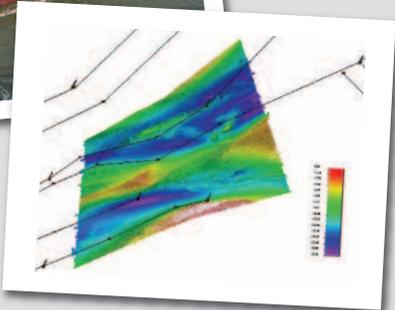
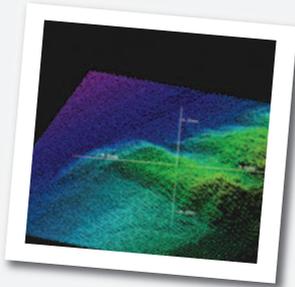


PLA'S THAMES SEDIMENT TRANSPORT PROJECT



Introducing a new project for the PLA

At the PLA we are reviewing the last three decades' of data across the Thames Tideway, to identify trends in movement on material, contours and critical depths, to provide us with a new 'baseline' to work from. The river Thames and the river bed are dynamic; changing activities and developments mean the river regime is continually being altered. Through this project we will be able to identify any significant changes in depths and contours at critical sites for navigation, heritage and conservation in order to carry out our duties under the Port of London Act.



It's a big job, but someone has to do it!

This is a staged project. We will be starting by looking at the estuary as a whole, then we will split the river based on its sedimentary characteristics to look at each stretch in more detail, and finally we will look at trends at critical sites identified during the study or those identified. We believe this is the most objective way to carry out the work.

We have not reviewed all our data together in this way for some time,

and we are hoping that it will help us to continue to manage the river in a sustainable way. It should enable us to only dredge when absolutely necessary, have a clearer understanding of the underlying features of the Thames, its trends and continue to provide pilots and vessel skippers with crucial data.

We are doing it ourselves to capitalise on the wealth of in-house knowledge, strengthen our confidence in the management of the river, to increase efficiency and to keep costs to a minimum. We will be peer reviewing any reports we produce to further maintain the objectivity of the findings.

Why we are telling you

While it is our responsibility to manage the conservancy of the Thames, we are aware of local issues arising for stakeholders due to sediment movement. In the later phases of the project, in 2013-2014, we will therefore be inviting stakeholders to get involved in the local issues. In the meantime we will be keeping you up to date with the work we are doing via our website, mail outs, stakeholder meetings and Thames Estuary Partnership.

<http://www.pla.co.uk/sedimentproject>