

Smarter Greener Logistics

Piers for Freight

Tower Bridge Quay



Tower Bridge Quay



Tower Bridge Quay is situated on the north bank of the Thames, on the east side of Tower Bridge, and in front of the Thistle Tower Hotel. The pier is a ten minute walk from Tower Hill tube station.

The Pier Information Sheet provides key information on the pier and surrounding area for river freight operations and onward journeys via cargo bike.

Location

Address: Tower Bridge Quay, St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1LD
Borough: Tower Hamlets
Google map pin: GW4G+F9 London, UK
what3words: [///desk.long.lasted](#)

Landside Access

The pier is accessed via St Katharine's Way, which runs along A100 and the River Thames.

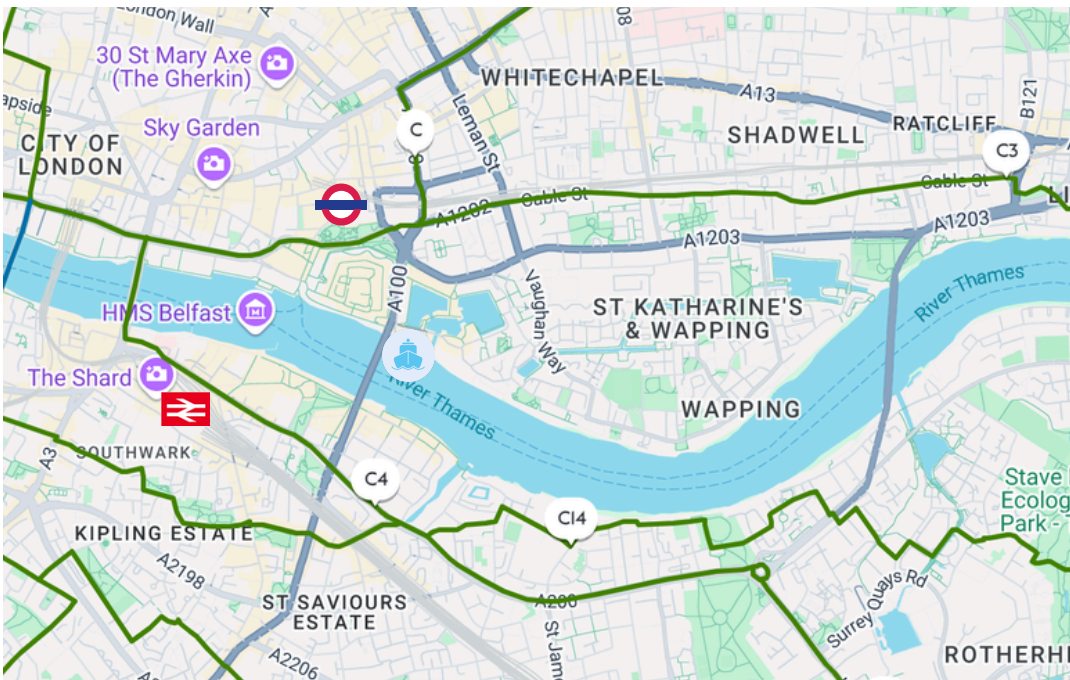


Tower Bridge Quay

Tower Bridge Quay is owned by Woods' Silver Fleet. 3 Boat services are operating: Thames River Sightseeing, Terrible Thames Tour by Horrible Histories, Thames Tigers. The landowner is Blackstone.

Tower Bridge Quay is located to the east of the City of London and closely situated to a number of landmarks including Tower Bridge, and the Tower of London. A wide range of cafes, bars & restaurants are located in the area, regular food markets also take place throughout the week.

Area Context



- Tower Bridge Quay
- Underground Station
- Train Station
- Cycleway C3, C4, C14

Tower Bridge Quay is located on the north side of the River Thames and situated to the east of Tower Bridge. The pier is a short walk from the UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Tower of London, ten minutes walk from Tower Hill tube station and 13 minutes walk from London Bridge Station.

Different cycleways can be joined from Tower Bridge Quay: Cycleway 4 towards Greenwich, Cycleway 14 towards Thamesmead, and Cycleway 3 towards Canary Wharf.

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Pier Technical Specifications

Brow width: 1.9m

Height restrictions: 1.9m

Operational space (sqft): 60 x 7m pontoon

Storage space available: Some space available and a small waiting room (6 seats).

There is step-free access from the path to Tower Bridge Quay; however, the gradient can be steep, and there are door gates at the entrance.

The pier is not sheltered.

The pier has access to drinking water, power, and existing CCTV cameras.

Two ramps of access to the pier. Pedestrians/Freight segregation potentially possible.

Vessel Considerations

Vessel size constraints: can accommodate vessels of up to 110 meters.

Speed limit: There is a 12-knot speed limit in Central London. Above Wandsworth Bridge the speed limit is 8 knots.



Existing Pier Use

Pier type: Passenger services

Private charters: Thames River Sightseeing, Terrible Thames Tour by Horrible Histories, Thames Tigers.

Timetable

Varies depending on private and corporate events. More regular tours tend to start around 09:00 and end at approximately 18:00.

Works Schedule

Tower Bridge Hotel redevelopment study.



Ownership

Pier Owner: Silver Fleet
Landside Owner: Blackstone

Key Pier Stakeholders

- London River Services
- The Tower Hotel
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Listed private and corporate charters
- Pier owner and landside owner

Contact Information

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LB Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031 (January 2020)

“The greatest natural asset in the borough is the River Thames and the network of inland waterways which dissect the borough, such as canals, reservoirs and former working docks.” (p.17)

“The Thames Vision sets out the goals and priority actions to help manage and promote the River Thames, which include: more trade and more jobs associated with the river; improved use of the river for the transportation of passengers and freight; and an improved environment and river heritage.” (p.144)

“The borough’s river and rail network represents an underused resource and priority should be given to utilising the railways, rivers and canals to facilitate the movement of waste and goods.” (p.196)

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Nearby Commercial Activity & Industrial Land

Food and drink businesses, hotels and shops in the area, as well as tourist attractions (Tower of London, Tower Bridge, London Wall).

No large industrial or logistics land nearby. Potentially options to explore with the undercroft spaces in the continuation of Tower Bridge along St Katherine's Way.

Potential Consolidation Opportunities

Potential consolidation opportunities identified in close proximity to Tower Bridge Quay:

Storage Space on Tower Bridge Quay



Potential storage unit on Tower Bridge Quay.

Undercroft spaces



Situated in the continuation of Tower Bridge along St Katherine's Way.

Delivery facilities of the nearby businesses



The nearby Tesco has delivery facilities as well as the Tower Hotel.

The Tower Hotel car park



Engagement with the hotel required.

Welfare Facilities

Public toilets are located behind The Tower Hotel (on St Katherine Docks). Approx. 300m from Festival Pier. These are free to use.

Local Logistics Hubs

- ZEV hub on the other side of the river - 12 min away by bike (15 Mandela Way, London SE1 5SS)

Local Low Emission Couriers

- Operating south of the river: City Sprint, Mango Logistics.

CRP logistics related reports and guidance:

- SGL Unpacked: Urban Logistics Hubs. Pimlico Micro Logistics Hub Trial
- How to Support a Micro Logistics Hub in your Borough: A Guide for Local Authorities
- Installing Infrastructure to Support Micro Logistics: Developing a hub in the Southside Shopping Centre



Visit CRP's Urban Logistics Hub Map

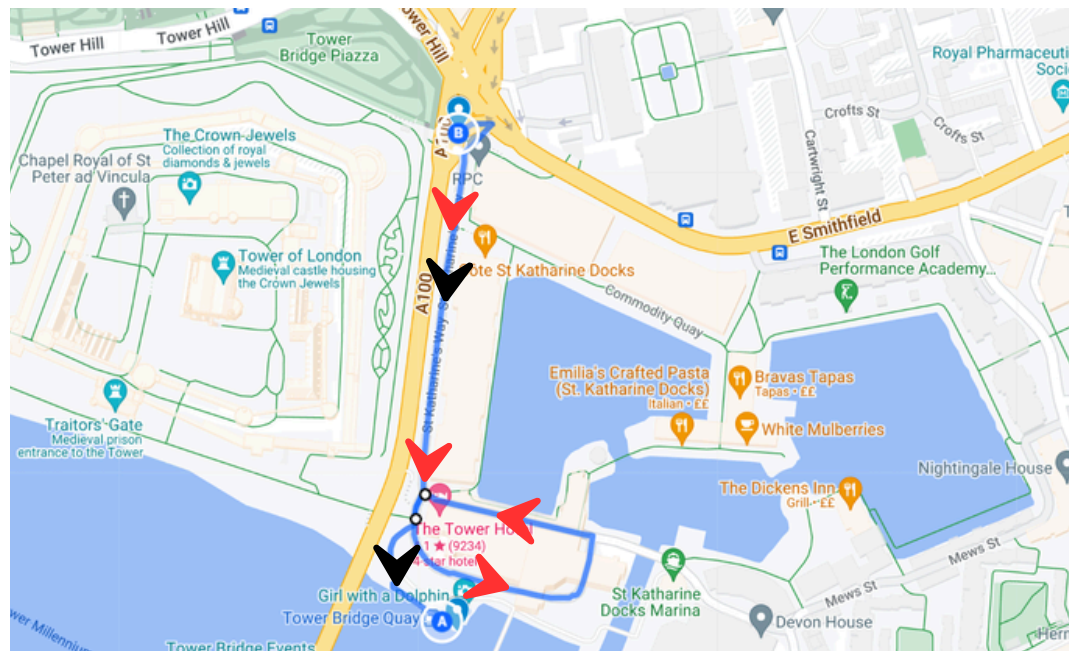
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Route A: Tower Bridge Quay to A100 junction via St Katherine's Way



The recommended route starts at Tower Bridge Quay. Then heading north on St Katherine's Way. The shortest route (black arrows) is quite direct, but is hindered by bollards (1.7m). Vans would park before the bollards for the bike/walking porter to then wheel items to/from the pier.

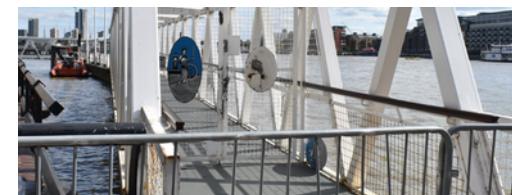
Another option would be to use the private route owned by the Tower Hotel (red arrows).

This route forms a loop to come back on St Kathrine's Way. It would require vans to park inside the hotel car park and bikes/walking porters to wheel items from there to the pier via the eastern side.

An agreement with the Tower Hotel would allow couriers to potentially use their private road to get to their underground car park.

Route A Considerations

- Bollards (1.7m) before the river (near Tower Bridge)
- Possibly 2 access ramps to the pier
- Cycling prohibited after the second ramp (hotel main entrance).
- An agreement with the Tower Hotel would allow couriers to potentially use their private road to get to their underground car park where a micro logistics hub could be set up.



Key Considerations for Cargo Bike Logistics:

- Location for loading/unloading
- Suitable waiting area for operational cargo bikes & riders
- Welfare facilities for riders (e.g. bike maintenance, toilets, refreshments)
- Potential consolidation locations
- Security access (if required)
- Physical barriers/obstacles along route (e.g. bollards, barriers)
- Pedestrian/cargo bike conflict at different times of the day/week
- Links to road/cycle network
- Road surface quality



Read CRP's report
[Mapping the Cycle
Logistics Sector in
London](#)

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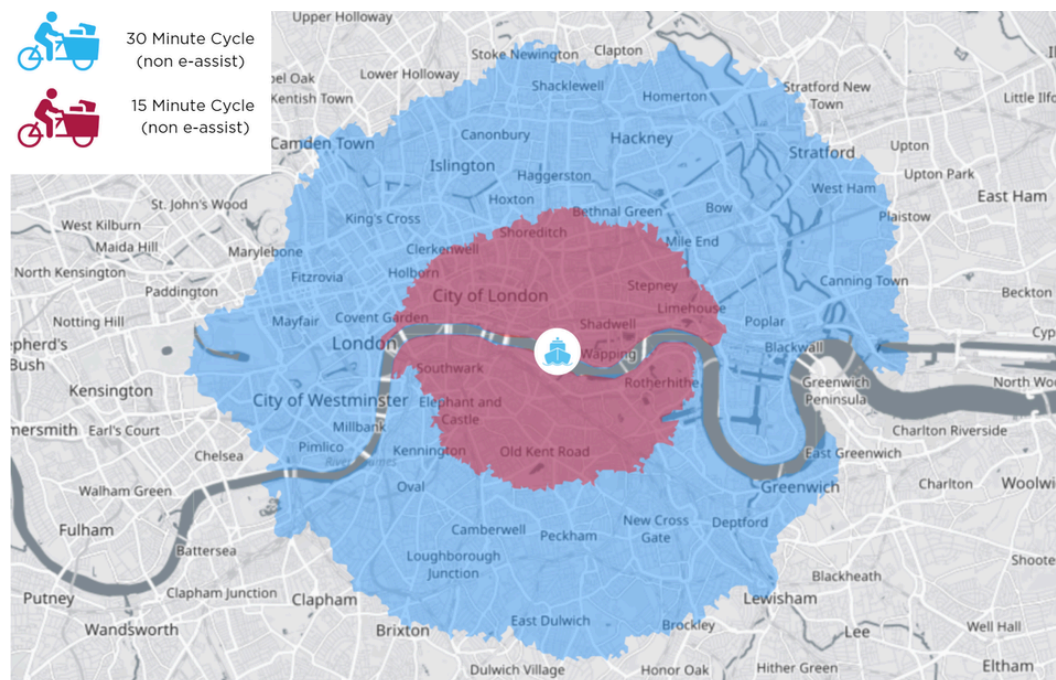
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Onward Journeys

Cycle Radius



Map shows locations in London that can be reached from Tower Bridge Quay by non e-assist cycle in 15 and 30 minutes.

London Boroughs reached within 15 minutes: Southwark, Lambeth, the City of Westminster, the City of London, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets.


Additional London Boroughs & Corporations reached within 30 minutes: Camden, Islington, Hackney, Greenwich

Key areas and destinations to be reached by cargo bike from the pier include: Central London, Victoria, Waterloo, London Bridge, St Pancras Station, Mayfair, Covent Garden, Canary Wharf.

London Pier Network



Tower Bridge Quay (highlighted above) is located on the North shore of the River Thames, a short walk from the UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Tower of London. Adjacent piers include Butler's Wharf Pier to the south east and Tower (Millennium) Pier to the northwest.

 Visit [CRP's Thames Directory](#) - an interactive web tool providing information on utilising The River Thames to transport goods into London.

- CRP river freight related reports and guidance:**
- [Light Freight: Design Solutions for Thames Freight Infrastructure](#)
 - [River Freight Monitoring: Butler's Wharf and Dartford Pier](#)
 - [Getting Started with River Freight: A Guide for Businesses](#)
 - [River Freight Pilot Case Study: Summer 2022](#)
 - [A Deep Dive: London Light Freight River Trial](#)
 - [River Freight Pilot Part Two: Lessons Learned](#)



Next Steps

There is a huge opportunity to transport goods in to central London via the River Thames, providing significant environmental benefits and new business growth for London. Consequently, the following next steps could be taken to encourage river freight operations to Tower Bridge Quay:

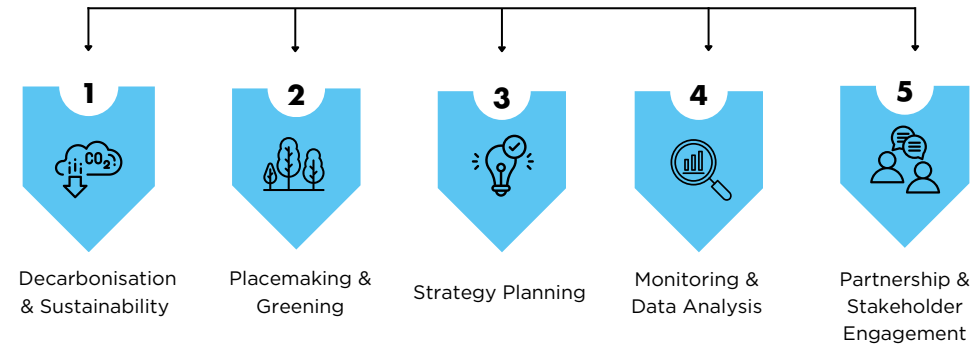
- Engage with The Tower Hotel to have access to their one-way system route (near to the pier).
- Engage with local stakeholders receiving deliveries in the area (for example Tesco).
- Explore the possibility of adjacent undercroft storage (in the continuity of Tower Bridge).
- Explore the viability to segregate freight and passengers as there are 2 ramps at that pier.

Additionally, more can be done to encourage river freight operation across London at scale. This includes:

- Raising awareness of river freight including benefits and potential opportunities.
- Prioritising space near / close to piers for freight activities such as consolidation and loading.
- Developing a standardised licensing process to allow operators to deliver to central London piers more easily.
- Lobbying government to encourage river freight activities through policy updates and increased investment.
- Encouraging joint strategic approaches and partnerships to facilitate river freight operations.

CRP Support

Consultancy Services



Cross River Partnership (CRP) is a partnership delivering impactful environmental, economic and community focused projects. We support public, private and community organisations with expert guidance, collaboration and innovation. We believe in a fair and equitable transition towards good and green growth in London.

CRP has project delivery expertise supporting organisations to realise the potential of the river for sustainable logistics. CRP’s delivery portfolio includes:

- Innovative river freight pilots
- Pier feasibility studies
- River freight guidance for businesses

CRP also has project delivery expertise in Decarbonisation & Sustainability, Placemaking & Greening, Strategy Planning, Monitoring & Data Analysis and Partnership & Stakeholder Engagement.

For further information, contact CRP Senior Programme Manager [Fiona Coull](#).

This document was prepared as part of the [Smarter Greener Logistics](#) programme on behalf of [Defra](#), to clean up London’s air, including by more freight coming into central London via river rather than road.