

The Towpath Management Plan



Since 2002, the Thames Landscape Strategy has written a Towpath Management plan which sets out the priorities for riverside management across Richmond, Elmbridge, Kingston and Hounslow. It is updated annually. The Towpath Management Plan (TMP) establishes the interventions that are needed to ensure a clean and well kept environment to maximise the potential for wildlife and habitat creation whilst allowing for recreational activity. In this way the plan is able to balance the potentially conflicting needs of heritage, recreation and wildlife. It considers tidal regimes, river events and is flexible to account for variations in weather patterns.

The TMP establishes the work that can be carried out by Council contractors and sets out a mechanism for those interventions that are necessary but fall outside the council's remit or financial capacity. The TLS can then allocate this gap in the contracted work to volunteers. This work is set out on a site by site work programme.

The Plan is used by Council contractors, local people and river users as a handbook to guide management across a wide geographical area and has been awarded a Special Commendation in the National Waterway Awards for its ground breaking approach. Since its introduction, there has been a staggering 85% reduction in riverside litter and a significant drop in invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam. Sponsorship of this important document is available on an annual basis which includes sole naming rights, a special one-off event and full press coverage.

Total Cost : £5,000

To sponsor the 2019 Towpath Management Plan please contact Jason Debney at the TLS