



**Tideway**

*Spring 2023*

**BERMONDSEY • DEPTFORD • GREENWICH • SHADWELL • ROTHERHITHE**

# RIVER TIMES

**YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER**





# Tideway

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

This newsletter features 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 – a progress update for residents living near the Tideway Super Sewer project being undertaken to clean up the Thames.

**Work on this vital new infrastructure has been progressing well and is due to be completed in 2025.**

We've continued to hit major milestones. River wall panels have been installed to allow biodiversity to flourish and you'll see comparative aerials shots that show how far the project has progressed in the last four years.

Also included are links to Tideway's Tunnel Vision series, where you can learn about the tunnelling story from start to finish and the new nature habitats being built using spoil excavated from the tunnels. These can be found on pages 5 and 7.

Elsewhere in the edition, you can read about Tideway's new charity partners and how the partnerships will benefit people across London.

On page 7 you'll learn about some new green initiatives that Tideway have supported in your area, including the Leaders in Community are Buzzing in Tower Hamlets.

Finally, at the very end of this edition, you'll see how Tideway has been supporting local organisations near you to leave a long-lasting community legacy.

We're excited at the progress we're making as we move closer to delivering a cleaner river for London. You can read more on what we've been up to in this update. I hope you enjoy it.

**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.

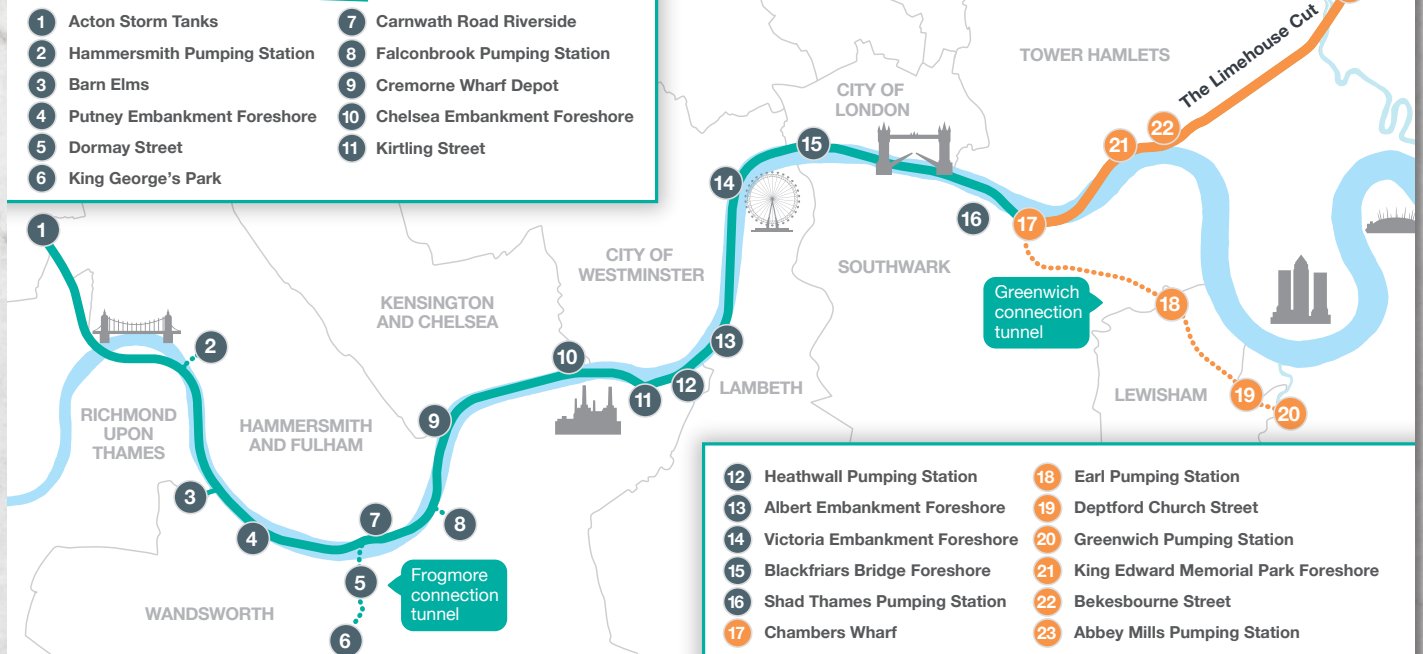
## *That's where we come in...*

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

The project has provided thousands of new jobs, and is also creating new public spaces along the riverside for Londoners to enjoy.



## TIDEWAY ROUTE MAP





# SHAFT ROOF BEAMS 'CAP OFF' MORE MILESTONES

Huge shafts excavated across London as part of the Super Sewer project are being completed after years of construction deep underground.

The concrete beams are currently being installed at three more sites in Battersea and Wapping which then see concrete slabs used to cap the shafts which range in depth from 35-65 metres.

There are 21 shafts constructed on the Super Sewer which will be used to divert sewage flows from London's existing Victorian sewage network to the new 25-kilometre tunnel.

At King Edward Memorial Park in Wapping, the first shaft cover beam weighing 140 tonnes was put into place which officially starts the cover slab works on the east section of the project.



# CREATING A HOME FOR WILDLIFE ON THE FORESHORE

River wall panels have been installed on what will become a brand new piece of parkland at King Edward Memorial Park in Wapping, which will allow biodiversity to flourish.

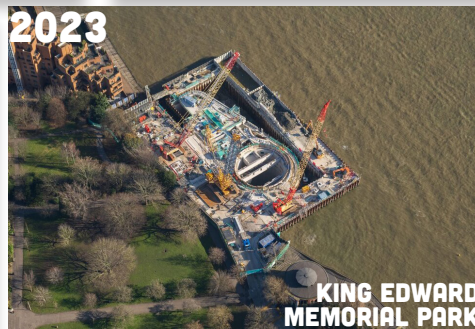
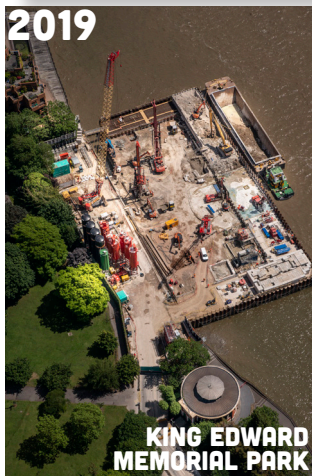
In designing the river wall, Tideway sought to provide a surface to improve the habitat for marine life in the Thames.

This boxy, geometric design, when turned on its side, will provide a kind of shelving to retain moisture that is expected to benefit a range of wildlife, ranging from crabs to algae.



## LOCAL NEWS

# TIDEWAY SUPER SEWER PROGRESS: 2019 VS 2023



Aerial photographs show how the Super Sewer project has progressed over the last three years in East London.

A project photographer flew over London earlier this year to record how each of the Tideway sites is looking at the start of 2023.

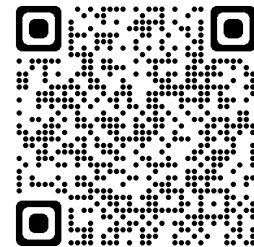
The photos show how the project has progressed over the last few years. The tunnel is due to be fully operational in 2025, with sewage starting to be diverted from the Thames as soon as 2024 when testing starts.



## THE STORY OF TUNNELLING

On the latest episode of Tunnel Vision, our YouTube series going behind the scenes on the Tideway project, we tell the tunnelling story from start to finish.

How did we dig the Super Sewer? Why did we need so many giant tunnelling machines? Find out by scanning the QR code below and watching the full episode.



**TUNNEL  
VISION**

## NEWS IN BRIEF



In a new two-part BBC Two documentary, Paul Whitehouse travels around England and Wales to explore why rivers and waterways are in decline and what needs to be done to protect them. In episode two, Paul visits Tideway's Greenwich Pumping Station site to learn about the Super Sewer and see what we're doing to clean up the River Thames. You can watch 'Paul Whitehouse: Our Troubled Rivers' on BBC iPlayer.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Tideway has used the River Thames to transport construction materials and excavated waste where possible. Tideway's approach of swapping lorries for barges has meant lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduced traffic congestion and a lower risk of road traffic accidents.

These benefits and many others in the areas of environment, employment and health and safety are detailed in a new social impact report of the Tideway project. **Scan the QR** code to read the full report.



## TIDEWAY NEWS

### NEW CHARITY PARTNERS



Tideway has recently teamed up with two charities to support through a charity partnership to the end of 2024.

The Felix Project and Time & Talents both topped a staff poll and will now benefit from staff fundraising, volunteering and other support.

The Felix Project, based across London, collects fresh, nutritious food that cannot be sold and delivers this surplus to charities and schools so they can provide healthy meals and help the most vulnerable in our society.

And Time & Talents is a community organisation supporting the young and old in and around Rotherhithe, Bermondsey and Surrey Quays with its two community centres bringing people together for mutual support, fun and friendship.

Tideway's previous staff charity partners were South London Cares, Single Homeless Project and Drive Forward Foundation – and in five years more than £135,000 was donated and more than 1,400 hours volunteered for them.

To find out more about Tideway's new charity partners, you can visit their websites below:

[www.thefelixproject.org](http://www.thefelixproject.org) [www.timeandtalents.org.uk](http://www.timeandtalents.org.uk)

# EXCAVATED TUNNELLING SPOIL BEING REUSED TO CREATE HABITAT FOR BIRDS

Spoil excavated from the Super Sewer project is being used to create what is thought to be the largest habitat creation scheme inside the M25.

The site in Rainham, which is owned by the RSPB and managed by the Port of London Authority and its contractor Land & Water, is already home to a number of bird species, including lapwing, little ringed plover and red shank.

Thanks to the clay excavated from West London and chalk excavated from East London, the site is now undergoing a 'green transformation'.

The clay is being used to create an impermeable layer to retain water in new lakes while the chalk is being used to create a varied landscape at the site.

Learn all about the new nature reserve by scanning the QR code and watching our Tunnel Vision episode:



## SUPPORT FOR MORE 'CLEAN AND GREEN' INITIATIVES

**An additional 36 London-based projects designed to 'clean and green' the city have been given the go-ahead following a new funding commitment from Tideway.**

Last year, Tideway and other private funders awarded funding to 27 community-led initiatives as part of Groundwork London's 'Our Space Award' – and such was the success of the programme, Tideway is extending its support into 2023/24.

The new round of funding supports 10 projects in east London such as the Leaders in Community are Buzzing in Tower Hamlets where young people will be at the heart of the project teaching them about bees and creating a wildlife area.



# LEAVING A STRONG COMMUNITY LEGACY

Tideway has supported local organisations since the start of the project through its community investment programme.

Here are some local initiatives in your area:

## Creekside Discovery Centre, Deptford

Creekside is situated in London's only tidal creek - a unique environment - and Tideway has been pleased to support the work of the centre. New programmes include mapping local plants and wildlife, a new Science Club for 11-16-year-olds and a schools project exploring the water cycle. The new activities attracted 1,719 new visitors in 2020-2022.

Find what activities are on offer by visiting their website:

[www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/events](http://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/events)



## Illuminate Rotherhithe & Bermondsey



For three years Tideway funded this community festival, which showcases the history of the Thames and celebrates migration and the river's vital role in the area's development. Locals come

together for lantern-making workshops and then take part in a procession, which in 2022 attracted up to 1,000 people. Annabel Stockman said: "The aim of the festival is to encourage our communities to be involved, to participate, to collaborate and to mix."

Stay up to date: [www.illuminaterotherhithe.co.uk](http://www.illuminaterotherhithe.co.uk)

## TutorMate, Tower Hamlets

Many children don't regularly read with adults in their homes. To help tackle this, Tideway is providing support for online programme TutorMate; 13 Tideway volunteers are reading remotely for 30 minutes a week with children at Bangabandhu Primary School in Tower Hamlets. Emma Bell, of Innovations for Learning UK, said: "We are delighted that Tideway has agreed to support us. Those who struggle with reading are falling even further behind and will benefit enormously from this additional reading practice."



## Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre, Wapping



For several years Tideway helped to fund the centre's summer programme, in which about 200 young people from Tower Hamlets go on a week-long course offering a range of fun outdoor activities including kayaking, raft building, orienteering and high ropes. Feedback from participants in 2022 showed 98% increased their confidence; 48% felt healthier and 51% said they made new friends. Almost 70 of those who took part gained accredited certificates in sailing and paddle sports.

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

08000 30 80 80

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#SuperSewer



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