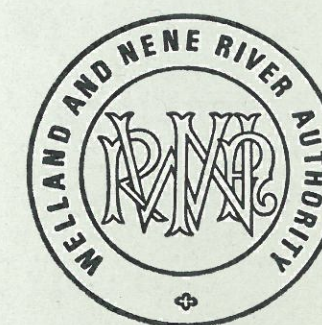


**WELLAND
AND
NENE
RIVER
AUTHORITY**

**FIFTH
ANNUAL
REPORT
1969-1970**



WELLAND AND NENE RIVER AUTHORITY

FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
1969-1970

Chairman

T. R. PICK, Esq., O.B.E.

Vice Chairman

COUNTY ALDERMAN H. C. L. WARWICK

OUNBLE
Peterborough

D. S. AKROYD
Clerk of the Authority

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PREFACE

This Report is published as required by section 110 of the Water Resources Act 1963, and is in the form and contains particulars as directed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The Welland and Nene River Authority were constituted by the Welland and Nene River Authority Constitution Order 1964 (S.I. No. 1030) made by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 3, 7 and 134 of the Water Resources Act, 1963.

That Order provided that the number of local authority members should be as follows:

County						No. of Members
Bedford	..	..	..	..	..	None
Buckingham	..	..	..	..	..	None
Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely	..	..	..	..	..	One
Huntingdon and Peterborough	..	..	..	..	..	Two
Leicester, Rutland	..	..	..	..	..	One jointly
Lincoln, Parts of Holland	..	..	..	..	..	One
Lincoln, Parts of Kesteven	..	..	..	..	..	One
Norfolk	..	..	..	..	..	None
Northampton	..	..	..	..	..	Six
County Borough						
Northampton	..	..	..	..	..	Two

One of the two members appointed by Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council shall be from among persons nominated by Peterborough Municipal Borough Council.

One of the six members appointed by Northampton County Council shall be from among persons nominated by Corby Urban District Council.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with the provision of section 6 (3) of the Water Resources Act, 1963 made five appointments of persons qualified in respect of land drainage, two appointments of persons qualified in respect of fisheries, and two appointments of persons qualified in respect of agriculture.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government in accordance with the provision of that section made two appointments of persons qualified in respect of public water supply and two appointments of persons qualified in respect of industry other than agriculture.

The River Authority came into existence on the 15th October, 1964 (S.I. No. 1267) and took over the functions assigned to them on the 1st April, 1965. The first meeting was held at Peterborough on the 17th November, 1964. The first re-constitution took place on the 1st November, 1967, and the present appointments will expire on the 31st October, 1970.

The Area comprises 1,547 square miles, of which 934 square miles are in the Nene Hydro-metric area and 613 square miles are in the Welland Hydrometric area. The total length of main river on the 31st March 1970 was 492 miles, the length of the River Nene and tributaries being 258 miles and the length of the River Welland and tributaries being 234 miles. The estimated penny rate product for 1969-70 was £134,584. The precept of the County and County Borough Councils for the year ended 31st March 1970 was 2.35 pence, and produced £316,272. The contribution required of internal drainage boards amounted to £73,065. Annual loan charges amounted to £169,000.

MEMBERSHIP

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

T. R. Pick Esq., O.B.E.

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick

MEMBERS AND APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Appointed by Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council

County Councillor M. H. T. Carter

Appointed by Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council

County Alderman Lt. Col. the Hon. P. E. Brassey, J.P., D.L.

Councillor G. A. Foster (*appointed on the nomination of Peterborough Municipal Borough Council*)

Appointed by Leicester and Rutland County Councils, jointly

County Alderman J. A. E. Bryan, O.B.E.

Appointed by Lincoln (Parts of Holland) County Council

County Alderman H. Waltham

Appointed by Lincoln (Parts of Kesteven) County Council

County Councillor G. A. Griffin

Appointed by Northampton County Council

County Alderman P. Campion, M.B.E.

County Councillor J. R. Carr (*appointed on the nomination of Corby Urban District Council*)

Alderman C. E. Goode

County Alderman Mrs. D. P. Oxenham, C.B.E., J.P.

County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick

County Alderman E. E. Wright, M.B.E.

Appointed by Northampton County Borough Council

Alderman T. H. Cockerill (*from 1st June 1969*)

Alderman J. B. Corrin

Councillor R. P. Dilleigh (*to 31st May 1969*)

Appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as being qualified in respect of Land Drainage

R. J. Berry, Esq.

G. H. Hoyles, Esq.

T. R. Pick, Esq., O.B.E.

A. C. Pyrah, Esq., J.P.

H. Cole Tinsley, Esq., M.B.E.

Appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as being qualified in respect of Fishery Interests

P. H. Tombleson, Esq., F.Z.S.
L. G. Turnill, Esq.

Appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as being qualified in respect of Agriculture

H. J. T. Carter, Esq., J.P.
D. Whittome, Esq.

Appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government as being qualified in respect of Public Water Supply

Councillor C. S. Bowering
L. H. Brown, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C.E., M.I.W.E.

Appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government as being qualified in respect of Industry other than Agriculture

G. C. S. Oliver, Esq.
N. A. Pearce, Esq., B.E.M.

**2. MEMBERSHIP OF
STATUTORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance and General Purposes Committee

T. R. Pick, Esq., Chairman
County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick, Vice-Chairman

R. J. Berry, Esq.	County Alderman Mrs. D. P. Oxenham
Lt. Col. the Hon. P. E. Brassey	N. A. Pearce, Esq.
H. J. T. Carter, Esq.	H. Cole Tinsley, Esq.
Alderman T. H. Cockerill (<i>from 1st June 1969</i>)	L. G. Turnill, Esq.
Alderman J. B. Corrin	County Alderman H. Waltham
Councillor R. P. Dilleigh (<i>to 31st May 1969</i>)	County Alderman E. E. Wright

Land Drainage Committee

R. J. Berry, Esq., Chairman
H. Cole Tinsley, Esq., Vice-Chairman

County Alderman J. A. E. Bryan	T. R. Pick, Esq.
County Alderman P. Champion	A. C. Pyrah, Esq.
H. J. T. Carter, Esq.	County Alderman H. Waltham
County Councillor M. H. T. Carter	County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick
Councillor G. A. Griffin	D. Whittome, Esq.
G. H. Hoyles, Esq.	

Fisheries and Pollution Prevention Committee

L. G. Turnill, Esq., Chairman
Councillor G. A. Foster, Vice-Chairman

Councillor C. S. Bowering	T. R. Pick, Esq.
Alderman P. Champion	A. C. Pyrah, Esq.
County Councillor J. R. Carr	P. H. Tombleson, Esq.
Alderman J. B. Corrin	County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick
G. C. S. Oliver, Esq.	D. Whittome, Esq.
N. A. Pearce, Esq.	

Water Conservation Committee

Lt. Col. the Hon. P. E. Brassey, Chairman
Alderman E. E. Wright, Vice-Chairman

Councillor C. S. Bowering	Councillor G. A. Foster
L. H. Brown, Esq.	Alderman C. E. Goode
County Alderman J. A. E. Bryan	G. C. S. Oliver, Esq.
Alderman P. Champion	County Alderman Mrs. D. P. Oxenham
Alderman T. H. Cockerill (<i>from 1st June 1969</i>)	T. R. Pick, Esq.
Councillor R. P. Dilleigh (<i>to 31st May 1969</i>)	County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick

Rutland Project Committee

Lt. Col. the Hon. P. E. Brassey, Chairman

L. H. Brown, Esq., Vice-Chairman

R. J. Berry, Esq.

T. R. Pick, Esq.

County Alderman H. Waltham

County Alderman H. C. L. Warwick

County Alderman E. E. Wright

STAFF**1. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS**

Office	Name
Clerk of the Authority ..	D. S. Akroyd, LL.B., Solicitor.
Chief Engineer ..	H. W. Clark, A.M.I.Struct.E., M.I.W.E.
Deputy Chief Engineer ..	G. E. Bowyer, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E.
Treasurer ..	A. E. Lane.
Chief Fisheries and Pollution Prevention Officer ..	R. E. Field, A.M.Inst.W.P.C.

2. OTHER OFFICERS*(as at 31st March, 1970)***Clerk's Department and General Administration**

Chief Assistant ..	Senior Officer
Clerical Assistant ..	Clerical 2/3
Secretary ..	Clerical 1
Field Officers (2) ..	Misc. 5/6/7
Typists (7) ..	Scale as appropriate
Telephonist ..	Scale as appropriate

Chief Engineer's Department

Senior Engineer ..	Principal Officer I
Divisional Engineers (5) ..	Senior Officer
Hydrologist ..	Principal Officer I
Engineer i/c Rutland Project ..	Principal Officer I
Senior Assistant Engineer (2) ..	Senior Officer
Design Engineer ..	Senior Officer (non established)
Assistant Engineers (6) ..	AP 3/4/5 or Tech 5/6
Assistant Hydrologist ..	AP 3/4
Chief Draughtsman ..	Tech. 6
Senior Draughtsman ..	Tech. 6 (non established)
Junior Draughtsman and Engineering Assistants (21) ..	Tech. 1 to 5 (non established—4)
Pupil Engineers ..	As approved
Chief Clerk ..	AP 3
Secretary ..	Senior Scale A
Clerks and Machine Operators (3) ..	Clerical 1
Typists/General Clerk (2) ..	Scale as appropriate

Treasurer's Department

Senior Assistants (2) ..	AP 3
Clerical Assistants (4) ..	Clerical 1/2/3
Clerical Assistant ..	Clerical 1/2
General Clerk/Machine Operator (1) ..	Clerical 1
Junior Assistants (2) ..	Clerical 1

Fisheries and Pollution Prevention Department

Chemist	AP 5
Assistant Chemist	T5/6
Senior Assistant Inspector	AP 5
Assistant Inspector (1)	AP 3/4
Junior Assistant Inspector (1)	Tech. 4
Trainee Inspector	Tech. 3/4
Laboratory Assistants (2)	Tech. 1
Shorthand Typist	Scale as appropriate

3. WATER BAILIFFS

Water Bailiffs (2)	Misc. 4
Honorary Water Bailiffs (58)	

4. LABOUR FORCE
(as at 31.3.70)

Tradesmen	14
Foremen and Under Foremen	25
Plant Drivers	47
Storekeepers, Sluicekeepers, Toll-keepers, etc.	6
Labourers	85
	<hr/>
	177

WATER RESOURCES**1. GENERAL REVIEW**

The Rutland Project again dominated water conservation, but important although more routine work continued with a view to "securing the protection and proper use of inland waters and waters in underground strata".

Close co-operation with the Water Resources Board has been maintained, and their guidance and assistance was appreciated. Assistance was given to the Board and to their Consultants on the Desk Study for the Wash Barrage, or the Wash Estuarial Storage Scheme as it should now be called. At the time of writing, their Report on the Desk Study has been received, and it is hoped that the Government will soon authorise a full feasibility study, as the uncertainty as to whether the Wash will prove a major source of water must dominate water resources planning in the South East—and particularly in the Central Area Deficiency Zone—for some years to come. The Authority's staff will be pleased to provide any further assistance which may be required in this very important investigation.

As was stated in the Fourth Annual Report, unless by 1990 water can be obtained from the Wash, desalination has become an economic proposition, or some of the other tentative possibilities have been proved, a second pumped storage reservoir will be needed in this Area.

At the end of the year the Development Corporation at Peterborough and Northampton were about to start on building the first new townships leading to a planned population increase of 290,000 in the next fifteen years, to which must be added the "overspill" expansions at Wellingborough and Daventry and continuing "new town" expansion at Corby. The first customers for Empingham Reservoir are about to arrive.

2. PERIODIC SURVEY

Unfortunately the staff's very heavy commitment on Empingham Reservoir made it impossible to publish the First of the Periodic Surveys as soon as had been hoped, but much of the data was assembled for the proceedings on the Bill, and it only remains to publish it in the prescribed form.

3. HYDROMETRIC SCHEMES

Expenditure on Part I of the Hydrometric Scheme amounted to £17,734, bringing the aggregate to £73,021 and leaving an estimated balance of £5,300 to complete that part.

Work continued on new gauging stations, and on the improvement of gauging stations built by the Nene Catchment Board some 30 years ago. In the Welland Sub-Catchment, work was completed at Ashley Gauging Station on the Welland. It will measure flows up to 4.815 cumecs (170 cusecs), but as it was designed to take account of a River Improvement Scheme it could not be brought into use until the drainage works have been completed. Low flow gauging stations of a capacity of 0.566 cumecs (20 cusecs) were installed on the Chater at Ridlington, and on the Strixton Brook near the Great Bowden—Welham Road, and work was nearing completion on stations on the Langton Brook, Medbourne Brook, Morcott Brook and the Jordan. The low flow stations comprise a prefabricated sheet steel Crump weir designed by the staff, which provide accurate measurement and are easy to install.

In the Nene Sub-Catchment, Wollaston Gauging Station on the Nene was nearly completed, and will measure flows of up to 2.266 cumecs (80 cusecs). Lilford Gauging Station on the

Nene upstream of Oundle will provide information on the low flows of up to 2.832 cumecs (100 cusecs) in the middle reaches. Unfavourable weather during the winter months delayed work, but (with the related land drainage improvement works) the station should be completed in the summer of 1970. These two stations will complete the programme on the main River Nene.

Improvements at Upton Mill Gauging Station (with the Bypass) were completed. Modifications of the station installed at St. Andrew's Mill in 1939 were carried out as a temporary expedient to improve its accuracy. The station may be replaced as a result of land drainage improvement works in connection with the Northampton expansion.

Low flow gauging stations were installed on the River Ise at Barford Bridge (capacity 0.850 cumec/30 cusec), on Willow Brook (Central tributary) at Tunwell Loop (capacity 0.566 cumec/20 cusec), on Willow Brook (South tributary) at Stanion Lane (capacity 0.566 cumec/20 cusec), and on Wittering Brook near Wansford (capacity 0.850 cumec/30 cusec).

A climatological recording station is shortly to be installed on the Lincolnshire Limestone outcrop. It will provide data as to evaporation, so that a more accurate assessment may be made of the natural recharge of the Limestone.

The rain gauging stations were discontinued and one new station was installed.

4. INVESTIGATION OF WATER IN UNDERGROUND STRATA

In February the Water Resources Board published their report on the Ground-water Hydrology of the Lincolnshire Limestone.

A summary of the interim Report has been previously circulated, and was referred to extensively in the Fourth Annual Report.

This comprehensive Report brings together for the first time much diverse and scattered information, and describes at length the hydrological and chemical characteristics of this important aquifer, evaluating the water resources, the demands and the deficits, within each of the four groundwater "catchments". The Report recommended that the optimum method of developing ground-water resources should be investigated, and that a pilot scheme to study the problem of artificial recharge should be carried out. That will involve the establishment of a ground water hydrometric net work to provide information of the inter relationship between surface and ground water. For the latter purpose a scheme under Section 18 of the Water Resources Act 1963 is in preparation which will pave the way for the pilot study, and the subsequent investigations.

As stated in the Third Annual Report, the yield from the river gravels at any one place is small. Four pumping tests were carried out. The following table supplements the records in the Fourth Annual Report:

GROUND WATER—GRAVEL INVESTIGATIONS

Site	Grid Reference	Length of Test	Yield		Remarks
			m.g.d.	g.p.h.	
Cotterstock	TL048902	7 days	0.65	2800	Existing wells public water supply
Woodford	SP972759	7 days	0.4	1800	Existing wells. Yield high, possibly due to site being flooded prior to test. Indications that the rate of abstraction would seriously deplete the aquifer
Ringstead	SP975752	7 days	0.48	2200	Jet well test. Appears to be suitable for limited development subject to test of longer duration.
Pilton	TL025838	7 days	0.005	200	Jet well test. Possible use for local agricultural supply

5. MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE FLOW

No action has been taken to prescribe "minimum acceptable flow" pursuant to Section 19 of the Water Resources Act 1963.

6. RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The Road Research Laboratory almost completed their five years' work at the Flore Experimental Catchment near the M1 west of Northampton to obtain basic data on rainfall and run-off from this small upland catchment.

The station is to be taken over, as the study area is typical of much of the uplands of both the Welland and Nene basins. Some modifications will be carried out.

7. LICENCES

(a) Abstraction Licences

The Table on page 14 records the Licences of Right (with some variations) extant at 31st March.

Forty-one Licences of Right, of which 28 were for spray irrigation, were revoked at the request of the Licence Holders.

As was anticipated, the introduction of the Charging Scheme accelerated the trend first produced by the annual licence fees as many spray irrigators re-examined their requirements in relation to cost. Some of those who had abstracted (or who had contended that they had abstracted) in the qualifying period solely to obtain a Licence of Right surrendered their Licence, and those who obtained Licences for excessive quantities have made a more realistic estimate of their requirements. It was perhaps unfortunate that those who publicised the need to obtain a Licence of Right did not give similar publicity to the financial consequences, as accounts for charges assessed on the authorised abstraction irrespective of actual use resulted in a great deal of surprise and resentment. It is hoped that charges will never be so high as to "price out" any desirable, but perhaps less essential, use of water for spray irrigation and other purposes where the cost/benefit has to be considered. But as was stated in the Fourth Annual Report, putting a price on water has provided much needed data for a full appreciation of Water Conservation requirements.

It is hoped that those who have surrendered their Licences, or reduced the authorised quantities, sometimes a little petulantly on the receipt of an account, will not expect to obtain a new Licence at short notice in the event of a drought. In all cases they are advised as to the procedure and of the time required before a new Licence can be obtained.

As drought conditions have not been experienced in the past four years, there have been few cases where farmers were in urgent need of spray irrigation to save a root crop. Perhaps a modern parable would refer to water for spray irrigation rather than to oil for the lamps.

It would be unrealistic to tell those who are in desperate need of spray irrigation if valuable seedlings are to be saved that they "must not" take water, and it has been the practice of the staff to suggest that they should "do what they think best", but that if they do abstract water without a Licence the facts will be reported and they may be prosecuted. It may be that the maximum penalty on summary conviction under section 49 is not an effective deterrent, but it is right that no one should be put in a position where they have to watch their husbandry come to naught.

The two field officers have done a useful task in ensuring that the tremendous amount of work which arose in 1965/66 in licensing spray irrigation has not become a mere paper exercise. Moreover, it is only fair to the many who obtained Licences and paid the not insignificant charges that the few who did not do so should not be permitted to contravene the Act with

LICENCES OF RIGHT
extant at 31st March, 1970

Area	Agriculture (other than spray irrigation)	Agriculture and Domestic	Agricultural and Horticultural Spray Irrigation		Industrial (other than water cooling abstractions)	Industrial Cooling (C.E.G.B.)	Domestic (not exempt)	Public Supply	Miscellaneous	Totals
	No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Summer	All Year	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction
31/1	4	1,146								4
2	4	1,936	1		4	490,200		1	1,000	14
3	8	1,087	2		2	44,074				12
4	4	1,355								6
5	5	1,755		1						8
6	5	1,709		25						10
7	8	1,189								16
8	10	4,478								28
9	26	3,946	2		1	2,000,000	2			48
10	14	2,819	2	4	2	260,000		4	451,600	40
11	11	2,819	2	5,820	3	143,235		5	482,475	56
12	10	1,826,741	6	1	2	21,500		1	4,380	28
13	9	1,220,568	20	7,800	3	113,450	2	2	2,190,000	51
14	18	1,332	3	3	11	933,065	1	5	1,400,140	116
		197,735	27	10	13	915,297		5	2,912,800	437
			48	31,660	41		5	19	7,731,395	16,295,927
TOTAL	136	3,267,796	112	24	46,620					
			259,555							
32/1	7	1,328								14
2	12	6,157	1		2	12,115				26
3	11	2,328	7	9	7	523,500				54
4	5	3,620	1	6,895	2	15,900		2	6,476,500	13
5	7	1,059	4	5	9	218,085	1	3	415,000	34
6	13	6,732	4	1,781	2	888,900	8,000	*	585,000	34
7	4	583	5	90	9			*	50,000	15
8	7	2,780	2	77	2	1,120,000		1		18
9	45	17,717	5	8	25	1,547,582	525			124
10	9	2,515	22	7,330	25	2,500	277	9	951,000	28
11	11	1,478	3	1,645	1			3	230,600	61
			9	11,340	11	734,535				9,802,847
			31							
			54,294							
TOTAL	131	46,297	87	33	68	5,063,117	3	18	17,188,100	421
			277,665	29,158			8,802	7	12,255	46,680,408
TOTAL	267	3,314,093	199	57	109	9,983,938	8	37	24,919,495	858
1 & 32			537,220	75,778			9,969	11	18,341	62,976,335

*Part of one licence (Mid-Northamptonshire W.B.)

(Quantities in 1000 gallons)

LICENCES NOT OF RIGHT
issued during year

Agriculture (other than spray irrigation)	Agriculture and Horticultural Spray irrigation	Industrial Uses Significant losses	Industrial Uses Water cooling Sand and gravel Other minimum losses	Domestic (not exempt)	Public Supply	Miscellaneous	Totals
Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction
Nene Hydrometric area		1 500	4 614,250				5 614,750
Welland Hydrometric area	1 1,050	3 19,940	3 157,000				7 177,990
	1 1,050	4 20,440	7 771,250				12 792,740

(Quantities in 1000 gallons)

LICENCES NOT OF RIGHT
extant at 31st March 1970

Agriculture (other than spray irrigation)	Agriculture and Horticultural Spray irrigation	Industrial Uses Significant losses	Industrial Uses Water cooling Sand and gravel Other minimum losses	Domestic (not exempt)	Public Supply	Miscellaneous	Totals
Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction	Authorised annual No. abstraction
Nene Hydrometric area	4 3,797	10 15,661	6 580,020	8 1,669,100	2 6,300	5 630,950	35 2,905,828
Welland Hydrometric area	5 879	5 7,303	5 224,660	3 154,940		1 365,000	1 27,000
	9 4,676	15 22,964	11 804,680	11 1,824,040	2 6,300	6 995,950	1 27,000
							55 3,685,610

(Quantities in 1000 gallons)

impunity. Two prosecutions were taken, and as they were the first it was anticipated that the Court would deal with the defendants leniently. They were conditionally discharged for abstracting water without a Licence, but one of them was fined £2 for contravening section 36 by putting a temporary dam in the fenland drain to raise sufficient water to enable an abstraction to be made. At the time of writing this report it is possible to add that the same Court did not deal so leniently with the cases before them in 1970.

It is interesting to note that, although there is a growing demand for water for public supply as the population expands and the consumption per head increases, there appears to be a trend towards a reduction in the "miscellaneous uses", as rationalisation and modernisation by public boards and large industrial organisations proceed. British Railways relinquished their Licences of Right as the steam locomotives were replaced by diesel locomotives. The Gas Board did the same as they closed their small plants made redundant by reorganisation and North Sea gas,