



The London Light Freight Walking Trial: Pedestrian Deliveries in The Fitzrovia Partnership

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP), a non-profit and impartial partnership organisation, is excited to have launched the **London Light Freight Walking Trial; UPS's first walking freight trial on public land**. This forms part of the Defra-funded [Clean Air Logistics for London](#) project.

CRP has been working with The Fitzrovia Partnership, London Borough of Camden, UPS and Heal's to bring this trial to life, which officially began on Friday 5th May. **The trial serves last-mile deliveries and will support the reduction of emissions and congestion in Fitzrovia.**

Walking freight is a mode of logistics where foot-based porters play a key role in deliveries and collections. 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](#)).

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.

According to Defra's Emission Factors Toolkit (EFT), we estimate that expanding walking freight could reduce London's carbon emissions by 4.7 kilotonnes per year. UPS is conducting the e-walker trial in Fitzrovia daily, delivering packages to local residents and businesses on foot utilising an electric-assisted trolley developed by Fernhay. This trial runs until September 2024.

CRP is unlocking potential and transforming space across the logistics sector in London, to deliver solutions that make London fairer, greener and safer. The London Light Freight Walking Trial supports CRP's vision to make London a better place to live, work and visit. 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.

A Camden Council spokesperson said *"This innovative trial with e-walker trolleys is a further example of how the council is embracing new technology and approaches to reduce motor vehicle traffic and the related air pollution, in line with its transport policies. The e-walkers allow for the prompt delivery of packages to the residents and businesses of Fitzrovia without the associated increase in traffic in this busy area of the borough."*

Mick Atkinson, Head of Environment and Place, The Fitzrovia Partnership, said *"We're delighted that Fitzrovia is being used as a trial for UPS's first walking freight trial on public*

land. The demand for next-day deliveries is now a part of life and programmes that reduce the environmental impact of the cost of doing business are fully supported by The Fitzrovia Partnership and its' business community. This exciting initiative changes the nature of deliveries to minimise their impact on the environment by reducing congestion and emissions on Fitzrovia's streets."

Artur Drenk, International Sustainability Director, UPS, said "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."

Fiona Coull, Senior Programme Manager, Cross River Partnership, said "Walking freight has real potential to reduce congestion and improve air quality, particularly in central, high density locations such as Fitzrovia. We look forward to understanding the impacts of the trial, as it's really important to explore these innovative logistics solutions and share any learnings gained."

Please see other CRP walking freight and logistics related reports and guidance:

- [Walking Freight Feasibility Study](#)
- [Report Summary: Walking Freight Feasibility Study](#)
- [CRP's Connect 4 Series: Session 3. Mitigating the Negative Impact of Road Traffic in London: Reduction, Innovation and Legislation](#)
- [Towards Vision Zero](#)
- [The Lived Experience of our Streets: A People First Vision for London's Streets](#)

ENDS

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Picture credit: CRP

NOTES TO EDITORS

London Light Freight Walking Trial Snapshot - <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/London-Light-Freight-Walking-Trial-CALL-Snapshot-1.pdf>

Cross River Partnership

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) is a partnership delivering environmental, economic and community-focused projects. We support public, private and voluntary organisations to address creatively challenges around Air Quality, Transport, Placemaking and Wellbeing.

Clean Air Logistics for London

Clean Air Logistics for London (CALL) is a [Defra](#)-funded project led by [Westminster City Council](#) in collaboration with 10 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.

UPS

At [UPS](#), sustainability is not just a promise, it's an action plan. We have a responsibility to put sustainability at the core of our operations. This means the creation of more

environmentally sustainable solutions: introducing innovative delivery methods for crowded cities, investing in next-generation vehicles and route optimization technologies and developing people to drive the innovations needed for a carbon neutral future. Driven by integrity, UPS remains focused on making credible, purposeful changes within every step along the supply chain, and is proud to lead sustainable innovations.

The Fitzrovia Partnership

[The Fitzrovia Partnership](#) provides Fitzrovia's business community with a collective voice and ability to influence and shape the future. It places sustainability at the heart of the organisation and believes collaboration between business and the public and private sectors will become an essential requirement to drive added-value solutions for business and the wider community.

Heal's

[Heal's](#) is the UK's oldest and most famous furniture and homewares store, and has been on Tottenham Court Road for over 200 years. They used to deliver from here using horse-drawn vehicles, and were delighted to support this trial of human powered deliveries.

General Projects

[General Projects](#) is a developer and operator of contemporary real estate. They reimagine the built environment to deliver the next generation of future-ready buildings that foster creativity, innovation and wellbeing.

Driven by user experience, our process prioritises outstanding sustainable design and the creation of long-term value for society. Our aspiration is simple - to build places people love. Our portfolio ranges from HQ grade workspaces to start-up hubs. Film studios to loft apartments. Major urban regeneration projects to digital and data infrastructure.

We are proud to have created over two million square feet of modern-life, mixed-use, metropolitan hubs that have become base camp to some of the world's pioneering blue-chip businesses, the foundation for hundreds of SMEs and creators, and delivered inspiring homes for families and young professionals.

KKR

KKR is a leading global investment firm that offers alternative asset management as well as capital markets and insurance solutions. KKR aims to generate attractive investment returns by following a patient and disciplined investment approach, employing world-class people, and supporting growth in its portfolio companies and communities.

KKR sponsors investment funds that invest in private equity, credit and real assets and has strategic partners that manage hedge funds. KKR's insurance subsidiaries offer retirement, life and reinsurance products under the management of Global Atlantic Financial Group. References to KKR's investments may include the activities of its sponsored funds and insurance subsidiaries.