

Your initial comments will help us develop a draft CAMS for managing abstraction in the London CAMS area. This will be presented in the form of a consultation document. There will then be a period of three months during which time we would like to hear your comments on the proposals.

A 'Statement of Response' will be produced based on the comments received from the consultation document, summarising the main issues raised. These will be taken into account in finalising the strategy before publishing the CAMS for the London catchment.

Indicative dates and deadlines for the London CAMS

(please contact us at the address below for an up-to-date timetable)

- **30th April 2005: Receipt of initial comments arising from this leaflet and elsewhere**
- Autumn 2005: Publication of the London CAMS Consultation Document
- January 2006: Deadline for receipt of responses to the CAMS Consultation Document
- February 2006 : Publication of the Statement of Response
- April 2006: Publication of the London CAMS
- Spring 2010: Start of the review of the London CAMS
- 31st March 2013: Common end date for time-limited licences (this means that all time limited licences within the catchment will expire on the same date)



River Wandle at Beddington Park

Contact Information

If you have comments or suggestions that you would like us to consider during the early development of the strategy, please write or email to the address below by 30th April 2005. The information and views contained in written submissions will be discussed with the Stakeholder Group. **If you wish your comments to be treated as confidential, please state this clearly.** You should also contact us if you would like to receive the London CAMS Consultation Document once it is published, together with Managing Water Abstraction.

Managing Water Abstraction is available now on our Internet site:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cams>

The contact for the London CAMS is:

Claire Pannett
Water Resources (London CAMS Officer)
Environment Agency (South East Area)
Swift House, Frimley Business Park
Camberley, Surrey
GU16 7SQ

The E-mail address is:
cams.london@environment-agency.gov.uk

Data Protection Act 1998

The information you provide will be used by the Environment Agency for the distribution of documents relating to the London CAMS and for consideration in the development of the CAMS. Information relating to the catchment may also be:

- disclosed to the Stakeholder Group (referred to in the leaflet) for discussion
- summarised in documents produced for the London CAMS, including the consultation document
- used for carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- used for investigating and/or preventing breaches of environment law and taking any resulting action
- used for assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service.

The information may be retained as a historical record for reviews of the CAMS in the future.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cams

The London Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy

Managing Water Abstraction

How YOU can get involved in the London Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy ('CAMS')

March 2005



We are reviewing how the water resources in the London area are managed. This leaflet outlines how this will be achieved and describes how you can take part in the consultation process to develop a 'Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy' (CAMS) for London.

What is a 'CAMS'?

Water abstraction is the removal of water, (permanently or temporarily) from rivers, canals, reservoirs or underground strata. The main challenge in managing abstraction is to meet the needs of abstractors and other water users (e.g. boat users), while leaving water in the environment to conserve aquatic habitats, especially during low river flows.

In England and Wales, abstraction is controlled by a licensing system managed by the Environment Agency. In 1999, the Government reviewed this system and as a result, introduced CAMS.

The aims of CAMS are to make more information on water resources and licensing practice available to the public, and also that they are developed in consultation with the local community and other interested parties.

Once CAMS are developed they outline the licensing practice for the catchment and identify how abstraction is to be managed to maintain or achieve sustainability. They will be reviewed every six years. There are 129 CAMS areas across England and Wales. It should be noted that CAMS are strategies for water resource management and will not address flood management issues.

The Government review also decided that abstraction licences should be time-limited. CAMS will manage these time-limited licences by determining whether they should be renewed and, if so, on what terms.

'Managing Water Abstraction: The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Process' was published in July 2002 and introduces CAMS in more detail, including how they will be developed at a local level and how they link to other initiatives.

The London CAMS

The London CAMS catchment covers the area between the North Downs in the south, Hoddesdon in the north and just east of the M25 in the west. **This CAMS does not include the tidal River Thames.** You may have read that there would be separate North and South London CAMS. For efficiency and clarity reasons these have now been merged into a single London CAMS.

London is situated in the middle of the catchment, but towards the edges of the catchment the land use becomes more suburban with towns divided by farmland, woodland and parkland. The underlying geology is mainly London Clay with Chalk lying below, which is the main groundwater aquifer for the catchment. Unconfined Chalk is found in the south. The catchment includes a number of tributaries that join the Thames between Kingston upon Thames and Erith. The main rivers are the Brent, Crane, and Lower Lee (downstream from Feildes Weir) in the North, and the Hogsmill, Beverley Brook, Wandle and Ravensbourne in the South. All of these rivers have been modified over time, through straightening, culverting or with sheet piling and concrete.



In the London CAMS there are 284 licensed abstractions authorised to abstract 423,581 megalitres per year. By far the biggest use of the abstracted water is for Public Water Supply which accounts for 92% of all abstractions.

The CAMS area contains several important habitat conservation sites including the Lee Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Wormley-Hoddesdon Park Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Wimbledon Common (SAC). There are also numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which the rivers run through, including Welsh Harp Reservoir (Brent) and Keston & Hayes Common (Ravensbourne)

Some of the issues that the London CAMS will need to cover include:

- What are the most suitable options for managing the rivers?
- How much water is needed to protect the river environment, including the fish?
- How much water is needed by abstractors (e.g. water companies) and other legal water users (e.g. navigation)?
- Assessing the availability of water in the London catchment.

How you can get involved

We would like to hear any of your comments or suggestions that we could use in the early development of the CAMS. For the Environment Agency to manage the water resources in the London CAMS area it is important that we have as much information as possible on what you need and use the water for, either for abstraction, or other water uses. You can make these comments in writing or by email to your local Environment Agency office.

A 'Stakeholder' Group is also being set up for the London CAMS. This group represents the various interests on the river, who help identify issues of local importance, provide views on different proposals and consider the likely implications of different management options in the CAMS.