

Teddington Direct River Abstraction Newsletter

September 2026



Community update



Foreword from Myles
Teddington Direct River
Abstraction (TDRA)
Project Manager
at Thames Water

“ Had TDRA been operational this summer, it would likely have been brought into service in mid-July, helping to keep the taps flowing during one of the most challenging dry periods the country has experienced. ”

It's been a summer we'll remember for a long time. Across the UK, 2026 has already made history as a record-breaking year for weather.

It began with the hottest May day ever recorded, and as temperatures climbed, so did demand for water across the Thames Water region. June and July brought further periods of exceptionally hot and dry weather, placing increasing pressure on our precious water resources. By August, the UK had experienced its fifth heatwave of the year, with drought conditions affecting many parts of the country. The Met Office has described summer 2026 as the hottest on record.

We've been encouraged by customers' response to water-saving advice and temporary restrictions. Thank you to everyone who played their part. While these efforts have helped, demand remains higher than expected. Rivers, reservoirs and groundwater take time to recover, and sustained rainfall over the coming months will be needed to replenish supplies.

This summer has brought into focus why preparing for a changing climate matters more than ever. That's why we're progressing projects such as TDRA - a project of national significance - designed to help secure water supplies for around half a million people every day during periods of drought. When needed, it would be capable of providing up to 75 million litres of water every day. Had TDRA been operational this summer, it would likely have been brought into service in mid-July, helping to keep the taps flowing during one of the most challenging dry periods the country has experienced.

Since our statutory public consultation in 2025, we've been carefully reviewing feedback, and refining our project proposals. Alongside this, we've continued with detailed surveys and technical assessments to further develop the scheme.

We also held a supplementary consultation between May and June 2026 on proposed updates relating to land near Burnell Avenue and Beaufort Road. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to participate.

Over the coming months, we'll remain focused on engagement, carrying out targeted consultation and further developing the design. We expect to submit our application for development consent in early 2027.

TDRA is just one part of a wider plan to safeguard London's future water supply. Alongside reducing leaks, encouraging efficient water use and expanding smart metering, projects such as TDRA will help build a more resilient water system for the future.

Best wishes,

Myles

Water's journey

From water treatment and recycling to tackling forever chemicals

How the water treatment cycle works

Rainwater flows into our lakes, rivers, and streams, as well as being absorbed into the ground. We collect water from rivers and groundwater sources and treat it in our water treatment works to turn it into top-quality drinking water. We pump that to your taps via our network of 20,000 miles of water pipes.



Once water's been used, we call it wastewater. It goes down your drain or plughole into our network of sewer pipes. These lead to our sewage treatment works, where we treat the water until it's clean enough to go back into the rivers or sea. Typically, wastewater is piped to sewage treatment works, where it can be filtered before undergoing "primary" and "secondary" treatment to make it safe to be released back into watercourses. At some sewage treatment works there is a further stage, called "tertiary treatment",

The Environment Agency sets strict standards for water that is returned to rivers, based on the needs of the local environment. For the TDRA project, additional "tertiary treatment" is needed to meet these standards and help protect the River Thames and its wildlife. The scheme would not deteriorate water quality, as the water would be treated to an appropriate standard before returning to the river.

How water recycling works

At the heart of the TDRA project is the use of water recycling, a tried-and-tested method used widely in other countries, including Australia and Singapore, to treat wastewater so that it can be introduced back into the environment.

Water recycling makes best use of the water we have by taking wastewater and adding additional levels of treatment and cleaning, so that it can either be returned to rivers or with advanced treatment turned into drinking water.

Importantly, the recycled water produced through the tertiary treatment process for TDRA will comply with strict environmental standards, which are set and enforced by the Environment Agency.

Communities have our absolute assurance that no raw sewage will enter the river through the TDRA project. It is physically impossible by design.

You can find out more about the water recycling process on our website at thames-sro.co.uk/tdra

What are "forever chemicals"?

Forever chemicals, and more specifically PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), can be found in over 4,000 manmade substances, which are widely used in industry and manufacturing in products such as non-stick cookware, stain repellent clothing, food packaging, cleaning products and firefighting foam.

Wastewater treatment works receive PFAS through domestic sewage, trade effluent from industrial processes and run off from materials containing PFAS.

Water companies treat wastewater in line with rules set by Government and the Environment Agency. These rules specify the type and level of residual chemicals that should be removed following wastewater treatment. Currently, sewage treatment works are not designed to remove PFAS and are not required to do so.

We want to see PFAS banned and the development of a national plan to remove it from the environment, which should be paid for by manufacturers as opposed to water bill payers.

Project update

Proposed changes to the project

We're proposing some changes to the TDRA project, including relocating structures within Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, utility works on the A316 Chertsey Road, and a new vehicle holding area off the A316 Country Way.

We're carrying out targeted consultation with those directly impacted by these changes and any affected parties have been contacted directly. To help explain these proposed changes in detail, we've prepared **three factsheets**, which you can view on our website thames-sro.co.uk/tdra



Mogden Sewage Treatment Works

We're proposing changes to the new structures that would be built within the Mogden Sewage Treatment Works site, including:

- Moving a proposed tertiary treatment plant from the east to the south of the site
- Relocating a proposed tunnel and shafts
- Making changes to the southern, eastern and western embankments of the site to accommodate these changes

We've also updated our estimates for the number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements needed to carry out the works at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works. Compared to what we presented at our 2025 consultation, HGV movements would increase. We're continuing to look at measures that we could put in place to avoid, reduce or mitigate the impacts of this. Updated construction traffic forecasts and impact assessments will be included in our Environmental Statement, which will be submitted with our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Utility works on the A316 Chertsey Road

We've identified that we'd need to carry out some work to a gas pipeline so that our proposed tunnel could be safely built nearby. We're proposing an increase in the draft Order limits for the project in this location, so that we're able to carry out this work. The draft Order limits (the area of land needed to build and operate the project), is roughly 100 metres along Chertsey Road, either side of the bridge over the River Crane.

Vehicle holding area

To reduce the potential congestion which could be caused by construction traffic waiting to enter Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, we've identified that we'd need a vehicle holding area nearby. An existing layby off the A316 Country Way, near Kempton Park, is a suitable size and in a convenient location, and vehicles will be able to safely wait there until they are needed. We're proposing an increase in the draft Order limits for the project so that we can use part of this layby, enough for three lorries to safely park.

What's coming up

As we move into the next phase of the project, we'll continue to refine our proposals and listen to feedback. We'll be focusing on continuing conversations with stakeholders to discuss the feedback we've received and answer questions. Plus we'll be carrying out further technical assessments to support decision-making and ensure our plans are as robust and well-informed as possible.

Because the TDRA project is considered a project of national significance, it follows the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. We'll keep you informed as plans progress towards the submission of our DCO application in early 2027, including details of any future engagement opportunities and how you can get involved in the process. Further details can be found on our website: thames-sro.co.uk

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