

Summer 2022

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Tideway

# RIVER TIMES

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER



*Changing shape of the River Thames*

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# Tideway



GRANDS PROJETS



**This is the latest issue of Tideway's regular community newsletter, produced especially for our neighbours in the east section of the project.**

This newsletter will feature up-to-date news on our events, our progress and other exciting things happening in your area.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PHIL MUIR

**Welcome to the latest edition of the River Times, your update on London's super sewer. Work on this vital infrastructure in East has been progressing well, with the tunnel due to be operational in 2025.**

In the East section, we have finished tunnelling and are currently constructing a secondary lining of concrete for the inside of the tunnel. The secondary lining is now due to be finished next summer. The secondary lining will protect the structure and help to ensure its 120-year lifespan.

After four years of tunnelling machines working away beneath the River Thames, we celebrated the end of tunnelling with a unique performance in the tunnel depths. Watch the video by scanning the QR code on page four.

Also on page 4, you'll see that the final parts of tunnel boring machine Selina left Abbey Mills as it finished its tunnelling journey.

On page 6, you can read about the 27 new community-led initiatives in London to help 'green and clean' the city.

Finally, for music lovers, a music academy in London produced four amazing songs, with one of them celebrating the River Thames.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the River Times and if you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything relating to the project, we're always available.

**Phil Muir**

**Delivery Manager**



# ABOUT US

London relies on a 150-year-old sewer system built for a population less than half its current size.

As a result, tens of millions of tonnes of raw sewage overflow the system each year and end up in the River Thames.

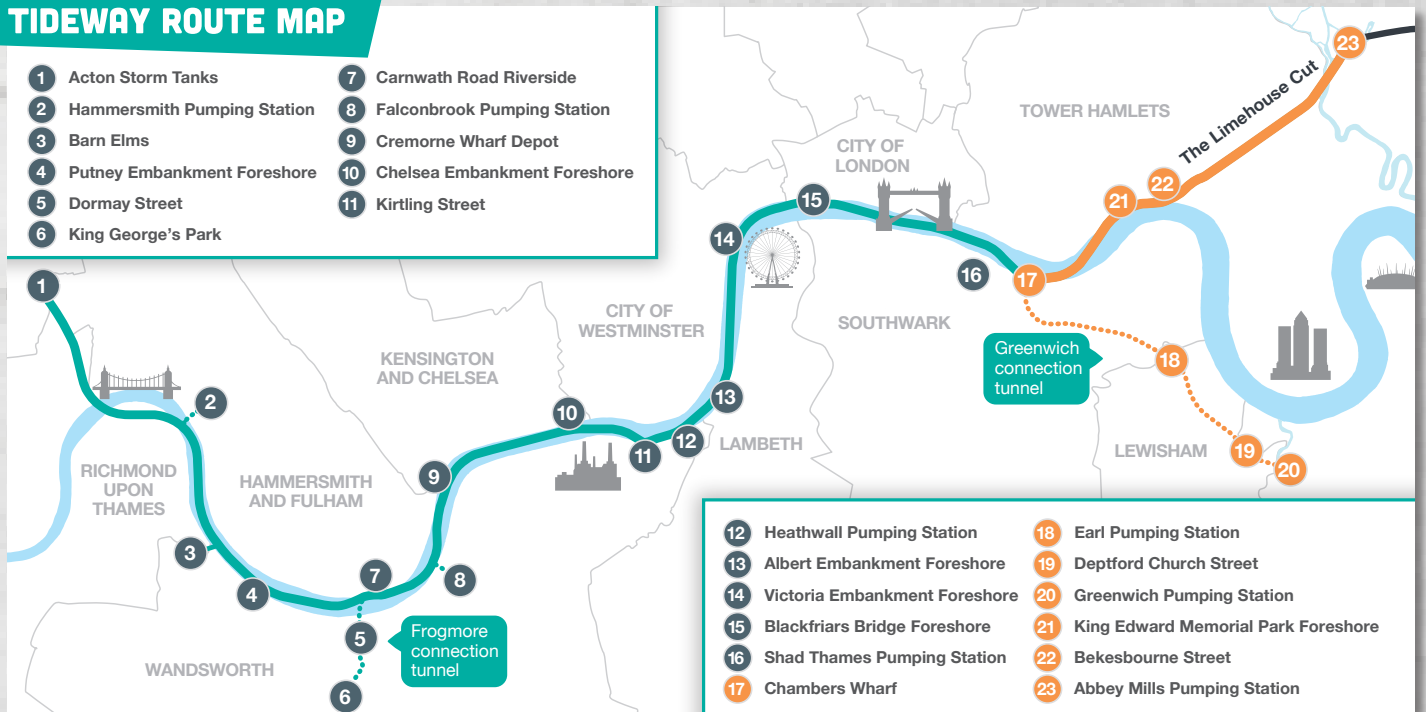
*That's where we come in...*

We're building a 25km 'super sewer' under the Thames to intercept those nasty spills and clean up our river.

The project will also bring thousands of new jobs, as well as new public space, creating a better environment for Londoners.



## TIDEWAY ROUTE MAP





## END OF TUNNELLING: UNIQUE PERFORMANCE

To commemorate the end of tunneling, a live performance took place 70 metres underground in the depth of the tunnel itself.

The performance, from London-based composer and musician Rob Lewis, was streamed and is available on Tideway's YouTube channel and fuses multi-instrumental music with the sounds of the sewer construction, capturing the unique acoustic properties of the space.

Tideway Chair, Sir Neville Simms, said: "Completion of tunnelling for London's new super sewer is testament to the hard work and contributions of thousands of people and organisations, over many years – and it brings us closer to the ultimate goal of a cleaner River Thames. This performance celebrates a significant milestone in our efforts to

create a more sustainable

London for our growing population and we are pleased to commemorate the end of tunnelling in such a unique way."



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## TUNNEL BORING MACHINE LEAVES ABBEY MILLS

The cutterhead of tunnel boring machine Selina has been hoisted from the shaft at Abbey Mills, the final machine to complete the main Super Sewer tunnel drive.

The TBM, Selina, was delivered to Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey from Germany in July 2020, from there it began its journey to Abbey Mills. Selina's front shield and cutterhead weighs almost 800 tonnes.

Selina is named after Dr Selina Fox, who founded the Bermondsey Medical Mission in 1904. The small clinic and eight-bed hospital provided medical and spiritual care to the most vulnerable

women and children in the area, and continues to this day as a local charity.





## LOCAL NEWS

# RIVER THAMES TRANSFORMS AS NEW RIVERSIDE SPACES TAKE SHAPE



Aerial photographs show the new riverside spaces taking shape along the River Thames as construction of London's super sewer continues.

The new sewer, from Acton in west London to Stratford in east London, is designed to capture more than 95 per cent of the sewage spills that enter the river from London's Victorian sewer system.

As part of construction, seven new areas of embankment are being created along the Thames, including at Blackfriars, Chelsea Embankment and Victoria Embankment.

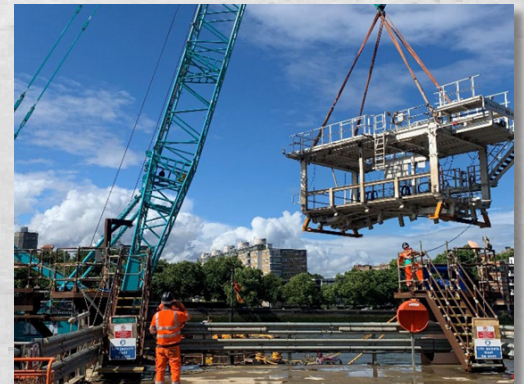
Andy Mitchell, Tideway CEO, said: "It is hugely exciting to see these pieces of embankment taking shape and we look forward to when Londoners and visitors can enjoy these new spaces and get closer to the River Thames.

## SECONDARY LINING EQUIPMENT TRAVELS FINAL 5.5KM

A range of machinery and equipment used to create the secondary lining on the central section of the super sewer project is set to be reused on the eastern 5.5km of the tunnel.

Unlike primary lining, which is comprised of precast concrete segments, the concrete for the secondary lining is poured wet in-situ, and is needed to give the tunnel extra strength and to create a smooth surface over which the flows can travel once the tunnel is operational in 2025.

Secondary lining was completed in the central section in May, and the tunnelling team at Kirtling Street in Nine Elms has been busy demobilising shutters, gantries and other associated equipment ahead of shipment to Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey.



## NEWS IN BRIEF



Tideway proudly walked in the parade to stand up for LGBT+ equality and to celebrate our diverse workforce. Sergio Sciamanna said: “This was my first Pride and it was a colourful and happy experience which made me understand that diversity can only enrich ourselves.”

## IMPACT OF CHARITY PARTNERSHIP REVEALED

The impact of our partnership with Thames21 to engage communities up and down the tidal Thames and highlight the problem of plastic pollution has been shown in a new report.

The Thames River Watch programme was set up in 2014 to create a network of citizen scientists to collect essential data on the health of the River Thames. Tideway project staff alone have volunteered more than 3,300 hours.

## TIDEWAY NEWS



## 27 NEW COMMUNITY-LED, ‘CLEAN AND GREEN’ INITIATIVES IN LONDON

A series of 27 London-based projects designed to ‘clean and green’ the city have been given a helping hand to turn into reality with support from a new ‘Our Space’ initiative, which is backed by Tideway.

The Our Space Awards aim to help Londoners improve their communities through active local engagement and increase a sense of ownership over shared spaces.

Work on the winning projects will soon begin, with awards going to a wide range of local initiatives, ranging from tree planting, to improving air quality, to reducing social isolation.

Tideway’s mission to improve the communities in which it works saw the super sewer project get involved to help further protect the city. The awards will be administered and delivered by Groundwork London, a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK.



# MUSIC ACADEMY BACKED BY TIDEWAY RELEASES FOUR NEW SONGS

A music academy in London – one of five community groups to receive support from the Tideway project – has now produced and released four beautiful songs, including one celebrating the River Thames.

Last year, Tideway committed funding to five local groups to deliver positive and impactful projects in the local community. One of the projects, Ebb and Flow, aimed to connect young people from the World Heart Beat Music Academy with residents of Nine Elms to celebrate the Thames and the local area through music.

The four songs are: River, Step Inside, Tread Lightly – and Go with the Flow, which you can listen to by scanning the QR code on the right.



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## SUPER SEWER SECONDARY LINING PROGRESS – EAST

**Secondary lining in East has yet to start, but is forecasted to be complete by July next year.**

The secondary lining is required to give the super sewer extra strength and to create a smooth surface over which the flows from the sewer network can travel once the tunnel is operational. The secondary lining will also protect the structure and help to ensure its 120 year lifespan.

In the picture to the right, you can see an example of the segmental primary lining and the poured secondary concrete lining, which gives the tunnel an internal diameter of 7.2m – which is the width of three London buses side-by-side.



# WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

## GO BEHIND THE SCENES

In episode 15, Natasha visits Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey to learn all about the 65-million-year-old chalk Tideway was digging through in east London.



TUNNEL  
VISION



### ERA SHAH

Planning Engineer

#### What made you want to become an engineer?

Back when I was studying design and technology, I applied for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, an initiative that offers practical experience across a range of engineering disciplines. As a scholar, I was fortunate enough to shadow a civil engineer who owned her own engineering company and in amongst many other projects, led on the structural design of the London Eye which I found very inspiring. From that point on I began to seriously consider a career in civil engineering. Through the Arkwright network I then met a representative from Costain which led to more work experience, university sponsorship and eventually a graduate role which is how I entered the construction industry.

#### What advice would you give to women who are thinking about becoming engineers?

You will always be successful if your starting point is something you are passionate about, it's the ultimate driver to keep motivated and learn more. So, if you love the idea of building something, leaving a legacy, being part of a team, being collaborative and creative, have confidence and faith in yourself that you will do well in it. Engineering is a multifaceted industry, there are so many options so speak to people about it, research it and if it excites you, go for it!

For more information about Tideway, our language interpretation service or for Braille and large print:

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#SuperSewer



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