

Bumper £9.5 million navigation investment for River Thames

Press release

Programme Programme includes locks, docks and three new fish channels



The Environment Agency has released its 2021 to 2022 list of navigation improvements to the Thames. With a total budget of £9.5 million, it's the largest investment programme in a decade.

The improvement works stretch from Lechlade (near the river's source) to the tidal limit at Teddington. The improvements include weir refurbishments, dock improvements and the construction of new fish passes.

Stairwell reconstruction, chamber fender replacements and resurfacing will take place at 4 lock sites: Rushey, Bray, Romney and Penton Hook.

Other highlights include:

- The removal of wrecked vessels that are either sunken, stranded or abandoned and causing an obstruction to navigation on the non tidal Thames.
- The creation of an offshore canoe 'portage' at Abingdon to make safe river entry and exit points either side of the lock.
- Further improvements to the dry dock facility at Sunbury including the roof structure and pumping system.
- The construction of new fish passes at Sunbury Weir, Chertsey Weir and Mapledurham Weir to improve fish passage along the Thames.

[See the full list of 2021/22 improvements](#)

Environment Agency Waterways Manager Maria Herlihy said:

This year's massive investment in navigation infrastructure on the non-tidal Thames demonstrates the magnitude of our commitment to support all forms of boating, and boating businesses, on the non-

tidal Thames.

It will fund one of the most diverse and extensive programme of improvements for many, many years. It will also further enhance the experience for tens of thousands of regular and visiting Thames boaters.

The majority of the listed works will begin around November of this year with the intention of completion by March 2022. The Environment Agency gives several weeks' notice so that river users can plan their winter movements and excursions.

The Environment Agency's River Thames winter investment programme is subject to change – see [the most up-to-date version](#). Boaters can subscribe to e-mail updates on River Thames closures and restrictions by contacting us riverthames@environment-agency.gov.uk

Boaters' registration fees contribute towards the cost of maintenance, but do not cover major refurbishments or replacement works. The Environment Agency receives government funding, which it invests carefully to ensure maximum value for money for the taxpayer.

All boats on the River Thames must be registered with the Environment Agency. [Additional information can be found on our boats and waterways page](#).

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