Tideway

FACTSHEET

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 sewage spills into the Thames every year. Tideway is addressing this.

In the Autumn of 2024, the super sewer project began protecting the River Thames after eight years of construction. Storm flows (a mixture of sewage and rain) are now being diverted into the new infrastructure and away for treatment.

The Tideway team is working to 'activate' each site, with the project expected to be fully operational later this year, with a view to 'test' the system in real-life storm conditions in the coming months ahead of completion in the second half of 2025.

Capacity: 1.6m M³

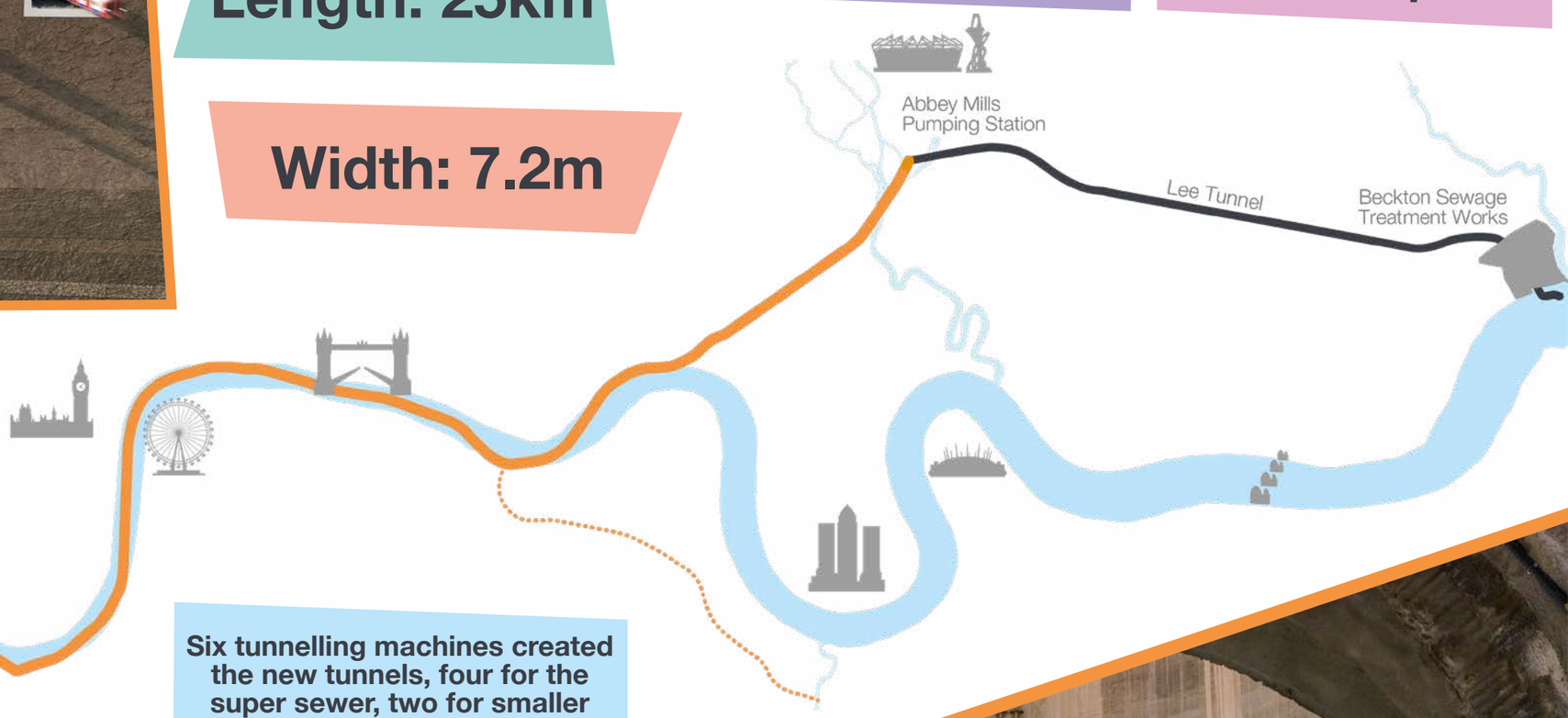
Cost: £4.5bn

Will reduce spills into the River Thames by 95% once complete

Length: 25km

Depth: 33m-67m

Width: 7.2m

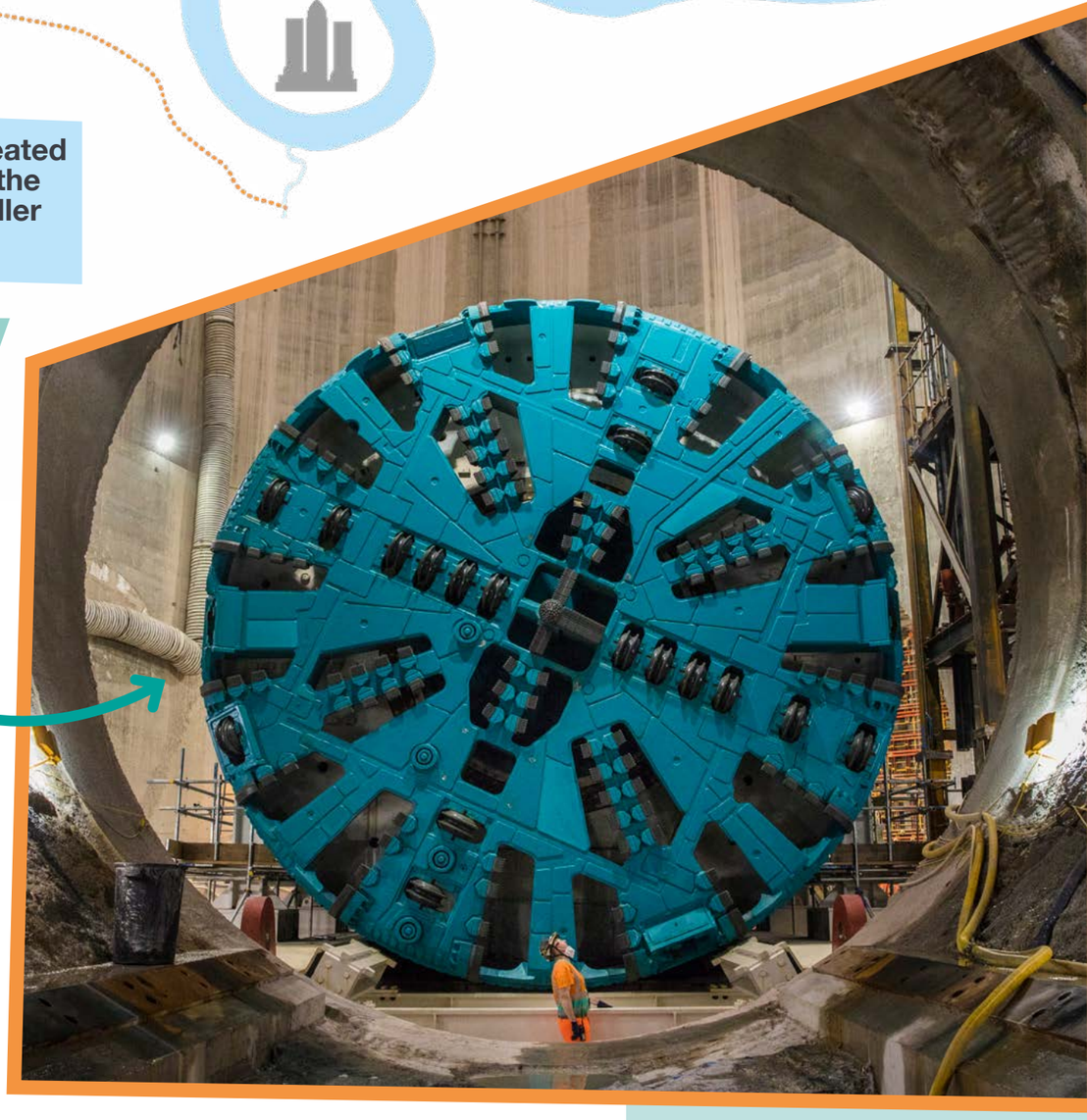


The new infrastructure captures spills before they overflow into the Thames – diverting them into the new super sewer and away to be treated

Six tunnelling machines created the new tunnels, four for the super sewer, two for smaller connection tunnels

Different machines were used to excavate a variety of ground conditions, including clay, gravels, and chalk

Each machine was named after and inspirational local women from history
(this is 'Selina')



More than 3.7m tonnes of spoil was excavated during tunnelling

In total, 21 deep shafts were built across London – some to launch tunnelling machines, some to divert storm flows

Once fully operational in 2025, the tunnel will virtually eliminate the harmful effects of sewage pollution on the River Thames

Species of fish are expected to thrive in the new, healthy river environment, as they have in the River Lee since the opening of the Lee Tunnel in 2016

Climate change and increased rainfall will mean the tunnel is used more frequently in the future, and it has been designed to last for at least the next 120 years

In total, Tideway moved 5.8m tonnes of spoil and construction material using barges on the Thames instead of lorries on the road

This reduced the number of HGVs needed by 344,000...

... and avoided 24,400 tonnes of CO^2!

... and prevented 17.5m HGV miles...

BONUS FACTS

Almost 25,000 people have worked on the Tideway project

Staff have volunteered over 33,000 hours to support communities

Tideway is creating three acres of new public space

More than 50 public artworks have been commissioned