

London Light Freight Walking Trial

Delivering to Fitzrovia's businesses by low-emission e-walker



Picture credit: CRP

CRP worked with [The Fitzrovia Partnership](#), [London Borough of Camden](#), [UPS](#) and [Heal's](#) to bring the London Light Freight Walking Trial to life. The trial serves the next day delivery market and will reduce emissions and congestion on the streets of Fitzrovia. UPS is serving customers in the Fitzrovia area using the electric-assisted walker, developed by Fernhay.

The economic benefits of walking freight are estimated to be at least £37 million per year, due to decongestion, decarbonisation, improved air quality, minimise noise pollution and reduced road wear.

Why Walking Freight?

Walking freight is a mode of logistics where foot-based porters play a key role in deliveries and collections. See examples below.

Certain goods are more suitable for delivery by walking freight than others. CRP's research has indicated that letters, as well as small consumer goods and personal deliveries, are well suited to being transported on foot as they are light and small, easily handled by porters. Overall kilometres travelled by light goods vehicles (LGVs) could be reduced by up to 0.4% across Greater London (i.e. one in every 250 kilometres) if walking freight was expanded to its full potential in the CAZ (Central Activities Zone). ([CRP's Walking Freight Feasibility Study, May 2022](#)).

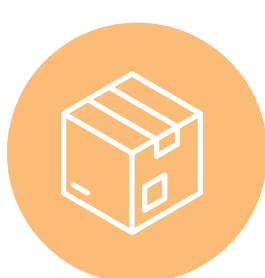


Picture credit: CRP

Impacts

"We are continuing to expand our alternative fuel fleet as we work towards reducing emissions per package. We are excited to introduce the electric-assisted walkers, developed by Fernhay, to the streets of Fitzrovia as part of our efforts to serve our customers in urban areas in a more sustainable way."

Artur Drenk, International Sustainability Director, UPS



Volume capacity of e-walker: 1.54m³



40 deliveries per journey



Delivering for a minimum of 4 hours per day in Fitzrovia



Improving local congestion

How to find a space

For the trial to take place, a suitable space needed to be identified in The Fitzrovia Partnership area where the e-walker could be stored and operated from. The space had to be:

- Secured and covered, with easy access as traditional delivery vehicles need to offload the volume to fill the e-walker.
- Fitted with electricity, as the e-walker needs to be charged overnight with a standard plug socket (the batteries in the e-walker have a 2.5kW capacity).
- 1-2 car parking spaces. For an underground car park, the space had to have height, as the e-walker is 1.60m in height.

Following several weeks of research, CRP identified the Heal's Car Park, Torrington Place, as a suitable location to store the e-walker. This was facilitated by the Fitzrovia Partnership Sustainability Forum, where local businesses were encouraged to engage on topics relating to sustainability in the area.

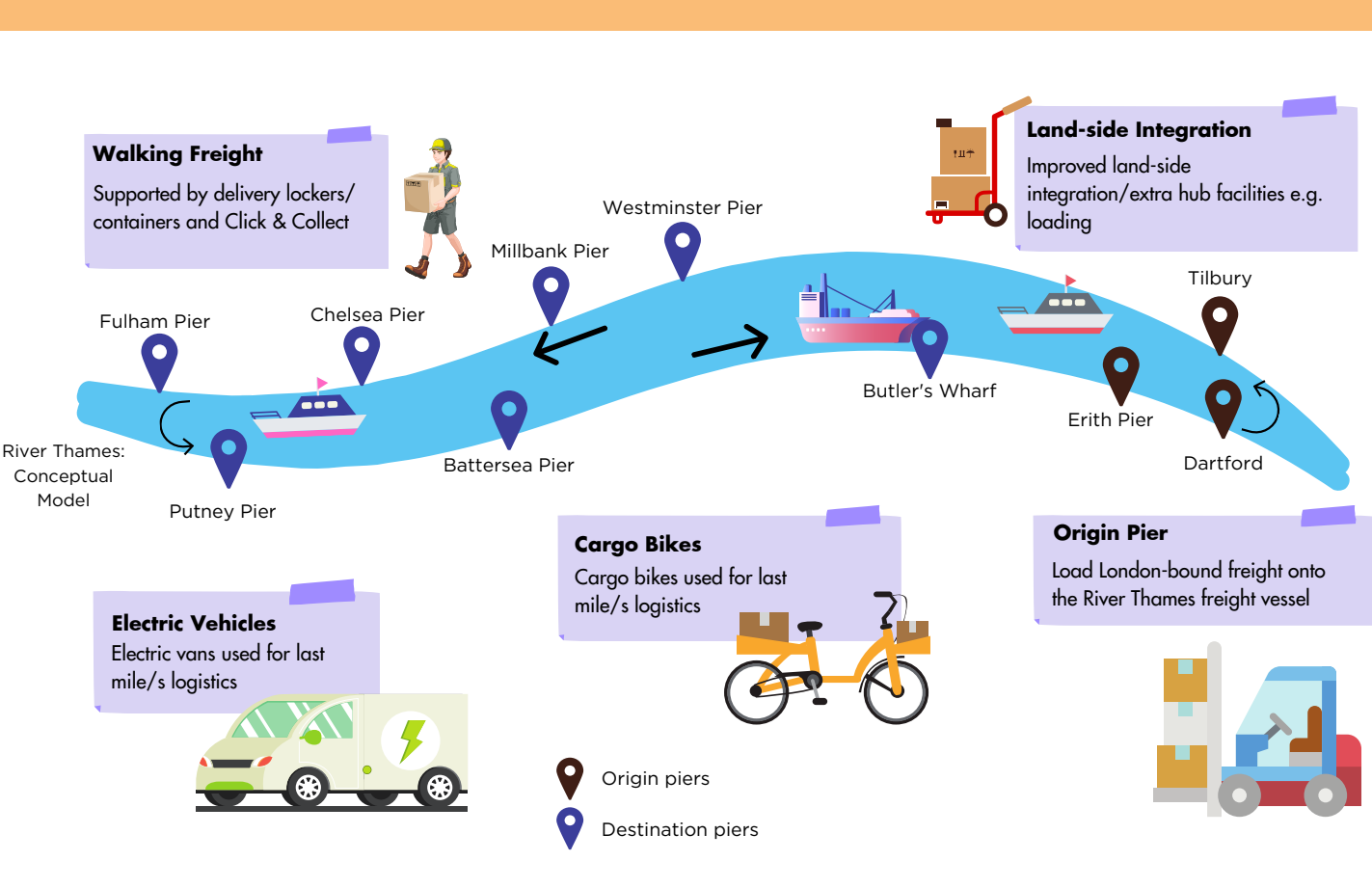
This site offered secure, off-street, covered parking with an electricity source to charge the e-walker. Additionally, the central location enables the e-walker operator to meet the package car driver at a designated time, where all packages are loaded onto the e-walker.

CRP will be monitoring the impacts of the trial with UPS's data from the pilot. We want to prove walking freight as a model and encourage more logistics operators to look into walking freight feasibility.

What is Clean Air Logistics for London?

Cross River Partnership's Clean Air Logistics for London Programme (CALL) is a Defra-funded project led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 12 project partners. The project aims to move more freight into London via river rather than road, supported by zero emission delivery methods in Central London. CALL will build on the success of CRP's [Clean Air Villages 4](#) programme.

The CALL project will expand river freight in London, reducing both congestion and pollution at the same time. A lack of light freight being moved by river has been highlighted and investment in infrastructure is required to increase the viability of this. CALL locations have been chosen to reflect GLA Air Quality Focus Areas and the importance of the River Thames for freight. The CALL project will support the delivery of Defra's Clean Air Strategy, Westminster City Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and other's partners air quality objectives.



Project Partners

Cross River Partnership is proud to be working with the following Local Authorities and other partners.