

The Environment Agency roles and responsibilities

Who we are

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

Acting to reduce the impacts of a changing climate on people and wildlife is at the heart of everything we do.

We reduce the risks to people, properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.

We protect and improve the quality of water, making sure there is enough for people, businesses, agriculture and the environment. Our work helps to ensure people can enjoy the water environment through angling and navigation.

We look after land quality, promote sustainable land management and help protect and enhance wildlife habitats. And we work closely with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to make our environment a better place for people and wildlife.

Our objectives for 2016 to 2020

A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy.

A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities.

Higher visibility, stronger partnerships and local choices

Managing flood risks: who is responsible?

The Environment Agency has a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion distinct from the operational function it has in relation to managing flood risk from main rivers and the sea. The Environment Agency manages flood risks from main rivers (generally those with highest flood risk or which are strategically important) and the sea. It sets the National Flood Strategy, which informs the local strategy set by the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs).

Lead Local Flood Authorities have responsibility for surface water, groundwater and 'ordinary watercourses' and work with other Risk Management Authorities i.e. District Councils and Internal Drainage Boards on local flood risk management.

Our areas

North

- 1 North East (NEA)
- 2 Cumbria and Lancashire (CLA)
- 3 Yorkshire (YOR)
- 4 Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire (GMC)

West and Central

- 5 Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire (LNA)
- 6 East Midlands (EMD)
- 7 West Midlands (WMD)
- 8 Wessex (WSX)
- 9 Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (DCS)

South East

- 10 East Anglia (EAN)
- 11 Thames (THM)
- 12 Hertfordshire and North London (HNL)
- 13 Kent, South London and East Sussex (KSL)
- 14 Solent and South Downs (SSD)

NB: Greater London Environment Team operates as part of the South East

