

Transport for London's Guide to Light Freight Trials by Water



The purpose of this document

This document provides information for organisations considering light freight trials at Transport for London's (TfL) piers.

The opportunity

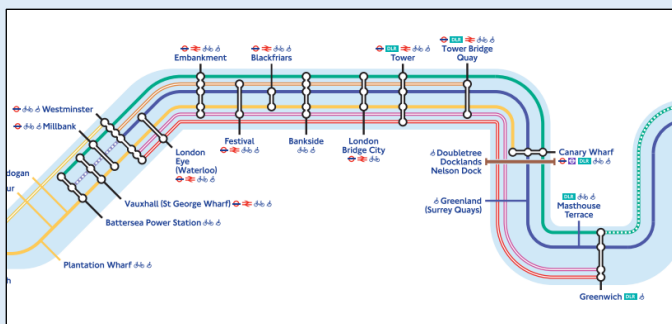
TfL owns and operates eight piers on the River Thames. The piers primarily facilitate passenger services during peak periods of the day. However, off peak, the piers present an opportunity for light freight operations given their location and connectivity to London's central commercial and residential hubs. We operate the following piers:



- Tower Millennium Pier
- Greenwich Pier
- Blackfriars Pier
- Millbank Pier
- Embankment Pier
- Westminster Pier
- Festival Pier
- Bankside Pier

Support for light freight on the river

The movement of light freight on London's Passenger piers is well supported by The Mayor's Transport Strategy and the London Passenger Piers Strategy. These strategies promote moving freight onto water to improve air quality, reduce congestion and free up space on the road network. In addition, TfL's under-utilised pier space could be used for deliveries and other commercial activity.



Trials and pilots

Moving light freight by river offers a cleaner and more efficient method to transport goods. Successful trials at TfL's piers have demonstrated that light freight delivered to piers can provide sustainability, reliability and efficiency benefits.



In addition to working with boroughs, TfL is keen to work with operators on future trials and have several piers, berths and timeslots that could work for light freight and servicing operations.



Showcase: DHL runs a daily parcel service between Wandsworth Pier and TfL's Bankside Pier. A combination of electric vans, a river vessel and cargo bikes carry packages into central London.

Supporting information and guidance

Interest in light freight by water has driven the development of several documents that provide useful information and guidance to operators. These include:

- Cross River Partnership's 'Thames freight infrastructure, design guidelines for piers'
- TfL's 'Cargo bike action plan'
- Cross River Partnership's 'Getting started with river freight'
- Logistics UK's 'Light freight on the Thames'

Working collaboratively

TfL works closely with other organisations that can provide support when considering light freight initiatives on the river:

- The Port of London Authority is the custodian of the tidal Thames and oversee all activity on the Thames.
- Cross River Partnership supports organisations to deliver light freight trials, providing knowledge and experience.
- Thames Estuary Growth Board's aim is to initiate growth on the Thames by enabling opportunity.

TfL will work closely and openly with operators during trials, respecting priorities and commercial sensitivities.

Key considerations when planning a trial

Gathering information, sound planning and early engagement with stakeholders are key to making light freight trials a success. Things to consider include:

- Pier location – which pier is best located for the operation?
- Pier access – can cargo bikes, other delivery vehicles or mobile storage units easily access the pier or are there local access limitations for certain vehicle types?
- Pier facilities – is a sorting location required, can cargo bikes safely access the pontoon for loading, is there suitable space on the pontoon for handing and loading?
- Hours of operation – does the light freight activity clash with passenger or other operations on the pier?

TfL can guide operators with all of these considerations and the necessary permissions required to run a trial at a TfL pier.

Approaching TfL for a trial

If you are considering a trial, we recommend that you contact TfL early to discuss an opportunity. For further information and assistance regarding light freight trials at TfL's piers please email us at river@tfl.gov.uk

