



“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.

Thames Landscape Strategy  
Holly Lodge  
Richmond Park  
Richmond TW10 5HS  
020 8940 0654  
tls@richmond.gov.uk  
www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk

# Strategy, Partnership & Community

The Thames Landscape Strategy in Action

DISCOVER THE ARCADIAN THAMES



Thames Landscape Strategy Leaflet No. 3

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



The Thames Landscape Strategy, established in 1994, brings together a sub regional partnership of riparian organisations and communities within a 100-year vision for the river corridor between Hampton and Kew. Similar initiatives have been established for two of the three other reaches of the river in London and 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 (the TLS, Thames Strategy Kew – Chelsea, and the Thames Estuary Partnership Tower Bridge to Shoesburyness) 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 actioned on the ground through community action.

On a day-to-day basis, the Thames Landscape Strategy provides strategic guidance for the Thames corridor, acting as a catalyst to implement project work on the ground, and as a link between the authorities, the local communities and the vision of the Strategy.

## STRUCTURE OF THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

**Patron:** Sir David Attenborough

**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 of the Group rotates annually.

**Officers Steering Committee** Meets four times a year to assist 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.

**Thames Landscape Strategy Staff** The Co-ordinator's role is to find resources, promote projects, co-ordinate and encourage the partners and the local community to turn the Strategy into action. 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 and a full-time TLS Project Development Officer.

**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.

**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.

**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. In 2008 over 16,500 volunteer hours were recorded.

**Other Organisations and the Wider Community** In addition to the funding partners, there are over 250 community groups, statutory and 50 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.