



Water Resource Management Plan 2029

SEA Scoping Appendix A - Detailed Plans, Policies and Programme Review

Thames Water

September 2026

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Appendix A. Detailed Plans, Policies and Programme Review

Reference has been made to the Appendix B of the WRSE RP29 SEA Scoping Report which provides a review of relevant international, national and regional PPPs to the RP29.

This appendix provides a comprehensive review of local PPPs specific to the Thames Water area and additional national PPPs not included within the RP29 appendix referenced.

Table 1: Additional National Plans, Policies and Programme

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 ¹	Cross-cutting	The Planning and Infrastructure Act speeds up and streamlines the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure, supporting fast-tracking 150 planning decisions on major economic infrastructure projects by the end of this Parliament. It also supports delivery of the Government's Clean Power 2030 target by ensuring that clean energy projects are built as quickly as possible. To achieve this, the Act seeks to: • Provide for a faster and more certain consenting process for critical infrastructure and strengthen the policy framework around National Policy Statements (NPSs) • Introduce a more strategic approach to nature recovery in relation to development, enabling developers to fund restoration more efficiently through a new Nature Restoration Fund, whilst securing improved outcomes for the environment • Unlock land and secure public value for large-scale investment through reforms to the compulsory purchase order process and compensation rules The Act recognises the need for upgraded water supply infrastructure and improved resilience to all essential services. It emphasises infrastructure resilience, climate adaptation, sustainable development and environmental enhancement. These themes are relevant to the WRMP29 and are reflected in the SEA key themes.
Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 ²	Water	The Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 delivers on the Government's manifesto to put failing water companies under special measures and seeks to ensure water companies are better held to account where they have failed to deliver for the environment and customers. Provisions include: • require water companies to produce annual pollution incident reduction plans and report on the implementation of these plans each year

¹ UK Government (2025) Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/34/contents>

² UK Government (2025) Water (Special Measures) Act 2025. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/5/contents>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• confer powers to impose conditions or general rules into abstraction and impounding water industry licences • require Ofwat to have regard to the Environment Act 2021 and Climate Change 2008 targets when carrying out their functions • supplement existing powers to require water companies to make special provision to support customers in need The Act is particularly relevant to the WRMP29 as it reinforces the need for water resource solutions that protect and enhance the water environment, improve ecological resilience and support long-term sustainable management of water resources.
A New Vision for Water White Paper 2026 ³	Water	The policy establishes the Government's longer-term strategic direction for water resources, environmental improvement and water sector reform. The White Paper sets out the Government's vision for reforming both the water sector and the wider water system. Its overarching aim is to deliver: • Safe and secure water supplies • A protected and enhanced environment • Fair outcomes for customers and investors • A more efficient and integrated water system
New Towns Draft Programme 2026 ⁴	Population and Human Health	The Draft Programme sets out the Government's proposals for a new generation of large-scale settlements intended to address housing shortages, support economic growth and create sustainable communities. The programme builds on recommendations from the New Towns Taskforce and identifies a number of proposed locations for development.

³ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2026) A new vision for water: white paper. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-new-vision-for-water-white-paper>

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) New Towns Draft Programme. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-towns-draft-programme/new-towns-draft-programme>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		The overarching objectives include: • Delivering significant housing growth • Supporting economic growth • Infrastructure-led development • Sustainable placemaking • Long-term environmental sustainability
Salmon Five Point Action Plan ⁵	Biodiversity	The Salmon Five Point Approach is a coordinated strategy used in the UK to help restore and protect declining wild Atlantic salmon populations. It focuses on tackling pressures both in rivers and at sea, while working with communities, anglers, and environmental bodies. The plan recognises salmon as an iconic indicator of healthy river ecosystems and highlights the significant decline in salmon populations due to a combination of marine and freshwater pressures. The five key actions: • Improve marine survival • Further reduce exploitation by nets and rods • Remove barriers to migrations and enhance habitat • Safeguard sufficient flows • Improve water quality
Oxford Cambridge Growth Corridor Opportunities Investment Prospectus Policy Paper 2025 ⁶	Cross-cutting	The Prospectus presents the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor as a world-leading innovation region and seeks to attract investment into science, technology, infrastructure, housing and economic development. The Government's objective is to unlock the Corridor's economic potential while supporting sustainable long-term growth. White Horse Reservoir is highlighted a major reservoir scheme entering procurement phases for contractors and investment in the next 12 - 24 months, expected to

⁵ Angling Trust (2020) Salmon Five Point Approach – restoring salmon in England. Available: <https://anglingtrust.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Annex-1-Salmon-Five-Point-Approach-Restoring-Salmon-in-England-v2.pdf>

⁶ HM Treasury (2025) Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor Investment Prospectus. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-cambridge-growth-corridor-investment-prospectus>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		progress as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. There is therefore an opportunity to provide growth-enabling security investment.
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Biodiversity	The act is the primary legislation in the UK for the protection of wildlife and habitats. It provides comprehensive protection for wild birds, their nests, and eggs, making it illegal to intentionally harm them. Furthermore, the Act also safeguards other animals and plants, regulates the introduction of non-native species, and controls the sale of certain species. Additionally, the act designates Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) to conserve important habitats.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ⁷	Cross-cutting	The Act is primarily intended to implement key aspects of the Government's Rural Strategy 2004 and addresses a wider range of issues relating broadly to the natural environment. The Act also established Natural England, responsible for conserving, enhancing and managing England's natural environment sustainably. The act also established the Commission for Rural Communities, which acts as an independent advocate and expert adviser for rural England, in particular people suffering from social disadvantage and areas suffering from poor economic performance. Furthermore, the Act provision in respect of biodiversity, pesticides harmful to wildlife and the protection of birds, and in respect of invasive non-native species. It alters enforcement powers in connection with wildlife protection and extends time limits for prosecuting certain wildlife offences. It addresses a small number of gaps and uncertainties which have been identified in relation to the law on sites of special scientific interest. And it amends the functions and constitution of National Park authorities, the functions of the Broads Authority and the law on rights of way.
The Levelling -Up and Regeneration Act 2023 ⁸	Population and Human Health	The Act introduced wide-ranging reforms to planning, local government, regeneration, compulsory purchase and environmental assessment. Its overarching purpose is to reduce geographical inequalities across the UK by supporting economic growth, improving infrastructure, increasing housing delivery and strengthening local decision-making.

⁷ UK Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16>

⁸ UK Government (2023) Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/contents>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		The Act stems from the Government's levelling-up agenda, which seeks to: • Boost productivity, jobs and economic growth. • Improve access to housing, infrastructure and public services. • Strengthen local communities and local pride. • Empower local authorities and regional governance structures. • Support regeneration of towns and cities.
Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water 2023 ⁹	Water	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Plan for Water sets out the actions we will take to: • transform management of the water system • clean up the water environment • create a sustainable supply of water for people, businesses and nature The plan covers both the water environment, how clean it is, and water resources, how much of it we have. It brings together the significant action already taken, along with more investment, stronger regulation and tougher enforcement on those who pollute.
Land Use Framework 2026 ¹⁰	Cross-cutting	This Land Use Framework for England sets out how we can use our land more effectively to: • increase resilience of communities, infrastructure and food systems; • support economic growth and development; • restore nature and biodiversity; • respond to climate change; • reduce conflicts between competing land uses.

⁹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023) Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-water-our-integrated-plan-for-delivering-clean-and-plentiful-water/plan-for-water-our-integrated-plan-for-delivering-clean-and-plentiful-water>

¹⁰ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2026) Land Use Framework. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-use-framework>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Green Infrastructure Framework 2023 ¹¹	Biodiversity/Landscape	It promotes multifunctional and use recognising that land should ideally deliver multiple benefits simultaneously, such as water management, biodiversity recovery, carbon storage, recreation and food production. Good quality Green Infrastructure (GI) has an important role to play in our urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline. The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of our towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape. Networks of green and blue spaces and other natural features can bring big benefits for nature and climate, health and prosperity. At present access to green and blue spaces varies considerably across the country, and there are opportunities for these important assets to be better managed for the environment and to deliver a wider range of multifunctional benefits. The GI Framework will help local planning authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development. It can support better planning for good quality GI and help to target the creation or improvement of GI, particularly where existing provision is poorest.
National Standard for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems 2025 ¹²	Cross-cutting	The National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) 2025 are DEFRA's updated national standards for the design, operation and maintenance of surface water drainage systems in new developments in England. It establishes a more comprehensive framework that treats SuDS as multifunctional infrastructure rather than simply a means of managing flood risk.

¹¹ Natural England (2023) Natural England unveils new Green Infrastructure Framework. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-unveils-new-green-infrastructure-framework>

¹² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025). Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		The 2025 standards are structured around seven standards, which collectively form the core objectives of SuDS design: 1. Runoff destinations 2. Management of everyday rainfall 3. Management of extreme rainfall and flooding 4. Water quality 5. Amenity 6. Biodiversity 7. Construction, operation and maintenance
Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England 2025 ¹³	Landscape	The management plan covers the geographic area of the Protected Landscape, outlining the vision and strategy for conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, including wildlife and cultural heritage, and promoting opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Their core purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty while supporting nature recovery, climate resilience, cultural heritage, public enjoyment and coordinated action across public bodies and local partners.
Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 2025 ¹⁴	Biodiversity	The Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 2025 is a practical framework for preparing and delivering Protected Site Strategies under powers introduced by the Environment Act 2021. It provides a step-by-step approach for bringing together partners to address environmental pressures affecting protected sites that cannot be resolved through site-specific management alone. The guidance recognises that many pressures on protected sites originate beyond site boundaries, including: • Water pollution. • Air pollution.

¹³ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2025). Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England. Available:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-plans-for-protected-landscapes-in-england/management-plans-for-protected-landscapes-in-england>

¹⁴ Natural England (2025) Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 1.0 (NE793). Available:

<https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5232810435280896>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Habitat fragmentation. • Recreational pressures. • Climate change impacts. • Land-use practices.
National Planning Policy Framework update August 2026 ¹⁵	Cross-cutting	The 2026 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaces the previous NPPF published in December 2024 and is the Government's principal planning policy document for England. It sets out how local plans should be prepared and how planning decisions should be made, with the overarching aim of delivering sustainable development while supporting housing delivery, economic growth, climate resilience, environmental protection and infrastructure provision. Key changes from the 2024 version, relevant to the water sector, include: 1. New dedicated chapter: "Securing Clean Energy and Water" with water now being treated as a strategic growth enabler in the planning system, alongside energy infrastructure. 2. Stronger alignment between spatial planning and water planning - Local Plans and Spatial Development Strategies are expected to take account of water resource constraints and infrastructure requirements much earlier in the process. 3. Development plans must make provision for water infrastructure - strengthening protection of strategic WRMP and regional plan schemes from conflicting development pressures. 4. Greater policy support for strategic water resource schemes – new policy W4 gives substantial weight to proposals that increase water supply resilience, improve security of supply, support planned growth, improve water quality and reduce water pollution. 5. Stronger links between growth and water availability - the NPPF explicitly states that development planning should be informed by an understanding of

¹⁵Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) National Planning Policy Framework. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a8334c03bd75b81e2329ac4/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		water availability and infrastructure capacity, rather than assuming capacity will appear later. 6. Retention of local water efficiency standards - the framework continues to support tighter water efficiency requirements in water-stressed regions. 7. Much stronger SuDS and drainage requirements – the revised framework strengthens expectations around SuDs, surface water management, natural drainage approaches and Local Authority involvement ensuring better integration between water resource planning, drainage planning and flood resilience. 8. Increased emphasis on catchments and river restoration and discouragement of culverting - aligning with environmental destination and catchment-based approaches being developed across WRMP29.

Table 2: Local Plans, Policies and Programme Review

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Local Nature Recovery Strategies 2023 ¹⁶	Biodiversity	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are statutory plans introduced under the Environment Act 2021 to help restore nature following historic and ongoing declines and improve the environment across England. They identify the most important places for biodiversity recovery and set out practical actions that could be taken to achieve it. The nation has been split into 48 responsible authorities to prepare LNRS, each covering a strategy area, that will collaborate with other organisations to agree a list of priorities for nature recovery and proposed actions for the area. Every strategy must include: • A Local Habitat Map • Shows existing valuable habitats. • Identifies areas that could be enhanced, restored, expanded, or connected. • A Statement of Biodiversity Priorities • Sets out the key priorities for nature recovery in the area. • Identifies actions that could help achieve those priorities. 16 of the 48 LNRS authorities are intersected by the Thames Water region as follows: • Bedfordshire (Central Bedfordshire Council) • Berkshire (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council) • Buckinghamshire (Buckinghamshire Council) • Gloucestershire (Gloucestershire County Council) • Greater Essex (Essex County Council) • Greater London (Greater London Authority) • Hampshire (Hampshire County Council) • Hertfordshire (Hertfordshire County Council) • Kent and Medway (Kent County Council) • Oxfordshire (Oxfordshire County Council)

¹⁶ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023) Local nature recovery strategies. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies/local-nature-recovery-strategies>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Surrey (Surrey County Council) • Warwickshire (Warwickshire County Council) • West Northamptonshire (West Northamptonshire Council) • West Sussex (West Sussex County Council) • Wiltshire and Swindon (Wiltshire Council) • Worcestershire (Worcestershire County Council)
Catchment Management Plans ¹⁷	Water	Catchment Management Plans are prepared by catchment partnerships which are voluntary collaborations of multiple organizations within a freshwater catchment, working together to manage water quality, quantity, and related environmental issues. These partnerships often include local authorities, environmental agencies, community groups, landowners, and private sector partners. They aim to deliver multiple benefits, such as improving biodiversity, reducing flood risk, and meeting legal obligations under frameworks like the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Flood Directive (FD). The following 34 catchment partnerships are located within the Thames Water region: • Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership • Beverley Brook Catchment Partnership • Brent Catchment Partnership • Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership • Cherwell & Ray Catchment Partnership • Crane Valley Partnership • Darent and Cray Catchment Partnership • Evenlode Catchment Partnership • Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership • Hogsmill Catchment Partnership • Kennet Catchment Partnership • Lea Catchment Partnership • Loddon Catchment Partnership • London Lea Catchment Partnership • Lower Lea Catchment Partnership

¹⁷ Catchment Based Approach (no date) Catchment Management Plans. Available: <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/catchment-management-plans/>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Maidenhead to Teddington Catchment Partnership • Marsh Dykes & Thamesmead Catchment Improvement Group • Ravensbourne • River Medway Catchment Partnership • River Mole Catchment Partnership • River Ock Catchment Partnership • River Thame Catchment Partnership • Roding, Beam & Ingerbounre Catchment Partnership • Severn Vale Catchment Partnership • South Chilterns Catchment Partnership • Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership • The Colne Catchment Action Network • The Upper Thames Catchment Partnership • Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership • Wandle Catchment Partnership • Warwickshire Avon Catchment Partnership • Wey Landscape Partnership • Windrush Catchment Partnership • Your Tidal Thames
River Basin Management Plans ¹⁸ (2021-2027) (as updated in 2022)	Water	River basin management plans (RBMPs) are used to make water management decisions, informing the ongoing process of planning and implementing interventions that help protect and improve the quality of the water environment. All public bodies are under a duty to 'have regard to' the river basin management plans. Under the WFD Regulations, a river basin management plan must be developed for each river basin district and reviewed and updated every 6 years. Environmental objectives covered by the plans are similar across all areas, including the South East River Basin District (RBD). They are as follows: • preventing deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater;

¹⁸ Environment Agency (2022) River Basin Management Plans: Updated 2022. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-basin-management-plans-updated-2022#rbmps-in-england-wales-and-scotland>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• achieving objectives and standards for protected areas; • aiming to achieve good status for all water bodies; • reversing any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater; • cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters; and • progressively reducing the pollution of groundwater and preventing or limiting the entry of pollutants. Current health of the water environment is assessed in terms of its status. Surface waters are assessed for ecological status or potential and chemical status, and groundwaters are assessed for quantitative status and chemical status. The RBMPs that are applicable to the Plan Area include: • Thames RBMP • Severn RBMP • South West RBMP • South East RBMP • Anglian RBMP The RBMPs relevant to the Thames Water region have been used to inform key themes under the 'water' topic identified within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including prevention of the deterioration of waterbodies in accordance with RBMP objectives.
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) ¹⁹	Water	The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy sets out how the Environment Agency (EA) will manage water abstraction. The EA is required to ensure there is enough water for people including public, industry and agricultural water supplies. It controls the volume of water taken through a permitting system and grants new licences, where required, and regulated existence licenses. CAMS is a standard approach to assess the amount of water available for further abstraction licensing, taking into account what the environment needs. Each CAMS provides an overview of the catchment area and characteristics, including abstractions, geology, hydrology, hydrometry, water quality and discharges, ecology and conservation, recreation and navigation. The CAMS make information on water resources and licensing practice publicly available and allow the balance

¹⁹ Environment Agency (2014) Abstraction licensing strategies. Available: [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process#kent,-south-london-and-east-sussex-\(map-area-13\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process#kent,-south-london-and-east-sussex-(map-area-13))

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		between the needs of abstractors, other water users and the aquatic environment to be considered in consultation with the local community and interested parties. CAMS are also the mechanism for managing time limited licences by determining whether they should be renewed and, if so, on what terms. Within the Thames Water region, the following EA areas are intersected, and have the following associated CAMS: - Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire: - Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth abstraction licensing strategy (ALS) - Holbeach Marsh ALS - Nene ALS - Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau ALS - Welland ALS - Witham ALS - Wessex: - Bristol Avon and North Somerset ALS - Dorset ALS - Hampshire Avon ALS - South and West Somerset ALS - Hertfordshire and North London: - Colne ALS - Roding, Beam, Ingrebourne and Mardyke ALS - Upper Lee ALS - Solent and South Downs: - Adur and Ouse ALS - Arun and Western Streams ALS - Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels ALS - East Hampshire ALS - Isle of Wight ALS - New Forest ALS - Test and Itchen ALS - West Midlands:

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Dove ALS • Severn Corridor ALS • Severn Vale ALS • Shropshire Middle Severn ALS • Staffordshire Trent Vallet ALS • Tame, Anker and Mease ALS • Teme ALS • Warwickshire Avon ALS • Worcestershire middle Severn ALS • Wyse ALS • East Anglia: • Broadland ALS • Cam and Ely Ouse ALS • East Suffolk ALS • Essex ALS • North Norfolk ALS • North West Norfolk ALS • Old Bedford including Middle Level ALS • Upper Ouse and Bedford Ouse ALS • Kent, South London and East Sussex • Darent and Cray ALS • London ALS • Medway ALS • Mole ALS • North Kent and Swae ALS • Rother ALS • Stour ALS • Thames • Cherwell, Thame and Wye ALS • Cotswolds ALS • Kennet and Vale of White Horse ALS

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Loddon ALS • Thames catchment ALS • Wey ALS
Site Improvement Plans: London & South East (SACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites) ²⁰	Biodiversity	Site improvement plans (SIPs) form part of the Improvement programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS). They outline the priority measures needed to achieve and maintain the European species and habitats within a site in favourable condition. They: • provide a high level overview of the issues affecting the condition of the site • identify the priority actions to address the issues • identify the potential funding sources available These are live documents which will be updated as further meetings take place with partners, landowners and managers and recommended actions are prioritised and put into effect. They will be used as one of the sources of information that help direct the actions of organisations involved in the management of Natura 2000 sites. For the second round of RBMPs, SIPs are being used to capture the priorities and new measures required for water dependent habitats on Natura 2000 sites. The Thames Water Area intersects many of the Environment Agency areas, each with a number of SIPs. The London & South East region has approximately 57 SIPs. The SIPs have been used to inform key themes under the 'Biodiversity' topic identified within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including focus towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within designated sites.
Local Development Plans	Cross-cutting	Local development plans set out a vision and framework for the future development of an area, guiding housing, infrastructure, and environmental priorities while forming the statutory basis for planning decisions. Some key themes covered by these include housing needs, economic growth environment and green spaces, transport and infrastructure and sustainability. The plans generally consist of a strategy, policies, land allocations and a proposals map.

²⁰ Natural England (no date) Site Improvement Plans: London & South East. Available: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6149691318206464>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		In the Thames Water area, there are 76 Local Authority Districts Areas each with a Local Development Plan specific to their area as set out in Section 5.1 of the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report.
Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs)	Landscape	A Landscape Character Assessment is the process of identifying and describing variation in character of the landscape. These documents identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive by mapping and describing character types and areas. They are used to help guide planning decisions, protect and manage landscapes, support local development plans and promote more sustainable development within local areas. There are approximately 73 LCAs and four seascape character assessments within the South East and London Regions, which the Thames Water area largely intersects.
Designated Landscape Management Plans	Landscape	These plans are covered in Appendix B of the WRSE RP29 SEA Scoping Report. The following designated landscapes are intersected by the Thames Water region: • South Downs National Park • Kent Downs National Landscape • North Wessex Downs National Landscape • Surrey Hills National Landscape • Chilterns National Landscape • Cotswolds National Landscape These plans highlight the importance and significance of the designated sites, setting objectives to conserve and enhance landscape character, natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage. They have been used to develop key themes under the 'Landscape' topic identified within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including the protection of designated or valued landscapes.
Flood Risk Management Plans 2021 to 2027 ²¹	Water	Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) for England explain the objectives and the measures (actions) needed to manage flood risk at a national and local level from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs.

²¹ Environment Agency (2022) Flood risk management plans 2021 to 2027. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-2021-to-2027>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		National measures that apply to all river basin districts are described in the national overview (part a) and measures that apply to specific river basin districts and their flood risk areas are described in the 10 local flood risk management plans (part b). They must cover areas of the RBD where flood risk is significant. These areas are called flood risk areas (FRAs). The Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) identify FRAs through preliminary flood risk assessments. FRMPs also meet the aims of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy for England. The Thames Water area intersects the following RBDs with each having individual FRMPs: • Thames RBD FRMP • Severn RBD FRMP • South West RBD FRMP • South East RBD FRMP • Anglian RBD FRMP A review of the plans has helped to inform key themes under the 'Water' topic within the Thames Water WRMP29, supporting the development of flood risk management.
Local Flood Risk Management Strategies	Water	These are strategies prepared by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to manage local sources of flood risk, including surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. These are relevant to the WRMP29 where supply or demand management options interact with local drainage, flood risk or urban resilience. The following 42 councils intersected by the Thames Water area are LLFAs themselves: • Swindon • Bracknell Forest • West Berkshire • Reading • Slough • Wiltshire • Central Bedfordshire • Buckinghamshire • West Northamptonshire • City of London • Bexley • Brent • Bromley • Camden • Croydon • Greenwich • Hackney • Hammersmith and Fulham • Haringey • Hillingdon

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References			
		- Windsor and Maidenhead - Wokingham - Richmond upon Thames - Wandsworth - Lewisham - Lambeth	- Barking and Dagenham - Barnet - Southwark - Westminster - Merton - Waltham Forest	- Ealing - Enfield - Sutton - Kensington and Chelsea - Newham	- Hounslow - Islington - Tower Hamlets - Kingston upon Thames - Redbridge
		The remaining 34 councils fall under the following LLFAs: - Essex County Council - Gloucestershire County Council - Hampshire County Council - Hertfordshire County Council - Kent County Council - Oxfordshire County Council - Surrey County Council - Warwickshire County Council - West Sussex County Council - Worcestershire County Council			
Shoreline Management Plans ²²	Water	Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) help to deliver the ambitions of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. They set out a planned approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risk around the coast of England to 2105. Shoreline Management Plans have been developed across England and Wales by Coastal Groups made up of members from local councils and the Environment Agency. The purpose of these plans is to identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline in the: Short term (0 to 20 years)			

²² Environment Agency (2024) Shoreline Management Plans. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/shoreline-management-plans>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Medium term (20 to 50 years) • Long term (50 to 100 years) There are 20 SMPs covering the English coast. There are two SMPs in proximity to the Thames Water region: • Essex and South Suffolk (SMP 8) – section J1 (Southend-on-Sea) • Investigate options for managing containment of contaminated material at risk from erosion. • Ensure impacts of management approach in this unit are captured in calculating habitat losses and gains to inform the Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme, linked to the Southend Coastal Strategy. • River Medway and Swale Estuary (SMP9) – section 3 (Medway – Inner Estuary) • Maintain defences (including concrete walls, quayside, retaining walls) in accordance with SMP and Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (MEASS). • Investigate maintenance and refurbishment of defences to deliver Hold the Line (responding to a potential increase in risk from climate change) in accordance with the Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (MEASS) and monitor risk to Upnor Castle.
Green Infrastructure Strategies ²³	Cross-cutting	Green infrastructure strategies are created by local authorities, sometimes working in partnership with stakeholders e.g. local communities, to assess and strategically plan their green infrastructure provision using the Green Infrastructure Framework. They set out how green infrastructure will help to create greener, beautiful. Healthier and more prosperous neighbourhoods, with a thriving nature network that can reduce air and water pollution, support sustainable drainage and help places adapt to climate change. The strategies apply the 15 Green Infrastructure Principles and the Green Infrastructure Standards locally (adapting them to local context where appropriate) and set green infrastructure policies, proposals and development requirements in development plans and local design codes. Local authorities set SMART targets in a Delivery Plan for achieving the Green Infrastructure Framework Standards and local policies over time, as well as arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of all green infrastructure.

²³ Natural England (2026) Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard. Available: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/StrategyStandard.aspx>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		The following local authorities have standalone Green Infrastructure strategies, with many other councils having green infrastructure strategies integrated into their local plans: • Swindon • West Berkshire • Wiltshire • Central Bedfordshire • Buckinghamshire • West Northamptonshire • Cotswold • Stroud • Hart • Cherwell • Oxford City • South Oxfordshire • Vale of White Horse • West Oxfordshire • Waverley • Woking Green infrastructure considerations under the 'Biodiversity' topic have been developed following a review of these strategies and included under the 'Air' and 'Climate' topics.
South East Inshore Marine Plan (2021) ²⁴	Water	The South East Marine Plan introduces a strategic approach to planning within the English inshore waters between Felixstowe in Suffolk, and west of Dover in Kent. It provides a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision-making by marine users and regulators on where, when, or how activities might take place within the south east inshore marine plan area. The Plan applies national policies in a local context, ensuring the needs and aspirations of the marine plan area are reflected by considering plan area level issues and supporting evidence.

²⁴ HM Government (2021) South East Inshore Marine Plan. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f6f6dde90e0764ccfbd836/FINAL_South_East_Marine_Plan_1_.pdf

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		The Plan enables activities to move more quickly from concept to consent by identifying sectors and, where possible, appropriate spatial areas suitable for investment, encouraging earlier and clearer communication between proponents and regulatory decision-makers, and by early identification of proposals that are inappropriate or unfeasible. Implementation of the Plan's policies through more informed decision-making will help to ensure that the management of different and potentially competing activities contributes to the achievement of sustainable development and optimal use of the marine area's natural capital. Policies encourage enhancement and provide protection for vulnerable habitats and species, maintenance of natural defences against climate change and flooding, and will improve the well-being of coastal communities and support a strong marine economy. A number of the plans' objectives have informed the key themes identified within the Thames Water WRMP29 under 'Water': • The coasts, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use. • The marine environment plays an important role in mitigating climate change. • Biodiversity is protected, conserved and, where appropriate, recovered, and loss has been halted. • Healthy marine, and coastal habitats occur across their natural range and are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems.
River restoration plans for SSSI Rivers (where relevant) ²⁵	Water	The Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) have a joint national river restoration programme for SSSI rivers. Restoring the physical habitat and natural processes of our river SSSIs is key to meeting the government's targets for nature recovery set out in the Environment Act 2021 and presented by the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (which builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan), and considered as part of the Plan for Water 2023. Restoration of these rivers and their wider environment can benefit society in a range of ways and deliver important ecosystem services by:

²⁵ Natural England (2024) River Restoration Planning and Implementation on Sites of Special Scientific interest in England. Available: https://www.therrc.co.uk/assets/files/Designated_Rivers/ne_sssi_river_restoration_progress_report_final_january_2024.pdf

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• helping to reduce risk of flooding and erosion • helping to capture and store carbon • helping to increase drought resilience • improving aesthetic quality of river corridors • restoring habitat quality for characteristic fish species, so encouraging natural, self-sustaining fisheries • contributing to urban regeneration by enhancing the local river corridor and providing attractive blue/green space for recreation and leisure Within the Thames Water Plan Area, the River Kennet and River Lambourn SSSIs²⁶ are intersected. Whole-river restoration plans are required for river SSSIs (including the River Kennet and Lambourn SSSIs) for which physical modification is identified as a Reason for 'Unfavourable Condition'. This strategy identifies all the actions necessary to address the impacts of physical modifications that are the main reason for the 'unfavourable' classification of both SSSI. Key themes emerging from the plan include the enhancement or improvement of the SSSI to a favourable condition through the conservation of special habitats and features. These rivers are chalk rivers which are abundant throughout the Thames Water area and should be protected.
Natural Capital Improvement Plans by Local Nature Partnerships (where relevant) ²⁷	Cross-cutting	Natural Capital Improvement Plans (NCIPs) are locally developed strategies that identify opportunities to enhance natural assets - such as habitats, rivers, woodlands, soils, wetlands, and green spaces—to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits. They are often prepared or coordinated by Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) working with local authorities, environmental organisations, businesses, and communities. The following LNPs are intersected by the Plan area: • Oxfordshire • Sussex (E&W Brighton & Hove) – Natural Capital Investment Strategy 2019 • Wiltshire & Swindon • Gloucestershire – Natural Capital mapping

²⁶ Environment Agency (2011) Whole River Restoration Plan for the River Kennet and River Lambourn SSSI. Available: https://www.kennetcatchment.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/river_restoration_final-version-2011.pdf

²⁷ DEFRA (2026) Enabling a Natural Capital Approach guidance. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca-guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-guidance#introduction-to-natural-capital>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Berkshire • Hampshire & Wight • London • Warwickshire • Kent • Worcestershire • Bedfordshire – Natural Capital Assessment report • Surrey • Northamptonshire • Hertfordshire • Thames Gateway • Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Some key themes emerging from the natural capital improvement plans by the intersected LNPs that have informed the WRMP29 key themes include: • The protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological networks. • Maintain and enhance natural capital assets and ecosystem service delivery. • Promote climate resilience and nature-based solutions, including carbon sequestration and natural flood management. • Protect and improve water resources, water quality and catchment function. • Protect soils and support sustainable land management. • Increase access to high-quality green and blue infrastructure and support health and wellbeing. • Support sustainable growth through enhancement of multifunctional landscapes and environmental net gain.
Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) Defra and	Water	Catchment Flood Management Plans assess all types of inland flooding from rivers, surface water, groundwater and tidal flooding across England and Wales. They do not cover coastal flooding, directly from the sea, which are covered by Shoreline Management Plans. CFMPs are to establish flood risk management policies to assist and deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term. CFMPs should be used to inform planning and decision making by key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, regional planning bodies and local authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, water

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
Environment Agency ²⁸		companies and other utilities; transportation planners; landowners, farmers and land managers; and the public and businesses. The CFMPs identify six policy options for flood risk management: • Policy 1- Areas of little or no flood risk where we will continue to monitor and advise. • Policy 2 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we can generally reduce existing flood risk management actions. • Policy 3 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively. • Policy 4 - Areas of low, moderate or high flood risk where we are already managing the flood risk effectively, but where we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change. • Policy 5 - Areas of moderate to high flood risk where we can generally take further action to reduce flood risk. • Policy 6 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we will take action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits. To select the most appropriate policy, the Catchment Flood Management Plans consider how the social, economic and environmental objectives are affected by flood risk management activities under each policy option. Within the Thames Water region, the following CFMPs apply within each of the intersected RBDs: • Thames RBMP • Medway CFMP • North Kent Rivers CFMP • Thames CFMP • Severn RBMP • Bristol Avon CFMP • Severn Tidal Tributaries CFMP

²⁸ Environment Agency (2009) Catchment flood management plans. Available: https://www.kennetcatchment.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/river_restoration_final-version-2011.pdf

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• River Severn CFMP • South West RBMP • Dorset Stour CFMP • East Cornwall CFMP • East Devon CFMP • Exe CFMP • Frome and Piddle CFMP • West Somerset CFMP • Hampshire Avon CFMP • North Devon CFMP • North and Mid Somerset • Parrett CFMP • South Devon CFMP • Tamar CFMP • West Cornwall CFMP • West Dorset CFMP • South East RBMP • Adur CFMP • Arun and Western Streams CFMP • Cuckmere and Sussex Havens CFMP • Isle of Wight CFMP • New Forest CFMP • Ouse, Sussex CFMP • Rother and Romney CFMP • South East Hampshire CFMP • Stour CFMP • Test and Ichen CFMP • Anglian RBMP • Broadland Rivers CFMP • East Suffolk CFMP • Great Ouse CFMP

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Louth Coastal CFMP • North Essex CFMP • North Norfolk CFMP • River Nene CFMP • River Welland CFMP • River Wiltam CFMP • South Essex CFMP A review of the plans has helped to inform key themes under the 'Water' topic within the Thames Water WRMP29, supporting the development of flood risk management.
South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2026-2031 ²⁹	Landscape	The Plan provides a strategic framework and guiding principles for managing the park, emphasizing nature, climate, people, and place. It is designed for all stakeholders, including local authorities, communities, businesses, farmers, and conservation partners, to coordinate efforts in protecting and enhancing the park's landscapes, wildlife, and cultural heritage. The plan is structured around two interconnected themes: Nature & Climate and People & Place, which guide all actions and partnerships. Within these themes are the following aims: • Nature & Climate: • Nature Recovery • Climate Action • Clean Water • People & Place: • Young People • Welcome and Access • Arts and Heritage • Thriving Greener Place

²⁹ South Downs National Park (2026) Partnership Management Plan 2026 – 2031. Available: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/partnership-management/>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		A review of the plan has helped to inform key themes, specifically under the 'Population and Human Health' topic within the Thames Water WRMP29, through social inclusion and access to the natural environment.
Thames Landscape Strategy, 2012, Our Guidance Document: The Thames Landscape Strategy Review 2012 ³⁰	Landscape	The Strategy takes a long view of the landscape, looking forward over the next 100 years and operating at two levels. At a sub-regional level, it analyses the structure of the landscape, looking at its significance for nature conservation, recreation and tourism and proposing strategic policies for conservation and enhancement. At a detailed level, it then explores the character of the local landscape, relating it to strategic issues and proposing specific recommendations, projects and management practices which will have a direct impact on the ground. There are many key objectives of the strategy that have informed the WRMP29 SEA themes: • Protection of cultural heritage assets, riverside landscapes, visual amenity. • Enhancing biodiversity through river and wetland enhancement, habitat conservation and restoration, ecological connectivity. • Improved access to green and blue infrastructure. • Support climate resilience and flood risk management.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans ³¹	Biodiversity	Following the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) are strategic documents that identify: • Priority habitats and species requiring conservation action. • Key threats and pressures affecting biodiversity. • Targets for habitat creation, restoration and management. • Actions needed to halt biodiversity loss and promote recovery. • Partnerships responsible for delivery and monitoring. Of all the Local Authority areas intersected by the Thames Water region, the following BAPs cover all areas: • Berkshire BAP, 2015 • Wiltshire BAP • Bedfordshire & Luton BAP • Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes BAP

³⁰ Thames Landscape Strategy (no date) Available: <https://www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/>

³¹ DEFRA (2025) UK national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Northamptonshire BAP • Gloucestershire BAP • Hampshire BAP • Hertfordshire BAP • Kent BAP • Oxfordshire BAP • Surrey BAP • Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull BAP • Sussex BAP • Worcestershire BAP • Essex BAP • London BAP The BAPs listed within the Thames Water region have informed key themes identified within the ‘biodiversity’ topic in the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report.
Thames Abstraction Licensing Strategy (ALS), Environment Agency 2004 (updated 2019) ³²	Water	This strategy sets out the Environment Agency’s approach to managing new and existing abstraction and impoundment within the Thames ALS area in the Thames river basin district. It supports key themes identified, including to protect and improve the water environment, ensure sustainable water resource management, meet WFD objectives.
Thames Water’s Sustainability Policy (under review) ³³	Water	There are nine key themes within the Sustainability Policy: • Protecting water, a precious resource. • Managing wastewater and sustainable drainage. • Mitigating climate change.

³² Environment Agency (2004) Thames catchment abstraction licensing strategy. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-catchment-abstraction-licensing-strategy>

³³ Thames Water (2025) Sustainability policy. Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/d3bmb0f4/sustainability-policy.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Adapting to climate change. • Delivering efficient operations. • Investing sustainably for the long-term. • Ensuring responsible operations. • Enhancing customer inclusion. • Maintaining a safe and sustainable workforce.
Thames Water Environment Policy ³⁴	Water	The main approach set out by the Environment Policy (currently under review) is to strike the right balance between delivering services to customers and managing business responsibly, whilst maintaining the environmental impact. The policy has 10 core outcomes, which are to: • Comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations; • Compliance with environmental permit requirements; • Complete all schemes necessary to meet new environmental regulations; • Work closely with external regulatory bodies to ensure emerging environmental obligations are addressed appropriately; • Protect and enhance biodiversity; • Continued maintenance of networks and treatment works; • Sustainably manage water resources; • Adopt a catchment based approach to planning and delivering our water and wastewater services; • Manage carbon emissions through optimisation and innovation of current and new processes; and • Aim to be a socially responsible business working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders across the region.
Water Resources Management Plan 2024 ³⁵	Cross-cutting	Water companies are required to produce a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) every five years which sets out how the company will provide a secure and sustainable supply of water to their customers, whilst protecting the environment. In October 2024, following approval from the government, Thames Water published the Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24) which sets out a path to secure a sustainable water future. It sets out how Thames Water keep taps flowing over the next 50 years, looking ahead to 2075.

³⁴ Thames Water (2026) Environmental Policy (under review). Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/legal>

³⁵ Thames Water (no date) A secure and sustainable water supply. Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/water-resources>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		It also highlights the significant future shortfall in water resources in the supply area and the actions Thames Water plan to take to maintain the balance between water supply and demand. It sets out how Thames Water are going to tackle leaks and invest in new water infrastructure to ensure water supply for the future.
Thames Water Annual Report 2025/26 ³⁶	Cross-cutting	The report outlines our continued transformation programme and sets out our strategy to improve operational performance and deliver upgrades of water and wastewater infrastructure across the region. Some reported key themes include: • £2.7 billion invested to improve water and waste services in 2025/2026 • 1 million smart meters installed to help locate leaks • 37 water quality sampling facilities upgraded this year to protect water quality • 1,700km of pipes cleaned to prevent pollutions in 2025/2026 • Grown capital investment by 20% which will see levels double by 2030. We made a pledge in 2019 for our operations to become net zero by 2030. However, since we made our pledge, there have been some significant changes to the original assumptions used by ourselves and the wider water sector, which significantly impact the size of the net zero challenge. These include: • Changes to our understanding of the levels of nitrous oxide emitted from the wastewater treatment process, a significant operational emission • Increased operational emissions due to changes in reporting scope boundaries • Additional carbon impacts associated with increases in treatment standards • Guidance from Government to consider phasing non-statutory commitments including Net Zero to future planning periods, reflecting concerns around customer affordability, deliverability and financeability of Price Review 2024 plans. These developments have been reflected in our AMP8 plan submitted to Ofwat. They do not change our desire to achieve net zero, and we are currently reviewing our route map to fully understand the challenges and opportunities they present and how these will impact on our net zero plans. We will publish an updated overview of our net zero goals when complete.

³⁶ Thames Water (2026) Thames Water Annual Report 2025/2026. Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/2tad3w44/annual-report-2025-26.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		A review of this report has helped to inform key themes under a range of topics including ‘water’ and GHG emissions.
Thames Water Biodiversity and heritage policy ³⁷ (under review)	Cross-cutting	The purpose of this policy is to set out the principles for managing the large areas of land and water in a responsible and sustainable manner that enhances biodiversity and prevents the establishment of invasive non-native species (INNS also referred to as ‘biosecurity’), and for ensuring that heritage is protected for future generations. It covers biodiversity, INNS and heritage legislation, regulatory and licence obligations and commitments, for sites and assets managed by Thames Water Utilities Limited, and its associated subsidiaries. The aim of this policy is to take great care of the areas of land and water managed in the area, and to protect heritage in the London and the Thames Valley area where we operate. This is delivered through: • Complying with all applicable legislation and regulation • Engaging with all our stakeholders by: • Working closely with external regulatory bodies and other water companies to develop consistent reporting and response procedures for dealing with new discoveries or risks and addressing emerging environmental challenges. • Working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, communities, and organisations across our region to share knowledge, combine resources and provide engagement opportunities that encourage native biodiversity, prevent the spread of INNS, and support nature recovery. • Providing learning experiences to inspire future generations. • Protecting and enhancing biodiversity during our activities by: • Fulfilling our obligations on biodiversity net gain, as a result of our planned activities, and delivering commitments to improve biodiversity on our land holdings. • Implementing solutions to retain trees and hedgerows on new developments and prevent the use of netting intended to stop birds from nesting. • Protecting our Sites of Special Scientific Interest • Managing habitats within our landholding. • Seeking sustainable solutions, improved biosecurity and INNS management where we operate • Deliver a Thames Water company-wide INNS plan by:

³⁷ Thames Water (2025) Biodiversity and heritage policy (under review). Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/qfnx4mb/biodiversity-and-heritage-policy.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Keeping our approach under review and promoting effective working with operations and grounds maintenance teams. In particular, where INNS affect our operational sites and nature reserves. • Working to understand and address the ongoing problem of INNS to meet the impacts of climate change and population growth. • Proactively protecting biodiversity, human health and operational performance through prevention, early detection, rapid eradication and ongoing management of INNS. • Delivering our biosecurity and INNS commitments in the Water Industry National Environment Plan. • Protecting our built heritage and providing access to our heritage buildings: • Applying heritage sensitive solutions where we operate • Working closely with external regulatory bodies to design and prepare for emerging heritage obligations • Protecting heritage through proactive management of our sites including listed buildings and scheduled monuments owned by us • Engaging heritage stakeholders and partners, to tell and share our unique story • Celebrating our heritage sites by promoting access to them for our employees, local communities, and the general public in a safe and controlled manner The policy has been used to inform key themes under the 'Biodiversity' and 'Cultural Heritage' topics within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including eradicating and preventing the spread of INNS, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and improving access to historic assets where appropriate.
Thames Water Climate Change Policy ³⁸ (under review)	Climatic Factors	This policy sets out the principles for managing the unavoidable impact of climate change on our business ('adaptation'), combined with a reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions ('mitigation'), to respond to the challenges that climate change represents. It covers climate change regulation, obligations and commitments, managed by Thames Water Utilities Limited, and its associated subsidiaries. Key principles of the policy include the following: • To develop resilient responses to minimise the impacts of climate change impact, we will: • Continue to assess how climate change affects our operations and operational sites and develop appropriate responses.

³⁸ Thames Water (2025) Climate change policy (under review). Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/uqphgtfj/climate-energy-policy.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Incorporate the latest climate change understanding, such as the UKCP18 climate projections, into our business planning processes. • Make sure climate change adaptation and resilience is appropriately reflected in our statutory Water Resource Management Plan. • Make sure climate change adaptation and resilience is appropriately reflected in our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. • Work with our business partners, contractors and supply chain to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. • Engage with and seek support from our customers for our adaptation, mitigation and resilience responses. • To minimise our carbon footprint and reduce our consumption of resources, we will: • Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and playing our part in meeting government/national targets for Net Zero. • Continue working to reduce the amount of energy we take from the grid by delivering energy efficient solutions across all our activities. • Aim to increase the amount of energy we generate and use from renewable sources. • Include embodied and operational carbon assessments in our Water Resource Management Plan and Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and work to decarbonising our capital programmes. • Work with our capital delivery partners and supply chain contractors to reduce our embodied carbon emissions. The policy has been used to inform key themes under the 'Climatic factors' topic within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including maximising the use of renewable energy, and to minimise embodied and operational carbon emissions in development.
Thames Water energy policy ³⁹ (under review)	Climatic Factors	This policy sets out the principles for managing our energy use to deliver affordability, efficiency and resilience. We're committed to continually improving our energy performance, increasing our use of renewable energy and playing our part in meeting government / national targets for Net Zero.

³⁹ Thames Water (2025) Energy policy (under review). Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/azxhednv/energy-policy.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		Our aim is to reduce the cost and quantity of energy we consume as well as increase the volume and value of what we generate through our energy objectives: • Using less energy by operating our sites efficiently, the purchase of energy efficient products and services, designing our assets to optimise energy performance and only using what we really need, which will save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. • Making more energy by recovering energy from all the sludge we treat and generating more renewable energy across our sites, increasing the sustainability of our operations region-wide. • Paying less for energy by flexing when we use, how we use and where we buy energy, which should also reduce the costs for our customers. • Enhancing resilience by increasing the reliability of our energy supplies, maintaining standby power for key assets and reducing reliance on grid connections, helping us to reduce operational and financial risks, and • Ensuring compliance by maintaining and continually improving our ISO 50001 Certified Energy Management System while complying with all applicable legal and other requirements related to our energy use, consumption and efficiency. The policy has been used to inform key themes under the ‘Climatic factors’ topic within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report, including increasing energy efficiency, maximising the use of renewable energy, and contributing to the achievement of the national net zero carbon target.
Thames Water Public value policy ⁴⁰ (under review)	Cross-cutting	The main aim of this policy is to seize opportunities to create public value and deliver wider benefits for our customers, communities and the environment in the London and Thames Valley area where we operate. This will be achieved through: Our customers • Complying with all applicable legislation, regulations and statutory codes of practice • Contributing to positive health and wellbeing outcomes • Serving our customers with proactive interactions and simplifying their experience with faster resolution, making us easier to deal with • Helping those in need by:

⁴⁰ Thames Water (2025) Public value policy (under review). Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/azxhednv/energy-policy.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		• Keeping bills affordable through our holistic affordability strategy, including payment plans and discount tariffs • Providing an inclusive service and proactively providing priority services • Proactively engage customers to raise awareness of our support • Engaging customers with water efficiency information and advice • Fostering trust with our customers by taking leadership stance on transparency • Becoming a resilient business for the future, enabling growth Our communities • Providing learning experiences to inspire future generations • Encouraging employee volunteering through our Time to Give programme • Contributing to the economy through sustainable employment and skills programmes • Support our employees and encourage them to share their views on how we can make a more positive impact • Collaborate with others to limit our impact and minimise disruption, acting as a good neighbour • Giving our people the right investments in skills development to have successful and sustainable careers • Supporting local communities and projects with our charitable grants programme as well as our regional corporate charity partners • Enhance and create new public spaces by improving access to our sites • Supporting special interest groups and citizen science • Protect our built heritage Our environment • Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and playing our part in meeting government / national targets for Net Zero • Looking after the health of rivers, aiming for zero pollutions and a cleaner Thames for river users and our environment • Assess and mitigate against the environmental impacts of our work by embedding sustainability considerations into every project • Investing in nature-based infrastructure and tackling problems in partnerships • Practice sustainability, exercising circular economy principles where possible

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		- Fulfilling our obligations on biodiversity net gain, as a result of our planned activities, and delivering commitments to improve biodiversity on our landholdings - Generating more energy from renewable sources Our industry - Invest in innovation to progress our industry for the benefit of communities, customers, and the environment - Foster market modernisation through our procurement power - Share data collaboratively to improve the service offering across the UK - Contribute to industry groups and partnerships to continually improve the water industry This policy covers public value, regulatory and licence obligations and commitments, managed by Thames Water and its associated subsidiaries. The policy has been used to inform key themes under the ‘Population and Human Health’, ‘Material Assets’, ‘Water’, ‘Biodiversity’ and ‘Climatic Factors’ topics within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report.
Thames Water Sustainability Report and ESG Statement 2025/6: Sustaining Life, Shaping Tomorrow ⁴¹	Cross-cutting	The Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) statement gives an overview of our ESG performance. Our ambition is to create value for all of our stakeholders, including customers, employees, shareholders, and the communities where we operate. To help achieve this, we recognise that it is essential that we have, and demonstrate, a strong commitment to sustainability and ethical governance. The following topics are considered within each key theme: - Environment – metrics of our activities relating to minimizing the environmental impact of our operations. This includes efforts to manage carbon emissions, reduce leakage and pollution, improve water efficiency, and manage our resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. - Social - metrics relating to our social commitment and being a responsible employer. This includes local communities, diversity, equity and inclusion, employees, data protection, privacy and customer satisfaction.

⁴¹ Thames Water (2026) Sustainability Report and ESG Statement 2025/6: Sustaining Life, Shaping Tomorrow. Available: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/1oyfedlg/sustainability-report-and-esg-statement-2025-26.pdf>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key Objectives, Guidance and References
		Governance - metrics relating to governance, transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour. We also include board diversity and structure, corruption and bribery, tax strategy and executive remuneration. The policy has been used to inform key themes under the 'Climatic Factors', 'Water', 'Biodiversity', 'Population and Human Health', and 'Material Assets' topics within the Thames Water WRMP29 SEA Scoping Report.

