

TALK OF THE THAMES

Spring/Summer 2020



How TEP and our
partners deliver
the UN's SDGs

Weathering change:
TEP's virtual boat tour
sets sail on the Thames

Building an estuary
resilient for the future:
new lessons learned

A Welcome From Interim TEP Chair Phil Stride



Welcome to the summer 2020 edition of *Talk of the Thames*. I have been interim Chairman of TEP for the last three months, having been a trustee of the charity for three years as a representative of Tideway, the company which is building the Thames Tideway Tunnel (see update p.14). Working alongside so many people who share a passion for the Thames Estuary has been both inspirational and rewarding, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued and loyal supporters. In particular, now that my twelve years on the tunnel project have come to an end, I would like to thank Andy Mitchell, CEO Tideway, for all the support given to TEP over the last five years.

These are difficult and uncertain times for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has major ramifications for the vast majority of our stakeholders. We appreciate that the financial impact on organisations will affect their future work and priorities. TEP remains committed to working with our partners to deliver a framework for sustainable management of the Thames Estuary. So more than ever, it's important that we all strive together in this 'new world' for the benefits that we seek to realise.

In line with restrictions on social distancing, we are all being innovative in how we continue to network. TEP is also being very creative in the use of online networking and in the projects it delivers, having launched [The Tidal Thames](#) on 8 June to call attention to World Ocean Day and environmental issues and to offer TEP's annual boat trip in a virtual form to its members and the public. The way that TEP's team have risen to challenges in these unprecedented times is particularly impressive. But we need your support and input to ensure the success of such initiatives as we adapt to a 'new normal.'

The theme of this edition is the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Thames Tideway Tunnel project will make a significant contribution to Goal 6 Water and Sanitation. In this edition we explore other organisations' plans to deliver their SDGs and learn how the current crisis is impacting on these aspirations and the work they do.

I hope that you will enjoy this edition of *Talk of the Thames*, and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we all learn to manage the impact of COVID-19. Stay safe!

Phil Stride, Chair (Interim)

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Living Thames – Global Inspiration

By Chris Baines, TEP President

'Kidneys of the land and ovaries of the sea' is how great naturalist David Bellamy described tidal estuaries, and this is so true of the Thames. The natural systems in London's great river help to filter and clean the waste that we pour into it, and this complex community of plants and animals do that job brilliantly, provided we don't overload them!

The Thames is also astonishingly productive: sandbanks and mudflats, saltmarsh and creeks of the outer estuary spawn a myriad of fish fry. From mud-dwelling micro-organisms to harbour porpoises, and from millions of migratory birds to more than 125 species of fish, the tidal Thames is thriving.

This hasn't always been the case – as recently as the 1950s the Thames was biologically dead. For centuries, the estuary had served as an open sewer, and the combination of industrial pollution, motor transport and rapidly expanding human population was too much for river life. Now it has recovered, but that did not happen by accident or miracle. Massive investment in pollution control, stricter development rules and pressure from campaigners and politicians turned the Thames around.

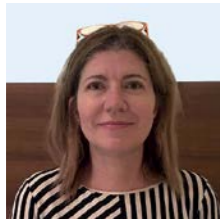
Now that combined effort needs to be maintained, as the recovery of the living Thames is a collaborative effort.



Chris Baines

The threats and pressures remain as big as ever. The Thames Estuary is a hub for global trade, and demand for new development is relentless. But our understanding of the estuary's ecosystem is also growing, along with a recognition of the need for nature in our lives. We know that success can be sustained if all the different interests and resources combine their efforts creatively. For 20 years, TEP has played this unique role in underpinning productive partnerships. Together we've shown that the whole can be far greater than the sum of its parts, and this is what makes the tidal Thames a world class model of sustainability.

TEP Activity Update



A welcome from TEP CEO Heather Hilburn

Last November, Thames Estuary Partnership celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Tower of London with core partnership members and stakeholders across sectors sharing their thinking and practices on work around the Thames. Later, as 2020 got underway, we started making plans for a joined-up strategy to tackle the effects of climate change as shaped by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And then the pandemic hit...

As the world moved into lockdown, the UK saw cases of flooding, which impacted vulnerable communities and stretched the capacity of organisations to respond to emergencies. Inequalities also came into sharp focus, and among other lessons learned, COVID-19 has shown us that we are profoundly connected to each other. We are all part of a fragile, interdependent ecosystem and part of the problem and the solution. Hopefully, this realisation will help us shape viable and interconnected solutions to the thematic issues outlined in this issue on SDGs. These were set out by the UN precisely to tackle many of the problems we are already experiencing in our economies and environments.



Tour of the Thames annual boat trip

We do have much to be positive about, and as we've seen, people can respond quickly to change, redirecting help to those who need it most and taking on new ways of working. At TEP, the team has worked incredibly fast to adapt and keep critical projects underway despite lockdown and funding pressures. Even more impressively, they have moved with lightning speed and applied their skills to create new digital online resources so we can not only continue to engage

with our TEP network but vastly improve our offerings. I am incredibly proud of all that our team has accomplished, so take time to read our TEP Activity Update, which walks through our latest work and newest projects in more detail.

We hope this issue of the *Talk of the Thames* inspires you to get in touch and let us know how you might want to collaborate with the TEP network!

At TEP we've been as busy as ever during lockdown! Like many organisations, we've had to rethink our main workstreams, reshape our projects and events and transition to virtual meetings using collaborative platforms. Thankfully, we've been able to maintain our core convening work, adapting and making progress on various forums, as well as providing a support system for the health and wellbeing of our staff. The tide never stops turning, and neither do we!

To bring our work to life online, we got in touch with our creative side and developed new online resources to reach our network and new audiences. Utilising skills we deploy in project delivery, the TEP team has been able to visualise and communicate our work in a way we've never done before.

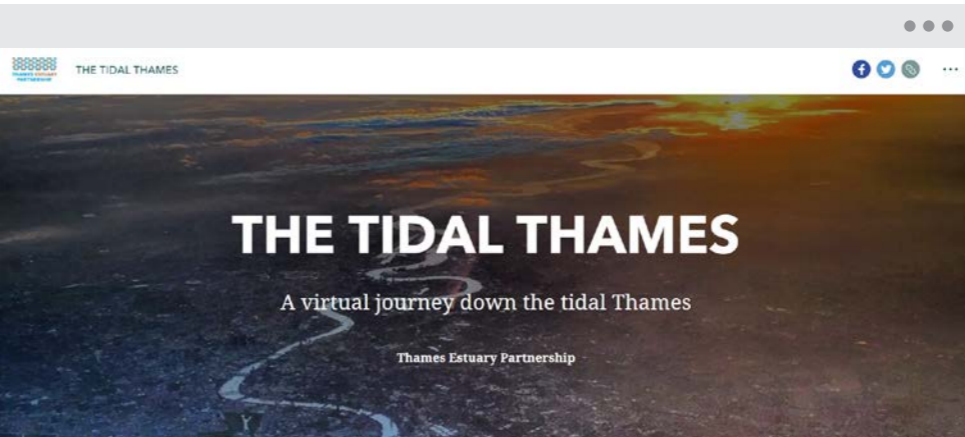
We're now creating a platform that we can build on far into the future, highlighting the wondrous complexity of the natural, social and economic land and seascape of the Thames, and the work that TEP and our partners do. We hope this platform will be useful for the whole Thames community, so here's a run-down of what we've been doing over the last three months:

The Tidal Thames – Live Trip Goes Virtual

Every year, TEP hosts a boat trip as part of Totally Thames, an annual festival run by the Thames Festival Trust, which takes place throughout the month of September. Starting at Tower Bridge, we head downstream away from the bright lights of central London and into the Thames 'less travelled.' Joined by expert speakers in biodiversity, heritage and industry, this well-loved trip downstream and back is a highlight of our yearly calendar.

As this Tour of the Thames forms a key part of our public engagement, giving people a chance to hear about the range and depth of issues we face every day on the tidal Thames, we thought it was critical to make it happen despite lockdown constraints.

So, in a rush of imaginative thinking and lightning-fast response, we envisioned and developed a virtual boat tour, using in-house 3D Google Earth and ArcGIS skills, with a complementary podcast series of speakers who bring key subjects to life. In this way, our new tour of the Thames provides sight and sound (map, photos, text, podcast) and we only wish for a live boat trip next year for the added smell of the sea and wind in our hair!



Tour of the Thames Map

Our resident GIS guru, **Wanda Bodnar**, compiled and created a stunning new interactive map using skills that she applied to visualising data on fish migration in our [Greater Thames Fish Migration Roadmap project](#). Wanda turned her attention to creating our new platform by showcasing key areas of interest along the Thames Estuary that most people would never think to visit.

The idea was to emulate our physical boat trip route, beginning at Tower Bridge and ending at the Maunsell Forts, an extension to the Outer Estuary that would take far too long on a real-world boat trip. Luckily, the virtual world allows us near limitless possibilities to incorporate new sites and stops along the way!

At each 'stop' we include a short description of the site, and over time we'll add a specially designed podcast recorded with a key TEP partner, as well as links to TEP and partner projects for further exploration. We plan to work with our partners to grow this virtual tour and bring all the interesting initiatives and challenging issues together in one place that reflects the whole of the tidal Thames.

Talk of the Thames Podcast

Of course, no boat trip is complete without a guide, and ours kicks off with an interview with Honorary TEP President Chris Baines talking about bird migration in the Thames. We continue this conversational style as the boat tour/podcast makes its way through various topics and stops, bringing locations and issues to life in the way that only 'live' discussions can.

Led by TEP's [Estuary Edges](#) Officer, **Eve Sanders**, our podcast series is in excellent hands. Eve deals regularly with multiple Thames topics across land and water that impact the river and its estuary edges and also trains UCL

students on tidal survey techniques. With her outgoing, curious and engaging personality, Eve has already proved popular with a turn on [BBC R4's Costing The Earth](#) and is a natural at podcasting!

We have a fascinating line-up of tour stops to share with you, and we'll be highlighting one each month in our e-newsletter. Tour of the Thames and Talk of the Thames podcasts were formally launched on World Ocean Day on 8 June. We've already had great feedback, but most importantly, our podcasts will be providing an educational asset for TEP and our partners for years to come.

World Ocean Day

At TEP, we celebrate World Ocean Day each year to recognise London as a coastal city linked to the global ocean through the tidal Thames and tributaries.

This World Ocean Day, we highlighted the national and regional work we contribute to through the [Coastal Partnerships Network \(CPN\)](#), a national network of over 50 Coastal and Estuary partnerships around the UK that share knowledge and collaborate on coastal issues, along with [Marine CoLABoration](#) (Marine CoLAB).

Initiated by the [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#) in 2015, Marine CoLAB is an innovative collaboration of nine organisations that strives to increase cooperative action and explore how to communicate the value of the ocean more effectively. CoLAB members strive for a healthier ocean by trying to build a more ocean-friendly society, which understands how its own values are linked to the value of having an ocean rich in diversity.

TEP's Technical Director **Amy Pryor**, has worked as TEP's representative on the Marine CoLAB since its inception, helping to shape collaborative thinking and supporting delivery for each of its projects. CoLAB's most local experiment



Sam Lew

is the innovative [#OneLess Campaign](#), led by CoLAB member and long term TEP Partner, Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Since 2016, #OneLess has been supporting pioneering and progressive individuals, communities, businesses, NGOs and policymakers to work together to reduce the amount of single-use plastic water bottles entering the ocean from the city. This effort requires mass mobilisation of strong messaging to the general public. As the #OneLess tagline puts it: 'because everything we do touches the ocean.'

Thanks again to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, TEP has recently received funding to support the development of the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) from a voluntary network to a professional one with a clear strategy and legal status. Richard Harris, [3KQ](#), who previously worked on the Balanced Seas Project 2009 – 2012, will now support the CPN Committee in developing this strategy over the next five years, and supporting this work is a new member of our team: Coastal Researcher, **Dr Sam Lew**. Sam will be looking at where capacity can be built across the network, identifying new opportunities for expanding collaborative work by Coastal Partnerships and Marine CoLAB and working closely with Amy and our TEP based National CPN Coordinator, **Alice Watts**.

Because we also want to build on our learning and public messaging on the connection we have with the ocean, at TEP we're now working on surveys with the #OneLess Campaign and our local Rivers Trust and key TEP partner Thames21. With these Thames Perception Surveys we hope to better understand how people perceive and use the Thames so we can better continue our work in promoting a living, thriving tidal Thames!

Last but not least, as we strive to communicate our key messages and reach new audiences, we've strengthened our communications team, bringing on **Lesia Scholey**, a former FT journalist, as ToTT magazine editor, and promoting **Olivia Squires** from volunteer intern to communications officer on staff. Olivia will continue to devote several days a week to our social media campaigns, our monthly newsletter and other key outreach with partners and the public.

We want to thank Katrina Borrow, Director of Mindfully Wired Communications (MWC), and Jacob Ashton, previously seconded to TEP from MWC, who recently presented a pivotal communication strategy for our organisation and set us on the right course!



Lesia Scholey

Your Tidal Thames: Back in Action

By Eve Sanders, Estuary Edges Officer at TEP

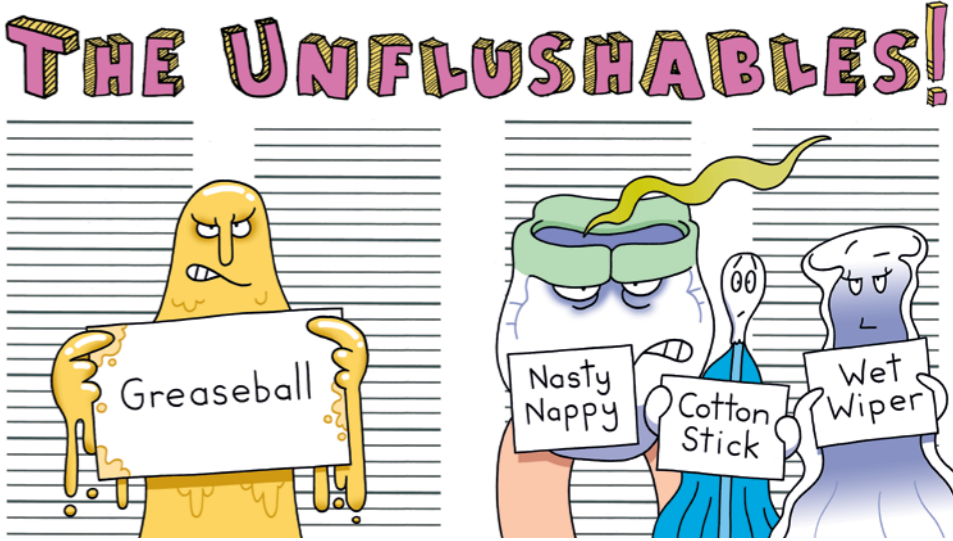
TEP's vision for the Thames is a river that is healthy, appreciated and accessible to all. One of our longest-running collaborative partnerships, Your Tidal Thames Catchment Partnership (YTT), was set up to meet these goals and is now in the midst of an exciting makeover.

Originally set up as part of the Environment Agency's *CaBA (Catchment Based Approach)* initiative, YTT's remit was to help implement the Water Framework Directive, a landmark EU initiative designed to catalyse the cleaning of rivers across Europe.

As just one of many catchment areas across the UK, all of which comprise watersheds (rivers and tributaries and surrounding land), YTT is the catchment that corresponds to the whole of the tidal Thames, from Teddington to the sea.

YTT works as a collaborative initiative comprising NGOs, outreach groups, researchers and local authorities who play a role in the Thames. By bringing together all these stakeholders and interested parties, YTT coordinates efforts to protect and improve the river environment for everyone. The catchment partnership is co-hosted by TEP and Thames21, an independent charity that works with local communities and mobilises thousands of volunteers each year to improve London's waterways.

Piloted in 2012, YTT has since produced a number of influential projects, most notably the *Unflushables* campaign, which promotes lifestyle changes to prevent non-flushable household items from entering our rivers.



After a pause in campaigns in recent years, YTT is now back in action, with Thames21's Jessica Van Grootvelt and TEP's Eve Sanders taking the lead on rebooting the partnership and re-engaging key partners such as Thames Water, Thames Landscape Strategy and Zoological Society of London. Jessica and Eve will spend the rest of the year revitalising campaigns and building on exciting projects.

YTT is now actively working on its vision for public engagement in the Tidal Thames Catchment Area. Officially launched in 2014 (available to view on the [TEP website](#)), YTT tries to create 'a tidal Thames that is more accessible, greener and more connected to the wider London landscape and the sea – a river that benefits people, businesses and wildlife.'

Specifically YTT is focusing campaigns and project work on the following themes:

- Access to riverside, onto the river and onto the foreshore
- Flooding and flood storage
- Habitats and wildlife
- Public perception and education
- Redevelopment and riverside planning

Some examples of current TEP and Thames21 projects that embody this partnership approach are *Estuary Edges* and *Thames Riverwatch*.

As YTT has had a long history of collaboration and partnership, instrumental in enhancing London's iconic river, our rejuvenated YTT promises to boost the efforts of TEP, Thames21 and all of the other catchment partners, as we begin a new decade of restoration and sustainable management.

Thames21: Twenty Years Commitment and Looking at the Future



By Debbie Leach, Thames21 Chief Executive

Sustainable development is in Thames21's DNA. When our organisation was founded almost twenty years ago, it was named after Agenda 21 of the Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by 178 Governments at the UN's Rio Conference in 1992.

In 2020, Thames21 continues to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We've now had nearly two decades to consider the journey of this UN Resolution. Have responses by authorities, organisations, companies and the public been too piecemeal? Are they lacking the early, solid buy-in required from governments and private sector capital for widespread progress?

Unfortunately, from the perspective of a river organisation like ours, some areas of the environment, such as plastic pollution and road run-off, have worsened dramatically since 1992.

'There's so much plastic in these saltmarsh habitats you can hear the crunch as you walk,' said AJ McConville, who co-ordinates [Thames River Watch](#),

a citizen science initiative monitoring the health of the River Thames. AJ was meeting up with local volunteers at Coldharbour Point on Rainham Marshes, where the edges of the Thames Estuary are guarded by WWII concrete barges that now provide flood defences.

In the 12 months to October 2019, more than 27,000 single use plastic bottles were counted and removed from the river Thames by citizen scientists. In just a few hours, at one location on the Thames foreshore over 23,000 (plastic-containing) wet wipes were counted and removed. Thames River Watch's [latest report](#) examines five years of data gathered, looks at some of the worst impacted sites and makes recommendations.

On a positive note, the mere existence of such data is crucial because only factual evidence can inspire systemic and behavioural change for a sustainable Thames environment, and by implication for similar rivers worldwide. Baseline evidence -- like the kind Thames21 helps provide -- is essential to motivating change and measuring progress. Ultimately this data-gathering is what's helping to achieve targets such as SDG 6 on improving access to clean water.

Arguably one of the most challenging kinds of pollution to tackle (because it's hardest to measure) is the dirty cocktail generated by road traffic. Its effects are dire: when washed into rivers, road run off often causes dissolved oxygen crashes and mass fish deaths.

On this issue Thames21 has been working hard via its partnership with the Greater London Authority (GLA), Transport for London (TfL), Middlesex University, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the South East Rivers Trust (SERT), which have all come together for a project called 'The Spatial Quantification of Road Run-off.' This collaboration has developed a model using vehicle activity data since



2013 to identify roads generating the most pollutants. Using metrics for six major pollutants, the Road Runoff map identifies roads presenting the greatest potential risk to river health, thereby enabling effective action to be taken.

SDG 6 sets challenging targets to combat threats to water quality and quantity from pollution, over-use and climate change, and Thames21 is dedicated to tackling them. The SDGs make our direction clear, but questions remain as to whether the world's dependence on continuing goodwill and global commitments is enough to make a difference. Do we have a robust, systemic adoption that will drive us forward towards a better, greener planet?

The COVID-19 pandemic is already teaching us sober lessons about the highly interconnected nature of our world and the relevance of global issues to each of us.

Co-operative and community action urged on and inspired by the UN Resolutions is crucial. Because COVID-19 also reveals how fragile our global commitments can be -- even now, we are watching governments suddenly abandon or reverse environment-friendly policies like prohibitions on single-use bags and coffee cups in order to prioritise sanitation and health safety.

Sustainable economic recovery is only possible when it is underpinned and supported by a healthy natural environment, such as that required to provide access to clean water. Achieving this is only possible through solid, widespread partnership work. We need to see the public sector, industry and commerce working constructively with environmental NGOs like [Thames21](#) to benefit both the economy and the environment. The door is open. Let's talk!



Volunteers working on the banks of the Thames

What Do We Mean When We Say UN SDGs?

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address 17 different areas in which we must all work towards sustainability for our planet. They set out targets for developed and developing countries, as well as private and public entities and individual citizens, operating independently and together, locally and globally.

For those working in and around the Thames Estuary, the most relevant goals are 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and the following is a partial list of their targets. For a complete listing, see the UN website www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- Work for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water
- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

- Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services
- Provide all with access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, improving road safety by expanding public transport, with special attention to those in vulnerable situations and with disabilities, women, children and older persons
- Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

- Significantly reduce numbers of deaths and people affected, along with direct economic losses, due to disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and vulnerable
- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and the disabled
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements which adopt and implement integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

13 CLIMATE ACTION



- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity
- Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information

- Prohibit fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies
- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, strengthening their resilience and restoring them for healthy and productive oceans
- Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, and implement science-based management plans to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields as determined by their biological characteristics

15 LIFE ON LAND



- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and protect and prevent extinction of threatened species
- Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

- Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species
- Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships



Thames Water: Delivering for a More Sustainable Future



By Rebekah Kenyon, Senior Sustainability Advisor, Thames Water

Water and sanitation for all are essential parts of a more sustainable world and vital to achieving many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We need to carefully manage our water resources, even as the projected impacts of climate change, population growth and other challenges such as pollution compound a difficult situation.

Thames Water plays a key role in helping to achieve SDGs through its day-to-day operations which provide essential services to millions of people across the south east and by focusing on planning for the long term. With only ten years to go to meet certain sustainability targets, SDGs can only be achieved if governments, businesses, society and individuals work together.

Thames Water makes a significant contribution to Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation every day as it supplies 2.7 billion litres of safe clean drinking water and treats around 4.4 billion litres of sewage for 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, the equivalent of almost 25% of the UK population.

Together with other water companies in the south east, Thames Water is developing an affordable and resilient regional strategy for water resources to benefit customers, society and the environment. Proactive steps need to be taken to make sure there's enough water for future generations, and Thames Water has looked at a wide

range of options, including reducing the amount of water lost through leaks and encouraging customers to use water wisely. Thames Water is also finding new ways to boost supplies such as sourcing new groundwater, storing more water and transferring water from other areas. Meanwhile, as part of its global strategy, outside the UK the company fundraises, builds partnerships and shares knowledge with WaterAid to help make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene available to more people living in south east Africa.

The 15-mile Thames Tideway Tunnel, or 'Super Sewer' as the project is often called, is one way in which Thames Water will help protect the Thames – by preventing millions of tonnes of sewage from overflowing into the river every year from the capital's overloaded Victorian-era sewer system. The Tideway Tunnel will also significantly reduce the amount of sewage litter entering the river and eventually the ocean, such as wet wipes and other plastic items incorrectly flushed down toilets.

At the beginning of March this year, tunnelling on the super sewer reached the halfway mark, as four tunnel boring machines tunnelled 12.5 km of the 25 km total length. Two more tunnelling machines are due to start working in east London this year, creating the eastern section of the main tunnel from Bermondsey to Newham, as well as a slightly smaller 4 km connection tunnel in Greenwich. With expected completion in 2024, the tunnel will be handed over to Thames Water.

Besides clearly being a fundamental project for Goal 6, the sewer will also contribute to Goal 14 Life Under Water, making water cleaner for river users, which will help sustain commercial fishing industries and protect the river's ecosystem.

Thames Water reports on its contribution to SDGs in its Annual Report, including Goals 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production and 13 Climate Action. The Annual report will be published in the summer and will be available on Thames Water's website <https://corporate.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/our-investors/annual-results>

COVID-19 Impact

Thames Water has taken on additional challenges as posed by the global pandemic. Blockages across London and the Thames Valley have climbed almost 20 per cent during the COVID-19 lockdown, and shortages of toilet roll at the start of the lockdown left many people turning to alternatives. Thames Water has had to remind people not to flush wet wipes, kitchen roll, newspaper or sanitary products like cotton pads, and instead dispose of them in a bin.

From an organisational standpoint, like many companies, Thames Water has taken action to update its work practices for lockdown, and now has 3,500 people working from home.

Having been designated Key Worker status, Thames Water strengthened its contingency plans to maintain essential water and wastewater services. This has involved checking the internal water storage capacity at hospital and care home

buildings and establishing where tanker trucks can park to deliver clean water in the event of an interruption to water supplies. The condition and location of region-wide assets have also been checked, including valves which can change the direction of water flow in underground pipes to help maintain supplies. Thames Water engineers have also been working specifically to protect the newly opened NHS Nightingale Hospital from supply interruptions.

Having signed the COVID-19 Business Pledge to be a force for good in tackling economic and social consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, Thames Water has offered extra customer support, with a dedicated webpage and relevant links including a wide range of affordability help, which the company provides alongside Priority Services for customers in vulnerable circumstances. Between March and April alone, the extra help included:

- Transferring an additional 14,150 customers to social tariffs (increasing the total number on social tariffs to 156K)
- Launching a short-term affordability solution – flexible payments for customers who have been impacted by Coronavirus (they can take a break or pay a lower amount in this period).
- Doubling funding to the Thames Water Trust Fund to £1m – an independent charity funded by shareholders to provide the largest private debt-advice in the region, helping support more organisations on the front line
- Committing £4m Customer Assistance Funding to support customers who need it most.

For more information on help available to the public: www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/coronavirus

More on the next page ►



River Thames

Tideway COVID-19 Update

While all but essential and safety-critical activities were put on hold at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown period, Tideway announced that tunnelling work on the super sewer has now restarted after a series of measures to protect workers and the wider community were put in place following detailed safety reviews.

Work is now back on at 21 Tideway sites, including underground tunnelling from Fulham to Acton and tunnelling of the smaller Frogmore Connection Tunnel in Wandsworth.

‘It was absolutely right that we paused activity at the start of the pandemic – only by planning very carefully what activities are safe were we able to get our teams back to work,’ said Tideway CEO Andy Mitchell. ‘Our measures were developed with our workforce and contractors and introduced after detailed safety reviews of every one of our sites. These measures meant we were able to get more of our workforce back up and running safely, minimising delays to this vital project and contributing to wider efforts to support the UK economy.’

The measures adopted fit within the Construction Leadership Council’s guidance and official public health advice and include social distancing and personal travel plans. The majority of on-site staff are using private transport, walking or cycling, while those using public transport are to avoid peak times and follow public health guidance. Individual site travel plans have been drawn up to reduce the impact on the public transport network.

Tideway will be keeping all activities and the new measures under review in collaboration with contractors and the wider workforce, and those who can work from home will continue to do so.



The Lee Tunnel, already built, will form a key link into the planned Super Sewer

City of London Port Health Authority Holds Fast Amid COVID-19

By Louis Franks, Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner, London Port Health Authority

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the London Port Health Authority has continued its vital work in controlling infectious disease and inspecting imported food in the Port of London. As IT systems were already in place for home working, the imported food control aspect of Port Health’s work has remained fully functional, and food inspection arrangements at London Gateway and Tilbury ports have run smoothly. Although routine examinations of imported food and feed have stopped, consignments of high-risk non-animal origin food and products of animal origin remain subject to normal checks.



Boats at Tilbury

London Port Health Authority (LPHA) is a division of the City of London that works closely with Port of London Authority (PLA), which is responsible for navigational safety and related matters on the 150 km (95 miles) of the tidal Thames from the sea to Teddington in west London.

The LPHA plays a key role in infectious disease control aboard vessels, as all ships have to submit a Maritime Declaration of Health prior to arrival. Any illness onboard is investigated by Port Health Officers to check crew health, conditions and welfare and to prevent disease coming ashore. Port Health also works closely with PLA Pilots and Harbourmasters regarding safe working procedures when boarding

vessels to ensure smooth flow of trade. Further, Port Health regularly undertakes public health inspections on cruise ships to audit infection control, food hygiene, water quality and pest management.

As of early May, seven cruise ships and one cross-channel ferry were laid up at Tilbury. Over the course of a weekend in mid-March, five cruise ships had arrived. Later ‘Columbus’ and ‘Vasco da Gama’ both arrived direct from Asia/Australia, the former on 14th April carrying 1521 passengers and crew. A disembarkation over two days was planned and carried out through liaison with Public Health England, the cruise line and the Port of Tilbury. Working together, all necessary infection

control measures, social distancing and safe systems of work were implemented as Port Health observed the disembarkation and was on hand at the cruise terminal to provide advice and direction as required.

COVID-19 test kits have been delivered and collected on the quayside, and Port Health is in daily contact with onboard Doctor and Senior Officers regarding illness, practical implementation of social distancing, personal protective equipment and general outbreak control measures. Whilst it has been a demanding time, Port Health has been resilient in providing its crucial services in overseeing imported food/feed, infectious disease, environmental and shellfish controls.

Life on Estuary Land

By John Meehan, Essex County Council

John Meehan, one of TEP's longest serving trustees, has spent his whole environmental career in the Thames Estuary, as Director of Thames Chase Community Forest, Director of Groundwork South Essex, Thames Gateway South Essex Parklands Programme Manager and Environment Manager and Head of Sustainability and Resilience at Essex County Council. Here he shares his perspectives on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – an urgent call for action by all countries, developed and developing, in a global partnership.

SDG 15 is often referred to simply as the 'Life on Land' goal, and memorably it does

translate to a simple act that many people can get involved in: planting more trees. But SDG 15 also incorporates much more, calling for integrated thinking, creative approaches and the kinds of partnerships set out by SDG 17, as it urges a broader, more complex and interrelated set of actions: *to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*

For nearly two decades, focusing on SDG 15 and 17, Essex County Council, district boroughs and unitary authorities have been working together on a variety of projects focusing on the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial land in the Essex part of the Thames Estuary.

In 1990 Essex County Council was the lead local authority in setting up Thames Chase Community Forest, extending to Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Brentwood and Thurrock. Supported by the Forestry Commission, which has been instrumental in working towards planting 1.3 million

trees and increasing woodland cover from 8% to 13% nationwide, the Thames Chase forest partnership continues to actively strive for 30% woodland cover in our area.

During my time in Essex, we've also witnessed massive attempts to halt biodiversity loss and reverse land degradation. In 2006 when the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) first opened Rainham Marshes, I stood at the entrance with Thames Estuary Partnership Trustee, David Carlidge, formerly of the Port of London Authority (PLA). As staff opened the site, we were the first two visitors to cross the threshold, and since then, we've been followed by 1.7 million!

In another example of creative thinking and concerted action, the RSPB later transformed a former MOD firing range into 370 hectares marshland bird reserve. This was followed by the transformation of land into Bowers Gifford Marsh and West Canvey Marsh under the 2008-11 Parklands Programme. For the most part, these sites had previously been either intensively farmed or over-grazed meadows, but the RSPB turned them into hundreds of hectares of bird-rich marshes.

With negative headlines dominating the press and continuously gloomy warnings on global climate change, it can be easy to overlook the fact that many elements of 'Life on Land' in the Thames estuary have massively improved over the years. These improvements have undoubtedly been due to key local initiatives that depend on strong partnerships, such as the Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area, the Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership, the Hadleigh Olympic Mountain Biking track and the Green Grid and Parklands Visions for the estuary.

As many of us can still remember the estuary as a place of landfills, pylons and petro-chemical refineries, it is now gratifying to watch it become known for its marshland, mudflats and mountain biking – a great outcome for our efforts at SDG 15!



Lush greenery of Essex marshes

RSPB: Adapting Marsh Plans Amid Conservation Success

By Alan Johnson, RSPB Area Manager for Kent & Essex

The Greater Thames Estuary is one of the most important places for wildlife in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese and waders or shorebirds from as far afield as Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia and Siberia descend on the estuary each year to use the invertebrate-rich mudflats as an international feeding hub. On the landward side of the sea walls, the grazing marshes are a national hotspot for breeding waders such as lapwing and redshank. But these two ground nesting birds have suffered sharp declines across the UK in recent years because of habitat fragmentation, land drainage and changes in agriculture.

By now we've become accustomed to such negative news and sad statistics when it comes to the [state of nature](#), yet recently there have been some incredible wins for wildlife too, particularly in the Thames Estuary. Here hundreds of hectares of grazing marsh have been created or restored by the RSPB and farmers, supported by partners such as the Elmley Conservation Trust, the [Port of London Authority](#) and [Natural England](#).

In a genuine landscape-scale success story, methods such as improved grazing management, new hydrological infrastructure and predator fencing have

directly caused populations of redshank and lapwing in the North Kent marsh area to grow to their highest numbers in the last 40 years, in stark contrast to national downward trends. Moreover, as numbers of these breeding wader birds are a good 'proxy' for a healthy marsh environment, our local environmental efforts point to an improved habitat for water voles and scarce invertebrates as well.

Still, there's a long way to go, particularly because of the predicted impacts of climate change: wetter winters, drier summers and rising sea levels. We already see these changes in the marshes, where maintaining freshwater supplies during the breeding season has become increasingly difficult. This is a problem because it is critical to maintain pools between March and July as a feeding source for developing chicks. So the RSPB is developing plans to adapt our reserve network to our changing climate, including the installation of boreholes and 'smart' pumping systems.

The Environment Agency too is already planning for the future management of the UK coastline as part of the [Shoreline Management Plan](#) process, but we still need a big conversation about the future ecological landscape of the Thames. Sea levels are rising on one side of our coastal defences and freshwater supplies are becoming less reliable on the other, so maintaining the existing 'freshwater grazing marsh/inter-tidal' habitat suite will become more and more unsustainable.

What might a [Greater Thames Landscape](#) look like in the future? First, we need to make sure that freshwater sites which are viable in the long-term are protected – there will be fewer of them, so they will be more critical than ever for wildlife. Away from these key freshwater sites, saline water is also likely to become a crucial conservation management tool.

One approach to coastal management envisions realigning sea walls and creating new inter-tidal habitats, but there is another option that could add value for nature and diversify habitats. Where freshwater management is no longer possible (and we already see this in some areas of the estuary), allowing saline water inputs to create surface flooding can create new opportunities for wildlife.

The RSPB has already experimented with this technique at the [Wallasea Island reserve](#) in Essex, using regulated tidal exchange to maintain surface flooding and carefully managing salinity levels. The results have been impressive, with record numbers of wintering waders and ducks and over 100 pairs of breeding avocets. Thus these 'non-tidal' saline habitats could act as a major stepping-stone between freshwater and inter-tidal habitats around the estuary.

Climate change will have a huge impact on and around the Thames, and one of the best ways to cope will be by applying the so-called Lawton Principles: creating bigger areas, improving the quality of habitats and increasing the connection between habitats. Having bigger areas would give wildlife room to breathe and find suitable habitat niches so they can deal with a changing climate. It would also, from a practical point of view, mean that we humans would need to manage land less intensively, relying on dynamic natural changes to provide the things nature needs. A bigger, better, wilder Thames – sounds like a great thing for workers, visitors and wildlife alike!

Member spotlight

Alison Debney, ZSL Senior Conservation Programme Manager



The work of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is far greater than its name implies, and ZSL is performing critical tasks and running key projects that deliver on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In early summer 2020, ToTT caught up with Alison Debney to speak about how ZSL is delivering on its SDGs amid the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

ToTT: Let's start by talking about the elephant in the room, COVID-19, because we're living in times that prove how crucial it is to address environmental concerns alongside economic and political demands.

ZSL says that coming out of this pandemic we must reset our relationship with nature. It has stated publicly that rampant biodiversity loss is increasing the chances of future zoonotic spill overs and more frequent pandemics, and that it's no coincidence that COVID-19 is happening now, as the planet is undergoing a biodiversity extinction crisis.

That means biodiversity conservation and safeguarding public health are inextricably linked, because many drivers of biodiversity loss, such as habitat loss and encroachment and unsustainable exploitation, are also drivers of zoonotic disease emergence. So this pandemic is fundamentally reminding us of how important it is to identify sustainable development pathways that enable wildlife to thrive and ecosystems to recover. Bringing this closer to home, what is ZSL doing to help maintain biodiversity in the Thames Estuary?

Alison: At ZSL our work is all about local to global, and a 'one health' approach: we need healthy people and a healthy economy to support healthy ecosystems. This links directly to the SDGs. We work with both people and ecosystems because issues like clean water are not only essential for wildlife but also support economic drivers such as tourism or fisheries. We need to see sustainability as a range of complex ecological, political and socio-economic pathways.



For example, with our native oyster restoration project our collaboration is contributing to achieving many of the SDGs including 14 Life Below Water. Similarly, in the Thames's freshwater tributaries, we work in partnership to tackle many of the environmental challenges using a 'one health' model, where we link up with companies like Thames Water and the environmental regulators such as the Environment Agency. We provide evidence for science-based decisions to improve water quality because the Thames is important, not just for ecosystems or commercial and domestic consumers, but for the mental and physical well-being of communities. That's the one health idea in practice.

We have great case studies and successes in this regard, like with our Outfall Safari project. Our scientists train and lead volunteers who then become 'citizen scientists' who can independently help our research. They walk the length of tributaries and map any polluting outfalls. This project is part of our London's Rivers Initiative, which includes a range of programs of work for clean water, supporting wildlife and people.

ToTT: It would be great if everyone realised that SDGs don't pose a conflict or system of trade-offs – it's a case of 'win-win' when we all work together for a cleaner and more sustainable environment! Give us some more concrete examples of the kind of work ZSL does to meet SDGs.



Seal population survey by helicopter

Alison: On the goal of building resilience for climate change, we are advocating for the creation of urban wetlands for water storage to mitigate the increased storminess that is being predicted but also to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the river system. We've found that run off from roads is a huge problem. So we're working with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London and Middlesex Uni, South East Rivers Trust and Thames21 to identify run-off hotspots to see how we can remove pollution that seeps from roads into waterways.

We're also trying to build resilience in the wetlands, so they hold water as floods increase in scale and number. We're now entering phase three of this Road Run Off Resilience Project with the prioritisation and development of our wetlands. This year we will be producing a design-guide to aid urban wetland creation.

ToTT: So that deals with many SDGs at once: resilience to climate change, partnerships, life on land and under water.

Alison: Yes, on 14 Life Below Water we're also looking at how the estuary supports juvenile fish. The fish nursery habitat is fundamental in supporting the wider North Sea fisheries. We are learning how fish grow and reproduce.

We're also building on our work in the outer estuary and the sea with our seal work. For the last ten years we've been doing population counts that stemmed from a TEP-produced Thames Strategy that identified seals in the area, but we didn't know how many or why or how. So now we have a marine mammal sightings project, Thames Marine Mammals, which includes cameras out on the estuaries. Once a year, we scientists also go out for an annual live count so we can map trends over time. We've seen

increases in harbour seals, which are now known to breed in the Thames, and grey seals, which come and feed here.

COVID-19 has put a slight damper on progress that relies on fieldwork, as we were about to launch a brand-new project to understand how sharks use our estuary. We host at least four species of shark and want to understand how they – particularly the smooth-hound and tope species – use the Thames as a nursery area. For now the project is on hold due to lockdown, but we'll try to work on it with sports fishermen next year.

ToTT: Exciting! We'll help you get the word out when you do. On another note, a year ago you were in the news, talking about your ENORI project, the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative led by ZSL, which brings together a coalition of oystermen, local communities, NGOs, universities and the UK government.

The BBC quoted you then saying ‘it’s not the most glamorous work’ laying mother oysters but it’s the first step in restoring the estuary’s oyster beds and reviving species in our waters. Where are you with that?

Allison: That’s a long-term project, as it takes a long time to grow beds and revive ecosystems. But what’s new is added funding from National Lottery Heritage Funds to continue Essex seabed and oyster sanctuary restoration, alongside a new programme for outreach, especially among young people with deprived backgrounds or special needs, to help them gain access to and benefit from nature.

We’ve also launched a new project working with the British Marine and the Blue Marine Foundation called Wild Oysters, taking what we’ve learned in the Thames and Essex to Scotland, Wales and northeast England.

Tott: So great to hear that work continues to expand despite this pandemic. Thanks for the update – we definitely hope for live boat trips in the future!



For more information on ZSL’s work, see the links below:

Outfall Safari & Road Runoff Projects
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/londons-rivers
www.zsl.org/sites/default/files/media/2019-02/ZSL_TheRiversTrust_Outfall_Safari_Guide_Final_0.pdf

GLA-hosted Integrated Road Runoff Map of Pollution Risk and Suggested Treatment Options:
www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-adaptation/water-quality

Marine Mammals Conservation Project:
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/thames-marine-mammal-conservation

#InstantWild Citizen Science Seal project:
https://instantwild.zsl.org/projects/thames?_ga=2.42250406.2074743378.1590397535-387057386.1581198279

Marine Mammal Sighting Map:
https://sites.zsl.org/inthethames/?_ga=2.80722708.2074743378.1590397535-387057386.1581198279

Thames Shark Project:
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/thames-conservation/the-greater-thames-shark-project

Oyster Project:
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/thames-conservation/native-oyster-restoration

Tidal Fish Conservation Projects:
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/tidal-thames-fish-conservation

ZSL Thames Conservation Work:
www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/thames-conservation

Biodiversity Net Gain & How It Helps Deliver the UN’s SDGs

By Ingrid Chudleigh, Principal Adviser, Biodiversity Net Gain, Natural England

As the UK Government’s adviser for the natural environment, Natural England’s vision is to ensure ‘thriving nature for people and planet’ by delivering four key programmes (see image). The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underpin these activities and the goals of Natural England (NE).

Within its own Sustainable Development Programme, NE is particularly focused on developing and supporting the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, a key priority also set out in the [Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan](#).

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development and land management that aims to leave nature in a measurably better state than before development took place. (Learn more about BNG in this video [here](#)). Where a development in infrastructure or housing impacts on biodiversity, BNG encourages developers to provide habitat features that are more, or of better-quality, than what is being affected. BNG is intended to halt and reverse current biodiversity loss from development and to ensure the restoration of ecological networks.

What does Biodiversity Net Gain mean for London?

In an urban area like London, BNG presents many opportunities for creating benefits for both the natural environment and resident communities. BNG therefore

achieves several of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals at the same time. Benefits include urban developments designed with nature and sustainability at their core, opportunities for creating urban cooling and increased climate change resilience, bigger and better access to both green and blue spaces within the city, and the creation of corridors of connected habitats between land and the river Thames. BNG can also provide the mechanism and investment tool to help realise these benefits.

How will this be achieved?

The Government has committed to making BNG mandatory for all developments which fall under the [Town and Country Planning Act](#), and this principle will be secured in the forth-coming [Environment Bill](#). This means that for these developments to proceed, a minimum 10% gain in biodiversity will have to be delivered either on the development site, or if that is not possible, delivered in a strategic off-site location. In parallel, the Government is committed to support the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and a complementary national Nature Recovery Network (NRN). It is hoped that BNG can be used as one of the tools to help deliver local contributions to the NRN.

What is Natural England doing to help bring forward Biodiversity Net Gain?

BNG is an approach that is already embraced by several developers, planning authorities and other organisations, some of which are based in and around

London. Natural England is drawing on the approaches and best practices developed by some of these ‘early adopters’ to help inform continuing policy development around BNG. Additionally, NE is working closely with Local Planning Authorities to seek to embed BNG policies in their local plans.

NE has designed a new metric to measure BNG and, working with the Environment Agency, has ensured it includes rivers and streams so it can be applied to developments along the Thames and its tributaries. NE is also helping to deliver training on this [Biodiversity Metric 2.0](#) and participating in local partnerships and initiatives working to develop shared strategic approaches to BNG.

Thriving Nature for People and Planet
&
Building Partnerships for
Nature’s Recovery

Resilient Landscapes and Seas

Greener Farming and Fisheries

Sustainable Development

Connecting People with Nature



Updating the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan: Bringing Sustainability into Focus

By Laura Littleton, Senior Engagement Advisor for Thames Estuary 2100, Environment Agency

It's been ten years since the Environment Agency developed its Thames Estuary 2100 Plan, and we are now working on its first full review and update. Our goal for this review is to learn from our first decade of delivering this long term strategy for managing tidal flood risk, adapt it to a changing climate and plan for the future of our tidal Thames riversides.

The Thames Estuary 2100 Plan (also known as TE2100) was designed to be adaptive to different climate futures. It sets out different pathways for managing rising sea levels in the estuary, depending on the level of climate change we experience and the rate of sea level rise. A review cycle allows us to assess how the estuary and climate is changing and to adapt our approach to managing tidal flood risk accordingly.

To ensure it is also fit for the future, we want to bring sustainability to the heart of the Plan. Whilst sustainability was always a stated core aim, we are taking the opportunity of this review to bring this goal into much sharper focus and see how the Plan can deliver wider social, cultural and economic benefits for the estuary and its communities.

A key element of this effort will be mapping the recommendations in the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Whilst a number of the goals have clear links to the Plan, including 13 Climate Action and 14 Life Below Water, we want to understand how we can

contribute to goals such as 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 8 Decent Work and Economy and 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and potentially other goals as well.

We can't embark on such a massive effort on our own and need to work with organisations and communities across the Thames Estuary to identify some of these wider benefits and collaboratively plan how we can work together to realise them. We had originally planned to run a series of stakeholder workshops, but with the arrival of the pandemic and lockdown, we have reworked our plans and launched a virtual engagement campaign, including webinars, a social media campaign and an online survey which ran throughout June. The survey's feedback should help us shape our future engagement and how we work with all Thames partners to develop the updated Thames Estuary 2100 Plan.

As this is only the beginning of our engagement on our 10-Year Review, hopefully we are at the start of a much more collaborative Thames Estuary 2100. Link to the survey: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/london/thames-estuary-2100-updating-the-plan>

If you missed out on our earlier opportunities to get involved, please do get in touch at thamesestuary2100@environment-agency.gov.uk – any feedback, questions or offers of support will be gratefully received.

Our website is www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-estuary-2100-te2100 and you can follow us on Twitter twitter.com/TE2100Plan



Get involved

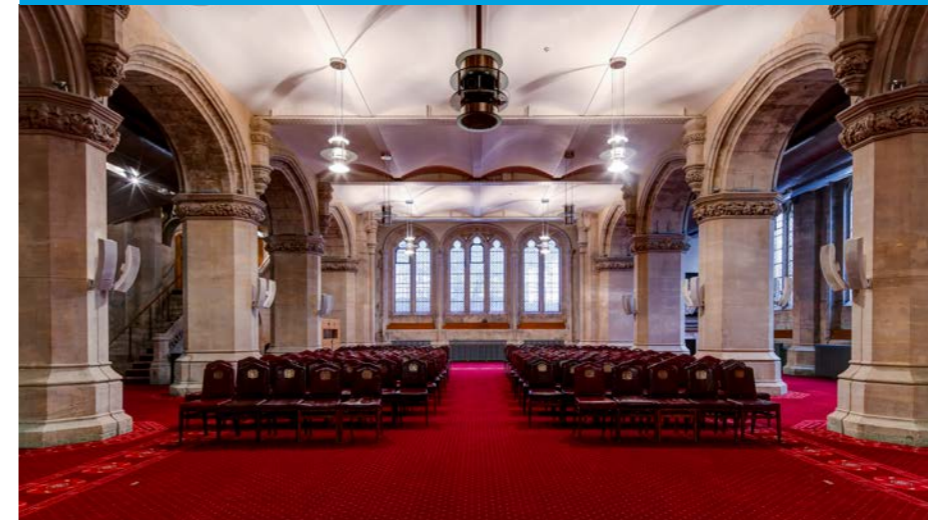
Membership

Join the Thames Estuary Partnership and gain access to exclusive events, regular networking opportunities, specialist workshops, research, partnership funding bids, matchmaking schemes with our projects and much more!

Volunteer

People who donate their time are the heartbeat of our organisation! Many of our staff started out as helpers, and we have opportunities available for volunteers with a variety of skills. If you are interested in talking to us about how to get involved, email us at tep@thamesestuarypartnership.org

Save the Date – 18th November 2020 TEP Networking Evening



Hosted by the City of London Corporation, TEP will hold its yearly networking event for its members and friends in the prestigious Livery Hall in Guildhall. Mark your calendars for this unforgettable evening, with more information to follow via our monthly newsletters and social media!

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YOUR FEEDBACK

We welcome readers' feedback on *Talk of the Thames*, including suggested topics for articles and content contributions. Please email your feedback to Olivia Squires at tep@thamesestuarypartnership.org.

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