



THAMES VISIONARIES

VESSELS OF THE

FUTURE

YOUR IDEAS, YOUR RIVER, YOUR FUTURE



River in Motion: The Working Vessels of the Thames

The Working Vessels of the Thames



WHY THE THAMES MATTERS

- One of the busiest waterways in the UK
- A vital transport route for cargo, people and waste
- Helps reduce pollution and traffic on roads.
- Home to an incredible variety of vessels, all with specific jobs.



Meet the PLA

We are the UK's biggest port.

We connect London to the world.

We make sure the river is safe, clean and efficient.

Our own fleet of working boats plays a major part in this.



PLA Pilot Cutters

Small boats with a big job on the Thames, getting marine pilots safely to large ships entering or leaving the Port.

Without pilots, huge ships that you see couldn't safely navigate the river.

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Guide

Fast, powerful boat built in 1991, 22 knots max speed.

Leader

Modern, energy-efficient cutter using HVO fuel.



PLA Harbour Service Vessels

Patrolling, protecting and supporting the tidal Thames

- Patrol the river daily from Southend to Teddington.
- They guide river users, support events and escort large ships.
- Also assist with traffic control and safety during Barrier closures



Chelsea & Richmond

- Upper District – Putney to Teddington
- 10m in length.
- Large, open platform and spacious wheelhouse.
- Specifically designed for shallow water, and to cause the least possible resistance.
- Cleaner, greener patrol boats.



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Lambeth, Kew, Southwark & Barnes

- Middle and Lower Districts – Putney to the North Sea.
- Up to 21 knots speed
- Large, stable, catamaran hulls – ideal for fast patrols and river safety
- 13.5m in length, 4.8m wide



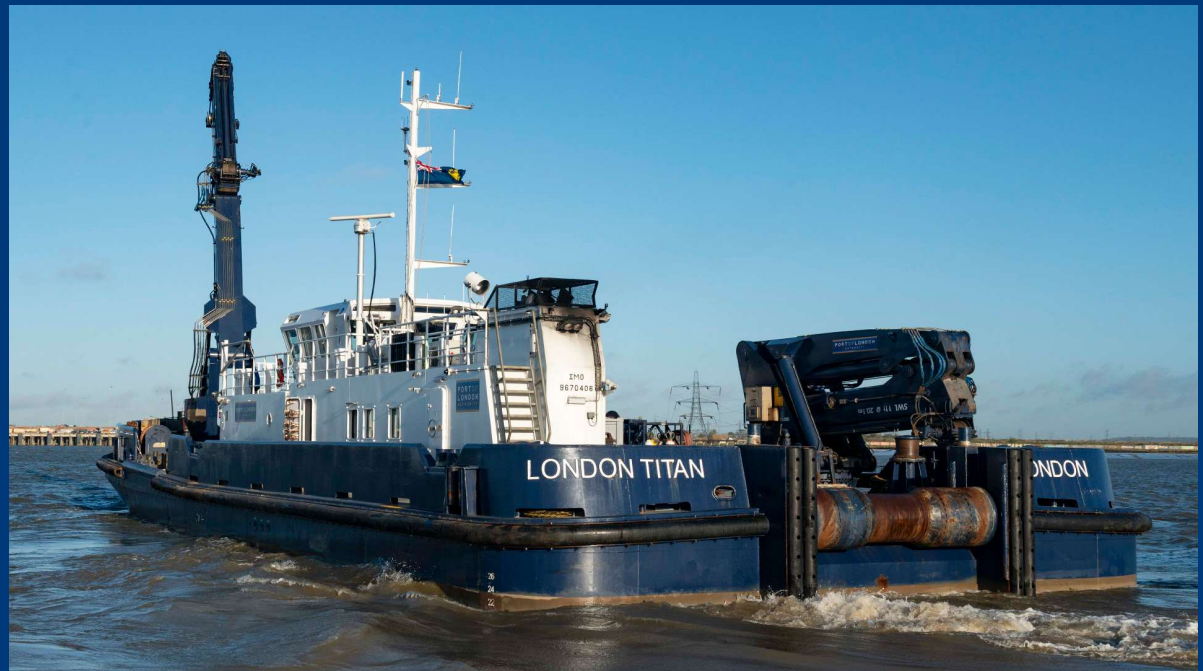
PLA Marine Services Vessels

Cleaning, fixing, salvaging – whatever the Thames needs.

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London Titan

- £7million mooring maintenance vessel.
- Specially designed to work along almost all of the 95 miles of the Thames.
- Shallow enough to negotiate bridges upriver, and robust enough to operate in the outer estuary.
- Does everything from dredging, and buoy laying to wreck removal



PLA Marine Services Vessels

Driftwood II & III

- Collect driftwood and debris from the River.
- Capable of a max 8 knots.
- 14.4m in length



Impulse

- Steel pusher tug
- Variety of driftwood & other tasks



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PLA Marine Services Vessels

TOSCA Vessels

- Clean up oil spills quickly.
- Keeping the river health & safe.
- Two special vessels - Recover & Respond

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PLA Hydrographic Vessels



Maplin

- **18m catamaran** with foldable parts to fit under bridges
- Uses sonar and lasers to map the riverbed
- Joined the fleet in 2016
- Super lightweight and efficient



Galloper

- Small, fast catamaran capable of up to 30 knots.
- Can work in really shallow water.
- Helps survey tight areas around the port.

THAME



TAMESIS (USV)



Keeping London Moving – Cory Barges



- **What they do:** Carry waste via tug-pulled barges from riverside stations.
- **Why it matters:**
 - Saves **100,000 truck journeys a year.**
 - Reduces pollution and congestion.
 - A powerful example of using the river as a **green highway.**
- Less pollution + safer roads!

The Thames Bubbler – The River's Breath of Fresh Air



- A specialist **oxygenation vessel**.
- 50m in length, 10.34m wide
- Pumps air into the river during low oxygen events (e.g., after heavy rain).
- Keeps fish and wildlife alive.
- **Imagine it like a giant set of lungs for the river!**



Clipper Ferries – Speedy River Travel



- Part of **London's public transport network**.
- Used by commuters, tourists, and river lovers.
- Their modern **high-speed catamarans** connect key locations across London.
- Comfortable, accessible, and a cool way to get around!

A Clipper trip from Battersea to Canary Wharf is faster than the Tube!

Woods Silver Fleet – River Elegance

- A family-owned luxury passenger fleet.
- Used for **events, weddings, and VIP tours.**
- The Thames isn't just working – it's also celebrating!

What kind of event would *you* host on the river?



Lifesavers on the Thames – RNLI Lifeboats



- Waterjet propulsion so it can get close to people in the water safely.
- Open deck layout
- Equipped with medical equipment including oxygen and resuscitation kits.

- Built for the Thames – super quick and agile.
- Top speed of around 40 knots
- Used at four stations: Tower, Chiswick, Teddington and Gravesend
- Launches in seconds when someone is in trouble



The Future of Working Vessels – Cleaner, Smarter, Greener

- Hybrid and electric technology is becoming more common.
- Uncrewed, or remote-controlled vessels
- Renewable fuels
- Advanced designs
- New vessels are quieter, cleaner, and smarter

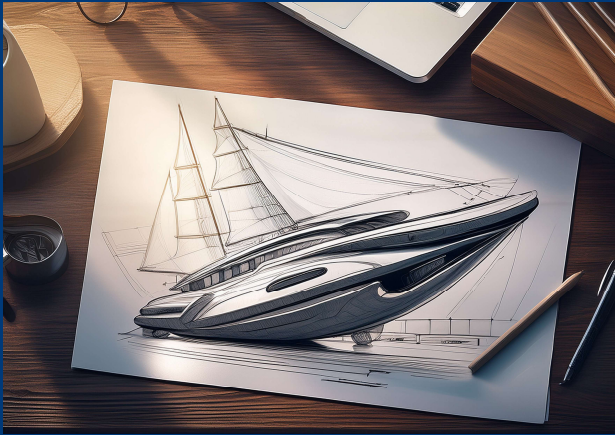


Your Vessel of the Future

What problem would it solve?

What would it be powered by?

What would it look like?





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