

# River Thames Scheme

## 2018 Progress Update

### 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 (RTS) 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 14km of new flood channel between Datchet and Shepperton
- Improvements to the weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington to increase the amount of water that can flow through them
- Community Resilience Measures (CRM)
- Major Incident Planning
- Habitat creation, including recreational areas

### Design

Over the last 12 months we have continued developing the design for the River Thames Scheme using environmental and site investigation data and comprehensive hydraulic modelling.

We talked to communities who shared ideas and explored options to provide input on the design of the proposed flood channel, deciding what it will look like and how it could be used.

We expect this phase of design work to be completed in Summer 2018.

### Environmental surveys

We are continuing our programme of data collection to inform how we manage our environmental impact and construction of the scheme.

During 2017 we carried out a series of ecological, habitat and archaeological surveys. We used the results of these surveys to identify locations for more detailed archaeological investigations.

Archaeological surveys will start in September 2018 and are expected to finish in spring next year. They will take place in areas of Datchet, Horton, Thorpe Hay, Chertsey Abbey Meads, Desborough, Laleham, Teddington, Sunbury and Shepperton.

# River Thames Scheme

## 2018 Progress Update



Our investigations will establish the significance of any archaeological remains along the route of the proposed flood channel. Archaeologists will use this information to recommend what additional work we may need to do before we start construction of the scheme.

Most of this work will be carried out on private land, so disruption to the public should be minimal.

### **Funding**

We have identified funding sources of £354 million – more than half the funding required for the construction of the scheme. This includes government investment of more than £290 million and partnership funding of more than £60 million.

Partners are continuing to work together on ongoing negotiations with government, business and industry to secure the remaining funding.

Whilst work to secure the funding progresses we are working with local authorities to prepare for submitting our planning application.

For more information about the River Thames Scheme, please visit our website [www.gov.uk/riverthamesscheme](http://www.gov.uk/riverthamesscheme).