



The River Thames Scheme

Booklet 3



**Easy
Read**

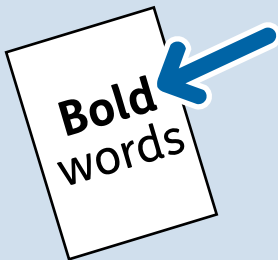
Easy Read



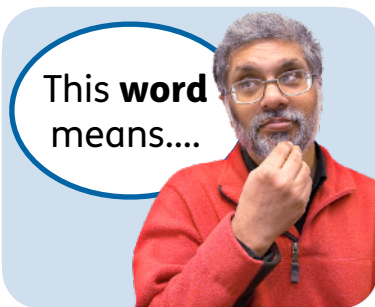
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.

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About this booklet



Surrey County Council and The Environment Agency want to improve the part of the River Thames that goes between Egham and Teddington.



We have come up with a plan to do this. We have called it the River Thames Scheme.



We have written a few booklets about the River Thames Scheme.



This is the third booklet. It is about our building work that is part of the River Thames Scheme.

Building work



Our plans for the River Thames involve a lot of building work.

As part of the River Thames Scheme, building work will include:



- 2 new rivers - The Runnymede Channel Section and the Spelthorne Channel Section.

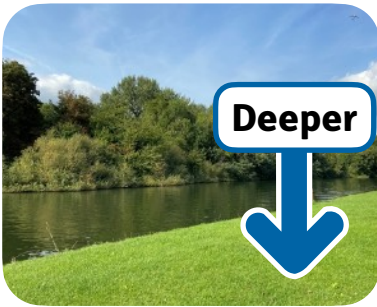


- New **weirs** - these are barriers that control how much water in the river is allowed through into the rest of the river.



- **Fish passes** inside the river - these are paths we will build to help fish swim around barriers.

As part of the River Thames Scheme, building work will also include:



- Making the river deeper.



- New trees, hedges and other kinds of plants.



- Improving green spaces.



- New green spaces.



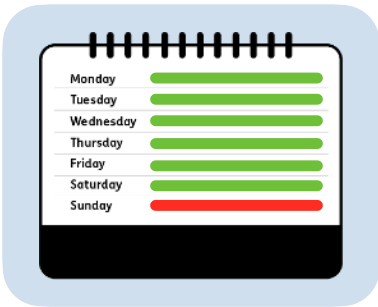
- New areas for wildlife to live in, like woodland.



As part of the River Thames Scheme, building work will also include new bridges.



We think this building work will start in 2026 and finish in 2031.



We think we will do the building work Monday to Saturday, 8:00am to 6:00pm.

Issues with building work



Our building work may cause some issues.



We have plans on how we will fix these issues.



Noise

Our building work may cause some loud noise.



This is because we will need to use big machines and equipment that can be noisy.



This may be an issue for people who live close to where we are building.



To help with this, we will do our building work when most people are at work and school.



We will let people know if we are going to be doing building work close to where they live.



Traffic

Our building work may cause some extra traffic on the roads.

This is because:



- Trucks and lorries will be delivering the things we need to do our building work.



- Builders will need to get to the area where they are working every day.

To help with this, we will:



- Plan certain routes for our building work vehicles to follow - these routes will try and miss out roads that are already busy.



- Create roads that are just for our building work vehicles - these roads will not be normal roads, and they will be removed after our building work is finished.



- Get some of the things we need delivered by boat along the river.

Working with local areas



We want to help areas close to where we are building.

We can do this by:



- Offering jobs and training to builders in the local area.



- Working with charities and groups that work to improve the local area.



- Using local businesses.

Materials



To be able to do building work on the ground along the River Thames, we will need to remove some of the **materials** that are already there.



When we say **materials**, we mean:

- Sand.



- Gravel.



- Soil or mud.



- Ground that was built by people, like concrete and brick.



We think we will need to remove a lot of materials to make room for our building work.



We have a plan for how we will sort and use materials we need to remove.



But we also think we will have some **waste**. When we say **waste**, we mean materials that we cannot use.



We also have a plan for how we will get rid of waste.



We will move materials and waste around using local travel routes and the River.

Sorting materials

When we are removing materials, we will follow these steps:



1. Separate the materials into 2 groups.

1 group for the materials we are going to use and 1 group for waste.



2. Keep the materials we are going to use in the area we are building in.



3. Move the waste away from the area we are building in.



We will sort materials in areas that are within the River Thames Scheme. We are thinking of sorting materials at:

- Royal Hythe.
- Sheepwalk Main.
- Chertsey Road.
- Staines Road.
- Littleton Lane.
- Ferris Meadow Lake.



We will make sure that we are sorting materials safely.

Using materials



We will use some materials to build other parts of the River Thames Scheme.



We will make sure that these materials are safe to use.



Waste will be removed by waste management companies who know how to remove waste.

The law



There are laws about how materials and waste should be dealt with.



We will follow these laws when we are removing or using materials and waste.

The environment



The **environment** is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it. For example, plants, animals and fish.

We want to make sure that the River Thames Scheme:



- Does not damage or harm the environment.



- Protects the environment.



- Improves the environment in some areas.

To help us do this, we have looked into:



- How the River Thames Scheme could harm the environment.



- How we can stop the River Thames Scheme from harming the environment.



- How the River Thames Scheme can protect and improve the environment.

Protecting and improving the environment

The River Thames Scheme will protect and improve the environment by:



- Reducing the amount of damage done to the environment when the river floods.



- Creating new areas for wildlife to live in.



- Improving areas where wildlife already live.



- Planting new trees and plants.

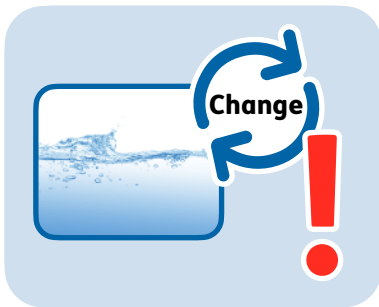


- Making areas along the River Thames in Surrey look nicer.



- Helping people travel by walking or cycling, rather than using their car.

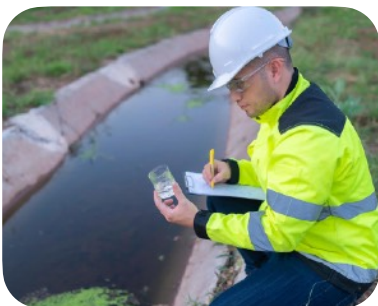
Harming the environment - water



The River Thames Scheme may harm the environment by changing the water in the River Thames.



This might happen if we accidentally mix water in the river with things it is not usually mixed with.



We will help fix this by always checking the water in the river, to see if it is being affected.



If it is being affected, we will make a plan to stop this from happening.

Harming the environment - harmful gases



The River Thames Scheme may do some harm to the environment by putting harmful gases into the air.

These harmful gases would come from:



- Big machines and equipment for building work.



- The extra traffic that will be on the roads because of our building work.

We will help fix this by:



- Making a Traffic Management Plan with local councils.

We will also help fix this by:



- Making an Air Quality Management Plan. This plan will explain how we will try and protect the air.



- Planting new trees and making new green spaces that will help make the air clean again.

Harming the environment - waste



The River Thames Scheme may do some harm to the environment because we will need to deal with waste.



Some waste materials can be harmful to the environment.



We will help fix this by always being safe and following the law when we deal with waste.

Harming the environment - noise



The River Thames Scheme may do some harm to the environment by causing loud noise.

The loud noise would come from:



- Using big machines and equipment for building work.



- The extra traffic that will be on the roads because of our building work.

We will help fix this by:



- Doing our building work when most people are at work and school.



- Work with local councils to agree on when we should do our building work and make rules about noise.

Harming the environment - wildlife



The River Thames Scheme may do some harm to the environment by changing some areas where wildlife already live.



This might happen because we need to do some building work on or around the area.



We will help fix this by:

- Doing our building work very carefully, so that we do not destroy areas with wildlife.



- Doing our building work in certain seasons, so that we do not harm some animals that may be living in the area.



- Helping the area get back to how it was before we started our building work.

Harming the environment - fossils



Fossils are the remains of people, animals and areas that were around many years ago.

Fossils can be lots of different things, like bones or pieces of objects, like pots.



Fossils are found deep underground.

We may do some harm to fossils during our building work as we may have to dig deep into the ground.

We will help fix this by:



- Doing our building work very carefully, so that we do not destroy any fossils.



- Not doing building work in areas where there may be a lot of important fossils.



We will also deal with fossils correctly if we do find any.

Harming the environment - flooding



The River Thames Scheme may do some harm to the environment by increasing the chance of flooding during building work.



We will help stop this by making sure we understand what areas are at risk of flooding.



We are also thinking about making an Emergency Response Plan for if flooding does happen.

Harming the environment - how the environment looks



Our building work may make the environment look messy and not nice for a while.

We will make our building work look better by:



- Putting up screens that stop people from being able to see the building work.



- Putting piles of materials and waste in areas where people cannot see them.



- Planting new trees and making new green areas as soon as possible, to make the environment look nice again.

Harming the environment - soil



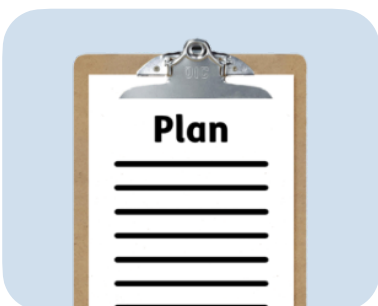
Soil is like mud. It is usually the top layer of the ground.



The River Thames Scheme may harm some soil along the river.



We will help fix this by always checking the soil, to see if it is being affected.



If it is being affected, we will make a plan to stop this from happening.

People's health and wellbeing



We want to make sure the River Thames Scheme helps to improve people's health and wellbeing.



Our building work might harm people's health and wellbeing.

It could harm people's health and wellbeing by:



- Causing people to breathe in harmful gases.



- Causing people to not get enough sleep - this would be because of the noise of the building work.

It could also harm people's health and wellbeing by:



- Stopping people from doing their usual exercise, like swimming or jogging.



- Stopping people from getting to the places they need to be.



Our building work may also stop businesses from getting as many customers as usual.

We will help fix these things, or stop them from happening, by:



- Working with local areas and local councils to understand how our building work might affect them.



- Being respectful when we are doing our building work.



It is important to remember that after the building work is finished, what we have built will improve people's health and wellbeing again.

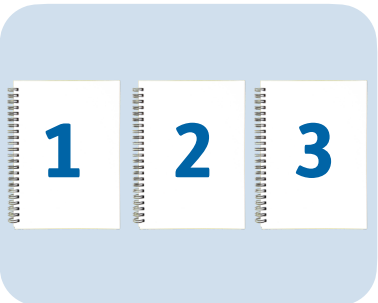
What you should do next



Thank you for reading Booklet 3.



You should now read Booklet 4.



Please read Booklets 1, 2 and 3 in order before answering the questions in Booklet 4.