

River Thames
Scheme



Supplementary Consultation Brochure

Scheme Design of the Spelthorne Channel
at Ferris Meadow Lake: 3 September – 7 October 2024

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Scheme overview

The River Thames Scheme (the Scheme) will reduce the risk of flooding to thousands of homes, businesses and vital infrastructure while unlocking the economic, health and environmental benefits of the river between Egham and Teddington and responding to the challenges of climate change and nature recovery.

The Scheme includes a new flood channel in two sections, passing through the boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne in Surrey. The Scheme also includes bed lowering of the River Thames downstream of the Desborough Cut and increases in capacity at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs. The Scheme will create new areas of green and blue open space with recreational facilities and a nature recovery network and provide sustainable travel connections to link communities together.

For detailed information about the Scheme's vision and how it has been developed, visit www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk

OUR VISION

“The River Thames Scheme will reduce flood risk to people living and working near the Thames, enhance the resilience of nationally important infrastructure, contribute to a vibrant local economy and maximise the social and environmental value of the river”

OUR GOALS

A landscape-based approach to creating a healthier, more sustainable, and more resilient community.

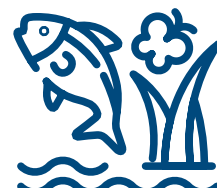
We will:



Reduce the risk of flooding for dwellings, businesses and infrastructure.



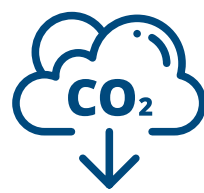
Improve access to quality green open spaces, connection with wildlife and more sustainable travel network.



Create a network of high quality habitat and achieve biodiversity gain.



Facilitate sustainable and inclusive economic growth.



Enable delivery and design that contribute to EA, SCC and Partner climate goals relating to carbon use.

Why we are consulting again

Throughout the duration of the River Thames Scheme, we have consulted and engaged with the public and stakeholders to ensure we understand the concerns and needs of the local community.

There were over 2,500 responses to the statutory consultation that took place from January to March 2024, with nearly 2,700 people attending in-person and online events. The feedback provided valuable insights into various aspects of the Scheme, including flood risk reduction measures, active travel routes, green open spaces and proposed habitats.

One of the focal points of statutory consultation was the alignment and impacts of the Scheme at Ferris Meadow Lake. In our statutory consultation materials, we presented seven options for the channel design at this location. We explained that we expected to undertake further engagement on the proposals relating to Ferris Meadow Lake once we had considered the feedback received during consultation, and carried out further appraisal work, including analysis of the predicted impacts of the Scheme on water quality in the lake.

Since statutory consultation, as well as completing the water quality analysis, we have completed the detailed appraisal of those seven options at Ferris Meadow Lake. This appraisal work also considered two further suggestions received during consultation.

Now that this detailed appraisal work is complete, we are sharing the outcome of our options appraisal, which is to proceed with Option 1 as the preferred option for the proposed Scheme design at Ferris Meadow Lake. Option 1, as presented in Chapter 7 of our Statutory Consultation Brochure, involves the Spelthorne channel passing through Ferris Meadow Lake.

We are now consulting to seek feedback on how we can develop the Scheme design at Ferris Meadow Lake and on the Ferris Meadow Lake Options Appraisal Report.

The options appraisal

The appraisal of the options for the Spelthorne Channel alignment at Ferris Meadow Lake examined the seven options presented at statutory consultation, as outlined in Chapter 7 of the Statutory Consultation Brochure, in addition to two further options included as a result of feedback received during consultation.

All options that were appraised provided a sufficient level of flood mitigation to make them viable to achieve the Scheme's core requirement to reduce flooding in the area. This was determined by carrying out hydraulic (flood) modelling for each option.

The appraisal, which was carried out by a team of experienced Scheme specialists, involved detailed consideration of each of the options against the following criteria:

- Technical and Feasibility Appraisal
- Environmental Appraisal
- Environmental Design Principles (EDP) Appraisal
- Planning Policy and Legislative Appraisal
- Construction Costs
- Land Costs

The findings of these assessments were used to determine the overall performance of each of the Ferris Meadow Lake options and inform the selection of the preferred option of the Scheme.

For detailed information about the appraisal methodology and findings, including the flood modelling, see the Ferris Meadow Lake Options Appraisal Report (FML Options Appraisal), published as part of this consultation.

Water quality assessment

Water quality at Ferris Meadow Lake is an important issue because the lake is popular as a venue for open water swimming.

The FML Options Appraisal includes an assessment of the water quality impacts of each of the Ferris Meadow Lake options. The water quality assessment for each option involved two sets of analyses based on the results from the flood modelling. The first set of analyses considered a year when no flooding takes place, with only the augmented flow passing through Ferris Meadow Lake. Augmented flow is the small flow of water flowing through the channel under non-flood conditions, which helps maintain water quality and ensures fish do not get stranded. The second set of analyses considered an average year that included a flood, when water from the River Thames spills over into the lake.

During a year when no flooding takes place, water quality in the lake under Option 1 is predicted to attain the 'good' standard, if it were classified according to the Bathing Water Regulations, meaning it would be safe to swim in. There would be a reduction in quality from the current level, which is 'excellent', but Option 1 would allow for continued safe swimming in the lake. This responds to a key concern identified in the feedback received during statutory consultation.

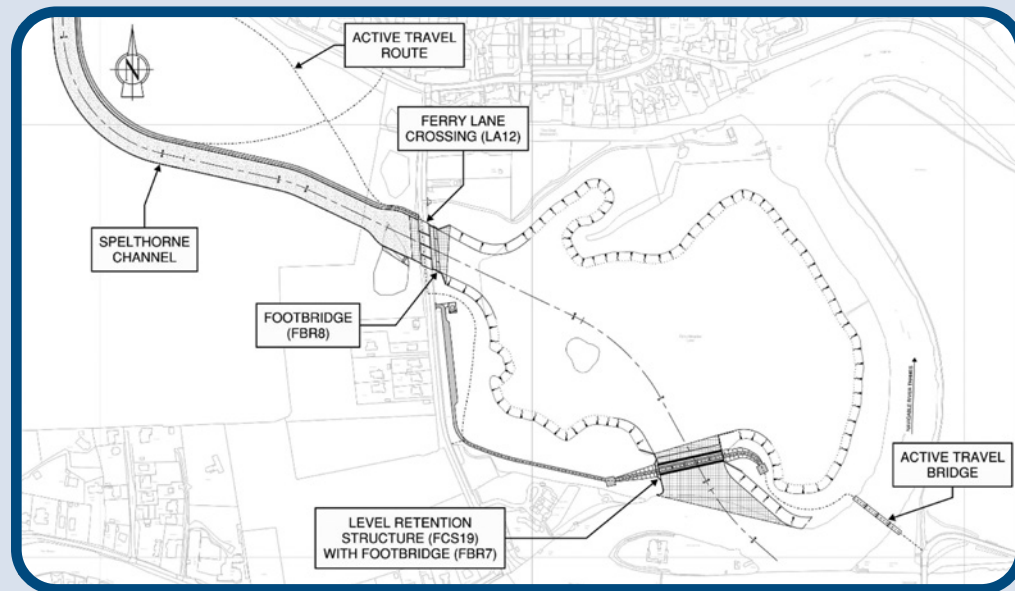
Under Option 1, the water quality in the lake during flood events would generally be of similar quality as with current flooding without the Spelthorne Channel in place. This is because the lake would be flooded with water from the River Thames at a similar frequency as during current flooding. For more information about the water quality assessments, see the FML Options Appraisal.

Why Option 1 is the preferred option

Based on our appraisal of the options at Ferris Meadow Lake and consideration of the feedback received during statutory consultation, Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option for the Scheme.

The Option 1 design would involve the Spelthorne Channel passing into Ferris Meadow Lake under a new bridge at Ferry Lane. The channel would pass through the lake before discharging into the River Thames via a flow control structure with a footbridge, at the southern side of the lake.

OPTION 1



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Option 1 is the preferred option because it performed better overall in the appraisal than the other eight options, while also continuing to allow for safe swimming in the lake, which was a concern identified in the feedback received during statutory consultation.

Option 1 performed best against the Technical and Feasibility Appraisal and Construction Costs criteria, while performing very well with regards to the EDP, Environmental Appraisal, Planning Policy and Legislative Appraisal, and the Land Costs criteria. This is why Option 1 is our preferred option, with the next-best performing option (Option 7) being more expensive overall and having a significant legislative non-compliance risk. Detailed information about the performance of all the options against the criteria can be found in the FML Options Appraisal published as part of this consultation.

Appraisal Criteria	Summary of Appraisal Outcomes
<p>Technical and Feasibility Appraisal - The technical and feasibility assessment focused on the design, construction and future requirements of each option, with each option assessed against criteria such as buildability, material managements and operation and maintenance.</p>	<p>Option 1 performed best of all the options in the Technical and Feasibility Appraisal. This included being the easiest to build, having no impact on existing structures, having the smallest carbon footprint, and the lowest operational and maintenance requirements.</p>
<p>Environmental Appraisal - For the Environmental Appraisal, each option was evaluated against its effects on topics including air quality, biodiversity, and water environment.</p>	<p>The appraisal has demonstrated that Options 1 and 7 are the best-performing options overall environmentally. The key difference between them is that the appraisal of Option 1 identifies potential human health and socio-economic impacts from perceived risks to swimming, while the appraisal of Option 7 identifies a high risk to biodiversity, which could lead to non-compliance with the Habitats Regulations (in respect of the South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area and Ramsar site).</p> <p>This analysis needs to be seen in the context that the Environmental Appraisal showed that in non-flood conditions, water quality in the lake for Option 1 is predicted to be 'good' (equivalent bathing water standard) once the Scheme is operational. This would be a reduction in quality from the current level, which is 'excellent', but Option 1 would allow for continued safe swimming in the lake.</p>

Appraisal Criteria	Summary of Appraisal Outcomes
Environmental Design Principles (EDP) Appraisal - The EDPs are grouped under the three pillars of sustainability that each of the options were assessed against; Environmental Connections, Community Connections and Economic Connections	All of the options performed well in the appraisal against the Scheme's EDPs.
Planning Policy and Legislative Appraisal - The planning policy and legislative review involved an assessment of the options in terms of their compliance with key policy themes including flood risk, green infrastructure connectivity, and cultural heritage as well as identifying any legislative compliance issues of concern.	The potential non-compliance of Option 7 with the Habitats Regulations would be a significant risk for the Scheme if that option were taken forward. Option 1 presents minor challenges in relation to compliance with national and local planning policy, but nothing that would present a significant risk to its implementation.
Construction Costs - Each of the options have been compared based on estimated construction costs provided by suitably qualified construction experts.	Option 1 has the lowest estimated construction costs.
Land Costs - Each of the options have been compared based on estimated land costs provided by the Scheme's land agent.	Option 7 has the lowest estimated Land Costs, with Option 1 only slightly higher.

How to get involved

Your feedback is important to us in developing the Scheme design that we submit in our application for development consent.

This supplementary consultation is taking place from 00:01 on Tuesday 3 September 2024 until 23:59 on Monday 7 October 2024.

All responses should be received by 23:59 on Monday 7 October 2024 to ensure that we can have regard to them in the progression of the Scheme.

How to provide your feedback

You can share your thoughts by completing our feedback form. There are three ways you can do this:

Online

The easiest way to do this is to complete it online: www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk/supplementary-consultation-ferris-meadow-lake

You can save your responses whilst you are completing it and return to complete the form at your convenience.

By post

You can complete a paper copy of the feedback form and send it back to us using our Freepost address. You can pick up a paper copy of the feedback form and a Freepost envelope at our events, the information points or by contacting us to request a copy by post or email.

You can also send us a letter by post with your comments.

FREEPOST RIVER THAMES SCHEME SUPPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION

By email

Email us at enquiries@riverthamesscheme.org.uk. If you are sending your feedback in an email, please clearly state in your email's subject line that it is your **RTS consultation feedback**.

How to find out more

One paper copy of the consultation brochure and feedback form will be sent free of charge to any UK address on request during the consultation. Requests for copies of the 'Ferris Meadow Lake: Options Appraisal Report' may also be made during the consultation period but will incur a charge to cover the cost of printing and postage (maximum of £20). We will also consider requests for alternative formats of the Ferris Meadow Lake Options Appraisal Report, brochure and feedback form, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis (in discussion with the requester) to take into account individual circumstances and will be free of charge.

Website

To find out more about our scheme and access to the full suite of documents associated with this consultation, please visit www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk

 **Facebook;** (RiverThamesScheme)

 **Instagram;** (riverthamesscheme.uk)

 **LinkedIn;** (riverthamesscheme)

 **X** (formerly known as Twitter); (ThamesScheme)

 **NextDoor;** (RiverThamesScheme)

 **Youtube;** (RiverThamesScheme)

If you have any questions about the scheme or our consultation process (including requests for documents), please contact us by:

- Email: enquiries@riverthamesscheme.org.uk
- Telephone: Surrey County Council Contact Centre - 03456 009 009
- Text (SMS): 07860 053 465 (for the deaf or hard of hearing community)
- Textphone (via Relay UK): 18001 03456 009 009



Events

We will be hosting three in-person consultation events where the local community can find out more information about the design development of the Scheme in relation to Ferris Meadow Lake and speak with a Scheme representative in person.

Location	Date (2024)	Time
Shepperton , Shepperton Village Hall, 58A High St, Shepperton TW17 9AU	Wednesday 11 September	15:00 – 18:00
Shepperton , Shepperton Village Hall, 58A High St, Shepperton TW17 9AU	Monday 16 September	14:00 – 18:30
Shepperton , Shepperton Village Hall, 58A High St, Shepperton TW17 9AU	Saturday 28 September	10:00 – 16:00

Virtual events

For those unable to attend the in-person public consultation events, we will host two live virtual events.

Date (2024)	Time
Thursday 19 September	19:00 - 20:00
Tuesday 1 October	19:00 - 20:00

The virtual events will last for approximately an hour. Attendees will be asked to register to attend via the Scheme email address: enquiries@riverthamesscheme.org.uk, using the subject line **RTS virtual event registration**.

Information points

Location	Address
Shepperton Library	High Street, Shepperton TW17 9AU
The Greeno Centre	14 Meadow View, Glebeland Gardens, Shepperton TW17 9DH
Walton Library	54 The Heart (off Hepworth Way), Walton on Thames KT12 1GH
Sunbury Library	41-43, The Parade, Staines Rd W, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 7AB

Next steps

A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and will be available to the public following submission of the application, which is expected to be in 2025.

This report will include information on how we have had regard to feedback received at statutory consultation and at this supplementary consultation.

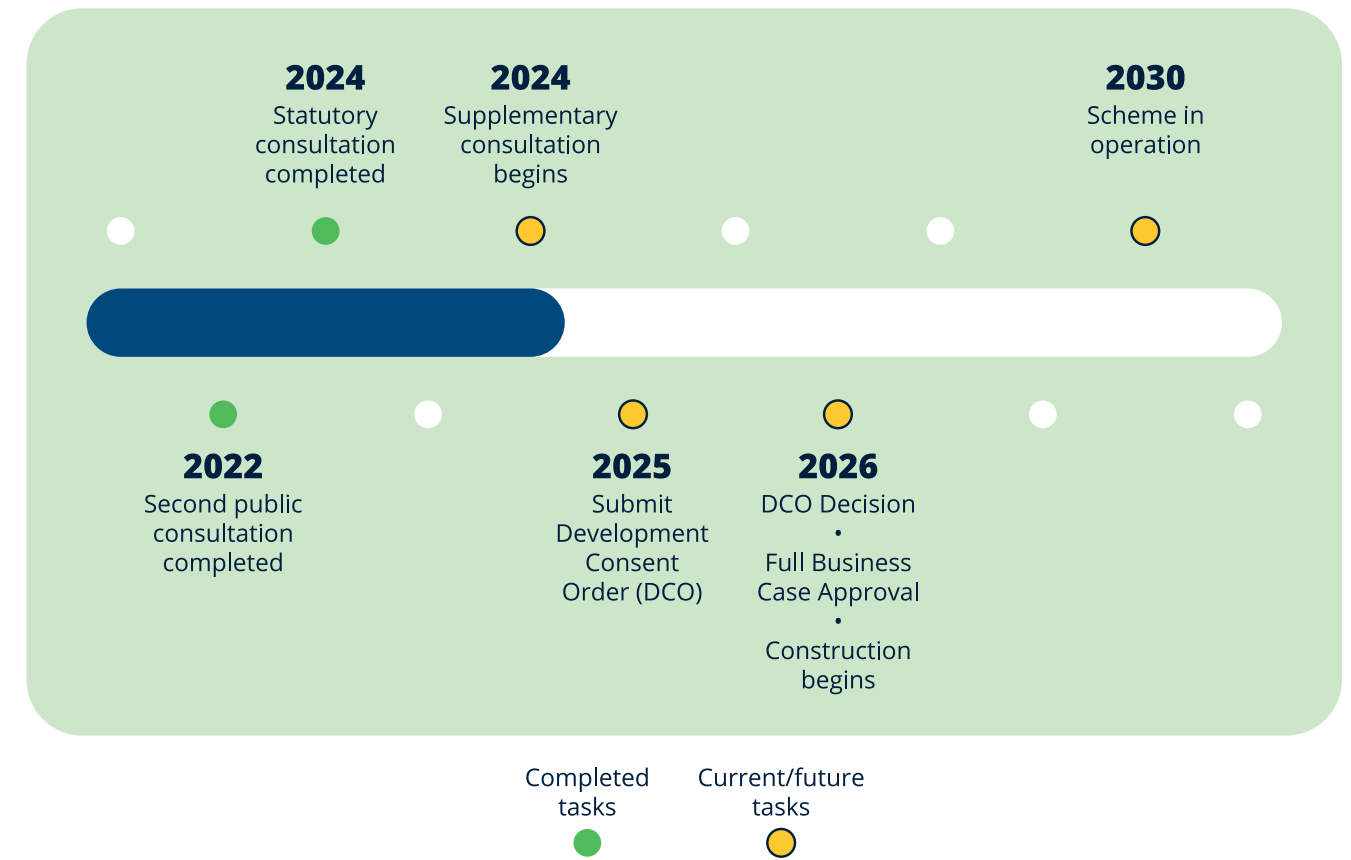
Once our DCO application is submitted and accepted, the examination and decision-making process will take about 18 months. An Examining Authority (a PINS planning inspector, or panel of inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State) will make an initial assessment of the issues raised and hold a preliminary meeting to help decide how best to examine the application.

The Examining Authority will examine the DCO application, with input from interested parties and statutory consultees which will involve both written submissions and hearings. The Examining Authority must complete its examination within six months of the preliminary meeting and provide its recommendation report to the Secretary of State within three months of the end of the examination period.

The Secretary of State will then make the final decision on whether the DCO should be granted within three months of receiving the recommendation report. We will carry on working on the Scheme's detailed design throughout this process and, assuming the DCO application is successful, we expect construction work to begin in 2026.

To help us shape the Scheme in preparation of our DCO application, it is important you get involved now and submit your response to the consultation by 23:59 on Monday 7 October 2024.

FUTURE TIMELINE





Contact

If you would like to contact us outside of your response to this consultation, you can use one of the options below:

Email: enquiries@riverthamescheme.org.uk

Web: www.riverthamescheme.org.uk

Telephone: 03456 009 009

Accessibility

If you would prefer this brochure in large text, a different format or language please contact using the details below and we will do our best to help.

Text (SMS): 07860 053 465

(for the deaf or hard of hearing community)

Textphone (via Relay UK): 18001 03456 009 009

British Sign Language: www.surreycc.gov.uk/bsl

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