

Thames Valley Flood Scheme

Newsletter: August 2021



The Thames Valley Flood Scheme (TVFS) is being developed by the Environment Agency with the aim of reducing flood risk on the non-tidal River Thames and its tributaries. The scheme is also committed to enhancing the environment, growing the economy, supporting sustainable growth and improving the health and wellbeing of all Thames Valley communities.

This newsletter will keep you updated on the Thames Valley Flood Scheme as the project progresses. To find out more, please visit our [Citizen Space](#) webpage or email: TVFS@environment-agency.gov.uk.



A diagram representing the River Thames catchment and the approaches being considered by the Thames Valley Flood Scheme

Thames Valley Flood Scheme consultation

The first public consultation for the Thames Valley Flood Scheme has closed – we are pleased to have received about 260 responses. Thank you to everyone for taking the time to share your thoughts.

We will now be preparing the output report, which will be issued in the autumn. This report will summarise the responses we received during the consultation. We will then share the outcomes report in the winter, which will explain how we have factored your responses into our decision-making. These reports will be available on [Citizen Space](#).

About the scheme

The Thames Valley Flood Scheme is investigating ways to manage flood risk across the Thames Valley catchment, which is the area of land around the non-tidal section of the River Thames and the rivers and streams that flow into it. This is a large area with tens of thousands of homes, businesses and large amounts of critical infrastructure, many already at risk of flooding. A growing population in the area along with the increasing impacts of climate change means that even more homes, businesses and infrastructure will be at risk in the future. These large-scale and long-term issues are what the Thames Valley Flood Scheme is looking to address.

The project is in its very early stages, with a number of approaches to managing flood risk on a large scale being considered. Now that the first public consultation has come to a close, the project team is looking at how the responses can further shape and improve the direction of the project. We will continue to engage with partners and communities throughout the project to ensure that knowledge is shared and provide the best chance for success.

By thinking more broadly about what can be done to manage flood risk and taking action now, we can be better prepared for what the future will bring. Our ultimate goal is to help make the Thames Valley a truly climate resilient place to live, work and visit – today, tomorrow and for future generations to come.

“The scheme not only explores different approaches to managing flood risk but also seeks to deliver ambitious improvements to the environment, local habitats and biodiversity”

- Joe Cuthbertson,
TVFS Project Director

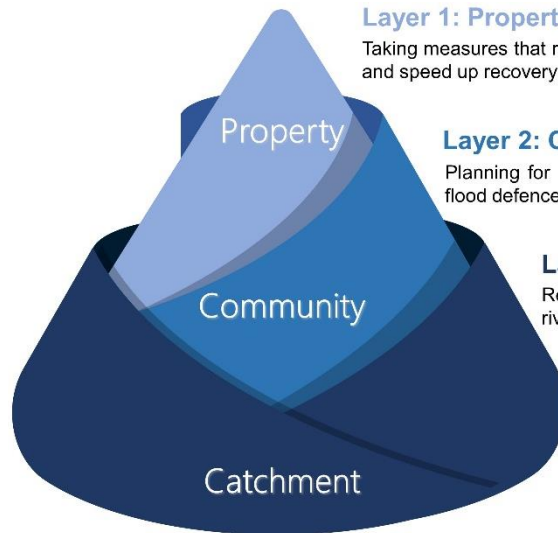
Thames Valley Flood Scheme main ambitions:

- Improve flood resilience to over 20,000 properties
- Create new recreational opportunities and new habitats to increase biodiversity
- Benefit a large geographical area throughout the Thames Valley
- Deliver the project in partnership and with the support of local communities
- Encourage diversity and reduce inequality in the Thames Valley

Layers of flood protection

The Thames Valley Flood Scheme is looking at how a catchment-scale approach to flood risk management can complement measures taken at the property level and community level to further reduce the impact of flooding and make our communities more resilient.

This scheme does not replace any existing or planned flood schemes in the catchment. Instead, it will act as an overlay to provide further flood risk reduction in locations that have a flood alleviation scheme in place. The scheme also seeks to reduce flood risk for many communities where it has not been possible to have a local flood scheme.



Layer 1: Property

Taking measures that reduce the impacts of flooding on properties and speed up recovery after a flood

Layer 2: Community

Planning for local flood risk from all sources and building flood defences to protect local communities

Layer 3: Catchment

Reducing the volume of water entering the main river and slowing the flow of water downstream



Next steps

- **Autumn 2021**
Consultation output report published
- **Winter 2021**
Consultation outcomes report published
- **Early 2022**
Potential locations and approaches will be shared
Further engagement with partners, landowners and communities to refine locations and approaches and continue to work towards a shortlist of options

Have you found this newsletter useful? Please fill out this short [feedback form](#) and let us know your thoughts.

Keep up-to-date on the scheme by visiting GOV.UK or emailing the TVFS team:

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-valley-flood-scheme/thames-valley-flood-scheme>

 TVFS@environment-agency.gov.uk

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