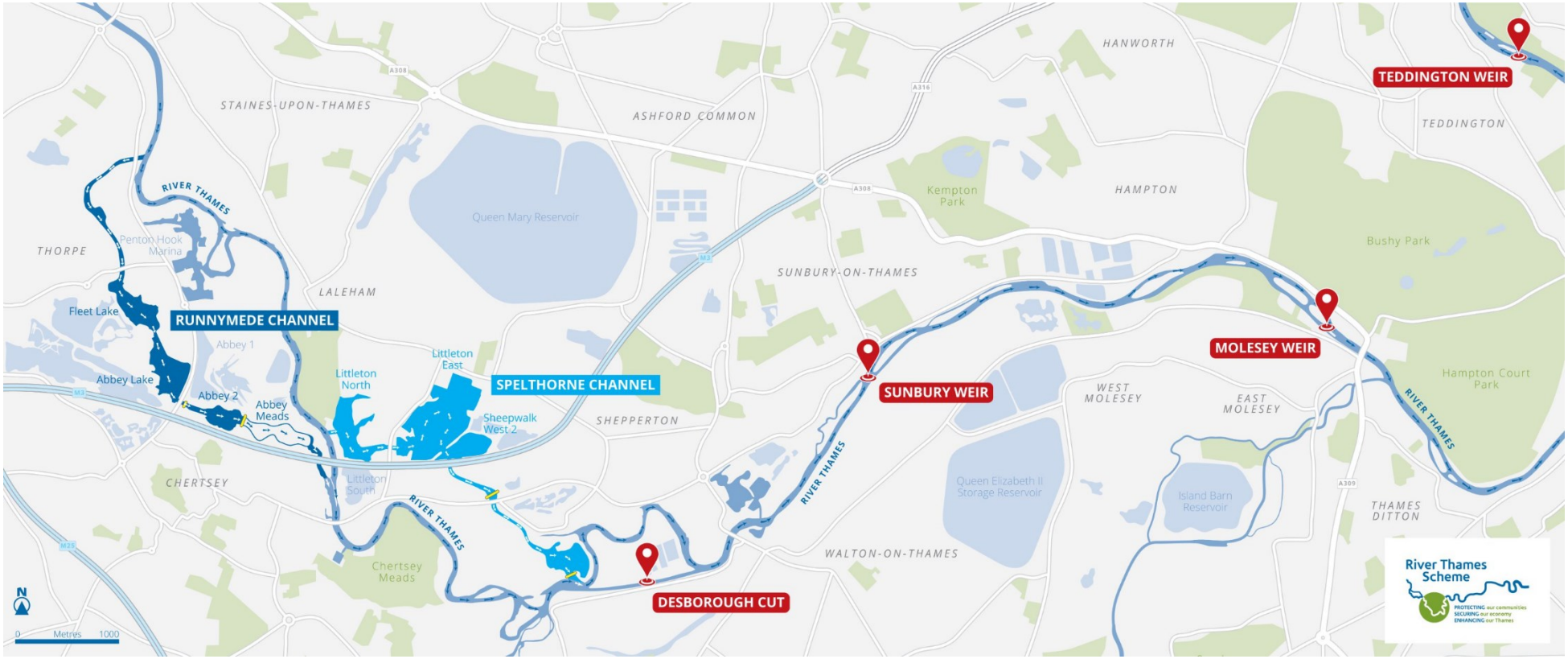
APPENDIX 'A'

THE RIVER THAMES SCHEME IN CONTEXT (Ref Environment Agency)



Summarised from the Environment Agency River Thames Scheme Website:

- The River Thames between Egham and Teddington is one of the largest areas of undefended, developed floodplain in England
- There is a history of flooding in the area over the past 100 years. Large floods occurred in 1947, 1968, 2003 and 2014 when there was a prolonged and widespread flood affecting 1,000+ homes and many business
- UK climate change projection data estimates that the winter daily average rainfall in England could increase by approximately 41% by 2050. Peak river flows could increase by approximately 50%, increasing the severity and intensity of flooding for communities, businesses, and infrastructure
- The estimated economic impact of a major flood is currently £1 billion. Due to the impact of climate change, damage could be twice as great by 2055
- The RTS will reduce the flood risk to communities in Surrey and Southwest London. More than 11,000 homes and 1,600 businesses will benefit from reduced flood risk and rail, power and water networks will be more resilient
- The RTS will consist of two new flood channels in sections through the boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne in Surrey. There will also be increases in the capacity at the Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs and the Desborough Cut
- The channel is designed to convey water from a flood with a severity of up to a 5% chance in any one year (equivalent to a 1 in 20-year flood). Flows (volume and speed of waterflow) in the channel will increase slowly as the flow in the Thames increases
- The Runnymede channel is 4.8km long starting at Egham Hythe and ending at Chertsey. The channel will flow through five lakes, intersect with four existing watercourses and cross five roads including the M3
- The Scheme will control the amount of water that can flow through the Desborough Cut and Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs. The increased capacity in these locations removes the existing pinch points in the River Thames enabling the passage of a greater volume of water during flood conditions
- Making use of the five existing lakes, including Thorpe Park Lakes, keeps the requirement for hard engineering to a minimum
- Channels will cut through natural and made ground. For the majority of the course these will be engineered with a ‘natural’ looking trapezoidal cross-section approximately 45m wide and 3m deep
- The objective is that the new channel will blend into the landscape and appear as an established river
- The Scheme will ensure that there is no increased flood risk to any community in the Scheme area including those downstream
- In addition to reducing the flood risk the construction of the new channels is an opportunity to improve the environment in the surrounding area
    - Landscape proposals include increased access to the river and nature for communities who live, work, and visit the area – creating and enhancing the habitat for wildlife

    - Two new public open spaces, one in Runnymede and one in Spelthorne will bring health benefits to communities, tourism, recreation and leisure
    - New habitat will be created around the Scheme area helping to increase biodiversity
    - New footpaths and cycleways connected to the existing network, footbridges across the new channel, and sections supporting fishing, boating, and canoeing are proposed
- The Applicants have just started market engagement for the companies to build the Scheme with the publication of the *Prior Information Process* on the Government *'Find A Tender Site':* River Thames Scheme - Construction Partner - Market Engagement - Find a Tender (find-tender.service.gov.uk)
- In addition to Tier 1 Contractors (or joint venture partner) the Applicant recognises that Tier 2 expertise and local SMEs have an important role to play in the market engagement process and in the supply chain. Companies are being encouraged to sign up via the '*Bravo Portal'* to receive documentation and communication
- Online consultation and public events will take place to update communities on progress and to invite feedback on the final outline design.
- Previous consultations have been held in 2016 and 2009. These can be found at the following websites:
    - 2016 Consultation: How engagement has informed design of the River Thames Scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
    - 2009 Consultation: Lower Thames strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Further information on the RTS can be found at the following EA Website:
River Thames Scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)