

Response ID ANON-GAD8-S9MR-F

Submitted to River Thames Scheme Statutory Consultation
Submitted on 2024-03-02 09:21:35

Privacy and use of the information you provide

If you would prefer that your response is not quoted within the consultation report, including anonymously, please tick the box below.

Not Answered

About your feedback

1 Are you responding to this consultation as:

On behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or charity)

1a If you are responding as an individual, please provide your name and address:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

1b Organisations: If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or a group, please tell us:

The name of your organisation/group:

River Thames Society (Upper Tideway branch)

1c The address of your main office or contact address for your organisation or group.

Address:

3 Ducks Walk
Twickenham
TW1 2DD

Postcode::

TW1 2DD

1d Your role in the organisation/group:

Your role in the organisation::

chair

1e The category of your organisation:

A Voluntary or Community Sector Organisation (VCS)

If other, please specify:

Working with land interests

2 Are you a landowner or a Person with Interest in Land who has previously received a Land Interest Questionnaire?

No (please go to question 3)

2a Please provide the reference from the Land Interest Questionnaire:

Not Answered

Land Interest Questionnaire reference:

How you use the area covered by the River Thames Scheme

3 Which of the following apply to you?

I visit the area regularly for reasons outside of work/study but don't live here, I have a boat/use the river in this area regularly, I have an interest in the ecology, heritage and/or landscape of the area

4 How frequently do you travel to or within the area?

Several times a month

5 How do you get around in the area?

By car, van or motorcycle, By public transport (bus, train, taxi), On foot, On the water (boat, canoe, kayak)

If other, please specify:

Your experience of flooding

6 Have you experienced flooding whilst living, working, studying or visiting in this area?

Yes (please go to question 7)

7 If you have experienced flooding whilst living, working, studying or visiting in this area, please identify the types of flooding that you have experienced.

River or fluvial flooding - where a body of water, such as a river, cannot contain the amount of water and overflows, Groundwater flooding - where the level of water within the ground rises to enter basements or cellars or rises above the surface of the ground, Surface water flooding - where water, such as rainwater, cannot drain away through the drainage system or into the ground, Tidal flooding - where sea levels are very high causing water to overtop river or sea defences

8 When have you experienced flooding whilst living, working, studying or visiting in this area?

Less than a year ago, Between one and two years ago, Between two and five years ago, Between five and ten years ago, More than ten years ago

9 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the scheme would help to reduce flooding in this area?

Agree

10 Please explain your response to Question 9.

Please explain your response to Question 9.:

We are assuming the experts know what they are doing. The main concern of the Upper Tideway branch of the River Thames Society is the potential impact on flooding outside the River Thames Scheme area, ie below Teddington

Scheme design

Royal Hythe New Green Open Space

11 Which of these accessible leisure and play uses would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other

Other (please provide details below) :

All the new waterways should be accessible for leisure use for small boats and swimmers, excepting when flood conditions would make that dangerous

12 Which of these more active recreation spaces or facilities would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other

Other (Please provide details below) :

sports in and on the water

13 Which of these built facilities would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

14 What education-based features would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Interpretative and exhibition space for educational works and information, Small wetland with bird hides, Opportunities for pond dipping to capture the pond-dwelling creatures in spring and summer, New woodlands and habitat planting with interpretative walking routes, Reconstructions of historic landscapes and/or buildings, Heritage trails

Other (Please provide details below) :

15 What opportunities to incorporate art within the space would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

16 What entertainment-based opportunities within the space would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

Sheepwalk New Green Open Space

17 Which of these accessible leisure and play uses would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other

Other (Please provide details below) :

activity in and on the water

18 Which of these more active recreation spaces or facilities would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

activity in and on the water

19 Which of these built facilities would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

20 What education-based features would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Interpretative and exhibition space for educational works and information, Small wetland with bird hide, Opportunities for pond dipping to capture the pond-dwelling creatures in spring and summer, New woodlands and habitat planting with interpretative walking routes, Reconstructions of historic landscapes and/or buildings, Heritage trails

Other (Please provide details below) :

21 What opportunities to incorporate art within the space would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

22 What entertainment-based opportunities within the space would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

New Blue Open Space

23 Which of these accessible leisure and play uses would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other

Other (Please provide details below) :

activity in and on the water, ie swimming and use of small vessels such as paddleboards, canoes, kayaks and dinghies

24 Which of these blue active recreation uses would you like to see considered in the scheme? (Note that these uses may be seasonal)

Canoeing/kayaking, Paddleboarding, Small craft sailing, Other

Other (Please provide details below) :

some small powered boats also, eg electric-powered, as well as safety craft

25 Which of these built facilities would you like to see considered in the scheme?

Other (Please provide details below) :

Active travel route

26 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the inclusion of the active travel route?

Agree

27 Please explain your response to question 26

Please explain your response to question 26:

28 How would you expect to use the route?

Other (Please provide details below) :

29 What would make you more likely to use it?

What would make you more likely to use it? - Segregation of users (pedestrians and cyclists):

What would make you more likely to use it? - Lighting for use at night:

What would make you more likely to use it? - Clear signposting, maps and information about the route:

What would make you more likely to use it? - Less direct, but more off-road routes for cyclists:

What would make you more likely to use it? - The surface of the route (e.g. tarmac, gravel gradients):

30 Is there anything else that would make you more likely to use the active travel route?

Is there anything else that would make you more likely to use the active travel route?:

31 In order to facilitate a continuous, uninterrupted active travel route, examples of which are provided above, two new river bridges have been proposed. These bridges are proposed at south of Laleham and at Desborough Island. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the inclusion of bridges as part of the active travel route? (For walking and cycling and wheelchair use)

Neither agree nor disagree

32 Please explain your response to question 31

Please explain your response to question 31:

Any bridge must have adequate draught for any vessels expected to want to pass beneath, in particular enabling the Desborough loop to remain navigable for moderate-sized powered vessels

Sites for habitat creation and enhancement

33 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the aim to create habitat creation areas as part of the RTS?

Strongly agree

34 Please explain your response to question 33

Please explain your response to question 33:

35 Part of our habitat creation designs has been to include a blend of habitats (such as woodland, meadow and grassland). This will be done across the project area to achieve a new scheme wide network (please see Chapter 7: The scheme in detail of the statutory consultation brochure for more information). Do you have any comments on this approach?

Do you have any comments on this approach?:

36 As part of our landscape designs, we are exploring options on how to create access to nature within the new green open spaces at Royal Hythe and Sheepwalk (e.g. boardwalks across water bodies, walkways through habitat areas). Do you have any comments on access to nature in these areas?

Do you have any comments on access to nature in these areas?:

Desborough Island Wetland Habitat

37 Do you have any comments about the proposal to create the wetland habitat area at Desborough Island?

Do you have any comments about the proposal to create the wetland habitat area at Desborough Island?:

Water-based recreation

38 Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered?

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Canoeing/kayaking:
Strongly agree

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Swimming:
Strongly agree

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Paddle-boarding:
Strongly agree

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Fishing:
Strongly agree

39 Do you have any comments about water-based recreation activities within the scheme?

Do you have any comments about water-based recreation activities within the scheme?:

The River Thames Society encourages the wider use of the river by all. Where the new waterways have the status of main river, we would expect the public right of navigation to apply

Spelthorne Channel

40 Do you have any comments about the new route for the proposed alignment of the Spelthorne Channel?

Do you have any comments about the new route for the proposed alignment of the Spelthorne Channel? :

Ferris Meadow Lake

41 Recognising the constraints discussed in Chapter 7: The scheme in detail of the statutory consultation brochure, please provide your views on the options proposed for Ferris Meadow Lake. If you hold a preference for a particular option or options, please indicate this and why in your response.

Recognising the constraints discussed in Chapter 7: The scheme in detail of the statutory consultation brochure, please provide your views on the options proposed for Ferris Meadow Lake. If you hold a preference for a particular option or options, please indicate this and why in your response.:

42 Please provide any other comments you have on the proposals for the rest of the Spelthorne Channel (excluding Ferris Meadow Lake), considering the channel design and the landscape design.

Please provide any other comments you have on the proposals for the rest of the Spelthorne Channel (excluding Ferris Meadow Lake), considering the channel design and the landscape design.:

Runnymede Channel

43 Please provide any other comments you have on the proposals for the Runnymede Channel, considering the channel design and the landscape design.

Please provide any other comments you have on the proposals for the Runnymede Channel, considering the channel design and the landscape design. :

44 Once built, the flood channel (including the lakes that form a part of it) would be considered to be a 'flood defence structure' in legal terms and we intend that it shall also be considered to be a 'main river'. Do you have any comments on our intention that the flood channel shall be considered a 'main river'?

Once built, the flood channel (including the lakes that form a part of it) would be considered to be a 'flood defence structure' in legal terms and we intend that it shall also be considered to be a 'main river'. Do you have any comments on our intention that the flood channel shall be considered a 'main river'?:

This should mean that the public right of navigation enjoyed on the rest of the Thames would also apply to the new flood channel. The implications, if any, for the new riparian owners in relation to accommodation and other licences from the EA would have to be understood, with it is suggested transitional/grandfather arrangements for any riparian owners newly affected.

Bed lowering downstream of Desborough Cut and weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington

45 If you have any comments on the proposed approach to these elements of the scheme, please provide these below.

Bed Lowering downstream of Desborough Cut :

Sunbury Weir:

Molesey Weir :

Teddington Weir:

The flow through the new weir would present broadside to a line of moored craft below the weir on the tidal river, hardly tenable in flood conditions. The details will need discussion with the mooring owner, and alternative arrangements found for the current mooring, or compensation given for their loss.

Approach to materials and waste management

46 To what extent do you support our approach to managing materials and waste?

Agree

47 Do you have any comments about our proposed approach in the following areas?

Transport of waste and materials, for example on commuting or local travel routes or the use of barge and river routes: :

Our preference is transport by water wherever possible

The proposed locations of waste processing and associated temporary storage sites: (please specify the location you are referring to):

Approach to construction

48 Please select the issues that are most important to you during construction.

Use of the Thames for materials movement during construction

Other (Please provide details below) :

49 Is there anything more that you feel we should be aware of in considering our proposed approach to construction?

Is there anything more that you feel we should be aware of in considering our proposed approach to construction?:

Provision of car parking during construction

50 Please provide below any comments that you have about construction-related car parks.

Please provide below any comments that you have about construction-related car parks. :

Preliminary Environmental Information

51 Is there anything more that you feel we should be aware of in considering the environmental positive and negative effects of the scheme?

Is there anything more that you feel we should be aware of in considering the environmental positive and negative effects of the scheme?:

Scheme goals

52 Do you believe that the scheme design presented meets the scheme's goals?

Yes

53 Please explain your response to question 52.

Please explain your response to question 52.:

But we have concern that some of the flooding risk is just being displaced downstream to the upper reaches of the tidal river

Final thoughts

54 Finally, is there anything else you think we should consider as we refine our proposals for the River Thames Scheme further?

Finally, is there anything else you think we should consider as we refine our proposals for the River Thames Scheme further?:

There continues to be inadequate consideration of the impact on the upper tideway, when water accelerated through Teddington meets flood water in the upper tideway, exacerbated by spring tides. With the expected reduced use of the tidal barrier (see TE2100) their combined effect could be very damaging. Convince us the River Thames scheme is not just exporting its problems to lower reaches of the river.

About this consultation

55 Please provide your views about this consultation.

Please provide your views about this consultation. - Materials (were the materials clear and easy to understand?):

Good

Please provide your views about this consultation. - Information (was enough information made available for you to respond?):
Average

Please provide your views about this consultation. - Promotion (was the consultation promoted well and to the right people?):
Very good

Please provide your views about this consultation. - Events (were the events suitably located/timed?):
Very good

56 Please provide any further comments about the consultation.

Please provide any further comments about the consultation. :

Excellent consultation events, marred by misleading captions to some illustrations (eg view of Glovers island from Buccleugh Gardens mislabelled, and it falls outside the River Thames Scheme area anyway).

About you

57 Please provide your consent by ticking the appropriate box below.

Not Answered

58 What is your sex?

Not Answered

59 Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

Not Answered

60 Does your household include any of the following:

61 Do you have a long-standing illness or disability (physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities)?

Not Answered

62 How old are you?

Not Answered

63 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Not Answered

64 What is your ethnic group?

Not Answered

Other (Please provide details below) :

65 What is your religion?

Not Answered

66 How do you self-identify your sexual orientation?

Not Answered

67 Are you currently looking after a family member, partner, or friend in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability?

Not Answered

Getting involved with the scheme

68 Would you like to sign up to our quarterly newsletter?

No

Email address::
hilary.pickles@doctors.org.uk

Postal address::

3 Ducks Walk

Postcode::

TW1 2DD

Thank you for your response