

# Tackling flood risk

## River Flooding

As a predominantly urban area London's rivers are often heavily modified from their natural state. This means that rivers have been straightened, deepened, widened and constructed from materials such as concrete. These changes have often been made specifically to reduce the risk of flooding by either increasing the physical size of the river channel or increasing the rate at which it can convey water.

The urbanised river environment also contains many bridges, tunnels and culvert structures. These culverts are often underneath roads or railways but sometimes flow under substantial areas of land. These form potential flood risks as they can become blocked or restricted through litter or more likely larger debris such as shopping trolleys, mattresses or even vehicles.

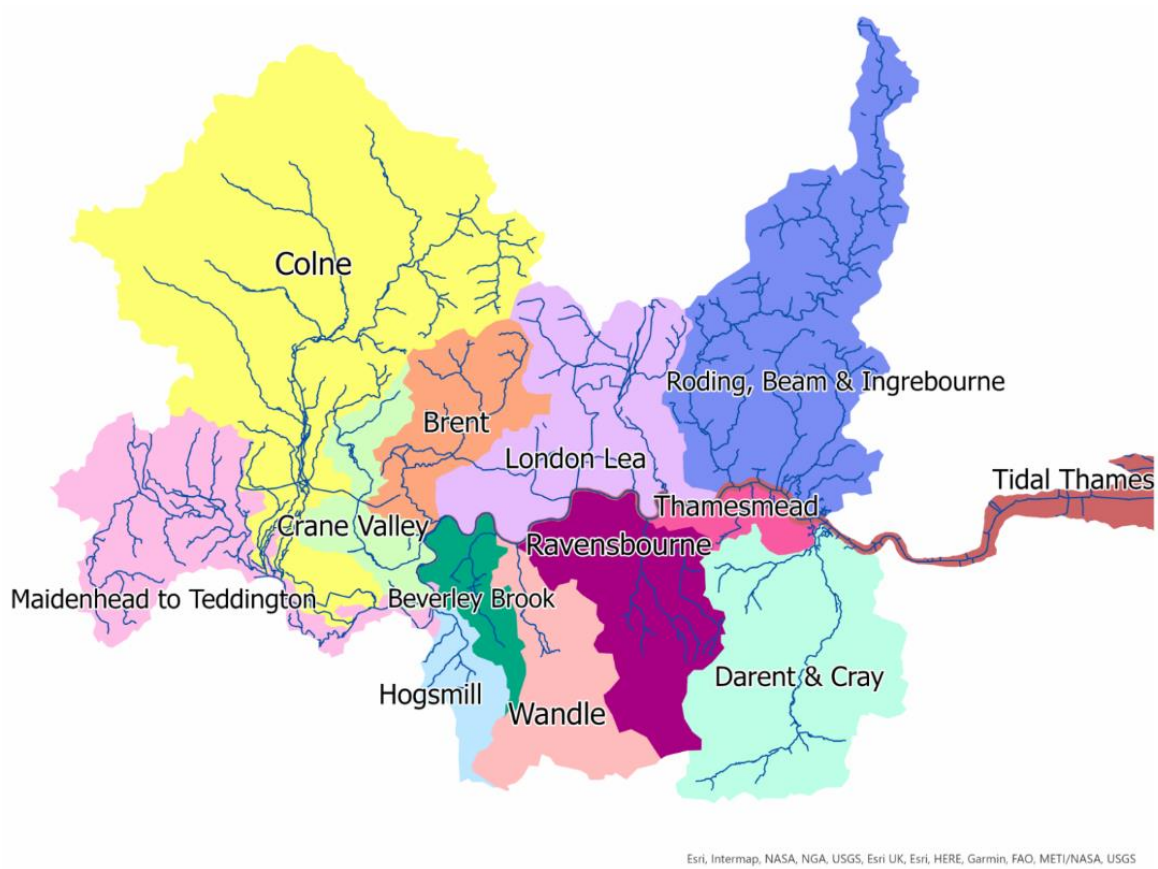
Some of the key schemes being developed across London led by the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of flooding from rivers can be found: [Flood and coastal erosion risk management: current schemes and strategies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-current-schemes-and-strategies)

The river catchments across London all have their own distinct characteristics, and therefore particular pressures which need to be managed, and these need to be understood. The solutions to manage flooding are closely linked within the water system to solutions needed to manage the demand for water, supply of water, and poor water quality.

Opportunities for delivering green SuDS and natural flood management designed to provide multiple benefits will help London to adapt to climate change as well as improving the health and wellbeing benefits for local communities as they engage with and take ownership of their local river environment.

Catchment Partnerships bring together and enable local communities to deliver nature-based solutions, their contact details and plans to improve their river catchment can be found at [Home - CaBA \(catchmentbasedapproach.org\)](https://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/)

The Catchments partnerships within London:



MAP From London [Catchment Partnerships - Thames21](#)