

Response ID ANON-GAD8-S96F-C

Submitted to River Thames Scheme Statutory Consultation
Submitted on 2024-03-01 22:43:17

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:

Roy Miller

Address:

Vicarage Road, 54

Postcode:

TW18 4YH

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

The name of your organisation/group::

The River Thames Society - Teddington to Old Windsor Branch

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

Address:

Vicarage Road, 54,
Staines-upon-Thames

Postcode::

TW18 4YH

1d Your role in the organisation/group:

Your role in the organisation::

Chairman

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 live in the area, I have a boat/use the river in this area regularly

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

Nearly every day - I live, work and/or study here

5 How do you get around in the area?

By car, van or motorcycle, By public transport (bus, train, taxi), 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

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

Less than a year 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.:

The land area between Staines and Shepperton has a high propensity for flooding as seen in 2003, 2007, 2013/4 and 2023/4. As a resident of Staines and Chairman of the Teddington to Old Windsor Branch of The River Thames Society, I am concerned that expected river level reductions up stream of Staines and down stream of Shepperton Weirs appear to be minimal. The latter of these reaches is typically one of the last to lose Red Board status.

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?

Walking circuits (including dog walking), Jogging and fitness trails, Outdoor gym, Equipped toddlers play area (2 to 5 years), 'Natural' (using naturally occurring materials within the area) play spaces (5 to 12 years), Specific play/leisure space for teenagers, Viewpoints and outdoor seating areas (such as benches and outdoor catering spots), Covered or sheltered seating places, Spending time outside/in nature for mental health and wellbeing

Other (please provide details below) :

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

Parkour/free running - the activity of moving rapidly through an area negotiating obstacles by running, jumping, and climbing, Equipped adventure play (5 to 12 years), Equipped teenage adventure play (12 to 16 years), Natural water play spaces (all ages)

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

Refreshment kiosk with outdoor seating only, Toilets, Car parking

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

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?

Walking circuits, Jogging and fitness trails, Outdoor gym, Equipped toddlers play area (2 to 5 years), 'Natural' (using naturally occurring materials within the area) play spaces (5 to 12 years), Specific play/leisure space for teenagers, Viewpoints and outdoor seating areas (such as benches, cafes), Covered or sheltered seating places, Spending time outside/in nature for mental health and wellbeing

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

Parkour/free running - the activity of moving rapidly through an area negotiating obstacles by running, jumping, and climbing, Equipped adventure play (5 to 12 years), Equipped teenage adventure play (12 to 16 years)

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

Refreshment kiosk with outdoor seating only, Toilets, Car parking

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

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?

Walking circuits, Jogging and fitness trails, Viewpoints and outdoor sitting areas, Covered or sheltered sitting places

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

Other (Please provide details below) :

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

Refreshment kiosk with outdoor seating only, Toilets, Car parking

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:

It seems a central part of the planned improvement in riverside facilities but the cost of the new bridge is a mitigating factor. Presumably the bridge would offer sufficient clearance for the many substantial boats using this part of the Thames. This would also apply to the bridge connecting Desborough Island and Ferris Meadow.

28 How would you expect to use the route?

I would not use it

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)

Agree

32 Please explain your response to question 31

Please explain your response to question 31:

Provided an answer in section 27.

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?

Neither agree nor disagree

34 Please explain your response to question 33

Please explain your response to question 33:

These matters seem peripheral to the real purpose of the scheme.

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?:

No specific comment

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?:

Nothing to add

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?:

Seems a good idea.

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:
Agree

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Swimming:
Neither agree nor disagree

Do you agree or disagree that the following water-based recreation activities should be considered? - Paddle-boarding:
Neither agree nor disagree

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

There are doubts about the continued use of the Abbey River by canoeists. Is anything being considered to obviate concerns voiced by the canoeing/kayaking fraternity.

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? :

No specific comments

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.:

If Habitat protection is not given too high a priority, then Option 3 would be preferred as it has least impact on existing stakeholders (i.e. Swimmers using Ferris Meadow Lake, Desborough Sailing Club and residents of Desborough Close. Providing greater habitat protection but not impacting on Swimmers in Ferris Meadow Lake or Desborough Sailing Club would be Option 4. Of the other options

Option 1 would not be acceptable as it would clearly lead to pollution of Ferris Meadow Lake and make it unsuitable for its current usage by swimmers.

Option 2 would mean the relocation of Desborough Sailing Club and from Weybridge Rowing Club's abject failure in their efforts to relocate this would be nigh impossible. The residents of Desborough Close would be highly inconvenienced.

Option 5 Utterly unfeasible

Options 6a & 6b The same objections as with Op1

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 channels. The implications, if any, for any 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 :

This does not seem to be extensive enough and could be extended further downstream or perhaps in to the |Desborough Cut itself.

Sunbury Weir:

There are serious concerns from Mid Thames Yacht Club regarding the outflow from the new weir in the Sunbury Lock Cut. They have proposed that the new weirs take the place of the unused old Sunbury Lock.

Molesey Weir :

This seems without any issue

Teddington Weir:

The siting of the weirs seems to offer the same problem as with Sunbury Weir in that the outfall travels at 90 degrees to the flow from the existing weir and would cause possible problems to moored boat and the river bank

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: :

The RTS would prefer that water transport be used wherever possible.

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

No comment

Approach to construction

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

Hours and days of operation, Management of noise, Management of visual impact on surrounding area of sites during construction, Provision and management of lighting of sites (particularly at night), Other environmental impacts, Safety in and around sites, Location of construction compounds, Management of impacts for road users, Management of impacts for public transport, Management of impacts from disturbance of landfill sites, Management of disruption to Public Rights of Way and walking and cycling routes, Management of impacts from construction workforce (for example, impact on local parking and travel, accommodation, or other facilities), 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?:

No

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.:

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?:

Further efforts - including an approach to central government - to resurrect the Flood Protection scheme envisaged for the stretch of river downstream of the downstream end of the Jubilee River to meet up with the new Runnymede Channel. This is vital to provide protection for areas seemingly not helped by the RTS. (reference; figures shown in 7.7 Impact of the Scheme on Flood Risk in the Statutory Consultation Brochure.

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?):

Good

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

Good

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

Good

56 Please provide any further comments about the consultation.

Please provide any further comments about the consultation. :

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?

Yes

Email address::

themillers@vicarage42.co.uk

Postal address::

54 Vicarage Road

Postcode::

TW18 4YH

Thank you for your response