001	ABAPG/EN/PDNPA (joint leads)/MAFF/NT WTs/EA
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RESEARCH

RC13	Assess current information and develop guidelines for the conservation of individual species of importance including bullhead, brook lamprey, stone loach, grayling, brown trout and minnow. (Objective 1)	2001 - 2005	EA/EN/ABAPG
RC14	Encourage further research into the degree to which water drainage into soughs, and loss to mine shafts, contributes to low or no water flow in important rivers, and into methods for mitigation. (Objective 2)	2001/2002	EA/EN (joint leads)
RC15	Review the status of important weirs throughout the BAP area with relation to fish passage and also to the negative and positive effects of weir deterioration. (Objective 1)	2001 - 2005	EA/EN
RC16	Encourage further research into disease of riverside alders and willows and develop a mitigation strategy. (Objective 3)	2001 onwards	EA/FC (joint leads)
RC17	Consider the need for research into alternative means of bracken control so as to provide an alternative to potentially polluting means of control. (Objective 1)	2001	MAFF/EN (joint leads)
RC18	Ensure that the results of research into the effects of bracken herbicides become widely available. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EN
RC19	Ensure that the results of research into the effects of Ivermectin on invertebrate communities associated with animal dung are implemented at a local level. (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001 onwards	WEG

PUBLIC ACCESS

RC20	Agree and implement both general and site specific approaches to the management of access along stream and river banks that enables public enjoyment of the environment but prevents significant damage to bank-sides. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EA/PDLAF (joint leads)/NT/EN/PDNPA
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INVASIVE SPECIES

RC21	Establish a database of locations of invasive plant species including giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and New Zealand pigmyweed. (Objective 1)	2001	ABAPG
RC22	Establish procedures for the control of invasive plant species and implement where necessary. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	ABAPG
RC23	Establish databases of locations of mink and signal crayfish and implement necessary control, in		

collaboration with the Water Vole and White-clawed Crayfish Action Plans. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	ABAPG
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MONITORING

RC24 Agree methodology for, and implement effective monitoring of river corridor habitats. Ensure that the results of the process are collated and used to update relevant registers. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	ABAPG
RC25 Continue monitoring biological water quality to identify: *Pesticides/sheep dip incidents *Deficient or broken storm overflow systems *Other pollution problems/incidents (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001 onwards	EA/WCs (joint leads)

AWARENESS RAISING

RC26 Share information on the wildlife importance and management needs of key conservation and restoration sites with the landowners/managers, including feedback from surveys. (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001 onwards	RSPB/EN/PDNPA/NT WTs/FWAG/MAFF
RC27 Encourage increased awareness and sharing of best management practice amongst key conservation organisation staff particularly regarding stream and river habitats and the needs of associated species. (Objective 1)	2001	EN/EA (joint leads)
RC28 Make local guidance available for conservation organisation staff on the ecological importance of both semi-natural rivers and those that have been modified extensively by the construction of weirs and fisheries. (Objective 1)	2002	EN
RC29 Continue with an awareness raising strategy on sheep dip pollution targeted at sheep markets, local sheep dip suppliers, mobile sheep dip contractors and machinery clubs, and through: *Regular mail shots on EA guidance to farmers *Presentations on pollution prevention to local agricultural colleges and Young Farmers Clubs (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EA/PDNPA/LAs
RC30 Encourage increased awareness amongst fisheries managers of the impacts of stocked fish on native fish populations and on river and stream dynamics, through opportunities available when granting fish stocking licences. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EA
RC31 Increase public awareness, through local schools and ranger services, of the biodiversity importance of river corridor habitats. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	ABAPG/LAs/PDNPA
RC32 Increase awareness, through appropriate means, of the value of dead wood in streams and rivers amongst riparian landowners and managers and agencies. (Objectives 1 and 4).	2001 onwards	ABAPG/EA (joint leads)

CONSERVATION ACTION AND INCENTIVES

Designations

RC33 Implement obligations under European (Natura 2000) legislation, with regard to review of the Peak District Dales cSAC specifically with respect to bullhead, brook lamprey and native crayfish. (Objective 1)	2001 - 2005	EN
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RC34	Review coverage of stream and river SSSIs and notify further sites as appropriate. (Objective 1)	2001 - 2005	EN
RC35	Consider key river corridors in any programme of acquisition/lease/management of nature reserves including NNRs and LNRs. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	EN/LAs (joint leads) PDNPA/WTs/RSPB/NT
Grant Schemes			
RC36	Consider recommending review of agri-environment, woodland and other conservation schemes with the aim that: *Targeting gives adequate priority to streams and rivers at the local, regional and national level *Management prescriptions for the maintenance, restoration and creation of wetlands, wildlife headlands and buffers are reviewed *Payments for small areas, wetlands, buffers and wildlife headlands are introduced/reviewed (Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 5)	2001 onwards	MAFF/EN/PDNPA/FC WEG/ABAPG
Negotiation and Review of Agreements			
RC37	Review management of all sites within SSSIs. Where necessary agree revised management regimes with owners/managers, through appropriate mechanisms, to ensure maintenance or restoration of favourable condition. (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001 - 2005	EN
RC38	Negotiate appropriate conservation agreements with landowners/managers of sites outside of SSSIs and existing agreements, targeting priority aquatic habitats, wetlands and riparian strips and sites for habitat restoration and creation. (Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 5)	2004/2005 conservation; 2007 - 2010 restoration and creation.	PDNPA/MAFF/WTs FWAG/NT
RC39	Review management of wetlands and riparian strips in existing agreements. Where necessary agree revised management regimes with owners/managers to ensure that favourable condition is being maintained or restored. (Objectives 3 and 4)	2001 onwards	MAFF/PDNPA/NT WTs/FWAG
RC40	Review whole holding agreements which include unprotected wetlands or key riparian strips. Consider the opportunities for upgrading the agreement to incorporate their safeguard and enhancement or restoration/re-creation. (Objectives 3, 4 and 5)	2002 - 2010	MAFF/NT/WTs PDNPA/FWAG
Land Aquisition			
RC41	Consider negotiating purchase/lease of priority sites where this would be the most effective way of achieving conservation objectives and when a negotiated conservation solution has not succeeded. (Objective 3)	2001 onwards	PDNPA/WTs/NT/EN LAs
Direct Action			
RC42	On land owned by public or conservation bodies, ensure that: *Management maintains, and where possible, enhances the value of river corridor habitats including aquatic habitats *Restoration of these habitats on such land is considered *Opportunities are taken for habitat creation *Water conservation measures are encouraged *Opportunities for involvement of local communities		

	in site management are taken where possible (Objectives 3, 4 and 5)	2001 onwards	PDNPA/LAs/FC/WTs NT/EN
RC43	Continue to ensure that the nature conservation interest of river corridor habitats is taken into consideration by the EA when carrying out their annual programme of maintenance work on main rivers, and in any proposed flood defence works. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	EA/ABAPG
RC44	Promote the use of the 'bracken bruiser' within the established machinery ring so as to minimize use of potential pollutants. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EN

REGULATION

Planning

RC45	Ensure all planning applications and General Development Orders are adequately assessed in relation to their impact on river corridor habitats; that loss or damage to these is avoided; and that opportunities for the enhancement or creation of appropriate habitats is considered in relevant planning decisions. (Objective 1, 2, 3 and 4)	2001 onwards	LAs/PDNPA/EN/WTs
RC46	Ensure that all planning applications/decisions encourage the use of water conservation measures. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	LAs/PDNPA/EN/WTs

Pollution Control and Waste Management

RC47	Continue to update and implement the local Code of Practice for bracken control in order to safeguard watercourses. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	RLMEG
RC48	Seek to ensure that restriction of fertiliser application close to watercourses is considered in future reviews of the "Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water". (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	WEG/MAFF
RC49	Ensure good practice is followed in disposing of sheep-dip, avoiding the vicinity of streams, rivers and wetlands and minimising possible run-off. Implement by a continuing programme of licence processing, extending consultation procedures for disposal applications to the whole of the Peak District and, where necessary, enforcement action. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EA/LAs/PDNPA
RC50	Review procedures and consultation processes in relation to the spreading of paper pulp. (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001	EA/EN/PDNPA/LAs
RC51	Review the current permitted levels of potential pollutants in sewage works discharges with a view to reducing levels where possible. (Objective 2)	2001 - 2005	EA/WCs (joint leads)
RC52	Review current storm water procedures to reduce the incidence of untreated sewage entering rivers and streams. (Objective 2)	2001 - 2005	WCs/EA (joint leads)
RC53	Review licences for industrial discharges to rivers and streams and improve environmental practices at industrial sites. (Objective 2)	2001	EA
RC54	Identify slurry and silage effluent problems and ensure that landowners and relevant organisations are made aware of them and of their responsibilities under the "Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water". (Objective 2)	2001 onwards	EA/MAFF/PDNPA FWAG/EN

RC55	Ensure that reduction in peat run-off to watercourses is considered in moorland management and restoration proposals, through liaison with the Moorland BAP Group. (Objectives 1 and 2)	2001 onwards	ABAPG/MBAPG (joint leads)
Other Regulatory Mechanisms			
RC56	Review existing riverside Tree Preservation Orders and consider the desirability of extending the range of riverside TPOs. (Objective 3)	2002	PDNPA/LAs (joint leads)
RC57	Ensure consideration of wildlife impacts in EA consents for work on and adjacent to streams and rivers. (All Objectives)	2001 onwards	EA
RC58	Ensure that conservation implications are considered when issuing fish stocking licences. (Objective 1)	2001 onwards	EA
RC59	Continue with the review of abstraction consents and licences in relation to rivers that fall within cSACs and SPAs. (Objective 2)	2001 onwards	EA/EN
RC60	Consider the need for a review of groundwater and surface water abstraction consents in other catchments with particularly sensitive habitats. (Objectives 2 and 3)	2001 - 2007	EA/ABAPG
RC61	Review the operating arrangements for abstraction of water from the Rivers Noe and Ashop. (Objective 2)	2001	EA/STW (joint leads)

RESOURCES

It is envisaged that many of the actions proposed will be carried out by the relevant organisations using current resources. These include:

- continuing investment by landowners and managers managing their land sympathetically for wildlife;
- the EA's programme of water quality monitoring, coupled with their commitment to the reduction in water quality problems in conjunction with the water companies;
- the EA's review of water quantity with respect to the SPA and cSAC;
- the EA's annual programme of maintenance work on main rivers and commitment to the consideration of conservation issues when issuing licences and permissions;
- EN's programme of reviewing SSSI management and designation and its grant and management agreement schemes ;
- MAFF's Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area Schemes;
- the FC's Woodland Grant Scheme;
- MAFF's Farm Woodland Premium Scheme;
- the PDNPA's advisory and grants service for landowners/managers and its rolling programme of special conservation projects;
- the 'Otters and Rivers' projects currently being carried out by the WTs, with financial support from STW and the EA;
- water vole conservation work currently being implemented by DWT with funding from various sources including EN;
- FWAG and the WTs' advisory services;
- continuing management of river corridor habitats owned by conservation organisations, public bodies (LAs, PDNPA, FC, EN, NT, WTs, WdT), WCs and BW.

Additional resources are likely to be required:

- for survey of wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitats (2002 - 2003), and negotiation of agreements (2004 - 2010);
- to provide adequate financial incentives for the conservation and restoration management of river corridor habitats (2001 onwards);
- to aid in the production of the proposed registers (2001 onwards);

● to implement effective monitoring (2001 onwards).

The PDNPA and EN are currently seeking resources to continue a Pastures Project, aimed at surveying and securing high quality sites within appropriate agreements. The RSPB, PDNPA and EN are currently seeking resources for a Ground-nesting Bird Habitat Project (to run from 2001 - 2004). Both would have implications for river corridor conservation.