



Tideway Times

www.thameswater.co.uk/londontidewayimprovements

Winter 2010

Our conversation with the capital continues

Over the last few months, one thing has become extremely clear: there is a widespread consensus that the 39 million tonnes of sewage overflowing annually from London's sewers into the River Thames is unacceptable.

Having met many of them, I am personally very aware that it has also been a difficult period for people potentially directly affected by our initial plans to construct the Thames Tunnel.

It remains vitally important that we listen carefully to their views and amend our plans where possible.

Our immediate focus is to complete the phase one of our public consultation. We've extended our consultation period to ensure there's enough time for everyone to submit their views: the new deadline is 14 January at 5pm. Either go online or come our long to our closing exhibition (see opposite story for details).

When we have fully digested all the comments received during the phase one public consultation, we will produce a *Consultation Feedback Report*, and then issue a revised scheme for a second round of consultation next summer.

Throughout the process, we will be continuing our efforts to ensure the project causes minimum disruption and delivers value for money.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Phil Stride
Head of London Tideway Tunnels
Thames Water



Thames Tunnel: extra time to have your say

We have extended our 14-week public consultation on the Thames Tunnel by almost a month to give people more opportunity to have their say. The new closing date for comments is **Friday 14 January 2011 at 5pm.**

More than 4,000 people have attended exhibitions so far and 1,150 people have already submitted their feedback on our proposed routes and construction sites.

Our closing exhibition at City Hall also provides a last opportunity to meet the project team, find out more and crucially give your views.

13 and 14 December, 10am-8pm
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA

Richard Aylard said: "Feedback from this first round of public consultation is vital. Responses will be carefully considered and, where possible, we will amend our plans."

The proposed Thames Tunnel is a sewer up to 20 miles long, which will run from west to east London, up to 75 metres below ground, broadly following the route of the River Thames. It will collect the sewage currently discharged to the river from the 34 most polluting combined sewer overflows, before transferring it to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.



Thames Water's External Affairs and Sustainability Director, Richard Aylard listens to Cllr Stuart Thom at The Wetland Centre in Barnes (6 Dec).

The Thames Tunnel is urgently required to tackle the 39 million tonnes of sewage discharged into the River Thames each year, due to lack of capacity in the Victorian sewerage network.

Register your views by attending the final exhibition or by visiting the consultation website:
www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk

London Tideway Improvements
Creating a cleaner, healthier River Thames

Feedback helps shape our proposals

Community input into the Thames Tunnel proposals will identify community issues and help us achieve the best possible solution.

Since the consultation started in September, we have sent out 175,000 letters to potentially affected communities, staged over 20 local 'drop-in' exhibitions close to potential sites and attended over 40 other meetings.

The feedback we've received already during consultation has provided us with valuable information about the overall project and local areas.

A number of key topics have been raised during consultation including:

- the tunnel's design, such as its size and location
- how we selected our shortlisted and preferred sites
- potential construction impacts such as traffic, noise and subsidence
- possible odour impacts
- the cost of the project.

To help you give your feedback we've posted a list of frequently asked questions and our responses on our consultation website: www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk

Public feedback will be vital in helping us find the least disruptive and most cost effective route and sites so we are committed to listening very carefully to everyone's views, which is why we've extended the consultation.

Phil Stride, Head of London Tideway Tunnels, at Thames Water, said:

"Feedback indicates some people have only recently become aware of the consultation. That's why we've decided to give people more time to get their comments in to us.

"We are following up new information which has been provided by local people and will carefully consider all comments and suggestions. Where possible, we will amend our plans."

These revisions will form the basis of the second phase of public consultation which will take place in 2011 before we submit a planning application.



Anthony Paish fills out his feedback form at The Wetland Centre (18 Oct).



Thames Tunnel engineer, Allen Summerskill (right), talks with David Devons from the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators at the London Rowing Club (20 Nov).

London without Bazalgette

London Without Bazalgette is a new guided walk offering insights into how the Victorian's masterminded the capital's modern day sewerage network.

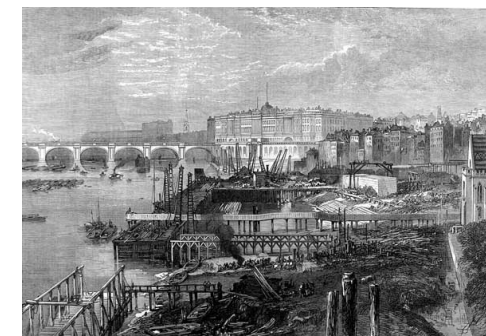
Designed by Mark Prescott, the walk covers key locations associated with Bazalgette's system and tells the story of this feat of Victorian engineering, and the events that inspired its construction.

There is also a complementary iPhone application available from iTunes that includes a podcast with Peter Bazalgette narrating the story of his great, great grandfather's foremost achievement.

The walks will be held on 8 and 9 January 2011 at 10am, 12pm and 2pm each day starting at the Bazalgette Memorial outside Embankment tube station.

Tickets are £8 plus a booking fee and are available at:

<http://bazalgette.eventbrite.com>



Studying the river's aquatic residents

Our aquatic ecologists have been out on the River Thames gathering baseline information to establish what fish and invertebrate are using the river and the size of their populations.

In October specialists surveyed the sites proposed for foreshore work and at some of the sites significant water quality improvements are anticipated as a result of the Thames Tunnel.

Thames Tunnel aquatic ecology manager, Tessa Harding said: "The surveys have provided valuable additional data for the environmental impact assessment as they focus specifically on combined sewer overflow locations.

"We are expecting to undertake a further round of targeted surveys in the spring to gather more information on fish spawning sites."

The team caught a number of trawl samples along the river then catalogued and measured the fish to determine their age before returning them to the river.

The fish survey recorded freshwater species such as bream, roach, dace and eel at the upper tideway sites and marine species, including smelt, common goby and flounder in the lower tideway.

Aquatic surveyor, Gavin Eaton said: "We were surprised at the numbers of smelt



Gavin Eaton and Martin Moore from the Thames Tunnel environmental team measure fish caught during a trawl sample.

we were catching throughout the tideway, particularly at Tideway Walk where there were 100 in a single trawl.

"There were large numbers of shrimp in some areas and neritid snails, which shows how much the Thames has improved over the years. However, we also found large numbers of non-native species such as Chinese mitten crab and zebra mussel, which is a concern, because they can damage habitats and exclude native species."

River Thames scoops global conservation prize

The Environment Agency has won the annual International Thies River Prize for the River Thames.

The Thames scooped the awards, which celebrates restored and well-managed rivers, thanks to its dramatic recovery from a biologically dead river to today's thriving waterway.

In the 1950s the Thames was declared biologically dead – now the river and its tributaries teem with fish, and with returning salmon, otter and sea trout populations.

The Thames was selected from hundreds of rivers across every continent and edged out three other finalists: the Yellow river in China, Hattah lakes in Australia and the Smirnykh rivers in Russia.

In the last five years there have been nearly 400 habitat enhancement projects and more than 40 miles of river has been restored or enhanced.

Richard Aylard, Thames Water's External Affairs and Sustainability Director, said: "Major investment at our sewage treatment works, paid for by our customers through their water bills, has greatly accelerated the clean up of the River Thames.

"There is now a much greater diversity of wildlife in the river but we need to maintain this progress in the face of population growth and climate change, and not slip back.

"Delivering our London Tideway Improvements programme is now essential to tackle the increasingly frequent overflows of sewage into the river."

The Environmental Agency plans to spend the prize money of £218,000 on further restoration work and a project to twin the Thames with a river in the developing world, which needs restoration.

Previous winners include the Danube, currently swamped by a toxic chemical spill, and the Mersey in Liverpool – the prize's first winner in 1999.



The Great Stink, 1858

Work ramps up on Lee Tunnel and Sewage Works Upgrades

Lawrence Gosden, Head of Capital Delivery at Thames Water gives an update on work in hand to help clean up the River Thames.



Our five major sewage treatment works in London certainly look different from when we started our £675 million upgrades earlier this year.

We have made significant progress at Mogden with the first phase of work almost complete. This has involved moving 450,000 tonnes of soil from the western embankment to make way for new sewage treatment equipment.

Retaining the soil on site has temporarily resulted in the embankment being higher than it will be when the work has finished. This has avoided the need for 750 lorry movements per day in and out of Mogden over the past three months. It has also reduced the overall length of the project by 16 months. The soil will gradually be used to fill around each new structure as it is built between 2011 and 2012.

We plan to replant the new embankment with native trees and hedgerows to create new habitats for wildlife in spring next year.

Meanwhile, on the Lee Tunnel, work has started on two of the four deep tunnel shafts needed for the project.

Construction of the outer walls for the overflow and pump shafts is a challenging task. The pump shaft will be the deepest ever built in London at a depth of 86m and diameter of 38m.

The Morgan Sindall, Vinci Construction Grands Projets and Bachy Soletanche (MVB) joint venture building the tunnel expect to complete construction of the overflow shaft's outer wall early next year. They will then dig out the material from inside the wall to form the shaft.

Site establishment work is also planned to start at Abbey Mills Pumping Station in early 2011.

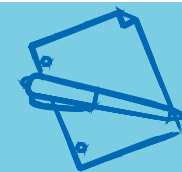
When construction is completed at the end of 2014, the Lee Tunnel will connect Abbey Mills combined sewer overflow to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.

The tunnel will capture 16 million tonnes of sewage that is currently discharged into the River Thames via its tributary the River Lee.



Preparatory works on the Lee Tunnel's pump shaft.

Thames Tunnel diary dates



13 Dec: Ranelagh Residents Association, Barnes

13-14 Dec: Public consultation exhibition, City Hall (10am - 8pm)

1 Feb: The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

14 Mar: Hillingdon Community Group

16 Mar: Forum for the Built Environment (London)

18 May: Clapham Society

Spring: Phase One Public Consultation Feedback Report

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