

How do we use the River Thames now?



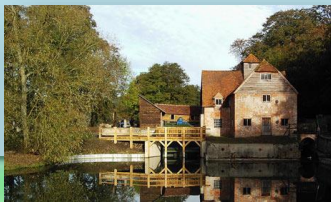
Abingdon Lock

This is the oldest lock in England.



Locks are like stairs - they let boats go up and down the river easily. It allows people to use the River for **travel**.





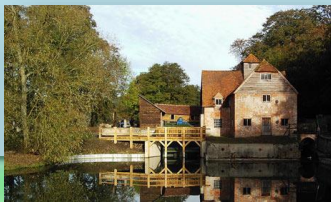
Renewable energy



A new machine called an "Archimedes Screw" has just been built near Oxford.

This uses the river to **generate electricity** for thousands of homes.





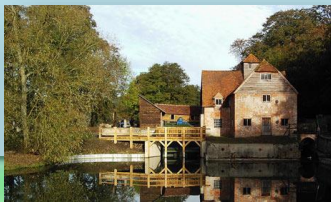
Henley Regatta



This is a rowing race held every July on the River Thames.

Thousands of people come out to watch the boats go by - and have a party! It is a massive **tourist** event.





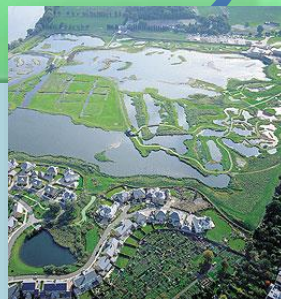
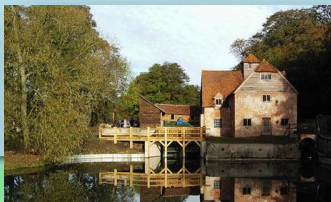
London Wetlands Centre



Here the River is used for conservation.

This is a protected area and is home to lots of wildlife, including hundreds of birds, frogs, newts and bats.





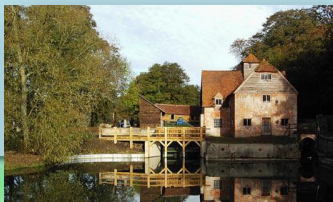
Tower Bridge



This was built in 1876.

The gates open at set times to allow ships in and out of London for **trading and tourism**. Lots of people visit London to see the bridge.





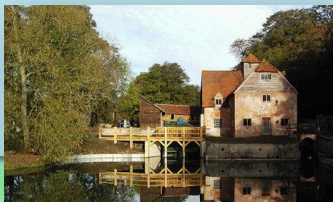
The London Docks



This used to be where expensive goods like spices and cloth were shipped in from across the world.

Now, the docks have been made into marinas for people to keep their yachts, and luxury flats. So here, the river is used for accommodation.





Sewage treatment

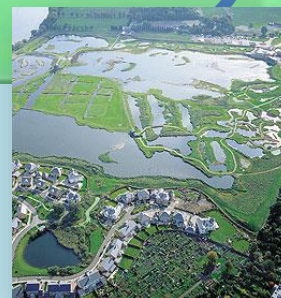
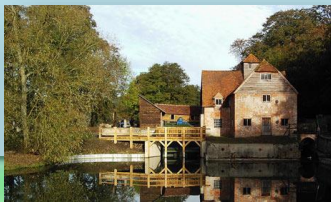


In Victorian times, the Thames was used to get rid of London's sewage.

We still pump 39 million tonnes of untreated sewage into the river each year! It is used for **waste**.

The pollution in the river is so bad that a new tunnel is being built to carry sewage more safely.



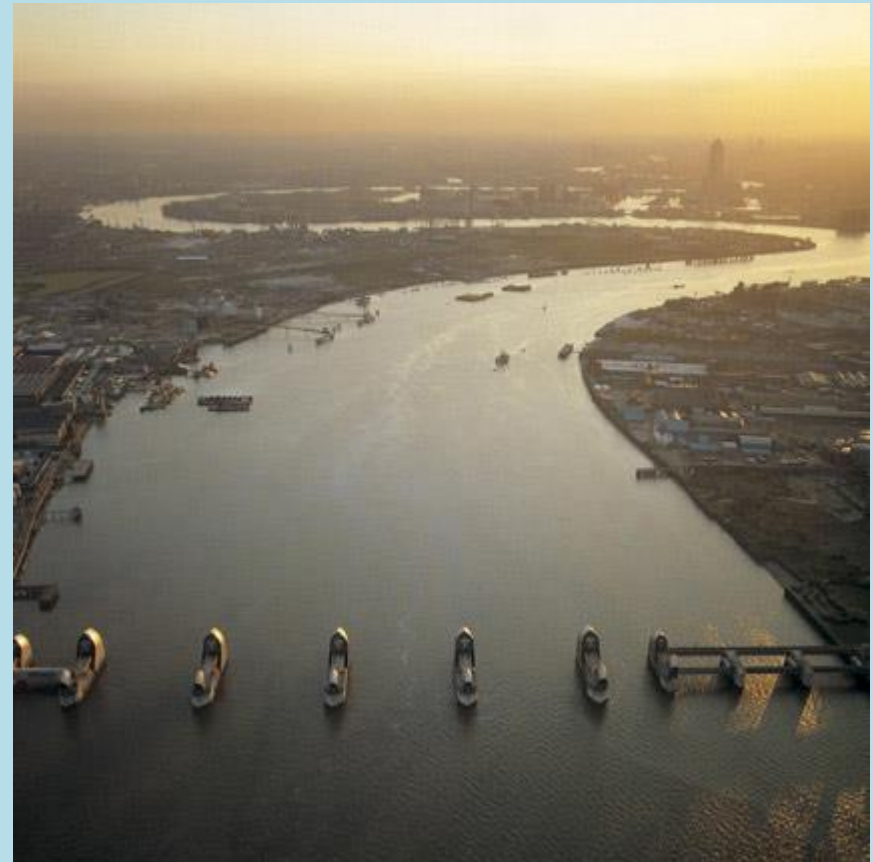


The Thames Barrier



This was built to protect the River Thames from flooding from the sea.

It is a set of gates that lie in the water across the river, which stop the tides from the sea affecting the river.



Tourism and leisure



The Thames is used for lots of **tourist** activities such as river cruises. You can see these speeding along the River Thames throughout the day.

The Thames is used for **fishing** and has a variety of fish living in it such as, bream, sea bass and flounder.

