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# WEY

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**“OUR VISION IS FOR A HEALTHY AND DIVERSE CATCHMENT WHERE ALL INTERESTED SECTORS, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS MAY CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TOWARDS RESTORING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF ITS ESSENTIAL RESOURCES, WHILST PRESERVING OTHER VALUED HERITAGE ASSETS; TO BENEFIT BOTH PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE”.**



Despite being in such close proximity to greater London, much of the Wey catchment (especially its upper reaches) is dominated by a rural landscape of pasture, woodland and wetland. The lower reaches of the catchment are more urban and include the major towns of Guildford, Weybridge and Woking. The river has two sources, the northern Wey arising from a spring in a chalk valley near Alton and the Southern Wey originating near Liphook. The two meet at Tilford where the river then flows through a shallow valley to Godalming, then to Guildford and north over the wide floodplain of the Thames Basin Heaths to its confluence with the Thames at Weybridge. The main River Wey is fed by a number of tributaries including Cranleigh Waters, The Tillingbourne and Hoe Stream.

This catchment is home to other features such as Frensham Ponds, Virginia Waters and lakes at Thorpe Park, as well as a total of seven SSSI's which lie wholly or partly within the corridor of the River Wey. The River Wey Navigation, Basingstoke Canal and the largely disused Wey and Arun Canal are also within this catchment.

The catchment is sprinkled with sites of ecological interest and hosts a range of fen, marsh, floodmeadow and reedbed habitat. It acts as an important corridor for nature conservation and is home to otters, snipe and brook lamprey to name but a few. The catchment also has a rich history of modification by man with some of the earliest mills and weirs in the UK being found on this system.

Like all catchments, the Wey also presents many challenges. Phosphate levels are high in a number of rivers which can lead to excessive plant growth and in turn may affect the rivers' wildlife. Sources of nutrients in this catchment include effluent from sewage treatment works and agricultural pollution. A considerable number of rivers are also designated heavily modified. Modification of these rivers including in-stream structures has led to loss of habitat diversity and the creation of barriers for fish migration. These issues and the presence of pollutants give rise to poor water quality for a number of rivers, as well as varied biological quality throughout the catchment.

This catchment partnership is being hosted by the [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#) on behalf of the Wey Landscape Partnership.

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## WEY

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### THAMES RBD

Vale of White Horse

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Cotswolds

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Cherwell

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Thames & South Chilterns

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Kennet & Pang

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Colne

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Thames to Sunbury

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Loddon

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Mole

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Darent

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Roding & Ingrebourne

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South Essex

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Medway

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North Kent

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Wey

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London

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Upper Lee

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Tidal Thames

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### THAMES INFO

The Thames RBD covers an area of over 16,000 sq km from the source of the River Thames in Gloucestershire through London to the North Sea. Dominated by Greater London, the eastern and northern parts of the river basin district are heavily urbanised, whereas the area to the west of London has considerable areas of rural land. The Thames RBD is one of the driest in the UK, with rainfall levels below the national average, however the River Thames is an important water source, providing around two-thirds of London's drinking water. Even though it is one of the most densely populated and urbanised parts of the UK, agriculture remains one of the most important industries in the landscape. Farming varies from intensive fruit and vegetable farming to mechanised arable farming on chalk to dairy and beef farming on grassland.

## ABOUT

The Catchment-Based Approach website is designed to showcase the work of catchment partnerships across England and Wales and to encourage the sharing and adoption of best practice in stakeholder-led catchment management planning, delivery and evaluation.

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