

Autumn 2021

BATTERSEA • BLACKFRIARS • CHELSEA • VAUXHALL • WESTMINSTER



Tideway

RIVER TIMES

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER



*Tideway welcomes Royal visitor
at Chelsea Embankment foreshore*

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Tideway

ferrovial
construction



This is the latest issue of Tideway's regular community newsletter, produced especially for our neighbours in the central 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 ROGER MEARS

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Times, your update on London's super sewer. Work on this vital infrastructure is now around 68 per cent complete, with the tunnel due to be operational in 2025.

In the central section, we have finished tunnelling and are currently constructing a secondary lining of concrete for the inside of the tunnel. This will protect the structure and help to ensure its 120 year lifespan.

Helping us build the sewer are our tunnel boring machines (TBMs), all named after inspirational local women from history. When TBM 'Ursula' finished her tunnelling journey, she was lifted out of the ground and transported to the Netherlands by water (read all about this on page 5).

This is part of our commitment to use the river wherever possible to move material, avoiding thousands of lorry trips on London's roads.

Over the summer at our site on Chelsea Embankment we were visited by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal who came to learn about the progress we have made during the pandemic. Read more about the visit on page 5.

I hope you enjoy finding out about our work and if you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything relating to the project, we're always available.

Finally, we have released an exciting new film showcasing some of the artists working on art commissions as part of our project for the first time. Tideway's most visible above-ground legacy will be our new land – and our art. This new film offers the first detailed look at some of the commissions. Turn to page 7 for more.

Roger Mears
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



LOCAL NEWS

BREAKTHROUGH LINKS CENTRAL AND WEST SECTIONS

Two long sections of the main super sewer are now linked for the first time after the team in Fulham ‘broke through’ into the central section of the tunnel.

Work on Tideway is split into three parts – west, central and east. Tunnelling in the central section was completed earlier this year.

And now for the first time, this central section is linked to the western section, creating an uninterrupted stretch of tunnel between Acton and Bermondsey.

This marks an exciting milestone for the super sewer project, which is now almost 70 per cent complete, bringing London closer than ever to a cleaner River Thames.

BACK TO THE FUTURE: NEW FLUME INSTALLED IN VICTORIAN SEWER

Engineering’s past and future combined at Blackfriars over the summer with the installation of a steel flume in the existing Victoria sewer.

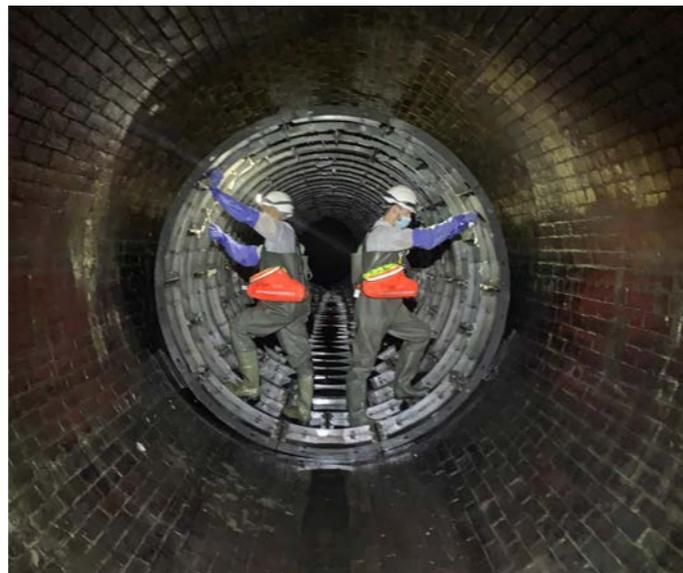
The team at Blackfriars Bridge in the heart of the capital has completed the installation of the steel structure in the Low Level 1 Sewer which runs beneath the embankment.

The flume is 21 metres long and 2.3 metres in diameter – fitting inside the 2.5 metre diameter brick sewer constructed in the 19th century.

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



The central section of the tunnel comprises around half of the 25km total – and was built using two giant tunnel boring machines (TBMs) named ‘Millicent’ and ‘Ursula’. Millicent completed a 5km drive to Fulham in 2019, while Ursula finished her drive to Bermondsey in early 2021.



LOCAL NEWS

THE PRINCESS ROYAL VISITS TIDEWAY’S SITE IN CHELSEA



London’s new super sewer was visited over the summer by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal as she delved deep below the River Thames to witness the progress made during the pandemic.

Hosted by the project’s CEO, Andy Mitchell, HRH was given the important task of fixing in the final bolt into the last penstock valve to be fitted at the site in Chelsea Embankment.

The Princess Royal, who has a keen interest in the engineering behind the project and has visited sites before, was shown how the section of the tunnel at Chelsea will connect into the sewerage network, providing a long-term solution to the city’s ever-increasingly populated city.

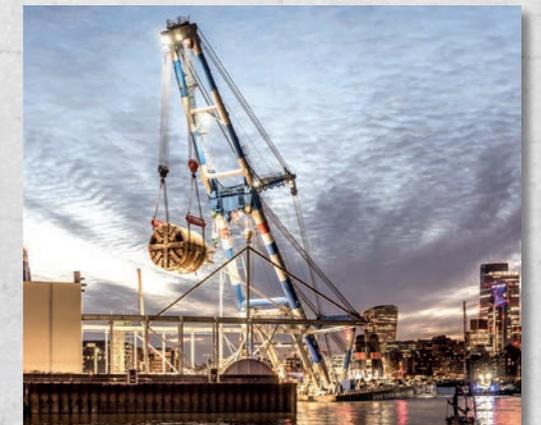
TBM URSULA LIFTED FROM SITE AFTER 7.6KM TUNNEL DRIVE

A giant floating crane was used to lift a 700-tonne tunnel boring machine from Tideway’s Chambers Wharf site in Bermondsey.

The machine, TBM Ursula, had finished its 7.6km tunnel drive from Kirtling Street in Nine Elms to Bermondsey.

The crane, the ‘Matador 3’, had travelled from Rotterdam for the manoeuvre, which first involved lifting Ursula from the bottom of a 60m-deep shaft.

Delivery Manager Jim Avant said: “This is another step towards a cleaner River Thames and is another huge milestone involving so many of our partners to ensure a successful and safe operation. The lifting and removal of TBM Ursula from site required months of detailed planning and collaboration across our teams.”



NEWS IN BRIEF



RIVER WALL TAKING SHAPE AT BLACKFRIARS

The new permanent river wall at Tideway's site at Blackfriars is beginning to take shape, with the engraved granite facade now visible from the bridge. The new land created in this area is to be named 'Bazalgette Embankment' after the Victorian engineer who designed London's existing sewer network.

WANDSWORTH GROUPS AWARDED SOCIAL GRANT

Charities and social enterprises in Wandsworth have been given a boost thanks to a community fund for the borough.

Tideway has awarded five organisations the grant, which will support a diverse range of social causes, including an initiative to promote healthier low-budget eating, distribution of surplus fruit and vegetables, and supporting young people through music.

For more information visit
www.tideway.london/news

TIDEWAY NEWS



NEW PUBLIC SPACE VISIBLE AS ROOF SLAB AT ALBERT COMPLETE

A roof slab that will eventually form part of the new public space at Albert Embankment, allowing the public to enjoy the Thames, has been completed.

The 'interception chamber' next to Vauxhall Bridge was topped with 27 tonnes of rebar (see above) and 139 cubic metres of concrete to form a 750mm-thick slab.

This slab will eventually be paved and become new public realm area within the tidal terrace (see below).



NEW FILM SHOWCASES PUBLIC ARTWORKS

Tideway's ambitious programme of public artwork is the subject of a new documentary film which premièred as part of the Totally Thames Festival in September.



While most of the new infrastructure being created as part of the super sewer project will live underground, Tideway has commissioned more than 50 works of art on surface level.

Some of these works are temporary murals exhibited on the hoardings surrounding the construction sites. Other works are permanent, and (along with the new public realm) will be the most visible legacy of the project once complete.

This new film, *Art on the Tideway*, offers the first detailed look at just some of the works, speaking to a number of artists working in mediums ranging from photography to bronze.

The short documentary film is available to view now on Tideway's YouTube channel:
youtube.com/tidewaylondon

SUPER SEWER SECONDARY LINING NEARS COMPLETION

Good progress is being made on the secondary lining on the super sewer between Kirtling Street in Battersea and Fulham.

The primary lining is comprised of concrete segments lifted into place by a tunnel boring machine; the secondary lining is cast in situ by giant moulds called 'shutters'.

This secondary lining provides added strength to the tunnel, and creates a smooth surface over which sewage will flow once the tunnel is operational.

Secondary lining for the entire central section of the tunnel (between Fulham and Bermondsey) is set to be completed within the next few months, marking a major milestone for the project and bringing London closer than ever to a cleaner River Thames.



GO BEHIND THE SCENES

Tunnel Vision is an ongoing web video series from Tideway that will take 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



CHLOE GRIFFIN

Business Administration Apprentice
Kirtling Street

What have you learned at Tideway?

I am new to the construction industry and had no idea how many people are involved behind the scenes working to complete the project. Starting during Covid and working from home was strange but my team has been so supportive, and I have learnt a huge amount, especially about how key communication is on such a large project like Tideway.

What have you enjoyed about being on Tideway?

I have enjoyed seeing the legacy that we are leaving behind and seeing more students, especially girls, thinking about careers in construction. It is great when we are arranging volunteering events with our local schools and communities and the different teams want to get involved – it really shows that everyone is working towards the same goal.

What are your aspirations for the future?

I look forward to finishing my apprenticeship and I would love to use all the skills that I have gained working with the Legacy and Heathwall team, to progress in the industry and continue to support leaving a legacy. It would be great to be able to travel the world doing this job!

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

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#SuperSewer



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