The River Thames is not as clean as you might think.

Sewage from our overstretched sewer network is polluting the capital’s river, killing fish and threatening the health of river users.
Following our phase one consultation last year, we’ve revised our plans for the proposed Thames Tunnel.

Sewage discharge from Holloway Storm Relief sewer into the River Thames.
Ten reasons why London needs the Thames Tunnel

1. The River Thames has become an **environmental and public health hazard**. Sewage regularly overflows into the river from London’s Victorian sewerage system.

2. The current network of major sewers, founded 150 years ago, was designed for a city of four million people and is no longer big enough to meet the needs of modern day London. The city’s population is now approaching eight million.

3. In a typical year, the city’s sewers discharge **39 million cubic metres of untreated sewage** into the River Thames – enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall 450 times.

4. The discharges are the last significant source of pollution in the tidal River Thames. Mixed with rainwater, the sewage content of the discharges ranges from ten to 90 per cent, depending on conditions.

5. This pollution kills fish, damages wildlife and carries pathogens such as hepatitis A and faecal streptococci, which threaten human health. It’s a serious problem – and getting worse.

6. More frequent and intense storms, especially in summer, are adding to the problem, as is the loss of permeable surfaces able to soak up rainfall. As little as 2mm of rainfall can now trigger a sewage discharge.

7. Years of detailed analysis have concluded that the Thames Tunnel is a timely and cost-effective part of the solution. Alternative options would cost more, be more disruptive and would not achieve the environmental standards required.

8. British taxpayers would be at risk of having to fund hefty fines from the EU if the UK is confirmed to be in breach of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

9. Other world-leading cities, including Paris, Stockholm, Helsinki and Washington DC, are forging ahead with similar schemes.

10. A clean, healthy River Thames is essential for the prosperity and global reputation of Britain’s capital city. Future generations would never forgive us for failing to tackle this unacceptable problem.
Our revised proposals for the Thames Tunnel

The Thames Tunnel needs to capture sewage from the 34 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) discharging directly to the river that the Environment Agency has identified as the most polluting.

Running approximately 25 kilometres long for our preferred route, the tunnel needs to intercept the CSO discharges and transfer them to our Beckton Sewage Treatment Works. It would broadly follow the route of the river from west to east, up to 67 metres below ground.

Our first phase of public consultation on the proposals for the Thames Tunnel asked for your comments on our proposed routes and sites. We have been listening to you and have made some important and significant changes to our plans. This has resulted in a refined and redesigned scheme to further minimise disruption.

Our second phase of consultation will run for 14 weeks from 4 November 2011 to 10 February 2012. Our aim is to provide everyone potentially affected with ample opportunity to understand and influence the further development of the project.

Cost
As the construction and the ongoing operation of the Thames Tunnel will be paid for by you, our customers, it is important to tell you how much it will cost and what this will mean for your bills.

Ofwat, the water industry’s independent economic regulator, will scrutinise all aspects of the project to ensure costs are kept as low as possible. The updated estimate for the capital cost of the project is £4.1bn, expressed in 2011 prices. The project will not have any impact on bills before 2013 at the earliest. The maximum impact is likely to come a few years later and is estimated to be in the range £70-80 per year, again expressed in 2011 prices.

This means that our average wastewater charges, which have for many years been among the lowest in the country, would rise to around the national average.

Timing
13 September 2010 – 14 January 2011:
Phase one consultation
4 November 2011 – 10 February 2012:
Phase two consultation
Late 2012: Our target date for submitting our application for planning consent
2016: Provisional start of construction period (duration is expected to be six to seven years).

Have your say
Go to: www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk or drop-in to one of our local exhibitions near possible construction sites and at other events. Keep an eye on our website and local press for up-to-date details.

Any questions?
Email: thames.tunnel@thameswater.co.uk
Call: 0800 0721 086
Or write to us at: Thames Tunnel Consultation, Thames Water Utilities, Freepost SCE 9923, PO BOX 522, Swindon SN2 8LA

Key
- Preferred site
- Main tunnel
- Connection tunnels
- Lee Tunnel (under construction)

1. Acton Storm Tanks
2. Hammersmith Pumping Station
3. Barn Elms
4. Putney Bridge Foreshore
5. Dormay Street
6. King George’s Park
7. Carnwath Road Riverside (main tunnel drive site)
8. Falconbrook Pumping Station
9. Cremorne Wharf Depot
10. Chelsea Embankment Foreshore
11. Kirtling Street (main tunnel drive site)
12. Heathwall Pumping Station
13. Albert Embankment Foreshore
14. Victoria Embankment Foreshore
15. Blackfriars Bridge Foreshore
16. Shad Thames Pumping Station
17. Chambers Wharf (main tunnel drive site)
18. Earl Pumping Station
19. Deptford Church Street
20. Greenwich Pumping Station
21. King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore
22. Beckton Borough Street
23. Abbey Mills Pumping Station
24. Beckton Sewage Treatment Works