

Future investment in the London's transport infrastructure

Submission from: [contact redacted]

I do not wish to comment directly on future investment in the London's transport infrastructure.

That said, I do wish to **highlight the long term neglect of land drainage maintenance that leaves transport (and other) infrastructure liable to and at a steadily increasing risk of flooding.**

Very briefly.....

When the Environment Agency took over from the National Rivers Authority in the mid 1990's they disposed of the River Thames dredgers upstream of Teddington. Disposal facilities were closed and dredger operators dispensed with.

The £110m MWEFAS flood alleviation scheme was then constructed. On first use in 2003 the Jubilee River suffered severe structural damage. In spite of £5m in repair costs it is unable to convey its design capacity and is still falling apart today. The Thames downstream of Windsor flooded badlyin 2003 and twice in 2014.

The Environment Agency's current River Thames Scheme flood alleviation project is costed at £302m at 2009 prices. I have no doubt that this will be a £1bn if the project gets completed in 2025.

In my opinion this project is flawed in the same way that the Jubilee River was. The Environment Agency is unable to learn!

The really big issues are.....

- 1) The EA has no legal duty to maintain or improve the conveyance capacity of designated main rivers – so it doesn't.....
- 2) There are approximately 100 blocked flood arches upstream of Teddington – used as offices, workshops, warehouses etc. These reduce the discharge capacity of the system.
- 3) I have explained the problems to the EA and stated that..... if they implement the River Thames Scheme..... if they are lucky they will only flood Staines. If they are unlucky they will flood London.

Please feel free to contact me for further details

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