



The River Thames Scheme

Booklet 1



Easy
Read

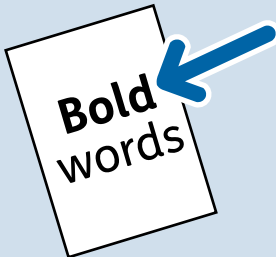
Easy Read



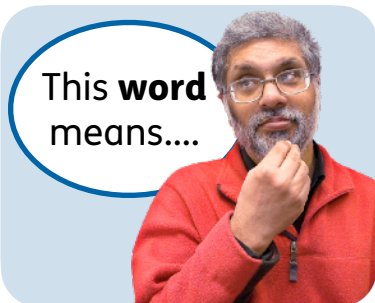
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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.

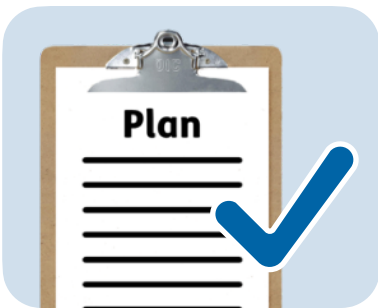
What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
About the River Thames.....	5
About the River Thames Scheme.....	6
Getting permission for the River Thames Scheme	12
What you should do next.....	15

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 first booklet. It is an introduction to the River Thames Scheme.

About the River Thames



The River Thames is used by:

- People who live near to it.



- Tourists - these are people who have come to visit the River Thames and the areas around it.



- Businesses.



People use the River Thames for lots of different things, like exercising or sailing.

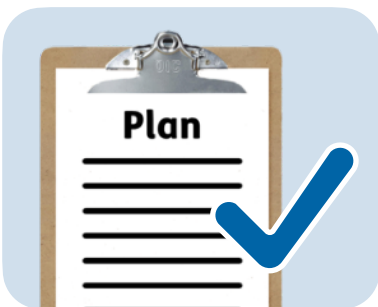
About the River Thames Scheme



We think the River Thames can be improved so that more people can use and enjoy it.



We have been preparing the River Thames Scheme plan for over 10 years.



The Scheme is our plan to improve the part of the River Thames between Egham and Teddington.



We are working with other local councils to plan the Scheme and make sure our ideas happen.

What we want to do

Our goals are to:

1. Reduce the damage that is done when the River Thames floods



The River Thames often floods. When it floods, it does a lot of damage to homes, businesses and services.



We want to make sure that:

- The River Thames does not flood as often.



- If the River Thames does flood, it does less damage than it does now.

2. Help more people enjoy and use the River Thames



We want to provide more **green spaces** along the River Thames.



Green spaces are areas of land that have more grass and plants than pavement and buildings.



People can use these green spaces for exercising and meeting with others.



We also want to improve travel around the River Thames so that more people can use and enjoy it.



This includes improving travel along the river, travel across the river and travel to the river.

3. Protect wildlife



Wildlife includes plants, animals that live on land, and fish.



There is lots of wildlife that lives in and around the River Thames.



We want to make sure this wildlife is protected and kept safe.

4. Make and save money



We want the River Thames to make money for the local areas around it.



We want to save money by reducing the damage that is done when the River Thames floods.

5. Slow down climate change



Climate change is all about big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be, or having less rain in some places.



Climate change is bad for our environment.



We want to help slow down climate change by making good decisions for our environment.

Getting permission for the River Thames Scheme



Permission is when you ask the right person if you are allowed to do something.



We need to ask the Government for permission to improve the River Thames.



We will send a copy of the River Thames Scheme to the Government.



The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will decide if the River Thames Scheme is a good idea.

What is happening now



At the moment we are preparing the River Thames Scheme to send it to the Government.



Before we send the Scheme, we want to know what people think about it.



In 2022, we asked what people thought of the first copy of the Scheme.



After reading everyone's feedback we made some changes.



We now want to know what people think of the new copy of the Scheme.



Your feedback is important to us. We will use it to make more changes if we need to.



We will write a report about the feedback we get.



There is more information about how to tell us what you think in Booklet 4.

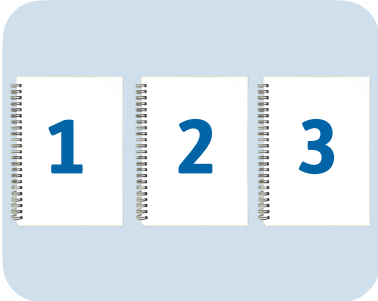
What you should do next



Thank you for reading Booklet 1.



You should now read Booklet 2.



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

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