

RIVER FREIGHT TERMINOLOGY



Downstream / Upstream

Downstream is going down the Thames (Eastwards) towards the sea and upstream the opposite direction (Westwards) going up the river towards the source of the Thames near Cirencester.



Berth

The water area, at the waterfront edge of a dock, reserved for a ship.



Brow

The proper term for what is often called the "gangway". The hinged part of a landing craft or ferry which is lowered to form a temporary landing platform / a ramp.



Pier

A man-made raised structure which comes out from the shore above the water level, allowing ships to load and unload in the deeper water further out. A pier does not disturb the current or tide due to its open structure.



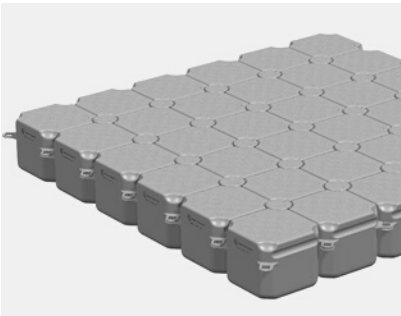
Jetty

A structure, raised like a platform, built out from the land into the water as a landing place for boats or as protection from waves.



Quay

A platform constructed using concrete, stone, or metal along a riverbank or coastline to allow ships to dock parallel to the shore.



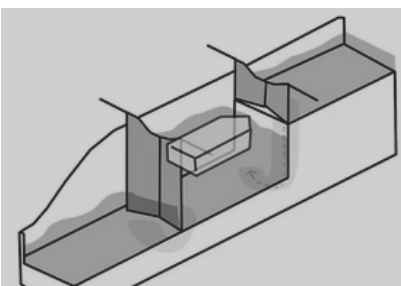
Pontoon

Pontoons (also called floats) are airtight hollow structures, designed to provide buoyancy in water. Their principal applications are in floating piers, marine engineering applications such as salvage, as well as to support bridges, or where a temporary or mobile structure is required.



Wharf

A man-made structure on a river or by the sea, which provides an area for ships to safely dock. A Wharf can contain quays and piers and is for the commercial unloading and loading of boats.



Lock

A length of water with gates at each end where the level of water can be changed to allow boats to be raised or lowered to move between parts of a canal or river that are at different heights.



Dolphin

A man-made semi submerged maritime structure, usually installed to provide a fixed structure for temporary mooring, to prevent ships from drifting to shallow water or to serve as base for navigational aids.



LoLo (Lift on/Lift off)

A way to load and unload a boat which may require a crane or people to carry freight off the vessel. Most Thames freight would be LoLo.



RoRo (Roll on/Roll off)

The way that the boat is unloaded, where vehicles already carrying the cargo are driven on and off a vessel.



CoCo (Carry on/Carry off)

A way to load and unload a boat by manual handling and carrying light freight by hand.