

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce our Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan.

This plan presents what we consider the most sustainable direction for managing flood risk from rivers for the next 50 to 100 years. It is based on extensive research into the catchment characteristics of the river basin and the options available for managing the flood risk to people, properties and the environment. It takes into account the likely impacts of climate change and known plans for future development.

We will use it to guide our future investment, policies and flood risk management activities for the region.

This plan defines the way we are going to manage flood risk in the future, so it is important that you know what it means for you. It presents considerable challenges in terms of how we all perceive flood risk and its management. Making it work will depend on many partners working together to achieve the overall goal of sustainable management of flood risk in the Thames river basin catchment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Runcie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Robert" on the top line and "Runcie" on the bottom line.

Robert Runcie
Thames Regional Director
Environment Agency

3 July 2008