



“The Thames Landscape Strategy is that very rare animal: an organisation with real popular appeal and an imaginative sense of what it is about landscapes that fires people’s imagination. We need to take active steps now to

ensure that we maintain a varied wildlife habitat, support traditional river activities, and manage the landscape to complement the marvellous historic buildings, nature reserves and parks that line this stretch of the Thames. The ideas proposed by the Thames Landscape Strategy are truly groundbreaking and really moving forward. We should rejoice in having such an enthusiastic and committed organisation to guide this process and I look forward to continued success throughout the coming years”.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Arcadia, an idyllic pastoral landscape was created along the Thames between Hampton and Kew. Magnificent royal and aristocratic palaces, gardens and parks were constructed and linked by a series of avenues, set within a framework of meadows and woodland.

Today this stretch of the Thames is recognised as one of the world’s great urban landscapes, allowing Londoners to escape the hustle and bustle of modern day city life.



The Thames Landscape Strategy is one of three sub-regional partnerships for the Thames in the greater London area, whose focus is the remarkable river corridor between Hampton and Kew. Launched in 1994, the strategy is a 100-year blueprint for the Thames, whose vision is to conserve, enhance and promote for the future, one of the world’s great urban landscapes. To achieve its aims, the strategy brings together a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, local groups and individuals to inform strategic policy and to implement a broad range of projects and management proposals.

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# Hurst Park & Molesey Riverside

The Thames Landscape Strategy in Action

DISCOVER THE ARCADIAN THAMES



Thames Landscape Strategy Leaflet No. 11

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



# Hurst Park & Molesey Riverside

The Thames Landscape Strategy in partnership with Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council have carried out a number of consultation exercises with Molesey residents, on whether there is a need for a conservation management plan for Hurst Park and Molesey Riverside between Hampton Court Bridge and Hurst Park. In October 2005, the Thames Landscape Strategy attended an open day with their marquee, asking residents to give their opinions on how they would like to see the area's landscape managed in the future. The day was a great success with over 300 people attending.

The next step in the consultation was a mailout of a questionnaire to all residents in the area through the Hurst Park Residents Association. The questionnaire was structured around a number of different management issues, ranging from access, signage and sports facilities through to scrub management, wildlife and biodiversity. Over 80 responses were received from local residents, both from the Molesey bank as well as the Hampton bank, along with a number of responses from residents of Garrick's Ait. Both the residents association and the Thames

Landscape Strategy are pleased with the response rate, as the questionnaire was relatively long and postage had to be covered by respondents. The findings from the survey showed an overwhelming majority in favour of a conservation management plan being developed for the riverside. Results also showed that residents were united in their views on a number of key issues. The key findings of the consultation will be drawn together in a report, which will be fed back to Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council. This report will also be fed back to the local community via the very active Hurst Park Residents Association.

A meeting between the three landowners took place in March 2006 in order to clarify land ownership issues and discuss how best to move the project forward. A steering group will be established comprising of the main landowners, local residents associations, schools and external organisations with an interest in the amenity of the area.

