
RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

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NEW FLOOD RISK RESEARCH ANNOUNCED **... opportunities for residents to get involved ...**

A NEW TWO-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME into groundwater flood risk in Spelthorne and Runnymede (Staines, Englefield Green, Egham and Egham Hythe) starts next month. It will be led by Dr Jonathan Paul, Associate Professor in Earth Science at Royal Holloway, University of London. Dr Paul led the research into groundwater flood risk in Staines in 2024. The findings of that study revealed the unexpected scale of the problem and how below-ground structures of new developments can increase the risk. The new research will include a 'Phase 2' follow up to that research.

"Community engagement will be a key element of the new study and we intend to launch the programme with a public meeting in October. We will make a further announcement on this in the coming weeks," says Dr Paul.

The Royal Holloway research in Staines in 2024 revealed dramatic fluctuations in the volume, speed and direction of water flows through the thin gravel substrate on which the town is built. These factors have a significant impact on variations in the depth of the water table, creating flood risk 'hot spots'. In addition to the 'Staines Phase 2' element, the new research will examine the extent to which the same phenomena extend south of the Thames in Runnymede from Staines to Englefield Green. The research is independently funded through a grant from the Open University.

"Recognition of flood risk across the country is growing. The cross-party parliamentary Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee of MPs has just launched a call for evidence as it investigates how government and public services respond to floods with the risk of flooding increasing," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "We understand Royal Holloway will be submitting evidence, as will our partnership of residents' associations."

Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition – a working group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of residents on both sides of the river.
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