

# INFORMATION SHEET



## Thames Tideway Tunnel - ready for testing

The Thames Tideway Tunnel, which runs from Acton Storm Tanks in west London to the Lee Tunnel at Abbey Mills in east London, has been designed to dramatically reduce sewage pollution in the river.

The flow from over 30 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) will be diverted from the sewerage network into the main tunnel. This will result in tens of millions of tonnes of storm sewage being captured by the new super sewer, which would otherwise spill directly into the river yearly. From there it will run into the Thames Tideway Tunnel, and on to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.

Once fully operational, the new infrastructure will reduce those spills almost completely, supporting Tideway's vision of reconnecting London with the river and creating a healthier environment in one of the city's greatest natural assets.

The 25km super sewer has now been built, including its tunnels, shafts and interception chambers, most of which are located close to the River Thames. The tunnel and its systems are currently undergoing the commissioning and testing phase, to ensure the new infrastructure functions as designed.

## What changes can I expect to see as part of the testing phase?

As part of this systems testing, river users can expect to see some new lights on a number of Tideway sites along the River Thames (see Tideway Route Map below, highlighting the light trial sites in amber).

The purpose of these lights is to warn river users, in the rare occurrence, that a discharge from the newly positioned CSOs, is either likely or in progress. These lights are positioned near to the new CSO discharge points, each set consisting of two yellow flashing lights, one on top of the other. Once the system is fully operational, these lights will only flash during or after a heavy rainfall event that results in the tunnel reaching its capacity at that location and triggering the lights to come on. (CSO discharge may not occur to all Tideway sites therefore, not all CSO lights may flash during a heavy rainfall event, only where there is a discharge occurring or likely).

PLEASE NOTE: there are no planned discharges impacting navigation expected during these trials, it is only the lighting and electrical aspects of this system being tested over the coming months.

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*Example of the newly positioned CSO discharge point at Putney, with lights located on a temporary scaffold structure on the new area of public realm and an image of what the lights look like close-up.*

## Testing schedule & position of lights

Over the coming months, the Tideway teams will be trialling these lighting systems along the river. Phase 1 of testing is scheduled to take place at four of the seven sites (listed below) from 6 am Thursday 13 June - midnight Monday 17 June.

See below for list of the sites from west to east and the approximate positioning of the lights.

1. Putney Embankment Foreshore – Both sets are located directly above the new CSO outfall on the new area of public realm. Both lights are placed in front of a backboard to increase visibility for both directions of travel.
2. Chelsea Embankment Foreshore – Two sets of lights will be located on the new area of public realm. Both sets of lights will be placed in front of a backboard to increase visibility for both directions of travel.
3. Blackfriars Bridge Foreshore – One set of lights will be located above arch 2 of the Blackfriars Railway Bridge, (downriver end). Another set of lights will be placed above the new CSO outfall on the new area of public realm.
4. King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore – Two sets of lights will be located on the eastern side of the new public realm. Both sets of lights will be placed in front of a backboard to increase visibility for both directions of travel.

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Phase 2 is scheduled to take place in early summer at the remaining three sites listed below:

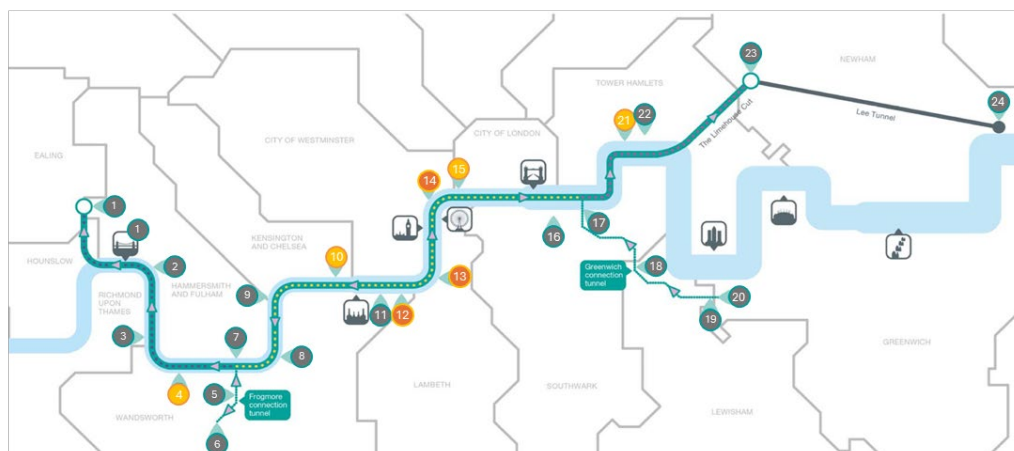
1. Heathwall Pumping Station
2. Albert Embankment
3. Victoria Embankment Foreshore

Tideway and the PLA are working together to ensure safety on the river remains paramount and we will communicate further information on a future date to keep you informed.

A PLA notice to Mariners has been issued containing technical information and on how you can provide feedback regarding the CSO lights.

Should you have any queries in relation to Tideway works please contact the Tideway Helpdesk on 08000 30 80 80 or at [helpdesk@tideway.london](mailto:helpdesk@tideway.london).

## Tideway Route Map - CSO lights – sites being tested



<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> CSO Lights – Phase 1	<span style="color: grey;">●</span> Other Work Sites
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> CSO Lights – Phase 2	

1 Acton Storm Tanks	9 Cremorne Wharf Depot	17 Chambers Wharf
2 Hammersmith Pumping Station	10 Chelsea Embankment Foreshore	18 Earl Pumping Station
3 Barn Elms	11 Kirtling Street	19 Deptford Church Street
4 Putney Embankment Foreshore	12 Heathwall Pumping Station	20 Greenwich Pumping Station
5 Dormay Street	13 Albert Embankment Foreshore	21 King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore
6 King George's Park	14 Victoria Embankment Foreshore	22 Bekesbourne Street
7 Camwath Road Riverside	15 Blackfriars Bridge Foreshore	23 Abbey Mills Pumping Station
8 Falconbrook Pumping Station	16 Shad Thames Pumping Station	24 Beckton Sewage Treatment Works