

Thames Landscape Strategy

Weybridge – Hampton – Kew

The Action Plan

2013 - 17

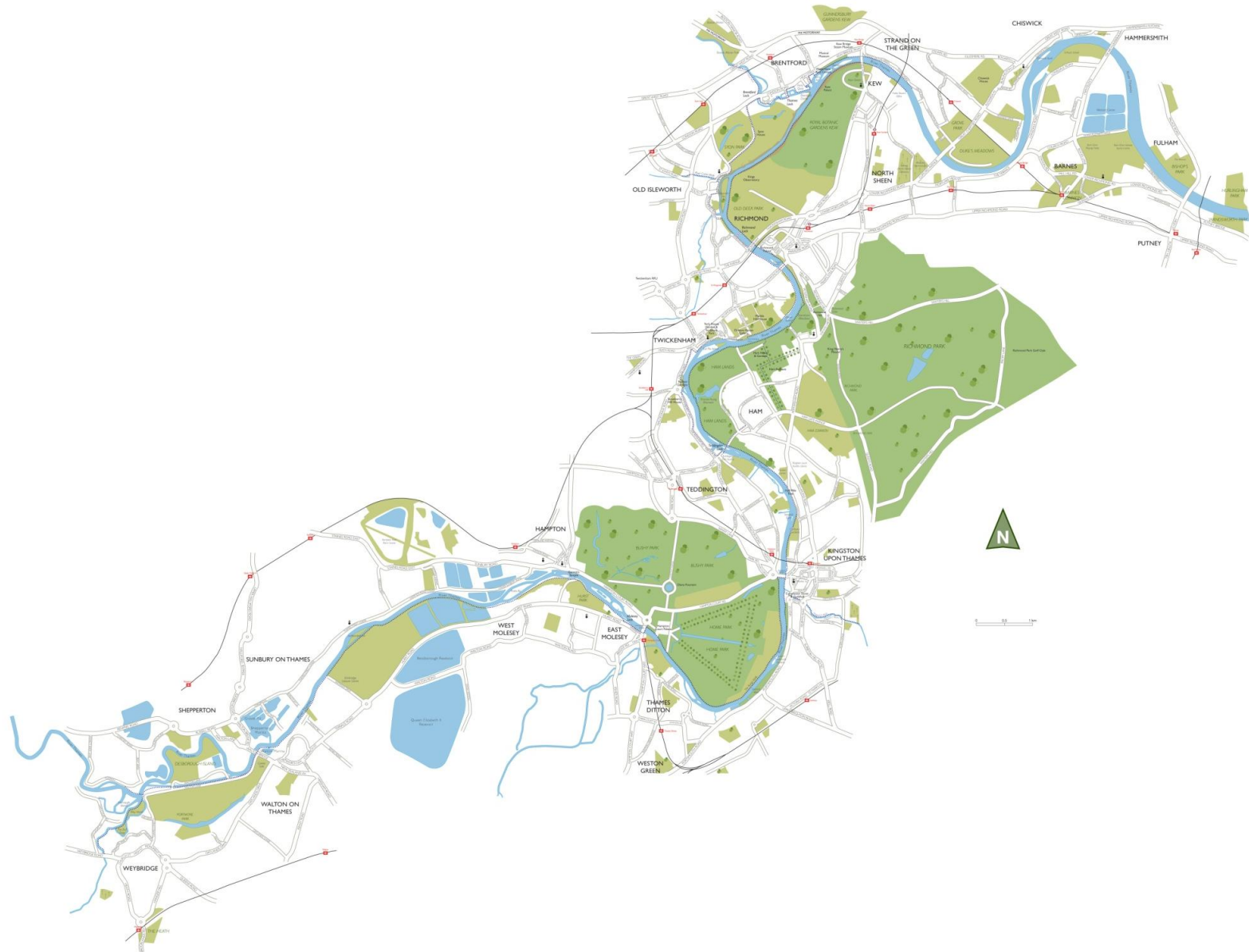
March 2014 Update



Historic Royal Palaces



National Trust



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1.0 Introduction

In March 2013 it was agreed by the TLS partnership to produce a three year action plan to cover the period 2013 – 16. This report forms an update to the three year action plan setting out smart objectives for the financial year 2014 – 15. It has been prepared by the TLS Co-ordinator and agreed by the TLS Executive Review Group, Officers Steering Committee and Community Advisory Group. The purpose of the Action Plan is to set out how the aims of the Thames Landscape Strategy partnership (TLS) will be achieved, thus providing a programme of work for partners, staff and volunteers.

2.0 The Thames Landscape Strategy partnership– Vision and Aims

The Thames Landscape Strategy is one of three sub-regional strategies for the River Thames in London. The TLS brings together a partnership of organisations, individuals and local groups to provide guidance for the Thames corridor between Weybridge and Kew, to act as a catalyst to implement project work on the ground and as a day-to-day link between the authorities, the strategic vision and the community.

The Thames Landscape Strategy vision is to ‘A 100 year masterplan to conserve, promote and enhance the Arcadian Thames - one of the world’s great river landscapes’.

This will be achieved through the Thames Landscape Strategy Partnership objectives:

- To bring together a partnership of organisations, individuals and community groups that have an interest in the Thames in order to provide strategic guidance for the Thames corridor between Hampton and Kew
- To implement the policies, projects and management proposals set out in the Thames Landscape Strategy and to develop new initiatives and opportunities within the remit of the Strategy through strategic and local initiatives,
- To protect and enhance the natural and man-made landscape of the area
- To protect and improve sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management in the implementation of the Thames Landscape Strategy.
- To protect and enhance historic buildings, historic parks and gardens, landscapes and ancient monuments.
- To encourage and maintain a high level of community commitment to the Thames Landscape Strategy vision and encourage community involvement and action to help realise the Thames Landscape Strategy.
- To facilitate the creation of partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- To raise awareness of the Thames Landscape Strategy, increase educational opportunities and promote understanding of the Thames environment and ways of protecting, conserving and enhancing that environment.

- To raise awareness of the River Thames between Hampton and Kew and improve and manage the tourism potential and economic well-being of the area
- To stimulate, where appropriate, and manage formal and informal recreation associated with the Thames.
- To secure and raise funding to enable the Thames Landscape Strategy to be implemented.

3.0 The Thames Landscape Strategy Structure

To guide and co-ordinate the Strategy, the following structure is in place:

Patron Sir David Attenborough

Executive Review Board:

To provide strategic guidance. Local Councillors, landowners, business and the community are represented on the Group (Appendix II). Chairmanship (and Vice Chair) of the Group rotates annually. At present, Cllr Virginia Morris is Chair and Cllr Ruth Lyon is Vice Chair.

Officers Steering Committee:

The committee consists of senior Local Authority officers and representatives from the National Agencies. Chairmanship rotates annually between the Councils and Agencies. Stephen Senior, English Heritage is the current Chairman.

Community Advisory Group:

The Group acts as a community forum and enables the Co-ordinator to have access to local and specialist advice. A rolling programme to encourage new membership. Paula Day is the current Chairman.

Co-ordinator : Through the Memorandum of Agreement, the partners have agreed in principle to fund a full time Co-ordinator until 31 March 2016. The Co-ordinator's role is to find resources, promote projects, co-ordinate and encourage the local authorities, statutory organisations, landowners and the local community to turn the Strategy into action. Co-ordinator: Jason Debney

Project Development Officer: For 2013/14 funding has been secured for a full time Project Development Officer met partly through the partner contributions. Additional monies to top-up this funding have been secured from management fees secured in 2012/13. It is envisaged that some reserve will be needed. Project Development Officer: Rebecca Law

Other Officers: Other officers are appointed when funding is secured.

Thames Landscape Strategy Friends of the Thames Group:

The TLS has an active friends group made up of the many individuals and groups that have an interest in the Thames. The Friends meet once a year at the Annual Meeting and are kept up to date on the Strategies work through the TLS publications and the website. Much of the day-to-day work of the Strategy is achieved through the active involvement of the Friends in volunteer action, fundraising and other activities.

TLS 'In Action' Projects:

The TLS has established a series of 'in action' projects to implement the Thames Landscape Strategy on the ground. These consist of sub groups of the TLS bringing together those groups and organisations that are needed to implement each individual project. Examples include 'London's Arcadia', 'Hampton Court Approaches', 'Putting the Thames Back into Kingston', The Thames Travel Plan Network and the 'Restoration o the Lost Floodplain'.

Volunteers:

A team of volunteers has been established covering the areas of foreshore and Thames Path tidy groups, conservation practical work, project management, events organising, nature conservation and fundraising.

4.0 Goals, Activities and Targets – The Thames Landscape Strategy in Action

This section sets out our targets for the 2nd year of the 3 year action plan covering the period 1014 to 2015. It includes a programme of activities for the Thames Landscape Strategy. The area of work relates directly to the Thames Landscape Strategy aims set out earlier in the report and the TLS Review. The Action Plan continues to prepare for the long term whilst initiating and developing projects on the ground through the effective use of the partnership and community.

TLS Action Plan Projects March 2014 Update

TLS Action Plan Projects

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
	Strategy, Networks and Co-ordination						
	TLS Review Meetings	To continue to carry out a series of meetings to disseminate the content of the new TLS Review with the TLS partners and local civic and amenity societies.	All	Time	5 meetings	5 meetings	
	Weybridge Extension	Review the draft extension and complete final draft. TLS to carry out a 6 week consultation in partnership with EBC. To insert into TLS Review. Launch event	TLS EBC SCC EA NE	£1K	Complete. 15 days (please note that this project is carried over from 2013/14)		
	TLS/CAG Doing Arm	To finalise in partnership with the CAG the establishment of a 'doing arm' of the TLS	TLS CAG	2k	4 days Complete		
	All London Green Grid	Co-ordination of the Area 9 All London Green Grid – The Arcadian Thames. To sit on the GLA ALGG Steering Committee to influence strategy in order to ensure that TLS priorities are included and to try and direct any potential funding towards TLS/TLS partner projects. To provide a strategic method to hook TLS projects on - to aid funding bids. Co-ordination of one Area 9 meeting each year. .	TLS GLA All	Time	3 x ALGG Steering Group meetings. Co-ordination of 1 area 9 meeting. Continue to monitor funding opportunities	Group meetings. Co-ordination of 1 area 9 meeting. Continue to monitor funding and develop schemes where opportunities arise	
	Water Framework Directive and TE2100 and Lower Thames Scheme	To work with partners to help shape strategy and to monitor any potential project or funding opportunities. To work with TEP and TSKC and Thames 21 to develop a pan estuary/London wide partnership to assist the EA deliver the WFD and TE2100.	All	Time Potential funding bids are being investigated	4 Thames Liason Panel meetings per year Continue to monitor funding and develop schemes where opportunities arise	Continue to monitor funding and develop schemes where opportunities arise	

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
1	Restoration of the Natural Floodplain	To continue to implement TLS masterplan.	TLS HRP EA All		To continue Home Park Stage III. To investigate new project – to carry out the scoping and feasibility.	Funding bid for new scheme	.
2	Arcadian Thames Towpath Management Plan inc Volunteer management	To review and implement the Annual Towpath Management Plan.	TLS All		Work with riparian owners, 4 boroughs and their appointed contractors to develop and implement holistic management plan. To identify and implement a volunteer Programme as set out in the plan with riparian owners and boroughs.	Work with riparian owners, 4 boroughs and their appointed contractors to develop and implement holistic management plan. To identify and implement a volunteer Programme as set out in the plan with riparian owners and boroughs.	Work with riparian
3	TLS Communications	Website; Events, lectures, talks; Signage, walking guides, i signage and apps; Press			To continue to carry out 5 talks and events with local groups. To carry out talks with TLS partners on Review. To update the TLS website to widen diversity of users and to include a volunteer/events calendar. Publish TLS App.	To continue to carry out 5 talks and events with local groups. To carry out talks with TLS partners on Review. To reprint 4 x TLS walks and Treasures leaflet.	
4	Bat Walks and	The TLS has carried out bat walks at			To investigate a		

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
	5Monitoring	specific locations since 2002. Funding has ceased for this activity. To investigate a new method to continue the activity so that there is not a break in data.			new method to continue the activity so that there is not a break in data.		
5 NEW	World River Days	Establish a series of events to celebrate World Rivers Day – based around river restoration and WFD volunteering.		EA investigating funding sources.	Develop scheme if funding is available.		
6 NEW		TLS 20 th Birthday Projects			Richmond Hill telescope Pocohontas plaque Brentford Grayburn Road entrance Sopwith Pane;l		
		Elmbridge Borough Council/Surrey County Council					
7	Weybridge Point Car Park	To landscape the Weybridge Point Car Park. To include a viewing point towards Shepperton Island. EA owned land.	TLS EBC EA SCC WeySoc	75k	A scoping study has been carried out. To write a SITTA bid for works. SUBMIT BID.	Fundraising and implementation	Delivery
8	Desborough Island	Work in partnership with EBC to improve the entrances to Desborough Island and the connections around the island along the riverside path. To include sustainable connections between the island and Weybridge and Walton.	TLS EBC SCC EA	Time. TLS working with EA to scope the potential for a project linked to WFD and LTS. Project total 500K	To write an action plan for Desborough Island. Agree priorities, Identify funding opps. The TLS is working with EA to investigate potential for funding linked to a landfill tax credit scheme. Management fees would be needed for TLS time.	To write a funding application to deliver the action plan.	It was agreed that this project should be put on hold until more details regarding the Lower Thames Scheme were available.

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
9	Hurst Park Management Plan	To continue to monitor funding opportunities to implement scheme.	TLS EBC EA, SCC		To prepare a small funding bid to enhance the Graburn Way/Barge Walk access.	Implementation Investigate phase 2 scheme.	Implementation phase 2 scheme.
10	Arcadian Thames Towpath Management Plan - Elmbridge	To continue working in partnership with Swingbridge II, to implement an annual programme of volunteer and Community Service works. To include the 5 yearly coppice of riverside scrub, footpath repair and hedge planting as indicated in the TLS Towpath Management Plan. To include Weybridge to Walton Bridge. Desborough Island Towpath, Walton Lock to Hurst Park, Hurst Park and the Barge Walk.	TLS SCT EBC SCC EA	£1.5K P.A. paid bt TLS to Surrey Care Trust for Swingbridge II.	3 months work – 3 days per week.. Dependent on river conditions.	3 months work – 3 days per week.	3 months work – 3 days per week.
		Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames					
11	Kingston Riverside Walk	Identify improvements to riverside pedestrian / cycle routes between Canbury Gardens and Queen's Promenade. Design the Kingston Riverside path as a continuous public space, co-coordinating materials, planting, seating and signing. Enhancements include: 1. Legibility improvements to the connections to the Ancient Market Place 2. Barge Dock reinstatement and Gardens southern entrance improvements (softening) 3. Softening and reinstatement at the Thameside Car Park 4. Improvements to the northern entrance to Canbury Gardens 5. Thames Side improvements to access 6. Townend Gateway - softening	RBK TLS GLA EA	Estimate in the order of £1m some \$106, but funding bids will be required. Potential to work with Mini Holland scheme.	identify funding opportunities	Design / Implement	Implementation

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
12	Kingston Integrated Moorings Business Plan	Improvements to the provision of leisure, residential and commercial moorings in the town centre. Potential delivery options need to be explored – partnership, design and build or other.	RBK TLS EA		investigate delivery options	Design and Implementation	Implement
13	Canbury Gardens	Landscape the upstream and downstream entrances to Canbury Gardens	RBK / TLS	Up to \$£100k	Potential s106 monies from Skerne Road development Design and deliver scheme if s106 monies can be released.		
14	Canbury Gardens	Naturalisation of Canbury Riverside To include management of scrub along riverbank through the Towpath Management Plan. For the riverbank between the Rowing Club and Lower Ham Road to put in place a series of enhancements to remove hard edges and recreate natural riverbanks.	RBK/TLS EA		Prepare a scoping action plan. Potential project being explored with EA WFD. Investigate funding		
		London Borough Of Richmond upon Thames					
15	The Restoration of the Home Park Water Meadows	To restore and enhance the valuable habitat of the meadows located on the eastern boundary of Home Park. To restore the natural floodplain and introduce river restoration to floodplain (as set out in WFD and TLS). To restore the historic network of sluices, creeks etc on the Longford River and enhance backwater and reedbed habitat. To re-introduce habitat for water voles. To put in place a long term volunteer programme of works and some organised public access events.	HRP / TLS EA	£300,000 £280k raised by TLS to date.	Completed phase 1 works. Phase 2 works underway. . Establish management plan and volunteer groups.	Implement phase 2 works. Volunteer work	
16	Ham & Petersham Back Lands Project	A long term floodplain restoration scheme. Natural River Restoration. Habitat creation, landscaping, access and dry routes between Ham Lands and	TLS LBRUT EA	£700K - £1.4M Long term	Phase 1 To carry out 15 days of volunteer projects to improve	To continue volunteering prioritising activity on management	To continue volunteering prioritising activity on managing

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
		Petersham Meadows. Implementation of TE2100 and WFD. To enhance and connect the backwater habitats on Ham Lands, linking these wetlands to the main river channel and drier habitats inland and Thames Young mariners Lagoon. In the long term investigate the introduction of cattle as part of the management regime. Provide informal dry route access. Install a discreet dry route and make improvements to the wet habitats.	NE EH NT PLA	total	vegetation along the towpath and the backwater habitats Invasive species removal – 5 days summer. To continue to monitor potential funding opportunities to implement wider scheme.	vegetation on the Great River Avenue and wet woodland areas. To continue to monitor potential funding opportunities to implement wider scheme.	vegetation on the towpath. To continue to monitor potential funding opportunities to implement wider scheme.
17	Arcadian Thames Towpath Management Plan – London Borough of Richmond	To work with the LBRuT and appointed contractors to agree the Towpath Management Plan and subsequently to roll out.	TLS LBRUT ES NT NE EH PLA LOCAL GROUPS		25 days volunteer work to clear encroaching vegetation at identified sites. Litter picking. Establishment of Youth Organisations in Uniform Adopt the Thames Scheme To investigate the use of working horses on certain sites	25 days volunteer work to clear encroaching vegetation at identified sites. Litter picking.	25 days volunteer work to clear encroaching vegetation at identified sites. Litter picking.
18	Isleworth Ferry	Work with the Thames Wherry Trust to investigate the handing over the rights to operate the Isleworth Ferry			To pass the rights to the ferry over to the Thames Wherry Trust.	To complete project.	
		London Borough of Hounslow					
19	Brentford Creek	Work with LBH to complete Brentford Creek improvements - £160k. Project managed by LBH in partnership with the TLS.	LBH TLS	£160k Funding in place	Complete project		
20	Ferry Quays	Continue to investigate potential funding	TLS	Unknown	Feasibility	Fundraising	Implementation

Project Number	Project	Project description	Project owner & Partners	Estimate Cost to TLS & Funding	2014/15	2015/16	Notes
	Grand Union – link to Syon Park	for a new link between the Grand Union Canal via the Thames Path to Syon Park	LBH CRT EA PLA SYON	Funding received from LBH to take scheme forward.	Fundraising Work through LBH with developers		
21	Arcadian Thames Towpath Management Plan	Volunteer Management works, implementation of the Towpath Management Plan			On going 10 days	Ongoing	Ongoing
22	TLS On-going Activities						
23							
24	TLS Operational procedures				Agree with lead partner		
25	Office Administration						
26	Management Meetings	OSC, MRG & CAG					
27	Other Events	Annual Meeting and Summer Event					
28	Action Plan and TLS Annual Review						
29	Fundraising	include only fundraising for TLS core costs.					
30	Planning Applications						
31	Input into Other Strategies & Other Meetings	Strawberry Hill, Popes Grotto, Turner's House, Hampton Court Approaches, Kew World Heritage Site Steering Group					

5.0 Budget Forecast

SEE SEPARATE PAPER – TO BE INCORPORATED INTO ACTION PLAN FOR MRG ONCE AGREED BY MRG

6.0 Volunteers

Volunteers undertake part of the work carried out by the Thames Landscape Strategy. The Thames Landscape Strategy has a small but dedicated core of volunteer staff who are assigned to specific work areas such as help on specific projects and exploring funding opportunities. In addition the TLS has been extremely successful in the previous year in utilising volunteers in the

development of projects and the undertaking of project work, including many riverside clean ups in all four boroughs by community service workers and prisoners on day release.

7.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is an ongoing process, which enables necessary adjustments to be made during the course of the Action plan. The following timetable will be used:

Monthly and Quarterly

Co-ordinator - to work through the action plan to check progress and identify areas of work outstanding and agree minor adjustments. Reports on progress to Members Review Group, Officers Steering Committee and Community Advisory Group and line manager. Recommendations for major adjustments to be agreed by Officers Steering Committee. Quarterly meetings with Line Manager and current Chair of TLS OSC.

Annually

In September the previous year's audited accounts will be presented to the MRG alongside an Annual Review. This will include a summary of work carried out that year and a breakdown of volunteer time and funding secured. To be submitted to the Members Review Group and the Officers Steering Committee. Also forms part of next year's Action plan to be produced March/April. In March the TLS Co-ordinator to present partners with next year's budget forecast to be agreed.

Key targets for measurement

- Success of project work and fundraising for projects and the Strategy (including help in kind).
- Number and effectiveness of volunteer work days
- Improvement to management of river
- Inclusion of the TLS in Borough and other Strategies
- Number of talks and presentations
- Number of local press articles
- Summary of previous year in Annual Review

APPENDIX : The Thames Landscape Partnership

Current Members of the Members Review Group (Feb 2006)

Cllr Flemming & Cllr Arbour, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Cllr Barry O'Mahony & Cllr Cunningham, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Cllr Lyon & Cllr Robertson, Elmbridge Borough Council,

Cllr Mallet & Cllr Hickman (Vice Chair Designate) – Surrey County Council

Cllr Lynch London Borough of Hounslow(TLS Chair) and Cllr Ellar

Dr Hazel Conway - English Heritage, Paula Day - Chairman Community Advisory Group

Adrian Philips - Historic Royal Palaces, Richard Copas - Environment Agency, Ian Wilson – National

Trust, David Holroyd - Kew Gardens, Mr C Buttery - Royal Parks Agency, Mr R Tufnell – Crown

Estate, James Trimmer PLA,

Current Members of the Officers Steering Committee

Richard Copas, Environment Agency

Clare Smith, Elmbridge Borough Council, Leisure

Gillian Bernadt, London Borough of Hounslow, Planning

Philip Wealthy London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Planning

David Alister, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Leisure Services

Andrew Lynch, Planning Officer, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Development

David Greenwood, Surrey County Council

Stephen Senior, English Heritage (Chair)

Simon Richards Royal Parks Agency

Naomi Cambell National Trust
James Trimmer PLA
Deborah Bird Historic Royal Palaces
David Holroyd Kew Gardens
Simon Richards, Royal Parks Agency
GLA (Observer) – vacant

Current Members of the Community Advisory Group

Paula Day (Chair) Hurst Park Residents Association
Denis Browne (Past Chairman), Brentford Community Council
Anne Brown, Kingston upon Thames Society
Jill Green, Residents Planning Alliance
Nicky Wood, Richmond Society
Prof. Jack Betteridge, River Thames Society
Dido Berkeley, thamesbank
Richard Mobbs, Canbury and Riverside Association
Ann Powell, Ham and Petersham Association
Ann Sayer, Teddington Society - Riverside Group
Carol Dukes, Hampton Wick Association
Michael Glazebrook West London River Group
The Kew Society
Andrea Cameron, Hounslow Heritage Guides
Mike Hart, Dittons Skiff and Punting Club
Miranda Jagger, River Thames Boat Project
Jay Whitcombe, Thames Wherry Trust
Barry Edwards River User Group 9
Jeremy Stromburg, Hampton Horse Rangers

Andrew Roberts – Thames Ditton Society

The Thames Landscape Strategy

Thames Landscape Strategy
Holly lodge
Richmond Park
Richmond
TW10 5HS