

# River Thames Scheme



PROTECTING our communities  
SECURING our economy  
ENHANCING our Thames

**RTS update for  
Planning  
Inspectorate**

# The River Thames Scheme



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2. The problem we're trying to solve, our solution and the Scheme
3. A partnership approach
4. Section 35 Direction
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# Why is this necessary?

## **Previous flooding**

Large floods in this area occurred in 1947, 1968 and 2003. In January and February 2014 flooding affected around 1,000 homes and many businesses.

## **Impact of Climate Change**

The winter daily average rainfall in England could increase by approximately 41% by 2050. Peak river flows could increase by 50%.

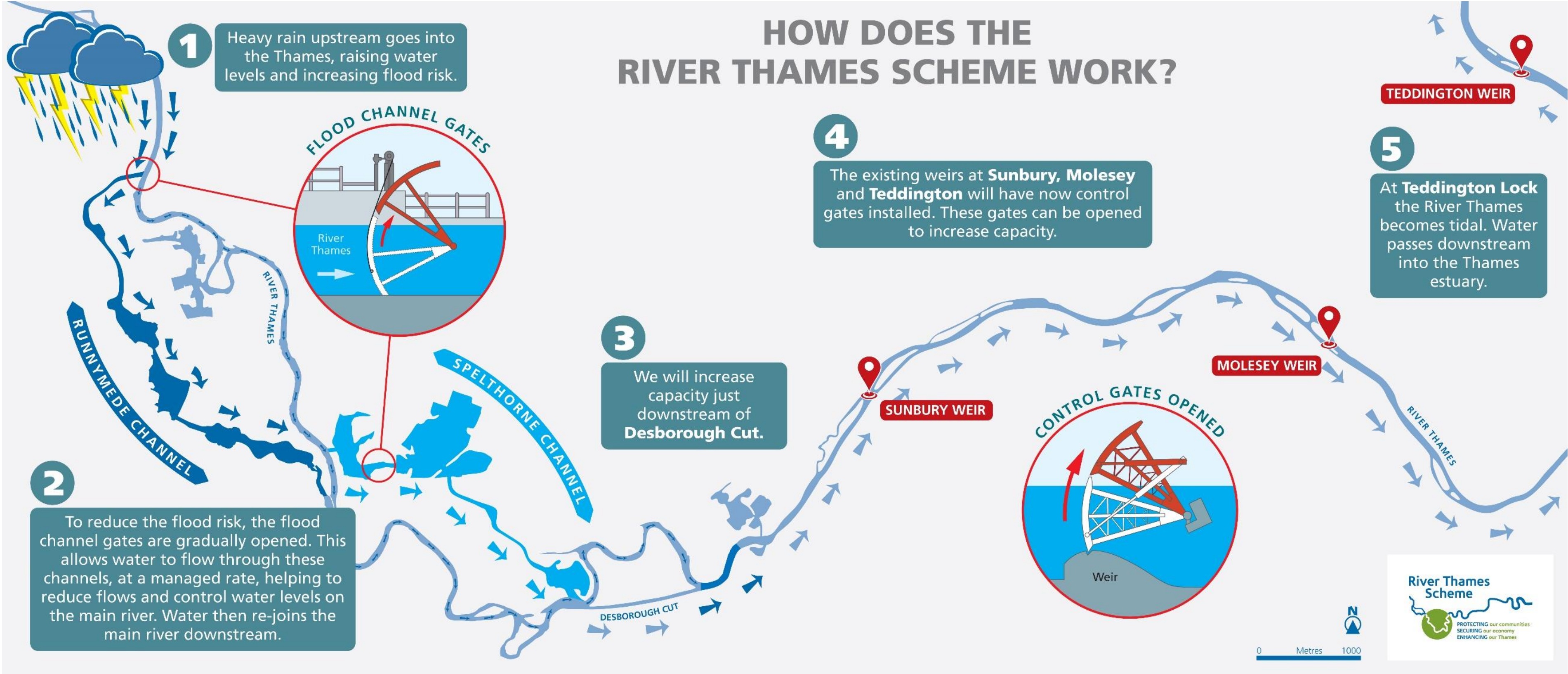
## **Economic impact**

The estimated economic impact of a major flood is around £1 billion. Due to climate change, damage could be twice as great by 2055.

# Our solution



- During a flood, water levels rise and spill onto the floodplain
- RTS creates additional capacity in new river channels and additional weir gates, allowing the Environment Agency to manage flows



# The Scheme



## ✓ A new river channel

Flood channel built in two sections at Runneymede and Spelthorne in Surrey

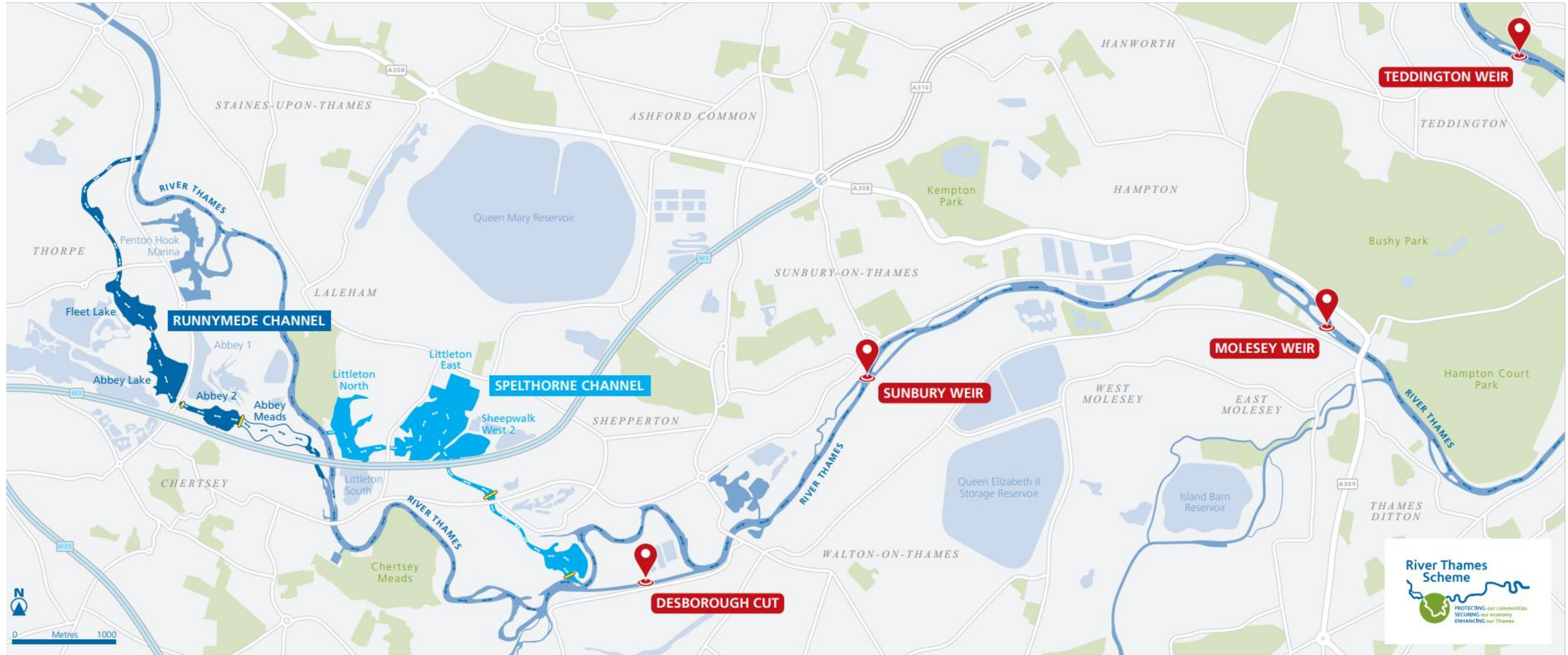
## ✓ The landscape

New recreation areas for communities and habitat for wildlife

## ✓ Managing water

Improvements to existing river structures, including weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington; and at Desbrough Cut

# Scheme overview



# What are we building



# Landscape and environment

## Habitats

- Create new habitat areas in and around the scheme area.
- Disruption to habitats and the environment during the construction phase will be minimised.

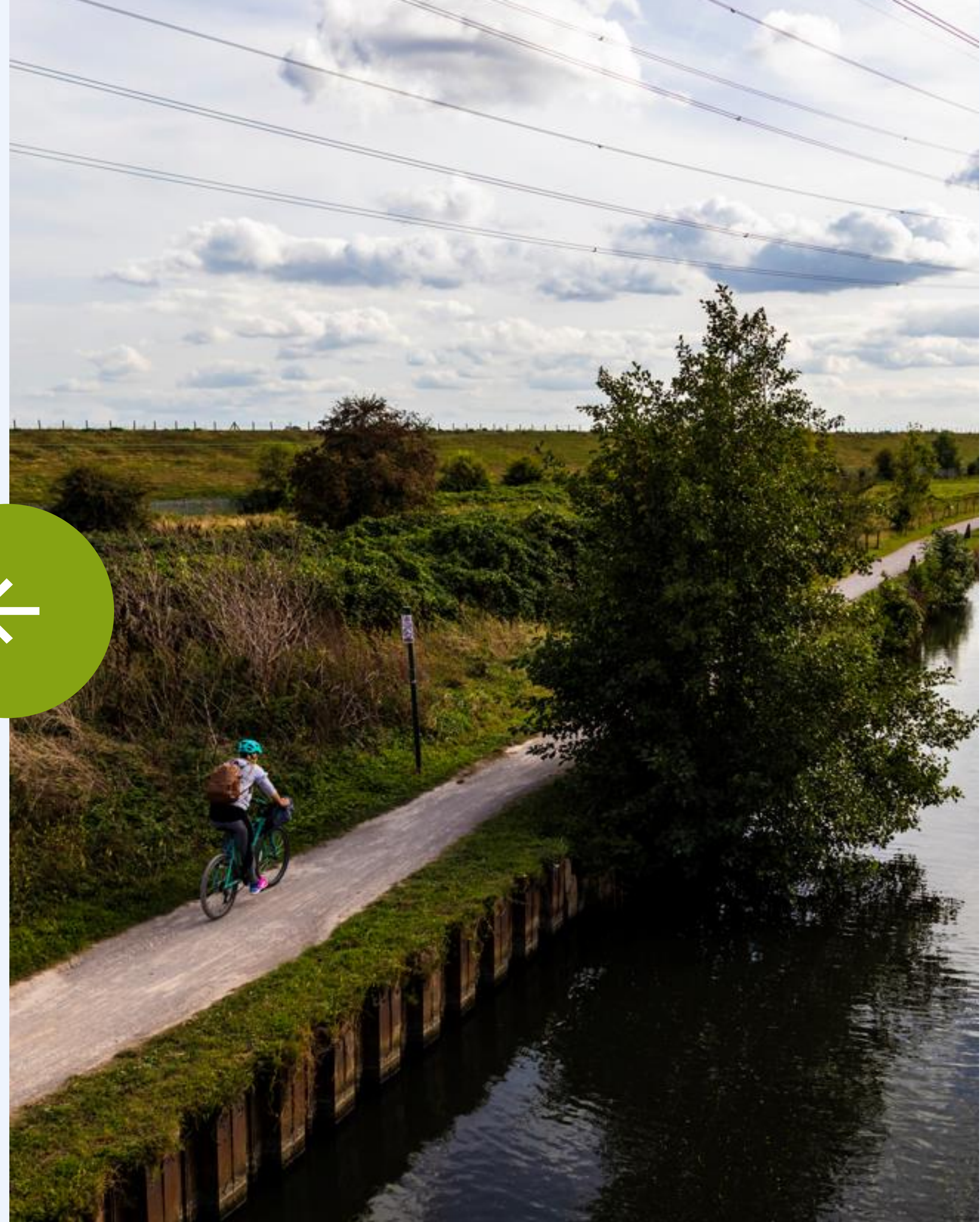




# Landscape and environment

## New public and recreational spaces

- New public open spaces in Runnymede and in Spelthorne alongside foot and cycle paths.
- Opportunities for fishing, boating and canoeing on some sections.
- Health benefits for communities and opportunities for tourism, recreation and leisure.



# Scheme promoters – a partnership approach



- The River Thames Scheme is a multi-agency partnership, with development led by the Environment Agency and Surrey County Council
- The scheme is part of the Environment Agency's wider flood management strategy along the River Thames.
- It is also part of Surrey County Council's county-wide flood resilience strategy.



# S35 Direction



The “proposed project”

- the construction of a new flood relief channel in one or more sections;
- capacity improvements on the River Thames;
- managed country parks;
- biodiversity net gain sites;
- new or improved active travel provision outside of the flood relief channel corridor
- associated development; and
- ancillary development

Reasons for issuing the Direction

- Substantial physical size
- Significant economic impact
- Protection of highway and utilities infrastructure
- Delivery of significant blue-green infrastructure

# A decade of dialogue



➤ **LFRMS Consultation 2009/10**

- Community exhibitions and meetings with councillors, landowners and residents

➤ **Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation (2009/10)**

- Meetings with internal specialists and external environmental groups

➤ **Options Appraisal (2015-2017)**

- Workshops, public drop-in events and resident surgeries

➤ **Outline Design consultation (2015-2019)**

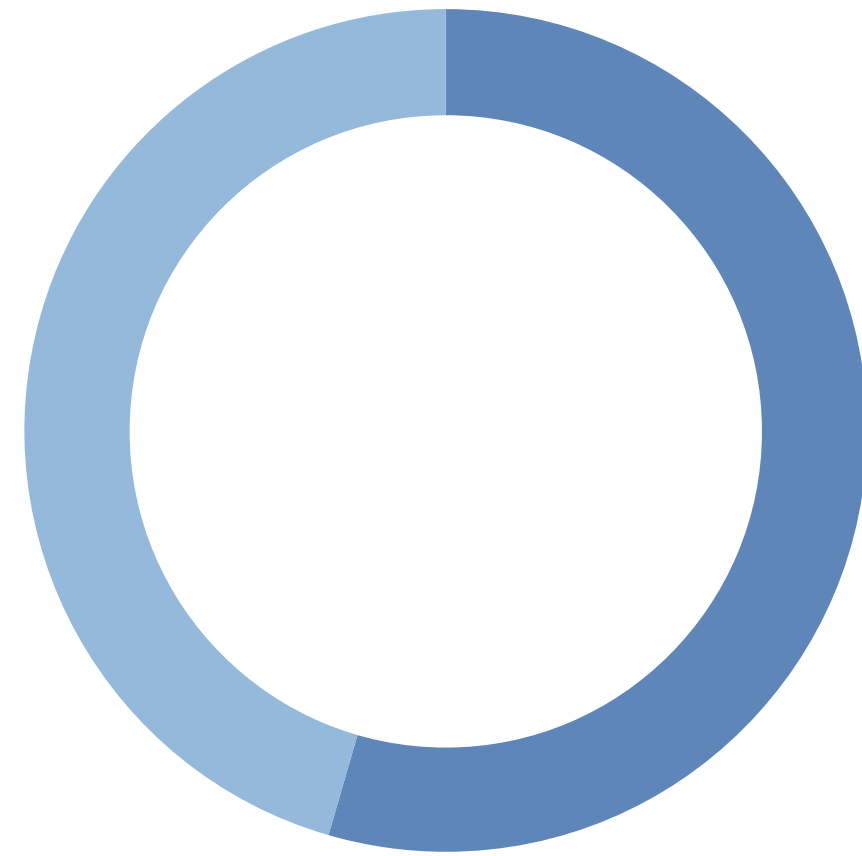
➤ **Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation\* (2015-2019)**

➤ **Pre-planning Application consultation\* (2017-2019)**

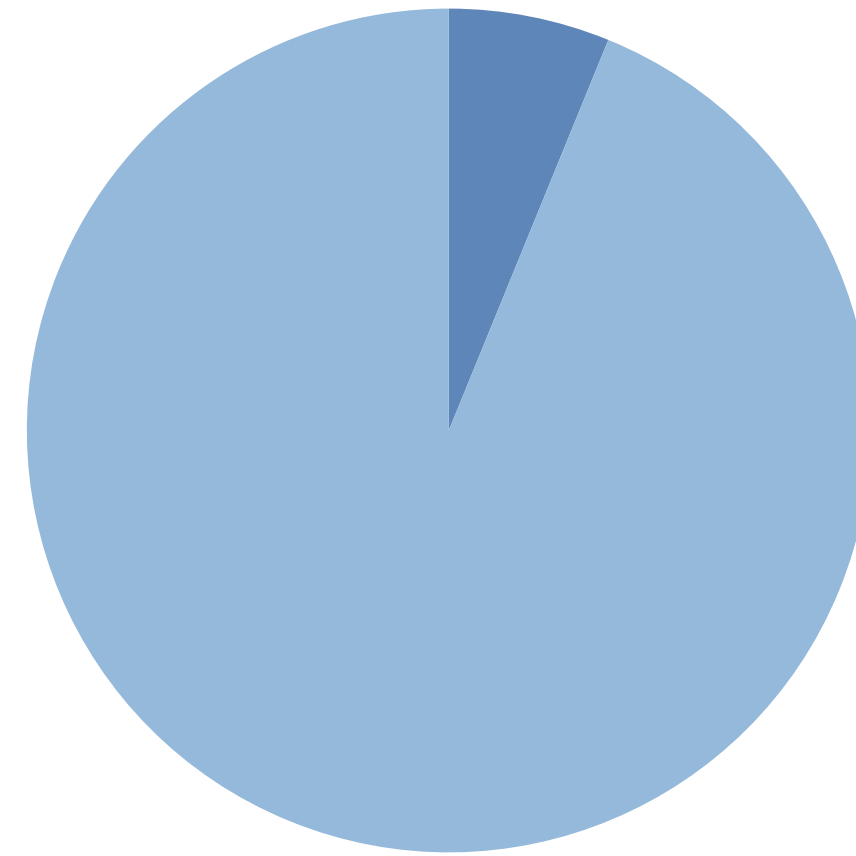
- Meetings with prescribed stakeholders

\* EIA Scoping and Pre-application consultation undertaken under TCPA regime

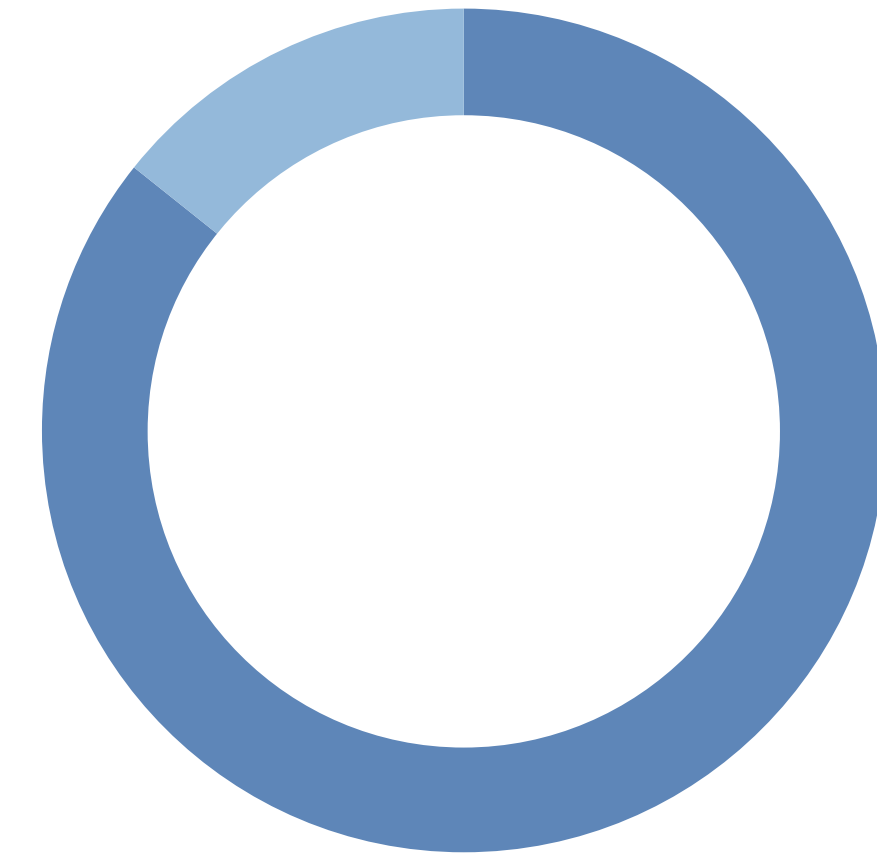
# Future consultation & engagement



Non-statutory  
engagement



Statutory  
consultation



Construction  
engagement

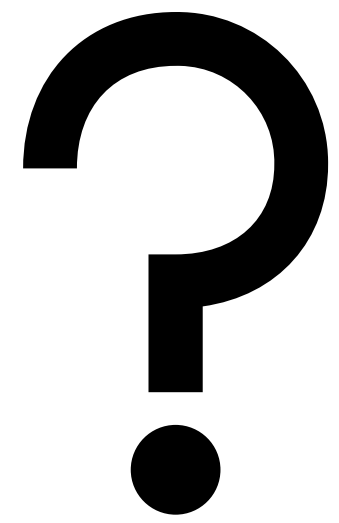
# Programme



Next steps ....

- Autumn/ winter engagement (e.g. website launch)
- Finalise SLA with host authorities
- Complete procurement of suppliers
- Commence EIA Scoping

# Questions



# Future engagement with PINS



- Frequency of meetings
- Key touch points in programme