

RIVER TIMES

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER



London's Super Sewer fully built after final lid lifted into place - Page 4



Tideway



GRANDS PROJETS



This is the latest issue of Tideway's community newsletter, produced especially for our neighbours in the eastern 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 RICHARD HOLBROOK

Work on this vital piece of infrastructure has been progressing well, and with construction complete, testing is underway to get the system operational later this year.

We're proud to say the super sewer has been successfully connected to the existing tunnel network, and now each local connection will be made across the route of the tunnel over the summer months.

In this edition you'll now see we're hitting large construction milestones. The acoustic shed at our Chambers Wharf and Greenwich Pumping Station sites, which were essential to contain noise, have been removed. You can learn about this on page five.

Also included is a link to Tideway's latest video of our last piece of major construction, where a 1,200-tonne concrete lid was lifted on top of Tideway's deepest shaft at the Abbey Mills Pumping Station. This can be found on page six.

Elsewhere in the edition, you'll read about the positive impact that the Creekside Discovery Centre has had on the educational offering for the young people in the area.

On the back page you'll have the opportunity to learn more about the hard-working people who work on the project. Darren has been on a fantastic journey with us at Tideway and has some great insights to share.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. You can expect another newsletter next year where we'll have some exciting updates about the project as we get closer to completion.

Richard Holbrook

Project Director

ABOUT US

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

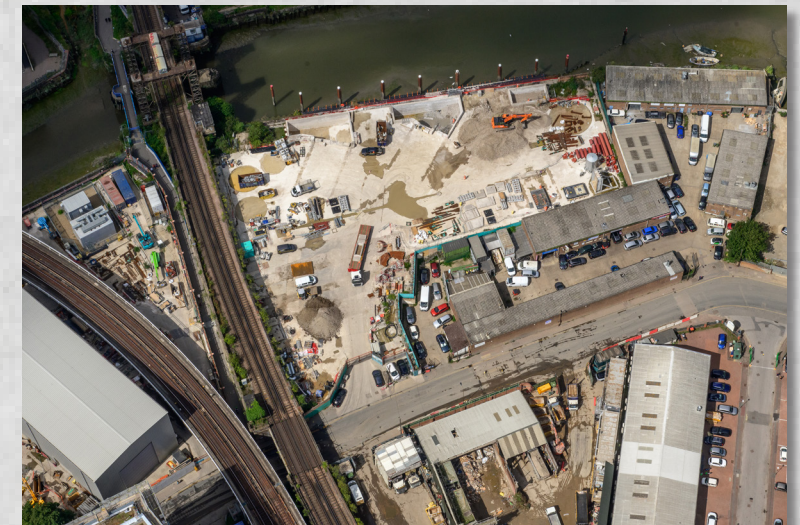
As a result, tens of millions of tonnes of raw sewage overflow the system each year and end up in the River Thames.

That's where we come in...

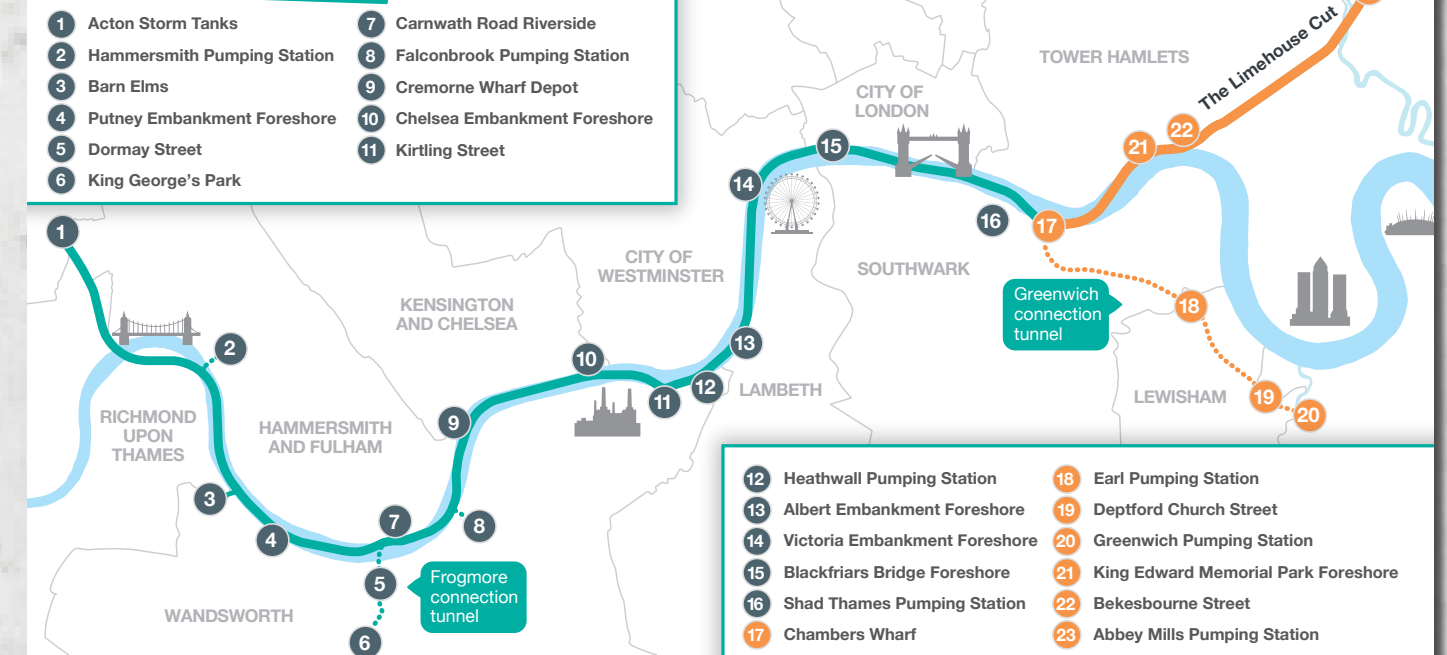
We've built a 25km 'super sewer' under the Thames to intercept those nasty spills and clean up our river.

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

Works progressing at Greenwich Pumping Station



TIDEWAY ROUTE MAP



FINAL PIECE OF PUZZLE IN PLACE



Work to build London’s super sewer, including its tunnels and shafts, is now fully complete below ground following the lifting of the final piece of the puzzle into place in east London. And now, the project is closer than ever to its ultimate goal of improving the health of the River Thames.

See how the 1,200-tonne concrete lid was lifted on top of a deep shaft at Abbey Mills by scanning the QR code below.



Scan me!

TIDEWAY NEWS

TIDEWAY TUNNEL COMPLETE

The teams working on the super sewer are getting ready to start testing the tunnel now that the super sewer has been successfully connected to the existing tunnel network. A thick wall separated the 25km super sewer from the 6.9km Lee Tunnel, which links Abbey Mills Pumping Station to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.

Now, those two tunnels are connected for the first time, creating the London Tideway Tunnels network and paving the way for the new system to begin its protection of the River Thames.

With the construction of the heavy engineering completed, the system commissioning phase has now started and will take away flows of polluting sewage into the tunnel to protect the river for the first time.

Roger Bailey, Tideway Chief Technical Officer, said: “The Tideway and Thames Water teams have worked brilliantly to get these jobs done and I’d like to offer my sincere thanks for their collaboration and professionalism in getting us to this stage without incident. Our focus is now on bringing this newly-live asset into full operation – and looking forward to a cleaner, healthier river environment for generations to come.”



VOLUNTEERS TACKLE WET WIPE ‘REEFS’

Tideway staff helped to assess the scale of plastic pollution on a stretch of the Thames in West London as they volunteered for the Big Wet Wipe Count.

The event is run by our charity partner Thames21 as part of Thames River Watch, a ‘citizen science’ programme which Tideway has supported since the start of the project and which engages communities to collect and count plastic litter on – and in – the Thames foreshore.

The survey site, situated on a bend in the river on the south side of Hammersmith Bridge, has several wet wipe ‘reefs’ caused by wipes which have spilled from Combined Sewer Overflows and sunk into the river bank. The Thames Tideway Tunnel will intercept these CSOs and the data collected at Big Wet Wipe Counts and other Thames River Watch survey sites will form a baseline to help track the benefits of the tunnel in terms of reduced sewage-derived litter.

10 Tideway volunteers took part and Felicity Rhodes of Thames21 said: “It is great to complete our baseline data at this site – many thanks to the Tideway team who took part.”



ACTIVE THAMES BOOSTED TO SUPPORT 11 PROJECTS

Boat clubs, walkers and scouts’ groups are among those being supported in a new partnership initiative with Tideway.

The Active Thames programme is co-ordinated by the Port of London Authority (PLA) and encourages communities to get active – on (or beside) the River Thames and its inland waterways.

It had previously allocated funds to 23 projects across London, Kent and Essex earlier this year.

Now, Tideway has added its involvement to the campaign to mark the year in which the project begins protecting the river from pollution for the first time after eight years of construction.

The 11 projects that will benefit from Tideway’s

involvement represent a range of groups from across London and the Thames estuary – and include eight on-water groups (rowing, paddling, sailing) hailing from as far west as Fulham and as far east as Leigh-on-Sea in Essex and three walking groups.



LOCAL NEWS

For the latest updates visit
www.tideway.london/news



DEVELOPING ARTWORK FOR KING EDWARD MEMORIAL PARK

As part of the Tideway project, a public art programme was developed called Art on the Tideway. A range of artists have created bespoke permanent art pieces which will be installed across a number of sites along the route of the project. At King Edward Memorial Park in Rotherhithe, Hew Locke is creating a series of unique cast bronze boats, including a tug, Chinese junk, flat barge, Carrack, Thames sailing barge and Bangladesh river boat, to symbolise the history of the Thames and the shifting population of the East End. In many cultures, ships are symbolic of a person's passage through life and are considered a container of the soul.

A legion of histories is suggested by the specific ships, their decorative details and cargo. The sculptures are currently being cast, which is a lengthy process involving a number of stages to create 'patterns' from which the moulds are made of sections of the sculptures, then

molten bronze poured in, allowed to cool and then finished. The finishing is an intricate process of welding sections of the sculptures together and then removing all traces of the welds and reinstating the decoration and ensuring that all of the decorative details are clear. When the new area of the park is opened to the public next year, the art will be a focal point for the community to enjoy.



BRAND NEW EXHIBIT SET TO OPEN IN OCTOBER

Artist Hew Locke is set to co-curate a major exhibition on the colonial history of the British Museum's collections this autumn. Opening in October 2024, the as-yet-untitled show will see some of the museum's most well-known objects displayed alongside specially commissioned new works by Locke.

POSITIVE IMPACT AT CREEKSIDE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Staff at Creekside Discovery Centre in Deptford have described the positive impact that new programmes, delivered through a partnership with Tideway, have had on the charity.

We supported the centre, situated between our Greenwich and Deptford sites, with a grant in 2020 to help it to continue during the pandemic and then deliver new activities, including surveying local plants and wildlife, a new Science Club for 11- to 16-year-olds and community walks and talks.

In 2022 we supported more 'Discover your Wilderhood' surveying – and a water cycle learning programme for schools and families, which completed this year. The school outreach gave children a fun learning experience about protecting water resources and it was the first time Creekside

had tried offsite school sessions – the centre itself is often at capacity. Paddy Hayes of Creekside said: "This has had a really positive impact on our educational offering, developing a module which can be delivered both here and in schools."



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



LOCAL NEWS

NEW ROOF FOR HISTORIC HOUSE



The replacement of the Grade II listed East Beam Engine House roof at Greenwich Pumping Station has now been completed.

Greenwich Pumping Station, originally known as Deptford Pumping Station, was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, chief engineer at the Metropolitan Board of Works, and completed in 1864. The site formed part of Bazalgette's scheme to improve London's sewers, and prevent raw waste reaching the Thames. The site now connects to the Thames Tideway Tunnel network at Chambers Wharf, providing additional sewer capacity in South East London. It will help tackle the problem of sewage overflow into Deptford Creek, also known as the River Ravensbourne.

The team at Greenwich Pumping Station have been refurbishing the main area of the site, including the historic East Beam Engine House, and have recently finished the refurbishing the roof. The East Beam Engine house isn't the only historic asset at the site, with multiple Grade II listed heritage assets – the West Beam Engine House, four coal sheds and the Network Rail Viaduct. With these refurbishments, we can continue to celebrate the Engine House's historical and architectural significance in the years to come.

The first architecture and landscape activities taking place at Greenwich Pumping Station have already begun, with the reinstatement of a brick wall along Norman Road, in front of Belleville House, with more exciting developments in the pipeline.

LANDSCAPING STARTS AT EAST SITES

With construction work now complete of the tunnel underground, Tideway's teams on the East sites are moving on to a new phase of works which will start to see landscaping and design works in the area.

At Deptford Church Street, the hoardings around the site will move and change over the summer, as the road get reinstated and the team get going on landscaping the area. Once Tideway finishes, there will be a renewed outdoor space in the triangle between Crossfield Street, Coffey Street and Deptford Church Street. In addition to hard and soft landscaping, there will be four signature ventilation columns all adorned with poetry by Dorothea Smartt. Smartt has been commissioned to create a series of poems for eight Tideway sites under the theme – London's 'lost rivers.' Studio Weave is also creating a series of artworks that will be integrated into new landscaping at entrance points to the new space. A new playground will be built next to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School which will be a fun stop for students on their journeys home from the school.

Along the river, our site at Chambers Wharf, SE16, is also changing. The giant 'acoustic shed' that was built to enable construction of the super sewer has been dismantled and removed after years of tunnelling work. With the large shed gone, work is starting on removing the cofferdam. This is the temporary area of land that was built out into the river so that we could construct the underground structures. The site will get smaller as the river wall is reinstated closer to its original position. This work will be ongoing until 2025.

MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE TUNNEL

Project Manager Darren Kehoe has worked on the Greenwich Pumping Station site in the eastern section of the Tideway project, a location he says had a bit of “everything”, especially for a tunnel enthusiast.



Watch the interview!

“SOME OF THE PEOPLE I’LL REMEMBER THE MOST WERE SOME OF THE YOUNG APPRENTICES IN THE JOB. SO YOUNG AND SO FRESH INTO THE COMPANY, THEY BROUGHT SO MUCH JOY AND ENERGY TO THE SITE AND IT WAS A PLEASURE BRINGING THEM ALONG FOR THE DRIVE.”

*Meet more people working on the Tideway project by visiting:
www.tideway.london/our-people/people-behind-the-tunnel*

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

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#SuperSewer



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