

ThamesRUG8

Teddington Reach Coordination Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2024

Tamesis Club

ThamesRUG8 Teddington Reach Coordination Meeting

AGENDA

RIVER SAFETY ISSUES AND USE OF THE REACH

1. RUG8 report , Jonty Steel, RUG8 Chairman
2. Reach report for 2024, including an update on the River Thames Scheme and TW Direct River Abstraction Scheme , John Adams, Teddington Reach Coordinator
3. Environment Agency Report, Vince Hoar, EA Technical Officer
4. Kingston 2025 River Festival, Malcolm Knight, Thames Alive
5. Water Quality testing

REACH COORDINATION

5. Matters arising from Draft 2025 Calendar. ([Date](#))
6. AOB

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Reach report for 2024

Events:

- Just under 80 special events, plus full programme of regular club activities for around 30 organisations.

Incidents:

- A number of different craft speeding. Reported to EA
- A number of thefts, outboard engines from Albany in May, from Trowlock Island in July, and a a number of thefts and attempted thefts in August, from Trowlock Island, from Tamesis (while the boat was being used!) and from the Sealion Scouts on Raven's Ait one Friday in August

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Reach report for 2023 cont.

Incidents:

- Two separate incidents on the same day of GoBoats colliding with and kayaks from Albany and RCC. The concern was that the skipper/s of the GoBoats were not aware of the kayaks and/or did not have the ability to manoeuvre to avoid them or to disengage themselves from the kayaks in the water. Julian from GoBoat was contacted and liaised with both clubs over the incidents.
- Collision between a visiting boat sailing from Tamesis and a rowing four. The wind was very light meaning that the sailing craft had little manoeuvrability to avoid the 4, which despite shouts to draw their attention, hit the sailing dinghy, puncturing the hull. We need to be aware of other users on/in the water at all times, and their ability to manoeuvre to avoid collisions.
- Concern in the summer when a number of the clubs were running training courses and hence had a large number of inexperienced people on the water that some of the pleasure craft were not showing sufficient awareness of the situation and traveling too fast.

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Reach report for 2023 cont.

Planning:

We continued to take an interest in and take part in consultation on proposals that might impact on the Reach, in particular:

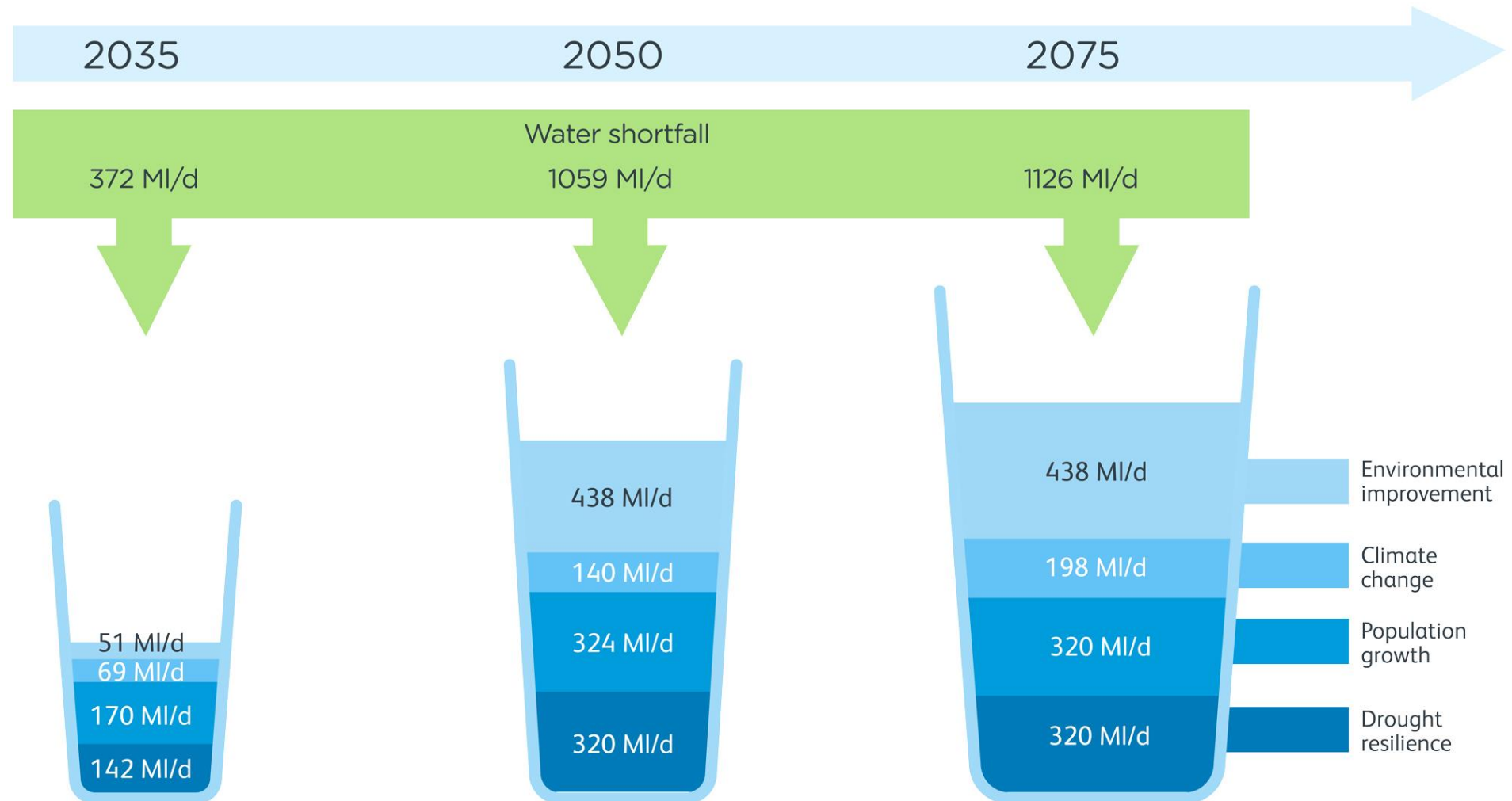
- **Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction** proposals, as part of their Water Resources Management Plan
- **River Thames Scheme** to alleviate flooding in the Staines/Egham area.

Liaison with others, RUG is sitting on the:

- **Voice of the River**, set up by RBK to provide a forum for all those with an interest in the Thames though Kingston
- **River Festival** section of **Kingston 2025**, to help coordinate activities on the Thames a part of the festival to celebrate 1100 years since the crowning in Kingston of Athelstan as the first King of England. Covered later in the meeting by Malcolm Knight

River User Group – TW Teddington abstraction proposal

Demands for water



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TWRMP, Teddington Direct Abstraction scheme.

- Abstract 75ml/day of water from the Teddington Reach in times of drought and send it to the Lockwood reservoir in SE London.
- Replace with treated sewage to match the water taken out so that essential water flow (min 300ml/day or around 3.5m³/sec) is maintained over the Teddington Weir.

This has raised a great deal of controversy over the potential impact of the impact on local landscape and river quality and has led to:

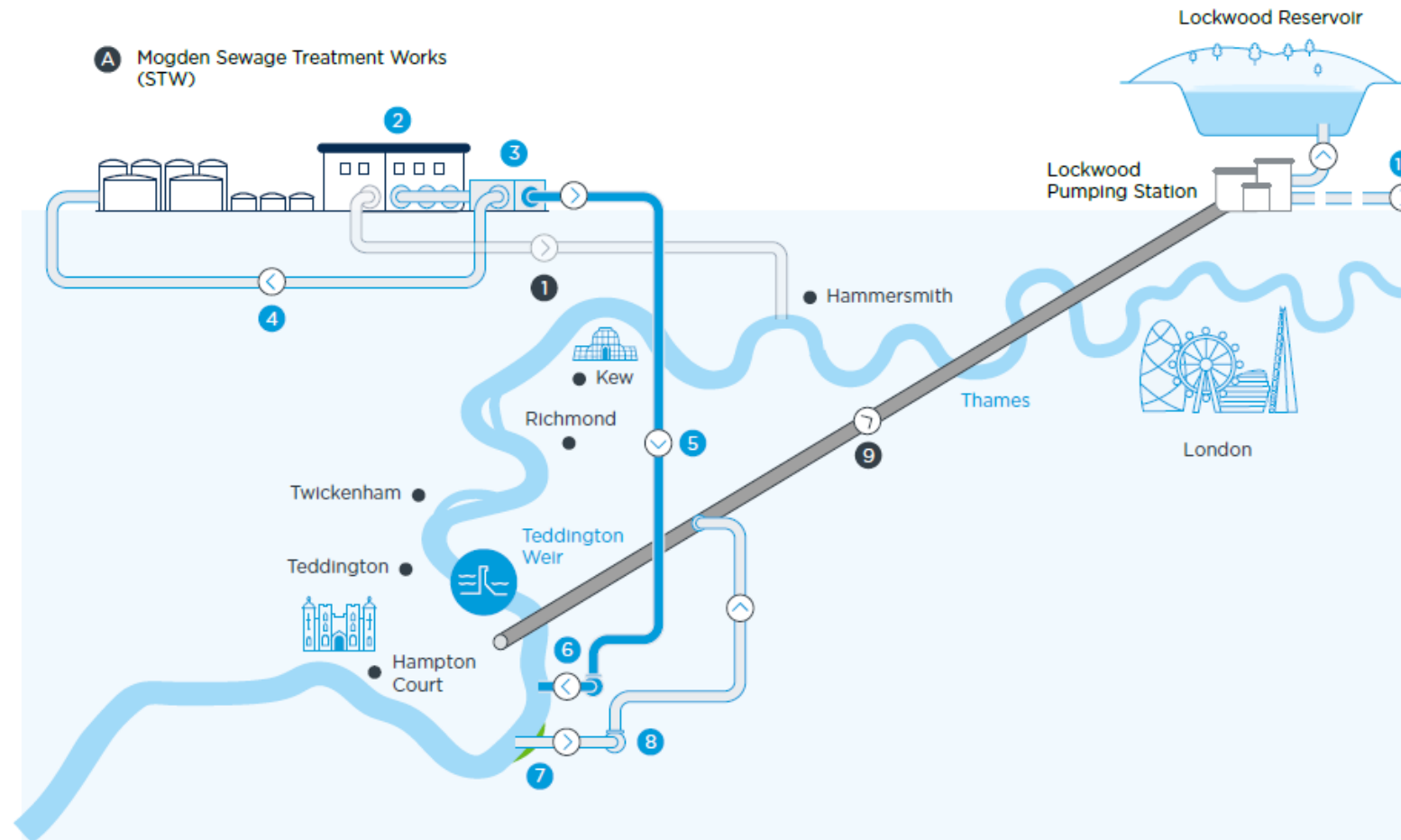
- the setting up of a protest group 'Save Ham Lands and River', now renamed as 'Save our Lands and River' [STOP Thames Water TDRA - Save Our Lands & River from Thames Water](#)
- Involvement of the local MP, Munira Wilson MP
- Protests on the potential site of the intake and outfall.

River User Group – TWRMP - Teddington abstraction

Teddington abstraction

Three key components of the scheme:

- New treatment plant at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works capable of treating up to 100 ML/d
- 4.5 km pipeline (originally c. 1.7m dia, now 3m) from Mogden to a new submerged discharge point upstream of Teddington Weir
- New intake just upstream of the discharge point with fish screens and connection to the existing Thames Lee Tunnel to Lockwood Reservoir



River User Group – TWRMP - Teddington abstraction

Future steps

You can find out more about the site options and TW's evaluation of them in TW's [supporting documents](#)

A project update can be found here: [View TDRA summary brochure](#).

You can find further information about the proposals here: [View site options consultation document](#).

Although public consultation at this stage is closed, useful to look at the consultation documents if interested.

One result of consultation to date is that the design of the Tunnell bringing treated water from Mogden has changed:

- Bigger bore, meaning that it can be built with a single shaft, rather than the 5 that were planned, hence reducing impact

We had questioned the need for discharging treated water into the Thames, arguing that extractions could be planned at times when the river flow was sufficient to allow for the extraction but still leave sufficient to flow over Teddington Weir. However, a key EA requirement is that the abstraction has to be net zero.

Further consultation in 2025.

River User Group – TWRMP - Teddington abstraction

Future steps

Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA)



River User Group – River Thames Scheme

RTS design comprises:

- A flood channel in two sections between Egham Hythe and Shepperton to take water from the Thames and reduce volume of water flowing through these areas at times of flood
- New flood routes are a combination of new channel and existing lakes

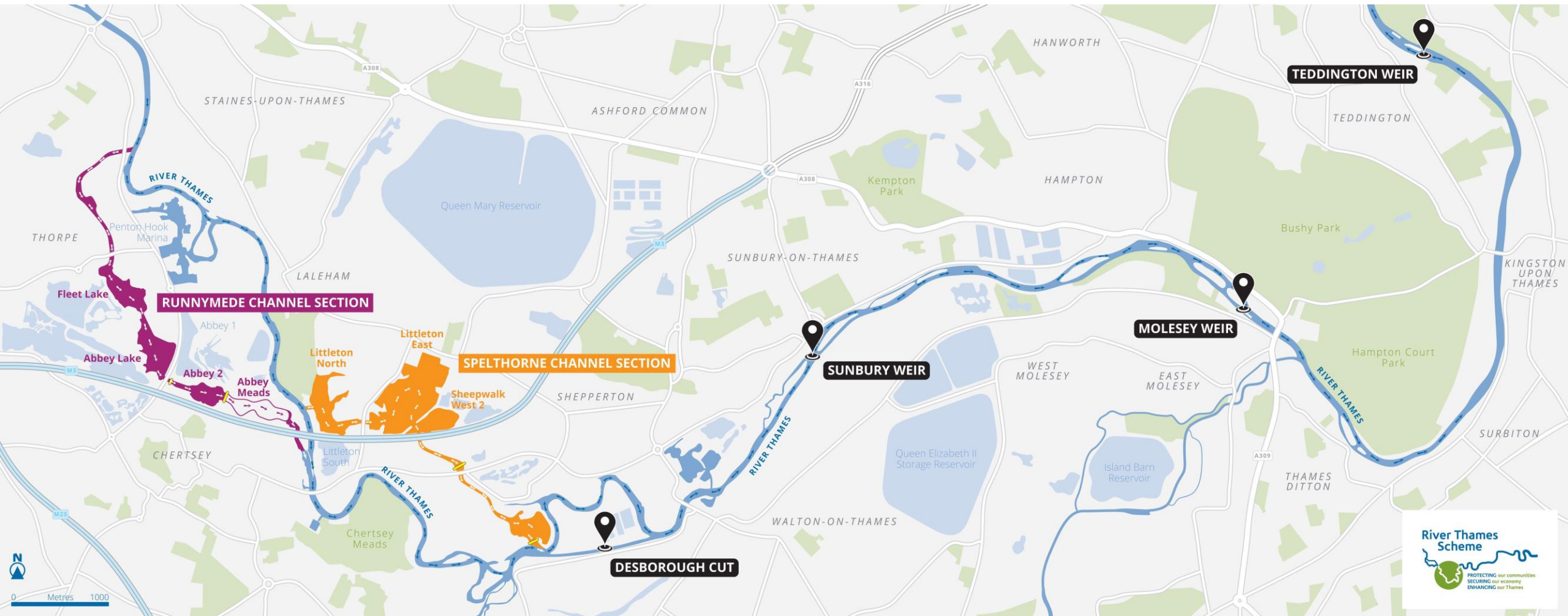
Then release the water back into the Thames downstream of the flood risk areas

This means that water arrives faster downstream than it would have done if the area had flooded and water is still travelling downstream overland, but slowly.

Plans to compensate for this include:

- increase storage capacity through bed lowering downstream of the Desborough Cut
- Additional gates at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs to enable the water to get away faster

River User Group – River Thames Scheme



River User Group – River Thames Scheme

Regarded as National Infrastructure and hence assessed under a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Means that the application is considered by the Planning Inspectorate and not by each of the Local Authorities the scheme falls under. For details see:

[The process | National Infrastructure Planning](#)

Stages of the process

- Pre-application (current stage, preparing application)
- Acceptance (that application fits requirements)
- Pre-examination (allows for additional consultation with interested parties, approx. 3 months)
- Examination (allows written representation from registered interested parties, approx. 6 months)
- Recommendation and Decision (report (3 months) by Examination Authority to Sec of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for decision (3 months))
- Post Decision (six week window for the decision to be legally challenged by the judicial review.)

River User Group – River Thames Scheme

While the main period of consultation on the current plans has taken place RTS encourages involvement through their web site [Get involved | River Thames Scheme](#)

- Main web site: [River Thames Scheme](#)
- Non-technical report on the Flood Modelling analysis: [RTS Modelling non-technical summary \(riverthamesscheme.org.uk\)](#)

We are still concerned that the Scheme has not accurately investigated the impact of the scheme on Teddington weir and potential flooding into the Teddington Reach and will continue to monitor and comment on their response to this.

River Thames Scheme milestones and dates (provisional as of August 2022)

Milestone	Forecast date
Submit Development Consent Order (DCO)	Winter 2024
DCO decision	Summer 2026
Construction commences	Winter 2026
River Thames Scheme open	Winter 2030

River User Group – Water Quality

Concern about river water quality and impact of health of those exposed to it raised by University Boat Race

Particularly levels of *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) and *Enterococci*

Felt to be essential that organisations holding water sports events on the Thames, particularly involving children, should have some knowledge of levels in the Thames to enable them to carry out a comprehensive Risk Assessment

RUG8 suggested to EA that as the organisation responsible for water quality, they could carry out regular tests at strategic points on the Thames and make the results publicly accessible on their web site

EA said that they did not have the resources to do so.

They only carried out testing of **designated bathing waters** and very few sections of the Thames classified as such.

RUG8 will pursue this.

River User Group – Water Quality

Scouts Groups.

Concerned with the situation, Leander Sea Scouts and Albany Outdoors decided to undertake a pilot scheme to do weekly water quality testing through the main boating season (May to September).

Sought and obtained support from neighbouring organisation to help cover the costs (around £2,000)

Took water samples from the Albany Outdoors landing stage

Bacterial analysis for *E. coli* and intestinal *Enterococci* performed by an accredited lab.

Results published weekly and distributed to those that had contributed.

Other Scout groups further upstream followed a similar path, and testing was carried out on the Chertsey and Walton Reaches on a weekly basis.

Web site has been created to share results [Home page - Thames Watch](#)

River User Group – Water Quality

Future.

RUG8 will continue to press for EA to carry out testing

Leander are planning to carry out a testing programme next year but possibly seek alternative funding.

Perhaps going further than just making the Thames safe to use for water sports, an initiative, 'Mayors for a drinkable Thames', has its first meeting on 22nd November to follow the inspiration of the Drinkable Rivers Team [Home - Drinkable Rivers](#), which is to make all rivers safe to drink at source.