

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TIDEWAY NAVIGATION

A chart to accompany **The Tideway Code: A Code of Practice for rowing and paddling on the Tidal Thames** >



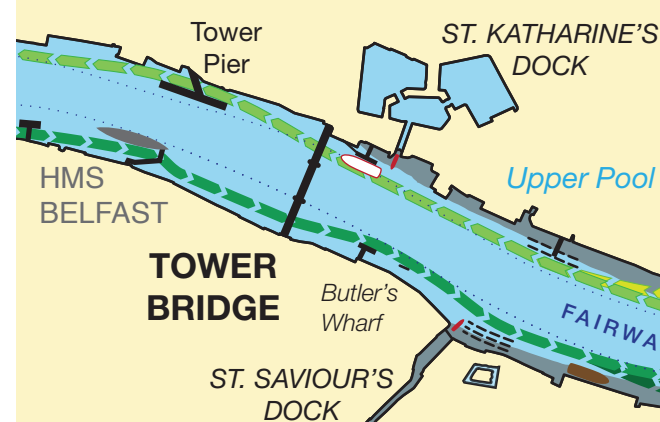
Col Regs

Regardless of the tidal stream:

➡ **Outbound** or ⬅ **Inbound** stay as close to the Starboard (right-hand/bow side) bank as is safe and out of the **Fairway** where possible. Go inside/under piers where water levels allow and it is safe to do so

All small boats **must** inform London VTS before navigating above Cherry Garden Pier and when they are afloat after dark anywhere below Wandsworth Bridge

SUP is not permitted below Tower Bridge



12 KNOT SPEED LIMIT
ABOVE ST. SAVIOURS DOCK

EMERGENCIES

Always carry a mobile phone (in a buoyant water-proof case) for emergency use
If life-threatening, immediately call **999** or **112** and ask for the **Coastguard** who will send the appropriate assistance
Be prepared to give your name, location and the nature of the emergency

INCIDENTS

For non-emergencies and near misses call **London VTS** on **0203 2607711** or **VHF ch14** or use the smart phone app >



FURTHER INFORMATION

All rowers and paddlers navigating on the tidal Thames **must** be fully conversant with **The Tideway Code**. Also see:

- www.boatingonthethames.co.uk
- PLA Tidal Thames – smartphone app
- Recreational Users' Guide – leaflet
- tidepredictions.pla.co.uk/

Lower Tideway Code Area (special navigation rules for rowers)

With the tidal stream:

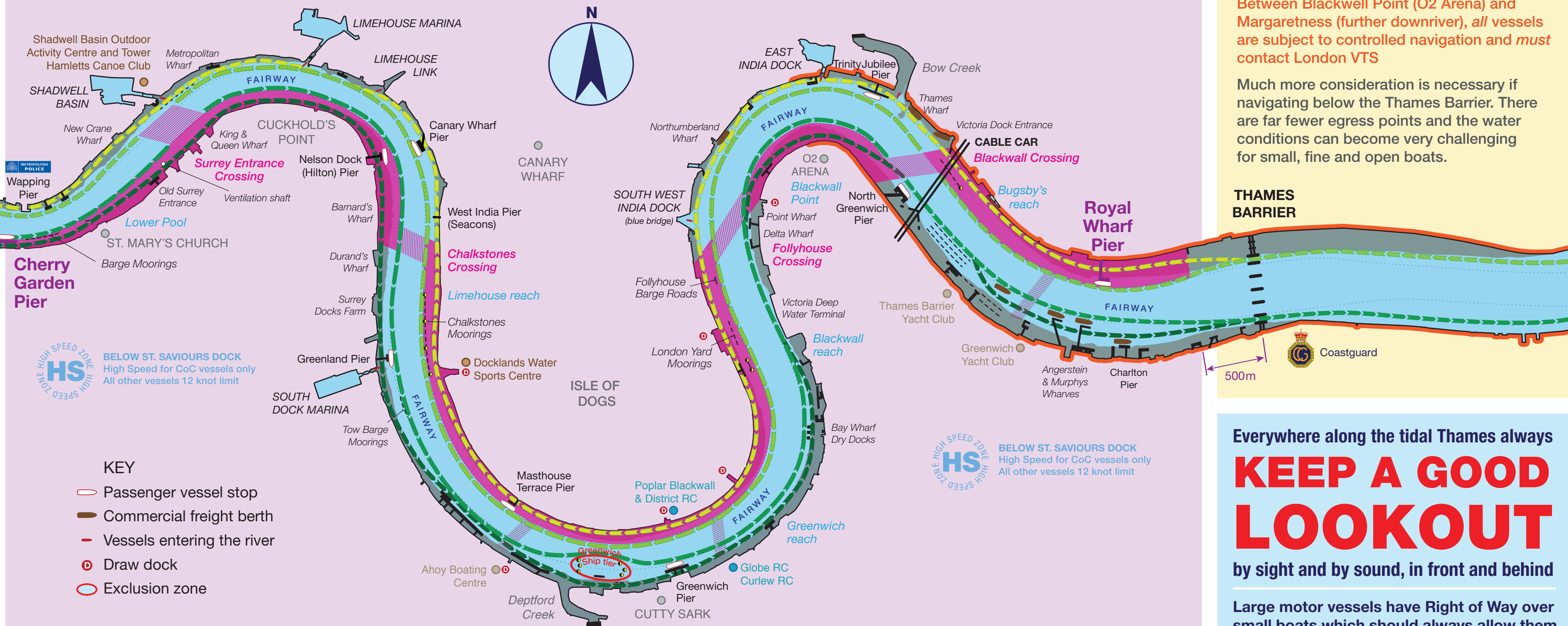
- ➡ **Outbound on the EBB** – stay in the **Fairway** on the **Starboard** (right-hand/bow) side
- ⬅ **Inbound on the FLOOD** – stay in the **Fairway** on the **Starboard** (right-hand/bow) side
- ▨ In the **Fairway**, do not stop in a **Crossing Zone**. Only boats waiting to cross the **Fairway** should stop near a crossing

Against either tidal stream (working the slacks):

- ▨ Use the **Inshore Zone** staying as close to the bank as is safe and go inside/under piers where water levels allow
- ▨ Only cross the river at the designated **Crossing Zones**
- ▨ Or at a **Local Crossing** if you are returning to a boat house on the opposite bank to the **Inshore Zone**

Always navigate according to the visible tidal stream, not the tide predictions. If in doubt about the tidal stream direction navigate on the **Starboard** side of the **Fairway** (e.g. at the turn of the tide)

Please refer to the **Tideway Code (Lower Tideway Directions)** for a full explanation of navigation options at either end of the Tideway Code Area



KEY

- Passenger vessel stop
- Commercial freight berth
- Vessels entering the river
- ⊙ Draw dock
- Exclusion zone

Lower Tideway Code Area (Col Regs navigation for paddlers)

Regardless of the tidal stream:

Paddlers **do not work the slacks** so when going in either direction, should navigate to the ➡ **starboard** (right-hand) side of the river staying out of the **Fairway** and as close to the ⬅ **starboard** (right-hand) bank as is safe

Where water levels allow, pass inside/under all piers, as a tight group and if a passenger service is alongside a pier, paddlers should allow them to depart before proceeding. Ensure the helm of any large vessel can see you

Within the **Inshore Zone**:

Rowing boats which **must work the slacks** (see above) so keep a good lookout for (faster) rowing boats which may be approaching from behind as well as in front, depending on the tidal stream direction

Adjust your group shape accordingly and allow rowers sufficient room to pass safely within the channel

Col Regs (Starboard)

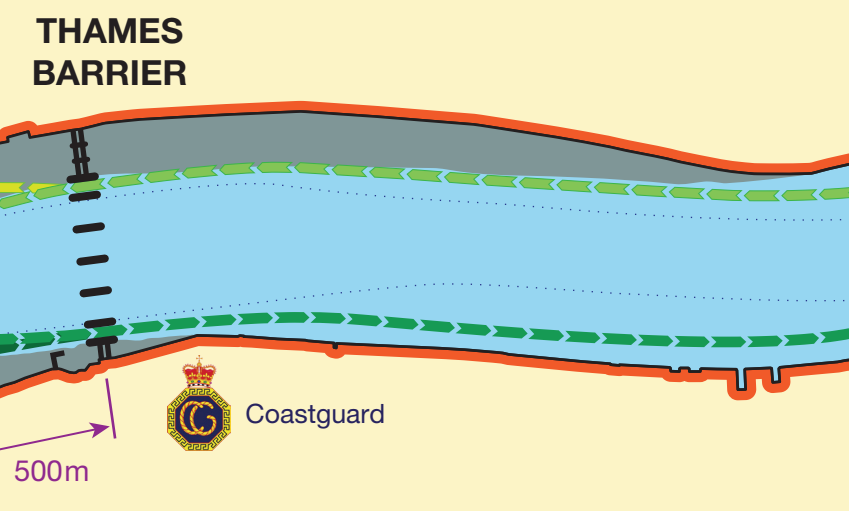
Regardless of the tidal stream:

➡ **Outbound** or ⬅ **Inbound** stay as close to the Starboard (right-hand/bow side) bank as is safe and out of the **Fairway** where possible. Go inside/under piers where water levels allow and it is safe to do so

All small boats **must** inform London VTS before navigating below the Lower Tideway Code Area and when they are afloat after dark anywhere below Wandsworth Bridge

THAMES BARRIER CONTROL ZONE
Between Blackwell Point (O2 Arena) and Margaretness (further downriver), **all** vessels are subject to controlled navigation and **must** contact London VTS

Much more consideration is necessary if navigating below the Thames Barrier. There are far fewer egress points and the water conditions can become very challenging for small, fine and open boats.



Everywhere along the tidal Thames always

KEEP A GOOD LOOKOUT

by sight and by sound, in front and behind

Large motor vessels have Right of Way over small boats which should always allow them space in the Fairway/deep water channel

All boats in the Fairway have Right of Way and overtaking boats must give way or wait until it is clear

Never cross in front of a boat in the Fairway, even in a **Crossing Zone**

Do not stop, turn, cross, overtake or do slow-moving exercises within 75m of any bridges

Do not spread out across the channel