

THE
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

SPOTLIGHT
ON
Office of Works

Key Stages 3-5 | Victorians 1850 - 1901
Video resource



Published March 10. 1862. by B.R. Davies, 16 George Street, Easton Square, & E. Stanford, 6 Charing Cross

Also the proposed South Embankment and

Spotlight On: Office of Works

We hope you enjoyed watching our Education Service video with Christopher Day Modern Domestic Records Specialist looking at records from the Office of Works, WORK. This video focusses on two plans concerning the development of the Thames embankment and the construction of the sewer system in the mid nineteenth century.

Suitable for:

KS 3-5

Time period:

Victorians

1850 - 1901

Watch the video then try and answer the following questions:

- When did the office of works begin as a government department?
- What type of building plans would you expect to find in the early days of the office of works?
- By the eighteen and nineteenth centuries what public building plans can be found in this collection?
- Why do you think these types of plans are useful for finding out about the past?

Plans: WORK 38/89-108

- What is the date of this map of the redevelopment of the Thames embankment?
- What does the map show?
- Why has the map been coloured green, pink and yellow in different areas by officials?
- What does the second 'close-up' document show us?
- Give two reasons why these plans were produced.
- How did Joseph Bazalgette develop plans for London's sewage system?
- Can you give three reasons why the plan to develop London's sewers took longer than expected?
- What was the total cost of the project?
- How do you think the new sewer system improved health in the city of London?
- How has Joseph Bazalgette been commemorated?
- What other types of sources are used in this video to give context to the plans discussed by our specialist?

Proposed Thames Embankment 1862

Catalogue Ref: WORK 38/99



WORKS 38/99 PROPOSED THAMES EMBANKMENT AS RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT.

WORKS 38/99 PROPOSED THAMES EMBANKMENT AS RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT.

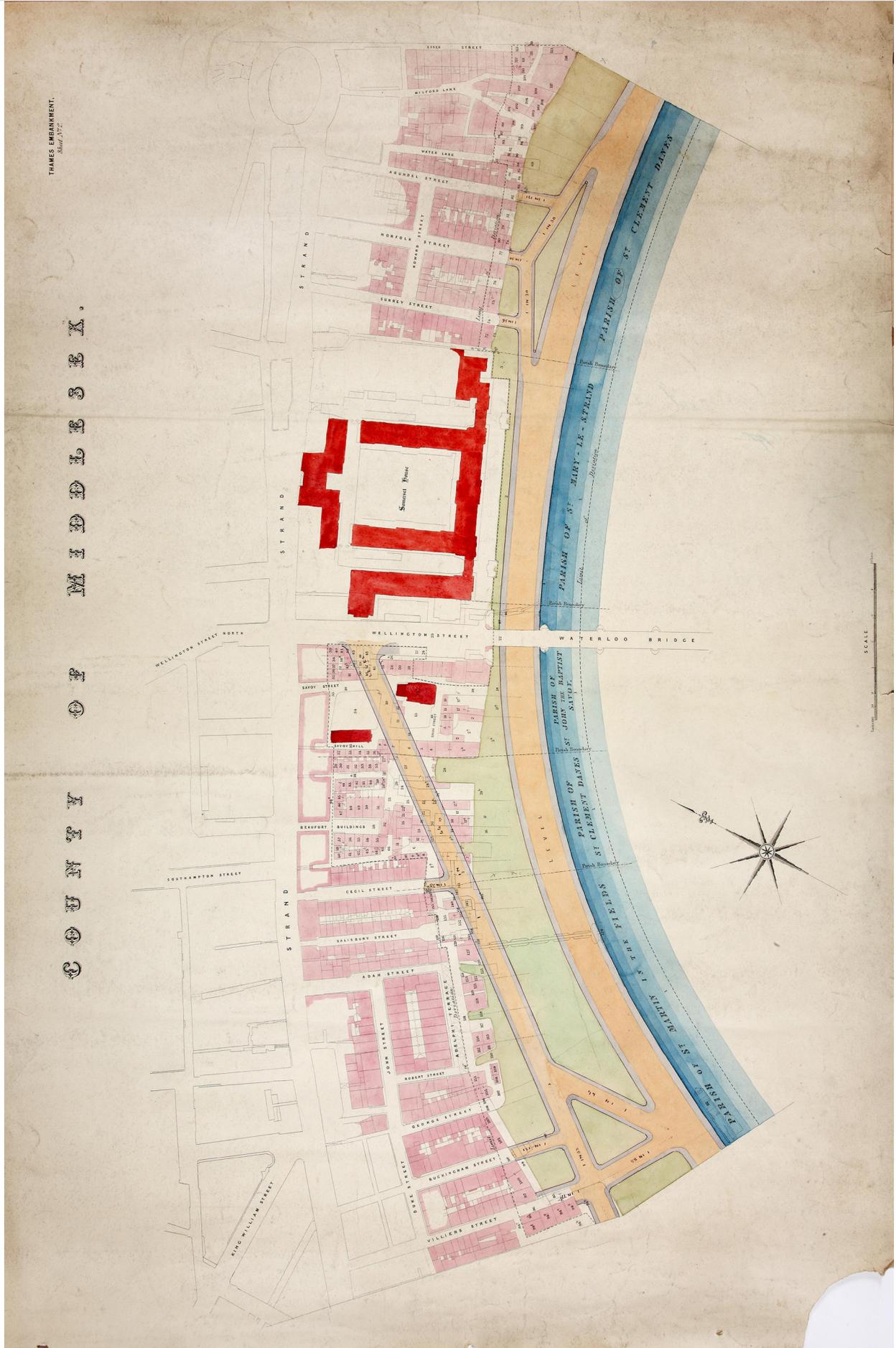
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WORKS 38/99

Also the proposed South Embankment and other suggested improvements

Drawn & Engraved from Historic Documents by
B. R. DAVIES,
46 George St. Easton Square.

Thames Embankment Waterloo Bridge

Catalogue Ref: WORK 38/104 (2)



Connections to Curriculum

Key stage 4

AQA GCSE History

- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day

Edexcel GCSE History

- c1700 - c1900: Medicine in eighteenth and nineteenth century Britain

OCR GCSE History

- The People's Health, c.1250 to present

Key stage 5

Edexcel GCE History

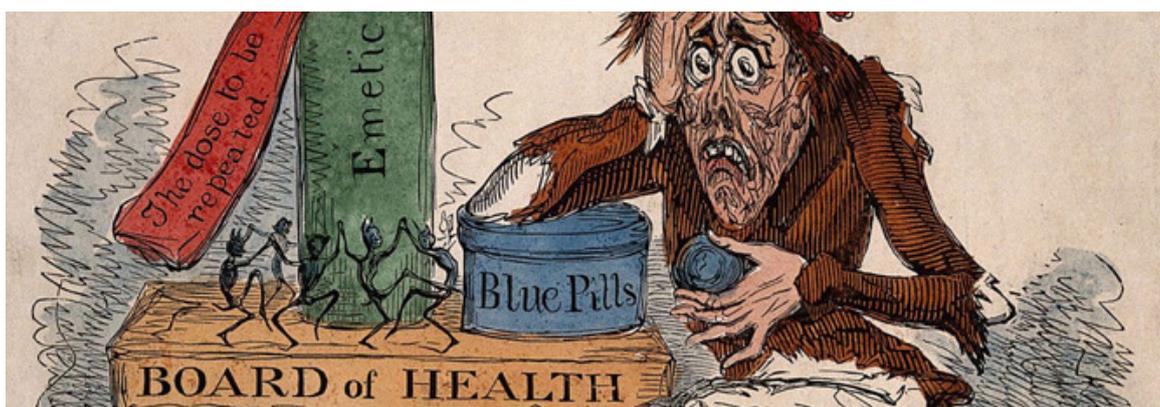
- Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780 - 1939:
 - 2. Changes in Public Health - The impact of the work of individuals in improving public health, c1780 - 1939: Joseph Bazalgette

Related resources



Victorian Industrial Towns

What made them unhealthy?



Coping with Cholera

How did the authorities react in 19th century?



Victorian Health Reform

How did the Victorians view compulsory vaccination?



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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