



LPA Engagement Coordination Meeting Minutes

Document configuration

Revision	Originator	Approved by	Amendments	Date
V1	Lorraine Vicars			

Asite doc reference:	ENVIMSE500260-EA-XX-XXX-XX-WW-000X
Title:	Stakeholder Community Working Group
Purpose of issue:	

Project information

Project name	River Thames Scheme
Project code	ENVIMSE500260
Area	Thames
Date	8/8/23
Author	Lorraine Vicars

Project governance arrangements

Project Director	
Project Executive	Andrew Mowl

Title

Details

Date and time: 09/08/23 at 14:00

Title Text

Location: Teams meeting

Format: Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Attendees:

Name	Stakeholder Group	In attendance	Absent
Gary Webb (GW)			
Eliza Hughes (EH)			
Lorraine Vicars (LV)			
Siobhan Deeney (SD)			
Emma Booth (EB)			
George Locke (GL)			
Philip Russel-Vick (PRV)			
Andy Tompkins (AT)	Kingston Rowing Club	✓	
Cllr Margaret (MH) Harnden		✓	
Dan Gibson (DG)	The Creek and Wheatley's Eyot Residents Association Committee	✓	
Derek Beake (DB)	Thames Sailability	✓	
Graeme Ross (GR)	Burway Rowing Club	✓	
Ian Fordham (IF)	Surrey Canoe Club	✓	
James Du Cann (JDC)		✓	
John Adams (JA)	RUG	✓	
Ken Snaith (KS)	Shepperton Residents' Association	✓	
Kevin East (KE)	British canoe/camping	✓	
Andrew Lewis (AL)	Littleton Sailing Club	✓	
William Burgess (WB)	Egham Residents Association	✓	
Richard Thiemann (RT)	Walton Rowing Club	✓	

Title Text

Chris Thornton (CT)		✓	
Malcolm Loveday (ML)	The Chertsey Society	✓	
Mike Garrett (MG)	Laleham Residents Association	✓	
Tim Renton (TR)	The Creek and Wheatley's Eyot Residents Association Committee	✓	
Nigel Rowe (NR)	Riverside Residents Staines	✓	
Richard Atkinson (RA)	British Canoe	✓	
Mike Daly (MD)	Desborough Sailing Club	✓	
Scott Hynds (SH)	Elmbridge Canoe Club	✓	
	Surrey Coalition of Disabled People		✓
	Tamesis Club		✓
	British Horse Society		✓
	Twickenham rowing club (TWRC)		✓

Purpose

Text

Agenda

Agenda



1. Introduction to the group
2. Programme overview
3. Progress Update
4. Second consultation held November 2022
5. Discussion – how can we improve the next consultation?
6. Discussion - how do you want your meetings to run going forward?

Actions from this Meeting

Action No.	Date opened	Owner	Action detail	Target date	Date closed
01	09/08/23	Project team	Feedback to team about volume of information at consultation to avoid information overload		
02	09/08/23	Project team	Check invite list for other rowing clubs		
03	09/08/23	Project team	Consider going down to Littleton Lake to talk to some of the people there – the fishermen etc		
04	09/08/23	Project team	Make sure funding is covered in the next consultation		
05	09/08/23	Project team	Make sure there are before and after maps showing extent and depth of water in the next consultation		
06	09/08/23	Project team	Show how we are altering the flow at the outlet of the Spelthorne channel and what will that mean – we have modelled that using a 3D model		
07	09/08/23	Project team	Share detail about two land parcels at SheepWalk sold off with Lands team, once detail received from Mr Snaith		
08	09/08/23	Project team	We will be responding to the Laleham residents association question in the chat	23/08/23	
09	09/08/23	Project team	send a note with the minutes to ask people how they want sessions to run	23/08/23	23/08/23
10	09/08/23	Project team	Pass on question about having the high weirs operational before the channels are complete		
11	09/08/23	Project team	Share answers to questions in the notes	23/08/23	23/08/23

General notes

Item	Item discussion	Owner
1.	Introduction and Welcome Eliza Hughes (EH) Facilitator for the session, welcomed people to the group and set out the purpose of the evening, She reminded people that the Group meeting was not recorded and that recording is not permissible. Actions and minutes will be taken and will be shared, as	EH

	part of the terms of reference (TOR) The River Thames scheme introduced themselves	
2.	Agenda slide EH ran through the agenda slide and set out the rules for behaviour on the call. She set out the purpose of the group, including it to be a collaborative platform, to tease out issue and to improve our engagement, for example about our next consultation. People should all have had the TOR ahead of the meeting. EH set out that we are aware of ongoing enquiries on various issues and we welcome these. If enquiries become very specific on the call this evening, we may need to deal with that separately – it doesn't mean it isn't an important issue, we just want to allow everyone to participate. EH then handed to Gary Webb (GH), Communications Lead of Communications for the River Thames Scheme.	EH
3.	Slide presentation GW ran through a presentation, giving an update/refresher about the River Thames scheme, acknowledging that people in the Group would have varying levels of awareness about the scheme: Slide 3. What is the River Thames Scheme? GW set out the main purpose of the scheme Slide 4. Scheme Route Map GW showed a map showing the route of the scheme and pointed out the location of the weirs and pointed people to a larger version on the website Slide 5. Why is the scheme necessary? Many of you will be familiar with flood risk in the area – you may remember the 2014 floods We are making the landscape more usable Slide 6. How does the channel work? GW played a video to show how the channel works LINK Slide 7. Zoomed in maps of the larger maps to show each channel section. GW again directed people to the website to be able to see the maps in larger detail Slide 8. Jubilee River slide This slide shows the Jubilee River that has been there for 20 years. He pointed out how you can see how it has bedded in, including	GW

footpaths, cycle ways, green spaces and also habitat spaces -these are all really important to the River Thames scheme too and something we will be using

Slide 9. Landscape and Environment slide

New spaces will allow for new footpaths and cycle ways. We know people are really interested in Active Travel. The more we can link these spaces, the more people can use them

Slide 10. Connections with wildlife and biodiversity

This was mentioned quite a lot at the consultation - people want an area rich with wildlife. This is what we want to deliver. Space outside is important for our wellbeing – it's a really important part of the scheme

Slide 11. Consenting Process

GW talked through the application process for the River Thames Scheme process/timeline. This is a big scheme – you can see where we are in the scheme – we are in the pre application stage of the scheme. We need to consult - and that process includes talking to you today. The scheme has to go to the planning inspectorate and then to the Secretary of State who will make a decision about our application

Slide 12. Progress update

There has been lots of work going on since last consultation. GW thanked the Group again for attending the consultation

Work ongoing includes technical work, landscape, community events, and flood modelling. We know flood modelling is really important to a lot of people and we will be sharing this with you in the coming weeks

Slide 13. Technical and environmental work

The team have been working hard on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which will be shared at the next consultation. There have been lots of surveys undertaken to go into this report, including ground investigations, noise, air quality etc. There are archaeological surveys this summer.

Slide 14. Flood modelling

We know this is important side of the scheme. There is a non-technical summary report which we will share this autumn with you. We are looking at how we engage with people about this, it's something that needs to be talked through rather than just shared. We know that many of you will be interested in the full report -not just the non-technical summary- so we will talk with you as a group to find out how you want to get it

	Slide 15. Landscape and green infrastructure (L&GI) Colleagues are working really hard on this. The workshops were held earlier this year to help bring on the design. The 2022 consultation helped us to draw out the themes people were interested in and this helped Phil (Phil Russell Vick) to develop this design further. Groups we engaged with included disability groups and residents. You will have a chance to look through the developed designs at the next consultation Slide 16. Community events. We may have seen some of you at community events. These are wonderful opportunities to talk to people about the scheme and it's great to meet people and introduce them to the scheme and find out what is concerning them. Slide 17. 2022 consultation GW ran through a summary from the 2022 consultation which set out the events, number of people at the consultation and number of responses. He explained that the team are digesting these responses. Slide 18. Consultation materials slide He also shared some images of consultation materials and said how we obviously want to learn what we could have done better and handed over to EH to run a feedback session.	
4.	Slide 19. How can we improve for the next consultation? Eliza set up the next session: a discussion about how we can improve, get more people to come to our consultation, be more visible and drive awareness. Questions asked as prompts to get the discussion going included: How can we improve for the next consultation? What did you think of the events? Was the material accessible? EH asked people to state their name and their interest in the River Thames Scheme before giving their feedback. Feedback: William Burgess (Chair of Egham residents Assoc): I came to consultations in Egham and Egham Hythe. Egham isn't directly protected but we are led to understand that there is a certain amount of protection due to draw down. Egham residents are introduced in how much this protection would be? In terms of the consultation, I thought some of the materials regarding the modelling were pretty sophisticated. The diagrams	EH

	looked superficial but were hard to understand. My suggestion – show a map of flooding extent and depth both with and without the two channels. Emma Booth (EB) explained that we’ve had similar thoughts and have developed some maps that will be shown in the Non-technical summary (NTS) flood modelling report - we’ve been working really hard to make it as easy as possible to understand EB set out that the new maps will also have different colours to show different depths of water, with and without the scheme. EB also answered William’s technical question: you are right the area around Egham and Egham Hythe is protected - you will get 0.8m benefit in some flood events and 0.5m minimum benefit depending on type of flood event. This is even as far upstream as Staines’ road bridge. Derek Beake (Secretary of Thames Sailability): We take our special needs and disabled people out. We use the Desborough Cut quite a lot. I went to both consultations. There was so much information it was quite overwhelming. I was interested in the whole project and found it hard to focus on the area I needed to. I’m amazed how many areas you are trying to cover at once. The volume is difficult for the layman to understand. EH: Yes we are looking at this, to avoid information overload. I think your presence at these sessions (Working Group) will help with this too. Richard Theimann (Walton Rowing Club): Also a civil engineer I’m here representing Walton rowing club – I’m not sure if all rowing clubs have been invited or I’m supposed to be representing all of them? EH: this isn’t consultation – we will look at the invite list. Not everyone invited attended. Please do remember we are open to others and please do send suggestions if you feel there are other people who would be valuable attendees. Andrew Lewis (Littleton sailing club): We are concerned about where it will come through the lake and the depth of it. Have you considered that and is it in your calculations? EB: Just to reassure Andrew that this has been looked at in the hydraulic modelling. We are working with controlled flow rates and velocities. If you want more detail on that I can get back to you. We have been in consultation for some time feeding back detail on the lake. I’m happy to give more detail if needed. AL: It would be good for you to come down to the lake to talk to some of the people there – the fishermen etc.. EH: we will take this on board. Nigel Rowe (Riverside Residents Staines collation): We are a	
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	partnership of 6. Principal interest is flood risk for Staines. Housing population could rise by 50% in local plan so flood risk is a critical issue. I attended a couple of events – one person said that there wouldn't be a town here (Staines) if they knew about flood risk then when it was built. We want to know, how real is the scheme? Is it fully funded? Look at what happened to HS2. Could you address this in the next consultation? Also a before and after map will be very important. It was 16,000 homes protected with three channels, now down to 11,000 homes, would be very helpful to see where these houses are GW: Yes, if we can do better than we must. Maps at the events were hard to read. Electronic maps will give us more flexibility. EH: All the issues raised here will be covered in the consultation. Scott Hynds (Elmbridge Canoe Club): We are right opposite the exit of what is currently a swimming lake. For the next consultation is it possible to show videos to show different colours for different speeds? It is directly opposite us. Has any silt deposit modelling been done – surely it will alter that – if it alters the flow? Will there be big silt beds that weren't there before? EB: With regard to altering the flow at the outlet of the Spelthorne channel and what will that mean - we have modelled that using a 3D model. I don't see why we couldn't model that and share it at consultation. It won't impact the flow much as both are fast flowing. We can provide velocities. Be reassured we have done the modelling and can share the results. The silt modelling has been done with and without the scheme. We expect a very small amount of silt build up in the Thames. In the channel we expect to do some silt removal, in particular when there is no flow coming through – we would expect to have some silt build up to need removal by maintenance. Also in the channel there might be some deposition to be removed through maintenance. In the Thames we don't feel there will be much impact Ken Snaith (Residents Association): The routing of the channel is difficult to discern. There is the issue of water swim lake, and also where the channel is coming across SheepWalk -there is already two parcels of land that have been sold off EB: On Shepperton, we are undertaking work on this looking at alternative routes for the channel. We hope to have some information to share early in 2024. We are looking at solutions to avoid bringing river water through the swimming lake – we understand the concerns if we can avoid this we will. Please share us information about parcels of land changing hands and we will share with the Lands team. KS: Two parcels of land have been sold off to the same person -very close to where the channel is	
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	Richard Atkinson (British Canoeing): Great to see you are looking to make green and blue spaces more open and promote active travel. The last time we saw pictures it didn't reflect jubilee river – steep sides, weirs. There are safety issues if people need to get out and or if close to it. Also, invasive species are close to my heart. Are there any plans to control penny wort? Massive problem on the Thames. Want to know if there are any plans to control this? PRV: I can help with the nature of the channel and the differences with the Jubilee River. The Jubilee is more of a rural landscape and is able to have soft sides most of the way. That's not possible with RTS because of the nature of the ground it goes through – it is landfill sites for the most part so needs to be sheet piled to ensure there is no interaction. That said we are doing everything we can to soften up – eg step sides to make safer – to open it up and make softer. We are taking the engineering design of 2018 and looking to enhance where we can to make improvements where we can. EB: On Penny Wort, I do know a lot about the work we are doing – there are surveys to gather information on current invasive species and if and where the scheme will increase invasive species and fish pathogens – there will be management plans developed as part of this work. We know that they are spreading anyway – we are looking to see if we are going to accelerate. There will be an Invasive Species (INVS) Management Plan management plan to see what we can do to mitigate. George Locke (GL): We mustn't forget that the environmental assessment must be done as part of the scheme application and ecological assessments are one of most important parts.	
5.	Slide 20. Summary of consultation feedback GW ran through the top themes from the consultation: • Access • Design • Technical aspects • Green spaces • Habitats	
6.	Slide 21. Listening to your feedback: GW ran through some of the areas raised in the consultation by people on the call: • Green space usage • Access • Access for water users	

	• Flood risk/river management/flood control • Desborough Cut Proposal • Safety • Facilities • Design • Communications	
7.	Slide 22. Anything you want to discuss? EH then led a further open discussion for people to raise issues and questions Kevin East(Camping Club also working in collab with British Canoeing): Want to come back to an illustration received at a meeting in March where we saw a computer-generated concrete line vertical channel. Was that a draft – has that progressed? PRV: We are faced with a situation where sections will need to be hard edged to prevent contact between landfill, groundwater and channel water. We are looking to make soft edges where we can and use soft edges where we can, but there are clear technical reasons where we must have a hard edge. KE clarified that he saw a fly- through of the channel (Richard Samphier, Ire Akinfisoje and Viola Chan). Issue is safety and getting people out, especially near weirs. On Hythe end, which was promoted as place of public access, this is where public safety comes in to play. PRV: absolutely. EB: We do undertake a full public safety risk assessment of the design. One of good things about the Royal Hythe area is we can have a stretch of natural bank. Section we can't where it needs to be hard edged, close to the road bridge. As soon as we are out of tha area, we need to protect from erosion we go to a soft edge. We have to narrow the channel past Thorpe Hay Meadow then to a narrow vertical sided channel. The design does allow you to get out (in same way a canal has a vertical side) it's not an unusual situation and where it is vertical sided, you can get out of the channel GL: The EIA scoping report goes through the approach we are having to take according to the conditions we are facing. EH: your input is crucial – keeps these issues front of mind. Please do let us know if you want a link to the EIA scoping report. Eliza went to the chat and also some earlier questions:	

	How does the River Thames Scheme relate to the Lower Thames Scheme? GW: Lower Thames was the predecessor of the River Thames Scheme EB: Yes, that was the River Thames flood risk management strategy – that gave the approval for the flood channels and the River Thames scheme. Difference is that we have 2 channels instead of 3 due to a funding decision. Richard Thiemann: River users downstream – users are concerned that more water and faster flows. Will this mean more times that we can't use the river and have more 'red boards'? EB: The way the scheme works is that there is no additional flood water – it arrives downstream about 4 hours earlier as it goes withing the channels rather than through the floodplain. It increases the peak flow by about 1-2 % and the same tiny increase in velocity of 1-2%. But the channel will only operate when the red boards are out. So at that point there should be no craft on the river anyway. It's marginal. RT: great to know it won't greatly impact use of river. Also, who will be maintaining this? Navigation of the river near Desborough was down to 50% this year. Will these new sections be looked after properly and who will look after these areas? PRV: On the L&GI and green open spaces - as you are aware SCC are an equal partner with the EA as an equal partner - one of reasons was for them to take on the maintenance or seek other parties to take that maintenance forward. In that way it will be kept within the public domain. It is well understood that this is a critical area and we will take a lot of care to take this forward and deliver the scheme, building it is half the job and the other half is maintain it properly for the future EB: Phil described the open spaces. The EA will maintain the flood channel – to ensure that the are is managed to allow flood flows to go down – eg cut back vegetation EH went to the chat: Question about Thames Water in chat How does the 'River Thames Scheme' relate to the previous 'Lower Thames Scheme'? Is this just a rename/rebrand or has the LTS been replaced by the RTS starting afresh?	
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	EB: The River Thames Scheme will deliver the recommendations set out in the Lower Thames Flood Risk Management Strategy The technical solution is the same, difference is we only have two channels and drop the Barkshire channel. Is there any collaboration between this scheme and the plans by Thames Water for capturing more water from the Thames to meet increasing demand for water? EB: I am aware of a scheme taking water out of the Thames and replacing with treated effluent. We are talking to Thames Water constantly– they are concerned about their abstractions and impacts of scheme on each other. Thames are extracting from the river at various points so we need data. We are consulting constantly. GL: We are dealing with wet conditions and drought conditions. It's a complex condition. All this is covered in the climate change impacts and the PEIR we are doing EH: We have noted the Laleham residents question – we will pick this up and come back to you Malcom Loveday (President of Chertsey society): I want to say thank you to teams for all work doing. It has been a long time coming, looking forward to seeing more info. The problem with Chertsey – 10 year interval flooding by Bourne and 30 year intervals flooding by Thames. Have we got the modelling for showing how the Bourne will respond when the River Thames scheme is operational? EB: yes we have undertaken the modelling – the results will be shared. I think you will be interested in the fuller modelling report, yes it has been undertaken. EH reiterated that there will be lots of info at the consultation, but we want to discuss with you here too -that's the purpose of this group John Adams (Tamesis sailing club /river user group): Conceptual question: this seems to be a flood alleviation scheme which is obviously needed – looking at the Thames water plans, it seems to be more of a plan to capture flood waters and use at other times when flows are low. Was there any thought of keeping the water in the channels so that it can be used by Thames so that it can be used by the Thames to abstract?	
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	EB: The difficulty with the type of flood in the RTS area is the sheer volume of water that passes through channels. We would need an enormous reservoir. That's why it's not a flood storage scheme. The channels will be full of water all the time – it will match the existing lake levels nearby. It will rise typically by about a metre in a flood and will be controlled by a series of weirs. When the channel is not flowing, the level in channels drops to the level of the weirs. That's why it's not a viable concept to think about storage. Thames have to think about water quality during flood events. We have been talking with Thames about the timing of flood extraction. So there is communication ahead of an event. So Thames look to reduce levels in their storage reservoirs so that at peak flows they can time their extraction to maximise storage in the reservoirs. We couldn't give then type of reduced food levels through a storage scheme – it has to be via conveyance. By providing this we deliver the biodiversity aspect – storage wouldn't deliver this. This would alter work going into fish passes etc. JA: There are schemes where flows are slowed down. It depends on the scheme on level of biodiversity. I take your point. EB: The Thames Valley flood study is looking at a number of storage options in the upstream catchments which we are really interested in. But in this lower Thames section it is all about conveyance. JA – So it could be part of a coordinated scheme. The EA are still choosing where the areas might be.	
8.	EH noted we were running out of time, thanked the group and reiterated that we will send a note with the minutes to ask people how they want sessions to run We will look at comments in the chat and respond in the notes. Final question from Kevin East: KE: George mentioned climate change – we are getting more and more red boards and high waters. Is there any way to have the high weirs operational before the channels are complete? EB: Certainly, we are going out for tender for design and construction part of scheme – I can't speak for contractors but certainly if they are completed before the channel then certainly, they can be operational before the channels	

	The weir works will take three years, Teddington, Molesey and Sunbury. We anticipate working on one at a time we couldn't work on more than one at a time. Certainly, could open Teddington if it was completed ahead of time. EH explained to the group that we will be speaking to the Group again, around October time, TBC We will answer questions in notes In meantime please use the email EH shared on the contact slide. Look out on website and look out on social media. Get Involved  Please email any enquires at: rts@environment-agency.gov.uk Visit our website: www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk/ Twitter: @ThamesScheme Facebook: @RiverThamesScheme Instagram: @riverthamesscheme.uk We'll end the session now.	
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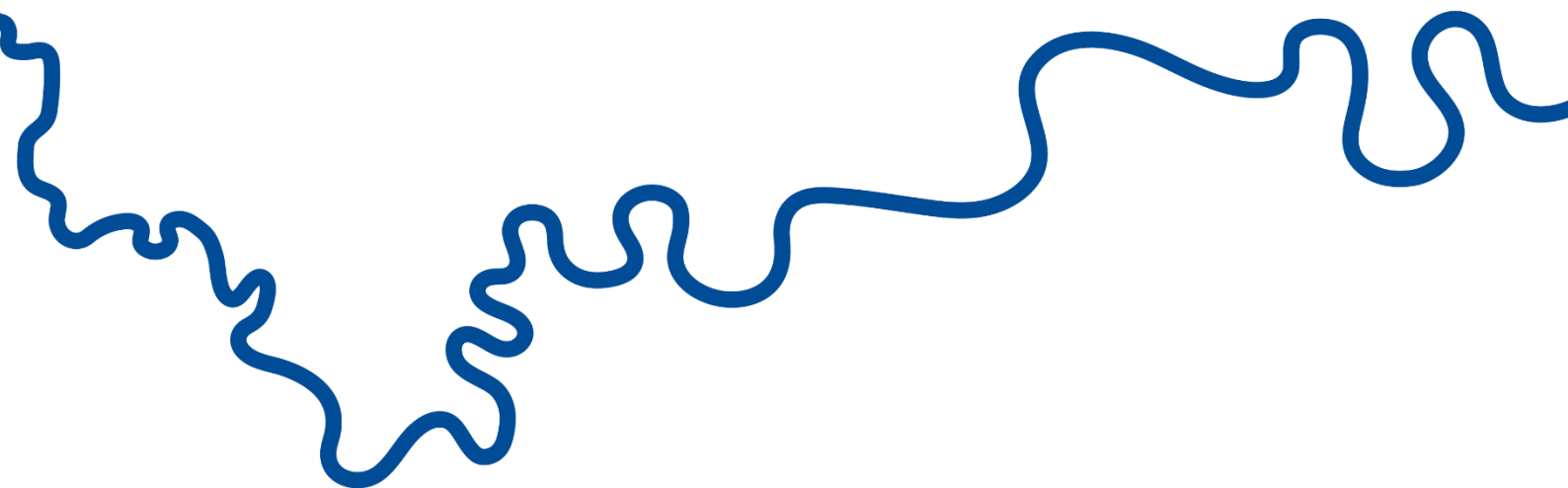
Asked by	Question	Answer
John Adams	Does the Flood Modelling study include information on the impact on the flow rate in the Thames downstream the new channels for different scenarios of rainfall and volumes of water in the Thames.?	The response to this will be circulated once it is ready.
Andy Tompkins	Does the Flood Modelling study consider water levels with respect to the Tidal influences above Teddington at Kingston Rowing Club. Currently most sports club have fixed landing stages so even a small increase in water level can stop activity. Equally increases in Flow rate can stop activity on the water. Does the Flow modelling cover flow rates?	Yes, the modelling study includes the tidal influences above Teddington and downstream of Molesey weir.
Mike Garrett	Within Laleham, road traffic is a noted issue. Excavating new channels will	A materials management plan is being produced that

	produce a large volume of gravel, topsoil and so on. Will all this be removed via local roads? Can a significant amount be retained to create "hills" as part of landscaping? For the road traffic,, will restrictions be placed on contractors to spread the load and avoid unsuitable roads?	will plan how the project will manage and transport excavated materials, this will look at reuse within site boundaries as well as transport options such as via the River Thames.
Mike Garrett	Some Laleham residents cannot at present get any property insurance due to flood risk. This is very serious for them. They cannot sell their properties. Is the RTS consulting with insurers to see whether the RTS will enable insurance to be obtained once the scheme is implemented?	The River Thames Scheme does not provide help with purchasing affordable flood insurance. However, once the scheme has been completed (estimated 2030), flood maps will be updated to show the lower risk to the area within the scheme. The flood maps help to identify the likelihood of flooding from flood sources including rivers, the sea, the coast, and surface water. We regularly update this data and will continue to make it available to the insurance industry and the public. There is no requirement for individual insurance companies to use this in setting premiums and/or excesses in household insurance policies that include cover against flooding. They may use their own information, information produced by third parties and other data such as flood claims history to determine premium and/or excess for insurance against flood damage.
Chris Thornton	I am from Littleton Sailing Club. I have 2 questions. 1. Silting, our lake will act as a settling pond, what is the plan for maintaining	We have undertaken sediment sampling of the lake bed and this data will be used to inform the

	the depth in the lake. 2. Water quality, the lake is currently fed by ground water and is consequently very clean. The normal river water contains a lot nutrients that are not currently present in the lake. This will have a considerable impact on the ecosystem. What can be done to minimise the impact on the water quality? Also during a flood What is the likelihood of untreated sewage being transferred along the relief channels. What will done to mitigate the impact in areas of standing water, such as our lake?	design. There are no proposals to dredge Littleton North lake, although construction works are planned on the lake margins. We are currently monitoring the water quality within Littleton Lake and upstream of the River Thames to determine the current water quality levels. Within the Environmental Impact study we will then model any impacts on the current water quality conditions within the lake.
Dan Gibson	Is the RTS "A flood management project that will be completed in an ecologically friendly manner" or is it "An ecological improvement project that may have some flood risk benefits."?	The RTS is a flood management project that will be completed in an ecologically friendly manner and will provide benefits to local communities through new green and blue infrastructure.
John Adams (RUG8)	Increased capacity is needed on three weirs, this indicates that more water needs to be released during high water events than is the case at the moment. How would this impact those weather events that cause the tidal Thames to rise in level, times when the Teddington weir is closed to prevent upstream water exacerbating flood rise in London. With the increased water coming downstream would then mean that the risk of flooding in the Kingston area is higher than it is at the moment.	This will be outlined within the Flood Modelling Non-Technical Summary Report that will be published in Autumn 2023. We will be providing the group more information on this report in future sessions.

Title Text

Slides



The River Thames Scheme represents a new landscape-based approach to creating healthier, more resilient and more sustainable communities by reducing the risk of flooding and creating high quality natural environments.