

Counters Creek Storm Sewer Flooding Alleviation Scheme - Background

The sewer network we operate today is under increasing pressure from climate change, population growth and the paving over of green spaces which provide natural drainage.

Many areas of London have been developed with separate sewers to take foul and rainwater. In much of inner London and some other urban areas the sewer system has always been combined meaning that foul sewage from kitchens and toilets mixes with rainfall.

Sewer flooding is one of the worst experiences our customers can face. It causes social, economic and environmental impacts to residents, businesses and communities.

Counters Creek was originally a small stream that flowed from Kensall Green in a southerly direction through Little Wormwood Scrubs, North Kensington, Earls Court the between Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge and Brompton Cemetery into Chelsea Creek where it flows into the River Thames beside Lots Road Power Station. It formed an important part of the natural drainage in the area. Rainwater would find its way into the Creek and be carried down into the Thames.

Heavy rainfall in July 2007 caused widespread sewer flooding in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea. A number of properties also flooded during storms in 2004 and 2005 with some residents reporting sewer flooding up to six times in recent years.

At Phase 2 of our public consultation for the proposed storm relief sewer our preferred associated construction sites were as follows:

- 1 – Cremorne Wharf Depot, Lots Road, Chelsea
- 2 – Land adjacent to Talgarth Road and Trevanion Road, Hammersmith
- 3 - Maclise Road car park and woodland, adjacent to Kensington Olympia
- 4 – A section of the car park at Tesco Superstore, Shepherd's Bush Road
- 5 – Holland Villas Road at its junction with Lower Addison Gardens

The planning application for the storm relief sewer and associated construction sites will now not be submitted.

Since 2007, 1,300 FLIP devices (see accompanying letter) have been installed in the Counters Creek catchment area to provide residents with flood protection.

We have also developed, in partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea three SuDS pilots which won a Green Apple Award from the Green Organisation in 2017

Survey and installation work is now underway to provide further flood protection to remaining properties through FLIPs

We will continue to investigate what future resilience is required for the local sewer network taking into account population growth, development, urban creep and climate change