

# THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

HAMPTON to KEW

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# ANNUAL REVIEW of 2008



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY



THE NATIONAL TRUST



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Historic Royal  
PALACES



ELMBRIDGE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
*...bridging the communities...*

THE CROWN  
ESTATE



Hounslow



Kew  
PLANTS PEOPLE  
POSSIBILITIES



# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE 2008

## Partnership and Strategic Planning

The greatest strength of the Thames Landscape Strategy is the partnership of riparian organisations, local groups and friends. The Thames Landscape Strategy works through the partnership to inform strategic policy and to ensure that the aims of the Strategy are implemented on the ground. In 2008 the TLS was actively involved in the development of several regional strategic plans that would affect the river corridor. The TLS sits on the Water Framework Directive Thames Region Liaison Panel, representing the three sub-regional partnerships for the River Thames across London and the wider estuary. In addition, the TLS has actively participated in the development of the strategic flood risk management plan for the River Thames through the TE2100 study.

At a local level, the TLS has been a key player in the production of both the Brentford and Kingston Area Action Plans. The TLS has ensured that the principles contained in the GLA Plan for London Blue Ribbon Annex have been incorporated into the action plans to protect and strengthen the way that these two riverside communities will manage their river, boating heritage and infrastructure for the next 20 years.

The TLS continues to provide advice and guidance to a range of strategic partnerships including the River Thames Alliance, Tidal Thames Habitat Action Group, River Thames Education Network and the Thames Tideway Strategic Study.

During 2008 the TLS has commented on 15 planning applications, notably the Jolly Boatman site, Kingston Power Station site, and Kew Bridge Brentford. The next stage in the TLS Review has been completed, funded by the Environment Agency to identify the changes needed to bring the 1994 report in line with new legislation, such as the GLA Plan for London, and the South East Regional Plan.

## Meet the Staff

Since 2000 the TLS partnership has raised over £15million to implement a range of project work across the partnership area. Funding is secured for the Co-ordinator and the core costs to manage the TLS partnership. Funding for the Project Development Officer is secured until December 2009. Volunteers continue to play an important role in the management of the Strategy. The London's Arcadia project employs two full time officers.



**Co-ordinator: Jason Debney.** Coming from a strong river background, previous employers included British Waterways, with an infectious enthusiasm for the Thames, its history, its wildlife and its future, Jason joined the TLS in 2000. His job is to manage the TLS and create the new projects and opportunities that implement the 1994 report on the ground.



**Project Development Officer: Rebecca Law.** A new member of the TLS family following the departure of Valerie Beirne last summer, Rebecca has a particular interest in wildlife and history with a background in Environmental Sciences and habitat management. Her job is the administration of the TLS, the website, publicity and to assist the Co-ordinator on the implementation of the projects.



**London's Arcadia Project Manager: Ken MacKenzie.** Originally from Vancouver, Ken was a UK sailing champion and has grown up around rivers and water, with a keen interest in photography. His job is to implement and manage the HLF-funded London's Arcadia projects as well as find the extra funding for smaller projects along the way.



**London's Arcadia Project Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator: Francesca Morrison.** Joined London's Arcadia in September 2007 having previously worked at the Bat Conservation Trust and other environmental charities including a waterway charity in the East End. Her job is to facilitate the volunteer programme throughout the London's Arcadia area and help implement the Thames Landscape Strategy practical projects.

# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE 2008

## The TLS in Action

Throughout 2008 the TLS has continued to find ways to implement the Strategy to ensure that the Thames corridor is conserved and enhanced for people and wildlife. The following projects have been initiated by the TLS:

**Molesey Riverside Management Plan:** the culmination of 3 years' research and public consultation. It outlines a series of actions to conserve the natural character of Hurst Park and the Barge Walk to Molesey Lock for the enjoyment of people and wildlife.

**Hampton Court Approaches:** sets out to improve the sense of arrival that visitors feel when they approach Hampton Court Palace: by boat, on foot, by cycle, bus or train, by improving connections, the streetscape and the construction of new cycle paths.

**Putting the Thames Back into Kingston:** to celebrate the watery heritage of Kingston and to use it as a mechanism to regenerate the use and character of the Thames, linked to wider Borough initiatives. This includes increasing public awareness through events and publicity, and improving the street and landscapes along the water's edge to encourage access.

**Teddington Gateway:** objectives have been devised to conserve and enhance the most important historic and natural elements of the Teddington Lock area. These include enhancements to lighting, seating, railings, signage and the towpath, as well as structural restoration.

**London's Arcadia:** a successful £3.3m Heritage Lottery Funded scheme to restore, open up and enhance the views to and from Richmond Hill between Radnor Gardens in Twickenham and Richmond Lock. It has included landscape restoration, education, community partnership, and habitat management.

**Brentford - a Waterway Town!:** the rich waterway heritage and industrial character of Brentford is the main focus of this project with elements based around enhancing and publicising that history. The project looks at improving connections, interpretation, and visitor opportunities as well as the potential for wildlife.

**Ham Avenues Restoration Management Plan:** part of London's Arcadia, this project has carried out extensive consultation and research to restore the Ham Avenues. It has involved tree planting and maintenance, footpath repair, hedge planting, and bench installation.

**TLS Towpath Management Plan:** re-written annually to keep up to date, this management plan works closely with partners and community groups to produce a comprehensive plan to maintain and improve the towpaths of the TLS area for both people and wildlife.

**Biodiversity and Riverside Management:** the TLS has continued to take a lead role in the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plans along the Thames, including habitat creation, management and education.

**Volunteer Action:** More than 18,000 volunteer hours were recorded throughout the year in Kingston, Hounslow, Elmbridge, and Richmond (delivered by the HLF London's Arcadia) many of whom were young people. Work included foreshore clearance, species surveys, towpath clean-ups, tree planting, and scrub bashing. Between November and December the TLS worked with Surrey Care Trust on a range of projects between Teddington and Molesey including building a stag beetle loggery, planting a hedge, and habitat management. The TLS also works with the Probation and Community Services on a range of project work.



*Petrofac and Swingbridge at Hurst Park*

**TLS Visitor, Education and Outreach Action Plan:** sets out a way forward to increase understanding, sustainable travel options, and use of the Arcadian Thames.

**TLS Waterspace Action Plan:** is a series of proposals to ensure that the GLA Blue Ribbon policies are implemented on the ground.

**Restoration of the Lost Floodplain:** introduced in November at Petersham Nurseries by TLS Patron Sir David Attenborough the action plan proposes a series of projects to manage the landscape for people, water and wildlife in response to changing climate and increasing flood risk. Funding bids to take the project forward have been submitted to Transport for London and the Environment Agency.

# A Partnership for the River Thames between Hampton and Kew



The River Thames lies at the physical, economical and spiritual centre of one of the world's greatest and diverse capital cities. The river embodies both London's ancestry and its capacity for change, renewal and evolution. London's river is as diverse as the capital itself, constantly changing as it flows through the metropolis to the sea. This variety has been characterised into four distinct reaches, based on an understanding of the unique features, environments, dynamism and use of the Thames corridor, rather than on more traditional political or navigational boundaries. These reaches are:

- Hampton to Kew
- Kew to Chelsea
- Chelsea to Tower Bridge
- Tower Bridge to Shoeburyness

The Thames Landscape Strategy, established in 1994, brings together a sub regional partnership of riparian organisations and communities within a 100-year vision for one of these distinct reaches between Hampton and Kew. This stretch of the Thames bridges the divide between the freshwater and tidal river at Teddington within a wider collective riverscape of parks, palaces, public open spaces and working riverside communities. Similar initiatives have been established for two of the three other reaches of the river namely the Thames Strategy – Kew to Chelsea, and the Thames Estuary Partnership - Tower Bridge to Shoeburyness. Collectively these three organisations form the River Thames sub-regional partnerships, as recognised in the Mayor's Plan for London.

Although quite independent from each other, these three sub-regional partnerships work closely with one another and have pioneered the principle that through their local networks and respective visions, wider strategic goals such as flood risk management, biodiversity action plans, the Thames Waterways Plan and the Blue Ribbon Network Annex of the London Plan can be made accessible to a wide cross-section of the community, and also be implemented on the ground through community action.

# ABOUT THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

The Thames Landscape Strategy is a sub-regional partnership for the River Thames between Hampton and Kew in West London. It brings together a partnership of organisations, individuals and local groups to provide strategic guidance for the Thames corridor. The partnership acts as a catalyst to implement project work on the ground, and as a day-to-day link between the authorities, the local communities and the vision of the Strategy.

## **The Thames Landscape Strategy vision is to**

***‘Conserve, promote and enhance for the future,  
one of the world’s great river landscapes between Hampton and Kew’***

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, the TLS ‘In Action’ schemes and other partner 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 Arcadian 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

***‘The Thames Landscape Strategy is as much about  
the day-to-day link between the landscape, the community and the  
authorities as about the long term vision.’***

Kim Wilkie, 2006

# STRUCTURE OF THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

## Patron

### Members' Review Group

Meets four times a year, plus one annual meeting, to provide strategic guidance. Local Councillors, landowners, business and the community are represented on the Group. Chairmanship (and Chair Designate) of the Group rotates annually. In 2008/09 Cllr Ruth Lyon is Chairman, Cllr Martin Elengorn is Chair Designate.

### Officers' Steering Committee

Meets four times a year to assist and guide the Co-ordinator. It consists of senior Local Authority officers and representatives from the National Agencies. Chairmanship rotates annually between the Councils and Agencies. Officers work in partnership with the Co-ordinator to develop projects and strategic policy. 2008 Chair: Andrew Lynch.

### Thames Landscape Strategy Staff

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. Funding has been secured for a full time Project Development Officer. In addition there are two full-time members of staff working on London's Arcadia and a Heritage Education Officer working in partnership with Orleans House Gallery.

### Community Advisory Group

Meeting four times a year, 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 commenced in 1998. The Chair for 2008 is Paula Day.

### 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 Strategy's work through the Annual Review. 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.

### 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.

### Other Organisations and the Wider Community

In addition to the funding partners, there are over 150 community groups, 50 statutory and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) which operate in the Thames Landscape Strategy area that the TLS works closely with.

### Father Thames Trust

The Father Thames Trust is the charitable arm of the Strategy. Chairman of the Trust is Lord Watson of Richmond.

### Richmond Environment Network (REN)

Key strategic organisation for the environment and civic pride in the London Borough of Richmond.

# STRUCTURE OF THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

••••• Sir David Attenborough - Our greatest supporter who provides encouragement and advice. Sir David attended the annual and the summer meetings, and the Floodplain meeting at Petersham Nurseries.

••••• London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, London Borough of Hounslow, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Elmbridge Borough Council, Environment Agency, English Heritage, the National Trust, Port of London Authority, the Royal Parks, Historic Royal Palaces, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Crown Estate, Surrey County Council.

••••• London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, London Borough of Hounslow, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Elmbridge Borough Council, Environment Agency, English Heritage, the National Trust, Port of London Authority, the Royal Parks, Historic Royal Palaces, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Crown Estate, Surrey County Council.

••••• TLS Co-ordinator, TLS Project Development Officer, London's Arcadia Project Manager, London's Arcadia Project Officer, Heritage Education Officer, part-time minutes secretary and book-keeper.

••••• The Kingston upon Thames Society, Richmond Society, Kew Society, Hurst Park Residents Association, River Thames Society, Teddington Society, Ham and Petersham Association, Canbury Area Residents Association, Brentford Community Council, Seething Wells Action Group, Marble Hill Society, Hampton Wick Society, Residents Planning Alliance, Thamesbank, River Thames Boat Project, Dittons Skiff and Punting Club, Hounslow Heritage Guides, Eel Pie Island Association, Thames Wherry Trust.

••••• Database of over 2,500 local, regional, national and international friends.

••••• Hurst Park Mangement, Hampton Court Approaches, Putting the Thames back into Kingston, Teddington Gateway, Ham Avenue's Restoration Plan, London's Arcadia, Kew Towpath, Brentford Riverside, Volunteering & Community Involvement, Towpath Management Plan & Biodiversity, Probation and Community Service Involvement, Communications & Outreach, Education, Richmond Environment Network, River Use & Recreation.

••••• Over 18,000 volunteer hours recorded in the year.

Associated organisations and groups - to name but a few...

••••• Isleworth Extended Schools Programme

Thames Wherry Trust

Marble Hill Society

Kingston Environment Centre

London Wetland Centre

York House Society

Ham & Petersham Association

East Molesey Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Brentford Community Council

Friends of the Earth - Kingston

Friends of Richmond Park

German School

Richmond AID (RAID)

Molesey Boat Club

Ham Polo Club

Friends of Radnor Gardens

Museum of Twickenham

and many more.

# THE TLS IN ACTION!

## Fundraising

The TLS is a not-for-profit organisation. Core costs are provided through generous contributions from the partners (including the Co-ordinator's salary and a proportion of the Project Development Officer's post totalling £80,000p.a.). All other funding is secured through donations, grants and management fees. Additional sources of income are always required for project work and staffing costs including those of the Arcadia, volunteer and education officers. As part of the London's Arcadia initiative, the TLS has access to a part-time professional fundraiser, Kerry Rock from Action Planning, who has provided excellent support on a variety of different projects. The TLS also benefits from its active Friends group who help fund projects through private donations and give up time to come out on volunteer days. Throughout 2008, financial supporters have included BIFFaward, Pepsi, Veolia, Petrofac Engineering and eBay as well as project-specific support coming from the TLS partners such as English Heritage's contribution towards the Treasures by the Thames leaflet. Working alongside the boroughs, significant funding has also been secured from Transport for London for riverside enhancements including pedestrian and cycling improvements, boardwalks and dry routes across frequently flooded areas. Wherever possible, the TLS tries to maximise external funding by 'matching' different pots of money with other sources. By working in this way significant amounts of funding have been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-giving trusts. Between 2000 and 2008 the TLS has provided the catalyst for just over £15,000,000 of project work.

## Education and Outreach

The Education and Outreach Programme is designed to connect people with their riverside environment. It provides opportunities for more people from all backgrounds to have greater access to, and better understanding of the river's management, conservation, flood risk, and dynamics. The Programme is designed to link with all TLS on-the-ground project goals, and includes the wider agendas of volunteering, interpretation, healthy living, and life-long learning. A formal schools programme works in partnership with Orleans House Gallery to deliver a range of educational activities targeted at Primary and Secondary school pupils, families (especially those living in deprived wards across the TLS area), young parents, children and young people who are looked after, and adults living in emergency accommodation.



*Students from the German School help with Himalayan Balsam removal*

In addition to the formal learning programme, the TLS carried out a range of activities aimed at increasing understanding and participation in river activity including lectures, talks, participation at events, foreshore discovery days, production of walking leaflets, signs and interpretation panels, and one-off education days at a range of locations, and has supported the progress of the Twickenham River Centre.

Highlights have included

- 'Our Richmond' – working with young people across the London Borough of Richmond in partnership with young people from Richmond Virginia.
- 'Saturday Safari' – a ground breaking family learning collaboration targeting areas of relative deprivation. The project was showcased at the National Family Learning Network conference.
- Special Activities – taking children from areas of deprivation out onto the river and foreshore.
- Construction of a 'Jolly Boat' by students at Grey Court School.



*Students from Grey Court School with their 'Jolly Boat'*

TLS also goes out to many of the events running throughout the year including the Kingston River Festival and Richmond Park Open Day, as well as holding events of our own.

Funding for the current Education and Outreach Programme comes to an end in February 2009.

# THE TLS IN ACTION!

## Marketing, Publicity, and Events

During 2008 the TLS has been very active in the media with:

- 38 specialist articles
- 22 national articles
- 14 international articles
- 40 talks and lectures
- 3 television news items
- 4 radio interviews
- 10 Arcadian Diaries
- 61 local press articles

The TLS displays have been taken to events and lectures to give a visual description of the organisations work and promote the projects. There has also been an extensive update to the website with the addition of visitor pages showing a selection of places to stay and eat, and attractions to visit. The projects pages and information leaflets have also been updated and uploaded to give



*Sir David Attenborough, TLS Patron at the Summer Event Held at Pembroke Lodge*



*TLS Annual Meeting 2008 with Rt. Hon. Hillary Benn MP*

the viewer access to the latest TLS news and affairs. The image gallery is constantly being updated with photographs of the works in progress, before and after, and the many grand views, vistas, parks, gardens, palaces, and abundant wildlife that you may encounter whilst exploring the Arcadian Thames.

The TLS was pleased to welcome the Rt. Hon Hillary Benn MP, Secretary of State for the Environment as the guest speaker at the TLS Annual Meeting held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

## TLS Towpath Management Plan

This is the sixth Thames Landscape Strategy Towpath Management Plan for the stretch of river between Hampton and Kew.

The Plan acts as a guide to council officers, council contractors and local communities in the day-to-day management of the towpath throughout 2008. The TLS Towpath Management Plan has been produced to balance the needs of river users with the implementation of biodiversity action plans covering all aspects of riverside management including litter picking/collection, grass cutting, tree works, infrastructure repair and control of invasive species. This includes how, when and to what extent each element is to be carried out - for example, the hay cut is specified to a particular height to maximise re-colonisation by native species. It accounts for enhancement projects and also for any additional operations that may be necessary.

Volunteer action forms an intrinsic part of the Plan and has been weaved into the normal day-to-day operations of council contractors where appropriate.

The 2008 Plan has been extended to embrace two additional boroughs - Hounslow and Elmbridge - in addition to the London Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and the Royal Borough of Kingston.



*Young Volunteers Help with the Tree Planting in Hampton*

## BRENTFORD - A WATERWAY TOWN!

Brentford is one of the most important surviving canal junctions in the UK. It is also one of the best remaining clusters of water-based activity in the capital. Between Kew Bridge and Syon Park, the Rivers Thames and Brent meander through a 'lost' landscape of wharfs, disused docks, boatyards, creeks, and islands. Brentford - a Waterway Town! is a new project of the TLS that hopes to celebrate this waterway heritage to improve the area for visitors, locals, and wildlife alike.

### History

As far back as the Stone Age, Brentford was the site of activity. Evidence suggests it was the ceremonial centre of the Celtic Catuvellauni tribe and that in 54BC Caesar made his crossing of the Thames here. The strategic importance of the ford of the River Brent continued to shape the history of the area as shown by the Battle of Brentford in 1006 between Edmund Ironside and King Canute. Now given its Saxon name of Brentford, the settlement became an administrative centre for the county of Middlesex and an important trading and market town reliant on the river.



*Grand Union Canal Junction, Brentford*

Brentford continued to grow, with a corn market, jam factories, breweries and soap works, and in 1805, this trading significance received a boost. The construction of the Grand Union Canal made Brentford a key inland port. With it came much industrial activity. Tanneries, warehouses, factories, and the Gas and Coke Works were opened, and such was the scale of industrialisation that the aits between Brentford and Kew needed to be enlarged and planted with trees to obscure the industrial landscape

from the polite Royal residents on the opposite bank. In 1859 the Great Western & Brentford Railways branch was opened, linking 'Old England' with the rail network. A huge trans-shipment yard was designed by Brunel where goods could be transferred between river and rail, linking the Port of London with the GWR. It survived until 1964, and the site once covered in railway sidings is now the Brentford Dock development.

Incredibly, much of this gritty landscape has survived and is located between the Kew Gardens World Heritage Site and the major attractions of Syon House and Strand on the Green.

### Aims

The TLS has been working with the London Borough of Hounslow on an Area Action Plan for Brentford to guide the regeneration of the area over the next decade. Brentford - a Waterway Town! aims to inform and deliver much-needed improvements to the river 'to build a sustainable, accessible and connected town, for the future, that enhances Brentford's established character as a waterway settlement as a place to live, work, and visit'.

The plan sets out a framework so that future development starts from the position that Brentford is a working waterway town, so as to conserve the working character of the Junction.

It is proposed that a series of improvements be put in place to raise the profile of Brentford as a destination in its own right rather than just a stop-over or passing point on the way to other attractions. This includes making more of the opportunity to see a working canal junction without getting in the way. Improvements to the Thames Path, including landscaping of existing stretches and creation of new links would further enhance accessibility

to improve the visitor experience. These new connections could be linked to a proposed new pedestrian link between Brentford and Syon Park and the re-establishment of the Brentford Ferry to link Kew Gardens with the town and nearby parks at Gunnersbury and Boston Manor.



*Busy boat yard beside the Thames Lock, Brentford*

## BRENTFORD - A WATERWAY TOWN!

### Policy

The Brentford Area Action Plan, makes specific reference to the Thames Landscape Strategy as a key partnership to act as the catalyst to deliver change along the river corridor.

In the London Plan there is specific mention of Brentford's position within the Kew Gardens World Heritage Site Buffer Zone and the town's strategic location on the Blue Ribbon Network. It states that the use and access along the waterways be increased, facilities for boating activity protected, and wildlife conserved.

### Proposed Projects (subject to agreement following consultation)

Kew Bridge – Enhancement of the connections between Strand on the Green and Brentford through the creation of an accessible link under Kew Bridge. The greater provision for river based recreation and landscaping could enhance the visual amenity and wildlife habitat of the location.

The Hollows – Long-term improvement to accessibility along the Thames Path, short-term way-marking to create a legible alternative along the High Street between Kew Bridge and Waterman's Park.

Waterman's Park – Improve connections and the entrance ways, continuing the good work already started on improving the visual appearance of the south-facing garden, including facilities for children.

Waterman's Art Centre to Ferry Quays – Build on the potential for the Art Centre to make the most of its riverside location and improve access and legibility along the Thames Path. Complete the riverside walkway between the park and Ferry Quays.

Towpath between Ferry Quay and Dock Road – Possible reinstatement of the Brentford Ferry to link Kew with Syon Park, Brentford and the national canal network. Make improvements to the visual, educational, and security aspects of the towpath around the Heidelberg Building with the improvement to the towpath and the installation of a heritage viewing platform.

Dock Road to Syon Park – Improve accessibility and legibility along this stretch of Thames Path with a proposed new pedestrian link between Syon Park and Brentford across the canal.

Improve the waterspace employment and tourist industry – Encourage small-scale water-related industry as part of the wider regeneration of Brentford as a whole. Create opportunities and potential for Brentford to be a visitor destination in its own right by advertising and celebrating its historical and heritage importance.



*Green Dragon Estate in Brentford viewed from Old Deer Park*



*Waterman's Park and the Kew Steam Museum Tower*

Brentford - a Waterway Town! is the first stage in a major new project initiated by the Thames Landscape Strategy partnership to conserve, open up, restore, and enhance this remarkable landscape that is the downstream gateway to the Arcadian Thames.

## BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT CREATION

The TLS is a member of the Richmond and Hounslow Biodiversity Partnerships as well as working with partners directly on habitat and species diversity through out the TLS area. This year has seen a wonderful set of projects designed to enhance and conserve the biological heritage of the Arcadian Thames. In a groundbreaking initiative, London's Arcadia has been developing a project to improve the streetlights along the Warren Footpath for both people and nocturnal wildlife (more on page 26).

On Eel Pie Island a Sand Martin Bank has been constructed. Volunteers worked tirelessly, shifting 30 tonnes of sand, concrete, and other materials, by hand, over Eel Pie bridge to the site. Lloyd Turner were appointed to guide the project, bringing expertise gained from their construction of a similar structure at the London Wetlands Centre. Now completed, the Bank has been rendered to appear as a natural sand bank, with draft-proofed housing for 80 sand martins as well as a number of bat roosts in the top. One of the nest areas has also been fitted with 4 webcams that, come the spring, will be projected on the TLS website. The webcams will be powered by a tidal-powered motor in the water.



*Eel Pie Island Sand Martin Bank*

The TLS also has funding to investigate locations for a series of otter holts along the riverbank as well as a second sand martin bank for the area. A new stag beetle loggery has been built at Hurst Park as part of the works carried out by the Surrey Care Trust. It is hoped that it will soon be filled with hibernating larvae. The stag beetle, with large mandibles that give it its name, is Britain's largest beetle and requires dead wood to complete its growth cycle. The loggery consists of cut logs planted vertically in the ground in a shady spot. The decaying wood is not only good for stag beetles but many other kinds of insect and micro-organisms feed on/live in it, making even a small pile of logs a miniature ecosystem in its own right.



*Volunteers collecting mistletoe berries in Bushy Park*

The TLS has also led an exciting new project to reintroduce mistletoe to the trees around the area. Mistletoe grows best in open parkland and is a semi-parasitic plant living on deciduous trees. The purpose of the project is to increase mistletoe populations by mimicking the natural planting of the seeds on the trees by birds. Birds eat the berries and get the sticky pulp on their beaks; they then wipe it off on the tree, or deposit it after digestion. The reintroduction involves collecting the berries from local sources at Bushy Park before squashing them onto new trees in the upper branches, thereby allowing the pulp and seed to germinate.

More than 2km of native hedgerows have been planted in Ham, Kingston, and Hurst Park to re-create traditional country hedges consisting of mixed thorns, holly, damson, sloe, and wild roses. Other action plans in the area include – wolveroles, Tidal Thames, song thrush, reedbeds, broad leaved woodland, ancient parkland, and acid grassland.

The TLS funded an invertebrate, tree and herbaceous plant survey along the wet woodland and Haha along the Old Deer Park – a section of riverside where very little was known of its ecology. Details can be found on the TLS website.

Opposite is the centrefold of the new TLS Wildlife leaflet, launched last summer to encourage visitors to walk along the river and find out more about the wonderful diversity of wildlife and habitats that can be found in the TLS area - including information on how these are managed.

## The Wildlife of the River Thames

A walk along the River Thames will reveal a fascinating diversity of wildlife ranging from birds to flowering plants, wonderful trees to tiny invertebrates. The image depicts an idealised section of the riverbank between Teddington and Richmond to introduce the habitat zones found on the floodplain and species that are commonly found along the Thames. It is not intended to be an actual representation of any particular stretch of the river.



# THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

## Hampton to Kew

