



4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER REACHES

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Landscape Character Reaches - Hampton to Kew:

- 1 Bushy Park / Hurst Park
- 2 Hampton Court
- 3 Portsmouth Road
- 4 Kingston
- 5 Hampton Wick
- 6 Teddington
- 7 Twickenham
- 8 Ham
- 9 Richmond
- 10 Isleworth
- 11 Syon
- 12 Brentford / Kew

TLS Addendum - Weybridge to Molesey :

- 13 River Wey & Navigation
- 14 Desborough Island & Weybridge Waterfront
- 15 Walton upon Thames
- 16 Sunbury Lock & Molesey Reservoirs

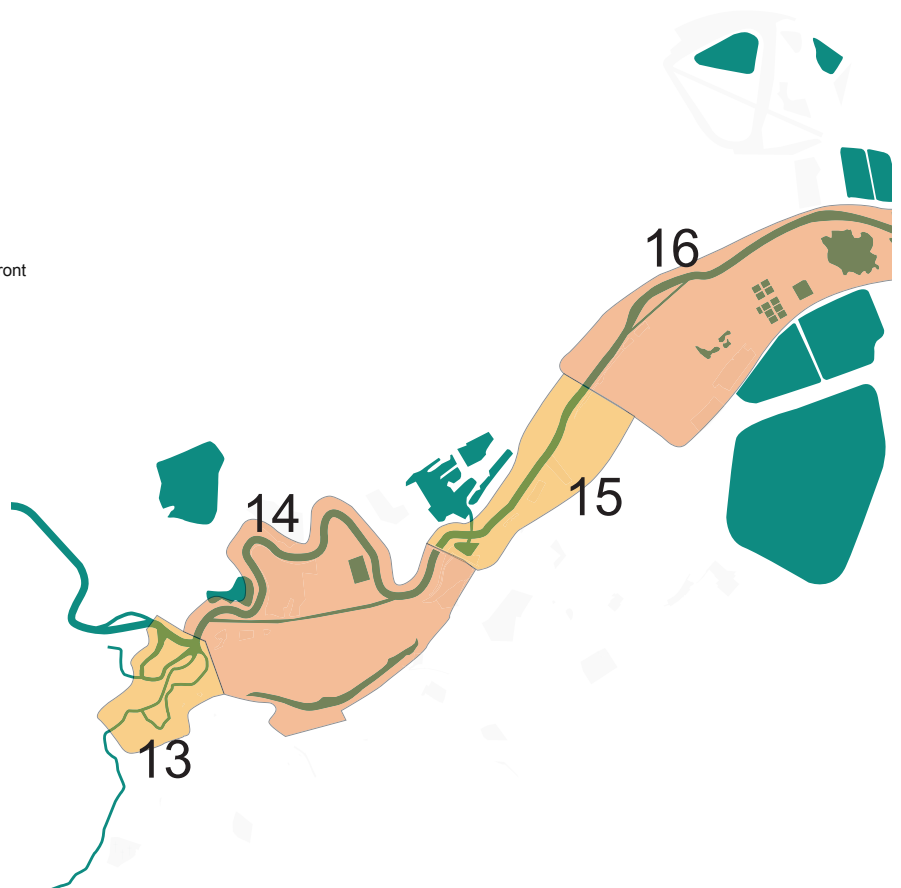


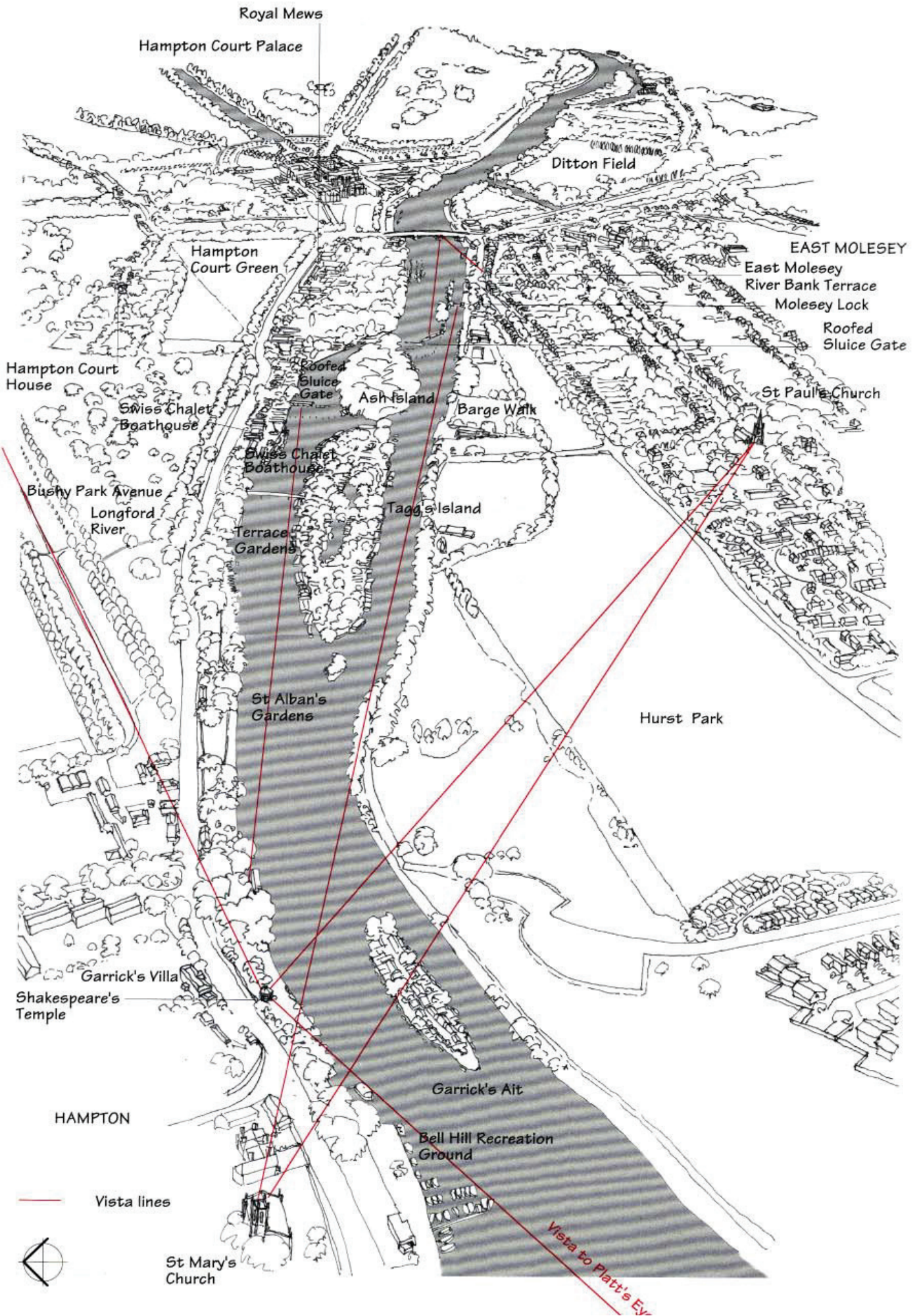


Figure 25 - Landscape Character Reaches

REACH 01

BUSHY PARK & HURST PARK





Landscape Character Reach No 1 BUSHY PARK & HURST PARK

4.01.1 Overview of changes between 1994-2012

- Garrick's Lawn
- Extension of TLS Reach No 1 to embrace all of Hampton and Hurst Park in 1999
- Planning consents have been implemented for office and residential developments to Barge Walk and Molesey Lock
- A planning decision supported at appeal limits the height of houseboats to two stories on Tagg's Island
- TLS have produced a draft Hurst Park and Molesey Riverside Management Plan and this is beginning to be implemented by partner organisations
- Implementation of the TLS Towpath Management Plan
- Vegetation management along Barge Walk and Thames Path by TLS volunteers and the Surrey Care Trust's Swingbridge community narrow boat
- Re-instatement of the Hampton Ferry operating between Hampton and Hurst Park
- Heritage Marker installed by local community at Sadlers Ride in Hurst Park
- Constable's Boatyard has gone but riverside uses continue with skiff building and boat hire
- Platt's Eyot of concern following unsuccessful proposals for redevelopment
- Listed boatyards on Platt's Eyot placed on English Heritage's Building at Risk Register
- TLS have helped to restore the building and gardens of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare and improve the riverside setting and views
- Royal Parks Restoration of Upper Lodge Water Gardens
- Heritage Lottery Funded £4m restoration of Bushy Park
- Landscaping to Terrace Gardens, Hampton in 1999
- Erection of sun dial in Terrace Gardens in 1997
- Landscaping to Bell Hill Park in 2004
- Implementation of the TLS Hampton Court Approaches project 2008-11
- Landscaping and softening of Hampton Court Road including the installation of a cycle path in 2010



The TLS teams up with the Surrey Care Trust to carry out an annual maintenance programme in Hurst Park



Molesey Regatta 1894

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

4.01.2 The reach between Hampton and Hampton Court Bridge is characterised by open parkland running down to the water's edge, interspersed with boatyards, houseboats and the waterfronts of Hampton and East Molesey. The thick line of trees along the edge of Hampton Water Works and Platt's Eyot, the picturesque massing of the boathouses and the old buildings of Hampton, rising up to the tower of St Mary's, contribute to the view which was described in the 1980s GLC 'Thames-side Guidelines' as the 'gateway to the Greater London area'.

4.01.3 Beyond the enclosure of the trees, the historic corrugated iron boatsheds of Platt's Eyot and the wharves of Hampton, the reach opens to parkland. Bushy and Hurst Parks provide a broad expanse of

open space on either side of the river, determining the main character of the reach. Hurst Park sweeps right down to the water's edge, while Bushy Park is set back behind a road and railings.

4.01.4 2012 Update: In 1999, the extent of Reach No 1 was extended upstream to embrace all of Hurst Park and the Hampton Waterworks. Upstream of Hampton, the Middlesex bank is dominated by the Hampton Waterworks. An avenue of mature lime trees runs along the Lower Hampton Road providing a green break between the two areas of filter bed softening the industrial nature of the works. A suspension bridge connects Platt's Eyot with a small open space alongside Lower Hampton Road. The space is used for loading and unloading and could be landscaped. A narrow permissive path runs along the riverside between the waterworks and the Thames to Hampton. Although the path is often overgrown and poorly signposted users are rewarded with sweeping views across the river. The Ben's Alley Park is small but well used by local people. At Ben Hill Park boats can be hired and moored and a ferry connects with Hurst Park on the opposite bank. The open space has been recently improved with new interpretation panels, ramps and lighting.

4.01.5 Much of Platt's Eyot is occupied by light industry, including a fascinating mixture of boat repair workshops, many of which have fallen into disrepair. The steep banks around the upstream edge of the eyot support a strip of mixed woodland that screen the buildings from Hurst Park and the Hampton bank giving the impression that the island is almost entirely wooded although conifers dominate in places. The view from Platt's Eyot bridge, looking past the boatsheds in the foreground down to Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare and Bushy Park beyond, shows the integration of working and formally designed landscapes which characterise the entire stretch up to Kew. Within Bushy Park the main avenues have been carefully maintained and replanted.

4.01.6 2012 Update: The extraordinary water garden and avenue landscape of Upper Lodge, within the Park, have been restored and re-opened to the public, alongside sale and conversion of Upper Lodge and former National Physical Laboratory 20th century property in the Park to private residential use.

4.01.7 Garrick's Villa and its riverside temple, dedicated to Shakespeare, provide the main visual focus of the reach, particularly when viewed from the south east against the backdrop of Hampton and St Mary's church. The Villa is currently undergoing restoration following a devastating fire in 2009. The classical lines of the temple contrast with the eccentric Edwardian exuberance of many of the houseboats and boathouses which line the reach, especially around Tagg's Island. The Edwardian feeling of the river still extends into the Barge Walk and Hurst Park itself, even though Tagg's Boathouse was demolished in the early 1990s and the race track is long gone.

4.01.8 The busy Hampton Court Road runs along the Middlesex bank, separating Bushy Park from the river. St Alban's Gardens weave between the road and river, a narrow public park of mown grass with mature plane and horse chestnut trees. The river here is non-tidal and



Thornycroft boatsheds at Platt's Eyot



Hampton Waterworks



Hampton from Hurst Park



View from Hampton Court Bridge towards Molesey Lock

the trees reflect in the still water. On the river's edge, below the level of the busy road, the constant flow of traffic is less intrusive, allowing a sense of the peace of the water and parkland. Remnants of earlier riverside gardens can be traced in occasional crumbling steps and planters. The outflow from the Longford River creates an attractive tributary of gravel beaches, flag irises and nesting birds. The waterfront park is interrupted before Hampton Court Green by a run of inter-war houses and 3-storey flat-roofed apartment buildings although the Swiss Chalet and adjacent boat yard provide an important local landmark and are currently being restored

4.01.9 2012 Update: Works to install a cycle route and soften the impact of the busy Hampton Court Road on the surrounding landscape were carried out between 2009-10. A sundial was erected in 1997 to provide a focus for St Alban's Gardens.

4.01.10 The Surrey bank is more open. Except where trees have sprouted up into a barrier between the towpath and the river, the close-mown grass of Hurst Park runs down to the river's edge and the open space extends back to Hurst Road. The towpath and gravel beaches are heavily used by wildfowl and people alike, with access both from East and West Molesey along the river and from the car park.

4.01.11 The incursions of 1960s housing into the Park, including a particularly dominant block of flats, and modern office and residential buildings into the Barge Walk have detracted from the sense of space. The linear fence division, between Hurst Park and the former race course land, leaves the space feeling rather unresolved and could be softened. The basic openness survives, backed by a thick massing of garden trees, pierced only by the spire of St Paul's Church.

4.01.12 2012 Update: This view , together with the spire of St Mary's church and Garrick's Temple form a series of strategic views and landmarks.

4.01.13 2012 Update: The publication of the draft Hurst Park and Molesey Riverside Management Plan proposed that the riverbank could be improved through the introduction of further areas of marginal planting and the establishment of a rotational pollard to manage the willow trees. A recent addition is a Heritage Marker installation near the river-side celebrating the park, funded by local groups and families; it includes a human sundial, seating and interpretation panels. The cars are kept back from the river's edge and partially screened behind trees and earth bunds although several spaces have been allocated for blue badge holders where users can enjoy splendid river views. The car park edges and layout could be softened and the needs of various recreation uses balanced within this open river landscape.

In the past decade a series of small copses have been planted by Elmbridge Borough Council on Hurst Meadows that provide cover for nesting birds and enclose long and short views. The meadow grass is allowed to grow throughout the summer months, with a network of informal paths mown along desire lines. This management regime has greatly improved the diversity of the park where crickets and skylarks

can be heard. The different sections of the park are gradually being improved by opening up sections of hedgerows that formally separated the different areas.

Street furniture within the park could be rationalized to follow a palette of materials agreed with Elmbridge Borough Council. The Thames Path towpath is surfaced in Breadon gravel. This rural surface fits well into the landscape although it does rut in some places and there are some areas of conflict between walkers and cyclists. Hurst Park is jointly owned by Surrey County Council and Elmbridge but managed solely by Elmbridge while Surrey maintain the towpath. The land between the towpath and the river is owned and maintained by the Environment Agency. The Draft Hurst Park and Molesey Riverside Management Plan guides the TLS partnership and local communities to implement policies and projects and conserve its natural character.

4.01.14 Contrasting with the scale of the open spaces, Garrick's Ait is covered by single-storey bungalows - an unexpected note of busy domesticity. The bungalows are largely made of wood and painted bright colours. A variety of jetties and boats cluster at the foot of individual and manicured small gardens.

4.01.15 2012 Update: The few trees between the houses help to reduce the impact of the buildings but there is some conflict regarding garden creation by the islanders on the adjacent riverbank.

4.01.16 2012 Update: The Barge Walk runs between Graburn Way and Molesey Lock. Alongside Molesey Cricket Club the path is narrow and a native hedge has recently been planted and riverside scrub controlled to maintain views across the river. Remnants of the former Hurst Park Race Course are found on Graburn Way including a set of magnificent gates, which could be better interpreted. Poor street lighting, broken fences and hedgerows that detract from the scene could be improved – particularly at the junction of Graburn Way and the Barge Walk. Little Hurst Meadow provides a dog-free area for children to play. The 'Garden Journey' project – a series of interconnected public art installations - give much interest to the park and a wetland area provides a small but valuable habitat for wildlife.

The "Eights Tree" sculpture by Ray Smith erected next to Molesey Boat Club marks the boundary between the rural and formal sections of the towpath. Towards Molesey Lock, the wider path has a hard surface and is managed to allow views across the river towards the lock island opposite.

4.01.17 Molesey Lock forms a discrete sub-area, dominated by the architecture of the lock, the roofed sluice gates, Lutyens' bridge and the housing which lines the East Molesey river bank. The river scene remains much as Sisley painted it in 1874, bustling with boating activity. The sub-area has a feeling of enclosure, contained by the lock and weir walls; by the thick trees covering Ash Island and the banks of the spacious gardens; by the buildings on East Molesey riverside; and by the powerful brick and stone bridge.

4.01.18 2012 Update: The riverside between the lock and Hampton Court Bridge is a popular and well used amenity and could be improved to foster greater connectivity between the Barge Walk, Molesey Riverside, Cigarette Island and the boutiques, restaurants and antique shops on Bridge Road.

4.01.19 On the opposite bank high chainlink fencing on the river's edge beneath the Royal Mews and the large fibreglass motor cruisers, parked 3 deep, are incongruous elements in the scene.

4.01.20 2012 Update: In 2009, a planning decision supported at appeal limited the height of houseboats to two stories on Tagg's Island. It was noted that the size and impact of some of the houseboats affected the open character and appearance of the reach. The Thames Motor Yacht Club was formed in 1936 and is home to the River User group 8.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.01.21 Hurst Park originated as Molesey Hurst, a common meadow belonging to the manor of Molesey Matham, but in the early 18th century its transformation into one of the great people's playgrounds of London began. Archery, cricket, boxing, cock-fighting, golf and horse-racing all found a place here; it was also a favoured rendez-vous for duelists. In the early 19th century the Hurst rose to fame for its bare-knuckle fights, with crowds of up to 10,000 arriving by road and river, until the sport was outlawed in a ruling at Kingston Assizes in 1824. But the attraction of 'Hampton Races', fostered by the Duke of Clarence (later William IV) meant that the Hurst continued in popular importance. The annual 'Cockney Derby' held in June was a great London holiday which Dickens described in terms of '*picturesque poverty*' in Nicholas Nickleby. The derbies ended in 1887 when the Jockey Club refused to renew the course license on the grounds of its lack of proper maintenance.



Boxing match on Molesey Hurst in 1810



Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare



Molesey Lock painted by Sisley in 1874

4.01.22 In 1889 a new course, called Hurst Park, was opened, surrounded by a wooden fence 7 feet high. The visual intrusiveness of this huge fence running within a few feet of the Thames provoked numerous protests but to no avail - the owners threatened to sell the land for building if they were balked. From 1891 to 1962, Hurst Park was one of the most successful race courses in the country. In 1962, although the course was still running at a profit, the owners decided to sell the site for housing and at the subsequent auction even the turf, well-known for its springiness, was sold. The wide strip of grassland, which comprises Hurst Park today, was preserved for flood risk reasons, as a condition of the planning permission for the housing put up in the early 1960s.

After the 1852 Metropolis Water Act three companies moved their intakes upriver to Hampton. The works were built in a row along the Staines road around 1855, to Italianate designs by Joseph Quick, engineer to the Southwark and Vauxhall Company. The later building of the Southwark and Vauxhall at Riverdale (1899-1901) has all the appearance of an oversize, but still elegant French Empire orangery.

4.01.23 Platt's Eyot was the base of Immisch & Co., set up in 1899 to produce electric-powered launches, with a sequence of charging stations installed up and down the Thames. Only the steam-driven generating station on the island remains of this ambitious venture, made redundant by the advent of petrol-driven combustion engines. The island then became the base from 1914-1960 for the Thorneycroft boat yard, building motor torpedo boats for the Royal Navy through both World Wars. The raised level at the upper end of the island is due to spoil tipped from the reservoir excavations at Hampton.

4.01.24 As a small rural village, Hampton's staples were boat building and farming; there was a windmill on Hampton Hill for grinding corn between 1785 and 1876. By 1831 however, the village was growing and old St Mary's church was rebuilt for the expanding population. Suburban development followed the course of the Thames Valley railway opened in 1864, with an inevitable impact on river traffic. In the last quarter of the 19th century an area of terraced housing was developed and christened New Hampton, later known as Hampton Hill, and Hampton began to merge into Teddington round the back of the royal park. A major expansion took place in the 1970s when over 1,700 houses were built on the market gardens and nurseries to the north west of the village.

4.01.25 Garrick bought Hampton House in 1754 and transformed it, with major alterations by Robert Adam, into a classical villa. The riverside garden was always separated from the house by the Kingston-Staines turnpike, and Garrick's solution, on the advice of Capability Brown, was a grotto tunnel, like Pope's at Twickenham. The garden's focal point was Shakespeare's Temple built, to a design possibly by Brown or by Roubiliac himself, to house Roubiliac's bust of Shakespeare in 1758.

The Temple stands in a garden owned by the London Borough of Richmond. A large house was built in Garrick's riverside garden in 1923, but it was generally much disliked for its impact on the landscape, and it was eventually purchased by Hampton Urban District Council and demolished in 1932. The public open space covers only part of Garrick's original riverside garden, which has been split in two by a high wooden fence. It misses the serpentine paths and the weeping willow as well as the cypresses planted by Walpole. The picturesque shanties and bungalows on Garrick's Ait date from the 1920s, when the island, which for centuries had been covered with willows and osiers used for the local basket industry, was broken into small plots and sold off for development.

4.01.26 The other big ait in this reach, Tagg's Island, has had a more colourful history. Originally Crown land belonging to the honour of Hampton Court, it had for centuries been squatted by families who made a living from basket-making. It was bought in about 1850 by a property speculator named Francis Kent who evicted the squatters. Thomas Tagg, of the famous Tagg family of watermen and boatbuilders, moved his boat-building business onto part of the island in the 1850s and soon acquired the lease on the whole. In 1873 he built a hotel on the island which soon became a fashionable resort, custom being attracted in part by his reputation as a boat-builder to high society.



Fred Karno's Karsino, Tagg's Island



Remnant of menzies gates from Hurst Park Racecourse

In 1912 the lease was taken over by Fred Karno who had one of the grandiose houseboats moored alongside. He transformed the island, lavishing thousands on a re-built hotel, the 'Karsino', and spectacular gardens. Guests and their cars were ferried over in 'large and artistic punts', and the pleasures included tennis, croquet, bowls, boating, and of course musical comedy shows put on in the enormous 800-seat Palm Court. The Karsino opened in 1913 and for several years it was a glorious pleasure palace. But changing tastes and the demise of music hall saw its fortunes decline. In 1926 Karno sold the tenancy rights before being declared bankrupt the following year. Over the next few years Tagg's Island was regularly recast - as 'a miniature Palm Beach' or the new 'Thames Riviera' - by a succession of ever-optimistic new operators. The hotel was demolished finally in 1971, but plans for a new hotel or a block of flats or a sports centre have never materialised, and it has reverted to something of its semi-rural appearance before Tagg.

4.01.27 On the Middlesex bank opposite Tagg's Island, the Swiss Chalet was originally brought over from Switzerland in about 1882 as a garden feature for a now demolished house called Riverholme a few yards downstream. Its theatricality seems of a piece with the history of this stretch of the river. Much of Bushy Park was first enclosed in the early 16th century. Miles of 1530s park wall still survive and the oak pollards on the park's north-west boundary were probably planted in 1536. Henry VIII appears to have been responsible for the great stands of oak recorded in the 17th century and felled by the Duke of Clarence at the beginning of the 19th century. The great north and west avenues were first laid out by London and Wise between 1689 and 1699. The Chestnut Avenue, with its unprecedented quadrupled grandeur, was intended as a state approach to a new north front on Hampton Court Palace by Wren. This great scheme was forestalled by William's death.

4.01.28 More modestly, Garrick aligned his temple on the Hampton Avenue, replanted in the 1950s. As a result of a land exchange for tramway access along Hampton Court Road in the 1860s, it transpires that a small portion of Garrick's garden - the northeast corner containing an informal 'mount' - was transferred into the Stockyard lands in Bushy Park. The mount still survives, now much warren'd by rabbits. A large part of the rest of the garden has been developed for housing, but the mount will be conserved by the Royal Parks. The canal through Bushy Park known as the Longford River was dug in 1639 from a tributary of the River Colne to supply water for the household and the gardens at Hampton Court. It was also utilised by the Earl of Halifax, Ranger of Bushy Park under William III, who diverted water into the water gardens round the Upper Lodge. These water gardens were much admired by Stephen Switzer; the restoration was completed by Royal Parks with Heritage Lottery funding in 2009.



Husrt Park Racecourse

4.01.29 Bushy Park and Hampton Court were both opened to the public by Queen Victoria in 1838, becoming a much-loved local amenity. During the Second World War, a USAAF base and the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces were located in Bushy Park. Following the War, there was political pressure to turn the base into local housing. Fortunately this was rejected and in 1963 the base

was finally demolished and the land returned to park. Hampton Court House on Hampton Green was built in 1757 by the second Earl of Halifax for his mistress Anne Maria Donaldson. The garden centred on a lake adapted from a gravel pit, but its great feature was a grotto designed by Thomas Wright, the 'Wizard of Durham', adorned with astronomical motifs and dedicated to Venus. The grotto was restored by Diana Reynell and Simon Verity in 1983-86.

4.01.30 The river has always been a highway for the movement of goods in and out of the capital, and by the 19th century barges hauled by 50 men or a dozen horses were carrying up to 200 tons of material. But as the traffic increased, the ad hoc arrangement of wooden weirs and dams, which created sufficient depth of water for navigation in the upper reaches, became increasingly unsatisfactory. The lock at East Molesey was opened in 1815 as the last part of a series to improve the upper Thames navigation (locks were also built at Chertsey, Shepperton, Sunbury and Teddington), and it has frequently been modernised since then.

4.01.31 2012 Update: The Environment Agency has ongoing plans to continue upgrading the various structures and weirs.

4.01.32 Apart from commercial traffic, on weekends and holidays the lock was crowded with pleasure boats. Jerome K. Jerome thought Molesey the busiest lock on the river, and in 1889 described how 'I have stood and watched it sometimes, when you could not see any water at all, but only a brilliant tangle of bright blazers, and gay caps, and saucy hats, and many-coloured parasols, and silken rugs, and cloaks and streaming ribbons, and dainty whites'. Molesey still retains some of the atmosphere of Victorian and Edwardian holidays.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

4.01.33 2012 Update: Most of Hurst Park and the adjoining residential areas lie within the floodplain and have been identified by the Environment Agency as an area at risk from fluvial flooding. The Lower Thames Flood Risk Strategy proposes local measures to help mitigate the affects of a flood. Although the riverbank at the edge of Hurst Park provides a good margin for plants and water birds it could be naturalized further to help mitigate the impact of any future flood. Work may be needed to the meadows to adapt to future flood risk and provide more natural and holistic solutions to flood management . There is potential for the TLS to work with local communities, the Environment Agency and the local authorities to increase local resilience to flood risk in this reach.

4.01.34 Garrick's Ait has a small wild area, on the downstream end, where a large willow hangs over the water, providing a good duck nesting ground. Tagg's Island, despite development for residential use, is a valuable nesting haven for waterfowl with its internal lagoon, connected to the river. Carp use the sheltered water as a breeding ground. The edges have been planted with yellow flag, great hairy willow-herb and ornamental trees such as weeping willow. The island's



Flag Iris



Hurst Park Meadows contain magnificent grassland that provides a habitat for skylarks



Volunteers manage the riverbank at Molesey

human residents share their home with up to twenty pairs of Canada geese and lesser numbers of mute swans, coots and great crested grebes.

Off the upstream tip of Tagg's Island lies a tiny island with three weeping willows. The Environment Agency has enhanced the island for nesting wildfowl. This and the Hurst Park bank are also heavily used by the Hampton flock of swans although their numbers have decreased in recent years. The island is heavily trampled by waterfowl and has no vegetation apart from the willows.

4.01.35 The Longford River provides a valuable connecting link between Bushy Park and the river, with a small marshy area at its mouth. Bushy Park has a series of canals, ponds, and avenues surrounded by dry acidic grassland and bracken. The grasslands support an abundant invertebrate fauna, including butterflies such as small copper, small heath and meadow brown, large numbers of grasshoppers and a good variety of moths. Bracken has taken over sizeable areas of the Park, replacing the diverse acid grasslands with a virtual monoculture. Being unpalatable or even poisonous to most animals, bracken is not controlled by grazing.

4.01.36 Bushy Park contains several woodland plantations and a large number of mature parkland trees, which add considerably to the appeal of the place for people and wildlife alike. The parkland trees, arranged in avenues, are mostly horse chestnuts and common limes. Although these trees do not support the exceptional diversity of invertebrates to be found in the ancient oaks and beeches of Richmond Park, they are of considerable value and provide homes for a similar range of cavity-nesting birds, including green woodpeckers, and also jackdaws and little owls which are rare in London. Mistletoe, now rare in London, can be seen growing in several trees of various species.

Bushy Park contains some excellent wetland habitats, which are host to a number of locally and nationally rare plants, as well as a variety of fish and aquatic invertebrates. Very inconspicuous as a plant, and previously thought to be extinct in Middlesex, mudwort was discovered in a marshy area by local botanists in 1986.

4.01.37 The Terrace Gardens is one of the few places where the river's banks are not constructed of artificial material. The water margin sports clumps of yellow flag, reed sweet-grass, small patches of water mint, and one or two plants of great water dock, a species uncommon in London. The leaves of great water dock are enormous green blades up to a metre long, making it most distinctive on the water's edge.

4.01.38 Ash Island has a far more natural appearance than the other islands in this reach. The island is covered in woodland and the western half has sycamore, weeping willow, elm, and hawthorn with a dense ground flora of nettles, rose-bay willow herb, ivy and bramble. The trees on the eastern end of the island are sparser and there is little cover. This island, though of quite a wild appearance, does receive a fair degree of disturbance due to the numerous houseboats moored

along its banks. Dogs and cats are ever present but mallards manage to nest.

Opposite Ash Island on the Surrey side, next to the Barge Walk; there is a well-vegetated stony bank and a green edge to the path. The bank is well used by Canada geese, mallard and coot.

The river along the edge of the Royal Mews' garden has a high stone bank and a good deal of secluded scrub of value to wildlife, hosting woodpeckers, jays and other woodland birds.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

4.01.39 Hurst Park, historically a focus for public recreation, still provides 28 hectares of public open space right beside the river. The car park has views of the river and provides wheelchair access to the very popular gravel beach, where visitors feed flocks of swans, ducks and wildfowl. A cricket ground, children's playground and boatclub back the Barge Walk.

4.01.40 *2012 Update: The public slipway at Hurst Park could be greatly enhanced subject to approval from Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency.*

4.01.41 The historic connection along the Thames Path to Hampton Court Bridge continues downstream from the Park, while upstream the towpath runs as far as Weybridge. There is a National Rail station at Hampton Court that provides a key gateway for visitors to Hampton Court Palace. The near-by Bridge Road area includes a good selection of boutiques, antique shops and restaurants. The Thames Path follows the Surrey bank and then crosses over Hampton Court Bridge to the Middlesex bank and continues to Kingston Bridge.

Platt's Eyot, Tagg's Island and Ash Island are all served by bridges. Garrick's Ait is served by a ferry.

On the Middlesex bank, St Alban's Gardens, Garrick's Lawn and the Bell Hill Recreation Ground provide public access to the river, though this is interrupted by private houses and gardens and isolated from Bushy Park and Hampton Court Green. Bushy Park covers over 1000 acres of public open space.

Skiffs can be hired from Hampton Court Bridge. Fishing is banned from some of the Hurst Park waterfront, where large numbers of swans and wildfowl flock to visitors.

Boatyards:

Hucks & Co. Boatyard

Water recreation:

Hampton Sailing Club

Martin's Boats

Molesey Boat Club



Thames Path at Hurst Park



Garrick's Ait



Opening of the 'Eights Tree' sculpture



*Hurst Park, Molesey Lock and
Bushy Park in 1920*

Thames Motor Yacht Club
Thames Voyages
TW Allen & Son Ltd
Westel Canoe Club

Land recreation:

Barge Walk
Bell Hill Recreation Ground
Bushy Park
E. Molesey Memorial Cricket Ground
Garrick's Lawn
Hampton Court House Grotto
Hurst Park
St Alban's Gardens
Thames Path

Landmarks:

Garrick's Villa
Hampton Court Bridge
Molesey Lock
Platt's Eyot boat sheds
Shakespeare's Temple St Mary's Church, Hampton.
St Paul's Church, East Molesey.
Turret of No 16 Riverbank E. Molesey

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Amenity and Local History:

E. Molesey Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Friends of Bushy and Home Parks
Hampton Court Action Group
Hampton District Allotments/Gardens Association
Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity
Hampton Hill Association
Hampton Residents' Association
Hampton Riverside Trust
Molesey Local History Society
Hurst Park Residents' Association
Molesey Residents' Association
Molesey Society
River Thames Society (Teddington-Windsor)

Nature Conservation:

London Wildlife Trust
Salmon Trust
Surrey Wildlife Trust

PRINCIPAL LAND USES

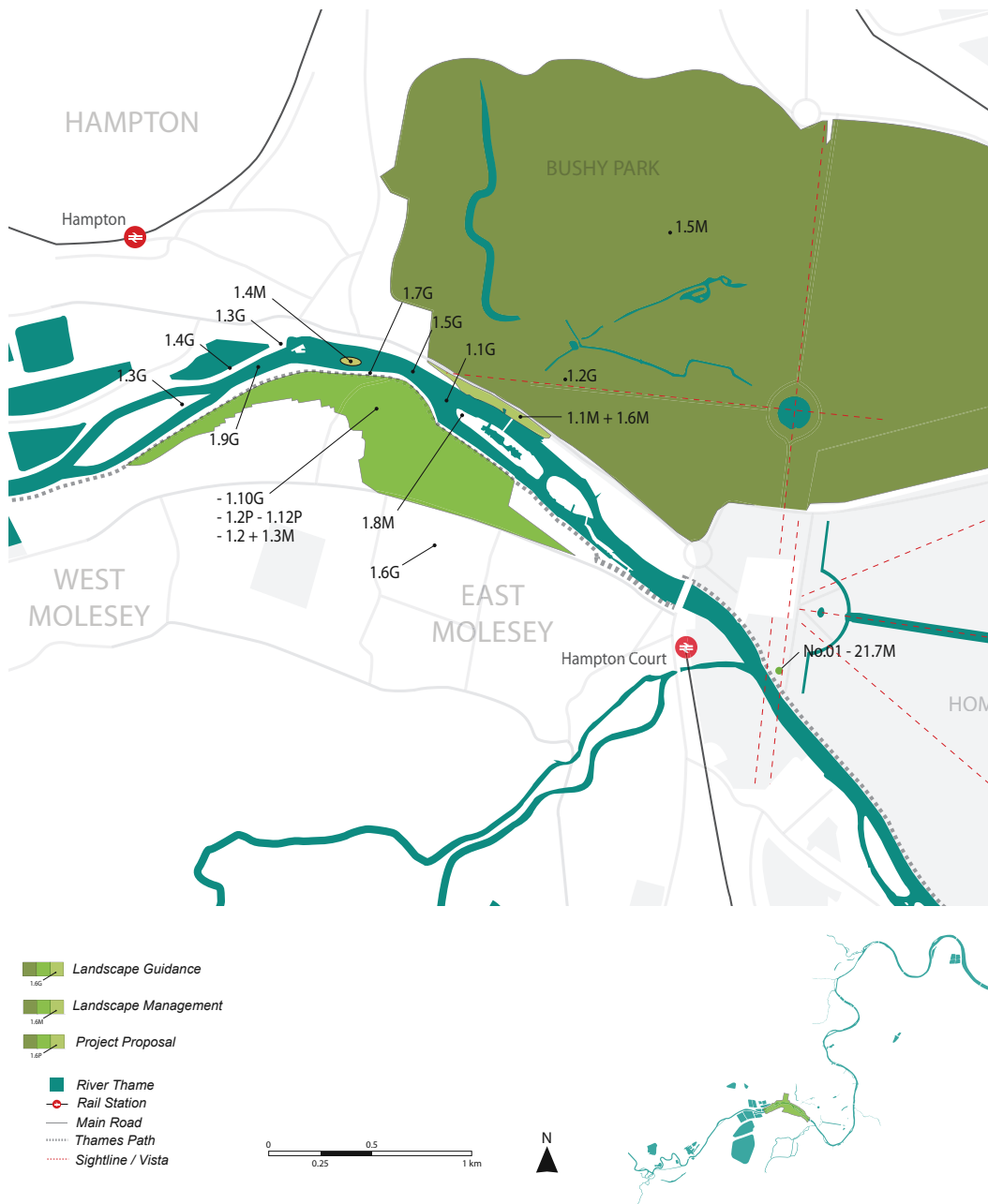
Public parks and private houses dominate the Reach, but the boatyards at Platt's Eyot, Bell Hill and Hampton Sluice Gates and the Molesey Lock and Weir still form an important part of the riverside activity. The office along the Barge Walk has a limited relationship with the water.

Review of Guidance, Project and Management & Maintenance

Projects and management proposals will evolve over time, with details and priorities set in the TLS Annual Action Plan and project briefs. The Action Plan provides greater detail for each project and provides the basis for ongoing monitoring. Please refer to the Appendix for a copy of the 1994 Policy, Project and Management Proposals.

Key: Green: Taken from the 1994 TLS Report with minor amendment where appropriate
 Blue: New proposal for 2012 Review
 Yellow: Deleted since 1994 due to completion or changing policy or priority

Policy and Project Review



Guidance Promoted by the Thames Landscape Strategy and How this Relates to Planning Policy		
TLS Ref.	2012 Guidance	Related Planning Policy Cross Reference
1.1G	Conserve the reach character of open parkland, interspersed with boatyards, weirs and islands of bungalows and houseboats.	EBC CS12 and 14 London Plan – 7.29 LBRuT – CP 11, DM OS 11, DM OS 12
1.2G	Protect the visual links between: - Shakespeare's Temple / St. Mary's Church & St. Paul's Church - Shakespeare's Temple / St. Mary's Church and Molesey Lock - Shakespeare's Temple and Bushy Park Avenue - Shakespeare's Temple and Platt's Eyot St. Alban's Gardens and Hampton Sluice Gates	EBC CS14 London Plan – 7.12 LBRuT – DM HD7
1.3G	Encourage the survival of the remaining water-edge boatyards and river-related industries and resist their replacement by uses not functionally related to the river	EBC CS12 London Plan – 7.24, 7.29 LBRuT – CP11, DM OS11, DM OS 12 and DM OS 13
1.4G	Take opportunities to connect public open spaces along the Middlesex bank wherever possible	LBRuT - DM OS 11, DM TP 3
1.5G	Conserve and enhance the nature conservation interest of the river and its corridor, with particular attention to the secluded wooded islands and marshy banks.	EBC CS7, 12, 14 and 15 London Plan – 7.19 LBRuT – CP 4, CP 11, DM OS 5
1.6G	Prevent encroachment of buildings into the predominately tree-covered skylines, particularly where the spire of St. Paul's Church and the turret of the East Molesey Edwardian terrace are the single features to stand out above the canopy	EBC CS14
1.7G	Work with the River Thames Alliance to control moorings to prevent the river from becoming a parking lot for boats over-staying permitted mooring times.	EBC RTT10 LBRuT – DM OS 13
1.8G	Discourage high chain-link and barbed wire security fencing along the river	EBC RT7 LBRuT – CP 7,
1.9G	Preserve the vista to Platt's Eyot from Hurst Park towpath and the footpath from Hampton to Platt's Eyot footbridge, ensuring retention of tree profile.	EBC CS14 and ENV27
1.10G	Encourage informal recreational activity in Hurst Park that is in keeping with the semi-rural setting	EBC CS14
1.11G	Investigate the ways that information provided to visitors to Hampton Court Palace can be improved to facilitate circular walks between Hurst and Bushy Parks, also highlighting the ferry, Molesey Lock, Bridge Road and Garrick's Temple	EBC CS24
Delete	Prevent further encroachment of housing and office or apartment buildings onto the Barge Walk river frontage, beyond existing planning permissions.	All existing planning permissions now implemented on river frontage: no further sites.
Delete	Consider linking the Hampton Village Conservation Area across to an area of special protection covering Hurst Park and Garrick's Ait.	During the review Elmbridge have indicated that existing protection through open space policies is adequate
Delete	Examine the possibilities of extending the Thames Area of Special Character designation into the Borough of Elmbridge.	Done. Thames Policy Area Elmbridge policy

Project Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Project	Other Stakeholders
1.1P	Re-instate the visual connection between Bushy Park, White Lodge and Shakespeare's Temple, placed at the focal terminus of the east-west avenue, when the future of the Stockyard comes up for review.	Royal Parks, LBRuT
1.2P	Sensitive planting of trees along Hurst Road and the housing boundaries of Hurst Park to reduce the impact of the buildings on the open space but maintain key views.	SCC, EBC
1.3P	Eliminate the harsh line separating the two halves of Hurst Park with tree removal/planting	EBC, SCC
1.4P	Enhance the gateways and entrance areas to the Thames Path between Hurst Park and Molesey Lock. Improve the appearance of Graburn Road.	SCC, EBC, Molesey Cricket Club, Molesey Boat Club
1.5P	In partnership with riparian organizations and owners, investigate the potential for natural habitat enhancements in Hurst Park that take account of climate change and increasing flood risk.	EA, SCC, EBC
1.6P	Continue to improve opportunities for informal play in Hurst Park extending opportunities to Hurst Park Minor.	EBC
1.7P	Produce a heritage trail and improve interpretation for Molesey Riverside and Hurst Park.	EBC Molesey History Soc
1.8P	Sow wildflowers in Little Hurst Meadows using species indicated on the Garden Journey tallies.	EBC
1.9P	Improve the public slipway at Sadler's Ride car park	EBC
Completed	Re-instate Lancelot Brown's planting at Garrick's Lawn to provide a suitable setting for Shakespeare's Temple and to re-open views to and from the river.	Completed 2006
Completed	Re-instate the historic water garden and avenue landscape of Upper Lodge.	Completed, Royal Parks 2011
Moved	Help to reduce the impact of the Hampton Court Road on St Alban's Gardens by planting groups of shrubs on the road edge. Glimpses into Bushy Park from the river and of the river from the road, should still be maintained.	Moved to management section
Moved	Thin the growth of trees and shrubs between the towpaths and the river to occasional clumps to prevent a thick vegetative barrier separating the water from the land.	Moved to management section
Moved	Plant native willow and alder on the islands, particularly at the up- and downstream ends, which are seen from long river views.	Moved to management section
Delete	Re-instate Lancelot Brown's planting at Garrick's Lawn to provide a suitable setting for Shakespeare's Temple and to re-open views to and from the river.	Completed 2004
Completed	Enhance Bell Hill Recreation Ground and the ferry wharves.	Completed, LBRuT 2011
Completed	Restore the visual connection between Hampton Court House and Hampton Court Green	Completed, 1999

Management and Maintenance Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Proposal	Stakeholders
1.1M	Manage the outflow of the Longford River for nature conservation, erecting a current deflector upstream of the outflow to reduce erosion and allow the growth of marshy vegetation	Royal Parks
1.2M	Manage the riverside parks so as to reduce the areas of close-mown grass and increase the potential for areas of riparian nature conservation interest, including possible damp herb-rich meadows and a fen edge to the riverside, without eliminating areas of active recreation. Continue to mow informal meandering paths through the Hurst Meadows.	EA, SCC and EBC LBRuT
1.3M	Conserve and manage the mature trees along the Hurst Park riverbank on a seven year rotational pollard. Remove intervening scrub growth and replant with native species of alder and willow in groups where they will not impact on sailing activity.	EA
1.4M	Conserve and manage the mature trees on the river islands and where possible create a shrub layer through natural regeneration or planting.	EA and other landowners
1.5M	Conserve the parkland trees and continue the acid grassland meadow and wetland management in Bushy Park, controlling and reducing the areas of bracken.	LBRuT
1.6M	Help to reduce the impact of the Hampton Court Road on St Alban's Gardens by planting groups of shrubs on the road edge. Glimpses into Bushy Park from the river and of the river from the road, should still be maintained.	Transferred from Project section
1.7M	Thin the growth of trees and shrubs between the towpath and the river along the Barge Walk on a seven year rotational coppice to prevent a thick vegetative barrier separating the water from the land. Retain overhanging trees as a refuge for fish.	Transferred from Project section
1.8M	Plant native willow and alder on the islands, particularly at the up- and downstream ends, which are seen from long river views.	Transferred from Project section
1.9M	Manage the copses of trees planted on Hurst Park to allow a mature and healthy stock to thrive.	Transferred from Project section
1.10M	Soften the visual appearance of the Sadler's Ride car park – replacing hard features and removing clutter. Replace non-native planting with indigenous species.	Transferred from Project section