



The River Thames Scheme

Booklet 2



**Easy
Read**

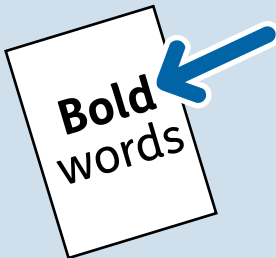
Easy Read



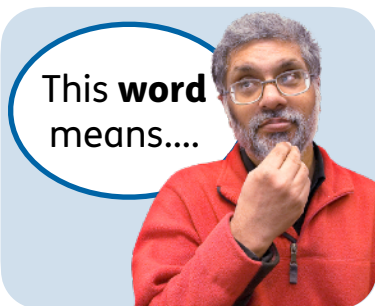
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



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

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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 second booklet. It will explain the River Thames Scheme and the plans we have.

Preparing the River Thames Scheme

What has changed?



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



After reading everyone's feedback we made some changes.

Since 2022 we have:



- Improved our plans for travelling along the river at Sheepwalk.



- Done more work to understand the way water moves through the River Thames.

Since 2022 we have also:



- Carried on improving our ideas for **green spaces**.

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



- Come up with ideas for new areas for **wildlife** to live in.

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



- Spoken to people who own land along the River Thames about how the River Thames Scheme would affect them.



- Looked at what type of ground there is along the River Thames - this will help us work out how to build on the ground.

Green spaces



As part of the River Thames Scheme, we are looking at making and improving green spaces along the River Thames in Surrey.

We want:



- Big green spaces with grass along the River Thames.



- Green spaces for sports and exercise along the River Thames.



- Paths for people who are walking or cycling along the River Thames.



- Areas for wildlife to live and be protected along the River Thames.

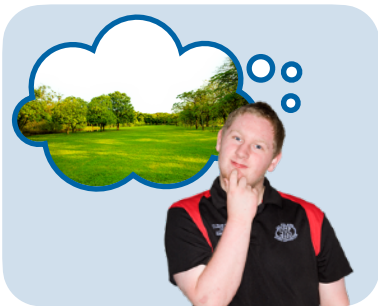


We spoke to different organisations to decide what our plans for green spaces should focus on.



We decided our plans should focus on helping people travel along the River Thames.

What do you think about green spaces?



We would like to know what you think about green spaces along the River Thames.

In particular, we want to know:



- What you think green spaces should be used for.



- What you think green spaces should look like.



We also want to know what you think green spaces should have, like public toilets and sports pitches.



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

The River Thames Scheme and our plans

The goals of the Scheme are to:



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



2. Help more people enjoy and use the River Thames.



3. Protect wildlife in and around the River Thames.



4. Make sure the River Thames makes and saves money.

Runnymede and Spelthorne Channel Sections

We plan to make 2 new rivers coming off of the River Thames. They will be called:



- The Runnymede Channel Section.
- The Spelthorne Channel Section.



This will help to make sure the water in the River Thames does not get too high and then flood.



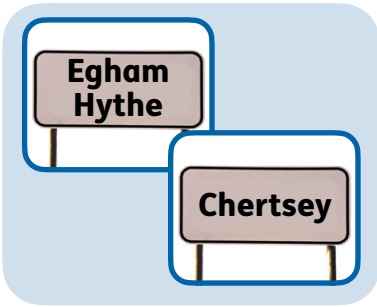
The 2 new rivers will join with the River Thames again at their end.



We will control how much water from the River Thames goes into the Runnymede Channel Section and the Spelthorne Channel Section.



We will do this by using gates that let water through and stop water.



The Runnymede Channel Section will start in Egham Hythe and end in Chertsey.

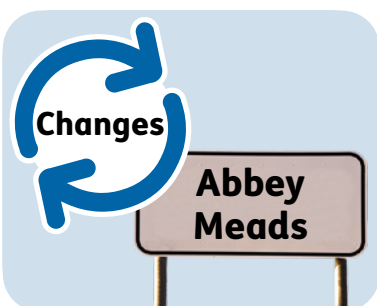


Along the Runnymede Channel Section there will be:

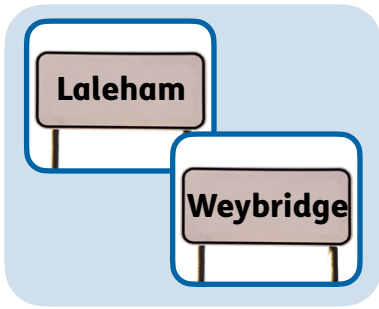
- A new green space called Royal Hythe.



- A new woodland area in Norlands Lane.



- Changes to the Abbey Meads area that will control flooding.



The Spelthorne Channel Section will start in Laleham and end in Weybridge.

Along the Spelthorne Channel Section there will be:



- A new area for wildlife near the Shepperton Industrial Estate.



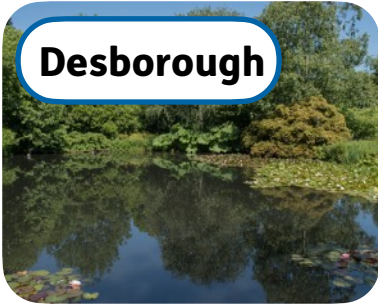
- Changes to the Manor Farm green space.



- A new green space called Sheepwalk.



- New areas for wildlife around Chertsey Road.



There will also be a new water area for wildlife at Desborough Island.



We are also thinking about having a new water space at Penton Park.



When we build the Runnymede Channel Section and the Spelthorne Channel Section, we will make sure we are not damaging any land.

Ferris Meadow Lake



When we first started preparing the River Thames Scheme, we planned for the Spelthorne Channel Section to go through Ferris Meadow Lake.



But since then, people have started using Ferris Meadow Lake for swimming.



We need to make sure that our plans do not make it dangerous for people to swim at Ferris Meadow Lake.



This means we may have to make some changes to the Spelthorne Channel Section.

We have come up with 6 different changes we could make:



1. Our plans stay the same and the Spelthorne Channel Section goes through Ferris Meadow Lake.



2. Make a new small river that will take water out of Ferris Meadow Lake if the water gets too high.



3. Change the direction of the Spelthorne Channel Section so that it goes into the River Thames rather than through Ferris Meadow Lake.



4. Split the Spelthorne Channel Section into 2 small rivers when it gets to Ferris Meadow Lake.
1 will go through the west side of the Lake, and 1 will not go through the Lake.



5. Make a tunnel under Ferris Meadow Lake that will take water out if the water gets too high.



6. Keep Ferris Meadow Lake the same but take more water out of it with a new smaller river.



We are going to look at which of these changes will be best.

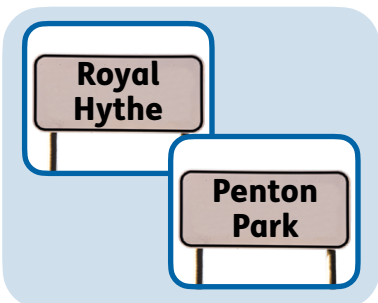
Active travel path



Active travel is any kind of travel that involves us moving our bodies. It includes walking, cycling and using a wheelchair.



We plan to make a 5 and a half mile long path for active travel along the River Thames.



The active travel path will start at the green space in Royal Hythe and end at Penton Park.

The active travel path will:



- Be split into 2 sides. 1 side for walkers and 1 side for cyclists.



- Be easy for everyone to use.



- Be close to lots of local areas where not many people own cars.



- Connect local areas to other local areas.



- Include 2 new bridges that go across the River Thames.



The active travel path will also:

- Help more people enjoy the River Thames.



- Be safe for everyone to use.

Areas for wildlife



We plan to create new areas for wildlife to live in. They will often be close to where wildlife already lives.



We will also improve some of the areas where wildlife already lives.



When we make decisions about the River Thames, we will think about how the changes might affect wildlife.

Reducing flooding



We plan to make changes to the River Thames that will stop flooding from happening.

These changes include:



- Making the river deeper, so that it can hold more water without flooding.



- Adding new **weirs** and gates along the river.

A **weir** is like a type of barrier. Weirs and gates control how much water in the river is allowed through into the rest of the river.



- Improving weirs that already exist along the river.

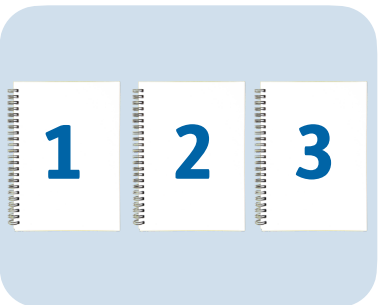
What you should do next



Thank you for reading Booklet 2.



You should now read Booklet 3.



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

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