



Environmental Impact Assessment

Project

Water abstraction from the River Chew

Client

Bristol Water plc

Background

Because of increased demand for water in the Bristol area, the statutory supplier and manager of public water resources in the area, Bristol Water, continually investigates reliable and secure sources of potable water.

The company had been considering development of a surface water supply from a tributary of the River Chew within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It commissioned Landmark to investigate the environmental implications of abstracting up to 8 megalitres per day from the river during winter months.

Description

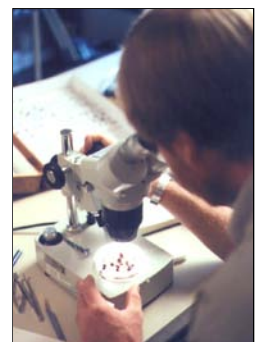
Having established the Study Area, the following studies were undertaken:

- | A survey of the biological status of the river and its tributaries
- | Analysis of data from marginal and bankside habitats surveys
- | Analysis of extant fisheries data
- | A review of the status of otters in or near the Study Area
- | A landscape assessment and an evaluation of its amenity value
- | A review of features and sites of archaeological interest.

Analysis of the data derived from these studies formed the baseline against which potential impacts from the proposed abstraction could be identified and evaluated.

As a result of the assessment, the client was advised that the desired abstraction rate could not be achieved without adverse effects on the river's ecology. A revised level of abstraction was suggested and recommendations for improved catchment management were proposed.

The Study clarified resource-development options and pointed to cost-effective strategies for sustainable development.



Client benefits