



6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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CO-ORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE

6.0 2012 Update: The following chapter has been re-written to take account of changes since 1994 and sets out the ways that the Thames Landscape Strategy is managed and has put its proposals into action (the original version is included in the appendix).

6.1 The Thames Landscape Strategy vision is to

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

6.2 This will be achieved through the Thames Landscape Strategy objectives:

- To bring together a partnership of organisations, individuals and community groups that have an interest in the Thames in order to provide strategic guidance for the Thames corridor between Weybridge and Kew*
- To implement the policies, projects and management proposals set out in the Thames Landscape Strategy and to develop new initiatives and opportunities within the remit of the Strategy through strategic and local initiatives, the TLS ‘In Action’ schemes and other partner initiatives*
- To protect and enhance the natural and man-made landscape of the area*
- To protect and improve sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management in the implementation of the Thames Landscape Strategy.*
- To protect and enhance historic buildings, historic parks and gardens, landscapes and ancient monuments*
- To encourage and maintain a high level of community commitment to the Thames Landscape Strategy vision and encourage community involvement and action to help realise the Thames Landscape Strategy*
- To facilitate the creation of partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors*
- To raise awareness of the Thames Landscape Strategy, increase educational opportunities and promote understanding of the Thames environment and ways of protecting, conserving and enhancing that environment*
- To raise awareness of the Arcadian Thames between Hampton and Kew and improve and manage the tourism potential and economic well-being of the area*
- To stimulate, where appropriate, and manage formal and informal recreation associated with the Thames*
- To secure and raise funding to enable the Thames Landscape Strategy to be implemented*



Community support for the TLS

THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

6.3 It is important that this Strategy should not just sit on the shelf. To guide the Thames Landscape Strategy and to ensure action and joint working arrangements a three-tier management structure has been established. This mechanism is set out in a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)**, that is signed by the funding partners on a three-yearly basis. The MoA sets out the way that the organisation is governed and provides a funding commitment from each participating organisation. Since 1994 the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has acted as lead partner on behalf of the wider partnership.

In 2012 the Thames Landscape Strategy funding partners consist of:

- London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
- London Borough of Hounslow
- Elmbridge Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames
- Surrey County Council
- Environment Agency
- Port of London Authority
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Crown Estate
- Historic Royal Palaces
- National Trust
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Royal Parks
- Kingston University

6.4 **A Members' Review Group (MRG)** meeting four times a year offers strategic advice on direction and cements political support. The Group consists of the funding partners and effectively acts as the 'board' agreeing budgets and projects. The MRG is composed of borough members and officers, senior representatives from the national agencies, a representative of the Father Thames Trust and the Chairman of the Community Advisory Group. Chairmanship (and Vice-Chairman) of the Group rotates annually.

6.5 **An Officers' Steering Committee (OSC)**, composed of officers from each of the funding partners take responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Strategy within their respective organisation and to assist the Co-ordinator. Each borough is represented and each agency by a senior regional officer. The committee meets four times a year. The Chairmanship rotates annually rotating between borough and statutory agency.

6.6 **A Community Advisory Group**, composed of representatives from many of the local interest groups, landowners and business interests meets four times a year. The Group acts as a community forum and enables the Co-ordinator to have access to local and specialist advice. The Group has some degree of autonomy and has commented on planning applications and regularly raises matters of



The TLS has hosted several Royal events. HRH The Prince of Wales celebrating the tenth anniversary of the TLS in 2002

interest and issues of concern. A rolling programme to encourage new membership commenced in 2002.



The TLS partnership on a site visit

6.7 The TLS partners collectively fund a **Project Co-ordinator** to ensure the implementation of the Strategy and to facilitate the **core** functions of the organisation. Responsible to the Officers' Steering Committee and Members' Review Group the Co-ordinator's role is to find resources, promote projects, co-ordinate and encourage the local authorities, statutory organisations, landowners and the local community to turn the Strategy into action. To ensure the core functions of the TLS are achieved the MRG agreed to appoint a **Project Development Officer**.

6.8 Over time various members of staff have been employed to implement specific projects. These **non-core** functions have been funded by a variety of different measures. Of note is the Project Implementation Officer employed to write funding bids and to manage projects on the ground. A Heritage Lottery Fund bid supported the employment of a Project Officer, a Volunteer Officer and a part-time Education Officer based at Orleans House Gallery. An officer has also been employed to scope the Restoration of the Lost Floodplain initiative. **Volunteers** help to run the TLS office and assist on project work.

6.9 The TLS has an active **Friends of the Thames** 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 publication of an Annual Review.



A TLS Friends and partners event

6.10 In addition to the funding partners, the TLS works with over 180 **community groups** and 50 **statutory and Non-Governmental Organisations** (NGO's) which operate in the Thames Landscape Strategy area. The Strategy sits on many different committees both regional and local to provide expert advice and to ensure that the aspirations of the Strategy are achieved. Examples include the River Thames Liaison Panel for the Water Framework Directive, the Tidal Thames Biodiversity Partnership and the Kew Gardens World Heritage Site Steering Group.

6.11 An independent charity - **The Father Thames Trust** was established in 1998 to act as the charitable arm of the Strategy. The Chairman of the Trust is the Lord Watson of Richmond. The Trust has raised millions of pounds to assist project work and to ensure the core costs of the organisation are met.

FUNDING THE STRATEGY

6.12 The core costs of the TLS are met in part by the contributions of the funding partners - the costs being split between the 15 organisations involved. Additional income is raised through management fees for project work, grant aid and donations from the Father Thames Trust and the Friends Group. In kind contributions such as the office and storage space at Holly Lodge (Royal Parks) have also played a key role in sustaining the organisation. The Annual Budget is set out in the TLS Action Plan agreed by the OSC and MRG. Annual budgets and measures to make up any shortfall in income are set out each year in the Annual Action Plan.

6.13 Project work is sustained through a variety of different means and is managed both directly by the TLS or by one of the project partners. Working with the Father Thames Trust and the TLS partnership, just over £15m has been raised to restore and open up the landscape.



The Father Thames Trust has raised almost £5m to support TLS project work

MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

6.14 **The Planning System** is the backbone for the Strategy. The landscape relies on firm planning and conservation policies to maintain the resources we have inherited and to guide future development. The Thames Landscape Strategy sets guidance and projects for the river corridor as a whole, grouped together in one co-ordinated document. In this way, the Thames Landscape Strategy has acted as a guidebook for stakeholders who have an interest in the development of the Thames corridor, providing a day-to-day link between the landscape, the vision, the community and the authorities. Chapter Five sets out the way that the Strategy's recommendations relate to planning policy.

6.15 **The Landowners** have taken responsibility for implementing the Strategy including both the boroughs and statutory agencies. The project and management proposals set out in Chapter 4 are designed to inform existing programmes of work and link operations together across land ownership boundaries. Private landowners and tenants are also responsible for significant sections of the riverside and the Strategy aims to explain how their land fits within the overall pattern, giving guidance on the part played in the wider landscape structure. Thames Water and the Duke of Northumberland are two main private landowners whilst in certain reaches smaller riverside gardens run to the water – here many riparian owners are found. A guidance document to aid these small riparian owners was published by the TLS in 1997.



A corporate volunteer group enjoying a day out of the office with the TLS

6.16 **The Community** has provided a key role in validating and supporting the Thames Landscape Strategy. The TLS has ensured

regular liaison with local interest groups and residents. This process of consultation and communication has been critical to the identification and acceptance of local environmental enhancement initiatives. Even small changes in the familiar local landscape can cause great alarm if the enhancements are not fully understood and discussed in advance. Many of the completed projects have been carried out through voluntary action by the community providing local knowledge and practical assistance. To ensure the long-term sustainable maintenance of the river landscape, the continued support and participation of the community will be crucial.

*6.17 **The Thames Landscape Strategy** itself has taken the initiative in implementing the Strategy through a programme of works that has become known as **The Thames Landscape Strategy in Action**. These schemes are set out in the **Annual Action Plan** that is agreed by the OSC and MRG to form the work programme of the organisation. The widespread support for the Thames Landscape Strategy, Hampton to Kew is due in large measure to the tangible signs of landscape enhancement that can be seen on an annual basis through the implementation projects.*

Achievement and Success: Strategic Planning, Development Control & Community Partnership

The Thames Landscape Strategy set a precedent for communicating the importance of landscape to both professionals and the general public. Achievements include:

- *Instigated the production of two further Strategies covering the River Thames.*
- *Shaped London-wide policy documents and Thames policy area and is cited in the current draft London Plan.*
- *Continues to be used to inform policy within local authorities.*
- *Designation of the river corridor between Hampton and Kew as London's Arcadia – one of London's cultural quarters*
- *Has been used internationally to inform water-based strategies, from Tokyo to Richmond, Virginia.*
- *Has been recognised by peers in the presentation of awards by the Landscape Institute, Royal Town Planners Institute and internationally by the Environmental Design Research Association.*
- *Has been used as evidence at public enquiry in support of planning policy decisions based on Landscape Character such as the Seething Wells, Kingston development site.*
- *The principles set out in the Strategy are used to inform a variety of strategic working groups, such as the local and regional Biodiversity Action Plan groups, and the Kew Gardens World Heritage Site Masterplan Steering Group.*
- *Firmly established the importance of planning policy in protecting the landscape.*

- *The TLS has helped to shape Flood Risk management plans for the Thames, working with both the Lower Thames Flood Risk and the Thames Estuary 2100 teams within the Environment Agency.*
- *Establishment of a Community Advisory Group that has met with the TLS quarterly since the first meeting in June 1995.*
- *Been a lead partner in the Richmond Environment Network (now the South West London Environment Network) since 2005. This is an umbrella organisation that provides support information and guidance to members of the public working in the environment and civic pride sector.*
- *Worked with local volunteers, community payback attendees and schools litter picking along the towpath and foreshore, linked to changes in towpath management and TLS project work*
- *Actively engaged with hard to reach groups*
- *Established a Friends group that has just over 2000 members*

THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY INTO ACTION!

6.18 The Thames Landscape Strategy set out a 100-year blueprint to conserve, enhance and promote for the future one of the world's great urban landscapes. During the last 16 years the implementation of the policies, projects and management proposals set out by the Strategy have seen a transformation that few would have thought possible within the confines of one of the world's largest urban conurbations. Only the commitment of a dedicated community and a far-sighted group of partners has enabled a diverse mosaic of industry, heritage, conservation and geology to be brought into the 21st Century and beyond. That the work still continues is a lesson that exceptional landscapes do not exist by themselves. Landscapes have to be enhanced, protected, celebrated, accessed, understood and enjoyed. These were the aims of the Thames Landscape Strategy 16 years ago and have been the mission of all those involved in the project since.

Putting the Thames Landscape Strategy into action has been a 16 year rolling programme of implementing the projects and management proposals set out in the Strategy.

LAND MANAGEMENT

6.19 There is an unusually high proportion of public and charity-owned land along the Thames between Hampton and Kew, managed with the public benefit as a priority. Well cared for and diverse riverside open spaces are of great importance to many local people – often being cited as one of their most important considerations. The TLS has championed best practice in this field finding innovative ways to improve the maintenance of the towpaths through the introduction of new techniques that top up existing arrangements.



Reducing riverside litter has been a TLS priority



The TLS Towpath Management Plan in action



Hedge planting at the Home Park

6.20 The TLS Towpath Management Plan. updated by the TLS annually, sets out the specific management requirements for the riverside and has provided a handbook to guide maintenance for riparian owners, appointed contractors and communities since 2001. The plan provides the practical information needed – on a site by site basis, to manage the towpaths and informal open spaces. The plan includes:

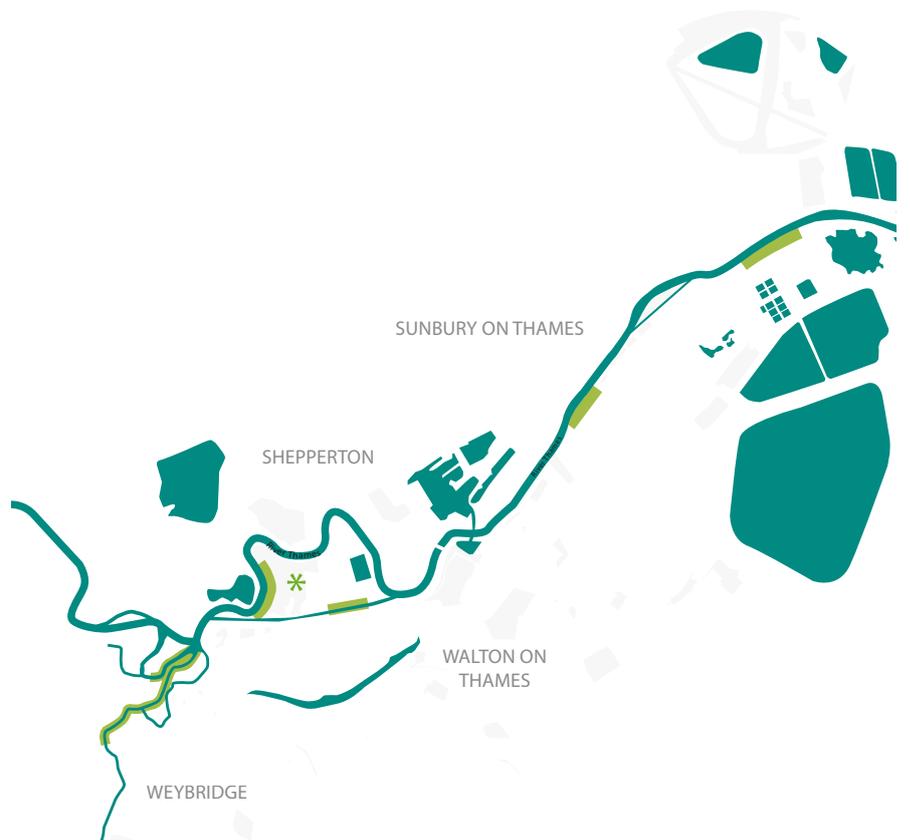
- litter collection
- tree works
- mowing regimes including annual hay cuts
- invasive species removal
- tree and hedge planting
- maintenance of street furniture
- surface repair

The plan ensures that volunteering is directly linked to statutory provision in order to provide a best use of resources. Where extra measures are needed to top up statutory mechanisms and volunteer output the plan identifies possible sources of additional funding that would be required to implement these works. Where needed, the TLS has worked directly with appointed contractors.

Achievement and Success: The TLS Towpath Management Plan

The TLS Towpath Management Plan has achieved the following:

- Considerably improved the appearance of the riverside through a co-ordinated and long term maintenance programme
- Set a new standard in riverside management that is in tune with community expectations
- Informed communities on how and why the riverside is managed
- Identified and sourced additional funding streams to top up statutory measures
- Identified 'grotspots' along the riverbank, particularly places where flotsam and jetsam is deposited on the spring tides (much of the riverside upstream of Kew is low lying and inundated by water during the spring tides). New ways to manage this litter have been put in place that has seen a reduction in litter of 85%.
- Worked with boroughs and local residents to replace and reposition litter bins in places of greatest need – reducing litter in many honey pot locations.
- Introduced a new towpath hay cut regime that has seen an increase in native riparian plant species from 10 (2001) to 45 (2009).
- Introduced measures to maintain sightlines along the Thames Path and repair potholes
- In 2005, the Towpath Management Plan was awarded a commendation in the National Waterway Renaissance Awards.



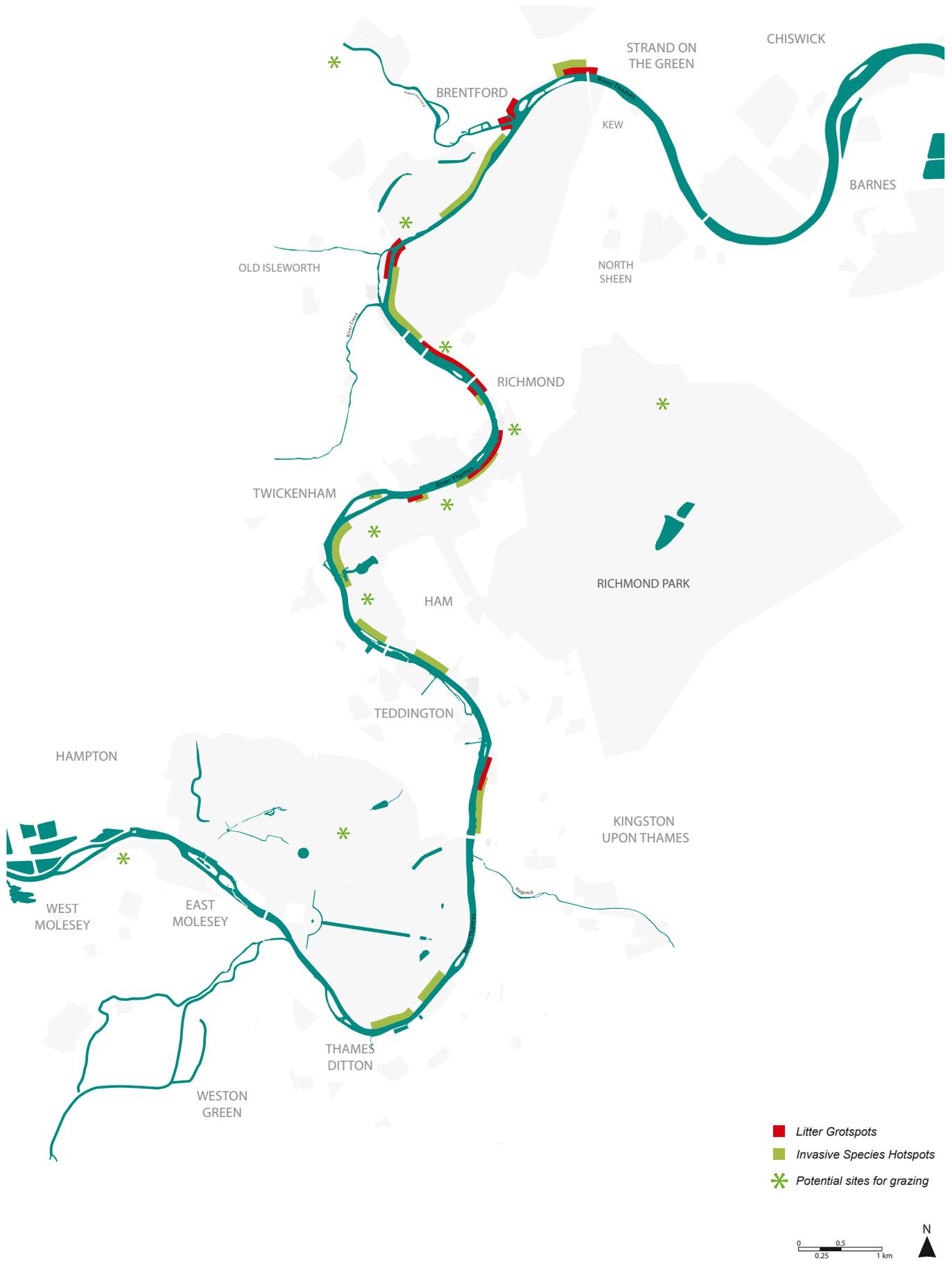


Figure 24 - Management

6.21 To ensure community engagement and foster ‘ownership’ in the management of the landscape, a **TLS Volunteer Programme** was started in 2000. Initially volunteers simply helped to pick litter and remove weeds but through the evolution of the Towpath Management Plan the work has become increasingly diverse. A key consideration is to co-ordinate volunteer work so that it tops up statutory measures. Volunteer programmes are set annually in the TLS Towpath Management Plan and are designed to implement TLS In Action Projects. Much work is also carried out with Community Payback workers and young people.



Achievement and Success: Volunteering

The TLS volunteer programme has achieved the following:

- Re-introduced a series of traditional land management techniques to manage the riverside that would not otherwise have been feasible including: hedge laying, boardwalk construction, scrub bashing, tree planting, willow spiling, invasive species removal and survey work.
- Increased community understanding of why certain traditional land management practices are used.
- Established the importance of good management to ensure the quality of landscape is maintained.
- Co-ordinated over 280,000 volunteer hours across the four boroughs since 2000.
- Targeted schools and young people (with an emphasis on those who are vulnerable or excluded), many volunteer events being linked to TLS education and outreach activities.
- Engaged with over 400 different groups and organisations such as BTCV, the Environment Trust for Richmond, the Ham and Petersham Association, the German School and the Canbury and Riverside Association.
- Established an annual six month volunteer programme in partnership with the Surrey Care Trust’s community narrow boat Swingbridge
- Set a programme of works using Community Payback workers and provided a mechanism to train young people who are not in formal education focusing on the right skills to support them back into the workplace or further education.

LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN RESTORATION

6.22 The Arcadian Thames has more historic parks and gardens than almost any other location in the UK. Many of these historic places however had fallen into disrepair and were in need of restoration. The Thames Landscape Strategy has acted as the catalyst for an ambitious restoration programme across a range of different open spaces including formal gardens, historic parkland, grand avenues and informal public spaces. Whilst the TLS has managed many of these restoration programmes directly, much more has been achieved through the wider action of partners – the TLS stimulating these programmes and co-ordinating activity at a landscape scale. Activities include:

- Preparation of landscape restoration masterplans
- Assistance with partner landscape restoration masterplans
- Re-opening of lost views
- Avenue restoration
- Historic landscape restoration
- Preparation of historic garden management plans
- Garden restoration

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

6.23 The TLS has championed the enhancement of the ordinary public open spaces that connect the main historic sites clustered along the Thames. These include intimate spaces such as Ranelagh Drive, bustling promenade walks and historic waterfronts such as Richmond and Kingston Riversides. Working in partnership with the four boroughs much work has been carried out to improve these spaces focusing on the following themes:



Volunteers repair historic railings

- streetscape surfacing
- lighting (to improve both the appearance of light columns/ lanterns and the light source itself - for people and nocturnal wildlife)
- repair and enhancements of historic walls, railings and steps
- placement of litter bins
- repair of benches
- access improvements
- enhancements that aid mental mapping and legibility
- planting and street trees

HABITAT CREATION AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

6.25 The historic network of parks, gardens, towpaths and avenues of the Arcadian Thames form the capital's largest interconnected wildlife corridor that stretches from Inner London to the Surrey Hills and beyond. This mosaic of habitats supports a diverse range of resident and migratory species. The TLS has worked at a landscape level with a diverse variety of partners to enhance these riparian habitats and green corridors implementing a range of local and national initiatives. Increasingly, measures to restore natural floodplains are being explored linked to the London Rivers Action Plan, the London Biodiversity Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive. Measures have included:



Much has been achieved over the past decade to clean up the riversides, making scenes such as this a thing of the past

- Enhancement of Green corridors
- Naturalisation of riverbanks
- Reedbed creation and management
- Sand martin, owl and bat box installation
- Enhancement of backwaters and other wet habitats
- Re-introduction of meadowland
- Pollarding and coppicing of riverside trees
- 4km of native hedge planting layered in a traditional way
- Tree planting – over 5,000 native trees planted
- Restoration of floodplain channels at Home Park
- Measures to re-introduce productive landscapes

Achievement and Success: Landscape restoration, biodiversity and streetscape

Landscape restoration, biodiversity and streetscape achievement include:

- *The implementation of major landscape improvement works at more than 36 sites; across four local authorities, including two historic royal palaces, two SSSI's and ten registered historic landscape sites.*
- *Worked with 20 strategic partners, with 15 core funding partners, and more than 180 community groups and special interest societies.*
- *The first TLS implemented project in Feb 1995 was enhancements to King Henry VIII's Mound in Richmond Park, provided a viewing area to enhance the keyhole vista to St Paul's Cathedral and the panoramic view to Windsor Castle. This set a precedent for the partnership working.*
- *In 1997 restoration of lost Lancelot "Capability" Brown vistas at Syon Park and re-instatement of the historic Kew Meridian to the King's Observatory demonstrated the commitment to enhancing the landscape across private grounds for the public benefit would be supported.*
- *Production of landscape restoration masterplans for the Ham Avenues and the Old Deer Park- both by Kim Wilkie*
- *Restoration of the Ham Avenues involving scrub clearance, new tree planting, timber fence replacement carried out by local volunteers, school pupils, inmates from HMP Latchmere House and Feltham Young Offenders Institute– ongoing.*
- *Construction of two sand martin banks at Eel Pie Island and Richmond Park - 2008 and 2012*
- *Restoration of Hunter's Pond - 2005*
- *Restoration of the Hampton Court Avenues including the Long Water Avenue- Historic Royal Palaces 2006*
- *Major landscape enhancements at Bushy Park and Syon Estate- Royal Parks and Syon Estates - ongoing*
- *Production and phased implementation of the Hurst Park Management Plan - ongoing*
- *Garden Restoration of many locally important sites*
- *Celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the 1902 Act to protect the view from Richmond Hill by launching and subsequent implementation of the London's Arcadia project. This £5.4M project, part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, saw the implementation of 7 major landscape projects on and below Richmond Hill. It engaged volunteers in environmental improvements and awareness raising for a total of 105,000 hours. Delivered workshops to 5695 pupils at 31 schools in Richmond and neighbouring boroughs. Worked with over 4000 family members in activity days. Provided 45,000 education and walking leaflets to the community. Delivered 25 targeted projects to vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Engaged with the public at 23 community events, producing 7 new learning resources by working with 12 partner delivery organisation - 2001 – 2009*
- *Development and installation of bat-friendly lighting on the Warren Footpath linked to the restoration of the Ham Avenues and habitat improvements around Ham House that collectively support the bat super highway linking the feeding grounds along the river and its towpaths with the roosting sites within Richmond Park. This demonstrated that interconnected landscapes can be managed in a holistic way.*



- *Undertaken demonstration projects such as the Albany Reach / East Molesey riverbank restoration project. The project to re-introduce 350m of naturalised river bank was completed in 1998. It has continued to be improved, providing better habitat for wildlife and an aesthetically enhanced environment for people to enjoy views across the river to Hampton Court Palace.*
- *Restoration of the Home Park Water Meadows - ongoing*
- *Assistance in the restoration of Marble Hill House Gardens- with English Heritage - ongoing*
- *Preparation of a garden restoration masterplan and part implementation at Canbury Gardens - ongoing*
- *Major enhancements to Waterman's Park – 1996 - 2002*
- *Advised on the preparation of Kew Gardens Landscape Masterplan and World Heritage Site Management Plan*
- *Advised on the preparation of the Hampton Court Landscape Management Plan*
- *Restoration of the Richmond Promenade pocket parks including Bridge House Garden, Bandstand Gardens and Rotary Gardens- 2003 – 2009.*
- *Restoration of Petersham Lodge Wood- ongoing*
- *Restoration of Cholmondeley Walk - 2003*
- *Restored the historic wharf by the White Cross pub at Richmond riverside- 2005.*
- *Followed a holistic approach to landscape maintenance; using traditional timber tree fences rather than plastic guards, using volunteers to control weeds around newly planted hedges, pulling Himalayan balsam by hand rather than spraying, using willow spiling for riverbank stabilisation, allowing native plants to grow in rural areas but controlling them in formal urban areas, and provision of dead wood loggeries in rural areas when bank side trees are removed.*
- *Orleans House Garden was restored to a Regency flowery woodland in the grounds to complement the historic art gallery by volunteers who also maintain the grounds – ongoing*
- *Re-opening of the view to Marble Hill House and Orleans House from the river by the removal of scrub on the towpath boundary by volunteers - 2002*
- *Publication of the Brentford a Waterway Town! Masterplan- 2010*
- *Reed bed planting by Twickenham towpath - 2007*
- *Species rich wildflower meadow planting in 14 locations*
- *Hedge laying, carried out by volunteers in 16 locations including Petersham Meadows, Ham Avenues and Nightingale Lane. Introduced fruit trees into*

hedgerows to encourage local food production.

- *Streetscape enhancements to Twickenham Embankment - 2010*
- *Streetscape enhancements to Isleworth Promenade - 2005*
- *Streetscape enhancements to Brentford Creek - 2012*
- *Putting the Thames Back into Kingston started in 2006. This included new landscape works such as lighting, footpaths, cycleways, street furniture and signage, with improved links from the town centre to the river. It also included a programme of community events such as the Kingston Festival of the River, carried out in partnership with Kingston Town Centre Management to promote the riverside as a vibrant place to visit.*
- *Streetscape enhancements to Kingston Riverside - ongoing*
- *Tree planting on Thames Path at Richmond Road Isleworth - 2005*
- *Conducts a continuing programme of river related environmental monitoring, such as the work undertaken during the “draw off”. This programme incorporates invasive species monitoring with the Zoological Society of London and Marine Conservation Society. As it utilises a network of volunteer groups it also leads to greater awareness of the issues regarding river pollution and invasive species problems.*
- *Co-ordinated monthly bat surveys between Twickenham and Richmond*
- *Works with London Biodiversity Action Plan partners to deliver projects that address local and regional priority habitat and species specific improvements. These include creating new reed beds, supporting bat populations and planting Black poplars within the Thames floodplain.*
- *Contributed towards major strategic plans such as Water Framework Directive Thames liaison panel, Thames Estuary Flood Risk Management study and Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan Working Group.*
- *Published the Restoration of the Lost Floodplain report to guide TLS project work*
- *Incorporated increased flood risk due to climate change into the projects being delivered. For example, the Hammerton’s and Douglas boardwalks which provide dry routes away from the towpath. These traditional oak built boardwalks have been designed to allow them to be raised in height as the level of flood increases*

LANDSCAPE CONNECTIONS

6.26 *In 1996, the TLS co-ordinated a project called Thames Connections – a potential Millennium Bid project designed to forge greater inter-connectivity between different sites situated along the Thames. Although this funding bid was ultimately unsuccessful, enhancing the ways that different sites are linked has been a keen goal of the TLS. This includes both physical and intellectual connections and importantly fosters an appreciation of the places in between the main honey pot locations. The TLS has also been actively involved in proposing and improving all manner of leisure activity in the Thames corridor.*

6.27 *A **TLS Travel Plan Network** was established in 2008 to bring together those organisations that own or manage the attractions and*



The TLS co-ordinates the final part of the annual Ganesh festival

open spaces along the River Thames in order to plan how sustainable visitor travel planning options and other visitor related enhancements can be achieved through joint measures. In 2010 an **Arcadian Thames Destination Travel Plan** was published that identified the ways that visitors find out about any given place, plan their trip, arrive, and subsequently move about and understand the area. The ways that enhancements to both off-site activities (such as visitor guides, websites and joint ticketing) as well as physical improvements to infrastructure on the ground (such as accessible footpaths, signage, cycling facilities, dry routes or river crossings) are set out.

- Joint marketing and tourism initiatives
- The promotion of the Arcadian Thames as a term to describe the river corridor between Hampton and Kew
- Publication of a Waterspace and Visitor Action Plan
- Promotion of recreational use of the Thames corridor
- Promotion of the river corridor as a way to improve healthy living
- Promotion of identified clusters of activity – gateways
- Understanding the journey through the landscape
- Improving legibility and access to pedestrians and where appropriate cyclists
- Improving the interconnected network of footpaths, rivers crossings and cycle routes
- Assistance with events such as the Great River Race and other water related festivals.
- Improvements to interpretation and signage
- Forging greater links with Kingston University

Achievement and Success: Landscape Connections

Achievements include:

- Publication of the groundbreaking “Accessible Thames Walking Guides” in 2001, setting a new standard for providing accessibility information to visitors.
- Worked in partnership with Richmond Bridge Boathouses to support the training of young people in traditional boat building and wood crafting skills. The skills learnt by the young people have subsequently been used to promote river based activity. In 2008 the TLS raised the funds for a Jolly Boat to be constructed by Grey Court School
- Have promoted the river for active sport, leisure recreation, sustainable transport and productive employment. Endorsing a policy of maintaining a vibrant working river with functioning boat building workshops, ferries and trip boats.
- Purchased the rights to operate the Isleworth Ferry - 2012
- Publication of the Waterspace and Visitor Action Plan in 2007
- Publication of a series of Arcadian Thames walking leaflets - ongoing
- Publication of 16 specialist information leaflets for the Arcadian Thames - ongoing
- Publication of the Treasures by the Thames leaflet – 2005 and 2010
- Establishment of the Arcadian Thames Travel Plan Network

- Installation of a trip boat stop at Twickenham - 2010
- Monitored cycle use on the towpath
- Promoted the installation of dry routes to be used in times of flood
- Installation of 14 interpretive panels
- Advised on the location of directional signage in all four boroughs
- Created new and improved cycle routes along the towpath between Kingston and Teddington Lock. Working with the Environment Agency, and London Boroughs of Kingston and Richmond to make Teddington Lock bridge cycle accessible.
- Worked with Transport for London to promote access to the river using sustainable transport by the production of *Cycling the River Thames*

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

6.28 The Strategy has relied on a flow of information to both receive an understanding of local landscape perceptions and to set proposals for the landscape in a context which makes sense. People need to know what is going on along the river and to feel that they have a voice in influencing its future. This understanding has helped to inform communities on why certain (sometimes controversial) measures are needed and has helped to change practices proposed by the Strategy and its partners based on this local knowledge. In 2012, the Thames Landscape Strategy was recognised for its community-based approach to landscape management with a special award from London in Bloom. Measures have included:

- Local, regional and national press and publicity
- Production of an annual newsletter
- Upkeep of a website
- Talks and lectures
- Participation at local events



One of the regular TLS Friends events

THE TLS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

6.29 The involvement of local schools and other education programmes have been weaved into most TLS projects. The goals of the TLS were set out in the **Education and Outreach Action Plan** in 2007. The schools programme has carried out both formal and informal learning with an emphasis on linking learning with the opportunity to get out into the landscape through volunteering and outdoor activities. The outreach programme informs a diverse range of communities about the work undertaken, what makes the Thames landscape special and how it needs to be protected, enhanced and maintained.

- Publication of an Education and Outreach Action Plan to inform TLS projects
- Created strong links with formal education providers
- Established a formal TLS education programme in partnership with Orleans House Gallery
- Forged strong links between education programmes and volunteering



The TLS Education Programme aboard the Jubilant



TLS funded Jolly Boat for Grey Court School

- Established a Thames-based learning programme with the River Thames Boat Project
- Targeted young people - in particular those from hard to reach groups and those excluded from education - to provide the appropriate skills to re-enter formal learning or the jobs market

THE REST OF THE RIVER

6.30 Although this strategy has concentrated on the Thames Landscape between Weybridge and Kew, the principles and approach have been applied along the river through the remainder of the capital. The Thames Landscape Strategy is now one of three sub-regional strategies for the River Thames in the London area - the others being the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea and the Thames Estuary Partnership Tower Bridge to Shoeburyness.

Achievement and Success: Understanding the Landscape

The Thames Landscape Strategy set a precedent for communicating the importance of landscape to both professionals and the general public. Achievements include:

- The work undertaken by the Thames Landscape Strategy has been recognised repeatedly for its contribution to the river-based landscape, including Queen Mother's Birthday Awards, National Waterway Renaissance Awards and River Thames Society Shield.
- Continues a day-to-day engagement with partners, policy makers and its community to inform the project work that it undertakes and ensure it can be sustained.
- Engages with a changing network of stakeholders to ensure the focus of the organisation is always broadening.
- Provided information in a way local people can relate to, in a format that makes it accessible.
- Published an annual newsletter to inform stakeholders of the Strategy's work (first published in Nov 1995). In 2007 this was replaced by regular web updates that contain a back catalogue of over 50 leaflets and booklets providing information about the project work and how to experience the Thames landscape.
- Publishes an annual review.
- Published regular reports explaining individual activities and the different kinds of work carried out.
- Participated at more than 250 public events such as local fairs and river festivals, showing our exhibition work, so that people can question why things are done in a particular way.
- Talks and lectures have been used extensively over the years. Most of the local interest groups have been targeted and received presentations about the Strategy. Feedback from these events has enabled the TLS to draw up projects and management proposals based on community expectations.
- Local publicity has been an important mechanism for engaging with a wide audience and has stimulated a continuing interest in the future of the riverside. Between 2002 and 2009, the TLS had a weekly column in four London newspapers

Achievement and Success: Education and Outreach

Achievements include:

- *TLS project work is carried out working with delivery partners who run education programmes on behalf of the TLS.*
- *Publication of the “Schools on the River” education pack in 1998 in partnership with the River Thames Boat Project*
- *Production of the Education and Outreach Plan in 2007*
- *Appointment of a Heritage Education Officer in 2005 in partnership with Orleans House Gallery. This work has been supported with publications, practical engagement and creative art classes out in the landscape to teach about the value of landscape.*
- *Partnership with the Surrey Care Trust, who run environmental work programmes on board the community narrowboat Swingbridge with young offenders and alternative education programmes with young people out of mainstream education.*
- *The Stables education centre at Orleans House gallery has been supported financially*
- *A youth graffiti art workshop with the Metropolitan Police and young offenders to create a mural recreating the view from Richmond Hill using spray paint.*
- *Run teacher CPD and student teacher art training events incorporating the local heritage landscape.*
- *Run Natural Talent - a cross curriculum project for year 3 pupils at a Twickenham school working with a range of delivery partners to explore the ecology, geography and heritage of Orleans House Gallery to produce a site specific art installation.*
- *Merrist Woods College NVQ and NTPC students worked with project officers to assess one of the project proposals and report on their assessment.*
- *Working with Hounslow Hindu Temple, the TLS has engaged with a large Hindi community to co-ordinate the annual immersion of the Hindu god Ganesh into the Thames to mark the end of the Ganesh Chaturth festival. This builds ownership of the Thames among a population separated from the landscape by cultural and social boundaries.*
- *Transported Exhibition and outreach programme – 2012.*

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING

6.31 Co-ordination is particularly needed where:



Her Majesty the Queen visited the Thames Landscape Strategy on both her Golden and Diamond Jubilees

- strategic and local views cross borough boundaries and different landownerships;
- the character of either bank is controlled by separate boroughs and yet each bank has a direct effect on the identity of the reach as a whole;
- neighbouring designations differ in name or emphasis;
- development sites cover more than one administration;
- projects or grant aid mechanisms cross borough boundaries along the river.
- proposals that have a wider influence on the landscape such as travel planning, day to day management of the landscape, recreational activity or tourism.

Although the TLS has been successful in bringing together a range of partners to provide a joint mechanism for management of the river corridor, certain gaps have been identified in the preparation of this review. It is proposed that these should be addressed through the preparation of the Annual Action Plan and in the development of further corridor based project work. Opportunities include:



- *Linking separate areas managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme into a larger interlinked high level stewardship area to provide management at a landscape level*
- *Establishment of a formal mechanism to implement TLS projects*
- *Floodplain restoration including the establishment of a floating herd as a mechanism for management on new and restored grazed wet meadows*
- *Greater coordination of activities on the Thames Path National Trail in London*
- *Joint Thames habitat action plans*
- *Greater emphasis and promotion of joint working through the Thames Destination Travel Plan, tourism and visitor initiatives.*

Regular updating of the Strategy will be essential to keep the recommendations and projects relevant and the landscape assessment current. The landscape is dynamic and society's priorities change. Much of this can be achieved through the annual action plan.

