

M131-25

Sophie Williams, Deputy Harbour Master

Published: 13/10/2025

Expires: 01/09/2026

Kings Reach



Kings Reach - Smart Signal Lights - Permitted Vessels

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Kings Reach - Smart Signal Lights - Permitted Vessels

This Notice supersedes and replaces M112-25, which is hereby cancelled.

As the Thames Tideway Tunnel project nears completion, the Port of London Authority (PLA) has reviewed the future use of the smart signal lights installed as part of the works.

Smart signal lights are currently operational at the following locations:

- **Blackfriars Railway Bridge - Arch No. 2**
- **Vauxhall Bridge - Arch No. 4**

These signals will remain active and illuminated until further notice. The deployment of smart signals and the 'permitted vessel' system is currently under ongoing review. Further information will be promulgated by further notice to mariners as required.

At certain times, a smart signal may display a **yellow cross**, indicating that passage through the arch is permitted for specific vessels. For clarity, a list of currently 'permitted vessels' is provided in **Annex A** of this Notice. Vessels not included in this list must not transit the relevant arch when it is displaying a **yellow cross**.

Downriver Passage - Charing Cross Bridge Arch No. 1

Charing Cross Bridge is no longer fitted with a smart signal light. **Restrictions listed below are in force at all times.**

Vessels listed in **Annex A** as permitted to transit Arch No. 1 must adhere to the following conditions:

1. The Master must assess prevailing traffic and river conditions to ensure the manoeuvre can be conducted safely, exercising **heightened caution**.
2. Vessels must comply with the **tidal restrictions** listed in the Annex.
3. Transit must be strictly between **Westminster Pier and Embankment Pier** or by **specific agreement**, between **Waterloo Millennium Pier and Embankment Pier**.
4. Prior permission must be obtained from **London VTS**.

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centre



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Vessels not currently listed in **Annex A** but wishing to be considered for future inclusion should contact the Harbour Master Upper team at: hmu@pla.co.uk

ANNEX A - Current Permitted Vessels

Vessels listed below may transit the specified arch at Blackfriars Rail and Vauxhall Bridges when the smart signal light is displaying a **yellow cross**. Vessels using Charing Cross Arch 1 must adhere to conditions listed above at all times.

Blackfriars Arch No. 2 and Vauxhall Arch No. 4	Charing Cross Arch No. 1	
All Commercial RHIBS	Upriver and downriver, all states of tide.	Downriver only on the flood tide.
All Thames Clippers	All Thames Clippers From Westminster Pier or Waterloo Millennium Pier	Almere IV
Avontur IV	Mercuria	Avontur IV
Hollywood	Sapele	Hollywood
London Kayak Company		London Rose
London Rose		Mercia
Mercia		Sarpedon
Mercuria		Thomas Doggett
Port of London Authority Vessels		
Almere IV		
Thames Limo Vessels		

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NOTICE TO MARINERS

Sarah Kathleen
Thomas Doggett
Marine Police Wapping
Sapele
Tideway traffic inbound only to Blackfriars works
Workboats of less than 13.7 metres
Tower Hamlets Canoe Club
CPBS Passenger Vessels
City Cruises Passenger Vessels

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Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

This Notice may be amended or withdrawn at any time. To check the validity of this notice, scan the QR code or visit pla.co.uk/notices

