

# Thames Tideway Tunnel – Central Section

The Thames Tideway Tunnel is the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the UK water industry. It is essential to **tackling overflows from London's Victorian sewers into the Thames**, for at least the next 120 years. The programme will create over **4,000 sustainable jobs** and another **5,000 indirectly**. It will also offer hundreds of local apprenticeships and work placements, leaving **a lasting legacy in the heart of London**.



Bazalgette  
Tunnel



£1.2bn



2015  
– 2022



Design  
& Build

London’s sewerage system relies on a series of combined sewer overflows (CSO), designed to discharge into the Thames during heavy rainfall. This system discharges sewage into the river on a weekly basis, reaching over 55 million tonnes annually.

We are delivering the central section of the new sewer tunnel, working alongside two other Main Works Contractors in the west and east. Our scope includes discharging the development consent order duties and the design and construction of the new sewer tunnel. With a total length of 12.7km, the central tunnel will be driven using two purpose-built 8.86m diameter Earth Pressure Balance (EPB) Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), and will run up to 60m deep between Fulham and Blackfriars. The final internal diameter will be 7.2m with a secondary in-situ cast tunnel lining. In addition, the works include construction of eight CSOs and pumping stations, logistics, and soil disposal via the River Thames.

Collaboration is a key factor for successful delivery. We have established a Procurement Alliance, in collaboration with Thames Water, the different Main Works Contractors and the System Integrator, to ensure that a best-for-project approach is consistently followed. This effective approach to risk management and mitigation ensures that the project is delivered to the highest standards.



## ADDED VALUE

- Consistent approach to design optimisation and value engineering to reduce cost and improve programme efficiency
- Managing West and central use of the River Thames for transport and logistics to minimise movements by highway, including TBM sections delivered by river and 2.7million tonnes of TBM spoil removed
- The Legacy Programme will benefit the appearance of the Thames through formal commitments on five key themes: environment, health and safety, economy, people, and places
- Award winning Virtual Reality TBM training environment enables immersive H&S training prior to entering hazardous environment. Training time has reduced by 20% and near-misses by 10%
- Over 3,500 consents achieved seven months ahead of schedule

### NCE Tunnelling Awards 2021 winners

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Initiative, Tunnelling Team of the Year and Young Tunneller of the Year

“The Health, Safety and Wellbeing award is strong recognition of the team’s perseverance, resilience and focus on completing the most challenging of engineering activities safely. The Tunnelling Team of the Year award for SCL Self Delivery Team is a beacon of the engineering excellence that true collaboration can create. And for our Young Tunneller, Ignacio, what an outstanding recognition and one of many more to come, I am sure. I am very proud of what we have all achieved on Tideway so far- not only the engineering solutions, but the talent working across our project.”

**Juan Angel Martinez**

Project Director, Thames Tideway Tunnel – Central

**12.7km**

new sewer tunnel

**2× 8.86m**

diameter EPB TBMs

**8 shafts**

between 42 and 60m deep

**2<sup>nd</sup> deepest**

diaphragm walls in the UK  
at 86.5m

**9,000+ jobs**

created and 1,000+  
apprenticeships

**90% reduction**

in sewage-related litter  
entering the River Thames