

# [News story: Environmental impact assessment June 2017: River Thames Scheme](#)

## **Introduction**

The River Thames between Datchet and Teddington has the largest area of undefended, developed floodplain in England. Over 15,000 homes and businesses within the area are at risk from flooding.

The River Thames Scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure (roads, sewerage network and power supplies).

We need a range of solutions to manage the risk of flooding in the River Thames Scheme area and so the scheme consists of:

- construction of 17 kilometres of new flood channel built in 3 sections
- capacity improvements to the weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington
- community resilience measures
- major incident planning
- habitat creation.

## **Environmental impact assessment**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) establishes how things are now (the environmental baseline) and assesses the impacts that the scheme is likely to have on this.

It will consider all the likely significant impacts that could result from the scheme and will look at ways to avoid or minimise these impacts, as well as ways to improve the local environment.

The EIA will be documented in an Environmental Statement, which will be submitted with the planning application to inform the planning decision.

We will capture all the ways to avoid or minimise impacts in an Environmental Action Plan, which will be implemented throughout the construction phase of the project.

## **Environmental Statement**

The first stage of producing an Environmental Statement is to develop an Environmental Scoping Report which will be presented to external consultees for comment in the summer.

The Scoping Report provides a summary of the existing environment, considers how the environment could be effected by the Scheme and whether these effects

are likely to be significant. Such considerations include landscape, cultural heritage, ecology, noise, water environment and human beings.

## **Scoping opinion**

The scoping report is submitted to the Local Authorities as part of the planning process, who will be asked to provide a scoping opinion under the Town and County Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations. They will consider if we have included all the likely significant impacts that could result from the scheme, which will set the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

They are likely to consult with other organisations and government departments in order to form this opinion. This is not a formal public consultation at this stage and comments are not requested from members of the public. Comments from the public will be captured during the planning application process in 2018.

## **Environmental and Ecological Surveys**

As part of our work to manage our environmental impact we are carrying out further ecological and environmental surveys this year. A range of species will be targeted in these surveys, including bats (and their roosts), water voles, breeding birds, otter, great crested newts and species of reptiles.

Archaeological surveys are planned to commence in summer 2017, and will involve metal detecting, radar surveys and borehole sampling. The results of these surveys will help us identify targeted locations for trial trenches, in late 2017, to evaluate archaeology.

If you would like more information about the surveys we are conducting please visit our [website](#)

Environment Agency June 2017

---

## **[News story: Community resilience measures June 2017: River Thames Scheme](#)**

### **Introduction**

The River Thames between Datchet and Teddington has the largest area of undefended floodplain in England. Over 15,000 homes and businesses within the area are at risk from flooding.

The River Thames Scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure (roads, sewerage network, and power supplies).

We need a range of solutions to manage the risk of flooding in the River Thames Scheme area and so the scheme consists of:

- construction of 17 kilometres of new flood channel built in 3 sections
- capacity improvements to weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington
- community resilience measures
- major incident planning
- habitat creation

We are progressing initial assessments for Community Resilience Measures across the scheme area. This involves analysing data from flood modelling and surveys to look for areas that could benefit from more localised permanent, temporary or property level solutions.

Types of CRM may include permanent flood defences in the form of flood walls or embankments, temporary flood defences that can be deployed in advance of a flood or property level flood intervention consisting of flood doors and barriers.

## **Initial assessments**

The first stage is to group properties together based on the modelling and survey data into areas that could benefit from CRM. The next stage is to identify what type of measure could be used. This is done by engineers based on the location of the properties, the physical and environmental constraints in the area, the flood modelling, past experience and by looking at the costs and benefits for each option.

## **Appraisal**

Once we have completed initial assessments we will identify areas that can be taken forward for more detailed appraisal and consultation with communities to select a preferred solution.

CRM will not be suitable for all communities and properties. Our assessments will identify those measures that can be taken forward based on how much they cost and the benefit they provide along with engineering decisions.

Those CRMs taken forward for implementation will qualify for partial central government funding. The remaining funding is expected to be provided from partnership contributions as part of the wider River Thames Scheme.

## **Property level programme**

You may also be aware of our Property Level Programme (PLP) which has installed flood protection measures to hundreds of properties within the Lower Thames Area. The PLP programme is now closed with works to the last few remaining properties soon to be completed.

## Next Steps

Most of the data we need is collected from an office however you may see RTS representatives visiting areas to understand the location better. We will also be using local knowledge of previous flooding to better understand how we can help.

We understand you will want to know how you will be affected and we would like to talk to communities later in the year once we have reviewed the data from our initial assessments.

In the meantime we will keep you updated on the progress of our assessments and let you know how and when you can get involved via our [River Thames Scheme newsletter](#)

---

## [News story: Archaeology surveys June 2017: River Thames Scheme](#)

Archaeological surveys will start in June 2017 and are expected to finish at the end of the year. They will take place in areas of Chertsey Abbey Meads, Kingsmead Quarry, Thorpe Hay Meadow, Desborough, Datchet, and Shepperton.

We use different survey techniques in different areas to give us a wide range of data. This gives us a better understanding of what is likely to be in the ground. We use this information to plan the construction of the River Thames scheme.

The results of these surveys will help us identify targeted locations for trial trenches, in late 2017, to evaluate the archaeology.

### Geophysical Surveys

Different materials below the ground can cause local disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field that are detectable with sensitive equipment. Archaeologists use hand held devices or small hand pulled carts to establish the presence of buried archaeological remains and the potential of the study area.

### Earthworks Surveys

Help identify the presence of archaeologically significant earthworks or landscape features. Archaeologists look at the areas and compare what they see with historical maps and aerial photographs.

## **Borehole Surveys**

Archaeologists dig boreholes and hand auger pits to record the composition of the ground. This information enables archaeologists to draw conclusions about how and when the area may have been used. The boreholes are excavated using specialist construction equipment.

## **Electrical Resistivity**

Tomography Surveys Archaeologists insert magnetic probes into the ground to gather more data about the composition of the ground to support the information recorded by the borehole surveys.

## **Metal Detecting Surveys**

Archaeologists use high performance metal detectors to detect different types of metals in the ground. This information is used to identify areas that could contain archaeological remains.

## **Field Walking Surveys**

Archaeologists walk along marked out areas looking at the land for features to identify areas that could contain archaeological remains.

All works are carried out under the supervision of either our consultant engineers or a member of Environment Agency staff, in accordance with an agreed method statement.

If you would like more information about the River Thames Scheme please visit our [website](#)

Environment Agency June 2017

---

## **[News story: Wembley and Old Trafford stage new season CT Awareness events](#)**

With the new football season underway, CT Policing has been working with the Premier League, EFL and FA to help improve stadium security.

Two CT Awareness workshops, specially adapted to take into account the current threats to the sports stadia sector, have been held at Wembley and Old Trafford and were attended by club officials from across the country.

The two leagues have also undertaken to circulate security advice to all clubs for use on their websites and social media channels.

Superintendent Dave Roney, Deputy National Coordinator for Protect and Prepare, says:

While there is no specific intelligence of an increased threat to football grounds in the UK, we have seen that terrorists are prepared to carry out attacks on this type of target.

We have been pleased with the response from the football authorities in attending our events and making renewed efforts to do all they can to keep supporters safe.

The workshops provided clubs with the opportunity to share best practice and gave police colleagues an insight into matchday activities.

The key advice CT Policing is asking clubs to share with their supporters is:

- Arrive early, allowing more time for security checks
- Minimise what you carry, fewer bag searches will speed up entry to the ground
- Be vigilant at all times and if you see anything suspicious, tell a steward right away
- If you see anything that could pose an immediate threat to safety, call 999
- In an emergency, listen to the Public Address instructions and follow them
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately
- Do not place yourself in danger by filming events on your mobile
- Move right away from the stadium as quickly as possible for your safety and to allow clear access for any emergency vehicles
- Once you are safe, follow the local police force on Twitter for news updates on the situation

To find out more, visit [gov.uk/ACT](https://www.gov.uk/ACT) or follow [@TerrorismPolice](https://twitter.com/TerrorismPolice)

---

## **[Speech: Safeguarding our young people from becoming radicalised is difficult but vital work: article by Amber Rudd](#)**

Stopping people committing appalling acts of terror in the UK is something we should all want. It should go without saying.

Safeguarding our young people from becoming radicalised, either by the

extreme right wing or Islamist extremists, should not be a controversial aim.

Yet there are some who actively seek to undermine the Prevent programme without offering any meaningful alternatives.

The truth is, as Commander Dean Haydon of the Metropolitan Police said this week, many of the most vocal opponents do not want Prevent to work in the first place.

They say it is about spying on communities. But asking teachers and others to be alert to signs of radicalisation and refer those who may need help works in a similar way to safeguarding processes designed to protect people from gang activity, drug abuse, and sexual abuse.

Next they claim Prevent stifles free speech. On the contrary, schools and colleges should provide a safe space in which children and young people can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments. This is what Prevent encourages.

Or they claim Prevent is about targeting Muslims. This is not true; Prevent deals with all forms of extremism. I am the [first Home Secretary to ban an extreme right wing group, National Action, for their links to terrorism](#). Prevent aims to protect all those who are targeted by the terrorist recruiters who seek to weaponise them.

Currently the greatest threat comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh. Our Prevent programme will necessarily reflect this by prioritising support for vulnerable British Muslims, and working in partnership with civil society groups to tackle this problem.

Some claim they have yet to see evidence of Prevent's success. Say that to the 150 people – including 50 children – it has helped to stop from leaving Britain to fight in Syria and Iraq in 2015. I have spoken to mothers terrified for their children and grateful for the intervention and tireless efforts of Prevent workers. I have travelled the country and seen inspiring examples of grassroots organisations, including British Muslim led organisations, leading the way in countering the risk posed by radicalisation. They do amazing work to protect our society and our country. Over the summer I will continue visiting communities, talking to organisations, families and individuals to hear their views, understand their concerns and talk about what more we can do to help.

As well as working together with communities, Prevent also involves challenging internet companies to stop their platforms being used to spread terrorist messages and propaganda, which is why [I travelled to Silicon Valley last week to keep up the pressure on the internet giants](#) and make sure they play their part.

So I want to say to these critics, Prevent has made a significant impact in preventing people being drawn into terrorism and it is here to stay. In light of the horrific terror attacks in London and Manchester, we are reviewing all

aspects of our counter terrorism strategy to make sure we keep pace with the changing terrorist threat. This will ensure that we are doing everything possible to address the threat from terrorism, including stopping people being radicalised in the first place. Prevent will continue to play a major part in our future counter terrorism approach.

I am happy to engage those with constructive criticisms to make, who want to discuss and debate how the Prevent programme can be improved.

But I am clear that when it comes to keeping our families, communities and country safe, doing nothing is simply not an option.

It is difficult work but it is vital. And nobody should be able to stop it from happening