Tunnel vision

Tunnel boring machines Helen and Amy are making good progress

Helen and Amy, the Northern Line Extension’s (NLE’s) two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are off to a good start with 170 rings under their belts so far.

As the 100 metre long tunnelling machines advance on their journey from Battersea, nearly 20,000 precast concrete segments will be put in place to form almost 4,000 rings, which will line the tunnels. The machines have a 3.2km journey to extend the line from Kennington to Battersea.

In March, we launched the first of the TBMs, Helen, with Amy following in April. The launch followed a traditional blessing of both TBMs and a statue of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of tunnellers and miners, at the tunnel entrance.

Exchanging places in Nine Elms

As part of our commitment to the safety of cyclists, we recently teamed up with the Metropolitan Police Service, Battersea developers, McGee, and Have Bike to deliver the Nine Elms Exchanging Places event. Cyclists were able to experience the road from HGV, bus and coach drivers’ vantage points, and vice versa.

By swapping roles each person is able to understand the dangers presented in order to truly appreciate other road users and be able to navigate the roads safely.

NLE community visits

The NLE opened its doors to the local community in May, to give them insight into the people and roles needed for a major project.

We recently hosted students from the Thiruvalluvar Tamil School at the Battersea Power Station site. The visitors, aged between five and 18, met people who work in a range of roles across the project, including engineers, environmentalists and project managers.

This visit was part of the NLE’s commitment to promote the construction industry and raise awareness of the range of career paths available.
Site updates

Kennington

We are building two permanent shafts at Kennington Park and Kennington Green to provide ventilation, cooling and emergency access to the tunnels.

Construction work to connect the existing sections of tunnel at Kennington Green and Park to the new NLE is going well. This part of the tunnelling uses traditional methods with hand held machinery, such as clay spades.

Work over the next three months includes:
- Tunnelling on the step plate junction
- Waterproofing and lining the new tunnels

Nine Elms

We are building a new Tube station at Nine Elms on Pascal Street adjacent to Wandsworth Road.

In the last quarter we continued to construct the station box at Nine Elms and have now excavated two levels down.

Work over the next three months includes:
- Excavating the station box further
- Installing precast beams and concrete works in the excavated sections of the station box

Safety advice
Residents are reminded not to walk along the hoarding line on Wandsworth Road as it is dangerous. We have put up signs to show the safe walking routes and are working to install a segregated footway next to the hoardings.

Battersea Power Station

We are building a new Tube station next to Battersea Park Road and the Battersea Power Station development. It will be called ‘Battersea Power Station’.

Our TBM have been tunnelling from Battersea Power Station since March. The excavated material from the tunnels is removed using a conveyor and taken to Goshems Farm in Essex by barge, significantly reducing the number of lorries on the road.

Work over the next three months includes:
- Breaking down the diaphragm wall around the station box. As this is likely to generate some noise on site, it will be carried out during core hours (08:00 to 18:00)
- Further excavation of the ticket hall
- Continuing the reinforced concrete works on the station roof

Working hours for tunnelling and surface tunnel support are now 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We do everything we can to minimise night-time noisy works.

For enquiries about construction and anything relating to the project, please contact the 24/7 NLE helpline on 0343 222 2424.
Making NLE the green line
The project marks Social Sustainability Week and World Environment Week

The NLE has been raising awareness of environmental issues, as part of NLE Social Sustainability Week in March and World Environment Week in June.

The NLE’s Social Sustainability Week focused on the following commitments:

- Working with our local communities and stakeholders
- Attracting future generations into the industry
- Caring for the environment
- Attracting and retaining employees

During the week the NLE held a range of events and initiatives, including on-site workshops about equality, respect and diversity, tree planting and a litter pick in Kennington Park. We also delivered ten boxes filled with donations to St Mungo’s, a local charity that will distribute these goods to homeless people in the community.

The theme for this year’s World Environment Week was ‘Connecting People with Nature’. The project team celebrated the week with a packed schedule of events, including talks, quizzes and a photography competition. We invited speakers in from the local community, including Trees for Cities, EcoSulis and Historic England.

We worked with BeeUrban in Kennington Park to give NLE staff the opportunity to become a bee keeper in their lunchbreak. Attendees got their beekeeping suits on, learnt about bees and how honey is made, as well as sampling the honey made in Zone 2. All donations from this event went to BeeUrban. For more information, please go to: www.beeurban.org.uk
Community Liaison Groups

The following Community Liaison Groups meet regularly to provide residents, businesses and Councillors with an opportunity to find out more about the NLE project:

- Kennington Park and Newington
- Kennington Green
- Nine Elms and Oval
- Battersea Power Station
- Core Group – an overall liaison group that considers route-wide issues

All residents are welcome. You can see presentations, minutes and details of upcoming meetings on our website, tfl.gov.uk/northern-line-extension.

Stay in touch

To find out more or to register for updates, visit tfl.gov.uk/northern-line-extension.

We run regular ‘drop in’ sessions at all sites. Dates and locations will be on the website, community notice boards and emailed to those who have registered.

You can also email the project team at nle@tfl.gov.uk or call our helpdesk on 0343 222 2424 (Option 1).

Transforming the Northern line

The extension includes 3.2km of two new tunnels connecting to the existing Northern line at Kennington and two new Underground stations at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station.

It is part of a massive investment programme to transform the Northern line which includes:

- A signalling upgrade – this has already achieved a 20 per cent increase in capacity through central London
- More frequent trains following the signalling upgrade
- Rebuilding Tube stations that are critical to improving capacity and supporting regeneration. These include Tottenham Court Road, Bank, Camden Town and Elephant & Castle

Timeline

- 2014: Transport and Works Act Order decision
- 2015: Main works start
- 2016: Tunnel boring machines arrive on site
- 2017: Tunnelling complete
- 2018: Station fit-out
- 2019: Testing and commissioning
- 2020: Extension targeted for completion