

## 2. Considered so far

In a scheme of this size there will naturally be different ideas to deliver the end result. We looked at many options to manage flood risk between Egham and Teddington. In this chapter we will be explaining why some options previously presented to you have not been included in the current proposed scheme. The current proposal that we are consulting on was found to be best suited to meet the Scheme goals you can read more about this in Chapter 3.

### **Datchet to Hythe End Channel section**

A third channel section from Datchet to Hythe End was previously included in the River Thames Scheme. The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead were unable to raise the funding required to deliver the channel section and as such this cannot be taken forward by the River Thames Scheme.

Removing this section of channel does not change the existing flood risk in this area. The Environment Agency continues to work with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead to look at flood management solutions in the area. More details can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/datchet-to-hythe-end-flood-improvement-measures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/datchet-to-hythe-end-flood-improvement-measures).

### **Dredging**

Dredging is the removal of sediment and debris from the bottom of rivers, lakes and other water bodies.

It is an important part of general maintenance for the River Thames. It is often done at a shallow depth to remove obstructions in the water to provide depth for boat navigation and keep the river flowing.

Dredging along the entire length of the River Thames Scheme area would not reduce flood risk as the river is too wide and too deep for this to be effective. It would also be costly, disruptive and environmentally damaging, and would require frequent re-dredging.

The impact of mass dredging on this scale to ecosystems and wildlife can be significant. Silt can become suspended in the water instead of sitting on the bed, which lowers oxygen levels and harms wildlife. Spawning grounds can also be disturbed by this process.