

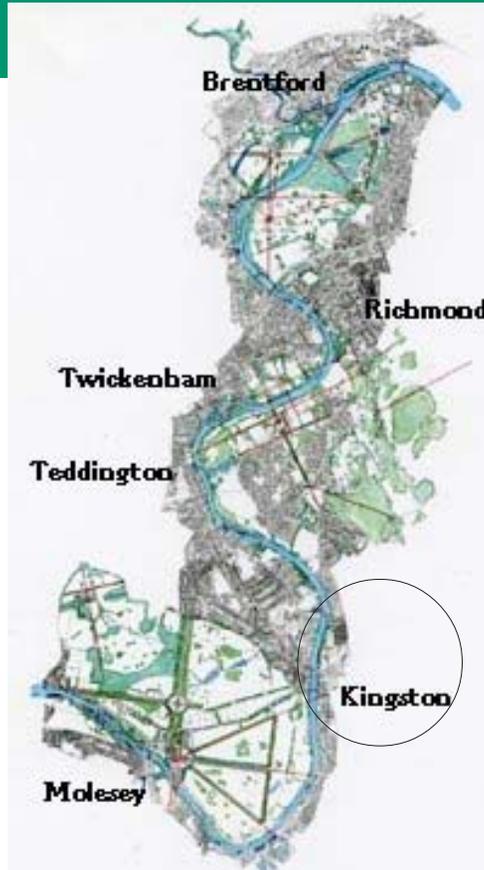


“The Thames Landscape Strategy is that very rare animal: an organisation with real popular appeal and an imaginative sense of what it is about landscapes that fires people’s imagination. We need to take active steps now to

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 18th 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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Putting the Thames Back into Kingston

The Thames Landscape Strategy in Action

DISCOVER THE ARCADIAN THAMES



Thames Landscape Strategy Leaflet No. 1

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



Putting the Thames Back into Kingston



To make Kingston a key Thameside centre it has been important to look at the riverside open spaces from the point of view of how they interact with the river itself including its wildlife, flooding and use. Working closely with the Royal Borough of Kingston and the Environment Agency, the TLS is currently consulting on what local people and users of the river would like to see improved. An 'Integrated Moorings Business Plan' is being drafted to prepare the way for a raft of enhancements to Kingston's waterspace such as floating restaurants, buiseness boats, permanent and visitor moorings.



Launched in July 2005, this exciting Thames Landscape Strategy project aims to transform many areas of Kingston's riverside and initiate a real revival in the use of the Thames. Like so many towns, Kingston traditionally turned its back on the river due mainly to the industry that lined its banks. But scratch beneath the surface and Kingston also has the most glorious boating traditions. It is the town that Jerome K Jerome hired his skiff from before setting off, three men in a boat, up the Thames to Oxford and there are more rowing, sailing, canoe, punting and skiff clubs clustered around the town than almost anywhere on the Thames.



On the Lower Ham Road a volunteer group has been established to help tidy up rubbish in the river and to coppice overgrown trees and at the upstream entrance to Canbury Gardens a landscaping initiative has been designed to open up a short section of riverside that has formally been off limits to the public.

Putting the Thames Back into Kingston will extend from the borough boundary stone through to the redundant filter beds at Seething Wells. It is being project managed by the Thames Landscape Strategy in partnership with Andrew Lynch and Ian Mayhead of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

The Thames Landscape Strategy plan is simply to 'Put the Thames Back into Kingston', to celebrate this watery heritage and to use it as a mechanism to regenerate the use and character of the Thames corridor linked to wider Borough initiatives and the Environment Agency's Waterways Plan.

Alongside the river, several early hits have been designed and consulted on that are ready to be implemented before the main project is ready. At the Half Mile Tree on Lower Ham Road a discreet landscaping scheme has been implemented to include scrub works, footpath and access enhancements and signage installation.