



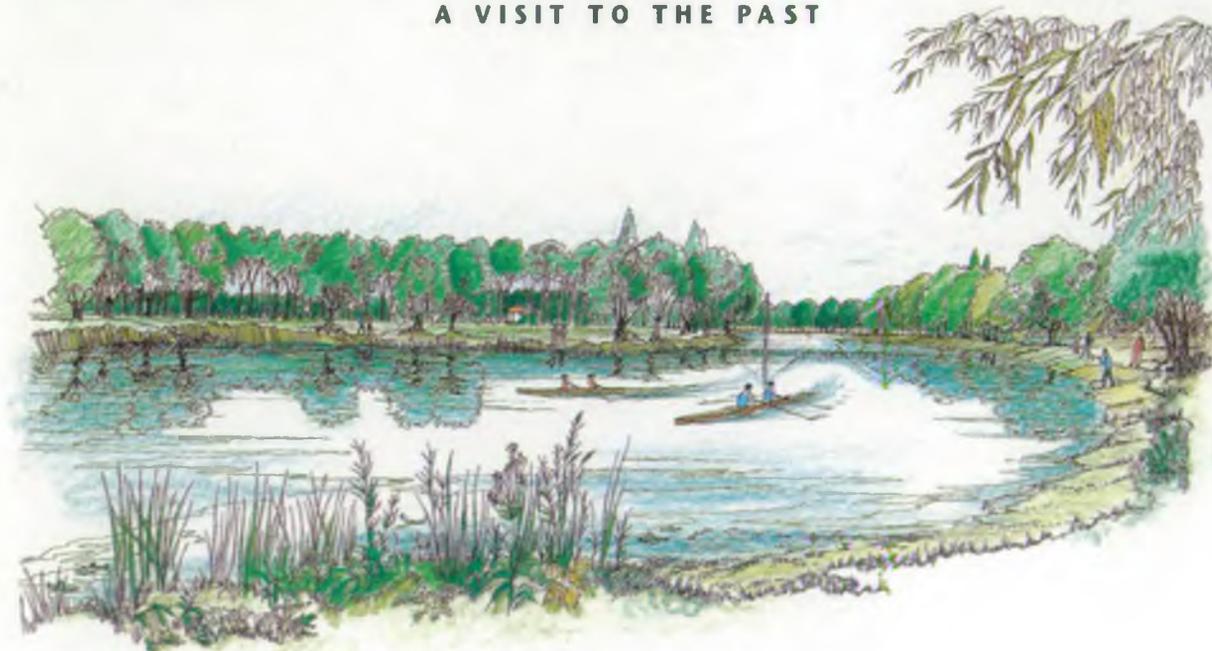
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

PROTECTING YOUR HOMES

FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME FOR MAIDENHEAD, WINDSOR AND ETON



A VISIT TO THE PAST



A VISION OF THE FUTURE

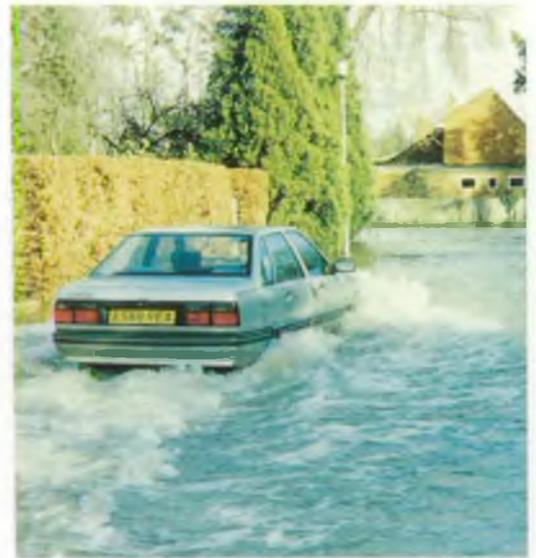
A VISIT TO THE PAST

THE FLOOD RISK

The local area around Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton has a history of flooding, most significantly 1947, when widespread flooding affected over 2000 homes and most recently in 1990.

Today the flood risk still exists. Following the amount of development, a flood of the 1947 intensity would now totally devastate major roads and railways. Telephones and other services would be disrupted for days and approximately 5,500 properties, homes, shops, businesses and over 12,500 people would be affected. The estimated cost of such a flood is over £40 million but no price can be placed on the sentimental value of lost possessions or the trauma caused by a flood and nothing can compensate for the stress and strain to all those involved.

We know everything there is to know about the 'floodability' of every square metre of land. Floods tend to be cyclical in nature and although impossible to predict, the likelihood of similar events can be estimated. Our records show that a flood similar in scale to the 1947 event has a 1 in 56 chance of occurring in any one year. The 1990 flood has a return period of only 6 years; it was not a major flood and yet 500 households were affected.



Maidenhead 1990

THE WINDSOR, SLOUGH & ETON EXPRESS—FRIDAY, 21st MARCH 1947

WINDSOR M.P. Is Already

The Flood Nears the Record Level of November 1894 at Windsor Bridge

Windsor M.P. Is Already

The story of a plaque on a hotel wall. An interesting picture taken on Tuesday shows how close we are to breaking the high-water figure which has stood for fifty-five years.



FAIRS
The story of a plaque on a hotel wall. An interesting picture taken on Tuesday shows how close we are to breaking the high-water figure which has stood for fifty-five years.

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Overtake by events but...
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ETON FIRE RISK

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Floodlets

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FLOOD RELIEF FUND

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WINDSOR RATE STEADY

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Citizens of policy to use

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The Manor & High Street, Datchet 1894



Maidenhead 1990

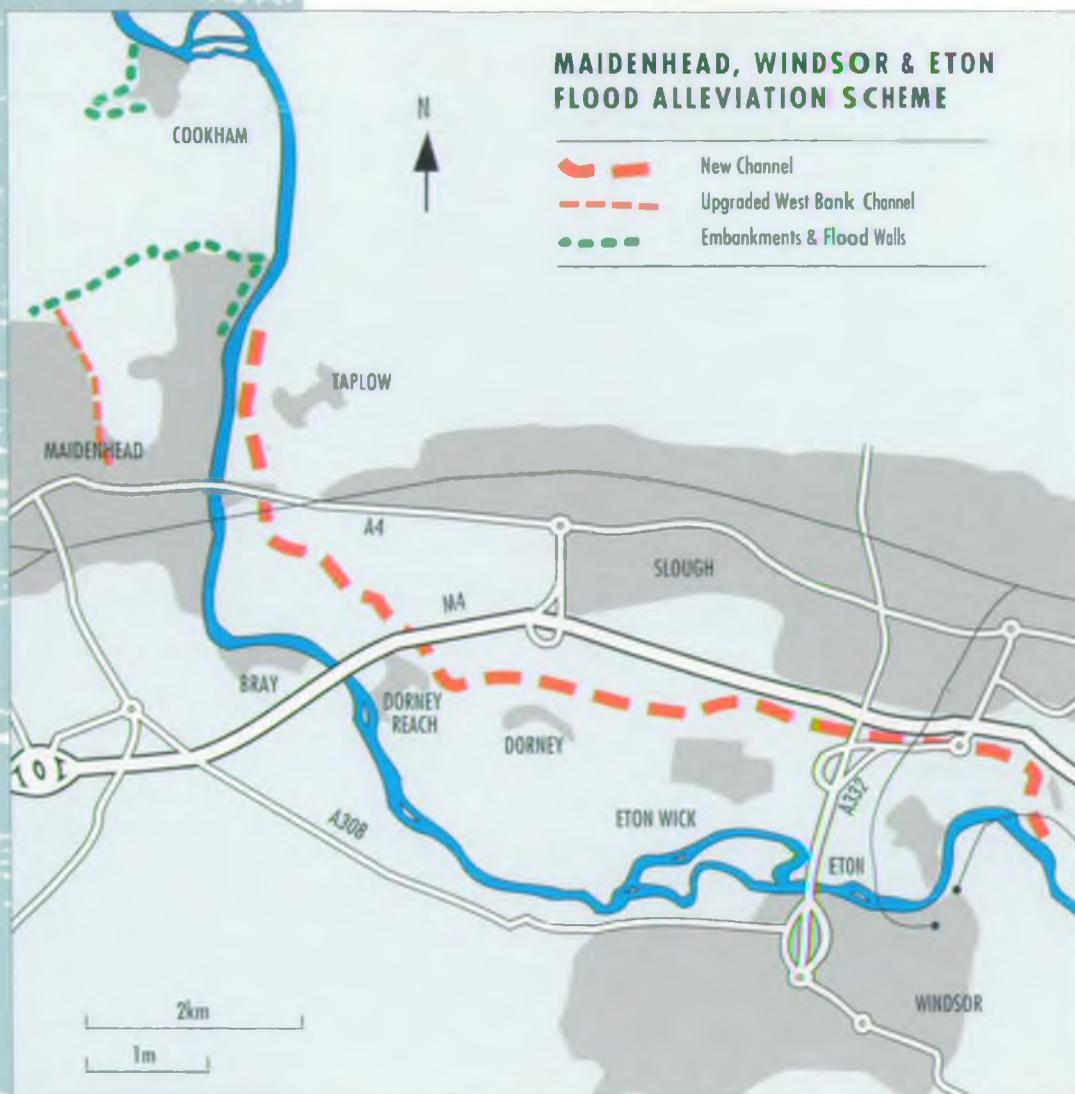


Aerial shot 1947 flooding

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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THE PROPOSAL

Once the size of the flood risk had been calculated, independent engineering and environmental consultants were brought in to work with our specialists to carry out studies of why floods happen, how their effects can be minimised and devise a flood protection scheme that:-

- * Protects Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton from a flood of a similar and of course lesser intensity to that of 1947.
- * Enhances the local natural environment, provides habitat for wildlife and an amenity for all to enjoy.
- Is practical and cost effective in engineering terms.

THE SCHEME

Throughout the study, our engineers, conservation, fisheries and recreation experts discussed a variety of proposals with local councils, residents and special interest and local pressure groups.

During the consultation process many options were considered, including raising the banks of the Thames and major dredging of the river bed and most importantly, the construction of a new channel to carry excess flood water either along the east or along the west bank of the Thames.

As the various proposals were developed, it became clear that a combination of measures was needed and that to gain a satisfactory level of flood protection, these must include a new channel, mirroring the Thames itself. Engineering and environmental constraints, land availability and cost all contributed to the decision to build the channel to the east of Maidenhead.



A VISION OF THE FUTURE

WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

A 11.8km channel will be a link leaving the Thames at Boulter's Lock, and running southeast passed Taplow, under the London - Bristol railway line and the M4 motorway, and continue north of Eton College playing fields before re-entering the Thames below the Black Potts Railway Bridge at Windsor.

The width and depth of the channel will vary according to the areas through which it passes. The scheme will create an attractive rights of way network along the full length of the new channel and aim to enhance the environment as we build the flood defences.

We shall introduce natural ecological areas, take the opportunity to create wildlife habitats to replace those previously lost by development of the River Thames, and provide public open spaces, improved recreation facilities and small car parks.

In addition to the channel, we shall be constructing low level embankments, designed to blend in with the local environment around parts of Cookham, the north side of Maidenhead and along parts of the Thames at Maidenhead a disabled persons fishing facility and small car parks with picnic areas.



The Thames between Taplow and Datchet

PROTECTING YOUR HOMES

In 1989 the NRA began detailed work on a scheme to protect Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton from flooding. The proposal is the result of many years study of flood records, local geography, land development and the capacity of the local area's rivers and streams. During the studies we consulted and listened to the views of district and county councils, local residents and special interest groups before arriving at our proposed scheme.

Planning Applications were submitted. Months of discussion and negotiation with Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Planning Authorities followed but unfortunately, failed to determine the Planning issue. This failure to reach an agreement resulted in the Secretary of State for the Environment 'calling in' the scheme for his own decision after a Public Inquiry.

The Inquiry opened on 20th October 1992 and closed 18th December 1992. It was presided over by an Inspector who was supported by an Assistant Inspector and an Assessor. The NRA first made the case for the Scheme followed by representations from Planning Authorities, special interest groups and concerned local residents.

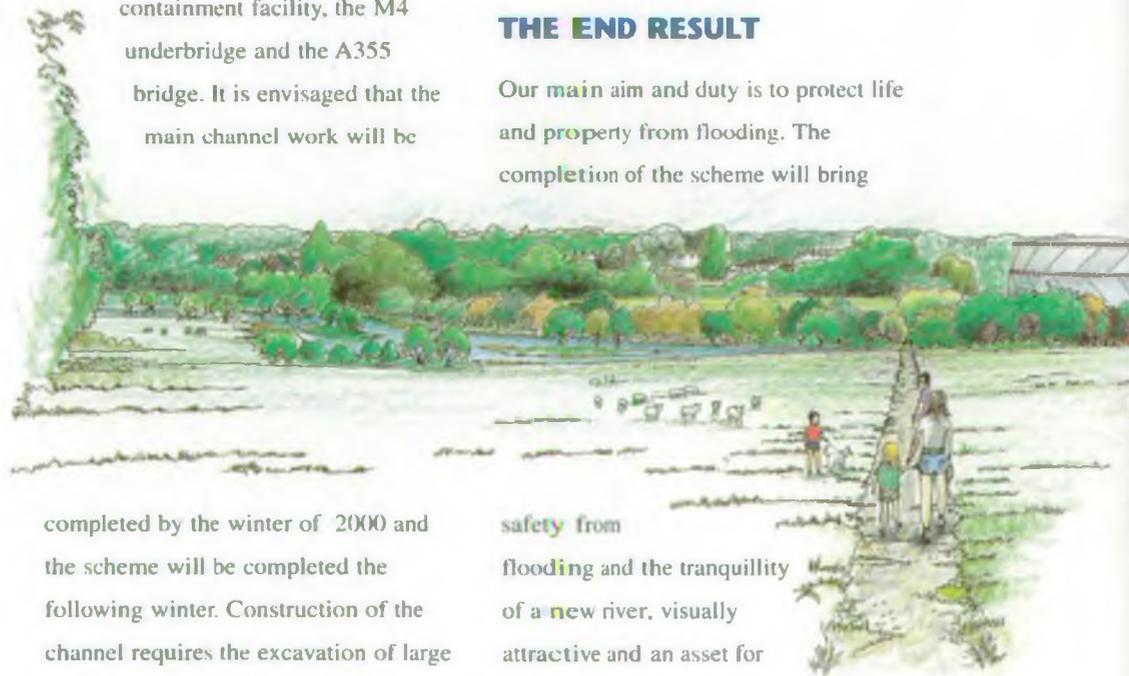
In his report after the Inquiry the Inspector stated: "First, there is a compelling need for a flood alleviation scheme for Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton. Second, the NRA's proposed standard of protection of 1 in 65 years is appropriate. In my opinion substantial

action to provide protection from flooding in this area is long overdue."

The Planning Applications were finally approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment on 1st March 1995. It is clear that the scheme will have an impact on the area particularly during the construction stages. However, we will endeavour to minimise any inconvenience. Regular newsletters will be issued and we have opened a public information office in Maidenhead where you can obtain progress on the scheme, view an exhibition, discuss any points of concern with the experts and register any complaints you may have.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction will begin in Spring 1996, starting on the Manor Farm containment facility, the M4 underbridge and the A355 bridge. It is envisaged that the main channel work will be



completed by the winter of 2000 and the scheme will be completed the following winter. Construction of the channel requires the excavation of large amounts of sand and gravel. Where possible, we shall use the river to take it away. However, the bulk will be

PROVISIONAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

	Duration (Months)
Contract 1 - Preliminary Landscaping	2
Contract 2 - Containment cell, Manor Farm	12
Contract 3 - A355 Culverts	15
Contract 4 - Slough Replacement Allotments	6
Contract 5 - Archaeology Investigations	12
Contract 6 - Channel & Structures Areas 1/2	46
Contract 7 - Channel Excavation Areas 3-8	36
Contract 8 - Structures Areas 3-8	30
Contract 9 - Junction 6 Improvements	5
Contract 10 - Slough Road Bridge and Sluice	15
Contract 11 - Channel & Structures Areas 9	36
Contract 12 - Mech. & Elec. Taplow Intake	9
Contract 13 - Mech. & Elec. Marsh L/Slough Road	12
Contract 14 - Mech. & Elec. Monitor/Sampling	12
Contract 15 - 22 - Landscaping	53
Contract 23 - Maidenhead Ditch etc.	12
Contract 24 - Flood Banks, Maid'd/Cookham	12
Contract 30 - Taplow Enabling Wk	3
Contract 31 - M4 Underbridge	12
Contract 32 - Service Diversions	48
Contract 33 - Eton College - Kennels	6
Contract 34 - Br Dorney Bridge	12
Contract 35 - Br Chalvey Bridge	10

processed on site and removed by lorry direct to the motorway, thus avoiding local roads and keeping the disturbance to an absolute minimum.

THE END RESULT

Our main aim and duty is to protect life and property from flooding. The completion of the scheme will bring

safety from flooding and the tranquillity of a new river, visually attractive and an asset for all to enjoy.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

January 1989

Thames Water – Regional Land Drainage Committee decision to approve Maidenhead.

March 1989

Decision to make a combined scheme for Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton.

September 1989

Establishment of the Maidenhead Project Team in the Project Office in Maidenhead.

September 1989

Inauguration of the National Rivers Authority taking over from Thames Water with the Regional Land Drainage Committee being replaced by the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

January 1990

Decision taken that the Planning Applications would be Minerals Applications determined by the County Planning Authorities.

January 1991

Planning Applications submitted in duplicate followed by extensive discussions with Planning Authorities

June 1991

Publication of Compulsory Purchase Order No 1

November 1991

Adjournment Debate on the Scheme initiated by Tim Smith MP at which the Secretary of State indicated he had not decided whether or not to call in the Applications but instructed the Planning Authorities not to approve them until he had.

February 1992

Publication of Compulsory Purchase Order No 2

March 1992

Applications called in by the Secretary of State for the Environment for his own decision following a Local Public Inquiry which would also consider the Compulsory Purchase Orders on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

October 1992

Inquiry opened on the 20th October in Shire Hall, Reading.

December 1992

Inquiry closed on the 18th December.

April 1993

The Inspector issued his report.

November 1994

The Secretary of State indicated that he was minded to approve the Applications.

March 1995

The Planning Applications finally approved on 1st March by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

March 1995

The Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed on 21st March by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

April 1996

The creation of the Environment Agency taking over from the NRA.

Start Date	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Nov 96		█					
June 96		█	█				
July 96		█	█				
June 96		█					
Mar 96		█	█				
Oct 96		█	█	█	█	█	
Sept 97			█	█	█	█	
Sept 97			█	█	█	█	
April 97			█				
Nov 97			█	█	█		
Sept 97			█	█	█	█	
Oct 98				█	█		
Mar 99					█	█	
June 99					█	█	
Nov 97			█		█	█	█
Sept 00						█	█
Sept 00						█	█
Jul 96		█					
Dec 96			█	█			
Aug 96		█	█	█	█	█	
Sept 96		█					
Feb 97			█	█			
Mar 97			█				

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED TO SPRING 1997

Construction work on the Scheme is due to commence in the late spring of 1996.

This will be preceded by a first tranche of Archaeological excavations to investigate sites of potential interest.

The principal construction activities to be carried out over the next year are:-

CONTRACT NO 2 – MANOR FARM CONTAINMENT FACILITY

Prior to the construction of the flood channel through land to the south of Slough Sewage Treatment Works the heavily contaminated soil in this area needs to be removed and placed in a secure licensed containment facility. This containment cell will be formed using a natural clay base and cover together with synthetic liners. It is intended to carry out the majority of the material movement during the summer and autumn months of 1996 with completion of the work in spring 1997.

CONTRACT NO 3 – A355 CULVERTS

Construction of a reinforced concrete twin box culvert structure beneath the A355 dual carriageway immediately south of Junction 6 on the M4 Motorway is due to commence in the summer of 1996. Works are due for completion in the autumn of 1997.

CONTRACT NO 4 – SLOUGH REPLACEMENT ALLOTMENTS

New allotments, to replace the Chalvey Allotments which are to be lost through construction of the flood channel are to be constructed adjacent to Keel Drive, Slough.

Eighty-nine allotment plots are to be constructed along with access roads, associated drainage works, a trading hut, watering points and tool lockers. Construction is scheduled to start in summer 1996 and the allotments will be available for occupation early in 1997.

CONTRACT NO 6 – WORKS UPSTREAM OF BRITISH RAIL (WR)

This contract involves the construction of 2km of flood alleviation channel, highway bridges and flow control structures. Due to commence in late autumn 1996 the works expected to be carried out up to spring 1997 is site establishment, construction of haul roads, service diversion works and the establishment of a temporary wharf.

CONTRACT 31 – M4 UNDERBRIDGE

To enable the flood alleviation channel to pass under the M4 Motorway a bridge on the line of the existing motorway is to be constructed approximately 350 metres to the east of the Marsh Lane. With the contract expected to start towards the end of 1996 site establishment and the temporary road diversion should be in place by the spring of 1997 to be followed by bridge construction during spring and summer 1997.



WHO WE ARE

From 1st April 1996 a major new organisation - the Environment Agency will be responsible for securing the environmental protection of air, land and water throughout England and Wales.

Its creation is a major and positive step, merging the expertise of the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, the Waste Regulation Authorities and several smaller units from the Department of the Environment.

The Agency's overall aim is to protect and enhance the environment as a whole and its wide ranging responsibilities include:-

- regulation of industrial and chemical processes such as chemical plants;
- preserving and improving water quality in rivers, canals and other watercourses;
- ensuring proper use of water resources, monitoring river flows and rainfall;

- waste regulation - issuing licences and monitoring waste sites such as landfill sites;
- undertaking flood defence works and warning people at risk from flooding;
- issuing fishing licences and the monitoring of fish in local watercourses;
- conserving the water environment and promoting its use for recreation;
- liaison with local planning authorities to ensure developments take account of the environment.

The Agency is divided into eight regions and the Thames Region covers 5,000 square miles, ranging from Cirencester in the west to the Thames estuary in the east, from Luton in the north to the Surrey Downs in the south. The organisation of the Region is based on a regional head office at Reading and three area offices at Wallingford, Sunbury on Thames and Rickmansworth.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

THAMES REGION

Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow
Road, Reading RG1 8DQ



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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TELEPHONE 0800 51 50 86

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