



# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

## **Volume 2**

Chapter 24: Glossary

## 24 Glossary

Term	Definition
Acidification	The process of making something become more acidic.
Active travel	Physically active methods of travel such as walking, running or cycling.
Active travel route	A publicly accessible route used for recreation and commuting. In the context of RTS, the proposed active travel route will connect with the existing Public Right of Way (PRoW) network and public open spaces, along with the new green and blue open spaces.
Aggregate	A broad category of coarse to medium grained material such as sand, gravel and crushed rock, which is often used in the construction industry.
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	A series of six grades classifying soil in terms of its suitability for agriculture, from 1 (excellent quality) to 5 (very poor quality).
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Area defined by the local authority as an area requiring management because air quality levels do not meet national air quality objectives.
Air Quality Management Plan	A comprehensive document describing the motivations for air quality management, qualitative and quantitative findings on the impacts of air pollution on the megacity, and most importantly, targeted actions and a path forward for mitigating sources of air pollution.
Air Quality Objectives (AQO)	Non-statutory limits on the acceptable presence of contaminants in the atmosphere, established to protect human health and the environment.
Air Quality Standards (AQS)	Concentrations recorded over a given time period, which are considered to be acceptable in terms of what is scientifically known about the effects of each pollutant on health and the environment.
Ait	A small island in a river.

Term	Definition
Ancient Woodland	Land continuously wooded since 1600 in England and Wales.
Appropriate Assessment	The second stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process which must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) by a competent authority (in the case of the RTS, this will be the Secretary of State) when the potential for likely significant effects on a European designated nature conservation site (e.g. Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site) from a plan or project cannot be excluded in view of the site's conservation objectives (which is the first stage of the HRA process). If this is necessary, the application for the DCO will include a Statement to inform the Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken by the Secretary of State setting out the project's views on the matter.
Aquifer	An underground layer of rock with water storage capability.
Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP)	Areas where archaeological artefacts and remains are likely to survive.
Areas of enhanced public connection	Designated areas where new or improved active travel provisions, for pedestrians and cyclists, are proposed. These areas, situated across the flood channel corridor and new green open spaces, are designed to connect with the existing network.
Augmented flow	A small flow required in non-flood conditions to facilitate fish passage at flow and water control structures in the new flood channel.
Authorised landfill	Sites that are currently authorised by the Environment Agency under Environmental Permitting Regulations to receive waste from local authorities.
Background rates	Ambient levels of pollutants not associated with any of the sources explicitly included in the air quality modelling analysis.

Term	Definition
Backwater	A part of a river in which there is little or no current.
Baseline	A description of the present state, used as a starting point for making comparisons, for example in relation to the assessment of environmental or economic impacts.
Bathymetric Survey	A type of hydrographic (water-based) survey that maps the depths and shapes of underwater terrain to illustrate the land that lies below.
Bed lowering	A technique which excavates the river bed in a localised area. Because it works to a greater depth than dredging, which only removes silt material from the riverbed, it is a longer term solution that requires less regular maintenance.
Benthic Invertebrates	Organisms that live on the bottom of a water body (or in the sediment) and have no backbone. They range in size from microscopic (for example microinvertebrates <10 microns) to a few tens of centimetres or more in length (for example macroinvertebrates, >50 centimetres).
Best Practicable Means	Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines Best Practicable Means as: ‘Practicable’ means reasonably practicable in terms of local conditions/circumstances, the current state of technical knowledge, and financial implications. ‘Means’ refers to the ‘design, installation, maintenance and manner and periods of operation of plant and machinery, and the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and structures’.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet (Biodiversity 2020 Strategy).
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	An approach to development and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. It delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with

Term	Definition
	development. It can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of on/off-site measures.
Biosecurity	Procedures or measures designed to protect the population against harmful biological or biochemical substances.
Birds Directive	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of the original Council Directive 79/409/EEC). The directive requires all Member States to protect all wild bird species and protect and restore their habitats. For threatened bird species, Member States must classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive as well as for other migratory birds.
Carbon Management Plan	Defines baseline carbon emissions, targets to reduce emissions and details of mitigation measures.
Catchment	A surface water catchment is the total area that drains into a river. A groundwater catchment is the total area that supplies the groundwater part of the river flow.
Climate Adaptation Plan	A plan setting out a measure to mitigate against the effects of climate change.
Climate change	A change in the state of the global climate, which can be identified by changes in average climate characteristics (e.g. temperature, precipitation, and wind speed) that persist for extended periods - typically decades or longer.
Climate change adaptation	In the context of this PEIR assessment of effects, climate change adaptation refers to extent to which the project can adapt to the effects from projected future climate change on the project.
Climate change mitigation	The extent to which the project can avoid and reduce emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Term	Definition
Cofferdam	A temporary enclosure built within water-filled ground or a body of water to regulate the in-flow and out-flow of water. Typically used to allow works to take place below the normal water level.
Compensation	Where mitigation is not possible or appropriate, compensation is the creation of new (or improvement of existing) features (or a monetary payment) of at least equivalent (often better) value than those lost when considering the impact of the scheme on particular aspects of the environment, economy or society.
Conceptual Site Model (CSM)	The underpinning element of the contaminated land risk assessment process. The conceptual site model identifies the different type of risk and categorises the sources of contamination; potential receptors; and the identification of potential contamination pathways, thus determining and assessing pollutant pathway linkages.
Conservation Area (CA)	An area defined under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as being of “special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.
Construction	Any activity involved with the provision of a new structure (or structures), its modification or refurbishment. A structure may include a residential dwelling, office building, embankment, road, etc.
Construction Logistics Plan	The Construction Logistics Plan focuses specifically on construction supply chains and how their impact on the road network can be reduced. The construction supply chain covers all movements of goods, waste and servicing activity to and from site.
Construction Surface Water Management Plan	A plan to ensure that surface water quality and quantity is managed throughout the construction process to mitigate impacts off site.
Construction Traffic Management Plan	A document that outlines the steps that a project needs to follow to manage the flow of traffic around a construction site safely.

Term	Definition
Conveyance	The action or process of transporting or carrying something from one place to another. In the context of the RTS, this primarily relates to the carrying of water along the flood relief channel.
Critical Loads	A quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge.
Cumulative effects	The result of multiple activities whose individual direct impacts may be relatively minor but in combination with others, may result in significant environmental effects. Cumulative effects can either be inter-project or intra-project, see definition for these terms below.
Decarbonisation	The removal or reduction of carbon emissions output into the atmosphere.
Decommissioning	To officially stop using / to remove from service a structure.
Demolition	Any activity involved with the removal of an existing structure (or structures). This may also be referred to as de-construction, specifically when a building is to be removed a small part at a time.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	The Government department responsible for improving and protecting the environment in England. This includes flood management, biodiversity and green infrastructure policy in England.
Deposit for Recovery	Managed under the Environmental Permitting Regulations, deposit for recovery is the use of waste on land that substitutes the use of non-wastes to perform the same function.
Deposition (air quality)	Compounds of various types of air pollution are deposited on the earth's surface through rain, clouds, snow, fog, or as dry particles.
Desk Study	A desk study collates, analyses and presents existing published data from various sources on a subject to inform baseline assessments and identify the need for

Term	Definition
	further assessment and / or survey. The desk study may involve a simple site walkover survey to confirm and enhance the findings of the research exercise.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	The form of consent that is granted under the Planning Act 2008 for NSIPs and projects of national significance brought into the regime by a Section 35 Direction. Application for a DCO is made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) who will consider the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS), who will decide on whether development consent should be granted for the proposed scheme.
Dewatering	The removal of groundwater and/or surface water from a site.
Diffusion Tubes	Diffusion tubes are indicative air quality samplers: they consist of small plastic tubes containing a chemical reagent to absorb the pollutant to be measured directly from the air.
Direct effects	Effects that arise from the impact of activities that form an integral part of the project (e.g. new infrastructure).
Disamenity	The government Planning Portal does not define disamenity, but its literal meaning would be “impaired amenity” and from its definition of amenity could be considered to be a negative element or elements that detract from the overall character or enjoyment of an area.
Disposal	Under Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, any operation to remove waste which is not recovery even where the operation has a secondary consequence such as the reclamation or substances or energy.
Dust Soiling	The effect of deposited dust upon surfaces, which can lead to annoyance.
Earthworks	The removal or placement of soils and rocks such as in cuttings, embankments and environmental mitigation, including the in-situ improvement of soils/ rocks to achieve the desired properties. This also covers the



Term	Definition
	processes of soil-stripping, ground-levelling, excavation and landscaping.
Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)	An assessment of the potential effects of a proposed development on species, habitats and statutory and non-statutory designated sites that are of local, national and/or international importance.
Economic Appraisal	A systematic process for examining alternative uses of resources, focusing on assessment of needs, objectives, options, costs, benefits, risks, funding, affordability and other factors relevant to decisions.
Effects from construction	Both positive and negative consequences for receptors from the construction of the project.
Effects from operation	Both positive and negative consequences for receptors from the operation of the project when the development is fully built.
EIA Scoping	The process of deciding the scope or level of detail of an EIA and reported in a Scoping Report. During this stage the key environmental issues (likely significant effects) of a project are identified so that the rest of the process can focus on these issues. Issues may result from the proposal itself or from sensitivities of the site.
EIA Scoping Opinion	Statutory opinion from the competent authority (in this case PINS) as to the effects that should be reported in the Environmental Statement.
Embankment	A wall or bank of earth or stone built to prevent a river flooding an area.
Enabling Works	Preparations to make a site ready for construction or redevelopment.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An assessment process applied to development proposals that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. EIA provides a mechanism by which the interaction of environmental effects resulting from development can be predicted, allowing them to be avoided or reduced through the development of mitigation measures.

Term	Definition
Environmental Statement (ES)	The document produced to describe the environmental impact assessment process and results where statutory EIA is required.
Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)	An evidence-based approach designed to help organisations ensure that their policies, projects and decision-making processes are fair and do not present barriers to participation, disadvantage individuals or prejudice the interests of groups with protected characteristics when compared to others.
Equestrian	Relating to horse riding.
European Sites	Within the UK, this term refers to the network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within UK territory. Before the UK left the European Union these sites were part of the European Union 'Natura 2000' network of protected areas. Since leaving the EU these form part of a network of protected sites across the UK known as the 'UK national site network' (NSN).
Eutrophication	Excessive plant and algal growth due to the increased availability of one or more limiting growth factors needed for photosynthesis.
Fish Passage	A structure on or around artificial and natural barriers to facilitate fish movements up and downstream.
Flood Channel	A section of engineered channel designed to alleviate flood waters within the River Thames.
Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	A document that reviews a development project proposal and assesses the flood risk implications of the proposed project risk on all sources of flooding including from groundwater, river (fluvial), tidal surface water (pluvial), estuary/coastal (tidal), or sewers or artificial sources (e.g., canals and reservoirs) during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project. The document will demonstrate how flood risk will be managed now and over the development's lifetime.

Term	Definition
Flood Zones	A guidance tool, produced by the Environment Agency, to demonstrate the probability of river and sea flooding in areas across England.
Flooding	Refers to inundation by water whether this is caused by breaches, overtopping of banks or defences, or by inadequate or slow drainage of rainfall or underlying ground water levels.
Floodway	A flood plain crossing for a road, built at or close to the natural ground level.
Flow Control Structures (FCS)	Devices that will alter the flow of water in the flood channel.
Fluvial	A term that relates to river and streams and the processes that occur within them.
Fluvial flood risk	Risk of the water level in rivers, lakes and streams overflowing and flooding the surrounding area.
Fugitive Dust	Fugitive emissions are those which are not collected and released under controlled physical conditions, e.g. emitted from a stack. On a construction site, dust emissions occur as a result of many site activities and are typically fugitive.
Future baseline	The likely evolution of the baseline environment without implementation of and prior to implementation of the project. Future baseline may differ from the existing baseline as a result of changes to relevant local plans or policies, development that become operational before an assumed construction start date for the project, new legal obligations that may drive change or wider changes to the environment, such as changes in population or climate change.
Geoarchaeology	The application of earth science principles and techniques to the understanding of the archaeological record.
Geochemically	Relating to the chemical composition of the earth and its rocks and minerals.

Term	Definition
Geomorphology	The study of landforms, their processes, form and sediments at the surface of the Earth, includes how processes such as air and water can mould the landscape.
Geotechnically	Relating to practical applications of geological science in civil engineering.
Green and Blue Infrastructure	Green infrastructure includes connected networks of green space, such as parks, open space and woodlands. Blue infrastructure includes ponds, lakes, rivers and streams.
Green belt	A designation for land around some cities and large built-up areas, which aim to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped.
Groundwater	Water contained in the void spaces in pervious rocks and also within soil.
Habitat	A place where an organism lives; a type of environment inhabited by a particular species and/or communities; often characterised by dominant plant forms, physical characters, or a combination of these.
Habitats Directive	EC Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. The Habitats Directive requires all Member States to establish a strict protection regime for species listed in Annex IV to the directive (European Protected Species). The Directive also requires that Member States designate, protect and manage core areas for habitat types listed in Annex I and species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation). The resultant network of sites is the 'Natura 2000 network'. The Directive also establishes that Special Protection Areas form part of the Natura 2000 network and are therefore protected in the same way as Special Areas of Conservation.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	The process for assessing the potential impacts of a plan or project on a European Site. The process has three stages:

Term	Definition
	<p>1. Screening - to check if the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the site in view of its conservation objectives (test of Likely Significant Effect; LSE). If there is no LSE then there is no need to go through any further stages</p> <p>2. Appropriate assessment - to assess the likely significant effects of the proposal in more detail, to identify ways to avoid or minimise any effects, and to determine whether the proposal will have an Adverse Effect on the Integrity (AEoI) on a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.</p> <p>3. Derogation - to consider if proposals that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site qualify for an exemption. This comprises three tests: alternative options; whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest why the proposal should go ahead; secure compensatory measures.</p>
Habitats Regulations	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), SI 2017/1012. These Regulations implement the requirements of the Habitats Directive in England and Wales.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations were amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Most changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. The Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) still require the Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. The requirements for the protection of sites or species were not changed.</p>
Hard engineering	<p>Building artificial structures which try to control natural processes. In the case of RTS, concrete flood channels to reduce erosion to banks.</p>
Haul roads	<p>Temporary roads provided within the project boundary to allow for the movement of construction materials, construction machinery and/or construction labour around the site.</p>

Term	Definition
Hazard	A property (of a substance) or situation with the potential to cause harm.
Hazardous waste	Waste which displays one or more hazardous properties as outlined within the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation 1272/2008.
Health Impact Assessment (HIA)	A tool that helps to identify significant effects on health and wellbeing and necessary mitigation measures to make a development acceptable in planning terms.
Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV)	A commercial carrier vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of more than 3.5 tonnes.
Hectare (ha)	A metric unit of measurement, equal to 2.471 acres or 10,000 square metres.
Historic England (HE)	Government statutory advisor on the historic environment, funded by the government.
Historic landfill	Sites where records exist of waste being received and buried that are now closed or covered.
Hydrogeology	Branch of geology concerned with water within the earth's crust.
Hydrology	The study of water and its dynamics.
Hydromorphology	The physical characteristics of the shape, boundaries and content of a water body.
In-Combination Climate Impact (ICCI)	The ICCI assesses a future climate scenario and determines if that has the potential to exacerbates an effect on an environmental receptor already assessed in another topic.
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Measure of relative deprivation in England. It is based on seven distinct domains of deprivation; income, employment, health, deprivation and disability, education and skills training, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. These are combined and weighted to form the overall index.
Indirect effects	Effects that arise from the impact of activities not explicitly forming part of the project (e.g. temporary road

Term	Definition
	closures and diversions leading to disruption and reduced accessibility to businesses).
Integrated landscape design process	Integrated landscape design process serves to sensitively integrate all project activities within the existing landscape, with attention to material finishes, form of raised earthworks and green infrastructure planting including screening of elements.
Inter- and intra- project effects	<p>Inter-project effects: occur as a result of the likely impacts of the proposed development (i.e. the RTS) interacting with the impacts of other developments in the vicinity; and</p> <p>Intra-project effects: occur between different environmental topics within the same proposal (i.e. within the RTS), as a result of that development's direct effects.</p>
Interested Party	Individuals or organisations who may participate in the examination of the DCO application for RTS and will receive formal notifications as the Examination progresses. Some people and organisations are automatically Interested Parties and don't need to register to become an Interested Party. Other people and organisations must register to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate.
Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	Under Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, species for which it is a criminal offence in England and Wales to plant or cause to grow in the wild due to their impact on native wildlife.
Landscape Character Area	Distinct and recognisable pattern of elements, or characteristics in the landscape that make one landscape different to another.
Leachate	Leachate is formed when rainwater is contaminated as it passes through landfill wastes or polluted ground. It may contain high levels of organic or inorganic pollutants such as ammonia and heavy metals.
Left / right bank	The descriptive terms 'left bank' and 'right bank'

Term	Definition
	are relative to an observer looking downstream, in which the right bank is to the observer's right and the left bank is to their left.
Listed Building	Buildings (including any object or structure fixed to the building and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st July 1948) with special architectural and historic interest that have been listed for protection by Historic England. This is protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Nature reserves designated under the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949 for locally important wildlife or geological features. They are controlled by local authorities in liaison with Natural England.
Local Planning Authority (LPA) Project Group	A group of planning officers representing Runnymede, Spelthorne and Elmbridge Borough Councils and Surrey County Council who the project is engaging with in a regulatory capacity.
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Wildlife-rich sites selected for their local nature conservation value. They vary in shape and size and can contain important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species. Their designation is non-statutory and their protection comes via the planning system.
Lower Thames Flood Risk Management Strategy	A plan that proposes measures to reduce the risk of flooding to the 15,000 properties which are currently at risk from a 1% flood event in the area from Datchet to Teddington.
Macrophytes	Aquatic plants that grow in or near water which are either emergent, submergent or floating.
Made ground (outside of landfill)	Heterogenous soil or rock composed of naturally occurring and human made materials that has been deposited by human activity.
Made ground (reworked natural)	Natural soil or rock that has been physically disturbed by human activity and redeposited.



Term	Definition
Main River	A watercourse designated by Defra. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out flood defence works, maintenance and operational activities on main rivers. It is intended that the RTS flood channel (including the lakes that form part of it) will be a Main River.
Marginal vegetation	Plants growing along the base of the bank of a watercourse. Marginal vegetation can provide valuable habitat for wildlife and erosion protection for the bank.
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	An executive non-departmental public body established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 with responsibilities including marine licensing and working with Natural England and others to manage a network of marine protected areas (marine conservation zones and European marine sites).
Materials Management Plan (MMP)	A plan to ensure compliance with Environment Agency regulations for excavated ground material by those developing a site. It should consider protection of human health and environment, suitability for material with or without treatment, how much material is used and where the material is being used.
Material Management Strategy (MMS)	Details efficient management proposals for processing, recovery, or re-use of materials and waste generated by the project, reducing the need to import materials from off-site, and minimise the volume of unsuitable materials requiring off-site disposal. A mechanism by which those who are developing a site can comply with Environment Agency regulations for excavated ground materials.
Metropolitan Open Land	Metropolitan Open Land is specific to London, and can be applied to open space that contributes to the structure of the city, provides open air facilities for sport and recreation, contains features of historic or biodiversity value, and/or forms part of the green infrastructure network.
Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs)	Generated automatically by zone-design software using census data from groups of LSOAs. They have a

Term	Definition
	minimum size of 5,000 residents and 2,000 households with an average population size of 7,800. They fit within local authority boundaries.
Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA)	An area designated by the Minerals Planning Authorities which covers known deposits of minerals which are desired to be kept safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development.
Mitigation hierarchy	This is an approach to applying mitigation measures (see 'Mitigation measures' below) that follows three main steps. The first step seeks to avoid significant effects (e.g. by avoiding works in sensitive sites). Where this is not achievable, then impacts will be minimised (e.g. by only undertaking essential works in sensitive sites). Any unavoidable impacts are then mitigated (e.g. measures applied on site) or compensated for (e.g. improvement measures applied elsewhere).
Mitigation measures	Actions that are taken to minimise or prevent negative effects of the project.
Mobile compounds	Compounds required for small scale works, consisting of welfare vans and/or single cabins or mobile pontoon for works within the river. Mobile compounds can move alongside as works progress.
National Character Areas (NCAs)	Areas of England defined by their unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural, and economic activity.
National Highways	National Highways, formerly Highways England is a government owned company which plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains England's motorways and major A roads, known as the strategic road network.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were established to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research.

Term	Definition
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	A national policy framework which sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are large projects consented by way of a Development Consent Order (DCO). Usually involving energy, transport, water or waste these projects are automatically within the Planning Act 2008 regime.
Natural Capital Assessment	The process of valuing impacts and dependencies upon natural capital (the world's stock of natural resources, such as geology, water, soils, air, fauna and flora) in order to better integrate natural capital into decision-making and so improve natural capital management.
Natural England	Natural England is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Their purpose is to protect and improve England's natural environment and encourage people to enjoy and get involved in their surroundings. Their aim is to create a better natural environment that covers all of our urban, country and coastal landscapes, along with all of the animals, plants and other organisms that live with us.
Natural ground	Soil or rock deposited by natural geological processes and not previously excavated or disturbed by human activities.
Nature Recovery	Restoring, enhancing, and protecting natural habitats, their plant and animal communities and biodiversity.
Negative effects	Effects that have an adverse influence on receptors or resources.
New green / blue open space	New areas of recreational value for the public that are either land-based (green) or water-based (blue).
Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM)	Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) is a broad category which includes mobile machines, and transportable industrial equipment or vehicles which are fitted with an internal combustion engine and not

Term	Definition
	intended for transporting goods or passengers on roads e.g. generators.
Operational Travel Plan	A long term operational management strategy which encourages sustainable travel for new and existing developments.
Optioneering	The consideration of various alternatives and options to find the best or preferred alternative or option.
Ordinary Watercourse	A watercourse not designated as Main River. The local authority or Internal Drainage Board has permissive powers to maintain them.
Palaeochannel	Remnant of an inactive river or stream that has been filled/buried by younger sediment.
Palaeoenvironmental	An environment at a period in the geological past.
Permanent effects	Due to the subjectivity of human receptors to timeframes, those effects that continue for greater than 10 years following construction can be defined as permanent.
Piling	Pilings are wooden, concrete, or metal posts which are pushed into the ground to help form the foundations on which structures are built.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The national authority that deals with planning appeals, nationally significant infrastructure project applications, projects of national significance applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England.
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate matter 2.5-10 micrometres in diameter.
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Particulate matter 2.5 micrometres or smaller in diameter.
Positive effects	Effects that have a beneficial influence on receptors and resources.
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)	Assessment of the ecological features present or potentially present within a study area, to identify ecological constraints to a development.

Term	Definition
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report which is prepared to inform consultation with the public and other stakeholders about the likely significant effects of the scheme. The PEIR supports the statutory consultation process under the Planning Act 2008 to comply with Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
Primary (embedded) mitigation	Modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the project, and do not require additional action to be taken.
Priority areas for habitat creation, enhancement or mitigation	These areas will favour the enhancement of existing habitats such as neutral grassland, mixed scrub, broadleaved woodland, ponds, wet woodland and open mosaic. Areas will also seek to create additional high quality habitats such as reedbeds, ditches, hedgerows and lowland meadows.
Project Boundary for EIA PEIR	The boundary within which all construction works will take place and within which the operation of the project will take place. It is based on the design parameters detailed in Chapter 2: Project Description
Project of national significance	The project has been designated a project of national significance and will be consented by way of a Development Consent Order (DCO). Projects of national significance are large scale developments that are brought within the Planning Act 2008 regime by a Section 35 direction given by the Secretary of State.
Protected species	Species of wild plants, birds and animals which are afforded protection through legislative provisions.
Public right of way (PRoW)	A highway where the public has the right to walk. It can be a footpath (used for walking), a bridleway (used for walking, riding a horse and cycling), or a byway that is open to all traffic (including motor vehicles).
Ramsar Site	A wetland site of international importance listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Term	Definition
	<p>under the Conservation of Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar) Convention 1973.</p> <p>It is UK Government policy that Ramsar sites are extended the same protection at a policy level as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.</p>
Receptor	<p>A feature of the environment, such as a person, that responds to change as a result of the proposed development, such as noise.</p>
Recycling	<p>Under Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, any waste recovery operation by which waste materials are reproduced into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes.</p>
Residual effect	<p>Residual effects are those that remain following the implementation of secondary mitigation measures.</p>
Re-use	<p>Under Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, any waste operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived.</p>
Revetment	<p>A retaining wall or facing of masonry or other materials, supporting or protecting a wall.</p>
Riparian	<p>Area of land or habitat adjacent to rivers and streams.</p>
Rock armour	<p>Human-placed rock or other material used to protect shoreline or bank structures against scour and water, wave, or ice erosion.</p>
Runnymede Channel	<p>The channel section proposed in the project that will start at Egham Hythe and end at Chertsey. The intake to the channel will be on the right bank of the River Thames. It will pass through agricultural fields before heading south across Green Lane and joining the existing course of the Mead Lake Ditch. Passing through five existing lakes, including the Thorpe Park lakes, it will pass under Chertsey Lane (A320) towards Abbey Meads and through the existing Burway Ditch M3 flood culverts, returning to the River Thames just</p>

Term	Definition
	south of the M3 motorway and downstream of Chertsey Weir.
Satellite compounds	Areas that provide office buildings for a limited number of staff associated with the construction works as well as welfare facilities and storage.
Schedule 1 Species	<p>The Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 gives a list of birds which are protected under the following two parts.</p> <p>Part 1 - Birds and their young, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an 'active' nest.</p> <p>Part 2 - Birds afforded special protection during the close season which is 1 February to 31 August (21 February to 31 August below high water mark) but which may be killed or taken outside this period.</p>
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important historic sites, buildings or monuments identified by Historic England and designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
Scoped in	A term used to describe an effect that will be assessed further as part of the EIA process.
Scoped out	A term used to describe an effect that will not be assessed further as part of the EIA process.
Secondary (additional) mitigation	Additional actions that are required to reduce the significance or likelihood of effects where an assessment has indicated they may arise following the application of primary and tertiary mitigation. These may be imposed as part of the DCO consenting process or be identified as necessary through the EIA and therefore included within the ES.
Secondary effects	Effects that arise as a result of an initial effect of the scheme (e.g. reduced amenity of a community facility as a result of construction noise).
Secretary of State (SoS)	The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Term	Definition
Section 35 Direction	Direction from the Secretary of State under Section 35(1) of the Planning Act bringing a project of national significance into the Planning Act 2008 regime.
Sediment	A solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid, especially earth and pieces of rock that have been carried along and then left by water.
Sequential Approach	The sequential approach to flood risk is being followed as part of the ongoing design of the RTS. The sequential approach means that the proposed project components will be appropriately located relevant to the different flood zones within the project boundary for the EIA PEIR based on their NPPF vulnerability classification.
Sequential Test	The sequential test compares the site you are proposing to develop with other available sites to find out which has the lowest flood risk.
Shared receptor groups	A preliminary list identified for evaluating effects within the project. These groups experience impacts from different parts of the assessment. The identification of these shared receptor groups aids in recognising potential impacts and determining how they might be mitigated.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Nationally important sites designated for their flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).
Site Waste Management Plan	A plan that details the amount and type of waste that will be produced on a construction site and how it will be reused, recycled or disposed of.
Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)	These are sites identified at a local level for their conservation value. They do not have statutory status and their protection relies on local government policy.
Soffit	The underside of an architectural structure such as an arch of a bridge.



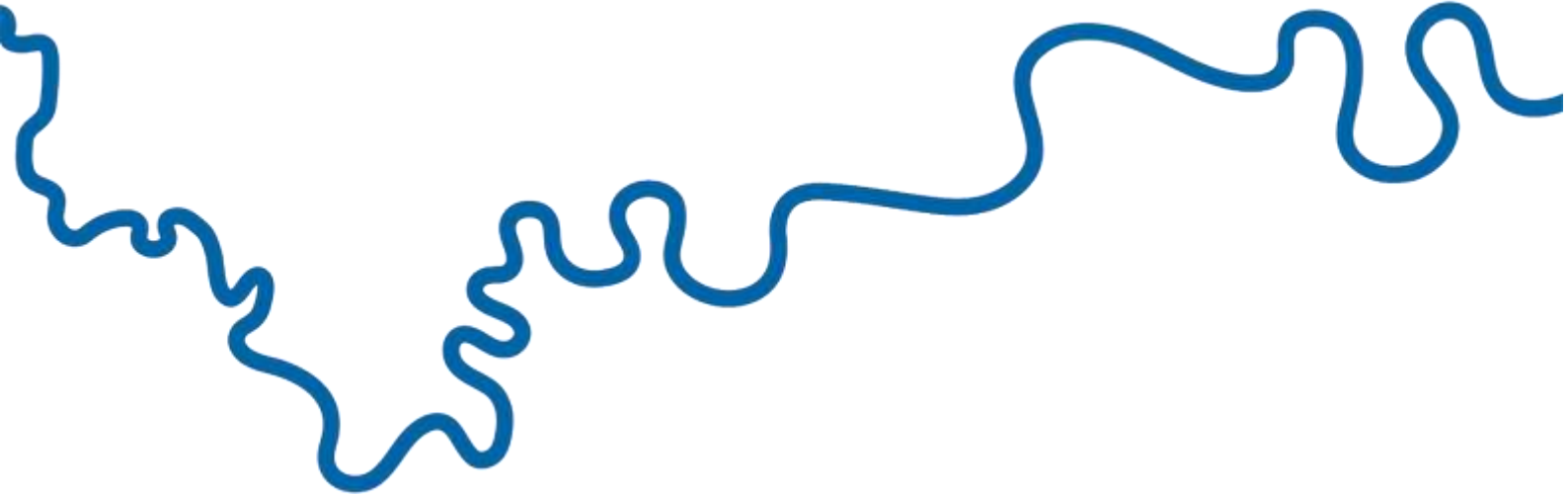
Term	Definition
Soil Resource Plan	A soil management document to be used by contractors. It sets out clear guidance on the methods of recovering, storing and re-using soils whilst minimising a loss in quality and function.
Source Pathway Receptor Model	A model used to identify the sources of environmental pollution, pathways into the environment and the potential receptors affected.
Special Area for Conservation (SAC)	A site that is designated for protection of one or more of the habitat types listed in Annex I and/or species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive. They form part of a network of protected sites across the UK known as the 'UK national site network'.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated for the protection of one or more species of bird listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, and/or for the protection of other migratory birds. They form part of a network of protected sites across the UK known as the 'UK national site network'.
Spelthorne Channel	The channel proposed in the project that will leave the left bank of the River Thames at Laleham, approximately 0.4km upstream of the outlet of the Runnymede Channel, and north of the M3 motorway. The flood channel will follow in an easterly route through three existing lakes and pass under two local roads before turning south underneath the M3 motorway. The flood channel route continues through areas of grassland and scrub at Sheepwalk and Manor Farm and will pass under a further three local roads and through a lake before re-joining the River Thames opposite D'Oyly Carte Island, just upstream of Desborough Island, and downstream of Shepperton Weir.
Stakeholder	An individual, group or organisation that's impacted by the outcome of a project or a business venture.
Stakeholder Engagement	The process by which an organisation involves individuals or groups who may be affected by the decisions it makes or can influence the implementation of its decisions.

Term	Definition
Statutory Consultee	Organisations and bodies, defined by statute, which must be consulted on relevant planning matters.
Study Area	Each environment topic chapter within our PEIR (Chapters 6 to 19) have defined a specific 'study area' that has been considered in the assessment of likely significant effects. The extent of these study areas differ primarily as a result of the manner and extent to which effects are likely to be propagated for individual topics. Where relevant these include expanded areas such as the areas that will experience a change in flood risk as a result of the project.
Subsoil	Subsoil is the layer of soil under the topsoil on the surface of the ground.
Surface water	Rainwater which is on the surface of the ground and has not entered a watercourse or a drainage system. Includes surface runoff which is the unconfined flow over water over the ground.
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	A collection of water management practices that provide a natural approach to drainage. They work by slowing and holding back the water that runs off from a site, allowing natural processes to break down pollutants.
Tailwater	Refers to water located immediately downstream from a hydraulic structure, such as a bridge or culvert.
Temporary effects	Temporary effects can be defined as follows: Short-term: Effect continues during construction and up to one year following construction. Medium-term: Effect continues for one to five years following construction. Long-term: Effect continues five to ten years following construction.
Terrestrial / Aquatic INNS Management Plan	A record of decision making and proactive approach taken in determining comprehensive management of INNS associated within a site. The Plan would primarily comprise the findings from a site survey and provide a summary of factors influencing management.

Term	Definition
Tertiary (standard) mitigation	Actions that would occur with or without input from the EIA feeding into the design process. These include actions that will be undertaken to meet other existing legislative requirements, or actions that are considered to be standard or best practices used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects.
Time-slice	A period of time used by UK Climate Projections from the 2018 Met Office modelling (UKCP18).
Topsoil	The uppermost layer in the soil profile, with a high content of organic matter and is a product of biological processes.
Trackout	The transport of dust and dirt from the construction/ demolition site onto the public road network, where it may be deposited and then resuspended by vehicles using the network. This arises when heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) leave the construction/demolition site with dusty materials, which may then spill onto the road, and/or when HDVs transfer dust and dirt onto the road having travelled over muddy ground on site.
Transboundary effects	Any significant effect on the environment resulting from human activity, the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within an area under the jurisdiction of another country.
Truncation	The act of making something shorter especially by removing the end of it.
UK Habitat Survey	UK Habitat Survey is a relatively new method for classifying habitats which was produced by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group in 2018. This has now replaced the JNCC Phase 1 Survey method. UK Habitat Survey provides detailed interpretation of habitat types with a greater number of 'codes' which can be distinguished unambiguously in the field.
Visual amenity	The analysis of the potential visual impacts to the landscape and landscape views resulting from a proposed development or land management action.

Term	Definition
Visual impact assessment	The analysis of the potential visual impacts to the landscape and landscape views resulting from a proposed development or land management action.
Waste	Any substance or object which the waste producer or the person who is in possession of the waste discards or intends or is required to discard.
Waste Hierarchy	The Waste Hierarchy ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).
Waste Recovery Plan	A Waste Recovery Plan is required for an environmental permit to permanently deposit waste on land as a recovery activity. Waste recovery on land, or deposit for recovery, is when you use waste material in place of non-waste material you would have used to perform a function.
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. The WFD sets out environmental objectives for water status based on ecological and chemical parameters, common monitoring and assessment strategies, arrangements for river basin administration and planning and a programme of measures in order to meet the objectives.
Wharf / Wharves	A platform of timber, stone, concrete, etc, built parallel to the waterfront at a harbour or navigable river for the docking, loading, and unloading of ships.
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)	A Written Scheme of Investigation outlines known and potential archaeological features and deposits or built heritage elements on a site and suggests a structure for exploring them.
Zone of Influence (ZOIs)	The area(s) over which environmental features may be affected by changes caused by the proposed project and associated activities.

Term	Definition
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	A map showing areas of land from which the development could theoretically be seen.



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.