



Ground Investigation Surveys

The River Thames Scheme

The River Thames between Egham and Teddington is one of the largest areas of undefended, developed floodplain in England. In the past, the area has suffered serious floods. With climate change, the risk of flooding is only going to grow. We need a long term, sustainable plan to deal with this risk. That plan is the River Thames Scheme.

The River Thames Scheme will consist of a new flood channel in two sections, through the boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne in Surrey. In addition, there will be increases in capacity at three weirs and the Desborough Cut.

We're currently in the pre-application stage, meaning we're doing all the work ready to make the application. The final scope and design of the project, which we will prepare a development consent application for, is yet to be fully determined.

2022 Surveys

As part of our work to manage our environmental impact we have been carrying out ecological and environmental surveys. These surveys will help us better understand the existing environment in the scheme area, to assess the potential effects of the scheme on the environment and to help develop measures that can be implemented to avoid, reduce, or in the case of beneficial effects, enhance these.

Most of these surveys are not disruptive or intrusive. We will observe, measure, and take notes and photographs and, in some cases, take samples (water, soil etc). These surveys do not cause any significant disturbance to the environment or to land or property. However, they typically require access to a particular location or habitat, such as woodlands, rivers, streams, lakes, buildings (for ecological species surveys) or agricultural land.

We also carry out waste sampling and gas monitoring at several locations. This helps us understand the impact of any excavated landfill sites.

From early August 2022 we will be carrying out sampling of the riverbed and wider scheme area to check for possible contaminated sediment. We expect this work to take around three months. We are working closely with our Waterways team to manage and minimise any disruption to river users.

Scheme wide sediment sampling

We will be carrying out contaminated sediment sampling in areas where sediment disturbance is likely to be caused. The data will provide us with a better understanding of existing levels of contamination and help us mitigate any impacts of contamination on the scheme. It will help us decide what monitoring methods may be required during works and inform whether there is potential to reuse the materials we take from the riverbed or whether we need to dispose of it, after treatment, to landfill.

The wider sediment sampling area runs from Egham Hythe to Teddington Lock and includes various waterbodies and watercourses surrounding the River Thames, as well as portions of the river itself. We will mostly use vibrocore sampling using a big core drill from a floating platform. We will also use grab sampling, hand dug pits and laboratory testing for geo-environmental purposes.



Cable percussion rig on a pontoon at Hampstead Heath

For more information, please visit our website: www.riverthamesscheme.org.uk