

BOROUGH BULLETIN

This is an update for partner boroughs on the latest River Thames Scheme (RTS) news. This information can be shared with borough leadership and councillors.



April 2024

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

**Securing a DCO &
other consents**

**Preparation for
delivery**

**Media & public
events**

**Next borough
meetings**



SECURING A DCO & OTHER CONSENTS

More than 2,500 responses to statutory consultation

The River Thames Scheme (RTS) received more than 2,500 responses to the statutory consultation that took place between January and March this year.

This feedback is currently being assessed by civil engineers, environmental scientists, landscape architects, water modelling experts and others working on the RTS. Every issue raised in the consultation responses will be recorded and considered carefully by the project team.

The responses will be used to produce a consultation report that will be submitted as part of the RTS [Development Consent Order \(DCO\)](#) application in mid-2025.

Lands team moves into next phase

The lands team is arranging meetings with landowners before seeking agreements about land that may be required for the successful implementation of the scheme.

The [landowner page](#) on the RTS website has also been updated to reflect the current situation prior to Development Consent Order (DCO) submission.

The team continues to liaise with landowners to ensure access for survey work.



PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

Survey work continues

Planned spring and early summer surveys include archaeological trial trenching; trees and topography; bats and hedgerows.

Information from our [ecological surveys](#) helps us to understand the current environment along the route of the RTS and assess what impact its construction and operation will have.

Assessment of construction partner applications

Potential construction partners have now supplied their completed selection questionnaires and their answers are being assessed by the RTS team. The questions have been designed to assess organisations' capability to build the scheme.

Shortlisted firms will then be invited to take part in the next stage of the selection process, Invitation to Tender (ITT), which is scheduled to begin in June.

Once construction work begins, our approach will be to minimise disruption to the community while prioritising safety, environmental responsibility and respect for residents.

Work will involve the excavation of large volumes of materials and waste and the RTS plans to reuse and recover significant amounts of this. This will help to reduce the scheme's overall carbon footprint and lower demands on the wider aggregate and construction materials market.



MEDIA & PUBLIC EVENTS

Downstream measures

The RTS [downstream measures communications campaign](#) launched on 25 April. It explains in straightforward terms how the scheme will provide a more effective route for floodwater to pass downstream.

[Downstream measures](#) form part of the wider RTS design proposals, helping to ensure there is no increase in flood risk at any location across the scheme area.

For the RTS, when we say downstream, we are referring to the area below the two new flood channel sections. The proposed measures here include lowering the riverbed within a roughly 1km stretch of the river between the downstream end of Desborough Cut and Walton Marina, plus additional gates at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs. These extra gates will create a new pathway for water at the weir complex, supporting the current gates and weirs.

We have developed a river model to assess the impact of the scheme on flooding. This has confirmed that, with the RTS in place, there is no increase in peak river levels at any location or in any flood conditions compared to the situation without the scheme.

[Our Flood Modelling Report](#) shares more detail on flood risk across the scheme area.

RTS shortlisted for industry award

The RTS has been [shortlisted as a finalist](#) for the Climate Resilient Blue & Green Infrastructure award at the Flood and Coast Excellence Awards 2024.

Organised as part of the [Flood and Coast Conference and Exhibition](#), the awards recognise outstanding contributions to managing flood and coastal risk, fostering local flood resilience and championing climate change action.

The nomination highlights the RTS' goals of combining nature-based solutions and cutting-edge engineering techniques to help protect communities, infrastructure and ecosystems from the challenges posed by climate change.

Community events

11 May: the RTS will have a stand in Kingston's marketplace where the team will be discussing the scheme, its goals and plans with residents and others.

We encourage you to follow the RTS on social media and help us to share positive messaging about the scheme to a wider audience.



BOROUGH MEETINGS

Local Planning Authority (LPA) Project Group - monthly co-ordination meeting

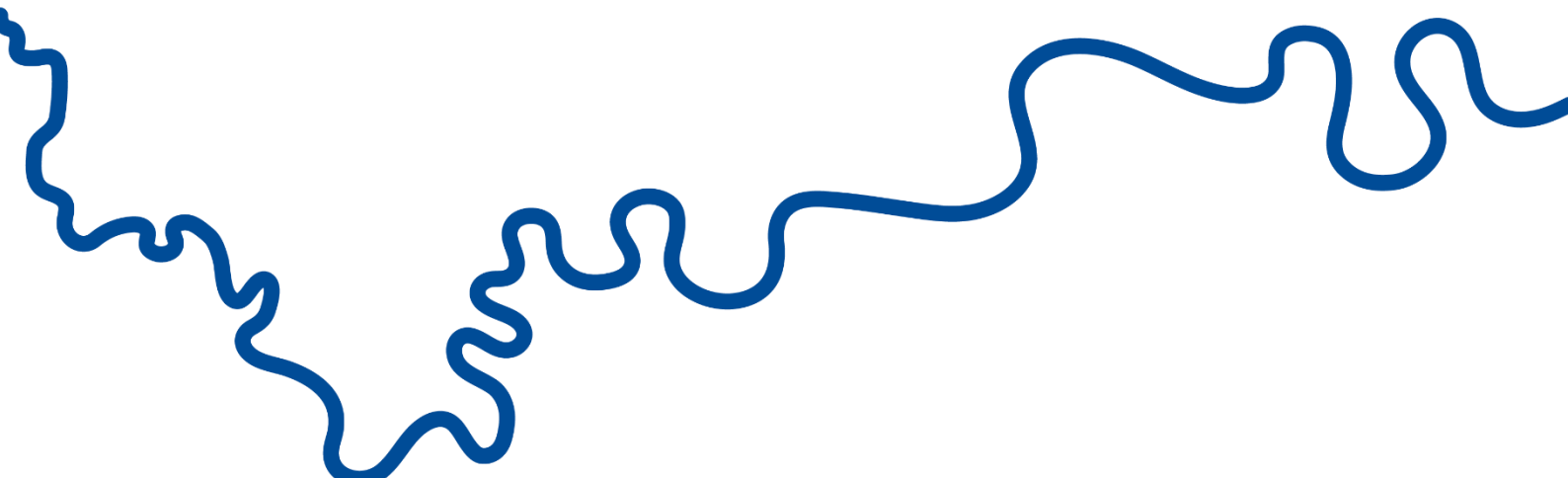
The group brings together promoters of the RTS project and regulators from the different council areas to discuss the scheme and work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes.

Next meeting: **29 April**.



CONTACT & FEEDBACK

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the content featured in this month's RTS Borough Bulletin or would like to share any other feedback please email us at enquiries@riverthamescheme.org.uk



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.