

Spring 2022

BERMONDSEY • DEPTFORD • GREENWICH • SHADWELL • ROTHERHITHE



Tideway

# RIVER TIMES

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER



*New park in Wapping  
given green light  
Page 7*



**Tideway**



VINCI  
CONSTRUCTION | 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



08000 30 80 80



helpdesk@tideway.london



www.tideway.london



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## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM RICHARD HOLBROOK

**Hello and welcome to this edition of River Times - your update on the 25km super sewer currently being built deep beneath London.**

My name is Richard Holbrook and I have recently taken on the role of Deputy Project Director. My job is to work with the Project Director and the rest of the Tideway East team to ensure we safely deliver a functioning sewer for London.

Currently we are around 74% complete – so while a lot has been achieved, we still have work to do as we look ahead to a cleaner River Thames.

Our cover story for this edition focusses on the exciting news that the design for a beautiful extension of King Edward Memorial Park into the Thames has been given the green light.

We're confident that this will be a wonderful asset for the community and we look forward to welcoming you once our work is done and the park is open. Read more on page 7.

Elsewhere, we currently have two giant tunnelling boring machines (TBMs) working beneath London: TBM Selina, digging the final stretch of the super sewer towards Stratford; and TBM Annie, digging a connection tunnel from Greenwich. You can read more about their progress on pages 4 and 5.

And finally, you can learn about the nearly 50,000 lorry trips we've avoided by using the river to move construction materials to and from our Chambers Wharf site (page 5).

We hope you enjoy this edition of the River Times and, as ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Richard Holbrook**  
**Deputy Project Director**

# 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.

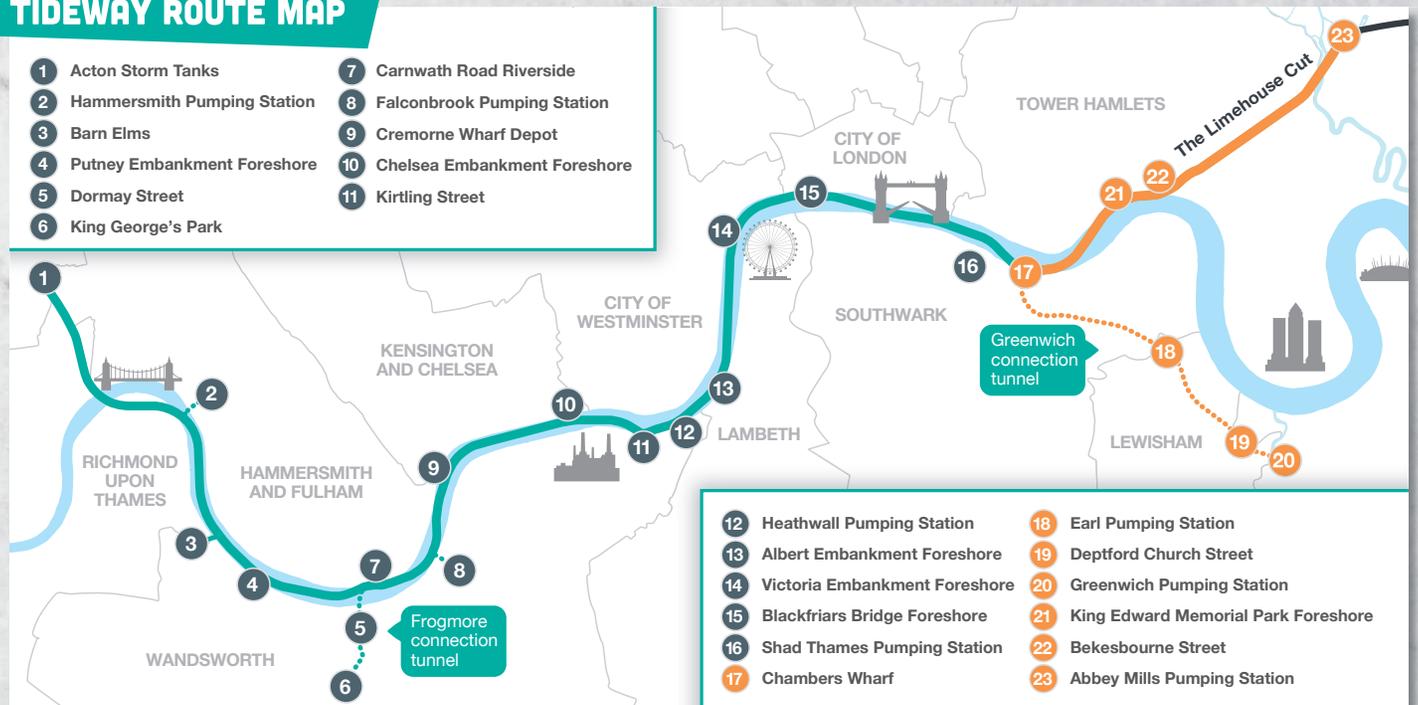
## *That's where we come in...*

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





# TBM ANNIE TARGETS FINAL 1KM OF DRIVE

The giant tunnel boring machine (TBM) creating a 4.5km connection tunnel between Greenwich Pumping Station and the super sewer at Bermondsey is now less than 1km from its destination.

TBM Annie is (at the time of writing) tunnelling beneath Southwark Park, near Rotherhithe on her journey towards Tideway's site at Chambers Wharf.

The machine, named after the astronomer Annie Scott Dill Russell, set off from Tideway's Greenwich site (pictured, right) toward the end of 2020.

Despite being one of the smallest machines on the project, Annie is still over 100 metres long and weighs as much as the Cutty Sark (960 tonnes).



## TIDEWAY & UPTREE PARTNER FOR WORK EXPERIENCE DAY

Eighteen young Londoners joined with staff from the Tideway project at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey to learn about the opportunities within STEM careers.



The work experience day was organised with the help of Uptree, a charity which supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

After a speed networking event, the young people heard about a wide range of potential career paths before working together to develop ideas for a sustainable cafe – a challenge which sparked a flurry of interesting discussion.

After the event, which also saw the students visit Tideway offices in London Bridge (pictured) and Battersea, one commented: "I'm definitely focused on having a career in STEM after today as I've seen how interesting it is."

## LOCAL NEWS

### FINISH LINE AT ABBEY MILLS PUMPING STATION APPROACHES



Tunnelling on the entire super sewer project is drawing to a close as its final tunnel boring machine (TBM) marches toward its underground finish line at Abbey Mills Pumping Station in Stratford.

TBM Selina (pictured) is excavating the final and easternmost 5.5kms of the Thames Tideway Tunnel and is now just over a 1km from completion.

Like its 'sister' TBM, Annie (see page 4), Selina began tunnelling in 2020. The machine was delivered to Tideway's site in Bermondsey in spectacular fashion – by river – before being lowered around 70 metres into the ground to begin its work to clean up the River Thames.

Check on the TBMs' progress  
[tideway.london/tbm-tracker](https://tideway.london/tbm-tracker)



### ALMOST 50,000 HGV JOURNEYS AVOIDED DUE TO RIVER USE

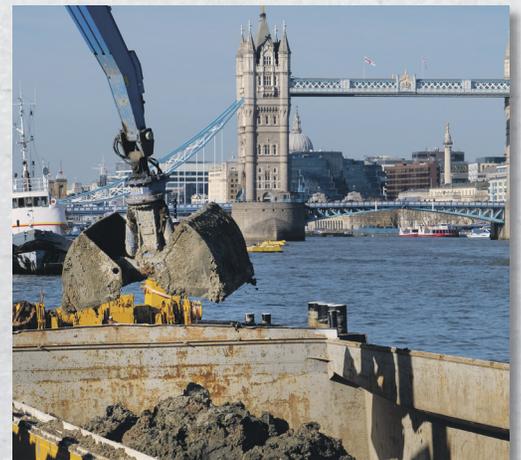
The team working at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey has now managed to prevent 48,000 HGV journeys by using the river to move construction materials.

Tideway has pledged to use the Thames itself as a transport artery to move material wherever possible.

This includes construction equipment and machinery, as well as the vast amount of spoil excavated as part of the tunnelling operation.

And now, this marine logistics operation has moved as much material as around 24,000 trucks – travelling to and from site (hence, 48,000 journeys)

Across the entire project, Tideway's use of the river has prevented more than 600,000 HGV journeys.



## NEWS IN BRIEF



Tideway's team at Greenwich Pumping Station is making good progress, with the demolition of an existing relief sewer now well underway.

Below ground, the tunnelling team is heading toward the finish line at Chambers Wharf (read more on page 4).

But back on site, good progress is being made in the excavation of the 'East Greenwich Relief Sewer', as well as on the excavation work needed in the Grade 2 listed engine house – required so the team can build a new foundation.

## FOCUSSED ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tideway's environmental benefits and focus on sustainability have been highly rated by S&P Global Ratings. The super sewer project has been assigned an Environmental, Social and Governance Evaluation of 76 out of 100, reflecting that "sustainability is well embedded in the company's strategic objectives and operations."

## TIDEWAY NEWS



## PRIZE FOR ROWING PARTNERSHIP

Tideway has won the Business Contribution Award at the London Sports Awards for the project's long-term collaboration with rowing charity, London Youth Rowing (LYR).

The award recognises the valuable role of businesses in providing sponsorship, support and resources that enable communities and sport to thrive in London.

And now, the super sewer project's long-term partnership with LYR has been recognised for the fantastic impact it has had on young people across the capital.

Tideway's partnership with LYR is now almost a decade old, and has seen the launch of a number of initiatives helping young people to get rowing.

To date, the partnership has helped more than 12,000 young people through a number of initiatives, including Row4Results, Active Row and Breaking Barriers.

Go to [tideway.london/benefits/our-community](https://tideway.london/benefits/our-community) for more information



# GREEN LIGHT FOR BRAND NEW PARK DESIGN

**A new section of park designed to help Londoners reconnect with the River Thames has been given the green light in Tower Hamlets.**

As part of work to build the new super sewer in east London, King Edward Memorial Park will be extended by eight per cent – or 2,600 square metres – with new areas allowing visitors to get closer to the River Thames.

On 6 January, Tower Hamlet's Development Committee approved aspects of the design, which will include a sequence of riverside terraces descending towards the water, a new public square and areas of planting to encourage new habitats and increase biodiversity.



Annie Lennox, Architecture and Landscape Lead for the east section of the Tideway project, said: “In gaining planning approval, the team has passed a crucial milestone and we now look forward to building a scheme that genuinely reconnects London with the River Thames.”

The new piece of land at King Edward Memorial Park sits atop one of the massive below-ground structures that are being built to help stop sewage overflowing into the River Thames from the Victorian sewers.

King Edward Memorial Park is the location of one of the most polluting sewer overflows into the

river in London, which currently overflows the equivalent of more than 300 Olympic sized swimming pools into the Thames each year.

Bob Bennett, the Tideway Project Manager for Tower Hamlets Council, said: “The Council has been working closely with Tideway for the last couple of years to achieve the best possible design for the park extension.

“In granting permission, the Council is satisfied that the design will both respect and complement the historic heritage of the park, and provide real benefits to the local community.”



## GO BEHIND THE SCENES

Tunnel Vision is an ongoing web video series from Tideway that takes a closer than ever look at the two dozen construction sites that make up the project, its amazing engineering and the people dedicated to cleaning up the River Thames.

**TUNNEL  
VISION**

Watch Tunnel Vision on our  
YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/  
tidewaylondon](https://www.youtube.com/tidewaylondon)



# MEET THE APPRENTICE



## KAI CONNOLLY

**Digital Civil Engineer Apprentice**  
*All East sites*

### What have you learned at Tideway?

I have learned immeasurable new knowledge and skills since the start of my apprenticeship on Tideway. I started in the BIM (Building Information Modelling) team where I learned all things digital. I have recently switched roles to become a site engineer, where I am now learning the practical and documenting side of construction.

### What have you enjoyed about being on Tideway?

I enjoy being a part of such a large, supportive team that is delivering a project which makes an impact on the city I have grown up in. As well as the volunteering opportunities, I've enjoyed the chance to work with students in the same position I was in and hopefully help them get to where they want to be.

### What are your aspirations for the future?

My first goal would be to finish my apprenticeship, then I could use my skills to travel and find opportunities around the world. I would also like to further explore the applications of digital construction to boost project safety and delivery.

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

08000 30 80 80

[www.tideway.london](https://www.tideway.london)

[helpdesk@tideway.london](mailto:helpdesk@tideway.london)



**#SuperSewer**



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