River Thames Scheme

Protecting our communities
Securing our economy
Enhancing our Thames

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Chapter 15: Socio-Economics

15 Socio-Economics

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1.1 This chapter of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) considers the effects from construction and operation of the River Thames Scheme (RTS) ('the project') in relation to socio-economics. Within this chapter we have included topic specific sections on:

- Legislation, policy and guidance (noting any changes since Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping);
- Engagement with consultees, including responses to comments received on the RTS EIA Scoping Report;
- The assessment methodology for this topic (again noting any changes or updates since EIA scoping);
- Key environmental considerations and opportunities,
- Primary and tertiary mitigation;
- Our preliminary assessment of effects;
- Secondary mitigation; and
- Future work for this topic of our EIA.

15.1.1.2 For a summary of the key baseline elements associated with socio-economics see Section 5.11.

15.1.1.3 The study area for the assessment of socio-economic effects consists of the project boundary for the EIA PEIR plus a 500 metre buffer combined with the area within the 1 in 100-year floodplain that is expected to experience a change in flood risk as a result of the project. This is the same rationale used to define the study area used for the Socio-Economic chapter of the RTS EIA Scoping Report (Environment Agency and Surrey County Council, October 2022) ('the EIA Scoping Report'). However, the study area is slightly different to that presented in our EIA Scoping Report due to minor changes in the project boundary for EIA PEIR compared to the project boundary for EIA Scoping (see Chapter 3 and Figure 5.24 for further information).

15.1.1.4 This chapter of our PEIR considers the effects from construction and operation of the project on local communities, businesses, recreational facilities and the local economy.

15.1.1.5 The assessment of socio-economic effects overlaps with the following other topics and utilises similar baseline information: Chapter 6: Air Quality, Chapter 10: Flood Risk, Chapter 11: Health, Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity, Chapter 13: Materials and Waste, Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 17: Traffic and Transport and Chapter 18: Water Environment.

15.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

15.2.1.1 A summary of the key legislation, policy and guidance relevant to socio-economics is provided in Appendix M of the EIA Scoping Report. Since the publication of our EIA Scoping Report in October 2022, the National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure (NPS) (Defra, 2023a) has been finalised and was designated in September 2023. No notable changes to the NPS from the draft NPS (published in 2018) have been identified as relevant to this chapter. There has been no other new relevant legislation, policy or guidance published since the submission of the EIA Scoping Report.

15.2.1.2 In the absence of definitive guidance or methodology for assessing socio-economic effects, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 112 Population and Human Health (Highways England, 2020c) provides a steer in relation to some socio-economic receptors.

15.3 Engagement

15.3.1 Responses to EIA Scoping

15.3.1.1 Table 15-1 below summarises the comments and responses received on our EIA Scoping Report following formal submission to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) EIA Scoping Opinion (dated 15 November 2022) ('the PINS Scoping Opinion') and any key comments received from statutory consultees. Full consultee comments on our EIA Scoping Report and our responses to these comments are provided in Appendix 4.1.

Table 15-1: Responses to comments received on the EIA Scoping Report

Consultee or Organisation	Summary of Comment	Project Response
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	PINS did not agree to scope out construction effects associated with the influx of site personnel on community cohesion as not enough evidence was provided. PINS stated that the Environmental Statement (ES) should provide quantitative estimates of the number of construction staff required throughout the construction programme and describe how they would be accommodated. The ES should assess significant effects where they are likely to occur.	The number of site personnel required throughout the construction programme is not known at this time. Therefore this effect will now be scoped in. Further detail on indicative numbers of site personnel required will be provided in the ES and assessed as appropriate.
PINS	PINS agreed that in the absence of direct effects on Common Land, an assessment of such effects may be scoped out. The ES should address the potential for indirect effects to arise, where they are likely to be significant.	Indirect effects such as reduced flood risk to areas of Common Land (including Runnymede Common, Staines Common and Thames Meadow) will be assessed within the wider assessment of the project on socio-economic receptors.
PINS	PINS agreed that on the basis that the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and ES demonstrate that flood risk is reduced in Common Land areas during operation such effects can be scoped out.	No further action is required. As described above, the reduction of flood risk to common land will be assessed within the wider assessment of the project on socio-economic receptors.
PINS	PINS agreed to scope out impacts from transportation and handling of hazardous waste from the major road network to placement at appropriate facilities offsite, on the basis that waste will be handled by a licensed waste carrier and will be disposed of in line with relevant permits.	Noted. No further action required.
PINS	PINS agreed that, considering the nature and potential extent of the impact, that disturbance effects	Noted. No further action required.

Consultee or Organisation	Summary of Comment	Project Response
	from operation of new green open spaces on businesses is not likely to lead to significant effects and can be scoped out.	
PINS	PINS agreed that the permanent effect from the loss of residential land can be scoped out as only a small number of private residential dwellings will need to be acquired. However PINS requested that the ES should quantify and locate the properties to be acquired and describe whether this is to be achieved through agreement or compulsory acquisition.	Details of number and method of acquisition of residential dwellings will be provided in the ES.
PINS	The EIA Scoping Report paragraph 15.5.2.1 states that provision of new road bridges is not likely to be a significant enhancement to the current network. PINS stated that the ES should explain how the provision of new accesses to communities and businesses will affect the operation of the existing road network.	The provision of new road bridges is not likely to be a significant enhancement to the current network as new road bridge locations will reinstate the existing road network over the new channels reducing potential for severance but not enhancing traffic connections. Any existing accesses to local communities or businesses which would be disrupted by the project would be reinstated or reconnected to the existing road network. No new accesses to local communities or businesses are anticipated to be included as part of the project design.
PINS	The EIA Scoping Report states that 17 locations where Non-Motorised Users (NMUs) are either intersected or affected by the Proposed Development have been used for survey counts however, these locations are not identified. The ES should identify the locations of these surveys on a Figure.	An NMU Survey Report, including all details requested, has now been completed and is provided in Appendix 15.2.

Consultee or Organisation	Summary of Comment	Project Response
Local Planning Authority (LPA) Project Group	2011 Census data is cited as being one of the data sources used to inform the socio-economic baseline. The Socio-Economic assessment in the PEIR/ES should ensure that the 2021 Census data is used, if published and available at the time of writing.	Since the publication of the Scoping Report, detailed data from the 2021 Census has been released and this has been used to inform our PEIR and will be used for our ES.
LPA Project Group	Need to ensure that the most up to date baseline data is used in the assessment. For example, Gross Value Added (GVA) data for the year 2016 is reported in the EIA Scoping Report. This is not the latest data available. Similarly, population data is reported from the 2011 Census. Mid- Year Population Estimates (MYPE) published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) or 2021 Census data should be used as the source of population data.	The baseline will be reviewed and updated for the ES using the most up to date data sources available. As noted above the data from the 2021 Census has informed the baseline for our PEIR. While more up to date GVA data is available the proportion of the economy of south east England made up by Surrey remains at 16% as reported in 15.3.1.11 of the EIA Scoping Report.
LPA Project Group	Total resident population is reported. The assessment should also consider the age profile of the population to identify key life stage cohorts in the Study Area's population (for example, children, working age and older persons).	The baseline will be reviewed and updated for the ES and this detail will be added.
LPA Project Group	Figure 15-1 of the EIA Scoping Report identifies the socio-economic receptors. For the PEIR/ES details of the individual receptors should be incorporated (i.e. in table format) and the distance of each individual receptor from the RTS reported. This will enable quantification of the number of places of worship, education establishments etc. that have the potential to be affected.	This would result in a significant dataset (approximately 45,000 residential and 2,500 non-residential receptors within the study area) and therefore we considered that this would not provide a proportionate way of representing the data. Appendix 15.1 does however provide an overview and quantification of different receptor types within the study area.
LPA Project Group	The future population of the Study Area should be reported in the	Further consideration of population projections and associated

Consultee or Organisation	Summary of Comment	Project Response
	future baseline using the ONS Sub-National Population Projections (ONS, 2020).	demographics will be provided within the ES.
LPA Project Group	The future baseline currently presented references different years (mid-2030, 2039 and 2045). The future baseline should be consistent and represent the completion year where possible.	The baseline will be reviewed and updated for the ES. Where possible future baseline years will be consistent and in line with year of completion.

15.3.2 Other Engagement

15.3.2.1 No other formal engagement with stakeholders has taken place in the preparation of this PEIR chapter. Meetings with certain landowners and businesses within the project boundary for EIA PEIR have taken place throughout the period since the publication of the EIA Scoping Report.

15.4 Methodology

15.4.1 Introduction

15.4.1.1 This section should be read in conjunction with Chapter 4 'Approach to the Environmental Assessment' which sets out relevant information on the design parameters and information that has informed our PEIR assessment, and how we have approached various aspects of the assessment including:

- The scope of the assessment;
- The methodology (including the approach to defining the baseline environment, topic study areas, and assessment methodology and criteria);
- The approach to mitigation; and
- The approach to cumulative effects.

15.4.2 Assessment methodology

15.4.2.1 The assessment methodology used for the socio-economic assessment in our PEIR and to be used in our ES is presented in Section 15.7 of our EIA Scoping Report.

15.4.2.2 The preliminary environmental assessment for our PEIR has been informed by desk based research and where appropriate specific site surveys. To date a desk based appraisal of land use has been completed (see Appendix 15.1) and a survey on the use of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) has been carried out (see Appendix 15.2). Further to this a questionnaire survey of lake ownership and use of lakes within the project boundary for EIA PEIR is to be completed, which will inform the socio-economic assessment for our ES.

15.4.2.3 As noted in Table 15-1 the PINS EIA Scoping Opinion included the requirement to scope in the potential effect of an influx of site personnel during construction upon community cohesion and the nature of communities, due to changes in population characteristics. The inclusion of this additional effect within the socio-economic assessment does not alter the methodology detailed within Section 15.7 of our EIA Scoping Report.

15.5 Key Environmental Considerations and Opportunities

15.5.1.1 The key considerations with respect to socio-economics are:

- The study area is dominated by urban development, with large numbers of residential properties, community facilities, businesses, industries and services. The function and operation of these are sensitive to disruption from changes in traffic volumes, air quality, noise and visual amenity;
- Many of the residential and commercial properties in the study area are at risk of flooding and therefore sensitive to activities that may exacerbate this;
- There is an extensive network of PRoW and other recreational facilities (including public open spaces) within the study area, the use of which are sensitive to disruption, closures and/or diversions and access restrictions;
- Businesses providing recreational facilities at lakes within the study area are sensitive to changes in lake processes and water quality which could effect the commercial viability of businesses; and
- Water utility businesses operating within the study area are reliant on the availability of water for surface water and groundwater abstraction. Currently, there is no capacity for additional consumptive licences without restrictions (Environment Agency, 2019a). Water suppliers face significant pressure to meet demands during drought

conditions where water level is low and turbidity of surface water is high.

15.5.1.2 The key opportunities with respect to socio-economics are:

- Reducing flood risk to the local population, including residential properties, businesses, industries and services, and community infrastructure including recreational facilities;
- Creation of jobs and training opportunities associated with construction and operation, and provision of educational and recreational facilities;
- Improving local community access to quality natural spaces through the development of the landscape and green infrastructure design; and
- Facilitation of economic growth as a result of the above mentioned opportunities, along with the regeneration of derelict and brownfield sites and enhanced recreational opportunities (including active travel).

15.6 Primary and Tertiary Mitigation

15.6.1 Primary Mitigation

15.6.1.1 The following primary mitigation is proposed in relation to socio-economic effects. For further detail of these measures see Chapter 2 Project Description.

- Infill of connection between Manor Lake and Fleet Lake to limit nutrient inputs to Manor Lake and altering the water level control structure from St Ann's Lake to Abbey Lake to divert floodwater and limit nutrient inputs. These will mitigate effects on water quality and associated potential effects on the use of lakes for recreation (e.g., angling, boating or open water swimming).
- The provision of the augmented flow of up to 1.0m^3/s along the flood channel (when not being operated with a larger flow during major flooding), aims to avoid nutrient enrichment of existing lakes which thereby limits effects on water quality and the associated potential negative effects on the use of lakes for recreation.
- The potential to manage and adapt the augmented flow during periods of low flow is currently being considered to mitigate for

reductions in the flows within the River Thames that are required for abstraction by water utility companies.

- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are to be designed to manage flood risk through construction and operation of the project to ensure no increase in surface water flooding to socio-economic receptors.
- The Sequential Approach to design reduces flood risk posed to socio-economic receptors from the project as the proposed project components (including construction compounds and materials processing sites) will be appropriately located in the areas of lowest flood risk where feasible, and as the uses of the project components adhere to what is appropriate in the different flood zones based on their National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) vulnerability classification. Chapter 10: Flood Risk provides further information in relation to flood risk tests.
- An integrated landscape design process is being pursued, which aims to sensitively integrate all project components within the existing landscape. This will reduce the potential negative effects from construction of disruption associated with visual amenity, on residential, commercial and community infrastructure, and further enhance the existing recreational infrastructure (PRoW network and public open spaces) within the study area.

15.6.2 Tertiary Mitigation

15.6.2.1 The following tertiary mitigation is proposed in relation to the socio-economic effects assessed within our PEIR. Many of these measures will also serve as mitigation for other environmental effects including air quality; flood risk; materials and waste; noise; traffic; and water in respect of other EIA topics:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan will include engagement with residents, businesses and other members of the public to keep them informed about the proposed construction works (e.g. locations, timing, duration, any impacts on access etc.) to minimise disturbance.
- A Construction PRoW Management Plan will include details of temporary PRoW stopping up and diversion processes, management measures and restoration. This will reduce potential negative effects on land-based recreation from reduced access to the PRoW network and severance of communities.

- Reinstatement of land that is only required temporarily during construction will mitigate effects from the loss of residential and commercial land used for construction compounds, materials processing sites and material storage sites.
- Application of the Waste Hierarchy, which includes reducing the generation of waste, reuse of arisings and treatment of waste to make it suitable for reuse, will reduce the need to transport material and thereby reduce potential negative effects on local communities from disruption, reduced accessibility and/or severance.
- Standard construction practices for air quality and the production of an Air Quality Management Plan (see Chapter 6 Air Quality for details of what these include) will reduce potential negative effects of disruption to residential properties, businesses and community infrastructure caused by the operation of construction compounds, and materials processing and material storage sites.
- Construction Surface Water Management Plan, and Construction flood protocol / Construction Emergency Planning (see Chapter 10 Flood Risk for details of what these include) will seek to manage potential negative effects from construction associated with increasing flood risk and changes in water quality of lakes leading to potential likely significant effects on the use of lakes for recreation (e.g. angling, boating or open water swimming).
- Standard construction practices in respect of waste and materials management, and the production of a Site Waste Management Plan, and Materials Management Strategy (see Chapter 13 Materials and Waste for details of what these include) will reduce potential negative effects of disruption to residential properties, businesses and community infrastructure caused by the operation of construction compounds, and materials processing and material storage sites. The Materials Management Strategy will also ensure that there is a provision of raw materials (sharp sands and gravel) to the wider economy thereby contributing to this positive potential effect.
- Best Practicable Means Noise and Vibration mitigation (see Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration for details of what this includes) will reduce effects of disruption to residential properties, businesses and community infrastructure caused by the operation of construction compounds, and materials processing and material storage sites.
- Construction Traffic Management Plan, Construction Logistics Plan and Construction Travel Plan (see Chapter 17 Traffic and Transport

for details of what these include) will reduce potential negative effects on local communities from disruption, reduced accessibility and/or severance.

- An Operational Travel Plan (see Chapter 17 Traffic and Transport for details of what this includes) aims to proactively manage and influence employee (and visitor) travel to and from facilities being provided at the New Green and Blue Open Spaces, to encourage the use of sustainable travel methods and reduce network disruption locally to these facilities and other public open spaces nearby.
- Standard construction practices for water (see Chapter 18 Water Environment for details of what this includes) will ensure that all waste water produced on site is disposed of appropriately and cannot enter watercourses and that all liquids are appropriately stored to prevent spillage. This will reduce the likelihood of negative effects on water quality of lakes thereby reducing the likelihood of potential negative effects on the use of lakes for recreation (e.g. angling, boating or open water swimming).

15.6.2.2 The details of these tertiary mitigation measures will continue to be developed as the assessment of socio-economic effects is further defined. Where location or receptor specific mitigation is identified this will be captured within the relevant management plans and measures for construction and operation where required and reported within our ES.

15.7 Preliminary Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

15.7.1 Introduction

15.7.1.1 Our PEIR adopts a precautionary approach. Assessments reported within this chapter are a preliminary assessment of potential likely significant environmental effects based on the design parameters set out in Chapter 2: Project Description. This precautionary approach has been taken for the PEIR as there is some information on the project that is currently incomplete and the parameters within Chapter 2 are high level and account for a range of uses and allowance for design development within a boundary that could possibly be refined once this work has been completed. For example, some designs, construction and mitigation details (and therefore also land requirements) or baseline information is still required from further surveys, assessments and/or consultation feedback.

15.7.1.2 In making a determination of likely significant effects, we have considered the sensitivity of receptors (a receptor being a feature of the environment that responds to change) and the potential magnitude (i.e. size) of change caused by the RTS. The methodology for defining sensitivity and magnitude varies by topic and are defined in the topic sections of our Scoping Report and in Section 15.4 of this chapter.

15.7.1.3 We are committed to including mitigation measures as necessary to address likely significant negative environmental effects as far as reasonably practicable. Both primary and tertiary mitigation are considered to form part of the RTS; those applicable to this topic are set out in Section 15.6. Several of these mitigation measures are still being developed, and therefore as a precaution, the preliminary assessment of effects for our PEIR does not assume full achievement of these in considering if a project effect is likely to be significant (Appendix 4.2 identifies the implementation status of primary and tertiary mitigation for the PEIR assessment). Furthermore, the potential likely significant effects reported within our PEIR have been assessed prior to the implementation of secondary mitigation measures, those applicable to this topic are set out in Section 15.7.5. These secondary mitigation measures are the subject of further development; and given they are still being developed, are not able to be applied to develop a 'residual' effects assessment.

15.7.1.4 Our PEIR is based on the latest design and construction parameters and baseline information. As such the findings of the preliminary environmental appraisal presented within our PEIR may be subject to change as the design progresses, as mitigation is further developed or information from further studies becomes available, such as our work to develop an adaptive augmented flow, identify PRoW requiring temporary or permanent diversions or closures and refine measures for management during construction. The final assessment of effects undertaken as part of the EIA and reported within our ES will be based on the latest information available at that time.

15.7.2 Potential Likely Significant Effects

15.7.2.1 Our preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects has identified the following potential likely significant positive effects from construction in relation to socio-economics:

- Temporary positive effect to the economic and social development of the area through the extraction of natural resources (e.g. sharp sands and gravels) which could contribute to the provision of raw materials and employment opportunities to the wider economy.
- Temporary positive effect to local businesses in the study area due to the influx of site personnel.
- Temporary positive effect to the local unemployed, underemployed or under-skilled construction workforce through the generation of employment opportunities and the potential for the project to provide social development through additional skills and training.

15.7.2.2 Our preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects has identified the potential for the following potential likely significant negative effects from construction in relation to socio-economics:

- Temporary negative effects to businesses within the study area due to disruption and reduced accessibility from temporary road closures and diversions associated with the construction of new road bridges.
- Temporary negative effects to pedestrian, cyclist and/or equestrian receptors from reduced accessibility or severance to local communities along routes for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) transporting excavated materials due to an increase in HGV movements along these routes.
- Temporary negative effects to lake-based businesses and recreational facilities with a hydraulic connectivity to the project due to changes in water quality, water level, hydromorphology, flow regime and/or sediment processes which may impact the ability of the business/resource to operate.
- Temporary negative effects to areas close to construction from increased flood risk, particularly in areas where land levels will change for site compounds and material processing and storage sites.
- Temporary negative effect to residential dwellings from loss of land required for construction working areas.
- Temporary negative effects from disturbance (e.g. air quality, noise, visual) to residential amenity within the study area.
- Temporary negative effect from construction to social and community infrastructure, from disturbance (e.g. air quality, noise, visual) including their viability and functionality.

- Temporary negative effects on businesses from loss of land or waterbodies required for construction working areas.
- Temporary negative effects on businesses from construction disturbance (e.g. air quality, noise, visual).
- Temporary negative effects on community cohesion and the nature of communities due to changes in population characteristics from an influx of site personnel, resulting in increased demand for local housing and public services.
- Temporary negative effects on access and use of some land-based recreational facilities (including the Thames Path, national/local cycle network, local PRoW network and public open spaces within the study area) due to the presence of construction working areas, resulting in reduced visibility of resources, severance of communities and/or reduced access to public amenities.
- Temporary negative effects on access and use of water-based recreational facilities (e.g. angling, boating or open water swimming) due to the presence of construction working areas and works within the River Thames and lakes, resulting in reduced visibility of resources, severance of communities and/or reduced access to public amenities.

15.7.2.3 Our preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects has identified the potential for the following likely significant positive effects from operation in relation to socio-economics:

- Permanent positive effect on residential properties, businesses and community infrastructure from reduction in flood risk and associated economic damages, allowing businesses to continue operating and providing improved safety and wellbeing of local communities.
- Permanent positive effect on the local economy from the creation of opportunities for businesses to establish new ventures in and around the potential areas of new green and blue open space and areas of enhanced public connection.
- Permanent positive effect on some existing recreational facilities from the change in access to the local area through the provision of active travel routes, pedestrian and cycle bridges across the River Thames, and upgrades to the Thames Path, the national cycle network, and the local PRoW network.
- Permanent positive effect upon local communities from improved provision of recreational facilities.

15.7.2.4 Our preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects has identified the potential for the following likely significant negative effects from operation in relation to socio-economics:

- Permanent negative effect on the water environment arising from the introduction of River Thames water to previously unconnected lakes, thereby affecting the commercial viability of businesses operating at these and/or their recreational use.
- Permanent negative effect on businesses (such as farming and lake-based businesses) from loss or disturbance of land or waterbodies due to the existence of the flood channel and other project components.
- Permanent negative effect on businesses (such as farming and lake-based businesses) as a result of changes to land drainage due to the existence of the flood channel and other project components.
- Permanent negative effect to water utility businesses from potential changes in the availability of water for surface or groundwater abstraction due to the diversion of water away from the River Thames and potential changes to groundwater levels and groundwater fed lakes.

15.7.2.5 Further details of the potential likely significant effects from construction and operation with respect to receptors, project components and project activities, on socio-economics can be found in Table 1 and 2 in Appendix 15.3.

15.7.3 Potential Likely Non-Significant Effects

15.7.3.1 Further details of the non-significant effects from construction and operation with respect to receptors, project components and project activities, on socio-economics can be found in Table 3 and 4 in Appendix 15.3.

15.7.3.2 Some examples of socio-economic non-significant effects include (this is not an exhaustive list) are as follows:

- Temporary negative effects from construction on access and use of some land-based recreational facilities (including the local PRoW network, public open spaces, and permissive non-designated paths within the study area) due to the presence of construction working areas, resulting in reduced visibility of resources, severance of communities and/or reduced access to public amenities.

- Permanent positive effects on local communities further away from the project from improved provision of recreational facilities during the operational stage.

15.7.4 In-Combination Climate Impact

15.7.4.1 Consideration of 'In-Combination Climate Impact' (ICCI) has been undertaken. The preliminary environmental assessment has considered a future climate scenario and has identified certain potential likely significant environmental effects for this topic which may be exacerbated by predicted climate change. Further consideration of ICCI will be included in the ES.

15.7.5 Secondary Mitigation

15.7.5.1 As noted in Section 15.7.1.3, primary and tertiary mitigation are still being developed, and therefore as a precaution, the preliminary assessment of effects for our PEIR does not assume full achievement of these in considering if a project effect is likely to be significant. Furthermore, the potential likely significant effects reported within our PEIR have been assessed without the implementation of secondary mitigation measures. For the majority of the identified likely significant environmental effects it is considered likely that the primary and tertiary mitigation will be sufficient at ES stage such that no secondary mitigation will be required. Where secondary mitigation is already being considered for potential significant environmental effects, this is detailed below.

15.7.5.2 In order to further reduce the magnitude of likely significant effects, the following secondary mitigation is being considered:

- Water quality monitoring (during construction) will be used to assess if changes to water quality could occur as a result of construction works and therefore if subsequent remedial activities are required to reduce potential likely significant effects on lake based businesses and the use of lakes for recreation. Further action could include (if required) deploying silt traps or other proprietary equipment to filter any detected pollutants.
- Water quality monitoring (operation) will be used to assess if the RTS could affect water quality of lakes connected to the flood channels and therefore if subsequent remedial activities are required to reduce potential likely significant effects on lake based businesses and the

use of lakes for recreation. Further action could include (if required) deploying silt traps or other proprietary equipment to filter any detected pollutants.

15.7.5.3 Once the results of the flood risk assessment (FRA) are known any recommendations necessary to be made to mitigate effects from construction associated with increased flood risk on socio-economic receptors will be determined.

15.7.5.4 Where there is a legal requirement to provide compensation to businesses and landowners due to loss of earnings and/or loss of land (temporary or permanent) this will be undertaken either by upfront agreement or through the compensation measures in the DCO. The use of compensation is not considered to be mitigation for the purposes of EIA, however where potentially required this has been identified in Table 1 and 2 in Appendix 15.3.

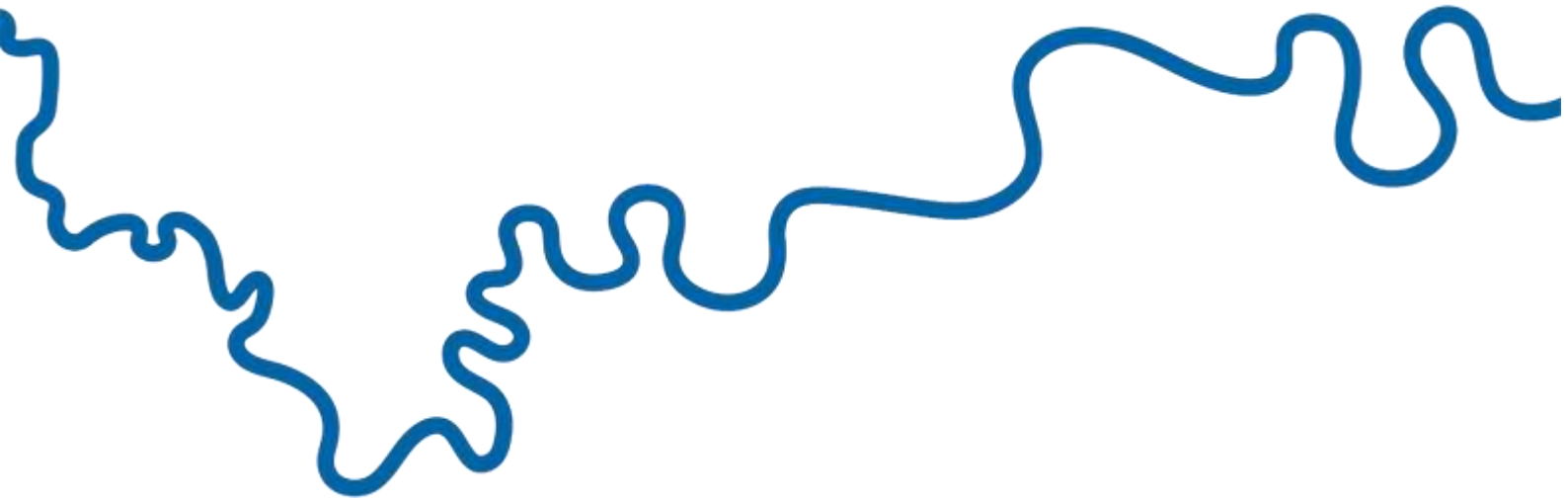
15.8 Further Work for the EIA

15.8.1.1 The detailed assessment of socio-economic effects to inform the ES will be undertaken following the methodology set out in Section 15.7 of our EIA Scoping Report, having been informed by the PINS Scoping Opinion and other consultation feedback on baseline, methodology and effects scoped into the assessment.

15.8.1.2 To further the preliminary assessment presented in our PEIR, the following will be undertaken as part of the detailed socio-economic assessment for our ES:

- Where necessary, identify more specific receptors upon which to assess effects and allow for more targeted mitigation measures.
- Obtain additional information where available to inform the assessment including for example, lake ownership and usage, agricultural land quality and community feedback obtained through consultation events.
- Update the baseline set out in our EIA Scoping Report where there is more updated information available.
- Continued interaction with assessments on Air Quality, Flood Risk, Health, Landscape and Visual Amenity, Materials and Waste, Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Transport, and Water Environment.

15.8.1.3 We consider that the further development of the project design and mitigation measures which will be reflected in the ES and DCO application, will enable a reduction in the scale of identified negative likely significant effects set out in this chapter.



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Environment Agency

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.

River Thames
Scheme