

2013 SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 1st May - 5:30pm

Room 401

Bartlett School of Planning - UCL

*Ian Fletcher**

Planning Projects Manager, Thames Tideway Tunnel

The Thames Tideway Tunnel: Delivering 21st Century Wastewater Infrastructure for London

Running from Acton in west London to Abbey Mills Pumping Station in east London, the proposed Thames Tideway Tunnel is a deep storage and transfer tunnel aimed at increasing the capacity of London's 150-year old sewerage system.

Currently, sewage discharges into the River Thames via combined sewer overflows (CSOs), on average 50 times a year from the overloaded system. That's enough sewage to fill the Royal Albert Hall 450 times.

The Thames Tideway Tunnel will address this by capturing the overflows from 34 of the most polluting CSOs in London, as identified by the Environment Agency. The sewage would then be transferred to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, via the Lee Tunnel (currently under construction).

The main tunnel will be approximately 25km long and have an internal diameter of 7.2m. It will broadly follow the route of the River Thames, starting at a depth of 30m and descending to 70m. The proposed construction will take place on 24 preferred sites across 14 London boroughs.

Once constructed, the system is expected to reduce to number of overflows to a maximum of four times a year. It would also allow the UK to comply with the EU's Urban Waste Water Directive whilst ensuring London remains a world-class city, business centre and tourist destination.

The entire project is expected to take between six and seven years to complete and cost an estimated £4.1 billion (2011 prices, excluding inflation).

** Ian Fletcher is a chartered town planner with more than 20 years experience in local government, planning consultancy and on the client side. He joined Thames Water in November 2008 and in his first week working for them the Planning Act 2008 received royal assent. Since then he has specialised in the promotion of projects under the processes set out in the 2008 Act, first on the Upper Thames Reservoir and since May 2009 the Thames Tideway Tunnel. His role on the Thames Tideway Tunnel relates to strategic planning matters and he has been involved in establishing the planning policy context including the Waste Water National Policy Statement, the route to consent and safeguarding, amongst other strategic issues. Ian is also a member of the NIPA board.*

All are welcome and participation is free.

Further details about the OMEGA Seminar Programme can be found on the OMEGA Centre's web site (<http://www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/outputs/seminar2.php>).

For enquiries and to join the mailing list, please contact Marco Dean marco.dean.11@ucl.ac.uk.