

# RIVER THAMES [LDN]

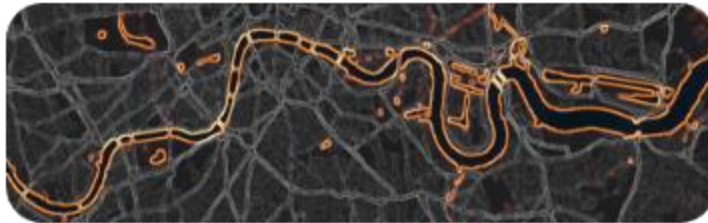
WATER QUALITY, STORMS AND HUMAN SEWAGE

SCAN QR CODE  
FOR TIDEWAY  
TUNNEL  
PROJECT  
OVERVIEW



## THE PAST

- 1800's - River Thames dubbed **an open sewer** for the London's 2 million residents
- 1852 - **banned** as drinking water source due to **cholera epidemics**
- Queen Victoria wrote how they felt **"poisoned by the dreadful smell of the Thames"**
- Construction of **new** brick sewage network and pumping stations **1855**



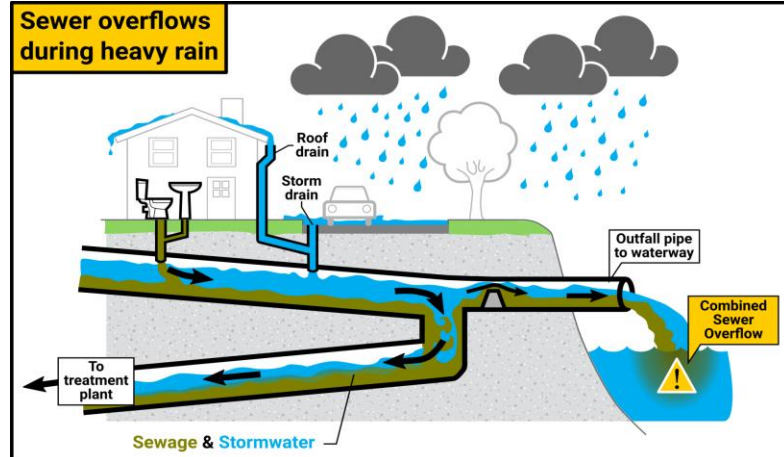
## THE FUTURE

- Competition of the London Tideway tunnel **#SuperSewer** due 2025
- **£5 billion investment** - 25km long, 7.2m diameter – one of **Europe's largest** underground tunnels
- Designed to hold and direct storm water and sewage to **new and improved** water treatment plants
- **Massively reduce** raw sewage entering the Thames
- **Massively improve** River Thames water quality for recreational users and wildlife
- **Protect and enhance** the Thames for the next **100 years**

## THE PRESENT ERA

- London's population now almost **9 million**
- Improvements made to sewage network but still uses a lot of **old infrastructure** that was built for a population of 2-4 million
- River quality ecology and quality has **improved**; but
- During storms, **raw sewage** discharged into the river over 300,000 times in 2022
- Sewage network **needing huge investment** with construction work underway

## The current situation - why sewage enters the Thames



All data  
referenced in  
handout