

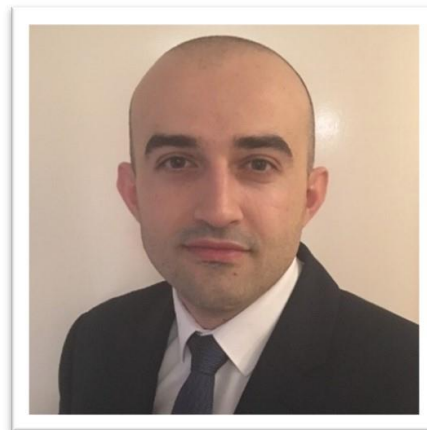


July 2024

Introducing our new project director

Eddie Rrokaj has been appointed as the new River Thames Scheme Project Director and started on 1 July.

Eddie was previously a Programme Manager at the Environment Agency, overseeing flood risk management capital delivery programmes in the Midlands. Prior to that he was Deputy Service Manager for the Thames Estuary Asset Management 2100 Programme (TEAM2100), the Environment Agency's programme to refurbish and replace tidal flood defences in London and the Thames estuary.



Welcome

Hello and welcome to this year's second edition of the River Thames Scheme newsletter, and my first as the new River Thames Scheme Project Director.

I want to start by thanking my predecessor Jeanne Capey for her leadership of the River Thames Scheme. On behalf of the team, we wish Jeanne the best in her new role at the Environment Agency.

I am really pleased to be joining the project at this exciting time. There are some important moments for the project over the coming year, including progressing with our Development Consent Order (DCO), the process through which we will seek approval to build the scheme, in addition to starting the second stage of procuring a construction partner. I'm looking forward to working with my new colleagues to deliver the River Thames Scheme, as I can see how important it is for communities across Surrey and South West London.

In this edition, we look at a summary of the feedback provided at statutory consultation earlier in the year and share an update on the next steps for our DCO. We also discuss the archaeological and other survey work we have been carrying out across the scheme area in the past few months.

Our profiles of team members continue in this edition with the spotlight on our Technical Valuation Manager Mike Tye and his important work in our Land and Property Team.

Finally, I'm delighted to say that we've been nominated at this year's Flood and Coast Excellence Awards 2024. The RTS is a contender in the Climate Resilient Blue & Green Infrastructure category. Fingers crossed for a great result!

If you want further information about the scheme, including anything you've read here, please contact us at enquiries@riverthamesscheme.org.uk

With best wishes,

Eddie Rrokaj

Project Director

River Thames Scheme



Statutory consultation feedback

The Statutory Consultation on the River Thames Scheme, held from 22 January to 4 March 2024, was a major success. We received over 2,500 responses and nearly

2,700 people attended 16 in-person and online events. Thousands more visited our consultation webpages.

The consultation responses we received were detailed and insightful. They offered new ideas about the flood reduction measures, walking and biking paths and the new habitats we are proposing. Individuals, businesses and organisations raised important points, which are now shaping the scheme.

The consultation showed strong support for the scheme plans. More than 70 percent of responses believe the scheme's design will reduce flooding in the area. More than 80 percent of responses agreed with the plans for an active travel route and to provide new habitats as part of the scheme.

Next year, we will publish a Consultation Report with our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This will detail our process, the issues raised during consultation and our responses.

To keep everyone informed, we plan to release an interim summary report soon. This will include the main topics that were raised during the consultation. We will publish the report during summer 2024. We will share a further mail out with you on this.



Development Consent Order to be submitted in 2025

A Development Consent Order (DCO) gives us permission to build and operate the scheme. Unlike other processes, it means we only apply to one place for almost all the consents we need. This makes the process simpler and quicker. A DCO also includes the legal power to buy land for the scheme where required.

Preparing the DCO documents is detailed work, and our team is working hard on this.

Our work includes:

Finalising the project design using technical, environmental and economic information, as well as your feedback from the Statutory Consultation.

Exploring options for the channel around **Ferris Meadow Lake**, using consultation feedback. Visit the [Ferris Meadow Lake page](#) for more detail on the current status of this area of the scheme.

Reaching agreements with landowners and other stakeholders to resolve any issues. This includes local planning authorities and environmental bodies. It's important to address concerns and reach agreements with key stakeholders and landowners. This engagement is crucial and is currently being planned.

If you are a landowner affected by the scheme, visit our [landowners webpage](#) for more information.

For more information please visit [Our development consent order | River Thames Scheme](#) page. We will update this page as we have more information on the DCO process.



River Thames Scheme animation explains downstream measures

Discover how downstream measures can reduce flood risks in our new weir animation. These measures include lowering the riverbed downstream of the Desborough Cut and adding gates at the Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs. This would allow the water to flow through more efficiently and lower the water levels. Our new animation explains how weirs work and why they are essential to the River Thames Scheme. These measures will work with the Runnymede and Spelthorne channels to reduce the risk of flooding for everyone in the scheme area.



Survey work provides key insights into the River Thames Scheme area

Survey work is ongoing along the proposed route of the River Thames Scheme. Recent surveys have looked at bats and their roosts, trees, topography and zooplankton. We are also planning more archaeological trial trenching for the summer.

These surveys help us understand the current environment and assess the impact of the scheme. They also provide information about the local wildlife so we can protect habitats.

You can find more details about our ongoing survey work [on the RTS website](#).

How local businesses can benefit from the RTS

The River Thames Scheme will bring many benefits to businesses in the area.

The scheme will reduce flooding, create sustainable travel routes, and make the local area greener and more appealing. These changes will boost the local economy significantly.

By lowering the risk of floods, the RTS will help businesses become more resilient and stable. It will protect physical assets, ensure business continuity and secure essential infrastructure. There will also be opportunities for businesses during the construction phase.

For more information, visit the [Business Engagement website](https://riverthamesscheme.org.uk) or email us at enquiries@riverthamesscheme.org.uk



River Thames Scheme visits school children in Laleham

Earlier this summer, the River Thames Scheme (RTS) and the Environment Agency visited Laleham Church of England Primary School to talk about climate change and flood risks.

Children learned about the benefits of the RTS, such as green spaces, walking and cycling paths, recreational areas, and wildlife habitats. A highlight was the "Flood Tank" exercise, which showed the dangers of floodwater.

After the assembly, the RTS team hosted a pop-up activity during school pick-up. This was a great chance to engage with parents and children. Kids also took part in creating flood defences to protect their homes.

The visit follows the set up of sustainable drainage planters at the school, funded by the Department of Education. These were set up as part of the RTS Sustainable Drainage System initiative. More information is available on our [website](#).



Share your flooding story

Have you ever been impacted by flooding along the River Thames? Flooding events can be devastating, leaving lasting impact which can be financial and emotional.

The River Thames Scheme would like to collect real stories from residents and businesses on your experience. Your story will be a powerful testament to the scheme's potential, helping others understand the true impact of flooding and the positive changes the scheme aims to achieve. For more information visit the [RTS website](#).

Are you interested in sharing your story? We are looking for willing participants who reside along the scheme area and are keen to share their flooding story either verbally, on video or as a written piece. [Register your interest](#) and a member of our Communications and Engagement Team will be in touch to discuss further details.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Mike Tye

Technical Valuation Manager | Surrey CC



Spotlight on...

This month our Spotlight series focuses on Mike Tye. Mike works for Surrey County Council as a Technical Valuation Manager in the Land and Property Team. He has extensive knowledge of the River Thames Scheme. During the warmer months he leads site visits, showing interested parties the project's size and scale.

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.

Visit www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk for more information.



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