

Dear Sirs

The British Hydrological Society thanks the Agency for inviting a response to this consultation (your ref CSR/S637) and is pleased to offer the following observations.

We appreciate the difficulties facing the Agency in making recommendations for how costs are to be recovered for the RSA programme. Our responses to the three questions posed are:

1. As members of the general public and tax-paying citizens, the more obvious route of opting for a national basis would appear to be sociologically most apt. However, as hydrologists, we are well aware of the regional variations with regard to SSSIs and their reliance on groundwater and therefore advocate sensitive handling which may be best achieved on a regional basis in England.
2. We have no opinions on this.
3. Likewise, our members' professional expertise does not extend to horticultural activities.

Celia Kirby  
Technical Secretary  
British Hydrological Society

*sent* 20 November 2007